



**AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER
VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**
P.O. BOX 552, TORQUAY, VIC, 3228

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)

ABN 59 558 194 094

Telephone & Fax: (03) 5264 8244

Mobile: 0432 099 270

Email: president@peacekeepers.asn.au

Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Patron

**Major General John Pearn AM, KStJ,
RFD (Ret'd)**

*Affiliated with the Soldiers of Peace
International Association - SPIA*

MEDIA RELEASE

Equal In Service – Unequal In Death

Australia's younger veteran community remains angered by a refusal by the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to allow those who die on non-warlike, post-armistice or humanitarian operations to be placed on the Honour Roll at the national memorial.

National President for the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA), Mr Allan Thomas, said those who die in service of their nation on these operations have their names placed in a book locked in a cabinet hidden in a stairwell at the AWM.

"At the time the AWM was opened in the 1940's, non-warlike, post armistice or humanitarian operations didn't exist. Those whose names appear on the Honour Roll did die in war and deserve that recognition but the world has now moved on with different types of operations."

"It is certainly a case of being equal in service but not equal in death and that is no longer good enough in a nation that seeks equality in every aspect of life and culture."

"C.E.W. Bean wanted everyone to be equal in the AWM because of their sacrifice to Australia – no rank or post nominals. However, the bureaucratic thinking applied to who has a right to appear on the Wall means the AWM is not equal in its approach and needs to move into the 21st century."

He said as a notional example of the absurdity where two soldiers are killed in vehicle crashes – one in the Middle East and one on a non-warlike operation – one name goes on the Wall and one doesn't.

Mr Thomas said the Government steadfastly refuses to make a direction to the AWM Board despite the institution receiving public funding.

"The AWM and the Government sadly under-estimates the growing anger at this inequality which is relatively easy to rectify for the families and mates of these 48 members who did die in service of this nation."

"This is a classic case of inequality caused by bureaucratic processes and thinking."

Mr Thomas' full statement on this issue can be found in *The Australian Peacekeeper* at: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/mag/2011summer/index.html>

He can be contacted for interview on 0432 099 270

"Looking After Our Own"