

The Turkish community

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...

You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.

Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side, here in this country of ours...

You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well.

- Ataturk

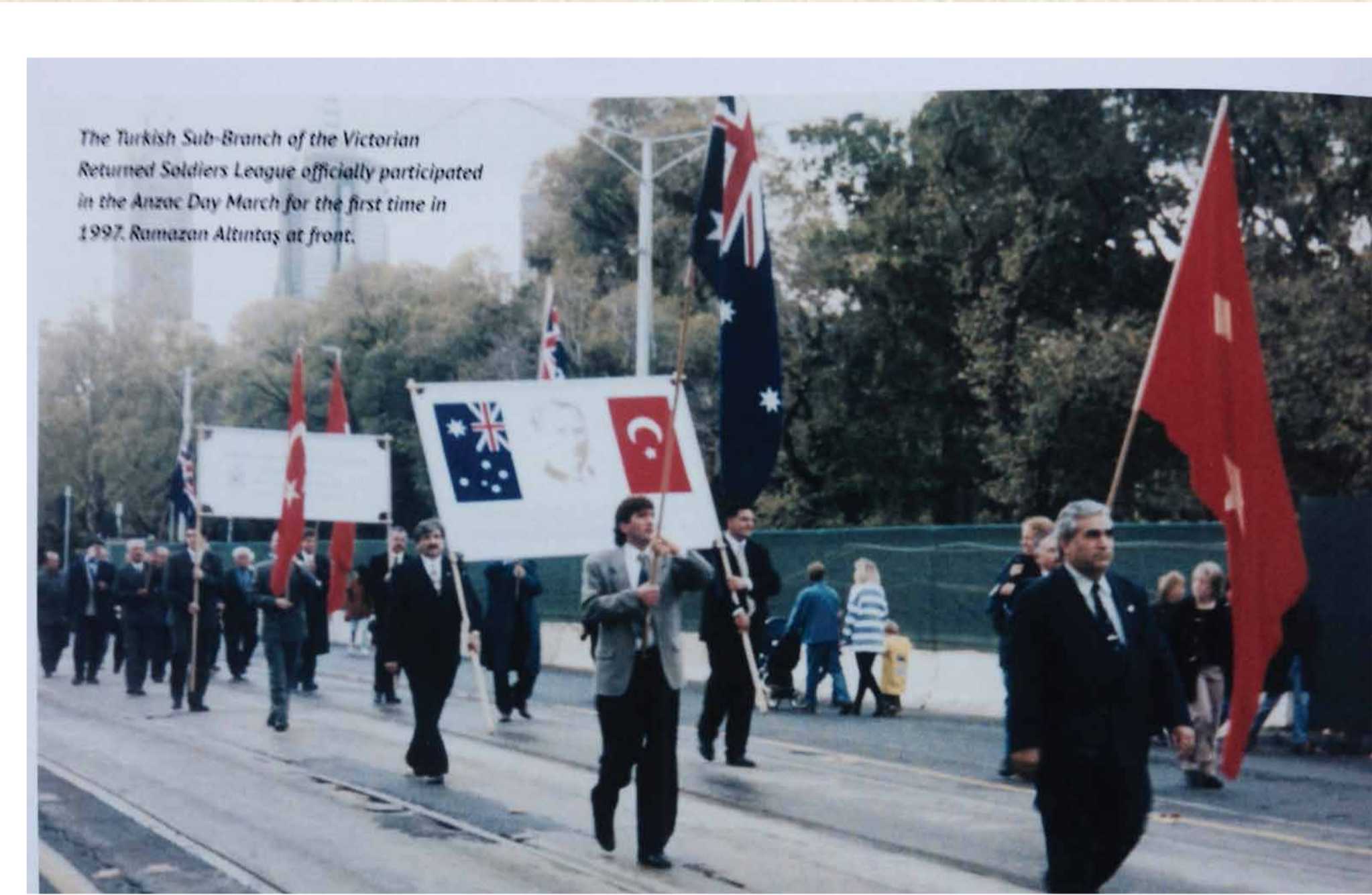
Many Turkish people who came to live in Australia have relatives who fought against Australian soldiers in the War.

The region now known as Turkey formed part of the Triple Alliance to fight against the Russian Empire, responding to long-standing historical tensions between the two empires.

Moreland resident Cemal Akderniz's three great-uncles served as Turkish soldiers in the War. They left home and never returned.

Later in the 20th century, Turkish migrants to Melbourne were first housed in the old Broadmeadows Army Training Camp. A major supporter of this migration plan was the Returned Services League of Victoria.

Many Turks settled in the suburbs of Moreland. One of the first Turkish restaurants in Brunswick was called 'Gelibolu' (the Turkish word for Gallipoli).



The Turkish Sub-branch of the Victorian Returned Soldiers League officially participated in the Anzac Day March for the first time in 1997. Ramazan Altinyazici at the front.

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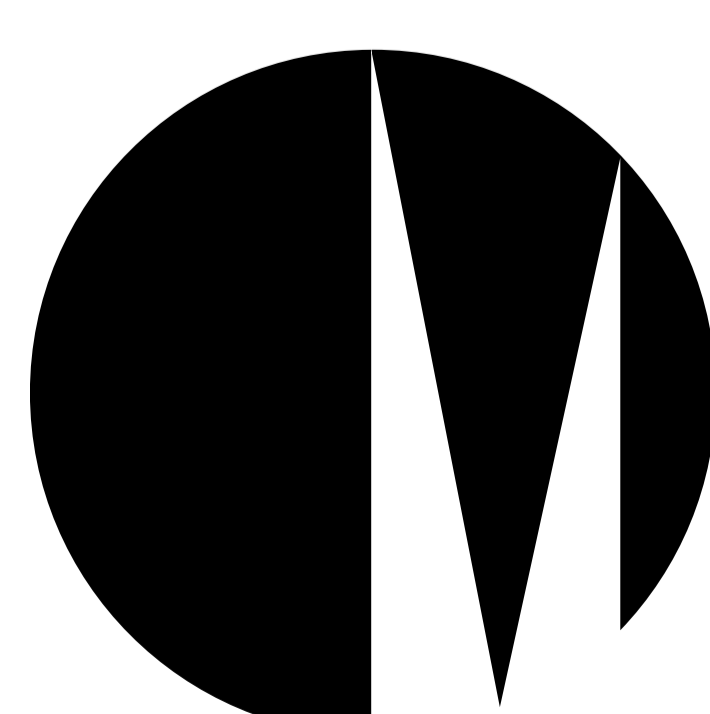


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Moreland Remembers World War I



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Moreland City Council



For full exhibition and more information, visit www.moreland.vic.gov.au

Image 1.
Turkish Sub-Branch of Victorian RSL, Anzac Day March, 1997.
Source: Moreland Turkish Association

Image 2.
An Australian ANZAC brings succor to a Turk [Gallipoli Peninsula], 1915.
Source: State Library of Victoria, H98.103/2843.