



MEDIA RELEASE

90 Year Old Aerial Action Brought to Life with Jackson Collaboration

A new exhibition combining the very best museum and cinema arts in the world opens at the Australian War Memorial tomorrow.

“Over the front: the Great War in the air features five rare First World War aircraft from the Memorial’s collection, to tell the story of the young men in the Australian Flying Corps during their time on the Western Front in 1917 and 1918,” Head of Exhibitions, Katherine McMahon said.

“Some of the aircraft are amongst the last known surviving examples in the world and the Australian War Memorial is the only place that visitors can see such an important collection of both Allied and German aircraft displayed together.

“To help visitors understand the risks, action and drama of air combat in the First World War, a dramatic short film will be used to bring the aircraft back to life.

“The Memorial’s collaboration with Director Peter Jackson, Wingnut Films and Weta Digital brings together the very best of museum and international cinema arts available in one of the most compelling exhibitions ever produced by the Australian War Memorial, if not the world”, Ms McMahon said.

The film will be screened with four digital high definition projectors on to a 21 metre long screen. Actor Sam Neill provides the narration for the film.

Jackson is an internationally acclaimed filmmaker, and has a substantial personal interest in the story of early aviation, and is the Chairman of the 14-18 Aviation Heritage Trust that has a collection of original and replica aircraft from the period.

Three allied aircraft (SE5a fighter, Avro 504K trainer and Airco DH9 bomber) and two rare German fighter planes (Albatros D.Va and Pfalz D.XII) from the Memorial’s collection are on display in the exhibition.

***Over the front: the Great War in the air* opens to the public at 10am on Friday 28 November. Entry is free.**

Further information:

Leigh Harris	(02) 6243 4575	0409 600 038	media@awm.gov.au
Kendall Brown	(02) 6206 9825		kendall.brown@awm.gov.au

27 November 2008