

Photographs by: Andrew Coffey.



# The GIANT POPPY

ART PROJECT

APRIL  
16<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup>

## YOU CAN HELP GROW THE BIGGEST POPPY IN THE WORLD FOR ANZAC DAY!

New Zealand Steel's COLOR-STEEL® will be making its mark in the Auckland Domain in the nine days leading up to ANZAC Day, when a giant red poppy will be 'growing' in the sports field below the museum.

The art work will comprise thousands of specially minted COLORSTEEL® poppy-red metal discs, each 150mm in diameter, which will be placed on the ground in the shape of an ANZAC poppy, measuring 40 metres from its stem. The poppy will be 'grown' by artist and creator, Tony McNeight, his Giant Poppy crew, and the thousands of New Zealanders expected to participate in this, the Red Poppy Project.

"New Zealand Steel takes pride in knowing these COLOR-STEEL® discs have been made right here, in New Zealand, at Glenbrook, to commemorate and support our ANZACs," says Vicki Woodley, Manager - External Affairs. "NZ Steel is pleased to offer major support to the project as this year also marks the Company's 50 years of production."

The 59,000 red discs symbolise the number of New Zealand men and women who were killed or wounded in WWI.

"The Giant Poppy Project will honour the ANZACs' sacrifice 100 years ago to protect our ongoing freedom and democracy," says Tony. He explains how the proj-

ect came about: "My father was in WW2 and my Great Uncle died in France in WW1 and I have always attended the Dawn Service to pay my respects."

He said that at the Anzac Day Dawn Parade in 2014 he realised that many New Zealanders had no idea about Anzac Day and what it symbolised, "Some of them have come from countries where freedom and democracy is not a given and I believed an installation such as this (a giant poppy) would highlight those

rights we take for granted and acknowledge those who protected them."

Tony approached New Zealand Steel to make the discs and they immediately came on board with the metal discs and seed funding. This support encouraged Tony to believe his project could happen.

"We were moved by Tony McNeight's vision and passion for this project and welcomed the opportunity to be part of it," says Margaret Gracie, VP People & External Affairs, New Zealand Steel.

Further encouragement came with the enthusiastic support of the RSA. David Moger, RSA Chief Executive, says all funds raised by the project will support Kiwi veterans, former and current service people and their dependants in need.

"The Giant Poppy project remembers the service and sacrifice of our Anzac heroes as well as those who have fought for international peace and freedom since, but perhaps its greatest gift is that it will also provide practical care and comfort for those in our ex-service and service community that need help today."

The public are invited to make their donations online at [www.giantpoppy.co.nz/](http://www.giantpoppy.co.nz/) (and discs will be placed on their behalf) or at the Domain where, over the nine days, April 16-24, they can write a message and place their own discs (Note no discs will be laid ANZAC Day itself.)



PROUD TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY FOR 50 YEARS



New Zealand Steel are proud to be the official sponsors of the Giant Poppy Project





# GALLIPOLI 100

Visit our full WWI digital hub at [nzherald.co.nz/gallipoli100](http://nzherald.co.nz/gallipoli100)

## Giant Poppy project putting metal to the petal



Tony McNeight

The man behind The Giant Poppy project at Auckland Domain is overwhelmed at how quickly the Anzac art installation is growing. Auckland-based artist Tony McNeight said 26,000 poppies were currently on display, and the 59,000 poppy goal – one for every New Zealander killed or wounded in World War I – would be reached by lunchtime on Friday.

The 59-year-old said thousands of people of all ages had come to place the red metal discs over the past five days, including many schoolchildren. Each poppy petal placed had a personal message attached. The project has been a year in the making, after Mr McNeight came up with the idea on Anzac Day last year. The display will be open for viewing throughout Anzac Weekend and will start to come down on April 28, but Mr McNeight said they were looking for a permanent home for The Giant Poppy in Auckland.

Picture / Nick Reed



Artist Tony McNeight with pupils from Parnell Primary, Northcote School, Carnot School and Rosmini. Picture / Nick Reed

## Giant poppy honours casualties of war

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### The giant poppy

A giant poppy made up of 59,000 red discs – one for each of the New Zealanders killed or wounded in World War I – will begin to take shape at the Auckland Domain tomorrow. The flower, measuring 40m in diameter, is set to be the biggest commemorative poppy ever created.

Proudly sponsored by the Herald and NZME's iHeart Radio, the aim of the Giant Poppy Art Project 2015 is to honour those who protected the freedom and democracy of New Zealanders. Anyone can make a donation to buy a disc, write a personal message on it and place it at the Domain up until April 24. Those outside Auckland

- 59,000 red discs will be used
- Diameter will be 40m
- Biggest commemorative poppy created – building starts tomorrow at the Domain. There are two ways to become involved:
- Visit the Domain and grab a disc. Write a message and place it as part of the artwork.
- If you cannot visit the Domain you can still be part of the Giant Poppy. Visit [www.giantpoppy.co.nz](http://www.giantpoppy.co.nz) and make a donation to support the RSA. The crew will place a disc on your behalf.

land can have a disc personalised and placed on their behalf.

The poppy was created by Auckland artist Tony McNeight, who had family members involved in both World Wars I and II.

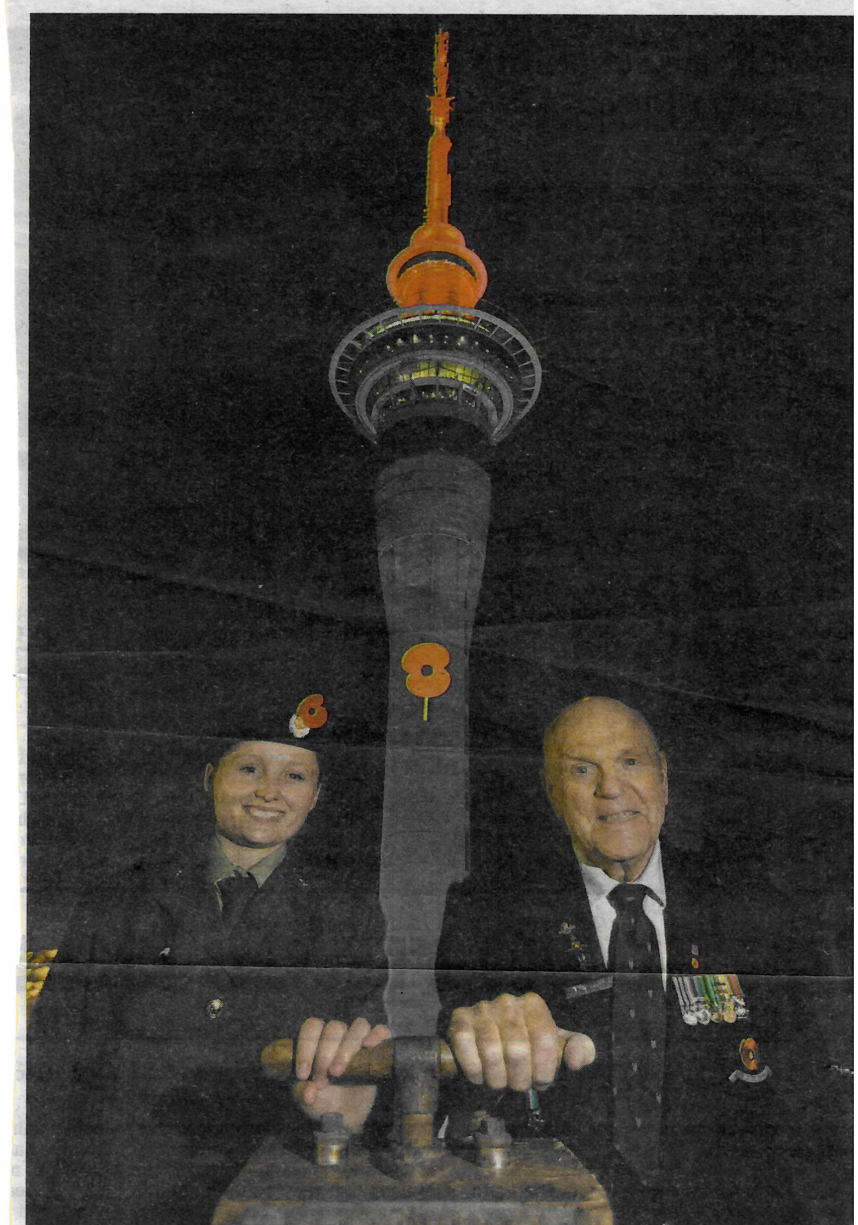
McNeight said he had a "deep passion" for commemorating the Anzacs and all other World War I servicemen and women.

Proceeds from each disc sold will go to the New Zealand Returned and Services Association.

RSA president B.J. Clark said the organisation was proud to be a project partner.

For more information, or to donate online, visit [giantpoppy.co.nz](http://giantpoppy.co.nz)

Haka made Turbos tremble A20-21



Private Tala Ellender-Nottage and SAS veteran Rusty Vail turn on the giant poppy on Auckland's Sky Tower. Picture / Brett Philbbs

## SAS veteran lights poppy

Rusty Vail, a member of New Zealand's first SAS squad, helped to illuminate a giant 13m poppy in Auckland last night to mark Poppy Day and the upcoming World War I centennial.

Alongside Auckland's youngest army soldier, 17-year-old Private Tala Ellender-Nottage, the 86-year-old veteran projected the poppy on to the Sky Tower from the roof of the SkyCity Grand Hotel.

A poppy display will take place today down Federal St, with members of the Blues and Vodafone Warriors collecting money beneath the Sky Tower from 1pm to 3pm. Several Defence Force personnel and army vehicles will also be on site.

Mr Vail was joined in the Auckland Domain yesterday by other Kiwis who started to create what is hoped will be the world's largest poppy.

Alla Zahran, 6, and Alyssa



Alla Zahran, 6, and Alyssa Rutherford, 8, were among the first to get discs. Picture / Jason Oxenham

with personal messages on the art installation yesterday. The poppy will consist of 59,000 discs – one for every New Zealander killed or wounded in WWI.

Artist and creator Tony McNeight said: "I want all New Zealanders to make the poppy their own." The RSA is in exchange for a disc. Donors can write an individual message on the disc before placing it on the poppy.

– Scott Yeoman

Donations can be made at [giantpoppy.co.nz](http://giantpoppy.co.nz)

Wargamers pitch in to