



SIR JOHN MONASH CENTRE  
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX FRANCE

# INFORMATION PACK FOR TEACHERS

Planning your visit to the Sir John Monash Centre



“  
The  
most  
beautiful  
grave is the  
memory  
of men  
”

Andre Malraux

## WORD OF WELCOME

The Sir John Monash Centre tells the story of Australia's experience on the Western Front during the First World War with leading-edge technology and multimedia, supported by objects of significance to Australians.

More than 295,000 Australians served on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918. Of these, 132,000 were wounded and 46,000 lost their lives. The Sir John Monash Centre ensure the words, the experiences and the stories of sacrifice of those men and women are preserved for generations to come.

Combining hands-on activities and an app-based visit of the Centre, students and teachers will follow the footsteps of Australians who served during the War. The journey from Australia before the war; the harsh introduction to the Somme in 1916, through to achieving their greatest successes in 1918 concludes with the return to an Australia that, despite its distance from the conflict, had been irrevocably changed by the War.

An immersive gallery at the heart of the Centre tells the story of two key battles in 1918 creating a deeply emotional and educational experience.

To prepare the visit of the Centre, the Sir John Monash Centre website provides online resources and Centre-based activities. Our team works closely with teachers to tailor the students' visit, ensuring it meets curriculum objectives, suits their interests and leaves a lasting impression.

Students will leave the Sir John Monash Centre with an enhanced understanding of the Australian experience on the Western Front and the impact and loss suffered by a young nation.

**Rebecca Doyle**  
**Director, Sir John Monash Centre**



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## PRESENTATION OF THE SITE



*Inside the Sir John Monash Centre, two applications for different age groups allow all students to gain a better understanding of the journey of ordinary Australians.*

The Sir John Monash Centre is located behind the Australian National Memorial, at the top of the Villers-Bretonneux military cemetery.

Upon arrival on site, students walk up through the cemetery towards the Australian National Memorial. Students may wish to download the SJMC app on their own smartphones and connect their earphones for a virtual tour through the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery and the Australian National Memorial.

The app will offer opportunities to discover the stories of Australian soldiers buried in the cemetery and commemorated on the Memorial wall. The SJMC app offers a 360° panorama, accessible from the front or the top of the Memorial tower, allowing students to explore the Somme Valley and learn more about its history during the war.

Inside the Sir John Monash Centre, two applications for different age groups allow all students to gain a better understanding of the journey of ordinary Australians. Their stories are told in their own voices through letters, diaries and life-size images and use new and archival footage, animation, maps and soundscapes. From years 1 to 6, the Digger Quest app guides students through the galleries to complete quests. From year 6, the guided visit with the SJMC app continues.

School groups can also book tailored hands-on activities, to interact with objects familiar to the Australian soldiers on the Western Front.



## THE INTERPRETIVE VISIT

*Teachers and students learn about Australia's story on the Western Front and hear stories of its servicemen and women.*

The interpretive gallery is divided into seven themes: Australia Before the War, Why Did Australians Volunteer to go to War, Major Battles, The Experience of War, Away from Home, The Home Front and Fates.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL:

Year 1 to Year 6 are offered a personalised experience adapted to requirements and levels of understanding but also to limit their exposure to sensitive content. The class is encouraged to learn about Australia's First World War history on the Western Front through the Digger Quest children's app combined with hands-on activities conducted by SJMC staff members.

### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS:

From Year 6 onwards (or from 12 years of age), students can visit the interpretive galleries using the SJMC app in the same manner as adult visitors.



## HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES



*Your students will be immersed in the Australian experience on the Western Front.*

To make the most of your visit to the Sir John Monash Centre, teachers are encouraged to book a hands-on activities workshop for their students. As they uncover the true story of Private Valentine Rochfort, through objects he would have been familiar with.

All activities are free of charge and larger groups can be split to rotate through the hands-on activities and the visit of the Centre's galleries.



### **PRIMARY SCHOOLS:** **Discover the story of Private Valentine Rochfort**

A SJMC staff member will teach students about Private Valentine Rochfort's wartime experiences in France by examining, touching and wearing some of the items from his trunk of personal affairs. This will enable them to understand Valentine's experience and living conditions on the Western Front.

### **MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL:** **Discover the work of a historian! Examine various objects and archive documents to uncover the identity of a soldier**

A staff member will accompany students through their analysis of objects and archive documents. Students will find clues and information leading them to uncover the identity of a soldier.

## DIGGER QUEST



### **Digger Quest is the newest addition to the Sir John Monash Centre's education program.**

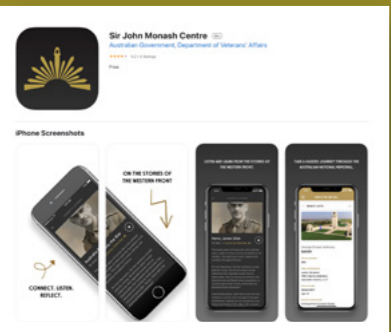
Available for children from 6 to 12 years old, the Digger Quest application guides young visitors through the Centre's galleries whilst they search for the different Australian animal totems and complete their quests at their own pace.

Each of the eight missions is based on a key part of the Australian story told by the Sir John Monash Centre.

Equipped with a loan tablet, students learn about Australia before discovering why this young nation fought alongside the Allies in World War I.

Through stories told by Australian soldiers and nurses, students can hear about the daily life of these men and women including the hardships of fighting a battle so far from home.

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE SJMC



For their visit, your visitors will need to:

- Fully charge their mobile devices.
- Download the SJMC app, available on Play Store or App Store, to their smartphones. *(A limited number of loan devices are available at the Centre on presentation of ID.)*
- Connect to the free SJMC Wi-Fi network on arrival.
- Connect their earbuds or headphones to their device. Please note: the application will not work without earphones. Visitors should be advised to bring their earphones for the visit. *(Failing which, a limited number of earphones are available for loan at the Centre on presentation of ID.)*

Recommended ratio of teachers/accompanying adults to students and expected duration:

	Year 1 to 6	Year 6 and above
15 students	2 accompanying adults Digger Quest visit & Hands-on activity: approx. 1h30	1 accompanying adult Visit: approx. 1h00 Visit & Hands-on activity: approx. 1h30
30 students	4 accompanying adults Digger Quest visit & Hands-on activity: approx. 2h30	2 accompanying adults Visit: approx. 1h30 Visit & Hands-on activity: approx. 2h30
50+ students	2 accompanying adults per group of 15 students Digger Quest visit & Hands-on activity: approx. 3h00	1 accompanying adult per group of 15 students Visit: approx. 2h30 Visit & Hands-on activity: approx. 3h00

Confronting imagery is displayed in certain areas within the Centre.

The immersive gallery also contains strobe lighting and loud noises. The content displayed aims to meet the Australian Classification category of PG (Parental Guidance) and is not recommended for children under the age of 12.

EDUCATION RESOURCES

To learn more about the Sir John Monash Centre and the Australian National Memorial, a wide range of teachers' resources is available on our website, [www.sjmc.gov.au](http://www.sjmc.gov.au). These resources help students to prepare for their visit by exploring different subjects.

Teachers can email us at [info@sjmc.gov.au](mailto:info@sjmc.gov.au) with any questions or concerns, or to book a preliminary visit of the Centre.

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES:

- The Department of Veterans' Affairs classroom resources booklet is available to teachers. It contains a series of topics focusing on Australians and their experience of the Western Front. 13 topics are available:
  - Who Am I?
  - Why did soldiers volunteer to go to war?
  - What training did soldiers receive?
  - How did soldiers get to the Western Front?
  - Trench Warfare
  - The Wounded
  - The Enemy
  - The Allies
  - On leave in England
  - After the war
  - Commemoration
  - French Connections
  - Sir John Monash
- Two quizzes on Australia and the First World War are available for teachers to acquire basic information about Australia and/or the war.
  - A questionnaire
  - An interactive quiz
- Articles on our website enable students to explore a subject more thoroughly or to discover uncommon subjects like Australian women artists of the Western Front.



## OTHER SERVICES

### COMMEMORATION

The SJMC app can be used for wreath laying ceremonies in the cemetery or at the memorial, available under the “commemoration” tab of the app’s menu. Bluetooth speakers may be borrowed from the Sir John Monash Centre on presentation of ID.

*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



## BOOK YOUR VISIT

### SIR JOHN MONASH CENTRE OPENING HOURS:

- Daily from 10am to 5pm.
- Last admission: one hour before closure.

### BOOKING YOUR VISIT

Bookings are required for all school and tour groups. We recommend making the booking as early as possible.

#### HOW TO BOOK:

1. Visit our website: [www.sjmc.gov.au](http://www.sjmc.gov.au)
2. Click on **Book Now**  
(Top right-hand corner)
3. Click on **Organised Groups Book Now**
4. Select your preferred date and time (only available times will be displayed)
5. Include the number of tickets you require. (Please note the maximum number of people per time slot is 35. Larger groups will need to book several consecutive time slots)

Fill out fields marked with an asterix and remember to tick **Yes** for school groups.  
When the booking has been made you will receive a confirmation email.

In the weeks before your visit, you will be contacted by a SJMC staff member who will discuss your requirements including reserving a hands-on activity.

### ADMISSION FEE:

Admission and hands-on activities are free of charge for all school groups.

### BOOKING CANCELLATIONS/AMENDMENTS:

If you need to cancel your booking, please click on the link in your booking confirmation.

Any booking amendments, such as time and date of visit or number of tickets required can also be made by emailing us at [info@sjmc.gov.au](mailto:info@sjmc.gov.au).

USEFUL INFORMATION

ACCESS AND PARKING

- The Sir John Monash Centre is located on the D23 between the towns of Fouilloy and Villers-Bretonneux.
- Coaches are required to park in the coach car park located along the paved road near the Orientation Building.
- Please note that the walk from the orientation building, through the cemetery to the entrance of the Sir John Monash Centre may take up to 30 minutes when using the SJMC App.
- Disabled parking is available close to the Memorial and the Sir John Monash Centre. Visitors with mobility issues requiring assistance can contact the Centre by phone: +33 (0)3 60 62 01 40.

PICNIC

- Packed lunches can be eaten in the outdoor picnic area near the Sir John Monash Centre. Please ensure all litter is taken away with you. Please be aware there is no undercover area.
- The Centre may also provide packed lunches for consumption in the cafeteria or outside. Please check availability when making your reservation.

SOUVENIR SHOP

- A range of SJMC souvenirs are available for purchase in the Centre’s shop, situated in the cafeteria area of the Centre.

LOCKERS

- Personal belongings can be left in our secure courtesy lockers, located in the basement. Please note these lockers are not suitable for storing bulky luggage.
- Large bags are not permitted in the galleries and are to be left on the coach or in lockers.

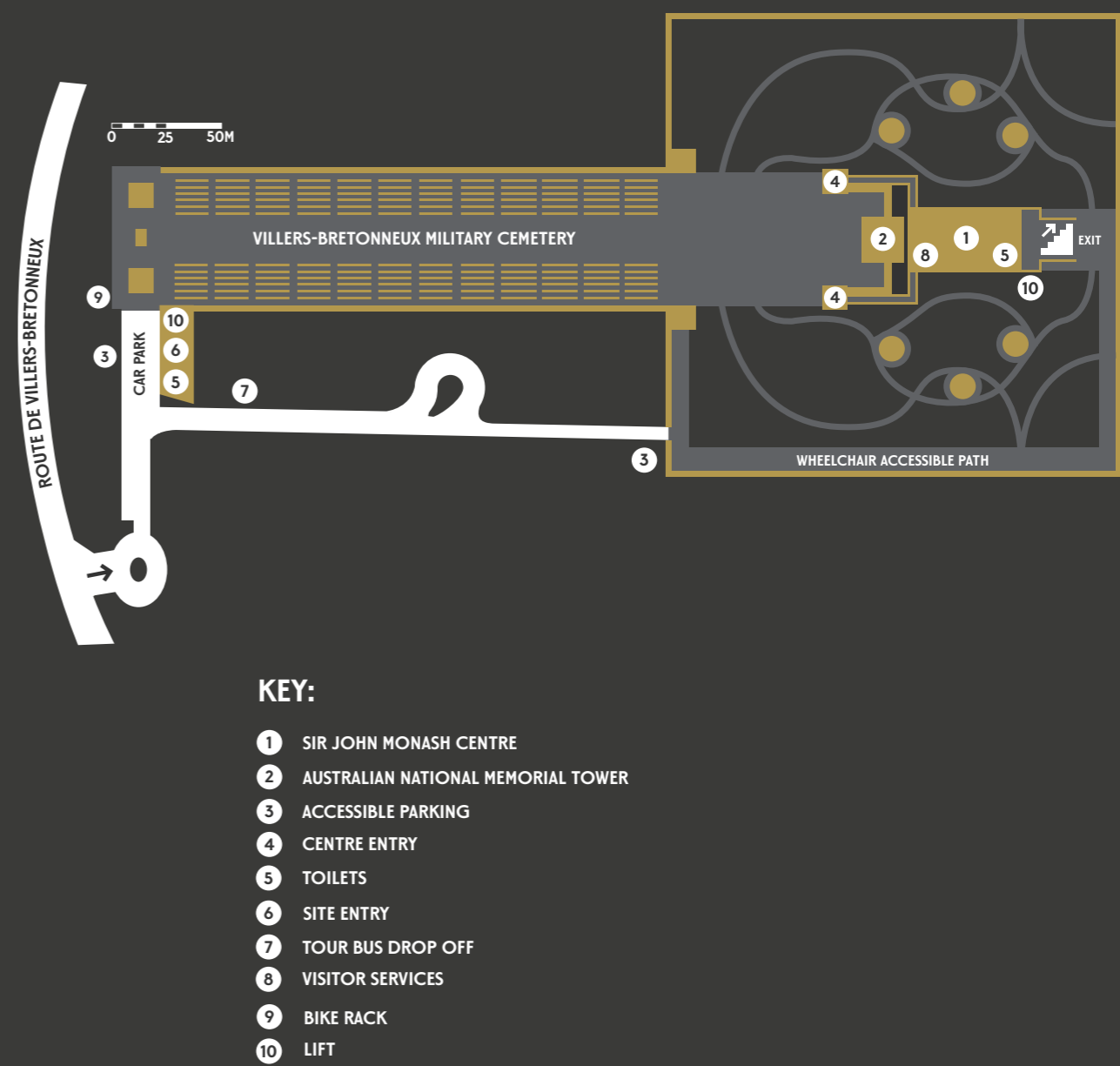
GROUP SIZE AND SUPERVISION

- Group sizes may vary according to the procedures in place at the time of your visit, please enquire at the time of your visit by email at: info@sjmc.gov.au or by phone on: + 33(0)3 60 62 01 40.
- Teachers and guides are responsible for the students at all times.

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE SIR JOHN MONASH CENTRE

- A staff member will welcome you and the group to the Sir John Monash Centre.
- The group will then be directed to the Patrick Simon AO room for an induction video.

SIR JOHN MONASH CENTRE SITE



“

*Adopt as your  
fundamental creed  
that you will equip  
yourself for life, not  
solely for your own  
benefit but for the  
benefit of the whole  
community.*

”

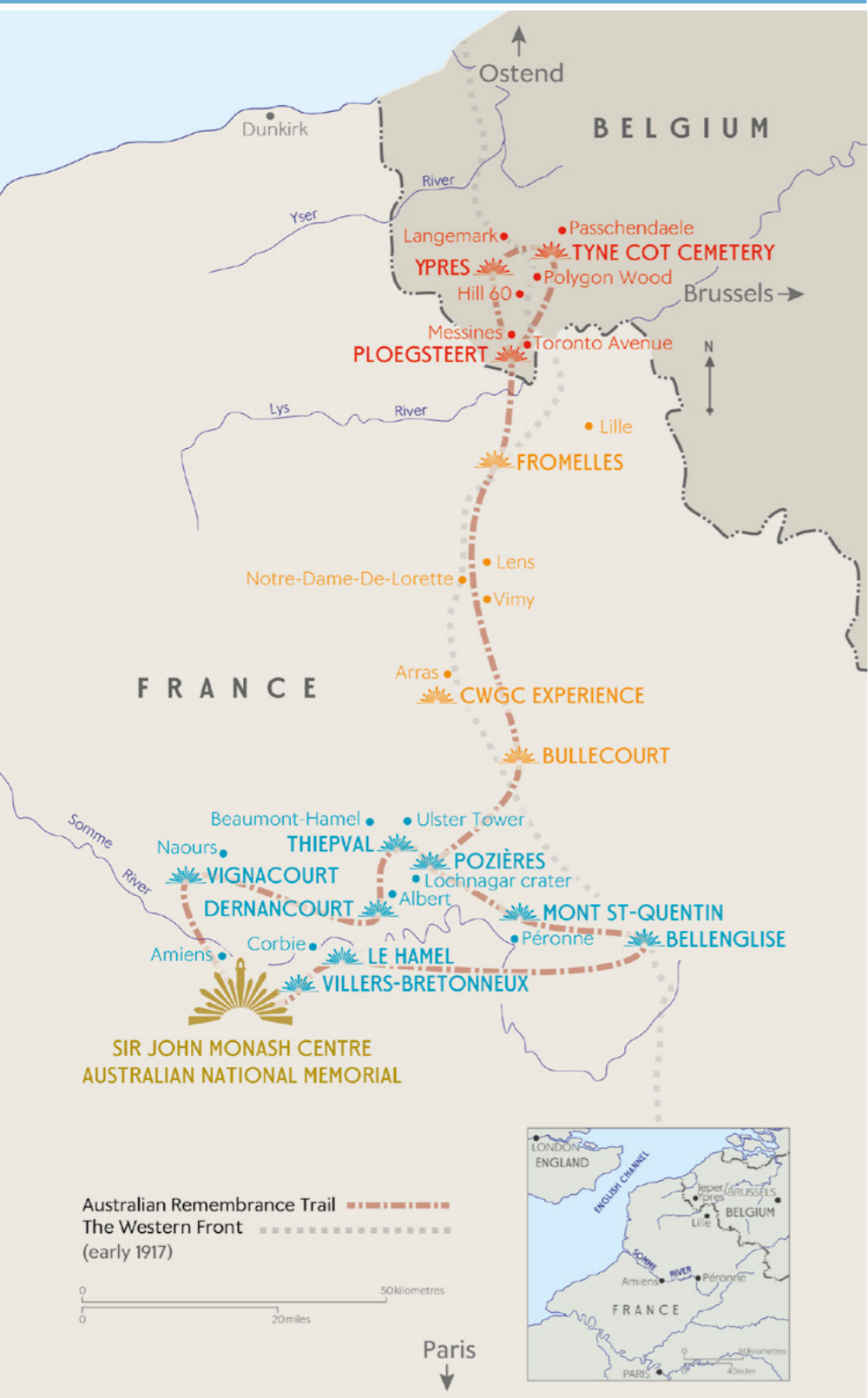
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Sir John Monash

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# AUSTRALIAN REMEMBRANCE TRAIL



From north to south, the Australian Remembrance Trail (ART) runs from Ypres in Belgium, near the site of the Battle of Passchendaele, through Fromelles and Bullecourt in northern France, to Pozieres, the battlefields of the Somme and Villers-Bretonneux and the Sir John Monash Centre.

This publication is made to help you plan your visit on the Western Front and to offer your students a chance to discover unheard stories of the Australians in France and Belgium.

