

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING **No. 18 - May 2013**

New South Wales—National Boer War Memorial Association Newsletter **Online Edition**



NSW Committee of NBWMA Inc
Secretary Donna Hampton 0419 995 653

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

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NSW CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This edition of NSW *Monumentally Speaking* has three themes: Boer War Day commemoration, The Siege at Elands River August 1900, and Schools and the Boer War.

Boer War Day 2013

Throughout Australia descendants, friends, local governments, historical societies and RSL sub-branches are finalising their plans for Boer War remembrance services. The dates that we know go from 26 May to 2 June, with one RSL sub-branch considering a day in August to fit in with the Battle of Elands River remembrance. A special note about Eugowra— it's first Boer War Day ceremony. Welcome.

Sadly, we have not been able to motivate all the regional centres in NSW, even with the support of **Victor Dominello** MP, the Minister for Citizenship and Communities.

There is still time to organise a simple ceremony to remember the 23,000 Australian men and women who served in South Africa (1899-1902). So ask your local Mayor and President of the RSL sub branch what they are doing about a Boer War Day remembrance service.

At 11 am on Sunday 26 May we will again be observing Boer War Day at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney. The Governor, Her Excellency, Prof **Marie Bashir** and General **Peter Cosgrove** will be the principal speakers. Descendants and relatives of Boer War veterans will be present plus representatives of regimental associations and schools that provided men and women who served in this war, as well as other supporters and donors. This is a public ceremony: all are invited to attend.



Progress with our Memorial

The Commonwealth Government donated the site in the national remembrance precinct of ANZAC Parade, Canberra. The design is approved and we funded all of the steps for approval without any Federal Government support. Now we have the surety that all donors may deduct their donations from their taxable income. In June we will receive a seeding grant of \$200,000 from the Department of Veteran Affairs'. This will be greatly appreciated and will demonstrate that both major political parties support the justice of a National Boer War Memorial.

We now must raise the balance of \$4m to build the memorial. You, our supporters, have been very generous with your help. Descendants of Boer War veterans are about 30% of our current supporters and donors. There are only about 150 sons and daughters of Boer War soldiers and nurses still alive and they strongly desire to see the memorial completed before they join their parents. We estimate that there must be at least 200,000 descendants throughout the nation. Many don't know that they are and are not aware of the part Australians played in the Boer War.

Your letters to the Federal politicians asking that the Government should give more to our project have been wonderful. Please keep them going.

We have now contracted our brilliant Melbourne sculptor, **Louis Laumen**, to commence work on the first horseman, and are meeting with **Group GSA** and **Jane Cavanough** (Artlandish) in Sydney to plan the landscaping and other details of the overall memorial as approved by the Canberra National Memorials Committee.

(continued on page 6...)

Rugby—Part 3

Wallabies served with distinction in the Boer War.

One, originally a Naval officer with the China contingent, Cecil Egan Murnin went to South Africa on return from China and served with the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteer Rifles and possibly the Colonial Light Horse.

He was an all round sportsman, but it was in rugby that he was to make his mark after the Boer War. He played for Eastern Suburbs club in the first grade rugby competition from about 1904 onwards and in 1905 toured New Zealand with an Australian side. About this time he also became captain of Eastern Suburbs and played with such greats as Dally Messenger. He led Easts to the premiership in 1905.

By 1907 he was captaining the Waratahs with a win loss



ratio of seven games, five wins, a draw and a loss. Statistics that any current Super Rugby skipper would kill for. In one of these matches against the New Zealand All Blacks, the Waratahs won 14-0. A memorable photo in the Sydney Mail at the time showed an All Black player deliberately holding him back by the jersey as he ran for the ball. Can't imagine an All Black doing that, but still! In 1908 he was selected for the first Wallaby tour of Britain but not as captain. It is not clear why he should have been passed over, but this was a period of great spitefulness in rugby, being precisely at the time of the split between Union and League. Perhaps a perceived close relationship with Dally Messenger and Dan Frawley, serving in 3 Australian Commonwealth Horse. The discussion became academic, however, as Murnin took ill on the voyage and had to return home. He appears never to have played representative rugby again but retained a strong interest in rugby administration.



The second player of note was Frank Nicholson. Nicholson, a Queenslander and a prop forward, made two representative appearances for Australia, in 1903 against New Zealand and then captained Australia in one test against the Lions in 1904. Nicholson had served in the Boer War as a captain paymaster to both the 5th and 7th Australian Commonwealth Horse Regiments. Neither regiment saw active service, each arriving after the Peace Treaty had been signed. He played 13 times for Queensland between 1900 and 1904. He went to New Zealand with the Australian side in 1905 along with Murnin but was not selected in any of the matches.

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Guest Speaker Schedule

To arrange for a speaker contact Tony Larnach-Jones
0418 501 065

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

We offer members of our committee to speak at groups and conferences about what 23,000 Australians did in the Boer War. We have identified descendants and relatives of Boer War veterans and welcome people who are not descendants but are interested in the justice of there being a national memorial to the soldiers and nurses who served in South Africa in the Commonwealth of Australia's first war. All support our overall aim of remembering them.

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 comput-

Presentations schedule:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 4 Apr | Probus Club of Beecroft West Inc—LP |
| 10 Apr | City of Rockdale Lions—DD |
| 10 Apr | City Lodge ANZAC Address—TLJ |
| 17 Apr | Argyle Club, Mascot—LP |
| 22 Apr | Gordon Probus, Pymble Golf Club —TLJ & Paul Lenehan |
| 24 Apr | Hunters Hill Council ANZAC Day dinner—TLJ |
| 27 Apr | Merriwa Anglican Church Men's Breakfast — TLJ/LP |
| 14 May | Harden High School, Wombat Club—KS, Donna Hampton |
| 15 May | Young High, History Soc, Young Lions—KS, DH, PL |
| 18 May | Royal Aust Army Nurses Assn Conference Dinner —TLJ |
| 30 May | Gosford Public School BWD Commemorative Service—DD |
| 11 Jun | City of Rockdale Rotary Club—DD |
| 15 Jun | Bathurst Historical Group—DD |
| 17 Jul | Parramatta and District Historical Society—DD |
| 17 Aug | Cowra Family History Group Seminar—TLJ |
| 5 Oct | Central Coast Family History Society—TLJ |

EDITORIAL

The Boer War was the first war to occur after the 1880 Education Act set minimum education standards. The Act's effect was that virtually all enlistees had at least a full primary education, wherever they lived in NSW. This level of literacy meant another first—exchanges of news from the front in letters home. But it also had boys of 14 plus trying to enlist to go to South Africa, which seems a bit young to be going to war.

Some big-for-their-age lads fooled recruiting officers of course. Some actually found legal entry as drummer boys, but some also made the voyage west as civilians and joined units decimated by casualties and disease and so less choosy about niceties like age.

In 1880 in NSW the Parkes government legislated for public primary education (ages 6—14) and some responsibility for secondary schools. Until then many post-primary schools were private or run by the churches.

There were only five State high schools and one agricultural college in 1899.

Fort St High founded in 1849, Sydney Boys High and Sydney Girls High 1883, Maitland Boys High and Maitland Girls High in 1884, and Hawkesbury Agricultural College 1891.

Others were founded in the 1880s in Goulburn and Bath-

urst but failed after several years to get enough enrolments. In most of the colony, secondary education was to remain largely the province of denominational or private schools for some time.



2006 Governor General Maj Gen Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC and Dr Kim Jaggard inspecting the Sydney Boys High School

The oldest NSW non-government schools:
The King's School Parramatta 1832
Sydney Grammar 1857
Newington College 1863
St Stanislaus' Bathurst 1867
All Saints Bathurst 1875
St Aloysius 1879
St. Ignatius 1880,
St. Joseph's 1881
Marist College North Shore 1888
Sydney Church of England Grammar (Shore) 1889
Barker College 1890

The Scots College 1893
The Armidale School 1894;

and for girls

St Catherine's School Waverley 1856
St Vincent's College Potts Point 1882
Abbotsleigh 1885
Ascham 1886
Methodist Ladies College 1886
Presbyterian Ladies College 1888

I invite your Boer War-related recollections—primary as well secondary schools — including from school archivists about their schools and the Boer War.

The first is from David Roberts from Newington, see p 5.

Editor: Keith Smith

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.

Adelaide 26 May 11 am Torrens Pde Grnd Drill Hall
Bathurst 26 May 11 am Boer War mem, Kings Pde
Brisbane 31 May 10 am ANZAC Square
Canberra 31 May (1) Wreath laying Riverside Cemetery
2) Service and wreath laying St Johns Church, Reid ,and
3) 2 June Official ACT ceremony BWM site ANZAC Pde
Clarence Town 26 May 10 am Boer War mem Queen St
Eugowra 11 am service and tree planting Memorial Park
Gosford Thurs 30 May 1.30 pm Cenotaph followed by
afternoon tea and Boer War presentation at school.
Hobart 2 June 12 noon BW Memorial Domain
Kalgoorlie 26 May 11 am Railway Square memorial
Launceston 9 June 12 noon BW Memorial City Park
Maitland Sun 19 May 9.30 am at BW Mem Maitland Park,
to be followed by a Sandakan memorial service at 11 am
Melbourne 26 May 11 am Shrine of Remembrance

Mosman 31 May 11 am Memorial, Alan Border oval
Orange 26 May 10 am Boer War mem Robertson Park
Parramatta 9 June RNSW Lancers Museum from 10 am
Perth 2 June 11 am Kings Park BW memorial
Queanbeyan 1 June Queanbeyan Park near memorial
St Marys 26 May 11 am The Train
Sydney 26 May 11 am ANZAC Memorial Hyde Park
Townsville 26 May 10 am Jezzine Barracks
Windsor 31 May 11 am Boer War memorial
Wollongong 26 May 11 am Wollongong Cenotaph

Details not available, but we understand that there will be ceremonies at: Albury, Beecroft, Blayney, Bungendore, Doyalson-Wyee, Gilgandra, Gundagai, Kalgoorlie, Leichhardt Public School, Millthorpe, Molong, Cowra, Oatley, Rylstone, Singleton, Tamworth, Three Springs, Uralla, Warilla, Watsons Bay, Wentworth, and Wyong. *(Please send brief description and photos of yours. Ed)*

Update to "Gosford's BW Memorial threatened...", MS 15, Nov 2012, p11

Changes planned to Gosford's memorial precinct and heritage foreshore park negate the honour due to its prime purpose when the Boer War claimed our sons.

The memorial lists Tpr Franklin Harcourt Legge as buried in South Africa. The historical records show that five of his elder brothers also enlisted, a record for the whole of Australia.



Tpr John Rowan Murray became the first lad from the Central Coast (Wamberal) killed in action while out on patrol.

Tpr Sydney Selwyn Mayo died of enteric fever. He lived in Gosford, where his brother was Assistant Shire Clerk.

They, together with the dozens more who served there and did return to live in the area, earned this memorial, on this site.

Their monument should not be moved.

DATABASE of Descendants and Supporters

Mail and email contact addresses for newsletters, and information about progress on the National Memorial will now be more secure, more user-friendly, easier to update and less cumbersome to manage.

So far we have transferred the whole of NSW, ACT and SA's 3,650 addressees to the new system. This newsletter's label printing has been a snap, by comparison. Now, if only there was a quicker way to pack the envelopes and stick the labels on...

The Boer War and Newington College, Sydney

On 15 December 1903, the Governor of NSW, Sir Harry Rawson, unveiled a 'Commemorative Tablet' recording Old Boys of Newington College, a boys' school at Stanmore in Sydney, who had served in the Boer War. It was the first of eight war memorials that now exist in various forms around the College, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

The tablet, erected in the College's main school room (now the Prescott Hall), lists forty-five former students, in order of rank from Major to Trooper. Our account of the unveiling, in the March 1904 issue of the College's magazine, *The Newingtonian*, notes that a forty-sixth Old Boy, 'Evans of Moruya', would be added to the list later on, though in fact he never was. Another Old Boy, D.H. Tasker, was reported to have been '...included amongst the Troopers instead of the Lieutenants, which we regret'. The manufacture of the heavy bronze tablet was supervised by William Hardy Wilson, an Old Boy who was just starting his long career as an architect and artist.

The Newingtonian's coverage of the war started with snippets of news in the December 1899 issue about Old Boys joining the various contingents. By September the following year this had become a regular 'Our Boys at the Front' section of the Old Boys' Column. Besides the names of Old Boys serving in South Africa, there was news of where they were serving and actions in which they took part, those who had been wounded (fortunately none were killed), and those who had returned to Australia. A number of extracts from Old Boys' letters were also published. Altogether these reports provide a rich source of information about the service of Old Newingtonians in the Boer War.

Something of the atmosphere of the time at home may be found in a report in the June 1900 issue. On 18 May the Headmaster assembled the school to announce the relief of

Mafeking. 'Ringing **Newington College** cheers were given

for the Queen, "Bobs," and Baden-Powell and his brave men.' After a speech, the Headmaster read a portion of Tennyson's 'Siege of Lucknow', the Cadets fired a feu-de-joie, the boys were given a half-holiday and an amnesty from punishments, and '...the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.'



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Spion Kop

The name etched in Britain's military history

Driving past the hill above the western end of Woy Woy Bay named **Spion Kop** (in Boer Dutch means Lookout or Spy Hill) Gwen Dunon had a lightbulb moment. She writes, "Although I knew it was a South African name I had not connected with how it might have been named. It was the site of a major British defeat in the Boer War.

The Battle of Spion Kop took place on 24 January 1900. 20,000 men in British units (only a few Australians present, enlisted locally in Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry) attacked 8,000 Boers. The British were decimated crossing the Tugela River then marching in close formation up the hill to get to the entrenched and concealed Boers. The battle happened in the lead up to the relief of the besieged town of Ladysmith in Northern Natal."

The First Australian VC a clarification

A lady arranging a Boer War Memorial presentation at the Northern Beaches Probus, asked Tony Larnach-Jones who was the first VC in Australia? Tony's research confirms that it was presented to a British soldier, Private Frederick Whirlpool VC, who won it in India. He emigrated to Australia after discharge, where, in 1861 his VC was presented to him making it the first one (presented) in Australia. However...

Capt Neville Howse's Boer War VC (NSW Army Medical Corps July 1900) was the first to a soldier serving in an Australian (NSW) unit.

(continued from page 1)

Please help with the public fundraising

We ask you to help us raise the money to continue with the three other horsemen and to establish the beautifully designed setting to complete the memorial. We are now about to approach major donors and would appreciate your advice on fund raising and on any major companies that you may know would be interested in being associated with this major Australian art work, uniquely early 21st Century but referring to the early 20th Century war. Possibly you may know of trusts that we could contact. If so, please contact me directly.

One of the ways to help is by enlarging the pool of personal donors. We are still trying to find descendants, but also seeking 'Supporters' who believe it is unjust that there is no national memorial to our first war. Start the Boer War Memorial conversation with friends and neighbours.... Lend them your copy of *Monumentally Speaking*...

Elands River

The defence of Elands River was the major Australian victory of the Boer War. While we took part in many other battles during this war, Australian troops did not comprise the majority of those forces. On page 9 of this *MS* there is a brief description of the battle. Elands River is the theme of this year for the NBWMA. Lastly, to quote Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, "*When the ballad makers of Australia seek a subject, let them return to Elands River, for there was no finer fighting in the war.*" See page 9.

Tony Larnach-Jones

Tour Group 2012 at Elands River



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HMCS Protector—a US connection

I noted with pleasure the article on the *Protector* on p10 of Monumentally Speaking No 17. She was possibly the longest serving warship to serve in the RAN, also possibly the only RAN vessel to serve under three flags.

Built at Newcastle UK in 1884 for the South Australian Colonial Navy and on active duty in the Boxer Rebellion; she went on to serve in New Guinea for the RAN in WWI; in 1921 she had her name changed to *Cerebus* and in 1924 she was refitted as a harbour lighter. Another name-change came in 1931 to *Sidney*.

In 1942, after Pearl Harbour, the US Army established a Small Ships depot in Sydney, converted the old *Protector*

yet again, this time into an armed general purpose vessel to carry troops and supplies in New Guinea waters.

This was known to be a hazardous job, always in danger from the Japanese Air Force and Navy. She never made it. On her way north she ran aground at Heron Island (Queensland) where remains of her hull can be seen to this day at low tide.

So she saw active service from 1900 under the South Australian colony flag, from 1914 under the Australian flag as one of the first RAN vessels, and in WW 2 the US flag on loan to the US Army and thus continued to also show the Australian flag.

Ernest A Flint

President US Army Small Ships Assn Inc, Coomba Park NSW

Charters Towers shooting Breaker Morant

Two-episode TV doco in production

Production of a new take on the execution of Harry (Breaker) Morant and Peter Handcock has begun in Queensland's Charters Towers where Morant spent his early years in Australia.

Council and community are strongly supportive, with the main street—looking much as it did 100 years ago—

covered in gravel, shopkeepers changing their signs to those of the period, and locals lining up as extras for crowd scenes.

One of the Directors, Nick Bleszynski, claims new evidence about Kitchener's orders will be included.

Produced by Greg Miller with Morant played by New Zealand-born actor Benedict Wall, it is intended to premiere the film in Charters Towers in November.

Sunnyside Crescent

The Boer War street name in the Sydney suburb of Castlcrag (suburb designed by the Burley Griffins) commemorates the first battle involving the Queensland Mounted Infantry and the NSW Ambulance. At dawn on New Year's Day 1900, two patrols scouting ahead discovered evidence of a force of about 50 Boers. This engagement was costly for both sides, the QMI losing Tpr Victor Jones from Mt Morgan, the first Australian to die in this war. Hours later, Tpr David McLeod was mortally wounded.

Grave of Tprs Victor Jones and David McLeod,
B Troop, 1 QMI. KIA 1 Jan 1900, Sunnyside.
AWM photo P0115.021



Welcome changes at the Australian War Memorial

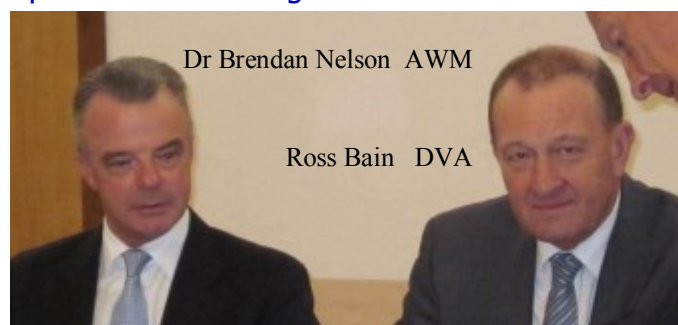
Dr Brendan Nelson views Boer War's importance 'informing' The Great War

At the meeting with the Veteran's Affairs Minister's Chief of Staff, Ross Bain, on Thursday 21 March, his guest at the table, the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, expressed strong support for our quest for the National Boer War memorial.

Dr Nelson intended to support us with a higher level of recognition of Australia's first war by the immediate introduction of Boer War stories read at the daily Last Post ceremony which is always well attended as people leave the AWM each evening. To this end, Dr Nelson asked Col John Haynes to provide him with a list of the significant dates in the Boer War.

Longer term, and within the Museum's budgeted expenditure on the ANZAC Centenary, he is proposing that the Boer War's exhibition be enlarged and reworked to include some of the many items held in the North Canberra store. His intention will be to show how, by Australia's participation in the Boer War—with Great Britain, New Zealand and Canada as major members of the British Empire—we were much better prepared for involvement when The Great War broke out in July 1914, just 12 years after the Peace in South Africa.

Had we not gone to South Africa we may not have had thousands of service men and women who had vital battlefield experience. Many had continued post-war in



Dr Brendan Nelson AWM

Ross Bain DVA

the various militias, training recruits and stiffening the resolve of the public that we would not make the same mistakes as had inevitably happened in South Africa.

Our troops would be better trained, able to operate as Australian units under our own experienced staff officers. Our arms and equipment would match any enemy's.

Laws had been changed to prevent any repetition of the Morant and Handcock executions at the hands of any other government.

Medical and surgical developments in the technologies and field practices would ensure that the ratio of soldiers dying from diseases would never again equal the number killed in action.

MS editor Keith Smith attended the meeting, initiated by the Reserve Forces Day Council, of the Sons and Daughters of Boer War Veterans with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs' staff at Parliament House. See RFD notes on page 11.

Boer War soldier's story on the ABC

In the first episode of the program *The Boffin, the Builder and the Bombardier* (Monday 8.15 pm) the topic was the invention at Gallipoli of the periscope rifle stand.

The inventor, British-born Sgt William Charles Bullock Beech, served in the Australian army — C Coy 2 Bn AIF.

It earned him £100 though it wasn't paid until 1920!

Like so many other WWI soldiers, Beech had fought in the Boer War, in the British Army's Volunteer Field Artillery for two years in South Africa.

Impressed by their carefree way after meeting so many Australian soldiers in South Africa he decided to emigrate.

He died aged 51 in Condobolin in September 1929.

ACT Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association

The ACT Committee is conducting commemorations in Canberra, Queanbeyan and Goulburn to mark Boer War Day as follows:

Canberra

Friday 31 May 2 pm Service and Wreath laying at St John's, Reid;

Friday 31 May 5 pm Closing ceremony at the Australian War Memorial;

Sunday 2 June 2 pm Official observance at the memorial site in ANZAC Parade.

The service at St John's is to remember the local men who died during the Boer War. Please bring your friends to this public service, and descendants your relations.

Similarly the Closing Ceremony at the AWM is public. This one is organised in conjunction with the ACT Committee.

The ceremony at the site of the National Boer War Memorial welcomes community leaders, diplomatic representatives and members of the Defence Force, where the Commemorative Address will be delivered.

Goulburn

Sunday 26 May 11 am Belmore Park, Goulburn. This is a public ceremony, with community members joining Boer War Descendants.

Queanbeyan

Friday 31 May Wreath laying at the grave of Trooper James Henry Swan at Riverside Cemetery—a public event.

Saturday 1 June - Ceremony in Queanbeyan Park (opposite memorial)

Times for both of these will be advised.

Future events—add to your diary

Thursday 8 August – Boer War Dinner, to mark the Defence of Elands River Post (4 to 16 August 1900);

Sunday 22 September- Spring Tree Planting, at the Boer War Grove, National Arboretum.

Dates for these are dependent on the availability of the CIT restaurant, and the number of available trees.

The Committee will confirm by the end of May.

Ian Ball

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Queanbeyan's citizens want to shift their Boer War Memorial

Contrast with Gosford's citizens wanting theirs to stay put!

ACT Committee's Ian Ball has been active in getting the Queanbeyan Boer War Memorial relocated from the median strip that runs down busy Lowe Street.

Anyone curious for a close-up view risks life and limb.

Once navigated across either road, it's not the quietest place for contemplation about our history and culture, about war, love or sacrifice.

Nor is it possible to hold remembrance ceremonies for more than five people.

Not far away, in Town Park, there's a great site which could fulfil all those roles. The towering four metres of this monument's beautiful marble would be seen



Boer War memorial, Lowe Street median strip—not a great place to hold a memorial ceremony

to advantage from some distance. A much better site, it could be re-dedicated to the 70 or so Queanbeyan and district men who served in South Africa 1899-1902, and especially the five who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Meanwhile, Gosford's citizens are facing off against the developers who want to build a shopping centre invading the heritage park which not only has the Boer War memorial as its foundation but now includes a Blakely-built church and memorials to all later wars.

One of the weirdest aspects of the proposal before Gosford Council is that the land in question is severely threatened by any rise in sea-level. See that story on page 4.

The Siege at Elands River..... August 4 –16, 1900 - the battle that would have become legendary in Australia's military history if there hadn't been the attack at ANZAC COVE in the Great War just 15 years later.

All supplies had to be carted from the well-guarded bases to the troops on large, unsprung trucks hauled by teams of oxen or heavy horses. The distance from base to front lines was often too long for the teams to travel in one day.

Overnight staging areas often held hundreds of wagons, some fully loaded, others on their way back and only lightly loaded with water and fodder for the team. The animals were unhitched (outspanned) and tethered by chains to water, feed and rest. Open areas were difficult to guard by the soldiers posted for the task.

Such a place was the low, flatish ground, called Brakfontein, just above a bend in the Elands River, and about half way between Rustenberg and Zeerust in western Transvaal. It was surrounded by hills within easy range of rifle and artillery fire of about 3000 Boers.

They were short of most supplies and planned to capture these wagons, subduing the drivers, attendants and guards while keeping the stores and beasts alive. Surely the guard would see their position was hopeless in just a few days...

The guard, 505 soldiers—301 Australians of various Bushmen units and 198 Rhodesians—decided otherwise.

There are many detailed accounts of these 12 days of hell, beginning with the one on our own website under the heading [Engagements and Events of the Boer War](#).

The poem *Elands River Post—4 August 1901* is a patriotic (read one-sided) tribute to the bravery and fortitude of the Australians' and Rhodesians' defence of the utterly indefensible position.

"Elands River Post - 4 Aug 1901"

By George Essex Evans, published in his book *The Secret Key and other verses*, Angus & Robertson 1906.

Note: Only the first and last verses appear here for space reasons. The whole poem is at <http://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/evans-george-essex/eland-s-river-0015025>

It was on the fourth of August, five hundred of us lay
In the camp at Elands River, came a shell from de la Rey.
We were dreaming of home faces, of the old familiar places
And the gum-trees and the sunny plains five thousand miles away
But the challenge woke and found us
With four thousand rifles round us;
And death stood laughing at us at the breaking of the day.

Verses 2– 5 omitted

We saw the guns of Carrington come on and fall away;
We saw the ranks of Kitchener across the kopje grey -
For the sun was shining then
Upon twenty thousand men -
And we laughed, because we knew, in spite of hell-fire and delay,
On Australia's page for ever
We had written Elands River—
We had written it for ever and a day!

English-born Queenslander George Evans managed to earn his living as a writer after an accident on a farm in north Queensland affected his health. His prize-winning poem was *Ode for Commonwealth Day* celebrating Federation on 1 January 1901. He is remembered in Toowoomba with a monument and an annual lecture.

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.

South African battlefields by train

Tim Fischer AC leading tour in late September

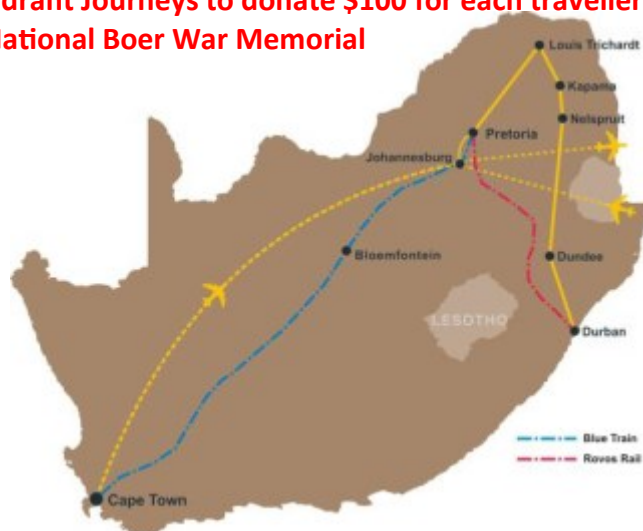
Depart Sydney or other airports 29 September 2013

Return ex Pretoria for Sydney or others 18 October

Tim Fischer, as well as his military, political and ambassadorial employments, has always been a great train buff. Leading this tour uses all of the other aspects of his professional life while indulging his passion on two of the world's great train experiences, the Blue train between Pretoria and Cape Town, and the Red train between Pretoria and Durban. Tour also visits various Boer War battlefields and adding Robben Island, game reserves, vineyards, natural wonders and pioneer history.

See enclosed Quadrant leaflet for details.

Quadrant Journeys to donate \$100 for each traveller to National Boer War Memorial



SOUTH AUSTRALIA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Mike Norton

We are commemorating Boer War Day to remember all those who served and especially all those who still lie on the veldt in South Africa. This will be the 111th anniversary of Peace In South Africa. It's these veterans' descendants' one day of the year.

Adelaide's Commemorative Ceremony will be at the Boer War Memorial on Sunday 26 May at 11 am.

Rev **Garry Prince** is our Padre for the 3rd year, Major **Colin Smith**, Salvation Army, is Bugler, 3rd year, **Scotch College Pipe & Drum Band** in procession, and playing the lament at the Monument,

Barossa Light Horse group, mounted and in full uniform of the era,

The **SA Police** will control traffic and lead the procession from Torrens Parade Ground to the Boer War Memorial outside Government House - Cnr King William Road and North Terrace. All South Australia's Boer War soldiers paraded here before embarking at Port Adelaide.

Wreathes will be placed by VIP guests, and any descendants and supporters who also wish to place tributes.

Please also join us after the service at the Torrens Training Depot for refreshments, fellowship and a chance for de-

scendants, families, friends and supporters to enjoy a leading Adelaide tenor singing "Soldiers of the Queen" and some other surprises.

We will also be announcing details about the Information Audio Unit Initiative, a means of explaining our State memorial to its many visitors.

History South Australia are featuring this event in their *History S A Month* for May as a major historical event.

We welcome the whole South Australian Community to join in the occasion, especially the young descendants and relatives of the Boer War's veterans.

The SA National Boer War Memorial Committee is grateful for all the assistance from Adelaide City Council which has been most supportive. As have the RSL and the Sub-Branch network in South Australia.

And so much of this ceremony, and the work of the Boer War Committee during the year, is made possible by the ongoing support of Blackwell Funerals. Thank you.

Mike Norton Chairman SA-NBWM Association

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

A direct descendant found: On 3 April I had the pleasure of meeting Colin Morrison, 94, and found out that he was the son of a Boer War soldier. It was a marvellous experience to talk to him and to receive his donation to the NBW Memorial. I will be asking him to [register his father on the Website](#) as soon as possible. *Mike*

Dear Mike,

In the Southern Flinders Ranges on the 11th November, 2012 a unique service was held in Gladstone, South Australia to commemorate Remembrance Day. The service was conducted by the Rev David Thompson and the focus this year was to unveil and dedicate two Boer War Honour Rolls: one for Gladstone and the other for Georgetown. Many descendants of Boer War veterans were present.

The Honour Rolls are now installed in the Gladstone and Georgetown Soldiers' Memorial Halls. They were financed by a *Saluting Their Service* grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The photograph in the attachment was taken in the Gladstone Town Hall by Mr Sam Smith. The new Honour Roll is on the wall in the background.

Cheers,

Monty

(Mrs Monty Smith, SA—NBWMA, Georgetown SA)



L-R Mr Richard Stott, Vietnam Veteran, Rev. David Thompson, June Haggett Genealogist, Monty Smith Historian, Mr John Spencer of Adelaide representing State RSL, and Mr Adrian



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



Meeting with Department of Veterans' Affairs

Seeking government assistance

On Thursday 21 March the RDFC arranged for the **Sons and Daughters of Boer War Veterans (SDBWV)** to meet the Minister for Veterans' Affairs to explore options for further government financial assistance. It was THAT Thursday: the day the Prime Minister was challenged. Vet Affairs Chief of Staff Ross Bain and Adviser Catherine Bergin represented Minister Snowden. Ross had invited Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, for the half hour he was available. See report page 7

SDBWV group included Chair David Williams (son), John Cox (son), Brian King (son), Elva Perrin (daughter and granddaughter); and Colonel John Haynes OAM (nephew and President of the National Boer War Memorial Assn), Mark Edwell (grandson), Ken Griffin (nephew of the first NSW soldier killed in action), Judy Higson (granddaughter), brothers Charles and Robert Howse (grandsons of Australia's first VC), Paul Lenehan (grandson), Richard Watson (grandson), Jilly Warren (granddaughter), Bob Pink OAM (RDFC representative), Margaret Williams, Ian Ball (ACT – NBWMA), Marion Smith, and your editor to record it for *Monumentally Speaking*.

While Dr Nelson was available, discussion explored ways in which the AWM would change the Boer War exhibition to show how significant it had been in shaping the armed forces in Australia in the 12 years between Peace in South Africa and the outbreak of the Great War on 28 July 1914. The meeting was delighted with the specific proposals.

Ross Bain broadened the discussion to hear each descendant's story. Every one included the mental and physical damage that the BW had caused, stories that we hear today from the loved ones of those who have returned from

service in Iraq and now Afghanistan.

Recurrent themes were: the smallness of the pool of direct descendants still alive with the un-

derstandable self-interest for closure through the memorial's erection and dedication; their great age giving urgency to the project; the irony that so many BW veterans went on to serve in WWI in leadership roles for which they have



recognition, though not for their BW service; the need to have the project finished before the ANZAC Centenary so as not to be 'competing' with it; since the Boer War had disappeared from the school curriculum there was a broad ignorance of the Boer War and its place in Australia's political, military and cultural history.

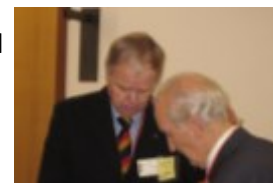
Ross then asked about our fundraising to date. John Haynes said that donations were nearly \$.5m in five years.

The gratefully received \$200,000 seeding grant was largely being spent on getting the sculptor started. Both the seeding grant and the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, though only recently received despite having been first sought eight years ago, will now assist in fundraising from business and industry.

For the Ministry, Ross Bain explained that the government could not make a special case by assisting us with more funds which would become an instant precedent. He asked John Haynes to provide him with revised estimates for the project now that some costs are known.



David Williams thanked Mr Bain and his staff for the courteous hearing and the positive suggestions.



UPDATE

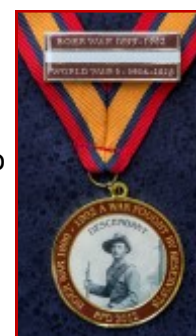
An urgent meeting was called the week after the visit as a follow-up to the Canberra meeting and as a result a letter was sent to the PM and copy to the Minister and Dr Nelson. The letter gave answers to some of the objections raised by the Minister Chief of Staff as to why it will be difficult for them to help. It also made the point that without the funds being approved urgently by the Government then the objective of having the memorial built and unveiled by the Centenary of ANZAC on 25 April 2015 would be impossible. The letter also stated that "The memorial will be a wonderful legacy from your Government". In the letter the Sons and Daughters objective was for the Government to make the decision and announce it before this ANZAC Day.

Order the newly released War Bars

to show the dedication and experience Boer War veterans took to WWI, and in some cases, WWII and to the Nation.

They are only to be worn with the Boer War Descendant's Medallion
(a few medallions still available)

For an application: www.rfd.org.au



COMPETITION

NAME THE FRONT HORSE
OF THE PATROL

Mail and email entries only

All (not vulgar!) entries received by
the Editor by Fri 19 July will be
listed in MS19 (due in August)
Committee members (don't sneak any
entries in your lot!) will be the Judges.

Conditions

Please write your entry on the back
of your Donation Form!!!



Quality Australian made
\$25 incl GST+ \$3.00 post

Paul Lenehan
02 9427 3781

paul.lenehan@bwm.org.au
Or home: 6 Angus Ave,
Lane Cove NSW 2066

Q Victoria South Africa
medal ribbon
colours on navy
background



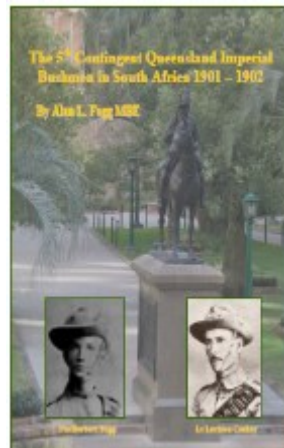
Memorabilia

LAPEL BADGE
LEAD HORSEMAN OF
MEMORIAL'S DESIGN



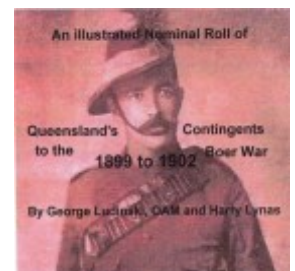
Queensland

Contact Bob Hagerty



5th Queensland
Imperial Bushmen
By Alan Fogg MBE
Books \$15.00 each
+ \$8.00 postage

CD: Illustrated Roll of
Qld BW Units
\$15 + \$2 post.



Victoria

Boer War Day
Badge \$8



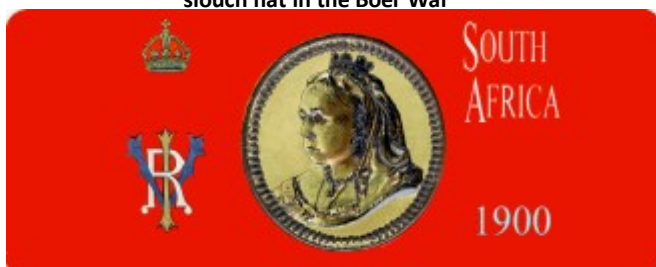
Key Rings
\$8



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



Queen Victoria Chocolate Tin \$25 204mm X 60mm X 26mm
contains 8 slouch hat chocolates and a brief history of the
slouch hat in the Boer War



Orders from:

Clear Crystal Laser- etched
BW memorial

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

