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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **KEVIN RUDD LAUNCHES VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC BOOK**

A new publication marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in the Pacific was launched in Brisbane yesterday by Federal Labor Leader and Member for Griffith Mr Kevin Rudd MP.

*Balmoral Cemetery Pacific Veterans: Stories of Brisbane's Balmoral Cemetery World War Two Pacific Campaign Veterans, and Life on the Homefront* was developed by local history group Friends of Balmoral Cemetery Inc (FOBC) with funding from the Department of Veterans' Affairs *Saluting Their Service* 2005 Electorate Grants program.

Launched by Mr Rudd at the Morningside Services Club in Brisbane's east, the book provides a snapshot into the lives of almost 40 men who served Australia in the Pacific theatre of war, as well as those who served the nation on the homefront.

Mr Rudd paid tribute to all those involved in creating the *Pacific Veterans* publication.

"*Pacific Veterans* is the culmination of a lot of hard work by a dedicated group of citizens who are committed to ensuring the deeds and legacy of our World War II veterans are recognised and honoured by current and future generations of Australians," Mr Rudd said.

"It is important that we cherish our history, especially our local history. But to do so, our history needs to be recorded and remembered.

"This book gives due recognition to the veterans and families of our community who have contributed so much. It will also be of continuing value and relevance for our younger generations, who are eager to learn about our past.

"It will help them to understand that the service and sacrifice of our soldiers provides the very freedom we enjoy today," he said.

FOBC President Kelvin Johnston said the organisation was delighted that Mr Rudd took time out of his busy schedule to launch their publication.

"The support from Mr Rudd and his staff team for this project has been outstanding, and we are honoured that Mr Rudd acted as our special guest today to launch *Balmoral Cemetery Pacific Veterans*", Mr Johnston said.

"The research and development of this book has been a labour of love for the FOBC members, and we hope that it will stir the memories of older generations, provide a valuable research tool for students, and be enjoyed by all."

To order a copy of *Balmoral Cemetery Pacific Veterans*, please contact Betty Sinden on 07 3395 7916 or email [betty.sinden@bigpond.com](mailto:betty.sinden@bigpond.com)

**For further information, please contact**

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**About the Friends of Balmoral Cemetery**

The Friends of Balmoral Cemetery was formed on 28 July 2001 and incorporated in 2003. It is an independent, not-for-profit association.

Consisting of a group of committed volunteers, the Friends work to protect and preserve Balmoral Cemetery. An executive committee oversees the day to day operations of the organisation, backed up by dedicated and active members who work on a variety of tasks ranging from cemetery cleanup activities to the recording of monumental inscriptions.

Friends of Balmoral Cemetery Inc works to preserve and enhance Balmoral Cemetery and its aim is for the long-term preservation of this important part of Brisbane's history.

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