



## Siev X National Memorial Young People's Art Collaboration

# Brief

### Contents

#### Section 1

#### **Project Overview**

#### Section 2

#### **Design Considerations**

Aesthetic  
Form  
Function

#### Section 3

#### **Site Information**

#### Section 4

#### **Submission Details**

*Young people are invited to contribute design ideas for a memorial to the people of the Siev X which will be a symbol of hope and healing and a place where Australians can come to remember and reflect.*



Siev X National Memorial Project  
PO Box 62 Evandale, Tas 7212  
Web: [www.sievxmemorial.com](http://www.sievxmemorial.com)  
Email: [info@www.sievxmemorial.com](mailto:info@www.sievxmemorial.com)  
Working in conjunction with Rural Australians  
for Refugees and the Uniting Church in Australia

## Section 1

### Project Overview

#### **The biggest maritime tragedy in our region since World War II**

In October 2001, a fishing boat equipped to carry a hundred people set sail from Lampong in Indonesia, watched over by armed police. On board were crammed over 400 frightened, sick and exhausted refugees – the great majority of them mothers and young children, seeking freedom and safety from the terrors of Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of these people had husbands and fathers in detention in Australia.

The Siev X - as the boat came to be called, never had a chance. After a night of sailing through terrible weather, the engines of the boat failed. At ten past three on the afternoon of October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001, it foundered and sank in international waters with the deaths of 146 children, 142 women and 65 men.

While up to 120 people initially survived the sinking, only 44 were left alive to be rescued by Indonesian fishermen 20 hours later. Of the survivors, five were children – one a two year old. Seven of the Siev X survivors are now living in Australia, but none have permanent residency. Four men in Australia on Temporary Protection Visas lost their entire families on the SievX.

#### The project

The Young People's Art Collaboration was devised as a way to tell the story of the Siev X more widely, and to eventually build a national memorial that would be a "landmark of conscience" which young Australians could feel part of. The memorial is to be built on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra during 2005.

**Young people are invited to contribute design ideas for a memorial to the people of the Siev X which will be a symbol of hope and healing and a place where Australians can come to remember and reflect.**

Designs from this stage of the project will be exhibited in regional and city galleries around the country. In 2005 another generation of students will be asked to work with teachers, artists, architects and landscape designers to combine the elements of the entries into a physical memorial in Canberra. In this way a design will evolve which everyone can feel part of.

## Section 2

### Design Considerations

We are looking for designs which are a response to the sinking of the Siev X boat, a memorial to the people who drowned, so that they are not forgotten.

We hope the memorial will become a landmark of conscience, a place visitors to Canberra invariably go to see and reflect. A place for schoolchildren who visit Canberra to learn from and above all, for the

comfort and acknowledgement of those people who lost their children, husbands, wives, relatives and beloved friends, in this terrible event.

### **Aesthetic considerations**

Beautiful, fitting, informative, reflective, moving and unique are all words we hope people will use to describe what is created for this symbol of hope and healing.

### **Form**

There is no restriction on what form the memorial might take. It could be any kind of visual art – landscape, sculpture, visual panels, involve electronic or light elements, be on the water or the shore or both. You are encouraged to think broadly – designs should be visually interesting and appropriate for a three dimensional work.

### **Function**

The memorial will be used in different ways by different people. It needs to be able to deal with the possibility of a busload of people turning up at the same time, and at other times single visitors or small groups.

Visitors may wish to contemplate or find a space to grieve.

The memorial may include a way in which children can learn more about the issues surrounding the Siev X.

Other visitors will include:

- Overseas visitors who may know nothing about the Siev X;
- Grieving family members, or members of the community from which the refugees came;
- Canberra residents, who use the site on a regular basis, possibly during lunchtime, after work or on weekends.

## Section 3

### **Site Information**

The Siev X Memorial is to be located in Canberra, by the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, at a specific site yet to be chosen.

#### **Sited in the capital**

Canberra, with a population of 308,700, is located 300km from Sydney and 650km northeast of Melbourne by road. It houses the Federal Parliament, and is home to many international embassies. It receives nearly four million visitors annually – from the 128,000 primary school students who travel each year to visit the capital and learn about Australia's governing system, to international guests coming to see the famed planned city in action.

As the capital it has a role beyond that of other cities –

Canberra, as the national capital, is the symbolic home of all Australians. It reflects the attitudes, status and symbolism of Australian society, Australian culture and Australian diversity.

A capital city is not just about the buildings or physical aspects. It is also about what it means in the hearts and minds of all Australians.

(From national Capital Authority website: [www.nationalcapital.gov.au](http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au))

A planned city, Canberra was designed by architect Walter Burley Griffin. Central to the plan was the artificial Lake Burley Griffin, which provides a backdrop to nationally important buildings. An important freshwater ecosystem, it also provides habitat for waterbirds and is a wildlife refuge. Some areas of the lake are used for public recreation – sailing, sailboarding and swimming.

Canberra has a temperate climate - in autumn, the yellows and oranges of the deciduous trees colour the landscape.

### **Location and characteristics of the site**



(Please note: the site has not yet been chosen. This picture of the site for Katie Bender's memorial, is similar to the type of site that will be chosen)

A specific location in Canberra has not yet been chosen, but the memorial will be sited by the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

Assume that there will be a perhaps a small area of grass, that there will be some trees nearby, that you can see the opposite shore with some buildings on it. Joggers may go past at lunchtime, office workers eat their sandwiches there. It is a short walk from where buses park. It is busy on the weekends.

## Section 4

# Submission Details

### Who can take part

Grades nine and ten art students are our primary target group, but any age group up to age 18 including primary school children, will be welcome to participate.

A school can send in up to four artwork contributions. They can be by a whole class, or students in groups, or individual students. Students can also send in artwork individually, over and above the school's quota of four, if you are keen.

All designs will be included in exhibitions and /or on an Internet- based database, and considered by the artists who will incorporate young people's ideas into the final memorial.

### Format for submissions

Each contribution should be set out on three A3 sized pieces of art paper. One page is of text, outlining the student/s design and rationale in words. Why it should be built, and how.

The second two pages are for illustrating what you have in mind. If sculpture or 3D elements are made by the students, then these should be digitally photographed or drawn. Do not actually send us the sculptures or other elements (although they may be invited to be in exhibitions).

### Database

Our plan is that all designs will be placed on an interactive database that will be itself a memorial. The database will go on-line in late 2004, being available for web browsing worldwide. We are grateful to University of Technology Sydney for assisting in this aim.

### Optional - video

One option is that in addition to the A3 pieces that you make a simple, three minute video on miniDV/digital 8/Hi8 camcorder if possible, talking about and showing your design, its rationale, and why you think it should be built. This video will be included in a DVD which will be screened at the regional and national exhibitions.

### Sending material to us

Rather than sending the original designs, we are asking that you make colour photocopies, at full size if possible, of the three pages, and send them to us at the address at the end, and safely store your actual entry until exhibitions are being organized.

Along with the photocopies, please send us a completed

- Design Submission form, and
- Parent Approval form for each design.

Copies of these forms will be available from our website, and can also be posted to schools.

### The closing date

The closing date for sending the designs to us is by August 31st 2004.

### Exhibitions

Exhibitions of the designs will be held around the country in late 2004. Exhibitions will lead up to and follow the third anniversary of the sinking of the Siev X (October 19th).

### Certificates

All those who send in designs will receive a certificate in appreciation of their participation in the project.

### Project Management

The project is being organised by a small group of people based in Bellingen, NSW and Launceston Tasmania. It is supported by several organizations working jointly, including Rural Australians for Refugees, and the Uniting Church in Australia.

### Address for sending submissions

PO Box 62 Evandale Tasmania 7212

### For further information

For further information, go to our website [www.sievxmemorial.com](http://www.sievxmemorial.com), or email [info@sievxmemorial.com](mailto:info@sievxmemorial.com)

Phone: (03) 6340 2662

Fax: (03) 6340 2663

### Useful websites:

[www.sievxmemorial.com](http://www.sievxmemorial.com)

[www.sievx.com](http://www.sievx.com)

[www.nationalcapital.gov.au](http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au)