



**AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER  
VETERANS' ASSOCIATION  
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*Also assisting Veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and Peacetime Service*

*Commemorating 20 Years of The Australian Contingent  
to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia*

Monday, 10 September 2012

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Wodonga to Commemorate 65 Years of  
Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping Operations**

Friday, 14th September 2012 commemorates 65 years of Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping Operations. Australia was the world's first ever Peacekeepers to deploy into the field on the 14th September 1947 in what was then known as the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia).

Since then, The Australian Defence Force has served continuously, non-stop on Peacekeeping Operations. Peacekeeping is Australia's longest ever Military Commitment to International Peace, Security and Stability.

Australia has contributed well over 70,000 troops to over 60 war-torn countries to Peacekeeping Operations, with the unfortunate loss of 41 Peacekeepers. 38 soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, 2 soldiers in Iraq and another 7 soldiers who died on other Australian Defence Force Operations overseas. A total of 88 troops. We will remember these losses.

Wodonga is hosting the 65th Commemoration of Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping Operations and the 20th Anniversary of the deployment to Cambodia of the Force Communications Unit at Woodland Grove, commencing at 1430, Friday 14th September.

The Federal Member for Indi, The Hon Sophie Mirabella, MP, will be the keynote speaker, hosted by Mr Matthew Burke OAM and the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association.

A post Commemorative Service Reunion and refreshments will be served at the Wodonga RSL Sub-Branch.

Members of the Public are welcome to remember the service, courage and sacrifice of our servicemen and servicewomen to International Peacekeeping Operations since 1947 to the present day - and well into the future.

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*“Looking After Our Own”*