

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS AT THE UNITED NATIONS



Synopsis

War and conflict has always changed the lives of ordinary people. The great Australian ANZAC tradition grew out of the personal qualities of the men and women who served and sacrificed. These qualities continue to form the foundation of our identity as Australians.

The Australian Peacekeepers at the United Nations stands alone as an exhibition demonstrating the enormous contribution Australia has always made and continues to make to support international peace and security. With the support of the Australian Mission to the United Nations, the Peacekeepers will feature at the United Nations in New York in May 2009 providing an international platform for acknowledgment of our Peacekeeper Veterans' service and sacrifice.

Australian Peacekeepers are an integral part of two other photographic projects, The Rising Spirit of ANZAC – a photographic journey; and The New ANZUS Legacy. By focussing on individual stories of service men and women through the use of current portraits, alongside images and stories from their period of service, the exhibitions will construct a very intimate and moving portrait of the personal experiences, commitment and service of Australian personnel.

The Rising Spirit of ANZAC is a photographic narrative that documents Australia's pride in the ANZAC tradition as it is demonstrated by our servicemen and women in all conflicts since Gallipoli. The Rising Spirit of ANZAC will tour nationally in Australia and feature as the 2010 ANZAC Day exhibition at the Australian Embassy in Washington.

Linked to the Rising Spirit of ANZAC project is the New ANZUS Legacy, a project under development for exhibition in the United States. Using the same concepts the other two projects, the New ANZUS Legacy, with the inclusion of American service men and women, will highlight the long relationship between Australia and the United States originating with the first Australian command of American troops in 1918 by General John Monash at the Battle of Hamel. The New ANZUS Legacy exhibition will provide an international platform for acknowledgment of our Australian and American Veteran's service and sacrifice.

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Increasingly the support for recognition and remembrance has grown, as younger generations discover and acknowledge the sacrifices made. The Australian Peacekeepers at the United Nations, The Rising Spirit of ANZAC and The New ANZUS Legacy Projects acknowledge the places and roles our servicemen and women alongside those from other countries have assumed within contemporary Australian society and their impact on our lives at a national and international level.

The Australian Peacekeepers at the United Nations; the Rising Spirit of ANZAC, the New ANZUS Legacy Projects will stand as a lasting and unique testament that engages across national and international audiences.

Supporters

Support for the projects has been obtained from Veteran's communities from the RSL, Korean, Vietnam and Peacekeepers' Associations, in conjunction with Veteran Liaison from the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital; and Jane Scott, Director of Cultural Relations, Australian Embassy;

Support for the Australian Peacekeepers at the United Nations and liaison with the United Nations has been facilitated by Michelle Woods, Director Media and Public Affairs, Australian Consulate General, New York (michelle.z.woods@dfat.gov.au) and Major Jason Williams, Second Secretary, Deputy Military Advisor, Australian Mission to the United Nations (jason.williams@dfat.gov.au).