

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING - No. 17 - March 2013

NSW, ACT & SA COMMITTEES' **ONLINE NEWSLETTER**

To activate any link in the text hold down Ctrl as you click on the blue link.

NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

NSW Committee of NBWMA Inc



Patron-in-Chief

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

National Patron

General David Hurley AC DSC
Chief of the Defence Force

Secretary

Donna Hampton 0419 995 653

Website: www.bwm.org.au



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Useful now. Collectables in future ...



Col. John Haynes OAM
National President

"With your help, we're doing it."

Colonel John Haynes OAM (RL)

President of the

National Boer War Memorial
Association Inc

We've got the site, the design and now a seeding grant to get the actual statuary started.

A great way to start 2013.

But it is only a start to the project,
which we want to complete and dedicate before
ANZAC Day's Centenary.

Please donate generously to maintain the impetus.

REAL PROGRESS WITH THE NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL

GREAT NEWS! At last the Government is responding to the public's broad interest in our project. After nearly eight years of asking, the Government has promised \$200,000 towards our National Boer War Memorial.

Together with existing funds from your generous donations, there is even more news! We now have enough funds to contract our Sculptor to complete the first of our four mounted troopers at 150% life scale size in BRONZE. Just imagine what a wonderful impact this brilliant work of art will have along ANZAC Parade in Canberra.

Reaching this stage is proof of what the team has achieved to date and reinforces our determination to complete the task. It's now more than an idea, and something we are proud to show as we try to convince Government, Commerce, Industry and you to continue donating. We must have a continuous flow of funds to keep the Sculptor,



Louis Laumen, working on the other three mounted troopers. Our first payment for number two will soon be needed.

If anyone one can give me an introduction to the executive of one of Australia's top companies, please let me know; as it is only by personal contact that we can expect to encourage significant donations from Commerce. Our many approaches to companies so far have been fruitless because to date we have had only the **idea** of a National Boer War Memorial.

Another source of assistance could come through appointing a high-profile person to accept the role of National Chair of our fundraising committee. I have been trying for years to find such a person, so if anyone can help personally or with a name, let's know.

We are on the move and, with your continued help, it's all systems go!

John Haynes 14 February 2013

NEW SOUTH WALES Deputy Chairman's Report David Deasey

This issue brings with it a note of good news, with the announcement by the Minister that Designated Gift Recipient status (DGR) has finally been granted to us. This will allow us to move forward with some confidence to the next stage of attracting donations from the business world towards completing the Boer War Memorial.

I would particularly like to praise the strong financial support provided to us by the New South Wales sub-branches of the Returned and Services League of Australia. Your contributions are indeed most welcome in the spirit of remembering all Australian service personnel.

Also deserving of praise has been the support provided to us by the Reserve Forces Day Council, especially in New South Wales. Lieutenant-Colonel John Moore and his team have been tireless in their support. This has come in three ways, through publicity, through assisting in locating descendants and especially in the generous support through their fund raising activities.

I would like to encourage all of our supporters — descendants, relatives and friends of the project—in all locations to enthuse local sub-branches, local governments and historical societies to conduct at least a simple ceremony of remembrance to commemorate the **Boer War day on Sunday 26 May this year**.

For those in Sydney there is, of course, an open invitation to attend the ceremony at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park commencing at 11 am.

May I also encourage our descendants to consider marching with the Boer War descendants at the head of the descendant's group in this year's **Anzac Day March, 25th April**.

Despite everyone's generosity, if our memorial is to be built to be constructed and installed on the site in time for us to have the public Dedication Ceremony before Anzac Day 2015 we still need considerably more funds. Your committee unfortunately cannot do it all on its own. If you know of likely donors please let us know. Some local groups have already held functions such

Tony Larnach-Jones and President of Springwood Rotary, Andrew Cameron



as morning teas, smoko's or raffle to raise funds. One set up a table at a shopping centre to chat to passers-by about the project and discovered about 40

descendants and relatives, many of whom have gone on and registered. You and like-minded persons in your area might have similar ideas.

Finally by writing to your local Federal member — especially in this election year — you might encourage the government to allocate more funds to the project.

David Deasey Deputy Chairman
NSW Committee of NBWMA

Boer War Day Commemoration Ceremonies around Australia - 2013

Most choose Sunday 26 May, but several will be on other days
including Boer War Day itself, Friday 31st May.

In previous years there have been Boer War Day commemoration ceremonies at these centres: Adelaide, Albury, Bathurst, Beecroft, Blayney, Brisbane, Bungendore, Canberra, Clarence Town, Doyalson-Wyee, Gilgandra, Gundagai, Hobart, Kalgoorlie, Launceston, Leichhardt Public School, Maitland, Melbourne, Millthorpe, Molong, Mosman, Nowra, Oatley, Orange, Parramatta, Perth, Rylstone, St Marys, Singleton, Sydney, Tamworth, Three Springs, Uralla, Warilla, Watsons Bay, Wentworth, Windsor, Wollongong and Wyong. *(Please let me know if I have left any out. Ed)*

These commemoration ceremonies have been organised by various combinations of organisations and individuals including RSL Sub-branches, local MPs, Federal, State, and Local Government Authorities and School staff, assisted by church groups, Rotary, and sporting and social clubs.

There has been some media publicity activated by local communities before the ceremonies, and more after them when the attending media recognise their news value. Suburban and regional newspapers and local ABC and

commercial radio stations have been particularly good. Some of the metropolitan areas have also received television and radio time. (A really unexpected international exposure happened when the SBS Radio East Africa service promoted us over there!)

Our Webmaster has posted [stories and photos of many past ceremonies](#). This is important because they remain on our publicly accessible website. See www.bwm.org.au, for a permanent tribute to organisers and those who attended.

Will you please let me know when and where your ceremony will be so that it can appear in this newsletter and on the NBWMA website. Keith Smith Editor

Boer War Day—Quirindi NSW 2012



For attention all BW Descendants

March in 2013 ANZAC Day parade in your town

As in 2012, all descendants of Boer War veterans are entitled to march.

Again, we will lead the all-wars descendants group.

Details will be announced publicly by the RSL NSW closer to ANZAC Day.



Have you registered **all** of your BW veteran ancestor's descendants?

For posterity's sake, readers who are descendants should add all known close relatives of 'their' veteran soldier or nurse to the Descendants database on the National Boer War Memorial Association's website.

Our database is also aimed to help future generations trying to trace their ancestors.

Add names on the enclosed Registration form or the online one at _____

Select **this** button on the right of the screen

Register another
descendant

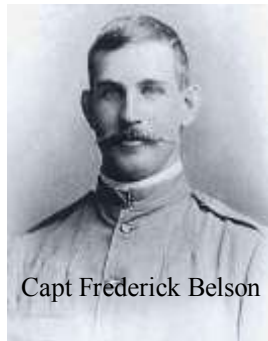
Boer War-time Rugby By David Deasey

Australian Rugby played its part in the Boer War. Two future Wallabies and many other players saw service in the war.

In the West too, Rugby would play its part. Edward Joseph Colls and Lionel Gouly, originally from NSW, were the official representatives of the Perth and Western Australian Rugby to meet and welcome the 1899 touring British Lions team to Australia as the team's ship docked in Albany. Colls, who had previously spent five years in the NSW Volunteers, would go on to serve as a sergeant in the 4 WA Mounted Infantry, while Gouly, a prospector from Kalgoorlie, would be a corporal in the 3 Western Australian Imperial Bushmen, to finish the war as a sergeant.

The British Lions themselves would greatly affect Australia and the war. Matthew Mullineux, an Anglican clergyman and the captain/manager, would remain in Australia after the tour and would become the first chaplain appointed to the Australians going to South Africa, albeit for the journey only. He would go on to serve as a British chaplain for the rest of the war and with the New Zealand Army in The Great War.

Frederick Belson was yet another player on the British Lions team who served in South Africa. A forward who previously had played for Bath, Bristol, Newport and Abergavenny, he became a captain in Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry. His service included the disastrous battle of Spion Kop 23 and 24 January 1900.



Capt Frederick Belson

The player most associated with Australia was Blair Inskip Swannell (an aggressive No 8) who would serve with the 35th Battalion (Buckinghamshire) Imperial Yeomanry. He reached the rank of lieutenant by the end of the Boer



Capt Blair Inskip Swannell

War, recommended for his commission in South Africa by Lord Methuen. Swannell toured Australia with the British Lions in 1899 and again in 1904.

Remaining in Australia, in 1905 he played a test in Australian colours against New Zealand.

It was argued often that his grasp of the rules and etiquette of rugby was imperfect and that in the

modern game he would have been penalised off the paddock. Wallaby captain Herbert Moran didn't mince words when speaking of Swannell. "[He] was, for a number of years, a bad influence on Sydney football... His conception of rugby was one of trained violence."

At the end of his playing career he made his name as a referee from 1911 to 1914, earning praise for his ability to control the game. He also was heavily involved in rugby administration with the Metropolitan Rugby Union in Sydney, and regularly wrote for newspapers on the game and advised on the coaching of forward play and scrummaging.



In Australia he joined the Australian militia and by 1914 had reached the rank of captain and passed promotion exams for the rank of major.

He went on to serve as OC 'D' company of the 1st Battalion AIF at Gallipoli as a major. He was killed at Baby 700 on the first morning of the Gallipoli campaign.

David Deasey Jan 2013

Guest Speakers Schedule

Requests for our presentation have increased by the best means of publicity—word of mouth.

Our purpose in providing members of our committee to speak at gatherings, is to inform those present and thereby make them aware of what 23,000 Australians did in the Boer War. We make contact with descendants and relatives of Boer war veterans and other people who support our overall aim of remembering those who served in South Africa.

More recently we have come into greater contact with South Africans who now reside in Australia and are descended from those who fought on either side in this war.

Regardless of the duration of the presentation requested our speakers need a working computer, video projector and screen for supporting visuals.

To arrange for a speaker to address your organisation in 2013 contact Tony Larnach-Jones

Presentations scheduled at the time of going to press:

- 4 Feb 2013** Beecroft West Probus Club—Les Perrett
- 18 Feb** Senior students at Maitland High School—Les Perrett
- 12 March** Syd/Nth Beaches Nat. Servicemen's Assn at Dee Why Master Builders Club 2.30 pm—Tony Larnach-Jones (TLJ)
- 21 March** Murrumburrah School of Arts 8pm — David Deasey
- 22 Apr** Gordon Probus, Pymble Golf Club —TLJ & Keith Smith
- 18 May** Royal Aust Army Nurses Assn Conference—TLJ
- 27 Apr** Merriwa Anglican Men's Breakfast — TLJ + Les Perrett
- 17 Aug** Cowra Family History Group Seminar—TLJ
- TBD early 2013** Parramatta Historical Soc — David Deasey
- TBD early 2013** Young area — LJ & Donna Hampton
- 5 Oct** Central Coast Family History Society—TLJ

Military Museums

that include Boer War period collections

Australia's military history, while short, has not been as well preserved as it deserves. There are, however, museums that have attempted to both collect the evolving military hardware, whether invented or manufactured in Australia or brought from overseas, and to preserve the human history of our successive and sometimes simultaneous involvement in wars and peacekeeping missions.

It's handy to know where these treasures of both technology and culture are located when you go on holidays so you don't find out about them on your last day in:

ACT. The Australian War Memorial Museum is world-class, good enough on its own to justify visiting Canberra. 02 6243 4211

Email: info@awm.gov.au

Website: www.awm.gov.au

New South Wales

Lancers Museum Parramatta, 2 Smith St Parramatta 405 482 814 10 am—4 pm Entry: \$7.50 (adult), \$5.00 (<12 yo/Concession), \$15.00 (family)
http://www.lancers.org.au/site/The_Museum.asp

Victoria Barracks Museum, Oxford St, Paddington Most NSW troops bound for South Africa spent some time at Victoria Barracks in training prior to embarkation. The Museum has some Boer War material in its all-war collection. Opens Thursdays 10 am to 1 pm. Adults \$2, kids \$1. Also tours of the whole historic Barracks site. 02 9339 3330
www.collectionsaustralia.net/org/201/about/

South Australia. Army Museum of South Australia, Keswick Barracks, ANZAC Hwy, Keswick SA 5035. Only open on Sundays 12—4 pm 08 8305 6374
www.amosa.org.au/

Queensland has two:

Victoria Barracks Museum, Petrie Tce, Brisbane, only open Sunday 1—4 pm; and

Army Museum of North Qld, Jezzine Barracks, Kissing Point, Townsville. Open Sun, Wed, Fri 9 am—1 pm.
www.ozatwar.com/museums/amongq.htm

Victoria. Fort Queenscliff Museum, King St, Queenscliff. Museum and the fort's guided tours: Week-ends, public holidays and mid-year school holidays. Phone to check times (03) 5258 1488 www.fortqueenscliff.com.au/

Tasmania. Military Museum of Tasmania, Anglesea Barracks, Davey St, Hobart. Open Tue, Thu and Sat 9 am to 1 pm. 03 6237 7160 militarymuseumtasmania.org.au

Western Australia. Army Museum of WA, Artillery Barracks, Burt St, Fremantle. Open Wed, Sat & Sun 11 am to 4pm. 08 9430 2535 armymuseumwa.com.au/

Canada. Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8. This is the 'newest' military museum in the Commonwealth and well worth seeing.
www.warmuseum.ca/home

New Zealand./ National Army Museum, Cnr State Highway One and Hassett Drive, Waiouru, New Zealand. Ph: +64 6 387 6911. Drive for one and a half hours south from Taupo to Waiouru on State Highway 1 on your way to Wellington. www.armymuseum.co.nz/

South Africa.

1. Ditsong National Museum of Military History Erlswold Way, Saxonwold (northern Johannesburg suburb) adjacent to the Johannesburg Zoo.
www.ditsong.org.za/militaryhistory.htm And ...

2. The Anglo-Boer War Museum Monument Rd, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 9301
+27 51 447 3447 www.anglo-boer.co.za/

United Kingdom. The Imperial War Museum. The deservedly famous IWM is located in central London at Lambeth Road (A3203), London SE1 6HZ. Phone: +44 (0)20 7416 5000. Nearest station Lambeth North. Re-opens July 2013. www.iwm.org.uk/

Recent publications:

Molong, Forbes & Districts' Involvement in the Boer War by Robert Ellis. \$25 incl mail (profit share with BWM project) from Robert Ellis, 'Waratah', 14 Kite St, Molong 2866.
Letters from the front—Quirindi servicemen from the BW Dorothy Durrant.

The Boys in Green—History of 1st Australian Horse. Covering from Boer War to WW2. Obtainable from Brian Dunn, Harden.

William Edward Learoyd. Citizen soldier in NSW. Learoyd joined Field Bn NSW Artillery in 1880, transferred to the NSW Army Medical Corps for Sudan and Boer Wars. Pamela Mountfort, North Sydney.

The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902. The story of Tpr Frederick Avar, NSW Lancers. Les Perrett.

A Hawkesbury Angel of Mercy—Sr Julia Bligh Johnston by John Miller. \$14 incl p+p. Ring John 4577 6882.

Poor Jim has died. Tpr Jim Duff. Helen Haynes, Mount View, Kerrs Creek 2800. \$30 inc p+p

Orange Remembers. Heather Nicholls.

Volunteers from Goulburn & surrounding districts and **Volunteers from Queanbeyan & surrounding districts.** By Ian Woods. \$8.50 ea from Ian at 38 Bainton Crs, Melba, ACT 2615.

Walers go to war. Children's book starts with the Boer War ends at Beersheba. By Ms Vashti Farrer. \$10.95 incl p+p from ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee—Queensland, PO Box 391 Aspley, Qld 4043.

Tpr Edgar Spender diary. (3rd SAIB). CD made by the Collins family of Meadows, South Australia. Digitised on

Australian Naval Support—continued from MS 16's page 4. David Deasey

There were some Australians already serving as naval reservists in South Africa when the war broke out. They were members of the Natal Naval Volunteers, a force roughly equivalent to the Naval



A harbour torpedo boat

Brigade. Some served defending Ladysmith, while others were part of the Naval Brigade formed by the Royal Navy in Natal. Gunner E.H. Dowling from Richmond, Victoria served in the Boer War with this force as No 182 of the Natal Naval Volunteers. He was to write home to describe his work on the naval guns at Hlangwane.

"We have been travelling all over the country with our guns, taking up positions, shelling the enemy, and then moving elsewhere. We won this great battle, which will never be forgotten. We started gradually with our guns [including two Naval Brigade 12 pounders] in the early morning and by one o'clock we were in full running, having no fewer than 68 guns playing on the Boer positions from one hill, Hlangwane.

"The roar of the cannon was terrific not a second being wasted. All the time our infantry and light artillery were advancing, until at 4 pm we got the order to ease off. The Boers were rushing from trench to trench, harassed by thousands of our soldiers. We had to drive the Boers off the Hill we occupied before we could fix our guns there. It took us a fortnight to do it." Hlangwane Hill 19 Feb 1900.



HMS Boomerang—a torpedo/gunboat, in Sydney Harbour

No 210 Seaman Templar H. Prideaux from Albany, Western Australia also joined the Natal Naval Volunteers on 29 September 1899 for the initial fighting. In January, seeking more action, he transferred to Kitchener's Fighting Scouts and would die of wounds received on 17 March 1901.

No 211 Seaman Frank Clark from New South Wales would transfer from the RN for service with the 1 New South Wales Mounted Rifles, and then remain behind to do further service as No 42 Natal Volunteer Composite Regiment until the end of the war. Seaman George Thompson

from Melbourne would do further service with the Imperial Light Horse. Meanwhile in eastern Australia those in naval service were not waiting for an official naval force to be sent.

New South Wales, now having permission from London to send the Field Ambulance unit, scrambled to fill the support staff such as drivers for that First Contingent. Two members of the Naval Brigade, Able Seaman W.W. Collins and W. McNaughton and one from the Naval Artillery Volunteers, Herbert Warren (from Kogarah), volunteered and were accepted for service with the NSW Army Medical Corps as drivers. Warren would return to South Africa for a second tour in August of 1901. McNaughton, a car-



penter born in Newcastle New South Wales, was appointed as a corporal with the contingent. All the drivers would eventually be trained as medical orderlies with African natives taking the driving role.

Meanwhile Able Seamen J.W. Biddle and A.S. Wheeler, from 'D' company New South Wales Naval Artillery Volunteers, had been enlisted as troopers in 'B' Squadron 1 NSW Mounted Rifles. Biddle would be killed in action at Palmietfontein on 19 July 1900, shot by a Boer sniper. Wheeler appears to have suffered a bout of enteric fever and was invalided to England in August of 1900.

In April 1900 Lt Albert Frank Stephens of the New South Wales Naval Artillery Volunteers was dispatched to the war as a special service officer. He served in Natal as an officer with the Royal Navy's gunners before being laid low with enteric fever and evacuated to England. Stephens was an experienced torpedo boat officer but was also a crack shot with a rifle.

At the same time as Stephens left for South Africa three other Naval Artillery Volunteer members were also farewelled. Chief Petty Officer John Winfield, Able Seaman George Trulock and Bugler William Webber departed to South Africa as members of the New South Wales Imperial Bushmen in April of 1900. Winfield was initially the Company Quartermaster Sergeant and, later, Transport Sergeant of the unit. Webber would go on to serve at Gallipoli on the Western front as a sergeant in the 1st Pioneer Battalion AIF. He was awarded the Military Medal in 1917 and then subsequently discharged medically unfit due to gunshot wounds in 1918.

PLEASE DONATE FOR THE NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL NOW
SO THAT IT CAN BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO 25. 4. 2015

Collectors

Long before coffee became a significant rival for tea, this magnificent silver tea service was thought the ultimate gift for a returning brave man who had fought for his colony.



Dated 15 January 1901, it was presented to No 5 Sergeant William Henry Barham, 'A' Squadron, NSW Mounted Rifles, in the First Contingent to arrive in South Africa.

Living in Bathurst and with his own butcher's shop, he had been a citizen soldier for some time before war broke out, and was well practised in military skills under military discipline.

In South Africa, much of his time was spent in frontal battles during the first phase of the Boer War when the Boers still had numerical and arms superiority. As a sergeant he led troopers into battles at Paardeberg, Driefontein, Johan-

nesburg Diamond Hill, Wittegergen and the Relief of Kimberley. Clasps for each of these would be attached to his Queen Victoria Medal.

His one-year contract would be expiring as the build-up of the British army, including colonials from Australia, New Zealand and Canada, began to exceed the Boers. Most importantly, the British generals had learned from the bitter experiences of losing battles to the highly mobile Boers.

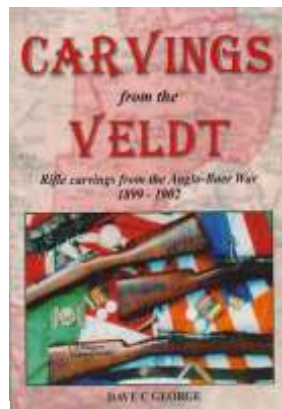
They now welcomed the colonials because they were mostly mounted soldiers who were uncannily able to match the Boers' riding, navigating and shooting skills.

Thanks to Joyce Fox for sending the photos. She would appreciate further information about Sgt William Barham.



A Boer War History with a Difference Dave George's prodigious four-year research

PART ONE: A four year 'Labour of Love' resulted in a 140 page pictorial history about a previously undocumented and fascinating aspect of the war. 320 photos, most in glossy colour, feature 134 rifles with names, regiments, flags and battles carved into the stocks and butts (A4 format shows photos brilliantly). These carvings provide an extraordinary 'personal link' to the men who carried these historic pieces, along with many service histories of the men who served. One chapter is on the medals awarded to both armies, and the last explains how 2,500 captured rifles were presented to the Colonies as war trophies.



Part 1 = \$65 incl. post for this updated 6th reprint edition.



PART TWO: was researched and written in response to the keen reception of the first. 350 pages containing over 1,400 glossy colour photos, feature 306 more weapons; all with names or initials carved or engraved onto the stocks. These include four rifles used by Boer Generals, and over 70 weapons souvenired by British, NZ and (mainly) Australian troops. Also a selection of swords, bay-

onets, bandoliers, headgear and unit badges worn by both sides. There are chapters on trench art, POW carvings and Boer War re-enactor groups. (Part 2 = \$90 incl. postage).

But—\$145 incl postage if buying both editions in one transaction ordered direct from Dave by email or phone:

Dave George _____ or phone between 9 am and 5 pm 02 6676 4320

The author has offered to donate part of the proceeds of sales to the National Boer War Memorial Fund.

NB: When ordering, please indicate that a donation be sent to the National Boer War Memorial Fund.

www.boerwarriflecarvings.net



What links these three gentlemen?

- * Lt Melnotte Arthur Roberts RN,
- * Capt. Anthony Roberts MP, and
- * Lt Col (Rtd) Tony Larnach-Jones?

A faint family resemblance. Lt Roberts RN 1856-1922 Naval Brigade in South Africa. Anthony Roberts, Army Reserve and Lane Cove MP. Tony Larnach-Jones, Vietnam Vet and Chair of the NSWBWM Association.

Co-incidence No. 99



Canberra—Report of the Chairman

ACT Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association Inc Nigel Webster

The Year Ahead. The ACT Committee will again be talking with federal, state and territory politicians to maintain their commitment to our project. We will also be holding our annual Boer War Day Service of Remembrance, on Sunday 02 June 2013, at the site of the future memorial.

Another feature will be our biannual dinner held in August to commemorate the Siege of the Elands River Staging Post on 04-16 August 1900 where in the words of General Smuts – “The Boers were taught a proper appreciation of the Australians.” This was a battle where a mixed force of Australians and Rhodesians that were indifferently commanded by a British Lieutenant Colonel staged a gallant defence against a force of Boers (variously numbered from 2000-3000) under the command of General de La Rey who I believe was that rarity, a natural soldier!

We are liaising with the Queanbeyan City Council and other local civic bodies about moving the local Boer War Memorial from its current position in the middle of a major arterial road to a more appropriate location in a park. Ian Ball has done some outstanding work visiting and inspecting memorials in the local region to kindle the interest of the community at large in this often forgotten war.

In October 2012, I spent a fascinating month touring South African War battlefields where Australians fought and died. I had the privilege of standing at Belmont Station around where the Battle of Belmont was fought on 23 November 1899. This was where a small group of 29

members of the New South Wales Lancers under Lieutenant S.F. Osborne had the distinction of being the first Australian troops to come under fire in what proved to be almost three years of sustained fighting. A New South Wales Sate flag given by the Premier was proudly unfurled for a group photograph on this very significant site. I have now as a result of walking battlefields such as Koster River, Wilmansrust and Langverwacht revised my assessment of the evolution of Boer minor tactics and will be preparing a paper on this subject for the Anglo-Boer War Study Group of Australia.

Being guided through the Zoutpansberg in the Limpopo province where Harry Harbord (Breaker) Morant operated by South Africa's leading expert, Charles Leach, was a sobering but worthwhile experience. Leach is the author of *“The Legend of Breaker Morant is Dead and Buried - A South African version of the Bushveldt Carabineers in the Zoutpansberg May 1901-April 1902.”* which has received critical acclaim.

It was with great regret that I heard the news that Colonel Colin Campbell (Retired List) has had to resign from our Committee due to illness. Colin will be sadly missed for his invaluable advice and input to meetings. After a distinguished career in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, Colin had a keen interest in the evolution of the mounted arm and is a published author. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Missing Nursing Sister? DD

Elisabeth Nixon, one of four Australian women to receive the Royal Red Cross during the Boer War, was born in 1865 at Mean Mear, Bengal, India. She enlisted in the New South Wales Army Nursing Service Reserve in early 1899 as one of its 24 original nurses and was deployed with 13 others as part of the second contingent of the New South Wales Army Medical Corps in January 1900. It is known that she worked at No1 General Hospital, Wynberg and No10 General Hospital, Norvals Pont. Sister Nixon later was senior Sister in charge of the hospital ship *Avoca*. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross on 27 September 1901 for her outstanding work



with the wounded and those who succumbed to disease. The award was presented to her at St James's Palace by Edward VII on 12 March 1902. Then she disappears from history. Unlike others of our RRC recipients we know nothing more about her which seems to be a national disgrace for a much-decorated Australian. The most likely scenario is that she either married or remained overseas perhaps either in South Africa or in the United Kingdom. Certainly her passing was not remarked on by any Australian newspaper. No record of her doings appears to exist in the records all the Australian press after 1902. If any of our readers has any further information your committee would like to hear of it.

How to use the Boer War Memorial Assn's Website: <http://www.bwm.org.au>

Register of Soldiers and Nurses

Computer Database on the NBWMA's website

How to find the details needed to fill in the Descendant Registration form.

First step – has someone else already registered your ancestor Boer War veteran?

To check, enter bwm.org.au on the address line at the top of the screen.

Click on "Enter Here".

Read down the panel on the left of the screen, click on "Descendant Database".

Type the surname (eg **Smith**) in the "Search the Site" box, click on "Start Search".

The screen shows a list, some of which will give entries for the name. (Others appear to be irrelevant but somewhere in them the name Smith will appear, possibly as the name of the descendant who provided the information, but possibly in the name of a town in South Africa such as Ladysmith).

Click on the name you want to check. Is this your ancestor? Note that the name of the Descendant/Historian who first submitted the information is at the bottom of the entry.

If it turns out to be **your** ancestor too, you need to go to Step 2 below, and on the form you may fill in there [Register Another Descendant](#). Please note on that form that the Ancestor concerned is already listed and that you wish to add your name(s) to the entry.

If your **ancestor isn't listed** and you want to go back to the list, mouse up to the top left corner of your screen where there will be arrows pointing left and right ← →.

Clicking on the left one will take you back to the previous screen where you can repeat the search.

Step 2 - if you or your descendant isn't listed:

Refer to the list on the left of the screen. Select "Ancestor Search".

After reading the first five sentences, go to the list on the **right** of the screen and click on the second one, "**Australians in the Boer War Database**". This is the easiest database because it gives the most detailed information. If it doesn't appear, carefully enter members.pcug.org.au/~croe/ozb/ozb_1st.htm. The bright yellow screen that appears will probably open on the "Search Query" page, but if it doesn't, look along the heading line and select "Search Database" to click on.

Enter the surname. Ignore, for the moment, all the other white boxes. Click on "Find". A list of surnames appears. Click on the most appropriate surname to read the extensive info about him or her.

To go back to the list, click on the back arrow at the top left of the screen.

There will probably be sufficient information to fill in the basic service details required in our Registration Form to submit for having your ancestor added to the Boer War Memorial website. With the confidence gained from delving into that database you may now be ready to adventure into the others....

Keith Smith

Editor *Monumentally Speaking*

NSW Monumentally Speaking ONLINE EDITION complete with clickable links!

Find this and all the earlier editions of all newsletters to date on the National Boer War Memorial Association website www.bwm.org.au/Newsletters.php

NSW edition includes news from the ACT and South Australia; Queensland's includes the NT and WA news; and the Victorian one includes Tasmanian news.

Unmarked BW graves in Gunnedah

Hi Tony [Larnach-Jones]

In the September 2012 edition of *MS* there was an article relating to plaques being placed on graves of Boer War veterans in South Australia.

We have been conducting research into Gunnedah's contribution to the Boer War and found some unmarked graves of Boer War Veterans in our local cemetery.

Can you tell us who to contact to get something done to rectify this through the War Graves Commission.

Best wishes **Geordie Clark and Grace Turner** by email

Dear Geordie and Grace,

The Dept of Veterans Affairs ([Fact Sheet WG01](#)) advises that the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) honours

"... all veterans of the Australian Armed Forces..." who have died in or after war of related causes are "...eligible....by placement of a plaque in an OAWG Garden of Remembrance."

So, maybe somewhere these soldiers might already be honoured by eg a wall-plaque. That's worth checking.

Your question was about their **unmarked graves**: any headstone or plaque added privately may be engraved with the an approved Boer War emblem.

Write to the: *State Manager,*
Office of Australian War Graves,
Mr Geoff Taplin,
PO Box 83,
Strathfield NSW 2135

It's a problem worth following up. Best wishes, Tony

SOUTH AUSTRALIA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Mike Norton

There's been a rewarding growth of people interested in the national memorial project and the Boer War in general. The stimulating Boer War Day Commemoration Service 2012, held at our famous South Africa War Memorial in Adelaide, attracted nearly 200. The Descendants Reunion was a great success and is to be repeated this year. Monty Smith organized a well-attended regional Service at Gladstone that attracted a good deal of media coverage.

2013's planning is well under way. The public will be invited to Commemorate Boer War Day at 11 am on Sunday 26 May, again at our wonderful Boer War Memorial at the corner of King William Road and North Terrace, outside Government House's main gates.

The Committee is hoping that the feature of this ceremony will be the unveiling of a new Audio Information Unit, designer Maj Neil Wilson, installed by the Adelaide City Council at the request of Lt Col Murray Alexander Rtd,

Deputy Chair of the SA committee, to better inform the many interstate and overseas tourists it attracts. Government House staff have told our committee's members often, especially visitors wondering about the 'man on the horse'. This memorial is a 'designated site' on the Adelaide Historical Tourist Trail.

An audio unit is a major step in keeping the history of the Boer War alive, especially for young students.

To all who assisted us during the last year the Committee offers their thanks, and the hope that you will continue and encourage others to spread the news and the load.



Boer War Day 2012

South Australia Colonial Navy's ship *The Protector*

Edwin Argent represents a rather unique connection between South Australia and the Boer War. Born in England he joined the Royal Navy as a Boy seeing service in HMS *Achilles*. Training as a gunner, he served in many RN postings until the war in the Sudan in 1884—1885, where he



Gunner Edwin Argent

was wounded. In 1885 he joined the South Australian Navy with the rank of gunner (Petty Officer) on HM Colonial Ship *Protector*.

Eight years later he was promoted to Chief Gunner. In October 1899, he was appointed transport officer to the first South Australian Contingent and travelled with them on the SS *Medic* to South Africa.

While assembling the first contingent, Argent was instrumental in getting another unique South Australian, Edward Charles Jennings, a position with the South African Light Horse (SALH). He then went to England in an attempt to

join a Royal Navy Naval Brigade for South Africa but these reinforcements were never sent.

Disappointed, he returned to South Australia in time to go to China in August 1900, as Chief Gunner on the HMCS *Protector*, which was South Australia's contribution to the Boxer Rebellion, then commanded by Capt William Rooke Creswell.

On return, he was appointed transport officer for the Fifth South Australian contingent and travelled with them on the SS *Ormazon* to Cape Town. He also appears to have been instrumental in encouraging a number of *Protector* crewmen to join 5 South Australian Imperial Bushmen.

He returned to Australia on the SS *Tongariro*. After the formation of the Royal Australian Navy in July 1911, he was commissioned. Many postings later, including the entire Great War, he retired to Adelaide as a Lieutenant Commander in the 1920s.

Story—David Deasey Jan 2013



HMCS *Protector*



Reserve Forces Day Council

Patron in Chief Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
NSW Patron Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales
National and NSW Chairman the Honourable Tim Fischer AC
National Executive Officer and NSW Deputy Chairman Lieutenant Colonel John Moore OAM RFD ED Retd



A busy end to 2012 with the National and NSW launch of Reserve Forces Day 2013 on Sat 24 Nov 12

The Launch was held at a mostly forgotten Boer War memorial at Observatory Hill Park. The SMH Monday 30 May 1938 carried the story "The remnant of an army, 72 veterans of the South African War, marched through the city yesterday afternoon to attend their annual church parade. The years fell away from them as, with a swing, the old soldiers followed the band to the Cenotaph and then of St Phillip's Church". The date was significant as on 31 May in 1902 the peace treaty was signed.

The story goes on to talk about a memorial to remember the almost 1000 members who did not return being built on Observatory Hill. It was unveiled by Major General Charles F Cox CB CMG DSO VD a citizen soldier who led the Lancasters from the NSW as a Captain in the War on 2nd November 1899 – the first colonial troops from the Empire to take part.

The site and memorial were the focus for the National and NSW Launch of Reserve Forces Day 2013 and the launch was performed by Senator Matt Thistlethwaite representing the Prime Minister. In 2013 the Reserve Forces Day will recognise those heroes who came back from the war and helped establish the new Australian Army and then took their war experience with them into WW1.

The aim is to renew interest in Australia's first war as a nation and that the army was born in battle. General Cox was one of many who went on to service with distinction in WW1.

The audience included Boer War Descendants wearing their relative's medals and their commemorative medallion including sons and daughters of veterans.

At the Launch the National President of the RSL Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN and the national president of National Boer War Memorial Association, Colonel John Haynes OAM placed a symbolic wreath to remember the Boer War soldiers who did not return and the veteran's who served. From research completed this may be the first wreath laid at this memorial since the last Boer War veteran died. They are surrounded at the memorial by members dressed in the dress uniform of the period and the field uniform worn in South Africa.

The Launch and conference formal dinner for delegates, descendants and many VIPs was held at the RAC Club. Col John Haynes OAM, President of the National Boer War

Memorial Association gratefully accepted a cheque bringing the total of the Council's fund raising since April 2012 to \$78,000

See the SBS news coverage and photos - <http://www.rfd.org.au/site/2013.asp>

RFD 2013

On 15th of January the Council sponsored a new group "The Sons and Daughters of Boer War Veterans Action Group" with a very clear objective to publicise the urgent need to fund this memorial while there are still any of them alive to attend the dedication. Their efforts will be strongly supported by the whole body of descendants in drawing public and political attention to their plight.

The 16 who attended the meeting noted that this is an election year. It will be especially important to write and call on MPs and candidates to ensure that this existing bipartisan policy continues whichever party forms the next government, and to understand the urgency of our timetable. They are to present a strong letter to Senator Matt Thistlethwaite when their group meets with him on Monday 11 Feb 13 – this will signal the start of their campaign.

The ABC television and radio covered the meeting. Some photos of them at work—below. The ABC did an excellent job of covering the story in their 7.00 PM News in Sydney and interstate and also in ABC News 24

See http://www.rfd.org.au/site/First_Generation.asp for the TV coverage and the 1st Generation Roll of Honour roll.



Observatory Hill's Boer War Memorial wreath-laying by COL John Haynes OAM and RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN

RFDC'S National and NSW Chairman Sir **Laurence Street** AC KCMG QC retired on 31st Jan 2013 after many years of marvellous service. He was the initial NSW CM from late 1997 and then took on the National role when Sir **Roden Cutler** VC passed away. The good news is that the Hon **Tim Fischer** AC, a

Great news

former officer who served in SVN and as Deputy Prime Minister will assume the roll on 1 Feb 2013.

His first act has been to agree to become the Patron of the Sons and Daughters of Boer War Veteran's Action Group.



Memorabilia

To make the links in this newsletter 'work', hold down Ctrl key and click link.

**Queen Victoria medal-ribbon
colours on navy background
embossed with the
memorial design's
leading horseman.**

**Buy them to sell (or give)
To family, friends and the public
Great conversation starter!)**

**Quality Australian made
\$25 incl GST+ \$3.00 postage**

**Order from Paul Lenehan,
02 9427 3781**

paul.lenehan@bwm.org.au

**or write to Paul
at his home address:**

**6 Angus Ave,
Lane Cove NSW 2066**

The leading horseman in the BW Memorial's design is subtly self-patterned into the blue stripes and the words "Boer War 1899—1902" are woven into the bottom yellow stripe.

NEW LAPEL BADGE PATROL LEADER FROM MEMORIAL'S DESIGN

\$15 plus \$2.50 postage
from Brian Walters



Victoria

**Boer War Day
Badge \$8**



**Ball point pens
gold and black or
gold and maroon
\$10 + \$1.20 post**



**Key Rings
\$8**



Boer War Service Plaques

**225 x 175 mm
Engraved wood plaques
for wall-mounting.
A reminder of your
ancestor's BW service.**

\$60 + \$10 post



Clear Crystal Laser- etched BW memorial

**130 x 155 x 30 mm
weighing 880 grams
Your choice inscription
\$120 + \$22 postage**



NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

We need your help urgently

The Federal Government has now approved our Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) which means that we can campaign strongly in industry for donations which will attract tax deductibility. Like all of our supporters you have been extremely generous over the time that the project has been running. However there is still a long way to go. If the project is to be completed within the next few years, before the centenary of ANZAC 2015 we will need a significant injection of government funds. The Federal Government has committed a seed grant of \$200,000 to the project. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr. Snowden, has indicated that further funds might be able to be allocated in the 2013 – 2014 Budget.

To ensure that this happens we would like you to write to your local Federal member, requesting that funds are made available in the budget. If there are other members in your family and they could each write a letter that would be terrific. (The statisticians tell us that politicians regard one letter as representing 200 votes.) It would be even more effective if you could seek an interview with your local member to hand deliver your letter and discussed the project with him or her. Form letters are generally not as effective as a personal letter but here are some ideas that you might care to use.

- This was the first war Australia fought in as a nation, bridging the process of nationhood.
- It was the first war that Australian women and Australian aborigines took part in.
- 23,000 Australian men and women served.
- On many occasions they fought alongside New Zealanders making them the first ANZACs.
- Over 16,000 served in official contingents and up to 7,000 in British or irregular units.
- The first Australian servicewoman died on active service.
- Approximately 1,000 Australians died in this war making it still the third most costly war in human losses after World War I and World War II.
- The memorial is being built in ANZAC Parade to remember those who served in this war.
- The veterans and their families were given little financial or welfare support

Tony Larnach Jones

Deputy National President NBWMA

1st March 2013

Patron-in-Chief: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, *Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia*

National Patron: General David Hurley AC DSC, *Chief of the Defence Force*

Reminder

1. All Boer War descendants are invited to march with the Boer War descendants section of the descendants group in the Anzac Day March 2013. Check with the RSL or newspapers for the assembly point.

2. This year's Boer War day commemoration in Sydney will take place on Sunday 26th of May 2013, at the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney, at 11 AM. All welcome. What is happening in your town locality? Please involve yourself in any ceremony which is taking place in your area and let us know about it.