



SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE
MELBOURNE

MEDIA RELEASE

Shrine of Remembrance presents the Indigenous Australians at war: from the Boer War to the present touring exhibition

Shrine of Remembrance

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The Shrine Trustees are proud to announce the launch of the touring exhibition **Indigenous Australians at war: from the Boer War to the present** exhibition. The exhibition will tour regional Victoria from October 2011 – October 2013, commencing in Mildura on Tuesday 18 October 2011.

The exhibition will be formally launched by the Federal Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, and Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Jeanette Powell on Tuesday 18 October 2:30pm at Mildura Arts Centre's LEAP Project Space, 39 Langtree Avenue, Mildura.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders stories presented in this exhibition are drawn from all over Australia. Aboriginal men and women have combined modern military and uniquely indigenous skills in the service of their country. The exhibition covers their contributions to wartime activities in the Boer War (1899-1902), the First World War (1914-18), Second World War (1939-45), Korean War (1950-53), Vietnam War (1963-72), and in subsequent conflicts and peacekeeping. The opportunity to serve in Australia's armed forces gave many the experience of liberation from racial stereotypes for the first time. Oral histories reveal that while racism might emerge behind the lines, when serving at the front line, all were alike in their concerns to survive and consider one another.

The history of conflict between Aboriginal and non-indigenous Australians, combined with the lack of equal rights, throws into perspective the subject of this exhibition. Well before 1967 when Aboriginal Australians received citizenship, these stories of our shared history were unfolding.

The Shrine Trustees are proud to present **Indigenous Australians at war: from the Boer War to the present** and gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions of the Australian Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Victorian Veterans Council, Citywide and Toll IPEC for the development of this exhibition.

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A media kit including a selection of images from the exhibition is available on request. <http://www.shrine.org.au/Exhibitions/Travelling-Exhibitions/Indigenous-Australians-at-war>

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