



VIDEO VERITE: Clockwise from above, Shaun Gladwell's *POV Mirror Sequence Tarin Kowt* (2009-2010); Lyndell Brown and Charles Green's *View from Chinook chopper during supply mission flight to outpost in Helmand*; Gladwell's *Behind Point of View, Middle East Area of Operations* (2009-2010); Lyndell Brown and Charles Green's painting of Australian, Dutch, and American soldiers with Afghan traders; and their painting of Corporal Dianne Cuttler, Medical Technician AME, sitting in the Air Medical Evacuation Black Hawk, Kandahar.

Artists draw on scenes of conflict

Two exhibitions showing at the War Memorial offer an Australian perspective on military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, **DIANA STREAK** writes

Two figures, a uniformed soldier and the artist, stalk each other, each training a video camera on the other. As they gingerly circle with intense concentration, the viewer sees in the background the harsh Afghanistan landscape interspersed with military hardware. Occasionally an army jeep drives past. This unusual art installation is the focus piece of Shaun Gladwell's exhibition *Double Field: Shaun Gladwell - Afghanistan* which opened at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra this week. The video was shot inside Tarin Kowt military base when Gladwell travelled through Afghanistan and the Middle East as the memorial's official war artist in October 2009. He said the work reflected his fascination with the intensive way soldiers are physically and mentally trained to complete their field operations. He wanted to set up a scenario

of soldiers stalking but also being stalked and using their training and bodily movements. An award-winning artist, Gladwell was recently featured in *Art 41 Basel*, an international show in Basel, Switzerland. The videos were shot over several hours at different times of the day and include the sun setting over the distant hills. It is a dynamic portrait of a soldier who is represented observing, controlling and adapting to an environment. Gladwell said it was not difficult to find volunteers for the project, which includes six portraits shot from behind the subjects. "They were great, giving up their own recreational time, I really appreciated the fact that they were so enthusiastic and they knew so much about video equipment. I was interested in their training of course, so organised and regimented, the training is incredible but they've also got this great relationship with tech-

nology. All the guys were all very familiar with digital equipment of all kinds and I wanted to use that and recognise that." Gladwell concedes he might not have had the same enthusiastic response if his medium was pastels or oil paint but said the range of interests among the soldiers surprised him. "They were really amazing in what their interests were outside of their specific job over there. But they were really great with their cameras. They all had their own cameras and recorded their own lives to an extent over there," he said. "I'm interested in this idea of not just recording, which would be a kind of traditional way of just me pointing a camera somewhere and recording a theme. I like this idea that it wasn't just a window into a place but that I was providing a mirror, seeing something reflected back at where I was." Gladwell said the idea of the artist featuring in his own artwork is not a

new idea. "Actually, it's a very old idea, like Vermeer the great Dutch painter, who would always paint himself in the scene. Probably the most famous example in art history is Velázquez. In his work *Las Meninas* he is sitting behind the canvas looking at royal family, giving an idea of where he was in everything. These ideas are very powerful and I thought I would do a different version of that with Handycams in Afghanistan," he said. Gladwell's installation is part of the memorial's Official War Art Scheme which includes an exhibition of paintings and photographs *Framing Conflict - Iraq and Afghanistan* by Lyndell Brown and Charles Green. Curator Warwick Heywood said Brown and Green's works of art record the activities and experiences of Australian troops. "They are contemplative works that reveal new and strange configurations of landscape, culture, and technology," he said. Brown and Greene, who have been

creating paintings and photographic works together since 1989, travelled for six weeks through the Middle East, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf as the Australian War Memorial's official war artists in March 2007. "Part of the force of these works is the way they frame contemporary history within broader historical narratives and memories that unfold or are stirred up by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. Brown and Green completed a series of paintings for the commission which all share the same square format but were developed in two sizes. "The three largest paintings are all titled 'history paintings' and they represent expansive scenes with elaborate groupings of people and machines. The artists also completed 30 smaller paintings that tend to focus on one subject, for example, the chest webbing worn by an Australian Chinook helicopter pilot,

or recreate a specific experience, such as looking out through the windscreen of a military vehicle," Heywood said. Apart from the official commission, Brown and Green created a body of large format photographs that reveal sophisticated military equipment, bases, and vehicles, temporarily located in vast and open Middle East and Afghanistan landscapes. "Various works present a perspective of looking out onto landscapes through the windows of buildings or the windscreens of Bushmasters [four-wheeled vehicles] and Chinook helicopters. These works were developed by the artists to something akin to 'Hitchcockian clues' which create the sense of looking out at a scene but being distanced from the action. The artists noted that the war zones they witnessed are low in action but high in tension. Participants remain fearful of sudden interruptions such

as rockets being fired into a camp, a car exploding or gunfire unexpectedly arising from within the streets. This tension is enhanced in the painting that has been produced from a blurred photograph. This literally shaken image conveys the 'urgency of being outside the wire.'" The paintings were derived from thousands of photographs Brown and Green created on tour. From an original photograph they selected and cropped - or as they said, "distill" - a final image that they work up into a highly detailed oil painting. "This marriage of photography and painting creates complex pictures that simultaneously present the processes of photography, the physical labour of copying the original photograph, and the literal layering of oil paint and glazes." ■ *Double Field: Shaun Gladwell - Afghanistan and Framing Conflict - Iraq and Afghanistan*, Australian War Memorial Canberra until August 18.

Weather

Today Cloudy. Max 14°

Tomorrow Morning rain. Min 5° Max 13°

Monday Cloudy. Min 0° Max 13°

Tuesday Rain periods. Min 3° Max 13°

Wednesday Showers, windy. Min 4 Max 11

Thursday Mostly sunny. Min 1 Max 11

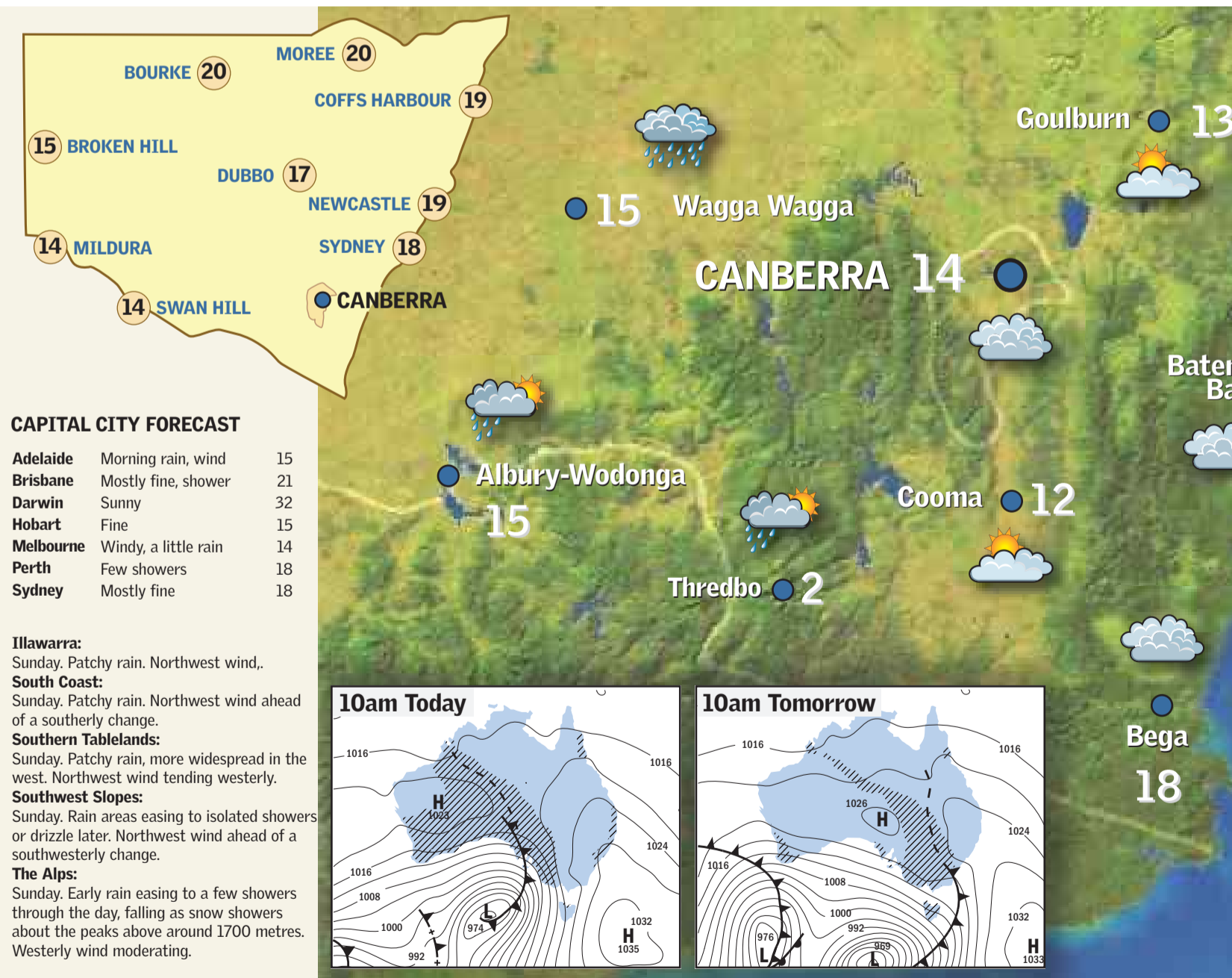
Friday Sunny. Min -1 Max 13

TODAY

Canberra:
Warnings: Latest information at www.bom.gov.au/weather
NSW 1300 659 218 (local call cost)
General: Fine and generally cloudy day. Light rain developing during the evening or overnight. Light northerly winds.
Canberra lakes: Northerly 10 to 15 km/h.
Illawarra: Fine and partly cloudy day. Cloud increasing from the west later. Light north-west wind early, becoming light to moderate northeast, freshening near the coast later.
South Coast: Fine. Cloud increasing from the west. Light northwest wind early, becoming moderate to fresh north to northeast.
Southern Tablelands: Morning fog and frost patches. Cloud increasing from the west with light patchy rain developing later. Light easterly wind early, becoming moderate to fresh northeast to northwest.
Southwest slopes: Patchy rain developing from the west. Light to moderate northeasterly wind, becoming moderate to fresh northerly.
The Alps: Increasing cloud and strengthening northerly wind. Rain developing late afternoon or evening and continuing.

OUTLOOK

A strong high pressure system is centred southeast of Tasmania and is pushing a moist onshore flow onto the NSW coast and some cloud cover across the ACT. A trough and strong cold front is currently moving through southern WA and will weaken as it tracks eastward towards NSW and the ACT, however it is likely to bring some patchy rainfall across the region late today and into Sunday. A second trough of low pressure looks set to interact with moisture building up over the northwest of the continent to potentially bring more significant rainfall early next week.



THE WORLD

24 hours to 10am yesterday

Amsterdam	fine	15	26
Apia	haze	23	30
Athens	fine	23	29
Auckland	windy	8	13
Bangkok	fine	29	34
Barbados	cloudy	26	30
Barcelona	fine	21	30
Beijing	fine	24	35
Belgrade	rain	14	23
Berlin	fresh	14	29
Bermuda	rain	24	26
Brussels	fine	15	30
Bucharest	fine	15	20
Budapest	fine	14	25
Buenos Aires	fine	3	16
Cairo	fine	23	33
Calgary	haze	11	25
Chicago	rain	23	28
Christchurch	rain	6	4
Colombo	fine	27	30
Copenhagen	rain	16	22
Denpasar	fine	25	30
Dhahran	fine	30	44
Dhaka	rain	28	32
Dublin	rain	13	17
Frankfurt	fine	15	31
Geneva	fine	14	32
Hanoi	rain	27	38
Harare	fine	7	18
Helsinki	rain	19	28
Hong Kong	fine	29	35
Honiarua	rain	23	27
Islamabad	haze	31	39
Istanbul	showers	17	24
Jakarta	fine	25	30
Johannesburg	snoke	5	15
Kiev	fine	18	26
Kiribati	fine	26	30
Kuala Lumpur	lightning	26	32
Lima	fine	16	18
Lisbon	fine	18	29
London	fine	17	26
Los Angeles	fine	16	20
Madrid	fine	22	34
Manama	haze	32	35
Manila	fine	27	32
Mawson Base	fine	-16	-13
Mecca	fine	33	45
Mexico City	rain	14	19
Miami	fine	27	33
Montevideo	fine	3	16
Montreal	rain	26	33
Moscow	rain	19	28
Mumbai	storm	24	29
Nairobi	fine	13	23
Nassau	storm	26	30
New Delhi	haze	29	36
New York	fine	26	31
Nicosia	mist	22	30
Nooumea	windy	18	23
Oslo	rain	14	17
Paris	fine	15	32
Port Vila	fine	19	26
Quito	showers	11	15
Rarotonga	windy	24	27
Rio De Janeiro	fine	15	28
Rome	fine	23	29
San Francisco	fine	13	17
Santiago	fine	2	14
Sao Paulo	fine	16	24
Seoul	mist	21	29
Singapore	haze	26	29
Sofia	fine	13	16
Stockholm	fine	10	25
Suva	fine	19	28
Taipei	fine	27	34
Tel Aviv	fine	31	39
Tokyo	fine	25	28
Toronto	fine	25	33
Valletta	fine	21	29
Vancouver	fine	18	27
Vienna	fine	8	24
Warsaw	fine	11	24
Washington	fine	27	35
Wellington	rain	8	10

SOUTH COAST TIDES

Sydney (Fort Denison):
12:59 am 0.4m 6:47 am 1.3m
12:22 pm 0.5m 7:01 pm 1.9m

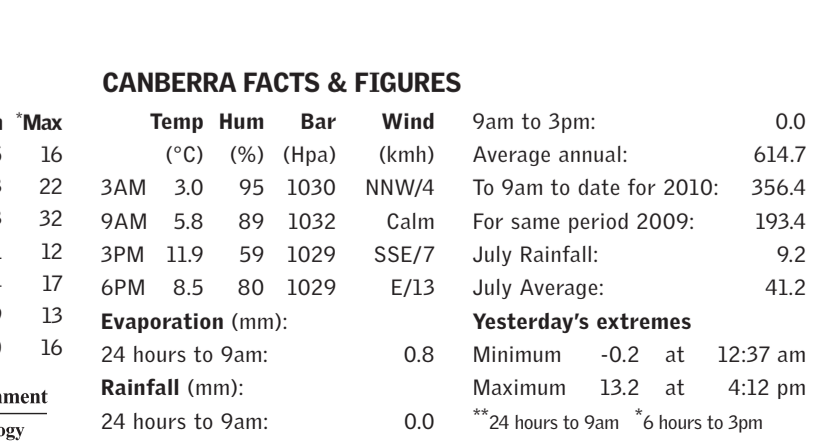
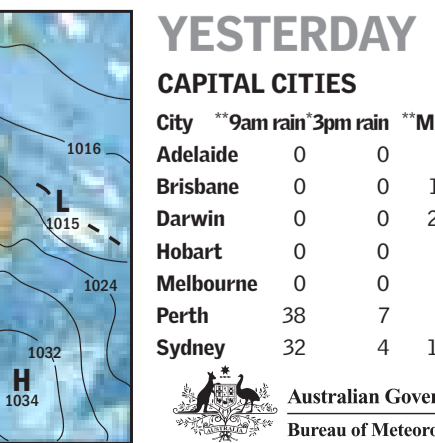
Eden:
1:02 am 0.4m 6:57 am 1.3m
12:13 pm 0.6m 6:52 pm 1.9m

Approximate tide time lag after Fort Denison for other locations are: Bermagui 45 mins; Moruya 45 mins; Batemans Bay Nil.

SUNSMART NO UV ALERT
UV Index below 3
CANBERRA MAX UV Index 2 (low)

EXTREME
VERY HIGH
HIGH
MOD
LOW

am 6 8 10 12 2 4 6 pm



SNOW REPORT

A strong cold front and pre frontal trough is moving through southern WA and will weaken as it tracks eastward towards NSW. A rain band associated with the trough is forecast to move through the region tonight and into tomorrow. Cooler air in the wake of the change will only allow for some light snowfalls about the highest peaks tomorrow.

TODAY: Increasing cloud and strengthening northerly winds. Rain developing late afternoon or evening and continuing. **Thredbo Top Station:** Late rain. Min: -5 Max: 2

TOMORROW: Early rain easing to a few showers through the day, falling as snow showers about the peaks above around 1700m. Westerly winds moderating. **Thredbo Top Station:** Few snow showers. Min: 0 Max: 1