



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **General Sir Harry Chauvel Memorial Foundation announced**

**Melbourne** – A foundation to commemorate the memory of one of Australia's most successful, but little known military leaders, has been established to honour his accomplishments during and after World War 1 and recognise his achievements for future Australian generations.

The General Sir Harry Chauvel Memorial Foundation aims to: commemorate the services of General Sir Harry Chauvel GCMG, KCB, establish a philanthropic fund in his memory and to encourage his values of community service.

Sir Harry Chauvel's military career spanned half a century from the Boer War to World War 2. As Chief of the General Staff he led the Army for the decade after World War 1.

As the commander of the Desert Mounted Corps, Chauvel led a force of Australian Light Horse, British, New Zealand and Indian troops through the Sinai, Palestine and Syria to help defeat the Ottoman Empire. He is best known for the last successful mounted charge at Beersheba, Palestine on 31st October 1917. A year later the Australian Light Horse made a triumphal entry into Damascus, which marked the end of the war in the Middle East.

President of the General Sir Harry Chauvel Memorial Foundation, Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Smith (RFD) said recognition of Harry Chauvel was long overdue.

"He really was a humble hero who, as a commander, devoted his life to the service of Australia," Lieutenant Colonel Smith said.

"While those in the military know of Chauvel's legendary status, his exploits are not well-known by the current generation of Australians.

"From a boy growing up riding horses in Tabulam on the Clarence River in northern New South Wales, he was the first regular Australian soldier to become a full general and was recognised as being calm and courageous.

"The Foundation's aims are commemoration, education and inspiration – commemoration in the form of a permanent memorial, education with the anthology of the Light Horse stories and inspiration for the next generation of leaders through community awards."

Melbourne sculptor, Louis Laumen has been commissioned to create a bronze statue of Chauvel with foundation plans under way to have it erected outside Victoria Barracks in St Kilda Road, opposite the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

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#### **Further information**

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