



MEDIA RELEASE

THE HON DAN TEHAN MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR CYBER SECURITY
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Franco-Australian Museum re-opens in Villers-Bretonneux

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today officially re-opened the extensively refurbished Franco-Australian Museum at Villers-Bretonneux in France, in company with the local Mayor, Mr Patrick Simon.

Mr Tehan said the Australian Government had contributed more than \$2 million to the project, which included the reconstruction and refurbishment of a complete section of the existing Victoria School, in which the museum is located. The now larger and more contemporary museum facility houses the Franco-Australian Association's extensive collection of objects.

"The Franco-Australian Museum is a symbol of the longstanding friendship between France and Australia, and its remarkable collection is a record of the close bond between the people of Villers-Bretonneux and the people of Australia," Mr Tehan said.

"The reimagined and redeveloped museum and exhibition is a credit to the efforts of the Franco-Australian Association and the town to remember and honour the First World War and the contribution made by Australians at Villers-Bretonneux."

The refurbishment was conducted as part of the Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front under an Australian Government initiative delivered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in cooperation with French and Belgian authorities. It is aimed at establishing a commemorative trail highlighting sites of significance to the Australian experience of the Western Front during the First World War.

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