



"He was amazing" ... Angela Claridge with her portrait of Alec Campbell, her great-grandfather and the last Anzac, who died in 2002. Photos: Steven Siewert

Louise Schwartzkoff

EUAN MACLEOD has never visited the battle-scarred landscape he painted to win the Gallipoli Art Prize. He plans to go soon, perhaps with the help of the \$20,000 he collected at Sydney's Gallipoli Memorial Club yesterday.

"Maybe I'll put it aside to go to Gallipoli. Why not? That would be a really fantastic thing," he said. Macleod's *Smoke/Pink Landscape/Shovel* shows a shovel stuck into the earth and a muddy, smoky trench.

"The idea of the shovel is a bit of a clumsy reference to the

diggers," he said. "There are ideas of remembrance and digging up the past."

The prize, in its fourth year, recognises artists who capture the Gallipoli campaign spirit. It is open to artists from Australia, New Zealand and Turkey. The winner was selected from 126 entries. Thirty finalists have been hung in an exhibition at the club. Angela Claridge, 21, earned a place in the finals with a portrait of her great-grandfather, Alec Campbell, the last Anzac, who died in 2002.

"I was one of about 30 great-grandchildren, so we didn't see him so often, but he was

amazing," Claridge said. "He led the march well into his late 90s. He had a real spark about him."

Other finalists who attended the announcement included Chris O'Doherty (aka Reg Mombassa) and a group of year 6 students from the John Colet School in Belrose.

Macleod, a New Zealander living in Sydney, is a veteran of art prizes. He won the Archibald Prize in 1999 with *Self Portrait/Head Like A Hole*, the Sulman in 2001 with *Exquisite Corpse With Fire* and the Blake Prize for Religious Art in 2006 with another brooding landscape. "The Archibald gets all the

attention, but it's just about a portrait," he said. "There are a lot of other prizes that are actually about something that seems to mean something... I think that's very true of the Gallipoli Prize." John McDonald, the *Herald's* art critic and a judge of the competition, said Macleod's painting was the clear winner: "I think we have a sense of the tremendous loneliness and desolation that people felt at that time, that sense of waiting and brooding."

The Gallipoli Art Prize exhibition is at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus Street, Sydney, from Monday until May 8.



A prize that actually means something... the winner, Euan Macleod.

SMT Fri 25 April 09. p.3