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## International Exhibition on display at Gawler Civic Centre

A highly original photographic exhibition that documents the social aftermath inflicted on Australian society by the First World War is currently on display at the Gawler Civic Centre. *Recovering the Past* raises the profile of the traumatizing impact of the Great War as suffered by Australia's grieving women and its returned soldiers.

With a narrative of consequences of war, *Recovering the Past* contains 25 large-format montage photographs featuring Australia's famed Diggers and the Belgian Army's Flanders-based bomb disposal team accompanied by thought-provoking quotes sourced from Australia's archives.

The exhibition was produced on the former battlefields of Passchendaele by London based photographer Ian Alderman, the only artist to have been given full access to the dangerous work and facilities of DOVO-SEDEE, the Belgium armed forces bomb disposal team responsible for clearing the ordinance.

"Despite the terrifying battles that were fought in Flanders over a century ago, the lethal legacy of unexploded ammunition is an ever-present problem," Mr Alderman said. "For the population of Belgium's West Flanders, the Great War was still a daily fact of life. Coming to a head in the twice yearly 'Iron Harvest' when farmers plough their fields, on average 180 tonnes of unexploded ammunition is recovered and destroyed annually by the authorities."

"*Recovering the Past* is a poignant, emotive exhibition inspired by Australian artistic and cultural icons, photographer Frank Hurley and artist Will Longstaff," continued Mayor Redman. "The exhibition at the Gawler Civic Centre features a print of Longstaff's 'Menin Gate at Midnight' which was donated to the Gawler Heritage Collection by the RSL Gawler Sub-Branch."

*Recovering the Past* is touring Australia after having previously been exhibited at the Palais Des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, Belgium. The international exhibition is on display at **the Gawler Civic Centre** until 29 October 2021 before moving to regional South Australia. The exhibition is free for all of the community to attend.

**Interview Opportunity:** Ian Alderman is available for phone interviews +44 777 428 3723. Please note he is based in London and there is a considerable time difference. Or the exhibition's producer, Trudie Leigo, is also available for phone interviews, 0439 807 960. She is based in Bundaberg, QLD.

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ENDS The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359