

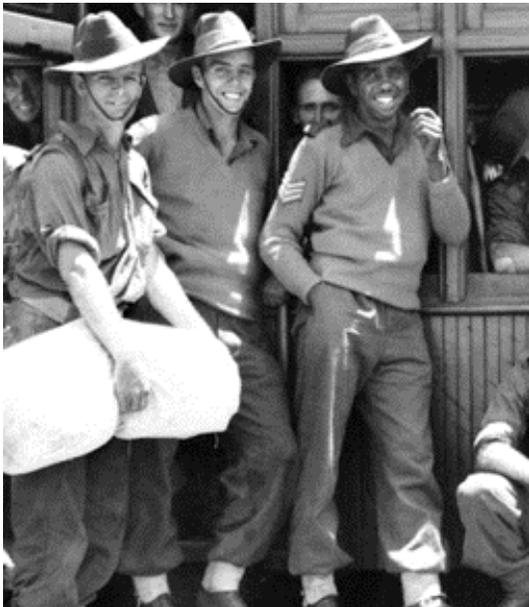
ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day on the 25th April is a prime time to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services to this nation.

Over 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders fought for Australia in World War I despite profound barriers to enlisting.

In proportion to population, no community in Australia contributed more to the war effort in the Second World War than the Torres Strait Islanders. By 1944 almost every able-bodied male Torres Strait Islander had enlisted. However, they never received the same rates of pay or conditions as white soldiers, initially one-third that of regular soldiers, and after a two-day "mutiny" in December 1943 this was raised to two-thirds.

See <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/indigenous>



Did you know that Victorian Gunditjmara man Reg Saunders was the first Aboriginal person to be commissioned as an officer in the Australian Army?

"When my uncle came back from serving in Korea he couldn't even get a beer in a pub let alone a pension, and he wasn't permitted to become a citizen until 1968"

John Kinsella, nephew of Australia's most famous Aboriginal soldier, Captain Reg Saunders MBE.



Explore Indigenous Australians' war service.

The [Australian War Memorial](#) site has a variety of online resources (see below), as well as the [Department of Veteran Affairs](#) (DVA). Using the Australian War Memorial's online databases, [investigate](#) the war service of Aboriginal servicemen and women.

Download DVA's [Indigenous Service](#) publications for primary and secondary schools for background and suggested inquiry activities. Search 'Indigenous Service'.

[Contact](#) the Australian War Museum to borrow **Memorial Box 03: Too Dark for the Light Horse.**

This site also takes you to online resources and Australian Curriculum links.

Explore the dedicated [AIATSIS](#) site – Indigenous Australians at War.

Bush TV's [Untold Stories](#) about WW1 Aboriginal service men and research the lives of Victorian Koories such as Brabuwoolooong private Harry Thorpe. *Why were there such barriers and how did some overcome them?*

Watch a range of videos such as Living Black's [Unidentified Soldier](#), [Indigenous Servicemen through the Years](#) and ABC Message Stick's [ANZAC](#), and discuss issues of equality, identity, recognition and life after service raised.



Group portrait of Aboriginal women and girls knitting socks, jumpers and balaclavas for the war effort at Cummeragunja Government Mission, NSW (opposite Barmah, Vic) on the Murray River. Identified, left to right, back row: Merle Morgan, June Morgan, Weeny Charles, Amy Briggs, Valda McGee, Edna Walker, Sheila Charles, Joan Charles, Elsie Cooper, Midge Walsh, Florry Walker. Front row: Joyce Atkinson, Clare Charles, Alma Charles, Ada Cooper, Nelly Davis?, Elizabeth Morgan, Lauraine Charles, Greta Cooper, Violet Charles, Wynnie Walker, Hilda Walker, Georgina Atkinson, Lydia Morgan, Reta Cooper, Maggie Weston. Australian War Memorial: P01562.001.

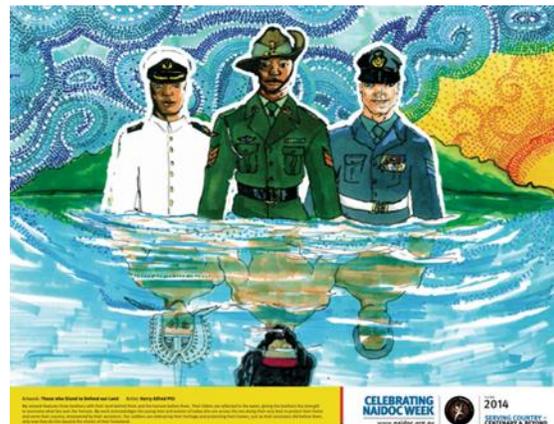
Consider participating in the **Shrine of Remembrance [Poster Competition](#)** highlighting the participation of Aboriginal service men and women as a class or whole-school activity.

The 2018 theme is *Helping and Healing*, and the panel is looking for original artworks inspired by the work of the Medical Corps., volunteers, service personnel on peacekeeping missions and individual stories or experiences that reflect the theme of Helping and Healing. The winning poster will become the official Remembrance Day 2018 poster for the Shrine of Remembrance and will appear on banners and posters around the City of Melbourne. Schools awarded prizes to the winning and highly commended artworks receive a selection of books from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, a personalised visit to the Shrine and are invited to place a flower in the Field of Poppies whilst attending the Official Remembrance Day Service on 11 November. Winning entries and highly commended artworks will be displayed in an exhibition at the Shrine to coincide with Remembrance Day 2018.

Entry closes, September 2018 (date TBC).

See more at: <http://www.shrine.org.au/Education/Poster-Competition>

Schools and individuals might be interested in attending the annual [Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service](#) held at the Shrine of Remembrance on the **31st May, from 11am-2 pm**, with the laying of a wreath on the forecourt.

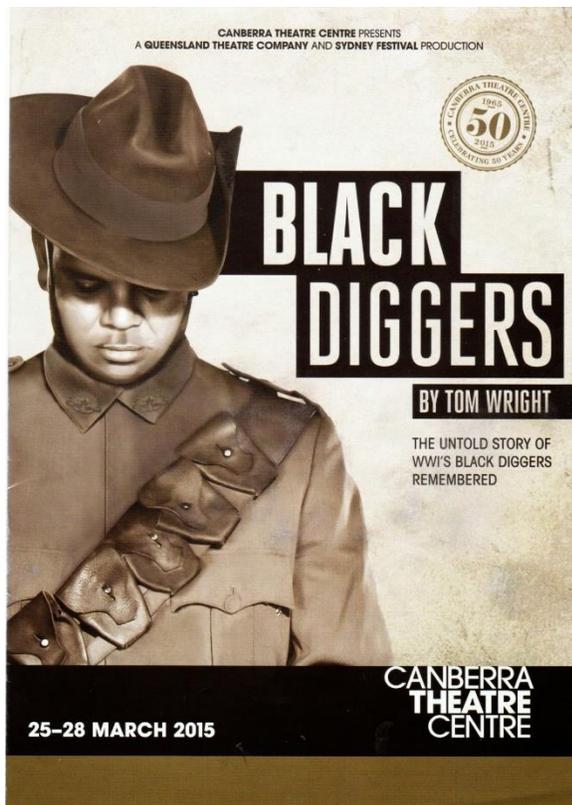


NAIDOC 2014 poster see

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/poster-gallery>



Watch the promotional video **Aborigines are True Soldiers of the King** (DVA) by clicking on the image and discuss the portrayal of Aboriginal soldiers and purpose of the promotional video.



Black Diggers is a play written by Tom Wright and originally directed by Wesley Enoch. The production is the culmination of painstaking research into the lives and deaths of the thousand or so Indigenous soldiers who fought for the British Commonwealth in World War I.

Grand in scale and scope, **Black Diggers** draws from in-depth interviews with the families of Black Diggers who heard the call to arms from all over Australia, as well as conversations with veterans, historians and academics.

Suitable for study with senior students, click on the **Black Diggers** poster link for a preview online, or to purchase a copy of the play. A filmed post-school matinee discussion uploaded by The Arts Centre, Melbourne can be [viewed online](#).

Victorian Curriculum:

[VCHHK062](#) How they, their family, friends and communities commemorate past events that are important to them: History P-2: Community histories

[VCHHC067](#) Identify the origin and content features of primary sources when describing the significance of people, places and events: History 3-4: Historical sources as evidence.

[VCHHK076](#) Significance of days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia and the importance of symbols and emblems, including Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Harmony Week, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week and National Sorry Day: History 3-4: Community, remembrance and celebrations.

[VCHHK094](#) The different experiences and perspectives of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, migrants, women, and children: History 5-6: Australia as a nation.

[VCHHC125](#) Evaluate different historical interpretations and contested debates: History 9 - 10: Historical sources as evidence.

[VCHHK144](#) Different historical interpretations and contested debates about World War I and the significance of Australian commemorations of the war: History 9-10: The modern world and Australia, Australia at war (1914 – 1945): World War I.

[VCHHK146](#) Significant places where Australians fought and their perspectives and experiences in these places: History 9-10: The modern world and Australia | Australia at war (1914 – 1945): World War II.

[VCCCC027](#) Examine how national identity can shape a sense of belonging and examine different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives: Civics and Citizenship 7 – 8: Citizenship, Diversity and Identity.

[VCCCG031](#) Explain the Australian government's roles and responsibilities at a global level, including provision of foreign aid, peacekeeping and the United Nations: Civics & Citizenship 9-10: Government and Democracy.