

# FOUR LEGGED Diggers

## A pictorial tribute to Australia's Dogs of War

Dogs have accompanied our soldiers to almost every conflict in which Australia has been involved. This exhibition pays tribute to the small teams of dedicated soldiers and their tracker dogs, who served our country side by side on active duty during the Vietnam War. The dogs lived and worked with their handlers sharing every danger, unaware that men's lives often depended on their ability to do their job. It was inevitable that very close and strong bonds developed.

It was not until later in 1993, following changes to government policy, that our war dogs were permitted to return to Australia. All that went before this time, including those that served in Vietnam, were left behind after the return of our soldiers. These were our "mates" who served as valiantly as any soldier, and they like any soldier should not be forgotten.

Today, when soldiers go to war, dogs still accompany them and continue to form an integral part of our Defence Force. At the present time, the military employs more dogs than at the height of the Vietnam conflict. Australian Defence Force dog teams are deployed on arms and explosive detection, tracking, patrol, and many other duties.

The ANZAC spirit is alive and well and the fine tradition established in the early years of Australia's Armed Forces continues to this day. It is with pride that we acknowledge all our diggers, both two legged and canine four legged, who have served our country so well.