

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING No. 19 – August 2013 **ONLINE**

New South Wales—National Boer War Memorial Association Newsletter



NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

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

NSW Committee of NBWMA Inc

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NSW Chairman's Message - August 2013

This will be my last message as chairman of the NSW Committee of the NBWMA. I have also been working on the National Committee as Deputy President and Public Officer. Those national duties now occupy most of my time and will only increase so I have decided to leave the NSW Committee. David Deasey has been elected and will assume the role from 21st August.

tice of a national Boer War Memorial.

The National Executive Committee is now seeking advice on fundraising from professional fundraisers to approach potential major donors.

Both Federal political parties have told us that there will no further government contributions until we have raised substantial funding from non-government sources.

the recommended date of the Boer War Day ceremonies to avoid any clash with the NSW RSL conference. More ceremonies are covered inside this issue.

This year our descendants marched in Sydney on ANZAC Day. It was a first for our association in the Sydney march. We will be marching again in 2014. Did you march in your town?

The other form of help is with your time and expertise. For example is there a volunteer with secretarial experience, one with Photoshop, or HTML, or publications or military historical research? We also need help in all the regions to convene multi-organisation committees for functions including Boer War Day. Ultimately we must interest local action groups to increase the awareness of what the 23,000 Australian men and women did in the Boer War. Please contact me any time to discuss how you can help us with this awareness. We have some 4,000 names on our database, can someone help please?

As we go to press we are about to hold our first reception for descendants and supporters at Victoria Barracks Sydney. We have specifically invited 1st Generation Descendants and people close to Sydney. We intend to hold other gatherings around the state in the coming year.

Tony Larnach-Jones



Boer War Day Ceremony 2013 Hyde Park, Sydney. Tri-service representatives.

The NSW Committee has made a considerable contribution to the primary aim of the NBWMA which is *to design, fund and construct a Boer War Memorial in ANZAC Parade, Canberra*. With the design agreed we are fully committed in raising the required \$4m to construct the memorial. NSW has raised more than 50% of the national total to date. Please help us obtain donations from as many people you can persuade about the jus-

I add that both the previous NSW Labor government and the present Liberal National government have been most supportive particularly in regards to the Hyde Park Boer War Day ceremony.

The Sydney remembrance ceremony on 26th May was very well attended. General Peter Cosgrove gave a clear view on what our troops endured in the Defence of the Elands River Post in August 1900. For 2014 we have chosen 1st June to be



ANZAC march - Boer War Section

Fittingly, since the Boer War was the first war the nation Australia fought in, our South Africa Soldiers Association (SASA) flag proudly led the Descendants section of the Sydney Anzac Day march.

Paul Lenehan, a grandson of Maj Robert Lenehan VD, 1st NSW Mounted Rifles and later the Bushveldt Carbineers, carried the 1900 Union Jack with the SASA badge at its



centre. Col Bill Molloy RFD ED KLJ represented his grandfather Lt Laurence Molloy, 2NSWMR ahead of the Boer War Contingents banner and troop of Descendants.

Descendants were arranged to represent the six Colonial and three Commonwealth Contingents that sailed to South Africa over the nearly three years of the Boer War. The big crowd gave us a rousing cheer. This honour is sure to be repeated in future ANZAC marches.

**PLEASE DONATE NOW FOR THE
NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL
TO COMPLETE IT BEFORE 25. 4. 2015**

Boer War Day in Gosford

Gosford's famous War Memorial Park on the foreshore is so named because of the far-sighted decision in 1904 to erect its Boer War memorial there to accompany the other heritage civic buildings. This first-in-recent-times ceremony's organiser, Kay Williams, had strong support from Gosford RSL Sub-branch, Gosford City Council, Gosford Public School and the Department of Veterans Affairs NSW. Gosford School Band provided the music. The Commemorative address was given by the NSW NBWMAssoc Committee's Lt Col D J Deasey. Gosford Anglican Church's Fr Rod Bower, read the prayers and led the singing of the National Anthem. 200 attended including students from Gosford Primary School and their parents, members of the community, descendants and representatives of ex Service Organisations, and Legacy. After the service Gosford Public School served afternoon tea for all



who could come back. Staff and students were proud to show all visitors the unit of work on the Boer War that was being completed by some of the classes. The assembly hall and class rooms showed the huge effort put in to this exercise. The unit, created by the school's Assistant Principal, Ms Jenny Newton, includes an interactive whiteboard program.



Guest Speaker Schedule

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

We offer members of our committee to speak about what 23,000 Australians did in the Boer War.

We have descendants and relatives of Boer War veterans and welcome those who are not but are interested in the justice of there being a national memorial to the soldiers and nurses who served in South Africa in Australia's first war. We are remembering them.

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, and for larger groups, a microphone.

To arrange for a speaker contact David Deasey
0409 585 877

Presentations schedule:

4 Aug	Grenfell, RSL South Western District Council KS, PL
14 Aug	Castle Hill Probus TLJ
17 Aug	0915hrs Cowra Family History Group Seminar TLJ
17 Aug	1315hrs Cowra Family History Group continued TLJ
23 Aug	Newcastle NTHS History Group LP
29 Aug	Abbotsleigh Adult Discussion Gp TLJ, PL
2 Sep	Mascot Wakefield Business Group LP
19 Sep	Galston Dural/Galston Probus Club LP
5 Oct	East Gosford Central Coast Family History Society DD
9 Oct	Willoughby Business Group LP
7 Nov	Wollongong Illawarra HS TLJ
2014	
19 Mar	Saratoga Probus TLJ
TBA	Karuah RSL TLJ

NSW State Boer War Day Ceremony—ANZAC Memorial Hyde Park



Her Excellency, Governor Marie Bashir AC CVO, welcomed the 360 people present to commemorate Australia's first war as a nation. Gen Peter Cosgrove's address outlined the Boer War from a military perspective, especially the joint Australian-Rhodesian defence of the Elands River Staging Post. He argued that had the Australian Army not participated so effectively in every sphere of the Boer War's actions we would not have been as ready just 12

years later when The Great War broke out. Lt Col Tony Larnach-Jones, Chairman of the NSW Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association said that the Australian soldiers' and nurses' service in this war had earned exactly the same right to be remembered as all those who fought in later wars. Those who did not return had died in the active service of their country and had been sent overseas by our first national government.

Ryde's First Boer War Day

Member for Ryde, Victor Dominello and President of Ryde's RSL Sub-branch Bernie Cox joined forces on Friday 31 May—the date Peace was signed at Melrose House, Pretoria in 1902—to organise the first ceremony to remember local men

who had paid the ultimate price for their service to Australia. The service was well attended, supported by Marsden High School, the Ryde City Concert Band and the Weekly Times.

More BW Day stories and pictures on following pages.



The Boer War and Sydney Boys High School

SBHS was founded in 1883, and is now an academically selective public secondary school for boys, located in the City of Sydney, Sydney, with 1,180 students, from years 7 to 12.

SBS' earliest Old Boys include a Naval Hero from the Boer War—particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Centenary of the arrival of the Australian Fleet to Sydney in October 1913



The Sydney High School's 1933 Record indicates many past students and staff played an integral role in Australia's Boer War effort. These valiant members include: JS ALLEN, Sydney Charles BARNES, Harry Herbert BLUNDEN, Leighton Seymour BRACEGIRDLE, Henry William CORTIS, Herbert Victor CREER, Reginald Charles (Ferrers) CREER, James Gordon LEGGE, James Osburne LILLY (NZ), Clarence Montrose MACPHERSON, George Frederick MORTIMER, William A NEWMAN, LJ RICHARDSON, Henry Casimir SMART, William Walker Russell WATSON, George Watkin WYNNE.

William Walker Russell Watson was educated at Sydney Boys High School and served as a lieutenant before being promoted to colonel. During the Boer War, he demanded the surrender of Pretoria, and was also honoured for risking his life to rescue a wounded man.

Leighton Seymour Bracegirdle (photo), a student at Sydney High, served first in Royal Navy as a Midshipman in the Boxer Rebellion in China. On return he took leave to go to South Africa, joining first the South African Irregular Horse in the Boer War and was wounded. On recovery he joined the Railway Pioneer Regiment. He was awarded the Queens South Africa Medal in 1901.

Another of the Old Boy participants of whom the School is proud is Sydney Charles Barnes, who was one of the first



to enlist for active service. He served with the 1st Australian Horse, and engaged in the war effort in Pretoria.

He was awarded the Queen's Medal with six clasps: Belfast, Diamond Hill, Johannesburg, Driefontein, Paardeberg, and Relief of Kimberley; which highlights his war efforts.

George Watkin Wynne was educated at SBHS and volunteered for service with the Commonwealth Contingent for the Boer War. Appointed as captain and quartermaster of the 3rd Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse, his unit was primarily involved in disarming Boer soldiers following the peace. He received the Queens South African medal with the clasps Transvaal and South Africa 1902. These courageous efforts of our students and staff are etched into Sydney High folklore and brought the School everlasting glory. Their decision to unselfishly

answer the call of the Commonwealth must never be underestimated. Many rightfully earned themselves glorious accolades for their achievements.

*Kenneth Ho and Victor Ho
Year 12 Volunteer Archivists*

Editor's note: Well done boys. Note that almost all those names appear on the '[Ancestor Database](#)' and the Creer brothers and Wynne appear under the heading "[The Soldiers](#)" on bwm.org.au.

Spreading the load: help us to extend our welcome to more descendants and relatives of Boer War veteran soldiers and nurses to raise the funds for the memorial. They would all like to see the memorial erected and dedicated before they join these particular ancestors! Just as important though, is to attract

the public who think that no national memorial after 111 years is a national embarrassment. Please pass on your copy of the newsletter to relatives, friends, neighbours and the doctor's surgery. Bash their ears mercilessly! Registration (for descendants and Friends) and donation forms on the website. Ed.

National and State Contacts

National President
John Haynes

Deputy President & Public Officer
Tony Larnach-Jones

National Secretary
Lani Davis

National Treasurer
Ian Guild

States and Territories
John Neenan

ACT - Nigel Webster

NSW - David Deasey

NT - Paul Hanlon

Qld - Ron McElwaine

SA - David McGowan

Tas - Reg Watson

Vic - Bill Woolmore

WA - Maurice Kissane

Boer War Day 2013

All BW Day ceremonies in detail at:

Wollongong. The Nashos, for the fourth year, held a wreath-laying ceremony after their regular meeting on Sunday 26 May. President Mark Edwell conducted the brief service at McCabe Park's Boer War memorial, and said that Australian servicemen and women in that war should be equally recognised for the sacrifices they made. The Wollongong memorial is dedicated to Tpr Frank Andrews, who was the first Australian mounted soldier to be killed in action. The Ode of Remembrance was followed by a recording of the Last Post, a minute's silent reflection and then the Rouse.



Windsor. About sixty stood in front of Hawkesbury's Boer War Memorial at Windsor to commemorate the Boer War soldiers and nurses who served and especially those who did not return. The Windsor RSL Sub-Branch hosted the district's service on the actual anniversary of the day the Peace Treaty was signed, 31 May 1902, as it has every year.

MC Leon Walker, Honorary Secretary, introduced Vice President Jim Davey for a Prayer of Remembrance, RSL Club President Col Wilson to read a poem Epitaph for a Soldier (David McNicholl 1941), Rob Burke a Prayer for the Nation, Jilly Warren to read a little-known poem by Boer War correspondent Banjo Paterson *The Admission*, Womens Auxiliary Vice President Elizabeth Davey a Prayer for the Defence Force, and Geoffrey Brand to give the Boer War Commemorative address. Everyone present was invited to the Windsor RSL Club for light refreshments and a great deal of good conversation.

More detailed reports of all the 2013 Boer War commemoration ceremonies are on the NBWM Assn website.

St Marys 54 folk came together at the guns memorial of St Marys RSL Club on Sunday 26th May 2013, to pay homage and remembrance for those who participated in Australia's first conflict, the 2nd Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902. In a brief Commemorative Service, we heard poems from Banjo Patterson "Moving On" – presented by Leslie Ayres and George Evans and "Elands River" presented by Reno Ciantar, the later providing a graphic description of this major battle in 1900 where the Australians were up against eight times their number in a drawn-out conflict over 12 days. Ted Fish was MC; Tony Fryer gave an overview of Australia's part in the War, including quoting our Governor General on the Elands River battle. Local MPs David Bradbury and Tanya Davies were accompanied by a number of descendants of Boer War veterans, as well as patrons and members of the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch, their families and other interested folk.

Orange. Organised jointly by Cr Reg Kidd, an Orange City Council officer Ms Alison Russell and Mr Les McGaw,



Orange RSL Sub-Branch, the sun shone on the beautiful Boer War Memorial. A feature of our ceremony was the reading by Helen Haynes of the inscription from the Wagon Hill (South Africa)

Cemetery lych gate – the small roofed entry where a coffin could rest until people were assembling for the funeral at the empty grave:

"Those who desired to live went out to death.
Dark underground their golden youth is lying.
We live and there is lightness in one breath.
They could not know the splendour of their dying."

Battle of Wagon Hill, 6 January 1900

BOER WAR 1899-1902

CAIN
DOUGLAS A
DWYER E
HARDY T
HOFFMAN
MCCANN
MCGREGOR H
PHILLIPS E
RHALL S
SHEEDY M
SPRING A

Young's 1st Boer War Day since 1904

Boer War Day ceremony in particular to remember the local men whose names had recently been added to the Boer War plaque on the Anderson St Cenotaph. He remarked wryly "It's about time we held one anyway, since the last one was more than a century ago." Ex-service people and the general public responded magnificently largely thanks to the publicity given by the *Young Witness* circulation in the whole district. Clr John McGregor was particularly pleased, since he is one of the very few first descendants of Boer War veterans in Australia (estimate is 150 still alive.).

His father, Harvey McGregor, was just 17 when he landed as Tpr 1696 HH McGregor of the 3 NSW Mounted Rifles at Natal in September 1900. He served again in the Great War.

Young's RSL Sub-branch President John Walker organised the

Sydney Grammar School

Dear Editor,

There were two matters on page 3 in *MS18* relating to **Sydney Grammar School** that merit comment.

In your editorial, you stated that Sydney Grammar School is a non-government school. It is not; having been founded by an Act of Parliament, it is arguably the oldest government school in Australia (refer Sydney Grammar School Act of 1854, which is an almost verbatim copy of the Sydney University Act of 1851). The fact that it now operates

outside the government school system is no reflection on its "ownership".

My second point is that, if you enter the Big Schoolroom of "The Grammar", you cannot help but be overcome by the World War 1 memorial; however, to its right, is the School's Boer War memorial which was unveiled on 15 December 1903. Not quite as grand as Newington's, but there all the same.

Kind regards,
Gwynn Boyd

My apologies Gwynn and SGS. Looking forward to an article on SGS and the Boer War soon.
Editor

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Veteran Home From The War (Boer)

An Australian ex-Serviceman surprised Customs officials at Mascot last night when he said he was returning home from active service-in the Boer War.

He produced a faded discharge certificate and a receipt for a £5 war gratuity to back up his statement.

He is Mr Thomas E Gibson, 74, of Ontario, Canada, and he came by B.C.P.A. from Vancouver to visit his sister, Mrs SI Saunders, of Rochester, Victoria, whom he has not seen for 48 years. Mr Gibson said he left Australia for South Africa in 1901 as a private in the [5th Victorian] Mounted Rifles.

"I always meant to come back, but I never seemed to get around to it," he said.

"When I was discharged from the Mounted Rifles I spent some years in. South Africa.

"Then I went to Canada, where I married. During the two World Wars I was busy bringing up a family of six children.

"Now they are all grown up I thought it was about time I came back to Australia and got to know my relatives again."

Mr Gibson intends to stay in Australia two months, and then return to Ontario, where he is an engineer in a paper mill.

SMH 21 Dec 1950 p4

Footnote: Born in 1877, Mr Gibson had earned the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps for Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal. Prior to joining up, he had been a farm hand at Rochester Vic. [BCPA was British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines—Wikipedia](#)

Books Dave C George's *Carvings from the Veldt Pt1* \$65 incl postage and *Carvings from the Veldt Pt2* \$90 incl postage (\$145 both) Orders:

Owen Powell: *Snapshots from the Boer War* including 90 Brownie Box photos taken by Powell's grandfather in the Royal Engineers Telegraph Battalion. Available for Amazon Kindle, iPad and PC download \$5.34.

"Name the First Horse" competition

Twelve year old Brydie Moore from Merriwa NSW wrote a delightful essay, too long to publish here, asking that the first horse be called *Paddy*, the horse ridden by Lancer's Tpr Fred Avard when both he and Paddy were fatally wounded at Carolina. [We found a photo, right]

Sisters Diana (Hollway) Harris and Rebecca (Hollway) Coghlan also argue that it should be named after a real Boer War horse. Grandfather Lt Allan Gidley King (NSW Imperial Bushmen) took *Andy*, *Black Bess* and *Indian*, selected from Goonoo Goonoo station and branded **PcR** (the Peel River Company). When Colonel MacKay's two horses were injured Allan gave him *Black Bess*, which died of blue-tongue three months later. Similarly *Andy* went to Captain Waldron who later gave him to Captain Oxley. Allan kept *Indian* which was excellent under fire. [Ed's note: Lt King's story in both the NSW IB and then 5 Com-

monwealth Horse is told in detail on the BWM website

Marjorie Ricketts, perhaps with our attempts at fundraising to pay for making the memorial, offers the encouraging *Comeonmate* or *C'monmate*.

Robert Ellis puts up an excellent case for *Bugler*, the horse that Cpl Bugler Verdi Robert Daly of Molong took on troopship *Aberdeen* leaving Australia on 6 Dec 1899 with the NSW Mounted Rifles. Robert writes "Like his master, *Bugler* left his bones in South Africa."

The competition is suspended for now while decisions are taken about where we might go with the concept.



From Bush to Palace

The Story of Mascots in the Boer War

In modern warfare it would be rare to see animals with soldiers unless the animal had a military purpose, such as guard dog or sniffer dog. In the Boer War however it was quite common for individuals and units to have pets and mascots.

There is the famous photo of Australians with a Wallaby in South Africa. How did it get there and what happened to it? The records are silent. We do however know a lot more about some of the mascots and pets of New South Wales units that went to the Boer War.



Amazingly these not only received official sanction but official encouragement as well. The New South Wales third contingent, the New South Wales Citizens Bushmen, was presented with a mascot on departure. As it was a Bushmen unit it was decided that it should have an Australian bush dog as its official mascot. In a move that was not only sanctioned but encouraged, the New South Wales Animals Protection Society, forerunner of the RSPCA, presented the dog to the unit on departure. It seems unlikely that this would be regarded as acceptable today by military authorities and certainly not by animal welfare groups. Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales, Sir Frederick Darley formally presented the



dog in his chambers, intoning:

"He is a beautiful dog and I wish him a hearty return from South Africa, and I name him 'Bushie'".

'Bushie' was a working Border Collie (described at the time as a rough bush Collie) from Mr Chaplin of Wentworth

Falls, NSW, thought to be about 15 months old. His handler was 342 Trooper Arthur Battye of Forbes (C Squadron. Tpr Battye, would be invalided home in November of 1900).

A photo of the dog was sent to Queen Victoria who was immediately taken with 'Bushie' and who then expressed an interest in seeing him. It was argued at the time that he was the first dog to be officially sent to war.

'Bushie' survived nine months of active service in the war zone including receiving a bullet wound. He was then presented to Lord Roberts by the unit's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel HP Airey. Lord Roberts in turn took him to England at the end of 1900 and on behalf the Australians presented him to her Majesty at Windsor Castle. After her death, King Edward VII passed the dog on to a palace official.

Ultimately he became the family pet of Sir Andrew Slater, the King's land steward at 'the Red House' Durrington Salisbury. Here he lived out his days in style.

The unit also took away at least one other dog as a pet. Described as a small English terrier called 'Cocos', it was probably a fox terrier or fox terrier cross. He was owned by 472 Trooper AP Mooney, (D Squadron) a railway contract from Narrabri. It was said that he had been through 21 engagements. He was also wounded with a bullet passing down his body between skin and ribs before exiting. He was highly regarded on outpost duty as he could hear movement long before his human mates and was trained not to bark but to run up to the men and give a low warning growl. During spare moments some of the soldiers taught him to turn somersaults and another handy trick: if they pointed at someone and called out 'Dutchman' he would 'go' the designated target.

'Cocos' returned to Australia safely in April 1901 when his master was invalided. Tpr Mooney would return to South Africa with 1 ACH in 1902 but it is not clear if the dog went with him this time. 'Cocos', due to his size, got to ride with the troops.

Not to be outdone by their colleagues in the New South Wales Citizens Bushmen, the men of the New South Wales Imperial Bushmen under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel JAK Mackay also had a Bush mascot. This was 'Jock' described as a pure Barb which is a style of Kelpie. It was presented by Mr GW Seaborn of Parkes New South Wales. His son, 95 Trooper Mervyn Seaborn (A Squadron), who at the age of 17 was the youngest trooper of the regiment, was his handler. Mervyn would be invalided home in January 1901 with an illness he would never fully recover from. Sadly we know little more about 'Jock' and it is not clear if he returned to Australia.



David Deasey June 2013

ACT Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association

Four Ceremonies and a Model

The ACT NBWM Committee conducted four distinct ceremonies to commemorate Boer War Day 2013: a special closing ceremony at the Australian War Memorial which focused on the magnificent defence of Elands River; the annual service of remembrance for local descendants at St John the Baptist Anglican Church Reid on 31st May 2013. Then, for the first time in over a hundred years, Boer War remembrance ceremonies were held at Goulburn and



Three wreath-layers and a piper at Queanbeyan's Boer War Memorial

Queanbeyan. Mr Alby Shultz, Federal Member for Hume gave the Goulburn address, recalling the largely forgotten deeds of volunteers from the district. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, spoke impres-

sively at Queanbeyan. Positive publicity was generated by all these events and more descendants located as a result.

On Monday 24th June 2013, the newly completed model of the National Boer War Memorial was launched at Parliament House by a group of bipartisan federal politicians, all supporters of the project. Mr Warren Snowden MP, Minister for Veteran Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, Ms Gai Brodtmann MP, Member for Canberra and Dr Andrew Leigh, Member for Fraser all spoke movingly of the need to restore the Boer War to its rightful place in the Australian national consciousness. All praised the memorial design as providing a fitting national monument for remembrance on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. ACT NBWM Committee members attended along with descendants of veterans of

the conflict. I spoke of the hard campaigning endured by Australians in the South African War of 1899-1902 and that like all wars we tend to forget duty humbly done by soldiers in favour of more spectacular deeds of courage.

On Sunday 29th June 2013, the ACT RFD

Council conducted its annual service of remembrance at the Australian War Memorial which was attended by approximately 170 people. Dr Joe Johnson CSC, who is a member of the ACT NBWM Committee and the Deputy Chair of the ACT RFD Council, conducted the event with aplomb. I have been a member of the ACT RFD Council for many years and laid a wreath on behalf of the ACT NBWM Committee. The weather was challenging but some pray-



John Howse, nephew of Sir Neville Howse VC, and Dr Andrew Leigh MP for Fraser and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

ers from Pastor Wayne Lyons seemed to postpone the downpour until after the ceremony!

The ACT NBWM Committee intends to conduct a commemorative activity at the NBWM site after the Federal Election that is expected in September 2013. This is based on advice the Committee has received about the unlikely availability of federal politicians and senior ADF commanders during the caretaker period. So we shall wait until the new government is in office and then also propose to hold a Boer War Dinner which is a great opportunity for descendants to gather

together and share the stories of service of the veterans in their families.



Gai Brodtmann MP for Canberra, Nigel Webster, Chair ACT Committee, John Howse, grandson of Sir Neville Howse VC, Ian Ball, ACT Committee, Adrienne Bradley, great niece of Pierce Smith and William Smith, Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP for Fraser, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Trevor Bail, grandson of Herbert Bail, Patricia Barnes, granddaughter of Ashley Whitney, Joe Johnson CSC and Colin Simpson, both ACT Committee

Nigel Webster, Chair ACT Committee

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Lambton New Lambton RSL

Our ceremony is now attracting members from surrounding districts. Because it's the RAN's centenary our theme was the role of the parent Royal Navy in the Boer War, tasks that are rarely remembered including patrolling and blockading arms imports and reinforcements, unshipping large naval guns and sending them with marine and sailor crews hundreds of miles inland to the battlefields, and the eternal job of supplying men and horses with food. Students from four local primary schools and the Lambton High School participated in the service at the Lambton Bowling Club, which served refreshments afterwards.



Parramatta Rather than a ceremony, the Royal NSW Lancers museum chose to put on a special exhibition of their extensive Boer War holdings and an illustrated lecture presentation on Boer War Day. The lecture included slides of those who had been on last year's tour of South African BW battlefields.

The Royal NSW Lancers Museum, found within the Lancers Barracks on Smith St, received \$3740 for conservation treatment of the King's [Edward VII] Banner and the Staff Flag of Boer General de la Rey.

The former was awarded just after Peace in South Africa; the latter was captured by General Cox near Klerksdorp (NW Province, South Africa) during the General's second tour of duty during the Boer War. However the quote for professional restoration is \$11,000. Details on the Lancers Museum website http://www.lancers.org.au/site/Lancers_Despatch_Feb_2013.asp

BWD Commemorations in other states

Adelaide's ceremony was the best yet. More than 200 attended including Frances Bedford for the Premier, and Hon Jing Lee MLC, the Opposition. The parade to their Boer War memorial featured the Scots College Pipers, Barossa Light Horse, and the three Newfoundland dogs representing "Nelson", the mascot taken by our troops to South Africa. Rev Garry Prince officiated, Maj Colin Smith of the Salvation Army Band played the Last Post, with the Ode read by Brig Laurie Lewis AM.

Perth's, at its King's Park Boer War memorial, commemorated Reconciliation, through descendants of both sides of the Boer War meeting to remember the losses in the army of the then British Empire and to the Boer Commandos of course, but also to the civil population of South Africa 1899–1902. Amongst the many wreaths, that dedicated to the memory of Emily Hobhouse stood out, to recall the many deaths of Boer women and children who died as prisoners in the camps of the British.

Regional Australia: big welcome to the regional centres of Bridgetown and Three Springs in WA, Townsville Qld, and in NSW Blayney, Bathurst, Eugowra and Orange for example.

If your town held a ceremony and we haven't shown it on our website map, please send some details and a

Monumentally Speaking paper editions are the same as this online one, except that it can't include the enclosures that are in the envelope. In this mailed copy there is a new, free **BUMPER STICKER**.

Please email National Secretary Lani Davis lani.davis@bwm.org.au to advise her where to post it to you to advertise to the world about our BWM project.

South African battlefields by train

Tim Fischer AC leading this tour

Depart Sydney or other airports 29 September 2013

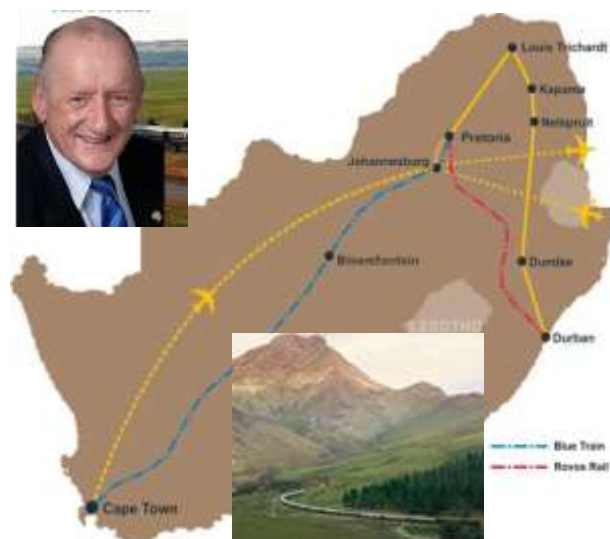
Return ex Pretoria for Sydney or others 18 October

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.

http://www.quadrantaustralia.com.au/South_Africa_Rail_Tour.asp

Enquiries and bookings 1300 301 128

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



SOUTH AUSTRALIA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT David McGowan PSM

SA COMMITTEE MOVES

Chairman Mike Norton has retired from the post and the Committee elected as the new chairman, David McGowan PSM.

David is a descendant of three soldiers, of Marcus Newman 2nd SA Mounted Rifles, Archie Newman 4th contingent SA Imperial Bushmen, and John McGowan of the 16th Imperial Yeomanry. By coincidence he is related by marriage to Lt Col Rowell the commander of the 4th Contingent. David's first meeting as Chairman was 23rd July.

Local fundraising for the national memorial project is being pursued by Murray Alexander. In the refurbishing of the SA Memorial that stands on North Tce at Government House Gates to provide an audio support, the Adelaide City Council has budgeted \$20,000 for associated works.

Reorganising some activities in this state, some members

of the State Committee have graciously agreed to coordinate and lead various tasks for the long term.

June Smith is in charge of the local annotated database – an address list which, in addition to the contact details, records the association with the Boer War. June Haggett is coordinating the history files, material given to the Committee (some verified and some not) is catalogued and kept to be available for researchers and for a local newsletter here. Historian Tony Stimson is preparing a draft for a local newsletter for distribution to our SA supporters. Meanwhile Mike Norton will coordinate both the Boer War Descendants function and the SA Activities for 2014 Boer War Day.

The latter will be held on Sunday 25th May to coincide with events in History Week.

David McGowan July 2013

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

The Romance of a Cup.

(part of an interview with Arthur John Lee 2 SAMR & 5th SAIB)

"I was made the first life member of Tattersalls Club, because I was the first member to volunteer for active service. In the Boer War I was on an

advance guard, and came on two cups, which were hidden in the wall of a room. Directly I got into town I sent one of them to Tattersalls Club as a war souvenir. (This beautiful silver cup stood on the mantelpiece of Tattersalls Club for years.) When the Great War broke out and our former enemies

were fighting alongside us, I thought it would be a nice thing to send the cup back. I wrote to that effect to the club. It was returned, and came into the possession of the original owner, J. Osthorpe. It was the De Beers Cup for the Arrowsmith Breeders' Stake."

The Adelaide Register 24 June 1927 p3

Transition from Colonial to Commonwealth troops in May and June 1901

The brief report below confirms the contribution Australia's combining colonial troops made to the success of the Boer War:

8 Apr 1901 Australian Mounted Soldiers Enter Pietersburg, Transvaal - Pietersburg to Rhenoster Kop

After two weeks in the saddle as part of Brig Plumer's Column, Australian mounted soldiers drove off the Boers and rode into an undefended Pietersburg and seized railway wagons and commenced destroying the printing press, flour mills and ammunition stores.

Some Australians believed that the capture of Pietersburg had been the most successful march they had been involved in as it had cost few Australian lives and isolated the Boer General, Beyers, from other Boer Forces.

In the consolidation of the area, 500 of 5 Qld Imperial Bushmen arrived to release their state's Citizen Bushmen contingent for home.

Australian Contingents and Part Aust Irregular units in Brig Plumer's Column Apr-May 1901:

NSW Citizen Bushmen	Maj Thomas
Qld Citizen Bushmen	Maj Tunbridge
3 rd (WA and Vic) Citizen Bushmen	Maj Vials
4 th (SA, WA and Tas) Imperial Bushmen	Lt Col Rowell
Qld Imperial Bushmen	Maj Deacon
5 th Qld Imperial Bushmen	Lt Col Flewell Smith
Bushveldt Carbiniers	Maj Lenehan

Lt Col Murray Alexander

Murray Alexander is the Deputy Chairman of the South Australian committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association.

RESERVE FORCES DAY

Macquarie Street hosts RFD parade after long absence

Look at Peter Butterworth's marvellous photos of the parade at: <http://www.rfd.org.au/site/2013.asp>

Before the array of media that we have today, the best advertising to recruit men and women into the armed forces was to hold spectacular parades and marches complete with static and sometimes active military displays.

Sixty-five years ago, in 1948, the newly created Citizen Military Forces (CMF) recruited 5,156 officers and other ranks in the first month, targeting 50,000 for the full year.



Boer War 4th and 5th Contingent representatives

On 1 July 1998 the RFDC held its first march of serving and former members in George Street past the saluting dais at the Town Hall.

This year, on 7 July, the 15th Anniversary of that march was held in Macquarie Street, with 1,000 reservists marching past the Governor of NSW, HE Prof Marie Bashir AC CVO at the saluting point outside Parliament House.

The Royal Australian Navy's centenary of its First Fleet sailing through the Sydney Heads on 4 October 1913 was es-



RAN Reservists: Capt Peter Collins AM, RFD, QC foreground specially honoured with a significant number of RAN Reservists marching.

VIPs included the Governor, Vice Chief of the Defence Force Air Marshal Mark Binskin AO representing the Chief of the Defence Force, Federal and State MPs, Major General Paul Brereton AM RFD and senior officers representing the three services as well the National President of the RSL with Dr Rod Bain representing the RSL State President Don Rowe OAM. Two army Reservists who are State Members of Parliament marched with the HQs group.

Next year's parade, commemorating the outbreak of The Great War, will take the same format.

WAR BARS PRESENTATION

Parliament House, Sydney July 2013

Strathfield's MP Maj Charles Casuscelli RFD, presented 24 War Bars to Boer War veterans' Descendants to pin on Medallion ribbons originally presented last year. All told, one daughter, three sons, five granddaughters, nine grandsons, one great granddaughter, one great grandson, one nephew and three great nieces received them.

The War Bars design echoes the battle clasps attached to the Boer War's Queen's [Victoria] and King's [Edward VII] service medals. In our case, the entitlement of the War Bars was for descendants whose Boer War Veterans had gone on to serve in the Great War 1914-



Daughter Margaret O'Neil, Sons David Williams, John Cox and Brian King

1918 and in a few cases, again in WW2 1939-1945. An extraordinary 30% of Australian officers and men and nurses who had honed their military skills first in South Africa provided their battle experience in the training and command of younger men and women who enlisted to serve in all theatres of World War 1. Most had continued to serve in the reserve forces in the 12 years between the Boer War ending and the outbreak of WW1.

RAANC Maj Barbara O'Keefe, with cousins Patricia Pinkerton and Suzanne Munro, great nieces of BW nurse Lt Bessie Pocock RRC.



Order the new War Bars

Boer War veterans also in WWI, and even WWII

They may only be worn with the Boer War Descendant's Medallion

(a few medallions still available)

Application: www.rfd.org.au/documents/BWM_Medallions/Claspapp.pdf

Or ring RFD on 0403 160 750



Memorabilia

Order from
Paul Lenehan
02 9427 3781

Or home:
6 Angus Ave,
Lane Cove NSW 2066

See how fantastic they are to wear in the photos on pages 1,2,3 and 11 of this edition of *Monumentally Speaking*!!!!

New South Wales

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

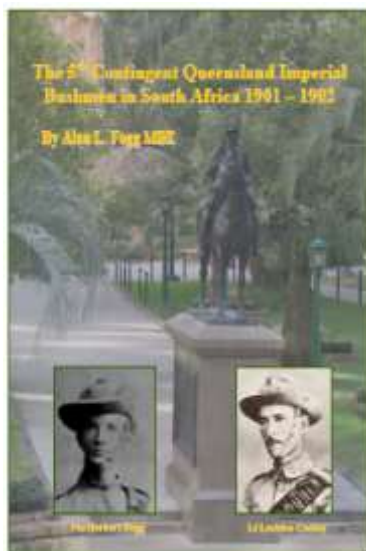
Queens' South Africa
medal ribbon
colours on navy
background

**LAPEL BADGE
A HORSEMAN OF
MEMORIAL'S DESIGN**



\$15 plus \$2.50 postage
from

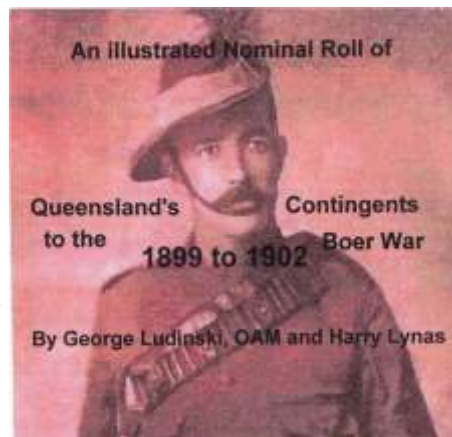
Queensland



**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.**

Contact Bob Hagerty
sabaay2@bigpond.com



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
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NOW
AVAILABLE

National Boer War Memorial Edition of 'THE AUSTRALIANS AT THE BOER WAR'

In response to numerous requests for information about the Boer War and Australia's part in it, the National Boer War Memorial Association has secured permission to reprint this excellent and most readable book by the late Bob Wallace. First published by the Australian War Memorial in 1976, it has been out of print for many years and has become most difficult to acquire.

The *Australians at the Boer War* has long been a bible for Australian Boer War historians, militaria collectors and descendants of veterans and we are proud to be able to bring it back for our descendants and supporters.

The book covers the causes and background to the conflict and Australia's commitment to join with Britain and other parts of the Empire - Canada, New Zealand, Cape Colony, Natal, India and Ceylon, together with other smaller outposts.

It then follows the call to arms and the recruitment of the Australian contingents before following their distinguished service around the southern parts of the African continent from the Cape to the Zambesi River.

It should not be forgotten that about a third of the Australians who served in South Africa between 1899 and 1902 did not serve in Australian contingents. Many had been lured to the Rand goldfields during the tough financial times of the 1890s and, due to the oversupply of volunteers for the Australian contingents, large numbers were balloted out and then made their own way to South Africa and joined the various Colonial and Irregular Imperial units recruiting there.

