



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Boer War Day 2016

It is sometimes said that the Boer War is a forgotten war in Australia's military history.

Well this should never be the case and, on this day in particular, we remember those soldiers, including indigenous soldiers, and those nurses, who were the first to serve our new nation in conflict.

They were the forebears of the ANZACs, volunteering to fight alongside the British—serving empire, serving Australia and fulfilling their sense of duty and honour.

The courage, resilience and bushcraft of the Australians were well suited to the conditions they encountered, and they were soon recognised as an invaluable asset against a mobile and evasive adversary.

Sadly, the price we paid was high; this war remains our third worst conflict in terms of casualties. It also marked the death of an Australian nurse, Frances Hine, who became the first Australian woman to die in war.

The Boer War was a significant moment in our military history and in our fledgling nation's development. The service and sacrifices made will always be acknowledged and revered. The proud traditions we have today, began on the plains of South Africa more than a century ago.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Peter Cosgrove'.