



# Education Services 2019

Book a facilitated program in 2019 for a rich learning experience.

# Peacekeeping and humanitarian operations

The United Nations (UN) was formed in 1945 as a means of promoting international cooperation, negotiation, and world peace.

As a founding member of the UN, Australia is now one of 193 member states that contribute to international peace and security. Members of the UN have, at times, deployed military personnel and forces to assist with economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems around the world. Police and civilian personnel have also participated in a wide range of peacekeeping roles. Australian peacekeepers have operated as military observers, monitored ceasefires and elections, provided security and medical assistance, delivered humanitarian aid, helped with disarmament and reconstruction, removed land mines, and promoted sustainable development. They have also upheld international law and worked to protect human rights.



United Nations flag from the UN Mine Clearance Training Team mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 1989–93. AWM REL35402

Since 1947, more than 30,000 Australian peacekeepers have been involved in more than 60 UN and other peace and security operations. For UN operations, members must be neutral, must not use force except for self-defence or in situations allowed by the rules of engagement, and must have the consent of the conflicting nations to be involved. Not all peacekeeping is carried out by the UN. Sometimes individual countries or organisations will take responsibility for leading a peacekeeping mission.



## Australian peacekeepers have served around the world

The dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial marked the 70th anniversary of Australian peacekeeping operations. AWM2018.4.2917

**“Australian peacekeepers have touched the hearts and souls of people around the world, and they’ve made a difference around the world, and while every mission has not been a success, a number have, and it’s important to remember.”**

Brigadier Alison Creagh CSC (Retd), 2017

Directly in front of the Australian War Memorial lies Anzac Parade. The memorials that line this road represent and commemorate the varied experiences of Australian men and women who have served the nation in times of war and peace. Following more than a decade of fundraising by the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project committee, a structure was unveiled in 2017 to honour Australian peacekeepers of the past, present, and future.

The memorial features a passage of golden light between two monoliths, representing the role of peacekeepers between two opposing forces. It includes a courtyard that lists the qualities of peacekeepers, and the missions in which Australian military, police, and civilian peacekeepers have been involved.

**“In their blue berets, peacekeepers are a symbol of hope. They save lives and change lives, they restore order and bring security and stability ... They do it, in the name of compassion and humanity. In the name of what is right.”**

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), 2017

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial was dedicated in 2017 by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd). He served during the Vietnam War, before commanding the International Task Force for East Timor (INTERPET) in 1999. Named Australian of the Year in 2001, he went on to become Chief of the Defence Force in 2002. He retired from active service in 2005 and was sworn in as the Governor-General of Australia in 2014.



Tom Alberts, Major General Peter Cosgrove, 2001, oil on linen, 108.8 x 98.5cm, AWM ART15105

## East Timor

Born in Sydney in 1960, Wendy Sharpe is an award-winning artist. In 1999 she was appointed as an official artist to East Timor by the Australian War Memorial – the first woman to take on the role in more than 50 years.

After Portuguese colonisation and an often brutal occupation by Indonesia, the East Timorese voted on their future in 1999. The majority voted for independence, but the country descended into chaos soon after. Prompted by the violent reactions of pro-Indonesian forces, Australian peacekeepers were sent to the region.

Owing to the growing violence, Wendy waited to join the peacekeepers in East Timor until the area had stabilised. Arriving just before Christmas in 1999, she spent three weeks recording her impressions of the operation through her art. She made drawings of Australian and international troops, and of some of the places that had been devastated during the violence. Describing the city of Suai, Wendy wrote:

**“So many of the houses are just a slab with ashes on it. Some have a few charred timbers, that’s all. I am aware that I am seeing it, comparatively sanitised version as they have all been cleared out. Originally there was the corrugated iron roofs, the broken furniture, other smashed belongings and sometimes bodies. I can’t conceive of it.”**

Wendy Sharpe, 1999.



Wendy Sharpe, *Girls in Suai*, 2000, gouache on paper, 25 x 35 cm, AWM ART9141

The painting on the cover, *Girls in Suai*, is one of several created by Wendy depicting local civilians and peacekeepers in the city of Suai. Shortly after the independence referendum results were announced, Suai was the scene of a massacre where approximately 200 civilians were killed while taking refuge in a church.

## Did you know?

HMAS Tobruk (I1) assisted with peacekeeping and humanitarian missions in Israel, the Solomon Islands, Somalia, Bougainville, and East Timor. The ship played a vital role in the transportation across the globe of personnel, vehicles, aircraft, food, building and medical equipment, and other cargo.

In addition to assisting with peacekeeping missions, HMAS Tobruk (I1) contributed to humanitarian work in Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa, and the Philippines, all of which experienced devastation in the wake of natural disasters.



Cloth badge showing the crest of HMAS Tobruk (I1). What symbols can you see, and what do you think they mean?

AWM REL35110

## Kashmir

The first Australian to command a multinational peacekeeping operation was Major General Robert Nimmo in 1950. He was posted to the territory of Kashmir as the Chief Military Observer of the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, which both laid claims to the region. The operation involved monitoring the situation in Kashmir, and investigating and reporting any violations of the ceasefire to the UN.



A portrait of then-Brigadier Robert Nimmo during the Second World War, 1945. AWM 097387

Robert had extensive experience as a soldier, having served in both world wars. In Kashmir his diplomacy garnered respect from both India and Pakistan. His reputation was also heightened by his excellent skills on the polo field, a popular sport in both countries. Robert continued to command the UN operation for more than 15 years. He died on active service in Kashmir in 1966. To date, he is the longest-serving leader of a UN operation.

## Western Sahara

Peacekeeping operations often take Australian servicemen and servicewomen far from home. Major Susan Felsche, a doctor in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps (RAAMC), was posted to Western Sahara in Africa in 1993.



Major Susan Felsche before her departure to Western Sahara, 1993. Klaus Felsche, AWM P01763.001

Susan served as a part of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). Western Sahara is a disputed territory on the north-west coast of Africa, and multiple governments claim ownership of the land. From 1991 to 1994 Australian peacekeepers assisted the UN in monitoring a ceasefire between the warring parties, and a vote was proposed to allow the people of Western Sahara to choose their own governance.

Susan’s job on the mission was to provide medical assistance to those serving in the UN contingent. However, she also used her skills to help sick children and families in the region.

Just over a month after Susan arrived in Africa, she was travelling on a routine flight when the plane developed issues and plummeted to the ground. Susan was pulled free of the crash, but died later that day. She was 32 years old.

Susan’s husband, Major Klaus Felsche, paid tribute to his wife’s generous spirit at her funeral.

**“Whoever coined the words that it is far better to give than receive must have had Susan as a model for. In all the time I knew her, she never stopped giving ... Susan died while doing what she did best – she was applying all her talents, all her enthusiasm and energy towards helping others, and knowing that eases the pain.”**

Major Klaus Felsche, 1993. AWM P00288

Throughout her life Susan was a keen student, and the Royal Military College now awards the annual Major Susan Lee Felsche Memorial Trust prize to the best RAAMC graduate.

AWM REL33781

## 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 choosing a facilitated program led by Memorial staff or a teacher-guided tour. For details, prices, and to make a booking, please visit [www.awm.gov.au/index.php/visit/schools/programs](http://www.awm.gov.au/index.php/visit/schools/programs).

In addition to facilitated programs in the galleries, the Memorial offers a specially designed school wreathlaying ceremony. For more information on this unique experience, visit [www.awm.gov.au/visit/schools/wreathlaying](http://www.awm.gov.au/visit/schools/wreathlaying)

## Memorial Box outreach program

Memorial Boxes are rich learning resources 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. New boxes exploring Australia’s wartime and peacekeeping service from 1945 to today are coming soon.

For more information, visit [www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes](http://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes)



## Teacher’s excursion checklist

### Planning your visit

- Go to [www.awm.gov.au/visit/schools/programs](http://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 NCEPT website at [www.canberraexcursions.org.au/public-liability](http://www.canberraexcursions.org.au/public-liability).
- If you are enquiring about an existing booking or would like to request a specially tailored program, contact the school bookings team at [school.bookings@awm.gov.au](mailto:school.bookings@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 [www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools](http://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 supervisors at all times when inside the Memorial.



Since the Boer War, Memorials have been erected across Australia to commemorate the nation’s service during war and on peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. *Places of pride* is the National Register of War Memorials.

To explore your local memorials and to contribute photos and information, please visit [www.placesofpride.awm.gov.au](http://www.placesofpride.awm.gov.au)

## Virtual excursions with the Australian War Memorial

A virtual excursion 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 films. They can learn about real objects and participate in activities during this Australian curriculum-linked program, which caters 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)



**“People all over the world are the same. They all aspire for the same thing, and that is to be happy, have peace and freedom in the place they call home. War is destructive and it is not a solution to any problem we may encounter in this world.”**

Captain Tam Tran CSM, 2018

In 1992 Tam was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal for her work in Iraq. She completed her studies in tropical medicine, and now works as a general practitioner in Queensland.

Susan J. Neuhaus and Sharon Mascall Dare, *Not for glory: a century of service by medical women in the Australian Army and its allies*, Boolarung Press, Brisbane, 2014.

