



Eva (Eyvah) T. Dafaranos has curated an art exhibition focusing on Lemnos and the Greek perspective on World War II. Photos: JEFFREY CHAN

Artworks celebrate island legacy of Antipodean nurses' station

By Alexandra Back

An exhibition of the works of 14 Greek-Australian artists will be open to the public this weekend at the Greek ambassador's residence, where visitors can also meet the ambassador, Charalampos Dafaranos, and his wife, Eva (Eyvah) T. Dafaranos.

The works in *Lemnos: The Greek Dimension in the Anzac Centenary*, all depict the role of the Greek island of Lemnos – 145 kilometres from Gallipoli across the Aegean sea – in

World War I. The island was the site of two Australian tent hospitals, where thousands of wounded men were sent for treatment.

"This exhibition actually is an honour for Australia and for New Zealanders," said Mrs Dafaranos, who is the curator of the exhibition.

Mrs Dafaranos asked 13 artists to create the works specifically for the centenary commemoration in April.

She and another artist collaborated to produce the 14th artwork for the exhibition.

"I asked to draw inspiration from

the ... legacy, which expresses the idea that you can be equally brave in war fighting for the life of a wounded soldier by preserving life and provide care and convalescence," she said.

Many of the artworks represent the nurses who worked at the tent hospital, injured soldiers and Simpson's donkey.

It is the third time the Greek embassy has opened its doors for the Windows to the World program, started in the year of Canberra's centenary. Mrs Dafaranos expects more than 2000 people, including

many Greek-Australians, to come through the exhibition over the weekend.

"Everybody's so happy they didn't want to leave," she said of previous weekends. "This interaction, I think it's fantastic because usually [people] tend to see the embassies and the ambassador and ambassador as very far away. We want people to understand that we're near."

■ **Saturday's Windows to the World:**
10am - 3pm: At the Belgian embassy, stroll the gardens and sample Belgian food.

11am - 4pm: At the Greek residence, see the works of 14 Greek-Australian artists in *Lemnos: The Greek Dimension in the Anzac Centenary*.

10am - 4pm: While trying Slovenian food at Slovenia's embassy, learn about the country and its World Bee Day initiative.

11am - 4pm: At the Indonesian embassy, stalls will sell traditional food and souvenirs while musicians and dancers perform.

10am - 4pm: At the Korean embassy will have traditional food on offer, including kimchi, bulgogi and japchae, which visitors can sample while listening to K-pop and traditional music performances.