

YINDYAMARRA ROLL

“They gave that we might have”

Artist Statement

The purpose of an Honour Roll is to *“commemorate the sacrifice of those who have died in war”*. The Australian war memorial states its mission is to *“assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society”*.

To maintain the fiction that Australia was settled ‘peacefully’ the wars fought on the frontier will never be honored. These brave warriors who fought for kin and country will never hold their rightful place in the narrative of the colonial project known as Australia.

Their loss of life will never be given the same respect as the loss of the life of the ANZACs, the diggers, the great Aussies who fought under the Australian flag.

The thousands of men, women and children who were devastated from the countless massacres and atrocities committed against them will never be dignified by the state.

The use of Western symbology to memorialise the known and unknown heroes of the resistance movement is deliberate. The *Yindyamarra Roll* is a tribute to those who fought the onslaught of the colonial invasion of their tribal lands.

These warriors gave their lives that we might have a language, a lore, a clan, a nation, and a family.

Sadly this list of names and language groups is incomplete. This work is dedicated to those who the memory of time has forgotten, to those who passed anonymously fighting the battle of the frontier wars.

Artwork Information

Yindyamarra: This is a Wiradjuri word meaning to ‘show honour, respect, to be patient and courteous’.

Undated: If records do not provide a date of this warriors passing this space has been left intentionally blank.

Unknown (language group): As in the Returned and Services League (RSL) of ‘Unknown Soldier’, Unknown (language group) signifies the language group that was devastated from many of the thousands of frontier war massacres.