



## Diving for Anzac relics

THE underwater photographer who captured the resting place of an Australian World War I submarine, sunk during the Battle of Gallipoli, will return to where the Diggers landed.

Coffs Harbour's Mark Spencer will join a team of divers and archaeologists at Anzac Cove in May aiming to uncover pieces of Australian war history lost beneath the waves for 95 years.

"We are hoping to locate, map and archive anything from soldiers' helmets, bayonets, rifles, even the cigarette lighters carried by the fallen Anzacs," Mr Spencer said.

"To our advantage, the ocean is forever uncovering relics off Anzac Cove and Turkish divers have reported seeing magazines full of bullets near the landing sites."

Respected journalist Mike Munro and a Channel Seven film crew plan to accompany the team to Gallipoli, filming a documentary on their discoveries, which could air nationally.

The expedition will be Mark's first visit to Gallipoli since the history-making dive in 1998, where he sighted the sunken Australian submarine HMAS AE2 at the bottom of the Dardanelles Straits.

"On my first descent over the wreck, I allowed myself a few minutes to appreciate the significance of the moment," he said.

"Surprisingly, I felt closer to the Anzacs 72 metres under the sea than I did standing in the trenches at Gallipoli."

The AE2 was one of two Royal Australian Navy submarines to see combat during World War I.

It was scuttled in the Sea of Marmara after damage by shellfire from a Turkish vessel after it had torpedoed an enemy gun ship.

The 33-man crew, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Stoker, surrendered and were held as Prisoners Of War until 1918.

Since the wreck was rediscovered, Mark says he has been disappointed to learn that the AE2 has been damaged by the nets and anchors of local fishing fleets.

But the submarine will remain in its watery grave, after archaeological surveys found it would be impossible to raise and preserve the wreck.

Mark's upcoming dives around Anzac Cove will be jointly funded by Channel Seven and Australian Geographic, while the opportunity is also open to local business to sponsor the expedition.

*Article from Sunshine Coast Daily*

# Killer snails offer new drug hope

**POISONOUS sea snails found off Australia's coastline could be carrying the world's next generation of pain killing drugs.**

The snails have a cocktail of powerful agents in their venom, which they use to immobilise their prey, explains Professor David Adams who is director of the Health Innovations Research Institute at Melbourne's RMIT.

Research is under way to isolate those agents - peptides - which, he said, could be used safely to treat pain in humans as a less problematic alternative to morphine.

"In some of the old medical reports where people have been stung by these cone snails, they don't feel pain, most of them die be-



cause of respiratory paralysis," Prof Adams told AAP.

"In a way nature has done a lot of the work, these peptides are designed to target receptors in pain pathways.

"Our job is just to find them and put them to use."

Prof Adams has been conducting research on the venom for more than a decade, though he says the work to understand its 200 different peptides started in Australia in the 1960s.

US health authorities approved the first snail venom-derived painkiller in 2005, but its application was limited as it must be injected into the spine.

Prof Adams said advances in the synthetic reproduction of peptides, and new techniques to stabilise them, now offered the prospect of creating a venom-based pain killer that could be taken intravenously or in a tablet.

Clinical trials were under way, including in Australia, and Prof Adams said the broad availability of a venom-based painkiller could be as close as five years away.

Cancer patients, and other people with chronic pain, could be future users of the new type of analgesic that unlike morphine appeared unable to cause addiction.

"The problem with morphine is people can develop tolerance to it, it becomes ineffective, or they become addicted to it," he said.

"With these peptides, you don't have that problem."

Prof Adams gave a presentation at the joint conference of the Australian Neuroscience Society and Australian Physiological Society, held in Sydney this week.

*Article from Sunshine Coast Daily*

## Lost tourist rescued through texting family in Greece



A tourist lost on Mt Ruapehu on Saturday night used his cellphone to text his family in Greece to guide searchers to him.

Marios Symeonidis, 30, was found at 10am

on Sunday on the Bruce Road up the mountain.

He had become separated from a friend at 6.30pm during what was meant to be a short walk, said Senior Sergeant Marty Edghill of the Central Commu-

nications Centre.

He was not equipped for a night in the open. After three hours he texted his family in Greece saying he was lost but unharmed.

At one point, he told them he could see a police vehicle on the mountain but could not reach it because it was on the other side of a swiftly flowing stream which he was following.

His family contacted the Greek emergency services as text messages came in and the information was passed on to police in New Zealand.

"It was a good option to use his cellphone," said search and rescue controller John Pitchford. "He was not injured but he was hungry - he ate all of the choc

olate and muesli bars out of my pack and most of my water. He is happier now he is back with his mate and they have driven off to catch the ferry to go to the South Island."

## Comedian Jim Dailakis is in High Demand

Comedian, actor and writer, Jim Dailakis is a Greek-Australian triple threat based in New York. The son of Greek immigrants grew up in Perth, Australia watching classic American sitcoms like "All in the Family" and "M\*A\*S\*H." A Trained actor at Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute and the Actors Studio in New York City; he also does voice-over and commercial work. He has four original screenplays coming about, including "Not Until She Sings," a comedy-drama.

Jim Dailakis has performed at many of the nation's best comedy venues such as New York City's Caroline's and Laugh Factory, Atlantic City's Borgata Hotel, Raleigh's Charlie Goodnight's, Jacksonville's Comedy Zone and Chicago's Riddles.

Presently, Dailakis tickles audiences in a three-night stand-up comedy show Thursday at the Funny Bone Station Square on the South Side in Pittsburg.

He is a master of accents and can take on any character. You can spot him doing dead-on imitations of Dustin Hoffman, Sean Connery, Harrison Ford, and Seinfeld's Kramer in his acts. Audiences are so pleased with Dailakis' acts that his original plan for a three-month comedy tour in the States has turned into an indefinite stay.

Dailakis told the Pittsburg Tribune how he feels more like an actor than anything else, "I was always acting," he says. "That's what I am first and foremost. I could almost say I'm acting the part of a comedian. I'm acting the voice-over guy. I think it's all acting. I think it's all integrated."

