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## Memorials will work, just wait and see



**VISION:** Richard Kirk stands across the lake from where his two memorials will sit. Detractors say the Australian War Memorial already honours our diggers. Photo: MELLISSA ADAMS

**By John Thistleton**

Brisbane architect Richard Kirk believes Camberrans will come to understand and embrace the new national war memorials he has designed for Lake Burley Griffin's northern shoreline.

The 20m monoliths are still in concept stage but many Camberrans believe we need them as much as we need more capp in the lake.

Peace activists say the \$21 million World War I and World War II memorials proposed for Rond Terrace will undermine positive achievements in Australia.

Walter Burley Griffin devotees are appalled.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society believes the memorials conflict with Burley Griffin's vision for the capital.

Member of the Canberra chapter, Brett Odgers, said Burley Griffin would have been appalled to find that Anzac Parade "was all war memorials" and the society was "absolutely opposed to these memorials in this location".

"The Rond Terraces are land used for social, cultural, recreational purposes and these memorials would displace those values of that land," Mr Odgers said yesterday.

"They would introduce a different



**TALL ORDER:** Artists' impressions of the memorials show the scale of the two 20m Australian granite structures.

ambience, an ambience of solemnity and military history. But really the current land uses and those envisaged by Walter Burley Griffin are quite different from sombre military history."

Although surprised, Mr Kirk, whose firm won an international design competition in 2008 to land the project, said much of the opposition was a misunderstanding.

A lot of new structures get delivered into a city that sometimes local communities can't appreciate what the benefits are until they see them. And that's the leap of faith architects always rely on.

Even though former prime ministers John Howard and Kevin Rudd support them, Memorials

Development Committee chairman Mike Buick concedes they could be derided unless their purpose was sufficiently explained.

He won't give a hand-raising total. If the project proceeds, the two granite blocks aligned with other Anzac Parade memorials will stand with slices through the stone, which will use the sun's location to drop light on key dates and times of events during the two wars.

Supporters say a dedicated memorial to WWI and WWII is needed because Anzac Parade houses only the national memorials to the Vietnam and Korean wars and to nurses. The Australian War Memorial commemorates all wars.

Detractors say they're superfluous.

The design and placement of the new structures, despite their height, means they would be invisible to anyone standing in front of the Australian War Memorial.

Supporters say their natural Australian granite tones would blend in with the eucalypts and misty Canberra mornings.

Mr Kirk says rather than glorifying war they would convey the depth of impact these conflicts had on the community.

He doesn't believe they will add to unnecessary structures around the lake. "I understand aesthetically some intrusions are not always successful as they could be. The scale of landscape can handle well placed, considered pieces of work."

## puts ACT on notice

had made satisfactory progress on their 2009 obligations, such as introducing new performance standards for water trading.

"Overall, we found good progress, but this was not surprising given the limited and relatively unambitious nature of the reform obligations," Mr McClinchok said.

The ACT received four "red

reform requirements to be assessed by the council's next performance report.

"At this stage, we're not inclined to be too harsh in our assessment of Canberra, particularly in relation to water trading, as that's almost a technicality for the ACT," Mr McClinchok said.

"But even though they're not a

## Hackers expose perils in our midst, chief spy says

**By Danielle Cronin**  
Political Correspondent

The attack on the Parliament House website by hackers had exposed vulnerabilities that could be exploited to hamper the work of government, according to ASIO as it investigates "hundreds" of security

casualties. Attacks on Australians could occur at home or overseas," he said. "While ASIO's work remains very much a human endeavour, with espionage, terrorism and other politically inspired violence continuing to be driven by motivations of ideology, material gain and realpolitik, the communications

### NEWS

#### SUPER ACCOUNT ON THE COMEBACK

The strong dollar isn't helping matters, but Australians' retirement nest eggs are steadying back losses from the global financial crisis. Super Ratings managing director Je Breshahan said median balance superannuation accounts increased by 2.24 per cent in September, taking returns to per cent over the past year.

#### Rain shadow

Farmers in the Monaro region are - marginally - out of drought, but unlike the majority of their counterparts across NSW, the not rolling in green acres. Breccia and sheep farmer Stepi Buzzabound said those who had declared the state drought-free "can't have been through here".

### WORLD

#### Richer, poorer

Super-rich husbands and wives will be able to cling on to their fortunes when they divorce at a panel of Britain's most senior judges upheld the validity of prenuptial agreements between heiresses and her former husbands who quit his lucrative job to become an academic.

### BUSINESS

#### Wise buy

Just days after tycoon James Packer launched a sharemarket raid on Ten Network Holdings, the company has returned to profitability thanks to a strong in advertising revenue.

### SPORT

#### Test for Raiders

Raiders stars Tom Leary and David Shillington will start from Australia's bench in its Test clash with Fiji at Parramatta Stadium. But one game for the Kangaroos isn't enough for Leary and Leary, who's declare his intention to play the entire Four Nations tournament.

### WEATHER

CANBERRA  
**24°**  
Mostly sunny

Chance of rain: 10 per cent  
Wind: N-NW, 25km/h  
UV Index: 12 (extreme)  
Outlook: Early fog, mostly sun  
SYDNEY: Partly cloudy, 25°  
MELBOURNE: Late shower, 29°  
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