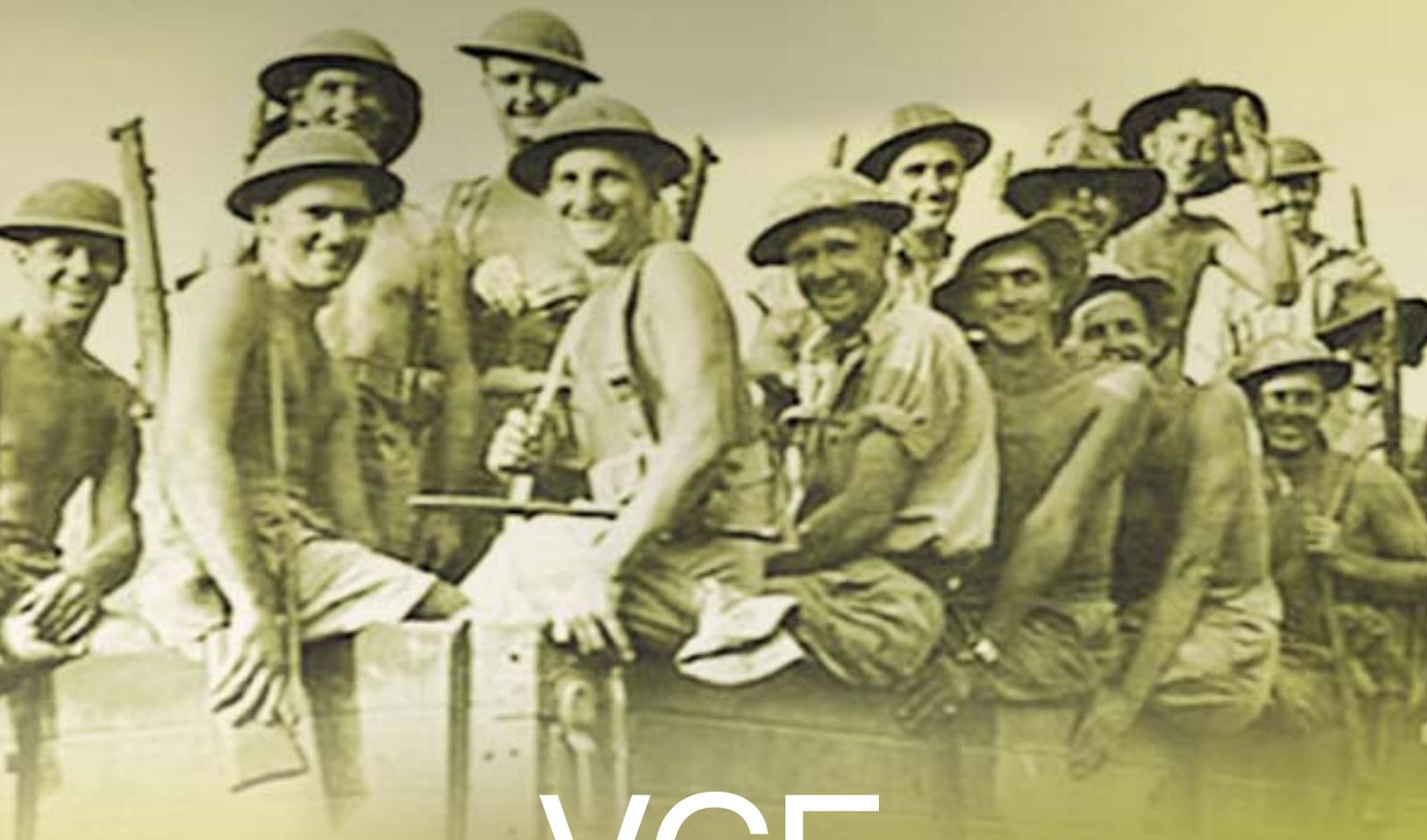




SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE
EDUCATION PROGRAM



VCE
World War II





World War II: Introduction

During World War II Australia perceived itself as being under direct threat for the first time. The bombings of the northern coastline (including Darwin) and the capture of Japanese midget submarines in Sydney Harbour brought this home very clearly. Previously Australia's military efforts had focused on Europe and North Africa. Increasingly, the focus became the South-West Pacific. The 'Battle for Australia' was underway with military and homeland responses. Women as well as men were now mobilized to support the war effort and the Australian Government under John Curtin turned increasingly towards the United States without cutting its ties to Britain.

To help teachers and students in their investigations about the Australian response to World War II, the Shrine of Remembrance has developed this online resource base. To access this information, visit each of the following questions to find out more:

→ What am I required to study about World War II?

→ What resources are available to help me?

→ What primary resources are available online to help me?

→ What visual materials about World War II are available online?

→ What can I find out about the Battle for Australia, including efforts at home to support the war?



WHAT AM I REQUIRED TO STUDY ABOUT WORLD WAR II?

The following extracts are taken from the History Study Design for 2005 - 2007.

Unit 4: Australian History

This unit continues the exploration of the ideas and visions underpinning Australian society by offering students the opportunity to examine a time when these visions were under threat. They may choose to focus on World War I, The Depression or World War II. The emphasis is on the ways in which Australians responded to the particular threats and whether this led to a rethinking of old certainties. Students will also examine the impact of these experiences on change and social cohesion. The study concludes with an examination of changing Australian attitudes in relation to a number of issues that have been debated in the latter decades of the twentieth century, among them Indigenous rights, the environment, immigration and involvement in war.

AREA OF STUDY 1

Testing the new nation 1914-1950

The experience of World War I consolidated Australians' pride in themselves, as many saw the new nation blooded on the battlefield. The emergence of the ANZAC legend brought ideas of Australian identity into sharper focus, but in many ways the war experience strengthened loyalty to the British Empire. The war opened up deep divisions in Australia, culminating in the bitter debates over conscription in 1916 and 1917.

(For information about the Depression see your VCE Study Guide)

The experience of World War II once again challenged the peace and stability of the nation. Notions of British loyalty and allegiance were certainly shaken, especially by the British defeats of 1942. The severity and suddenness of the threat caused unprecedented mobilisation in defence of the nation. Previously excluded groups, including women and Aborigines, joined the defence forces. Goods were rationed and labour, including thousands of women workers, was conscripted. Japanese advances in World War II represented the most serious possible threat to a nation that had always feared invasion from Asia.

Outcome 1

On completion of this unit the student should be able to analyse the ways in which Australians acted in response to a significant crisis faced by the country during the period 1914 to 1950.

The focus of this unit should be on ONE of the following challenges to the nation:

World War I

The Depression

World War II

To achieve this outcome the student will draw on knowledge and related skills outlined in area of study 1.

Key knowledge

This knowledge includes:

- the chosen crisis and the ways in which Australians responded to that crisis;
- the extent to which this crisis shook old certainties and provided opportunities for people to argue for change;
- the extent to which the cohesion of Australian society was maintained or redefined by the experience of the crisis.



WHAT AM I REQUIRED TO STUDY ABOUT WORLD WAR II? (continued)

Key skills

These skills include the ability to:

- explain the historical issues covered in the key knowledge;
- apply historical concepts related to the period (1914-1950);
- analyse and evaluate written and historical evidence;
- synthesise material and evidence to draw conclusions;
- analyse the way that the experience of the crisis within the period (1914 - 1950) has been interpreted and understood over time by historians and other commentators;
- express knowledge and ideas in writing, presenting material using historical conventions such as quotations, acknowledgment of sources, and a bibliography.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP ME?

Part A: Study design recommended resources

The following resources have been listed for students studying World War II for Unit 4, VCE students of Australian history. This list can also be viewed on page 103 of the History Study Design.

Adam-Smith, Patsy 1994, *Goodbye Girlie*, Penguin, Melbourne

Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1996, *Australian Women at War*, Penguin, Melbourne

Adam-Smith, Patsy 1981, *Hear the Train Blow*, Penguin, Melbourne

Bolton, G & Saunders, K 1992, 'Girdled for War' in Saunders & Evans(eds), *Gender Relations in Australia*, Harcourt, Brace & Jovanich, Sydney

Coffey, BR 1997, *Golden Harvest: Stories of Australian Women*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle

Darin-Smith, Kate 1990, *On the Home Front: Melbourne in Wartime*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne

Damousi, Joy, Lake, Marilyn (eds) 1995, *Gender and War*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne

Lewis, R 1984, *A Nation at War*, Longman Cheshire, Melbourne

McKernan, M 1984, *All In! Australia During the Second World War*, Collins, Sydney

Potts, Daniel, & Potts, Annette 1985, *Yanks Down Under, 1941-1945: The American Impact on Australia*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne

Ward, R 1982, *A Nation for a Continent, the History of Australia*, Heinemann, Australia

Part B: Additional resources

The following resources may also be useful for students. Students should consider the viewpoint and expressed values of the writer when analysing and evaluating these resources. The Shrine of Remembrance encourages students of World War II to consider all perspectives and viewpoints before reaching a personal conclusion about the nature and validity of Australia's involvement in the War and reaction to issues and events as they arose during that conflict both at home and in theatres of war.

Texts

Bomford, Janette 2001, *Soldiers of the Queen: Women in the Australian Army*, Oxford

Chan, Gabrielle (ed.) 2004, *Diaries of Australians at the frontline in 1942*, The Australian/ Hendie Grant Books

Churcher, Betty 2004, *The Art of War*, Miegunyah Press (SBS- Australian War Memorial Project)

Day, David 2000, *John Curtin: a life*, HarperCollins

De Vries, Susanne 2004, *Heroic Australian Women in War*, HarperCollins

Fenton-Huie, Shirley 2000, *Ships Belles: The story of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service in war and peace 1941-1985*, Watermark Press

Fitzsimmons, Peter 2004, *Kokoda*, Hodder

Geddes, Margaret 2004, *Blood. Sweat and Tears: Australia's WWII remembered by the men and women who lived it*, Penguin Viking

History Teachers' Association of Victoria, Australia at War series. Titles include *Social life and Social practice in World War II*, *Living in Australia 1939-45*, *Investigating the Myths of World War II*, *Government Powers in World War II*.

Telephone 9417 3422 or e-mail admin@htav.asn.au

Reid, Richard 1999, *Just wanted to be there: Australian Service Nurses 1899-1999*, Department of Veterans' Affairs



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP ME? (continued)

Websites

Air raids, www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/air_raids/index.htm and www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/air_raids/darwin.htm

Australian War Memorial, www.awm.gov.au

Look under the **Collections database** for additional photographs

Look under the **Encyclopaedia** for useful background information

Look under **Commemorations** which describes each component of a commemorative ceremony and its history.

Australians at War, www.australiansatwar.gov.au and www.australiansatwarfilmarchive.gov.au/aawfa

Search for film archives related to World War II and the Battle for Australia

Australia's War 1939-45, www.ww2australia.gov.au

Battle for Australia, www.battleforaustralia.org.au

Bombing of Darwin, www.naa.gov.au/publications/fact_sheets/fs195.html

Bowen, James, A History of The Battle for Australia 1942-43, www.users.bigpond.com/battleforaustralia/index2.html

Crete, May 1941, www.awm.gov.au/atwar/crete.htm

Fighting in Timor 1942, www.awm.gov.au/atwar/timor.htm

Japanese air raids in Australia during WW2, <http://home.st.net.au/%7Edunn/bomboz.htm> and www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/midgetsub/doc.htm

Japanese midget submarine attacks on Sydney, 1942, www.naa.gov.au/publications/fact_sheets/fs192.htm

Military organisation and structure, www.awm.gov.au/atwar/structure

Prime Minister Robert Menzies wartime broadcast, 3 September 1939, www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/prime_ministers/menzies.htm

Remembering 1942, www.awm.gov.au/atwar/remembering1942/index.htm (includes education activities and other resource materials)

Service records, www.ww2roll.gov.au

Transcripts of interviews with veterans, www.australiansatwarfilmarchive.gov.au

Valuing our Veterans, www.dva.gov.au/commem/commac/studies/anzacsk/eduact3.htm

Veterans On Line, www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/vol/voldg/VOLBioindex.htm

Victoria Cross Winners, www.anzacday.org.au/education/medals/vc/austlist.html

World War II, www.awm.gov.au/atwar/ww2.htm



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP ME? (continued)

Film, Video

ABC, *Australians at War*, 3 cassettes

The following list is a selection of films and videos available for borrowing from the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. Visit their website at www.acmi.net.au to read descriptions of the listed resources, to borrow materials and search for additional resources.

Australians at War: 1939-1945: navy, army, air force, (311230), 1995, 90 min, video

Battle of Australia, (509787), 1991, 57 min, video

Frontline: The search for truth in wartime (308025), 1983, video. Explores issues related to media and censorship.

Home front: 1939-1945, (306354), 1995, 60 min, video

Moresby under the blitz (505523), 1942, 9 min, 16mm (contains Newsreel footage)

Our darkest hour (303408), 1991, 55 min, video

Our melancholy duty (303257), 1991, 55 min, video

Propaganda: resource material from WWI and WW2 (509431), 1986, 31 min, video

Sons of the Anzacs 1939-1945, (010035), 1991, 30 min, video

Vivian Bullwinkel, (300857), 1988, 48 min, video

War in the Pacific, (312372), nd, 70 min, video (Includes newsreels)

War stories, (309403), 1995, 88min, video

When the war came to Australia (S01049), 1991 55 min

Kits

History Teachers' Association of Victoria, *The Defense of Australia Kit*, Australia - United States Coral Sea Commemorative Council. Includes 45 minute video with archival footage. Telephone 9417 3422 or e-mail admin@htav.asn.au



WHAT PRIMARY RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO HELP ME?

Primary resources are incorporated into several websites. Sometimes there is a collection of primary resource materials. At other times such as on the Australia's War 1939-1945 website these are used to illustrate and explain the secondary text. The principal websites are:

- Australian War Memorial
- Australia's War 1939-1945
- Battle for Australia
- Victorians at War.

Australian War Memorial at www.awm.gov.au

This extensive and detailed website includes the following primary source materials:

- Photographs: These can be viewed at www.awm.gov.au/database/collections.asp. Use the Collections search and refine your search using the 'Search terms' box and identify 'Second World War' as the 'conflict'. As there are tens of thousands of photographs, be specific in your requests, using a place name such as 'Darwin' or 'Kokoda' or an event or initiative such as 'Coral Sea' and 'rationing'.
- Works of Art: Again this is an extensive collection and includes recruitment posters. See 'Photographs' above for further advice.
- Australian Army War diaries. These are provided for headquarters and Infantry units though students may find the text difficult to read and decipher.

Australia's War 1939-1945 at www.ww2australia.gov.au

Each section includes illustrative visual and/or sound materials.

For example, the section, 'All in' about the home response to the Battle for Australia includes 3 recruitment posters, newsreel footage, a ration book (cover), and information about air raids such as the words of the Jack Davey song, *Our Air Shelter*, Air Raid Warden's Certificate and air raid instructions.

The section 'Australia Attacked' includes photographs, paintings and newsreel footage.

Ensure students use all buttons to access additional materials. For example, 'Australia Attacked' has three additional sections, 'Air raids', 'Sydney harbour' and 'Coastal menace'.

Battle for Australia at www.battleforaustralia.org.au

This website uses photographs, original drawings and paintings to illustrate the text.

Victorians At War at <http://victoriansatwar.net>

This oral history project, a joint initiative of the State Library Victoria and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, includes materials organised around the following themes: enlistment, training, daily routines, living conditions, communications, active service, escape, sing along, back home and reflections on war.

Archival materials include personal stories (taped interviews many with Patsy Adam-Smith), photographs, postcards, original art, letters, diaries, posters, pamphlets, books, magazines, maps and other objects.



WHAT VISUAL MATERIALS ABOUT WORLD WAR II ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE?

Australian War Memorial

The most extensive source of visual materials is the Australian War Memorial website at www.awm.gov.au.

It has a very large photographic collection (10,000s of photos) which can be accessed at www.awm.gov.au/database/collection.asp Students should be encouraged to refine their search to locate suitable visual materials.

They should also be aware that most of these photographs are official records and have been developed from a particular perspective. Students can use the analytical questions set out below to help them to analyse these photographs, their purpose and message.

This website also includes paintings and other works of art, film and sound recordings. Film and sound records must be ordered from the Australian War Memorial whereas other materials can be viewed online.

Australians at War at www.australiansatwarfilmarchive.gov.au/aawfa

Search for film archives related to World War II and the Battle for Australia.

Australia's War 1939-1945 at www.ww2australia.gov.au

While this website has less visual material, it is closely connected to the secondary text and teachers and students may find this very useful and less time consuming. Newsreel footage can be viewed online together with photographs, maps, paintings and other artefacts.

Victorians at War at www.victoriansatwar.org.au

The Archives section of this website is most useful for students' VCE requirements. It includes recorded interviews by Patsy Adam-Smith with World War II veterans, letters, diaries, photographs and other objects.

Film and video

ABC, *Australians at War*, 3 cassettes

The following list is a selection of films and videos available for borrowing from the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. Visit their website at www.acmi.net.au to read descriptions of the listed resources, to borrow materials and search for additional resources.

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Vivian Bullwinkel, (300857), 1988, 48 min, video

War in the Pacific, (312372), nd, 70 min, video (Includes newsreels)

War stories, (309403), 1995, 88min, video

When the war came to Australia (S01049), 1991 55 min



WHAT VISUAL MATERIALS ABOUT WORLD WAR II ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE? *(continued)*

Understanding visual literacy

Students should develop critical viewing skills when looking at films, photographs and other visual materials. As well as being aware of the author or creator of these works and their political viewpoints on the issue, students should view each item critically. The following questions have been developed to assist students in this process.

Analysing the purpose of the photographic images:

- Who and what is in each photograph?
- What are the people doing?
- What do you think happened before each photograph was taken?
- What do you think happened after each photograph was taken?
- Why do you think these photographs were taken? What do they tell you?
- When do you think that each photograph was taken?
- What might be happening outside each photograph?
- Where do you think the photographer stood when the photograph was taken?
- Do you think it might look much different if it was taken from another position?
- Is there anything in any of these images that shows humour?
- Do these images create an atmosphere of importance about the events they portray and if so, how?
- How do you think that the people in these images might be feeling?
- What are some of the feelings you had as you looked at each photograph?
- What details or information do you think are missing from these photographs?
- Are they important images or details? Why or why not?
- Which photographs are action shots and which ones are posed?
- How can you tell?
- If you had to write a caption for each photograph for a newspaper article, what would it be?

Analysing the purpose of the art images:

- Who and what is in each work of art?
- What are the people doing?
- How soon or how long after the events portrayed were these images made? Do you think this would make a difference to the accuracy of the art work? Why?
- Why do you think these images were made? What do they tell you?
- What might be happening outside each image?
- Is there anything in any of these images that shows humour?
- How do these images create an atmosphere of importance about the events they portray?
- How do you think that the people in these images might be feeling?
- What are some of the feelings you had as you looked at each image?
- What details do you think are missing from these images?
- Are they important images or details? Why?
- If you had to write a caption for each image for a newspaper article, what would it be?
- Are there any questions you could not answer to help you understand the event by examining the art work?



WHAT CAN I FIND ABOUT THE BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA, INCLUDING EFFORTS AT HOME TO SUPPORT THE WAR?

Battle for Australia Commemoration Committee

Contact Dr Jacqueline Hollingworth at the **History Teachers' Association of Victoria** by telephone on 9417 3422 or email education@htav.asn.au

Shrine of Remembrance website at www.shrine.org.au

Visit the 'Commemorations' section of the Education webpage and view and/or download materials about the Battle for Australia.

Australian War Memorial at www.awm.gov.au

- Find out about different aspects of the Battle for Australia by reading the 'Anniversary Talks' (previously Remembering 1942) at www.awm.gov.au/atwar/remembering1942/index.htm

Talks include:

- The fall of Singapore
 - The bombing of Darwin
 - Sydney under attack
 - Milne Bay
 - The end of the Kokoda campaign.
- Use the Collections database at www.awm.gov.au/database/collection.asp for photographs of the bombing of Darwin and the submarines found in Sydney Harbour as well as photographs associated with key campaign events and places.
 - The Encyclopedia at www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/index.htm includes the following entries:
 - Air power in the Pacific
 - Air raids on Australian mainland
 - Conscription during the Second War, 1939-45
 - Darwin air raids
 - Japanese midget submarine

Australia's War 1939-1945 at www.ww2australia.gov.au

The following sections are particularly relevant to understanding the Battle for Australia:

- Japanese Advance
- Australia Attacked
- As Far As They Got
- All In
- Beyond All Praise
- The Coastwatchers
- Beachhead Battles
- Pushing Back
- Peril on the Sea
- The Angry Sky
- Last Battles
- Victory



WHAT CAN I FIND ABOUT THE BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA, INCLUDING EFFORTS AT HOME TO SUPPORT THE WAR? (continued)

Australians at War at www.australiansatwarfilmarchive.gov.au/aawfa

Search for film archives related to World War II and the Battle for Australia.

Battle for Australia at www.battleforaustralia.org.au/index.html

This website was prepared by the Battle for Australia Commemoration Council.

Film and video

ABC, *Australians at War*, 3 volumes

The following list is a selection of films and videos available for borrowing from the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. Visit their website at www.acmi.net.au to read descriptions of the listed resources, to borrow materials and search for additional resources.

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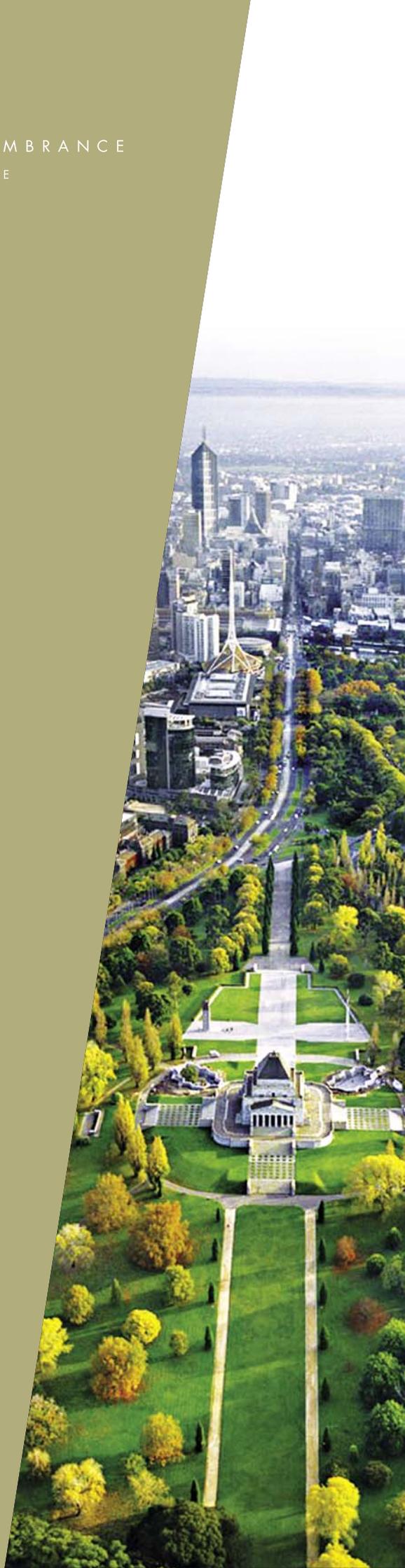
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