

"Will they remember me in Australia?" a mortally wounded Australian asked Australia's official First World War correspondent, Charles Bean, during the battle of Pozieres in 1916. Bean then determined to build a memorial museum, to ensure that Australian service people and their ordeals would not be forgotten.

In 1927 a competition was held to design the Australian War Memorial. There was no single design considered satisfactory for the building, but two of the entrants, Emil Sodersteen, and John Crust, were asked to combine their entries, and the joint design was accepted.

There were delays in the construction of the building, in part due to the financial crash that led to the Great Depression. However, exhibitions were held in the Australian War Museum in Melbourne from 1922, before being moved to Sydney from 1925.

The Australian War Memorial officially opened in Canberra on Remembrance Day in 1941. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the original vision for the Memorial was expanded to include commemoration of that war too. Since then, the Memorial has continued to grow and change to reflect the ongoing service and sacrifice of Australian men and women in conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

In view of Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial is an iconic building which reminds the nation of the cost of war, and the impact of service. More than one million people visit the site every year.

## The Commemorative Area

The Commemorative Area is located just inside the front gates at the entrance to the Memorial. Here, the Eternal Flame burns in the Pool of Reflection. Displayed on the walls above are the names of places where Australians have served.

Surrounding the courtyard, on the walls of the arched cloisters, is the Roll of Honour. Here, cast in bronze, are the names of more than 102,000 Australians who have died as a result of serving their country in conflicts since 1885. Many visitors insert poppies in the niches of the Roll of Honour, often placing them next to a name that has significance for them.

The Hall of Memory, set above the Pool of Reflection, is the heart of the Australian War Memorial. It contains the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier. To mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the body of one unknown Australian soldier was recovered from Adelaide Cemetery near Villers-Bretonneux in France and transported to Australia. After lying in state in King's Hall in Old Parliament House, the Unknown Australian Soldier was interred in the Hall of Memory on 11 November 1993. He was buried in a Tasmanian blackwood coffin, on which were placed a bayonet and a sprig of wattle. Soil from the Pozieres battlefield in France was scattered in his tomb. The inscription at the foot of the tomb reads, "He is all of them and he is one of us".

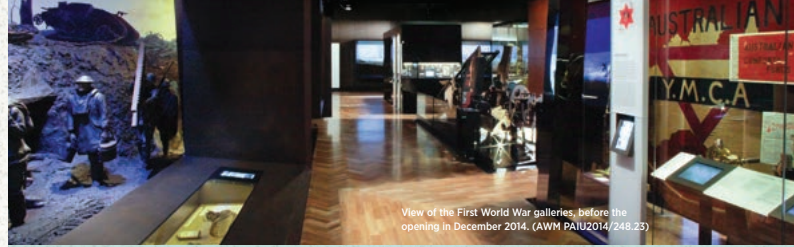
A documentary about the Hall of Memory can be viewed here: <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/visitor-information/features/hall-of-memory>

*Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made.*

Charles Bean



The Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, 2019. (AWM PAIU2014/146.03)



View of the First World War galleries, before the opening in December 2014. (AWM PAIU2014/248.23)

## The galleries

Charles Bean imagined that the Australian War Memorial would be:

*"On some hill-top - still, beautiful, gleaming white and silent, a building of three parts, a centre and two wings. The centre will hold the great national relics of the AIF. One wing will be a gallery - holding the pictures that our artists painted and drew actually on the scene and amongst the events themselves. The other wing will be a library to contain the written official records of every unit."*

Since its opening in 1941, the galleries of the Memorial have undergone several major alterations and many smaller updates. While remaining faithful to Bean's original vision, changes to the Memorial have been made to accommodate a growing collection reflective of Australia's continued involvement in war and peacekeeping operations.

Anzac Hall opened in 2001, the Hall of Valour opened in 2011, and the First World War galleries were redeveloped for the centenary of the First World War, 2014-2018.

Exhibition space was also altered in 2016, to acknowledge Australia's more recent involvement in conflicts in the Middle East. The Australian War Memorial is now embarking on a major development of its galleries and precinct to ensure it can continue to share stories of remembrance, and the Australian experience of war, for generations to come.

## The Research Centre

The Research Centre holds written records relating to Australia's military history, both published and unpublished. The collection contains material about the Australian experience of war from the late nineteenth century to current conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Four main types of records have been collected:

- Official Records
- Private Records
- Published Collection
- Digitised Collection

The majority of these records can be viewed in the Research Centre's reading room in the main building. Visitors can also access a selection of digitised historical documents and records through the Memorial's website.

Using the Australian War Memorial or a special place in your community, think about:

- What makes this place unique?
- Who was this place built for?
- How has this place changed over time?

What does this place mean to different people in your community?

- What stories does this place tell?
- If you had to redesign this place, what changes would you make?



Daniel Boyd, *For Our Country* (2019), pigmented black rammed earth, bronze, glass, steel, concrete, timber, 3.03 x 11.17 m AWM2019.4.531



## Napier Waller

Australian artist Napier Waller was chosen to create the decorative elements in the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial, including the stained-glass windows and mosaics.

Born in 1893, Waller left school at the age of 14 to work on the family farm, before moving to Melbourne in 1913 to study drawing and painting. After the start of the First World War, he enlisted in the AIF in August 1915 and served with the 11th Howitzer Battery, 4th Division.

In May 1917 at Bullecourt, during the fighting on the Western Front, Waller was so badly wounded that his right arm had to be amputated to save his life. During his convalescence, he learned to write and draw with his left hand: "an artist draws with his head, not his hands," he said. In 1937, Waller began designing the stained-glass windows, which were installed from 1947 to 1950.

He worked on the wall and ceiling mosaics from 1955 to 1958. Over six million tesserae (mosaic tiles) were attached to sheets of paper by his art students and war widows in Melbourne, creating one of the largest single mosaics in the world.

Napier Waller, *Hall of Memory: south window* (1950, stained glass) AWM ART90410.001

## Charles Bean

Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean was born in Bathurst, New South Wales, in 1879. His family moved to England ten years later, but Bean returned to Australia in 1904. He spent some time working in the legal field, before becoming a junior reporter with the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1908.

In 1914, Bean was nominated by the Australian Journalists' Association to accompany the Australian Imperial Force as an official war correspondent.

He travelled to Egypt before arriving on Gallipoli just hours after the Landing on 25 April 1915. In August he was shot in the leg, but refused to leave the peninsula. He stayed on Gallipoli throughout the campaign, continually sending stories back to Australia and filling the first of the 226 notebooks he would amass by the end of the war.



George Lambert, *Charles E W Bean* (1924, oil on canvas, 90.7 x 71.1 cm) AWM ART07545

## John Treloar

Born in Melbourne in 1894, John Treloar was raised in a bustling family home with his seven brothers and sisters. While studying at Albert Park State School, Treloar discovered a love for cricket, and each year he donned the traditional whites to represent the school. After graduation in 1911, he joined the Department of Defence as a military staff clerk, an experience that prepared him for the important role he would take on in the First World War.

Enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force as a staff sergeant in August 1914, Treloar armed himself with a typewriter and completed administrative duties for senior officers in Cairo and on Gallipoli. Treloar was evacuated after five months, suffering from enteric fever. When he recovered, he resumed his service, this time as a lieutenant with the role of equipment officer in No. 1 Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps. In July 1916 he was transferred to France as confidential clerk to Brigadier General Brudenell White at the 1st Anzac Corps Headquarters.

In May 1917 he began the work that would dominate the rest of his life: he was selected to organise the fledgling Australian War Records Section (AWRS) with the rank of captain. The section was established by the official First World War correspondent, Charles Bean. The AWRS's role was to collect and organise the official records of the Australian forces, and to preserve them for the nation. Soldiers were encouraged to gather objects from the battlefield and were given labels to fill out and attach to each artefact. Over the next two years, the AWRS acquired some 25,000 objects. These, along with photographs, film, works of art, and other written documents, were the beginning of the Australian War Memorial's National Collection.

Because of his dedication to Australia's military and its records, Treloar was appointed director of the Australian War Memorial in 1920. He worked tirelessly in this role for more than three decades.

The Memorial's storage facility in the north Canberra suburb of Mitchell, and the road which hugs the back of the Memorial's main building, are named in Treloar's honour.



Lieutenant John Linton Treloar, after receiving his commission in the Australian Flying Corps, Melbourne, 1916. (AWM P04505.002)



An example of a label issued by the AWRS. This one is attached to a damaged rifle oil bottle. It was later claimed that Australians used the labels a little too enthusiastically, with some being attached to bridges, buildings, and trains. (AWM RELAWM0714)



Satchel belonging to Charles Bean. (AWM RELAWM10212)

When Bean was sent to the Western Front in 1916, he continued writing about his experiences. The devastation and horrific loss of life that he witnessed motivated him to conceive a memorial that would house battle relics and commemorate those who had been killed. Bean encouraged Australian troops to collect relics from the battlefields, in addition to systematically collecting records.

In 1919 Bean was appointed to create the official history of Australia's participation in the First World War. He imagined it would take five years to write, but the 12-volume series took 23 years to complete. Bean edited the entire series, and wrote six of the volumes. Just before the final book was published, Bean's second ambition was realised with the opening of the Australian War Memorial.

Often described as a modest man, it appears that Bean was also quite shy. He admitted that he was "too self-conscious to mix well with the great mass of men"; yet it was the great mass of men that he sought to commemorate in his work and whose respect he hoped to earn. No other Australian has been as influential as Bean in shaping the way Australians view the First World War.



Bob Marchant, 60th anniversary of opening of the Australian War Memorial, Remembrance Day, 2007 (2002, oil on canvas, 148.2 x 248.2 cm) AWM ART91794

Artist Bob Marchant wanted to emphasise the continuity of the ceremony over the years, and its relevance to succeeding generations of Australians.

Can you find the two people who are facing away from the camera, looking towards the viewer? Why do you think the artist chose to focus on these people?

## Enrich your students' learning

For the best learning experience for your school group, book an Australian curriculum-linked facilitated program. Programs are available for pre-school, foundation, primary, and secondary levels. Bookings are essential for all school groups visiting the Memorial, whether you choose a facilitated program led by Memorial staff or a teacher-guided tour. For details, prices and to make a booking, please visit <https://www.awm.gov.au/index.php/visit/schools/programs>

In addition to facilitated programs in the galleries, the Memorial offers a specially designed school wreath-laying ceremony. For more information on this unique experience, go to: <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/schools/wreathlaying>

### Teacher's excursion checklist

Planning your visit

- Go to <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/schools/programs> and choose the curriculum-based program that best suits the needs of your students. Make sure you advise your tour operator of your preference.
- If you are organising your own excursion, book your visit online and record your booking reference number. Owing to increased demand, it is recommended that bookings are made as early as possible.
- Ensure that there will be adequate supervision by teachers and other accompanying adults: one supervising adult is to accompany each group of 15 students.
- A risk-assessment guide is available from the NCETP website, <https://canberraexcursions.org.au/public-liability-and-risk-assessment>
- If you are enquiring about an existing booking or would like to request a specially tailored program, contact the school bookings team at [schoolbookings@awm.gov.au](mailto:schoolbookings@awm.gov.au). Make sure you include as much information as possible in your enquiry.

Preparing your students

- Talk to your group about appropriate behaviour for a national place of commemoration.
- Link your classroom activities to your impending visit. Go to <https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools> for free online resources.

During your visit

- Enter the Memorial via the schools' entrance, which can be found on the map on the Memorial's website. Bottled water and cameras are permitted in the galleries, but all school bags must be left on the bus. Any teacher's bags must be opened for inspection by security prior to entry.
- Bring your PACER paperwork for validation and stamping.
- Students are to remain with teachers/supervisors at all times when inside the Memorial.

## Development news and tips for visits:

From 2020, the Australian War Memorial will start to undergo a period of development that will impact education programs and gallery space. Please check our website for any updates and changes to Education programs during the development of the Memorial.

### GET YOUR SCHOOL INVOLVED

Different types of war memorials can be found across most Australian towns. Each of these are a form of commemoration and have strong and deep connections to the town's past and present.

Places of Pride is the National Register of War Memorials. It is a community driven website where members of the public can add their local war memorial.

We encourage students and teachers to upload photos and their work to the website.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/education>

## Virtual Excursions with the Australian War Memorial

A Virtual Excursion (VE) runs like a video conference. During a live interactive session with educators, students can visit the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and explore some of the galleries, viewing photographs, artwork, and film. They can learn about real objects and participate in activities during the *Australian curriculum* linked programs, which cater for lower primary, upper primary, and secondary students.

For more information, please contact the Digital Learning Officer at [VirtualExcursions@awm.gov.au](mailto:VirtualExcursions@awm.gov.au)

## Memorial Box outreach program

Memorial Boxes are rich learning resources that are available for loan Australia-wide. Containing real and replica uniforms, equipment, and artefacts, each box also has online material to help you explore the contents with your students. The new box exploring Australia's wartime and peacekeeping service from 1946 to today is now available, along with existing titles, covering the First World War, the Second World War, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wartime service.

For more information, go to: <https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes>





# Education Services

Book a facilitated program for a rich learning experience