



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

23 March 2018

Mephisto: The Last German 'First World War' Tank

One hundred years ago during the dark days of World War I in March 1918, the Germans unleashed a maelstrom of high explosives, shrapnel and gas shells upon the Allied forces on the Western Front. They used "home grown" tanks, the A7Vs, but only two of these tanks reached the Allied lines, however they proved to be effective destroyers of strongpoints and infantry attacks, especially the vehicle bearing Chassis Number 506. That tank, now named Mephisto first came into contact with Australian troops at Villers-Bretonneaux in France.

Later abandoned, it was captured by Australian troops during a series of successful attacks in July that year. A recovery operation was mounted by Queenslanders and Tasmanians of the 26th Battalion and men and vehicles from the 1st Gun Carrier Company on the night of 22-23 July 1918.

Mephisto was destined to become the sole survivor of the twenty A7Vs, a major war trophy and an icon of the Queensland Museum in Brisbane. That marked the start of its Queensland story.

The significance of Mephisto is the subject of this week's Friday Environment Forum on **March 23** presented by **Greg Czechura** from the **Queensland Museum**. Mr Czechura is co-author of the QM Pocket Guide A7V Mephisto: The Last German First World War Tank and the forthcoming QM Discovery Guide A7V 506 Mephisto: War, Science & Remembrances.



Mephisto on display at Q'ld Museum

Celebrate one hundred years of a Queensland Museum icon by joining the audience at Noosa Parks Association's **Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive**, Noosaville to hear this fascinating story. The forum begins at 10.30am and coffee will be available from 10am. All are welcome.

You are invited to join the Interpretive Birding group for a wander in Wallace Park. Meet in the car park at 8.30am.



German A7Vs in action