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New memorials to commemorate World Wars

- **Mark Davis, Political Correspondent**
- February 26, 2009

The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will today unveil architectural designs for two striking new national memorials to commemorate the First and Second World Wars in Canberra.

The memorials will be given pride of place in a prominent site on the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin but their construction will rely on a fund-raising drive.

They are intended to overcome a strange anomaly in the national capital's military memorial precinct on Anzac Parade: despite several edifices commemorating individual conflicts and branches of the armed services there are no monuments for the two great global conflicts of the 20th century.

A group of serving and former defence force personnel, the Memorials Development Committee, has been seeking to rectify this omission for the last five years.

The committee has secured a prominent site for the memorials at the foot of Anzac Parade and last year organised an international design competition.

Mr Rudd will today announce that a design submitted by the Brisbane firm, Richard Kirk Architects, has been selected from a field of 43 proposals.

The design will see two 20 metre-high granite structures constructed near the stretch of Lake Burley Griffin's northern foreshore known as Gallipoli Reach, flanking the entrance to Anzac Parade.

The committee's chairman Mike Buick said each of the memorials would have sections cut from the structure to represent significant dates in the conflicts such as the Gallipoli landings and the fall of Singapore.

On the anniversaries of each of these dates, the sunlight at dawn in Canberra would shine directly along the cut lines in the memorials.

Text from letters soldiers wrote home would be etched on the walls of both memorials.

Slabs of granite would be laid in the pedestrian area between the edifices representing some 2,400 cities and towns from around Australia with details of the numbers of servicemen and women from these areas who died in the conflicts

Mr Buick said the committee would be seeking to raise funds from philanthropic and wealthy individuals and from the corporate sector for the project.

The cost is expected to be around \$21 million and the committee plans to complete construction by 2011.

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