



Media Release

Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Lia Finocchiaro  
Parliamentary Secretary

### **Borella Victoria Cross goes on public display**

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Territorians have the rare opportunity to get a first-hand look at a slice of Australian military history with the arrival of Albert Borella's Victoria Cross in Darwin for public display.

"Albert Borella was an outstanding Territorian who served his country proudly. He is the only Territorian to have received the Victoria Cross and it is an honour to have it on display in the Main Hall of Parliament House until the end of March," Mr Giles said.

From the Barkly, Albert Borella walked, swam through flooded rivers, rode horses and eventually travelled on a mail coach and a train to Darwin. Unable to sign on there, he was taken by ship to Queensland for training and then travelled via Western Australia before serving at Gallipoli and then the Western Front.

Borella received the distinctions of the Military Medal and a Mention in Despatches for his actions on the battlefield. Borella was made an officer and in 1918 he received the highest military honour, the Victoria Cross, for 'most conspicuous bravery in attack'.

"I'm thrilled that Albert Borella's son, Rowan and his wife Mary were able to be in Darwin for the official arrival of the VC," Mr Giles said.

"I'd like to express my personal thanks to the family for loaning us these treasured medals so that Albert Borella's remarkable military story can be shared with new generations of Territorians in this ANZAC Centenary year."

Along with Albert Borella's medals and a Luger pistol he souvenired on the battlefield, the Territory is also fortunate to have the more recent replica medals of Corporal Cameron Baird VC which have been kindly loaned by his parents, in cooperation with the Australian Army.

“Corporal Cameron Baird lost his life in his final act of bravery in Afghanistan. His medals are a reminder that the spirit and valour of soldiers such as Albert Borella is still exemplified in our military today,” Mr Giles said.

Albert Borella’s life is being commemorated as part of a \$4.5 million Territory program of events in honour of the ANZAC Centenary.

“The flagship event in this program is the upcoming re-enactment of Albert Borella’s journey from Tennant Creek to enlist in World War I,” Parliamentary Secretary Lia Finocchiaro said.

From 20 February to 3 March 2015, *The Borella Ride* will symbolically retrace Albert Borella’s footsteps along the Stuart Highway.

“The group will travel more than 1000 kilometres and stop in Tennant Creek, Banka Banka, Renner Springs, Elliott, Dunmarra, Daly Waters, Larrimah, Mataranka, Katherine, Pine Creek, Adelaide River and Darwin,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

“I’d like to encourage all Territorians to share in this piece of Territory history by getting involved in activities along the route.”

For more information on The Borella Ride go to <http://www.theborellaride.com.au>

**Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801**