



## **PRIME MINISTER**

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP,  
LAUNCH OF P40 KITTYHAWK PUBLIC DISPLAY, AUSTRALIAN WAR  
MEMORIAL, CANBERRA, 26 AUGUST 1992**

### **UNVEILING CEREMONY**

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Thank you Dame Beryl.

Well there are lots of symbols of any battle and there are many symbols of the battle for Australia at Milne Bay. But the Kittyhawk is a famous symbol and it's a great tribute to the Memorial that you've been able to procure and secure this Kittyhawk and restore it, one that's had its own associations with the battle and which will pay tribute to those who flew Kittyhawks, and to the machine itself and its role in the Milne Bay campaign.

In the Battle for Milne Bay we really celebrate and remember the most highly successful land battle in the battle for Australia. Because no doubt we have remembered, as we have now, for most of this century those who served and the battles in the First World War. But Australia was not threatened in the First World War, only in the Second World War, and in the battle for Australia, a battle for the liberty of the people of this country, those who served in Milne Bay should be appropriately remembered.

And the Memorial in bringing back, in recreating parts of the Pacific campaign in the gallery behind us, and now with the Kittyhawk, serves the memory of those who fought for Australia in the Second World War well, and balances up the presentation of the Memorial and the remembrance of the First World War with the Second World War.

So it's a great pleasure for me to be here with those who actually flew this plane, and an even greater pleasure to be asked to launch the exhibition, the exhibit of this famous Kittyhawk.

Thank you.