

**AFTERMATH: AUSTRALIA
AFTER THE GREAT WAR**
ONE-DAY CONFERENCE SATURDAY 6 APRIL 2019
POMPEY ELLIOTT MEMORIAL HALL
403 CAMBERWELL ROAD, CAMBERWELL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — MELEAH HAMPTON
AUTHOR OF *ATTACK ON THE SOMME: 1ST ANZAC CORPS AND THE
BATTLE OF POZIERES RIDGE 1916*

MILITARY HISTORY AND
HERITAGE VICTORIA INC.

Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

100
YEARS OF
ANZAC

Aftermath: Australia after the Great War.

When the last shots were fired on 11th November, 1918 and the Great War came to an end it was of course not the end. The consequences and the fallout from the four years of unprecedented carnage were only beginning; the effects on the nations and the people of the world would play out over many years to come. Empires crumbled, national boundaries were re-drawn and in international affairs the seeds of the next global conflict were being sown. These broad-scale effects were being seen in Australia but we were also affected significantly at a personal level. So many young men were killed or seriously disabled that there would not have been a family in Australia who was not affected in some way by this nation-wide bereavement.

On Saturday, 6th April 2019, Military History and Heritage Victoria will hold a conference to explore the effects of the war and its aftermath on Australia at a national level and on the Australian people at a personal level. We will hear papers on the repatriation of the AIF from Europe and the Middle East; the impact on Australia's relations with the world; the effects on Australian society; the soldier settlement scheme; the work of the Repatriation Commission and the heart-breaking efforts of bereaved families to find information about killed or missing loved ones. All these and other topics will be integrated in a key note address that will draw together all that has affected Australia in the aftermath of the Great War and help us to understand how it has continued to affect us even to the present.

There will be a panel of eminent speakers who are well credentialed in their fields and will bring a high level of interest and authority to the conference deliberations.



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Conference Program

- 8.30 – 9.00 am *Registration.*
- 9.00 – 9.15 am Conference Opening: Lieutenant Colonel Michael Buckridge, RFD.
Welcome: Major General Jim Barry, AM, MBE, RFD, ED. Patron MHHV.
- 9.15 – 10.00 am **Keynote Address:** Dr Meleah Hampton. Historian, Australian War Memorial.
The Impact on Australia and the Return of the AIF.
- 10.00 – 10.45 am Professor Marilyn Lake, AO. Professorial Fellow in History, Melbourne University.
The Social Effects of Disillusion and Frustration; The Soldier Settlement Scheme.
- 10.45 – 11.00 am *Morning Tea.*
- 11.00 – 11.45 pm Professor Peter Edwards, AM. Vice-Patron MHHV.
Australia and the World after 1919: The Tentative Nation.
- 11.45 – 12.30 pm Mr Mike O'Meara, OAM. Former Deputy Commissioner Victoria, Department of Veterans' Affairs.
The Repatriation Commission.
- 12.30 – 1.30 pm *Lunch.*
- 1.30 – 2.15 pm Mr Scott Bennett. Author of *The Nameless Names.*
The Search for Loved Ones.
- 2.15 – 3.00 pm Professor Roland Perry, OAM. Author and Historian.
The Coup that Never Was.
- 3.00 – 3.15 pm *Afternoon Tea.*
- 3.30 – 4.00 pm Major General Jim Barry, AM, MBE, RFD, ED.
The Inter-Allied Games of 1919.
- 4.00 – 4.30 pm ***General Questions and Discussion.***
- 4.30 pm *Close.*
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Major General J. E. (Jim) Barry AM, MBE, RFD, ED (Rtd) was educated at Melbourne University, graduating as a Bachelor of Commerce. He enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces in 1951, and rose through the ranks in various artillery and headquarters positions to Major General and appointment as Commander 3rd Division in 1985. On relinquishing command in 1987, he was appointed Honorary Colonel of Melbourne University Regiment, a position he held for six years. He was also appointed Colonel Commandant of Artillery – Victoria from 1992 to 1996.

Major General Barry also has a wide range of experience in business and sports administration. After 10 years in the printing and publishing industry, he established his own business in the Graphic Arts industry in the 60's, before retiring in 1992. He was an Executive Member of the Australian Olympic Committee from 1993 to 2005 and has filled senior management roles in many Olympic and Commonwealth Games Teams.

A gymnast himself, he was President of the Australian Gymnastic Federation for 25 Years, and an Executive Member and Vice-President of the International Gymnastic Federation (FIG) for 12 years. He was awarded an MBE in 1978 and an AM in 1998 for his service to sport and especially gymnastics.

Major General Barry was the National President of the Defence Reserves Association (DRA) between 2005 and 2013 and remains on its Executive as Past President. He is also Vice President-Reserves on the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA). He is currently also a Foundation Member of the General Sir John Monash Foundation, a committee member of the Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Fund and Deputy Chairman of the Spirit of Australia Foundation.

Dr Meleah Hampton is an historian in the Military History Section of the Australian War Memorial. She is a graduate of the University of Adelaide, and her primary interest is in the operational conduct of the First World War on the Western Front. She is a member of the editorial staff of the Memorial's magazine *Wartime*, and continues to research and write biographies for the Last Post Ceremony project. Meleah is the author of *Attack on the Somme: 1st Anzac Corps and the Battle of Pozières Ridge, 1916* (Helion & Co, 2016), the Pozières volume of the Army History Campaign Series (Big Sky, 2017) and numerous chapters and articles on the First World War.

Professor Marilyn Lake AO is a Professorial Fellow in History at the University of Melbourne. She has published widely across 20th century history. Her most recent book is *Progressive New World: How Settler Colonialism and TransPacific Exchange Shaped American Reform*, published by Harvard University Press, in January, 2019. Other books include *The Limits of Hope: Soldier Settlement in Victoria 1915-38*; *FAITH: Faith Bandler Gentle Activist*; *What's Wrong with Anzac* co-authored with Henry Reynolds, Mark McKenna and Joy Damousi; and *Drawing the Global Colour Line: White Men's Countries and the International Challenge of Racial Equality* that won the Prime Minister's Prize for Non-Fiction in 2009.

Professor Lake is an elected Fellow of the Australian Academies of Humanities and Social Sciences. Between 2010-14 she served as President of the Australian Historical Association.



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Professor Peter Edwards AM is an Honorary Professor at both the Australian National University and Deakin University. As the Official Historian of Australia's involvement in Southeast Asian conflicts 1948-75, he was general editor of the nine-volume series and author of the volumes dealing with strategy and diplomacy, *Crises and Commitments* (1992) and *A Nation at War* (1997). He is also the author of *Australia and the Vietnam War* (2014), *Robert Marsden Hope and Public Policy* (2011), *Arthur Tange: Last of the Mandarins* (2006), *Permanent Friends? Historical Reflections on the Australian-American Alliance* (2005), and *Prime Ministers and Diplomats* (1983); co-author of *A School with a View* (2010); co-editor of *Facing North* (vol. 2, 2003); and editor of *Australia Through American Eyes* (1977). His books have won the Colin Roderick Award, the Queensland Premier's Prize for History, the WA Premier's Book Award for non-fiction, and a short-listing for the National Biography Award.

Mr Mike O'Meara OAM is a former Deputy Commissioner, Victoria in the Department of Veterans Affairs. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Latrobe University and has a Diploma in Marketing Administration from RMIT.

He joined the Repatriation Department in 1968 and has held a variety of senior posts in the Department in Melbourne and Canberra culminating in his promotion to Deputy Commissioner in 2007. He retired in March 2012.

Following his retirement Mike has continued his involvement with, and service to, the veteran community. He is Chair of the Weary Dunlop Foundation, Deputy Chair of Vasey RSL Care and Deputy President of Carry On Victoria.

In 2000, Mike was a recipient of the Centenary Australian Sports Medal for his service to Australian Rules football at the community level and in 2017 was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to veterans and their families in the community of Kilsyth.

Mr Scott Bennett was born in Bairnsdale Victoria in 1966. He gained an Executive Master of Business Administration degree from the Australian Graduate School of Management at the University of Sydney, and has worked for many of Australia's most recognized retail companies as a management consultant or an executive manager. In 2003 he visited the Great War battlefields in France and Belgium to retrace the steps of his great-uncles, who had fought there. This experience led him to question the many 'truths' that have developed around the Anzac legend. The result was the writing of *The Nameless Names* and his first book *Pozieres* which re-examined that battle.

Professor Roland Perry OAM has published 33 books, many of them bestsellers, in a range of genres from biography and politics, to history (mainly WW1 and WW2), British espionage, royalty, sport and fiction. His books on war include *Monash: The Outsider Who Won a War*; *Monash and Chauvel*; *The Fight for Australia*; *The Australian Light Horse*; *The Changi Brownlow*; *Bill the Bastard*; *Horrie the War Dog*; and *Anzac Sniper*.