

Artist's Statement
Tony Sowersby – “The Lost Boys”

At first glance my painting may look like a group of modern teenagers passing a memorial statue blithely unaware of its significance. These statues, whitened and weathered by time, stand in most Australian rural towns and older suburbs as testimony to the inconceivable number of young men slaughtered in the Great War. Australia lost 60,000 dead and 150,000 wounded in WW1. Our population is now four times greater and so an equivalent modern statistic would be a quarter of a million dead in four years.

This toll really began at Gallipoli. The young men in my painting could be their ghosts. They ride forward laughing and carefree, unaware of the future. I have dressed them this way to emphasize their youth and the reality of the tragedy to so many families.

Or they could be their modern day equivalents still being sacrificed in far away places.