

For immediate release: 18 April 2024

Media Release

‘Let the Light Shine’ uses the beauty of glass to bring a fresh perspective on Australian war service and sacrifice

Let the Light Shine: memorials in glass for military service from the Boer War to Afghanistan is a new documentary that sheds light on war by exploring the social, cultural and military history embedded in glass. Viewers will get a glimpse of spectacular and rarely seen commemorative stained glass windows across Australia.

Let the Light Shine, filmed by imaginACTION’s Dr David Smith with script and narration by radio broadcaster and writer Fiona Gruber, unearths many fascinating tales of courage, conflict and civic pride through the enduring beauty of glass.

The 30-minute film features interviews with author, art historian and stained-glass expert, Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM, and Dr Bart Ziino from Deakin University, a leading scholar of 20th-century history and the commemoration of Australian service and sacrifice.

“For the first time, war commemoration is explored through representative glass installations, including windows created by the Indigenous community of Raukkan, South Australia, the spectacular Vietnam Commemorative Walk in Central Victoria, and a more recent window in Queensland, dedicated to a highly decorated soldier from Afghanistan.”

- Dr Bronwyn Hughes

The documentary has been produced by GLAAS Inc with funding from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs: Saluting the Service program, and the United Nations International Year of Glass 2022.

Venues are invited to host a screening

Following the premiere on 2 May, and public premiere on 14 May at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, the documentary is available to eligible organisations to screen at no charge.

Available from: 15 May 2024

Format: Full HD 1920x1080 25fps MP4 video

Contact: Lynne Dore, GLAAS Inc Project Manager: pldore@iprimus.com.au

View the promotional trailer here: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/grmjl48p5jobyd4ceg3qg/PROMO-V-09.mp4?rlkey=oojjnddx54g0vy5xa2i3t918u&dl=0>



Contact for interviews and photo opportunities:

Lynne Dore, GLAAS Inc Project Manager

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About GLAAS Inc

GLAAS Inc (Glass, Light, Art & Architecture Synergies) is a national not for profit arts organisation with charitable status, run by volunteers.

GLAAS Inc supports glass artists, designers, makers and students by creating collaborative opportunities, events and exhibitions; education and training; promotion and information; and advocacy for the sector.

GLAAS Inc nurtures the next generation of glass innovators in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic and through a year-round program of exhibitions in the Australian Centre for Glass Design at 140 High Street, Prahran.

<https://www.glaasinc.com.au/>

About Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM

GLAAS Inc Board Chair and Heritage Director

PhD MA Dip Ed (University of Melbourne); Grad Dip (Cer Design) (Chisholm IT) BA (Caulfield IT)

Bronwyn is an art historian with specific interests in sculpture and stained glass of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Prior to her 'retirement' she lectured in glass at Monash University, Holmesglen Institute and University of Melbourne over several decades, and more recently at Melbourne Polytechnic.

She co-founded GLAAS Inc with Donna Kennedy in 2015, which aims to promote glass – historic and contemporary – through education, exhibition, research and publication.

Bronwyn chaired the S E Asia, Australasia and Oceania region's committee for the United Nations International Year of Glass in 2022.

Her book, *Lights Everlasting: Australia's Commemorative Glass from the Boer War to Vietnam* was published in 2023.

About Fiona Gruber

BA (Hons) Art History and Social Anthropology (University of East Anglia)

Fiona is a writer, podcaster and radio producer specializing in the arts. She formerly worked for ABC Sunday Arts as researcher and producer, and for ABC Radio National, as producer and occasional presenter. She has written for *The Guardian*, *Age*, *SMH*, *Australian* and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

Her documentaries are broadcast across the RN grid: the Arts Show, The History Listen, Earshot, Life Matters, Blueprint for Living, Science Friction, and include the ten-part series, Australian Portrait; A Late Afternoon with Clive James; Former Foreign Correspondent Jill Joliffe's Latest Battle – the journalist's life and struggle with Alzheimer's; A Short History of the Nuclear Bunker; Art After Death, the legacy of artists and their work; Charlie Chaplin's Funny Walk; and, Searching for Doggerland. In 2017, she narrated the University of Melbourne documentary The University Looks Down, a collaboration between poet Chris Wallace-Crabbe and artist, Kristen Headlam.

Fiona is Associate investigator with the ARC Centre for Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH) and in 2023, her monograph, *Light Field: the art of Bruce Monro*, was published by Lund Humphries, London.

About Dr David Smith

PhD BSC (Hons) (University of Melbourne) FRSA

David is a writer, director, cameraman and editor specialising in the production of videos designed for professionals in education, health, medicine, community and the environment. Apart from publishing more than 35 scientific papers in international journals, David has produced and presented more than twenty broadcast documentaries, hosted 77 half-hour episodes of his weekly national television series, Earthwatch on ABC TV for two years. David has received many awards for his work, nationally and internationally, including the 2016 Victorian Community History Award for Historical Interpretation for a series of documentaries for the Duldig Studio and Sculpture Garden.

About Dr Bart Ziino

PhD MA Ba (University of Melbourne)

Bart is a leading scholar of Australia and the First World War. He has published widely on Australian experiences of 1914-18, including private sentiment surrounding the war, children and war, gender and military service, archives and war, and the emotional impacts of enduring war.

Bart's extensive work on memory, remembrance and commemoration of war ranges from the meaning and treatment of war graves around the world to local war memorials, grief and mourning and the practices of family history. His doctoral thesis, the basis of his first book, *A Distant Grief: Australians, War Graves and the Great War* (2007) received the Australian Historical Association's Serle Award for best thesis in Australian history. He has since published the edited collections, *The Heritage of War* (with Martin Gegner, 2011), *Remembering the First World War* (2015) and *Museums, History and the Intimate Experience of the Great War* (with Deborah Tout-Smith and Joy Damousi (2021)). As the inaugural Historian in Residence at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Bart investigated workers in reserved occupations and protected industries in Australia during the Second World War (published with Brad Underhill).

