



Australian War Memorial

Australian Tourism Awards

Major Tourist Attraction

HALL OF FAME

MEDIA ALERT

Towner VC Inspires 13 Year Old

Ronan Robinson from Blackall Queensland is making his way to Canberra to visit the Australian War Memorial on **Friday, 2 January, at 11am** to see the display on Edgar Thomas Towner VC MC (1890 - 1972).

Edgar Thomas Towner was born near Blackall in 1890 and attended Blackall Public School. He joined the AIF at the age of 24 in January 1915. Serving on the Western Front with the 25th Battalion, he was commissioned in November 1916. Later posted to the 7th Machine Gun Company, he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery near Morlancourt in June 1918. During the attack on Mont St Quentin on 1 September 1918, Towner, despite being wounded, captured a German machine-gun, turned it on the enemy and inflicted severe losses. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for this action. Ronan, a pupil at Blackall Public School was so inspired by Towner's courage that he wrote an article urging the town Blackall to consider erecting a statue in his memory. As a result Ronan's family are visiting the Memorial so that he can see Towner's uniform, which is on display in the Memorial's latest special exhibition, *Advancing to Victory 1918*.

Media to meet at the rear Security Desk for easy access to the gallery.

Further information:

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2 January 2009