

Australia's Biggest Young People's Art Collaboration

... for the most important reason of our time ...

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.

The SievX, as the boat came to be called, never had a chance. After a hellish night of sailing in terrible weather, it foundered and sank in international waters with the deaths of 146 children, 142 women, and 65 men.



Picture: The SievX at 19 metres long, was smaller than the boat in this picture.

These people should not be forgotten. Their deaths were needless, and an immense and tragic waste.

The SievX National Memorial Project is an Australia-wide Young Peoples' Art Collaboration, to design and build a memorial to the people of SievX, on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, the national capital.

“In a healthy country, the lives of little children, and of their mothers and fathers, are sacred.”



Steve Biddulph

Australia's 3,000 secondary schools are being asked to submit designs, along with statements from their students about why and in what form they would like to see a memorial built. Exhibitions will be held all around Australia on the third anniversary of the sinking, October 19th 2004. During 2005 the designs will be developed into a memorial built on the shores of the lake, a permanent, beautiful and fitting place for the bereaved, and for all Australians, to remember and reflect.

Art Teachers, Technology and Design Teachers, as well as Social Studies and English Departments of secondary schools are invited to have their students participate

One day people in fear and danger will have safe refuge, will be cared for properly, and given a secure place to live normal lives.

The SievX National Memorial Project is one step on that road, a step hundreds of thousands of Australians can participate in.