

# Eric Bogle at the Gallipoli Centenary

**Eric Bogle was born in Peebles a few days after the D-Day landings in Normandy, followed shortly after by his twin sister Sandra.**

Eric later emigrated to Australia and in 1980, after various jobs and the success of his songs 'And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda' and 'No Man's Land' (Aka 'Greenfields of France'), he embarked on the perilous career of a professional musician.

A compulsive, almost obsessive songwriter for most his adult life, Eric has written many, many songs, some of which have pretty much become Australian, if not world classics of their particular genre.

Possibly his best known song is 'And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda', which confirmed its status by appearing as a question in the Australian version of Trivial Pursuit!

Eric's songs have been recorded by Joan Baez, Mary Black, Jean Redpath MBE, June Tabor, Donovan, Billy Bragg, The Pogues, The Fureys, and The Corries, to name but a few.

Eric has recorded numerous albums and a DVD.

Eric has toured extensively in North America, the U.K. and Europe plus of course Australia and New

Zealand, and has appeared at every major folk and country music festival in Australia and around the world.

He has had many awards bestowed on him, including the Order of Australia Medal for services to the entertainment industry and a Peace Medal from the United Nations for his efforts, through music, to promote peace and racial harmony.

In Scotland, he was recognised by The Scots Trad Awards and has been placed in their 'Hall of Fame'.

In a 'Celebrity Top 50 Songs Poll' held in 2003, two of Eric's songs: 'And The Band Played.....' and 'No Man's Land' were placed No. 1 and 5 respectively, above international artists such as Donovan, John Lennon, Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello, Leonard Cohen, John Prine and many more.

Melody Maker wrote of Eric, 'Most of the best contemporary songs of the seventies were written by Eric Bogle', and that is only part of his success story!

In April, 2015, Eric was invited to the Gallipoli Centenary on ANZAC Day and sang 'And The Band Played.....' at 4.40a.m. in the morning to a large appreciative gathering of mainly Australians and, as Eric puts it: 'And of course the ghosts of all those

boys I originally wrote the song for'.

Eric described it as 'a privilege....' and 'a very moving and emotional experience...' and he was delighted he had accepted the invitation from Battlefields Tours of Australia, who arranged the trip.

You can see Eric singing the song in Gallipoli on You-Tube.

A few days before the anniversary, Ricky Ross presented a half hour programme on BBC Radio Scotland based on Eric's song 'And the Band Played.....'.

Eric was interviewed at length and guests included June Tabor and Archie Fisher.

An anniversary commemoration service arranged by Legion Scotland was held in Edinburgh Castle on April 25 and screened on the Castle Esplanade to enable the public to see it.

The event, including extracts from Eric's DVD, including his singing of 'And The Band Played.....' and 'All The Fine Young Men'.

This was reported on BBC TV and STV.

Eric Bogle albums and the DVD are available from [www.tradandnow.com](http://www.tradandnow.com)

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