

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

**STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 6AM ON 22/1/09**

### **Trooper Donaldson VC Comes To Memorial**

The Australian War Memorial is delighted to announce that Trooper Mark Donaldson VC will be loaning his Victoria Cross for display in the *Conflicts 1945 to today* galleries.

The Director of the Australian War Memorial, Steve Gower, described the loan as a wonderful gesture for all Australians.

“Loaning his Victoria Cross to the Australian War Memorial so soon after its presentation is an incredibly generous offer and we are delighted to accept his Victoria Cross and place it on public exhibition,” Steve Gower said.

“The Victoria Cross is awarded only for the highest acts of valour in wartime, and I am sure many Australians will want to view the medal and learn more about Mark Donaldson’s inspiring bravery and selfless service,” Steve Gower said.

Trooper Donaldson’s Victoria Cross will initially be displayed in the *Conflicts 1945 to today* galleries. It is expected to be on display from late February. A further media announcement will be made at this time.

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs will be attending the handover.

Once Trooper Donaldson’s Victoria Cross is on display, there will be 60 Australian and two British Victoria Crosses displayed at the Australian War Memorial; this is the largest public collection in the world.

<b>What:</b>	Media handover of Mark Donaldson’s Victoria Cross to the Australian War Memorial’s Director, Steve Gower.
<b>Where:</b>	Western Courtyard Gallery (entry via western doors) Australian War Memorial Treloar Crescent Campbell ACT
<b>When:</b>	9.45am for 10am start
<b>Photo opps:</b>	Handover of VC by Mark Donaldson Please bring sufficient lighting and extension cords.
<b>Parking:</b>	Available in the executive carpark, behind the Administration Building

**Further information:**

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