

Mermaid Beach lifesaver Sean Fitzgerald to commemorate Anzac landings with epic surf boat row

- by: *Nicholas McElroy*
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Sean Fitzgerald from Mermaid Beach SLSC is travelling to Turkey to row a surfboat with lifesavers from New Zealand and Turkey into Anzac Cove. Picture: JERAD WILLIAMS
Source: News Limited

SURF boats with Australian, New Zealand and Turkish crews will row along the peninsula at Gallipoli this month to commemorate 100 years since the Anzac landings.

After three years of planning, Mermaid Beach surf lifesaver Sean Fitzgerald has secured a spot on a North Bondi surf boat.

He will row almost 60km from The Dardanelles to Anzac Cove in Turkey.

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Sean Fitzgerald from Mermaid Beach SLSC is travelling to Turkey to row a surfboat with lifesavers from New Zealand and Turkey into Anzac Cove. Picture: JERAD WILLIAMS
Source: News Limited

Mr Fitzgerald, 20, said it would be an important voyage to remember the lives lost on the battlefields around the world.

“It is going to be something really special,” he said.

“I’ve been waiting for the opportunity to row at the centenary for a few years now.

“It is something I can do for the soldiers that have been in my family, my surf club and all the Anzacs.”



Sean Fitzgerald will paddle for family, club and the Anzacs in Turkey this month. *Source:* News Limited

Mr Fitzgerald said being on the water would add to the whole experience.

“It will be a moving experience,” he said.

“The rhythm and the work involved in pulling the boat through the water really makes you think — it’s almost like a trance.

“I imagine working as a team and relying on the other people in your boat would be similar to what it would be like to be in the army.”

Mermaid Beach Surf Life Saving Club AEME (Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineers) president Phil Chipman said because the club was founded by veterans it was important to help Mr Fitzgerald get to the memorial.

“We are very pleased to help send a representative overseas,” Mr Chipman said.

“Our club was established by World War II veterans who were mainly part of the Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineer Corps.”

“Before Mermaid Beach was named in 1945, the club was called AEME Surf Life Saving Club and we still keep close ties with the organisation.”

For more information visit gallipoli100.com.au