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# A Place to Remember

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On 11 November 1934, over 300 000 people gathered on the slopes of Melbourne's Domain to witness the dedication of the Shrine of Remembrance. It was the largest state war memorial Australia would build and it commemorated the sacrifice of no fewer than 114 000 Victorians who served in the Great War.

*A Place to Remember* charts the Shrine's history from the first fatalities of the Gallipoli landing to the present day. With deft hand and luminous style, Bruce Scates masterfully situates the Shrine in its larger physical, cultural and historical landscapes. Archival image and first-person vignette mesh with vivid prose to reveal the Shrine, then and now; its changing patterns of meaning through the many conflicts in which Australians have fought and died, and the enduring significance of this grand memorial in the heart of Melbourne, for generations to come.

**Bruce Scates** is Professor of History and Australian Studies at Monash University and Director of the National Centre for Australian Studies.

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Bruce Scates  
Frontmatter  
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# A Place to Remember

## A History of the Shrine of Remembrance

BRUCE SCATES

*A history to mark the 75th year of Victoria's Shrine of Remembrance*



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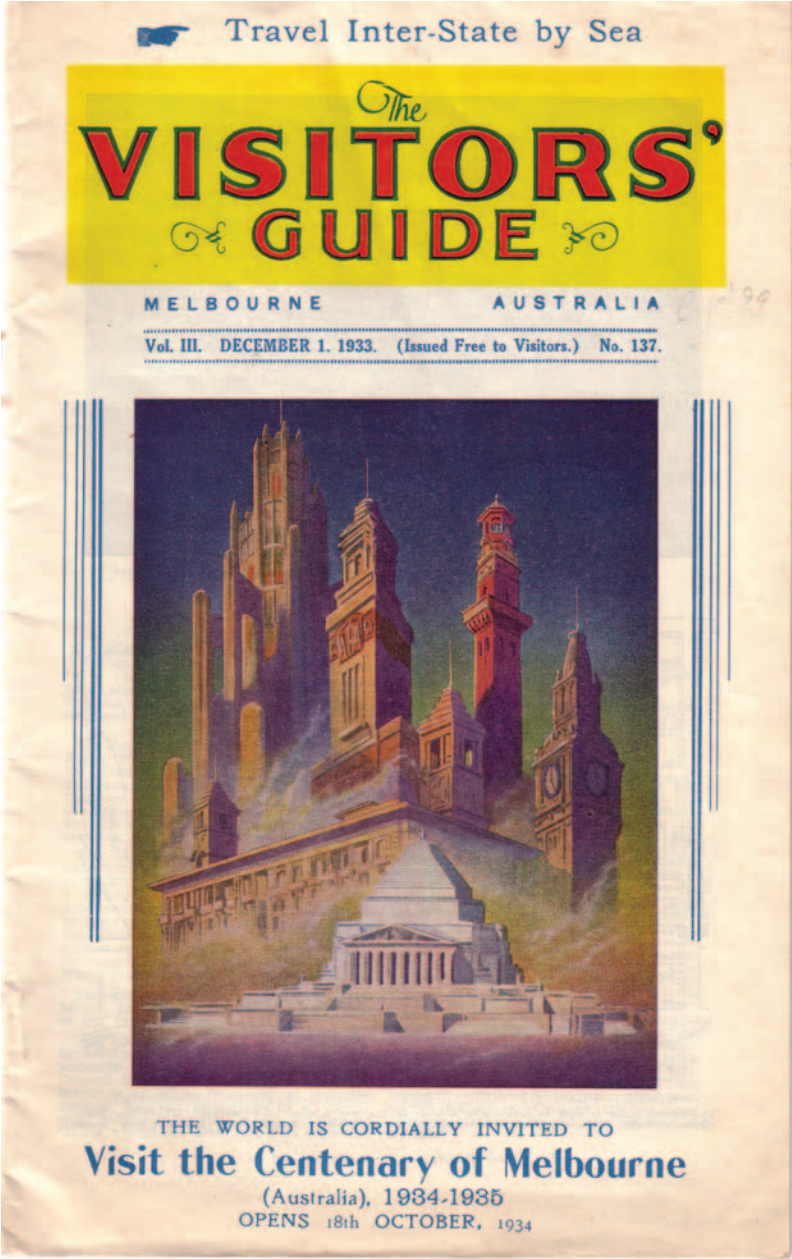
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For my father, who flew in Beauforts, and my brothers, Robert and Michael, who also fought for peace.

Monash University and the author donated the time and services required to write this book.  
All royalties from the sale of this book are donated to the Shrine.

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Front cover of 'The Visitors' Guide' Vol. III, 1 December, 1933.  
Source: Courtesy of John Arnold

FOREWORD

It is 75 years since the dedication of the Shrine of Remembrance in 1934. To celebrate this anniversary, the Trustees commissioned Professor Bruce Scates to write a history of the Shrine. I feel privileged to be writing this foreword to his work.

Professor Scates has traced the evolution of the Shrine from the earliest concepts for a National War Memorial, through years of debate on the form it should take, before the intervention of Sir John Monash secured a future for the Shrine. He has explored the challenges created by fundraising and construction of the building during the Depression and shifting attitudes towards the Shrine within the rich fabric of the Victorian community. Professor Scates has sifted through the minutes of Trustees' meetings and surveyed many of the Shrine's visitors and the people of Victoria. The voices of former Trustees, ex-servicemen and their families and the wider community pervade the narrative to illustrate the lively and never complacent history of the Shrine. The Second World War, post-1945 conflicts and peacekeeping have extended the scope of the Shrine, which continues to evolve.

Through changing times the Shrine has maintained its pre-eminence as a site for private and public mourning and remembrance, ensuring that the sacrifices of Victorian service men and women are not forgotten. To honour these intentions and confirm its continuing relevance in the 21st century, the Shrine has been transformed in recent years to meet the needs of a community that largely has no direct experience of war. The Shrine Trustees recognise that the community has been radically transformed and now represents people of many origins who have come to Australia, often as a result of war in their homelands.

With the generous support of the Victorian State Government, the Trustees have created the Visitor Centre and Education Centre, establishing the Shrine as the most visited state memorial in Australia. A centre for learning is being developed in which all those who visit are encouraged to engage with this important aspect of Australia's history and to further their understanding of the stories of Victorians and Australians at war and in peacekeeping.

*A Place to Remember* will be invaluable for teachers and students who are exploring the Shrine and its relevance in their community. It will assist Shrine of Remembrance school programs, making connections between local communities and the history of the Shrine: vital to engaging younger generations in understanding our history.

The Shrine Trustees extend their warm appreciation to our sponsors, the late Richard Pratt and the Pratt Foundation, Lee Liberman and Monash University. The Trustees wish to acknowledge the work of the Advisory Committee, Professor Peter Edwards, Professor Dimity Reed and Professor Graeme Davison, who have worked closely with Professor Scates in support of his history. Our highest thanks and congratulations are extended to Professor Bruce Scates, whose dedication and commitment have given us a lively and provocative history of the Shrine of Remembrance. I commend this highly readable and accessible history to readers.

John Taylor  
Chairman  
Shrine of Remembrance

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