

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING No. 21 – March 2014 Online

New South Wales—National Boer War Memorial Association Newsletter



NSW Committee of NBWMA Inc
Chairman David Deasey

[Supporting the National Boer War Memorial](#)

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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[Donation Form](#)

Michael Crouch AO Chairman of the National Boer War Memorial Fund

Michael Crouch, the founder of Zip Industries of small instant boiling water heaters fame, has agreed to Chair the fund-raising committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association.

He is a man who can sell hot water to the British (never keen on bathing) and has been executive chairman of

Zip for more than half a century. He has been inspired to promote the Boer War Memorial as his father, born in 1882, had been among the Australians who sailed for the war on the veldt.

"He used to tell us that it took a long time to reach South Africa," he said. "The stench of the horses was such on board that the vessel would turn in the Indian Ocean to let cleansing wind flow through the stinking vessel."

"My father as a trooper was given tests to blow a bugle but he could not blow a note."

His father went on to win a Military Cross in World War 1. Crouch, after a dry cleaning venture, acquired a small obscure Australian company, Zip Heaters which had been formed in 1947 to market kitchen and bathroom water heaters. Under his management Zip expanded its product range to include a variety of water appliances and then in the 1970s it introduced



the world's first small instant boiling water and chilled filtered drinking water.

Crouch was awarded the AO in 2004 and appointed an Officer of the Order of St John (OSTJ) in 1996 for inspired work on the St John Ambulance Finance Committee. He has been president and trustee of the

National Parks and Wildlife Foundation, a director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the NSW Society for Crippled Children, the Advance Australia Foundation (chairman), the National Board of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and founding chairman of the Friends of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia.

As Executive Chairman of Zip Industries, he has been principal sponsor of the Sydney Festival, principal sponsor of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in Australia, a long time supporter of Symphony of Australia Pty Ltd and at one time a vigorous—and swimming—supporter of the Cole Swimming Classic. He has many other credits to his name.

Michael Crouch is married to Shanny and they have one son and two daughters and five grandchildren. He lives between Woollahra and his cattle property at Gundy, near Scone in the Hunter Valley.

Christopher Dawson, NBWMA Media Officer

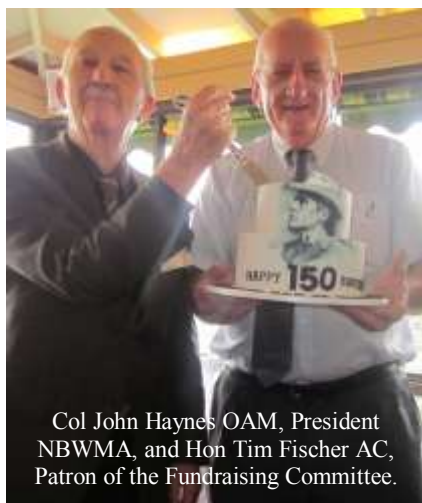
NSW Chairman's Message

March 2014

The important news is that we welcome Mr Michael Crouch AO, newly appointed Chairman of our Fund Raising committee. We look forward to working with Michael to get our Memorial up and running.

Sunday 16th February was a major activity for our committee as we celebrated the 150th birthday of A B 'Banjo' Paterson. 79 supporters gathered at Banjo Paterson Cottage Restaurant at Gladesville; our special guest was the Hon Tim Fischer AC who spoke of Paterson's significance. There were recitations of Paterson's works, auctions, raffles and a great deal of discussion over lunch. It was a very successful event for us raising over \$5000. I would like to thank all those members of the NSW Committee who assisted, especially Jilly Warren who shouldered the main organizational burden.

Paterson is an appropriate Australian for us to celebrate, as he is the quintessential bush poet and our theme for 2014 is the Bushman regiments of 1900. Paterson went to the Boer War on the SS Kent in November 1899 as a war correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* through most of 1900. He also wrote poetry about the war which varied from ballads to serious reflections on the national cost of the war.



Col John Haynes OAM, President NBWMA, and Hon Tim Fischer AC, Patron of the Fundraising Committee.

We hope to conduct a fundraiser morning tea at Victoria Barracks in early April for our supporters. As well as exchanging Boer War stories over morning tea there will be a tour of the historic barracks and a visit to the Victoria Barracks Museum collection dating from the earliest period of the colony to our most recent conflicts. We will contact you by email as soon as arrangements are finalized with the Base Commandant - stay tuned.

We encourage all our descendants to March with us on Anzac Day 25th April this year. This year's march will be different from the past, with World War 2 units no longer marching. Come along and help us make a success of this commemoration.

Boer War day in Sydney this year will be commemorated on Sunday, 1 June 2014 at 11 o'clock at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park. I would hope to see as many of you as can make it.

I hope that the local ceremonies throughout the nation are well attended to first, remember the local men and women who served and especially those who did not return and second, to keep the Boer War in the public conscience as a real part of our cultural and military history.

As we conduct more fund raising activities we are going to need your support in running your own and/or helping out. I hope that many of you will be prepared to assist us at least once during the coming year at a function. If you are interested in assisting could you please e-mail me and let me know.



David Deasey Chairman
NSW Committee of NBWMA

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

Don't hesitate to contact me to arrange a speaker for your association. Our lively presentations are about 40 minutes allowing time after for questions, but are often adapted for both shorter and longer periods to meet your needs— lunchtime or a conference.

The story of Australia's contribution to the Boer War is little known and our presenters are delighted to put our first war as a nation into context. 23000 Australian soldiers and nurses served, 1000 did not return. We are remembering them.

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.

Guest Speaker Schedule

To arrange for a speaker contact David Deasey
0409 585 877

Presentations schedule NSW:

2014 (Known at time of printing)

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------|
| 19 Mar | Saratoga Probus | Tony Larnach-Jones |
| 25 Mar | Hornsby U3A | David Deasey |
| 12 Apr | Kuring-gai History Society | D D |
| 14 Apr | W. Epping UC Mens Fellowship | DD |
| 14 Apr | Epping Probus | TLJ |
| 21 May | 10am Penrith Nepean Retired Men's Club | Les Perrett |
| 21 Jul | 7.30 pm Hills District Historical Society | TLJ |
| 12 Aug | Parramatta Legacy | Keith Smith |

Boer War Day and Local Memorials

Our attention is focused on getting the funds to erect the national Boer War memorial but it's timely to remember that **Boer War Day** is fast approaching and that there will be many communities commemorating it at local memorials all around Australia around May 31. (Organisers: please let [the Webmaster](#) know when and where yours will be held as soon as possible so we may assist you with publicity.)

Our website's [national memorials page](#) needs your help to fill in the Boer War's gaps. All kinds of memorials, not just free-standing monuments, but the stained glass windows in churches, the hospital ward named after famous battles or generals, plaques recognising the local fallen perhaps on the walls of the Town Hall, church, RSL hall, gravesites in cemeteries and so on. Recently a headstone in Perth's war cemetery, adjacent to their largest general cemetery at Karrakatta, was found to be one of the many soldiers whose first experience of war was in South Africa but

who joined up again in WW1. That service deserves a photo or two and a brief description added to the National [Boer War Memorial website](#).

Since such a high proportion of country men and women went to the Boer War ('...must be able to ride well and shoot straight...') there are likely to be more memorials of all descriptions scattered around the country centres than in the capital cities. Particularly the centres that were already significant to agriculture and mining around the turn of the last century, for example in South Australia's Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Victor Harbour, Mt Gambier, Murray Bridge and Naracoorte, and the Adelaide Hills and Barossa Valley.



Lyndoch, South Australia

Sydney Attacked 31 May 1942

Japanese subs in the Harbour Sinks HMAS Kuttabul - kills 21

This anniversary is commemorated on the same day as Boer War Day, the day the Peace Treaty was signed at Pretoria, South Africa in 1902.

The first of the three subs became entangled in the anti-sub nets. The crew blew up their own vessel. The second fired both torpedoes, the first missed, but the second hit the Kuttabul. The third sub was destroyed by the RAN.

This action is listed together with seven Boer War battles at the Memorial.



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ANZAC DAY MARCH DESCENDANTS WITH BOER WAR BANNER—PLEASE

This year begins centenary commemoration of Australia's unstinted commitment to fighting alongside all members of the British Empire against the Kaiser in World War 1.

In August 1914—just 12 years after Peace in South Africa—the brand-new Royal Australian Navy and regular Army troops formed the Australian Expeditionary Force (AEF) sent by the Australian Government to take German colonies in the Pacific.

Boer War descendants represent those who fought in Australia's first war, so many of whom served again in WW1, donating their skills hardened in combat on the veldt.

We remember these old hands who helped the raw recruits.

Could all Boer War Descendants turn out please to march in this year's ANZAC Parade?

BOER WAR DAY IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From information received to date the majority of centres will be commemorating the 112th anniversary of Boer War Day (31 May) on Sunday 1 June.

Would centre organisations please email the NBWMA [Webmaster, John Howells](#), about your details to [publicise on the website](#).

This year is critical in earning donations to enable the sculptor to continue work to complete all four mounted troopers and for all the work necessary

on the ANZAC Parade site for the memorial to be installed and dedicated.

The Commonwealth Government has made it clear that we will not be getting more assistance in the foreseeable future, and our appeal for funds must be to the private and business sectors.

The Michael Crouch AO page 1 story shows that we have recruited a distinguished leader in the business sector as our Fundraising chairman.

Business will only be interested to help

if there is a groundswell of committed public contributing to complement that of the major donors.

Boer War Day is not the time for an appeal for funds, but a time of remembrance. It is our solemn duty to thank those who served and especially those who did not return, or did return damaged physically or mentally to the care of their friends and family in an absence of significant government assistance, and before the RSL came into existence.

Banjo Paterson's 150th anniversary party

Banjo fans ended the long lunch afternoon with lusty singing of *Waltzing Matilda*. The Gladesville home that Paterson the schoolboy lived in with his maternal grandmother is now restored as the excellent Banjo Paterson Cottage Restaurant. Despite heavy rain forcing us indoors, we enjoyed spirited readings from Paterson's 'From the Front', a first-class meal, then the well-known poems including *Clancy of the Overflow* and *The Geebung Polo Club*. The Paterson program ended with our reader, Harry Terry, reciting the solemn *The Reveille*, Paterson's dedication to the NSW Lancers.

In between, door prizes were distributed, raffles redistributed

and the auction—new-found talent Christopher Dawson—brought some great bids. Thank you all who attended for your generous support.



NBWMA Fundraising Committee Patron Hon Tim Fischer AC gave Banjo high praise and exhorted everyone to dig deep for the memorial.



Bid for the 'newest' Boer War memorial:

The NSW State member for Coogee, Bruce Notley-Smith MP, has taken the lead in a process to place a Boer War memorial plaque on the war memorial monument in High Cross Reserve, Randwick, on Sunday, 25 May this year to recognize the participation of citizens of the Randwick Council area in the Boer War. His initiative is being supported by the Randwick City Council and the Coogee Randwick Clovelly RSL Sub-branch.

Feature article

The Australian Bushmen of 1900 David Deasey

This year's theme for the National Boer War Memorial Association is the Australian Bushmen of 1900. At the start of the war serious doubts were held by many as to whether the Australian colonies could produce a viable force to assist the British in South Africa.

Many said that the permanent force soldiers should not be sent to South Africa as their role, paid for from taxes, was local defence. Others felt that this commitment would be too small and likened it to a theatrical chorus. Banjo Paterson lampooned the idea of a comic opera force being sent in his piece in the *Bulletin* (4.11.1899) "A War Office in Trouble". Even before the war broke out, people argued the best contribution would be to send a large contingent of Bushmen who could ride well and shoot straight to take

on the Boers. Mr Albert Augustus Dangar, 'Baroona', Singleton, NSW, had written on the subject to Lord Milner in South Africa in July 1899. Such suggestions were unwelcome at the War Office, that still did not believe that a war was about to occur.

In early 1900 as the British army had no answer to the high mobility

of the Boers, Lord Roberts wanted not only to match the Boers but also to create a force that could meet them on their own terms. Many Australians of influence had been urging this from the start of the war. On cue, Dangar proposed to the British Government that a force of Australian Bushmen who could ride, shoot and live off the country be recruited. It was an idea whose time had come. One of his sons was a regular gunner; another would serve with the Bushmen. Ironically Dangar did not think that Australians would make particularly good conventional soldiers but they should bolster the regular British Army in colonial wars with an Australasian Bushman Regiment from all colonies to include NZ. Each colony would form battalions with the regiment eventually a permanent contribution to the British Empire—hence the NSW Imperial Bushmen is often titled 6th Bushmen Regiment.

The objective was "to enlist a regiment of men from the country" who were "acquainted" with the "vicissitudes of bush life" - good shots, good riders, and good physiques. Preference was given to men who had served in South Africa, as well as to those who had lived and worked in rural Australia."

Early units were organised and paid for by local citizen's committees, rather than governments. The demand was so great that colony governments then raised identical

units with the title "Imperial". Britain would be picking up the costs once landed in South Africa.

Such units would operate independently in small groups against the Boers and require limited support. They would even bring their own horses. For Roberts the idea seemed to offer the mobility he was seeking quickly, without having to spend a great deal of time training in complicated mounted manoeuvres.

Dangar donated £1000 towards covering the expense of forming these units – a sizeable sum in those days. Australians living in England contributed in excess of £10,000. The whole of the Dangar family were supporters; son C C Dangar would serve in South Africa (but would be killed in action in World War 1 serving with the Light Horse, having gained an MC), whilst a nephew, H P Dangar, served as second in command of the NSW Imperial Bushmen, succumbing to disease during the campaign. Another nephew, H W Dangar, served with A Field Battery during 1900 (going on to become a Brigadier General in World War 1). To Dangar's disgust the New Zealanders refused to participate, calling their mounted rifle units 'Roughriders'. The Bushmen regiments of 1900 from both Australia and New Zealand distinguished themselves in such actions as The Elands River operation and the Relief of Mafeking. When giving evidence before the War Commission Colonel Kekewich, the defender of Kimberley, was asked his opinion of the oversea Colonials. He said: "I saw a good deal of the 6th Imperial Bushmen (NSWIB) and the 4th and 5th



Lt Col The Hon JAK Mackay at Bieria—CO NSW Imperial Bushmen.

New Zealanders, and these were all good fighting men who knew their job well.

Whilst units continued to be titled Bushmen into 1901 the concept failed on basic tactical principles. The idea of small groups making a difference in a combat sense does not work. For scouting yes, but the Boers often were in squadron-plus force, and without support weapons even Bushmen units struggled against Boer formations despite their bush skills.

Most units were quickly equipped with machine guns and had artillery support for their operations. The units once supported performed brilliantly and essentially became

Continued on next page

mounted rifle units. It was an important experiment which helped inform the debate as to what a Light Horse Regiment would look like in World War 1. However it did foster the myth that the average Australian was a born bushman and soldier and only needed a rifle to prove it.



NSW Bushmen recruits training at Randwick...

The Units
3rd New South Wales Citizens Bushmen (Citizen) west Transvaal including defence of Elands River Post (4-16 August 1900), and under

Plumer in northern Transvaal, the great De Wet hunt (February – March 1901) and advance on Pietersburg.

4th New South Wales Imperial Bushmen (Government) west Transvaal including capture of de la Rey's convoy and guns at Wildfontein (24 March 1901). D Squadron was Lord Methuen's personal bodyguard and were highly regarded by the general.

3rd Victorian Bushmen (Citizen)

4th Victorian Imperial Bushmen (Government)

3rd Queensland Bushmen (Citizen)

4th Queensland Imperial Bushmen (Government)

3rd South Australian Bushmen (Citizen) Rhodesia under Carrington and west Transvaal under Methuen; part of Composite Bushmen Regiment August 1900-April 1901.

4th South Australian Imperial Bushmen (Government) part of 4th Imperial Bushmen Regiment in Cape Colony including charge at Bakenkop (3 July 1900) and skirmish at Stinkhoutboom where three were killed (24 July 1900), and under Plumer in northern Transvaal including battle of Rhenoster Kop (29 November 1900), the great De Wet hunt, and advance on Pietersburg and into east Transvaal.

A group of 40 spent nearly five months serving as mounted infantry in 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers. Their OC was Captain Hugh Trenchard whose life they saved at Dwarsvlei, thus they can be said to have altered the course of history

as Trenchard went on to be the founder of the RAF and established the concept of Fighter Command which was proved successful in 1940.

3rd Western

Australian Bushmen

(Citizen) amalgamated with Victorian Citizen Bushmen in 3rd Bushmen Regt

4th Western

Australian Imperial Bushmen (Government)

part of 4th Imperial Bushmen Regiment

Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen (Govt) called 1st Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen part of 4th Imperial Bushmen Regiment **(Note 2 VCs - to Tpr John Bisdee (later Lt Col in WW1) and Lt Guy Wyllly (later Major in WW1, both serving in this unit).**



A Note on Imperial Numbering

This numbering came from the initial organisation of the Bushman regiment's under the command of Major General Sir Frederick Carrington at Marandellas in Rhodesia in early 1900. Interestingly enough the fourth Victorian Imperial Bushmen under the command of Lt Col Kelly were divisional troops and therefore not numbered. To add to the numbering confusion the 4th SAIB, 4th WAIB and 1 TIB, later were formed in the 4th Imperial Bushmen Regiment.

The Rhodesia Field Force Numbering

1st Regt (Lt Col Airey, NSW) NSW Citizen Bushmen
 2nd Regt (Maj Tunbridge, Qld); Qld, SA and Tas. Citizen Bushmen
 3rd Regt (Maj Vials, WA) 3rd Victorian Citizen Bushmen., and WA Citizen Bushmen
 4th Regt: New Zealand Roughriders
 5th Regt: New Zealand Roughriders
 6th Regt: (Col Mackay, NSW): NSW Imperial Bushmen

Not Brigaded: Divisional troops

4th Victorian Imperial Bushmen (Lt-Col Kelly)
 Field hospitals including Victorian nurses
 Carrington's escort (Lt Cameron, Vic): Cameron's Scouts.

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Serendipity NSW Committee Chair, David Deasey reports: Stories about the Boer War often emerge in the most surprising places. Recently on a visit to St Thomas's Anglican Church Enfield in Sydney for reasons not connected with the Boer War, my attention was drawn to a grave in the churchyard. Attached to the grave was a Memorial to Harry Trollope, died South Africa in 1924, aged

51. The name intrigued me, and on checking I found that Harry Reginald Trollope, born in Forbes, New South Wales, served as the number 2718, Trooper 3rd NSWMR. Further research showed him to be the grandson of the great 19th century English novelist, Anthony Trollope. Post Boer War, Harry was one of many Australian soldiers to put down their roots in South Africa. DD

Editorial This year's first edition (No.21) of *Monumentally Speaking* marks the beginning of the sixth year of our little newsletter. There are readers in every state. But we also know from correspondence that there are many more who read it online, including from many countries beyond the old Empire ones—Britain, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa itself—including USA, Germany, France, Holland, Ukraine, China and Morocco as the top 10 of 25 that are scored individually on the website, plus a longer list of those lumped into "others". Would that they were all donors!

Our start was made when the then Chair of the NSW committee, Tony Larnach-Jones, decided to pay for the print run of 200 out of his own pocket. Your editor, equipped with no knowledge or experience with newsletters, cobbled together a few stories including one about the Siege at Elands River, requests for descendants, and supporters, and our first fundraiser item, the badge. To that point we had raised \$100,127 of the \$3m then estimated to build the memorial. It is now \$4.5m.

Optimistically there was a promise that the second edition would feature Lt Gideon Grieve. 20 numbers later we are still trying to interest our readers and earn financial assistance to complete the memorial.

Keith Smith

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Our first *Monumentally Speaking* March 2009

Our earliest readers, the 160 then known Descendants and Relatives of Boer War soldiers and nurses in NSW, received the four-page, black and white, first tentative step into the world of newsletter writing, pro-

duction and distribution. The reaction was immediate.

Readers asked for more.

Now every edition of them online



BOER WAR MEMORIAL
MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING
NSW BOER WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE
OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER V.1 No.1 March 09

Circulation: registered Descendants and Relatives of NSW Boer War soldiers, Donors and people who have expressed an interest in ensuring that all service personnel from Australia who fought in the 1898–1902 Boer War are commemorated with a monument on the site dedicated in Anzac Parade, Canberra.

Chairman's Report

Much has been done since 2005 when the then Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, indicated his support for the establishment of a memorial for the Boer War in Canberra. The site for the memorial was dedicated on the 31 May 2008. Many descendants, relatives and their friends attended. A design competition is now being prepared.

Support and donations have been received from individuals, organisations and RSL clubs. So far in NSW we have received \$34,517 of the national total of \$100,127. This is well short of the \$3m needed to complete the monument. We will continue to seek financial support from government at all levels and businesses. Vietnam veterans have given us great support.

Of the 23,000 Australian men and women who served both before and after Federation, about one third came from NSW. We are trying to reach their descendants and relatives in the hope that they may wish to contribute in some way to the project. We have to convince the

Federal Government that we have the support of Australians across the nation.

This occasional newsletter is being sent to all those who are already known.

Can you help?

The NSW Committee has lists of soldiers' names on every known Boer War monument in NSW. It would be most helpful if you could take a list and look for the same names in local phone books and electoral rolls for relatives and descendants.

The Secretary will be delighted to receive your list to send out Relative and Descendant forms. By all means give the enclosed form to your friends

Of course download the form from the Boer War Memorial website and help friends who have a Boer War veteran relation to get it back to us.

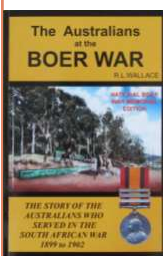
Lt Col Tony Larnach-Jones

The site for the proposed memorial

Canberra residents know Anzac Parade well as the great avenue that runs from the War Memorial down to Lake Burley Griffin. The site for our memorial is at the lake end, second on the left when heading for the War Memorial.

Address for all correspondence and donations: NSW Branch Boer War Memorial Committee, Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021

Books received:



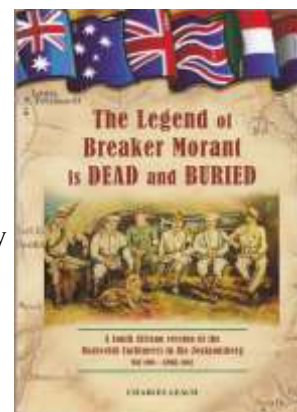
Wallace, RL. 2013 reprint of 1965. *The Australians at the Boer War*. National Boer War Memorial Assn. See Page 12 for availability details. As well as a great read, this is a fundraiser for the National Boer War Memorial.

Perry, Roland. 2012. *Bill the Bastard*. Allen & Unwin. Ordinarily this book would not be included in this Boer War Memorial newsletter because it is about WW1. However your Editor found so many Boer War veterans had enlisted just 12 years later to appear in the story's telling about Bill, the greatest horse of WW1. There is also so much about Boer War correspondent, poet, lawyer and, in this story, horseman Banjo Paterson. This well researched and fascinating account of Bill's exploits includes the list of distinguished mounted soldiers who he uncere- moniously bucked off.

Leach, Charles. 2012. *The legend of Breaker Morant is dead and buried—a South African version of the Bushveldt Carbi-*

neers in the Zoutpansberg May 1901-April 1902. Self published in South Africa. As the title implies, the writer, a distinguished historian and military tour guide in South Africa, spells out in considerable detail information he has researched from many sources, including Australian ones. He has interviewed descendants of Boers who died as a result of the actions of British and Empire troops—though mainly the Bushveldt Carbineers—which might attract the attention of the War Crimes court if committed today.

Whether Australians want the legend destroyed or not, many will wonder how Mr Leach is so ready to believe Boer descendants' accounts after so many years, but deny for example the account of Lt Whitton who was the survivor of the three accused. Whatever your persuasion, this is an outstanding contribution to this unhappy episode of our shared history.



Lord Robert Baden Powell—founder of the Boy Scouts Commander at Mafeking during the siege



The name Baden Powell and the world-wide Scouting movement are pretty much synonymous. It's largely from his 271 days – October 1899- May 1900 – as the British Army Colonel commanding the defence of the Northern Cape Colony railway junction town Mafeking in the first year of the Boer War.

His troops, mainly the 600 young, keen Rhodesians recruited in the Bechuanaland Protectorate regiments, were not battle-hardened regulars. As an emergency measure he raised and armed two local regiments of volunteers in Mafeking. But the combined number, about 1,100, was still too few to defend the sprawling town.

Robert Baden Powell, a London lad, had been sent to a school in Surrey which was surrounded by farms and unspoiled countryside.

Apart for his interest in music (playing both piano and violin) and acting in school plays, he was attracted by nature, not the science but adventure, and at this stage

of his life about the challenges of imagining surviving in the natural environment.

It is said that he hunted rabbits, killing and cooking them in the woods. He also tracked the school's masters in

their weekend meanders through the woods, while remaining undetected. A small-s scouting interest anticipated his military career, but after graduating from Sandhurst, the value of it

escalated into military necessity.

During his early military service as a junior officer in India and Afghanistan he commanded Indian soldiers. While happy with their military drilling he was surprised that they had few 'bush survival' skills. Over time he

systemised the training to inculcate self-reliance in recruits to the British Army on the frontier in India.

When posted to South Africa in 1899 he met an American, Frederick Russell Burnham, who had been born and brought up on an Indian reservation and learned bushcraft from the Red

Indians. As a teenager he added 'white man' skills by befriending old men who had pioneered the US Western frontier to complement that of his Indian braves. Burnham had be-

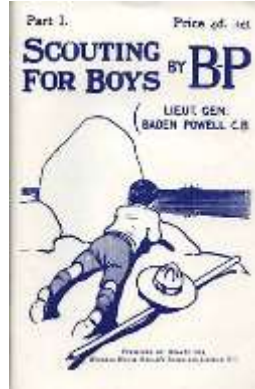
come an excellent scout in the best military sense and was recruited by Lord Roberts to lead scouts on covert intelligence-gathering from the Boers. The bond of military

scouting resulted in Baden Powell having a much broader set of knowledge and skills to put into immediate effect while short-handed in Mafeking.

He assembled the 12 – 15 year old boys and formed them into a cadet unit (and so the forerunner to peacetime's later Boy Scouts) to relieve the soldiers from many routine duties within the town area: messengers, orderlies, building defence works, and as water and food carriers. All the time Baden Powell was training them constantly in the skills that minimised their risks of being shot by incoming Boer artillery and small arms fire.

While there were only a few Australians trapped in Mafeking, the relief column led by Lt Col Herbert Plumer had a good many. West Australian Maj Walter Karri Davies commanding the Imperial Light Horse, led six of his troopers into the city at 3 am on 17 April 1900. A little later Queensland's D Squadron Citizens Bushmen exuberantly raced along the newly opened road, disobeying orders so as to be ahead of the main body of troops to make a formal entrance to the city.

Many believe that the most significant long-term benefit of Mafeking's siege was the idea of the International Boy Scouts, and in 1908 the realisation.



Melbourne Scouts carry the Boer War Assn banner to the Shrine of Remembrance.

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Monumentally Speaking paper editions are the same as this online one, but all links to other sites have to be entered manually.

Cunning fundraising plot by 1900 pin-up Nellie Stewart.

Before Kylie Minogue and Cate Blanchett, Australia had performers of international fame. At the time of Boer War, one of these was Nellie Stewart, who was born in Sydney in 1858 and died here in 1931. As an actress and singer she was famous not only in Australia but in London as well. Her most famous success was in the stage show *'Sweet Nell of Old Drury Lane'* in 1902, when she was earning £80 per week, an enormous sum in those days. She sang the Lyric ode *Australia* at the opening of the Federal Parliament in Melbourne in 1901 in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of York, (later George V). A rose garden in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens was named after her. Shortly after her death a story emerged of her involvement in raising funds for a hospital ship in the Boer War. The story appeared in Sydney's *The World's News* Wednesday 31 March 1937.

"She was in London when Lady Randolph Churchill (Winston's mother) offered a rope of pearls to the lady who could collect most money at a great gathering at Claridge's Hotel. Everybody who was anybody, from the Prince of Wales down was to be present. The betting was on Edna May (*Edna May Pettie*) an American actress and singer, all the rage at that time in the London theatres. She had the

privilege of selling the programmes; but the bettors knew little of the astuteness of Sweet Nell.

She found out the maker of cigarettes for H.R.H., (*Later Edward VII*) and, after a monologue into the shell-like ear of that envied manufacturer, he supplied her with a considerable quantity of them. On the day of the raid on Society's pocket, Miss Stewart waited for the Prince to blow in, and, opportunely, offered to sell him one of his own smokes. He was flabbergasted and delighted. For one, he parted with five sovereigns and five more for a light. After that the going was dead easy. Pronto, she was selling the Prince's monogrammed cigarettes up to £50 each. She won the pearls on her head, as it were."



Rifle Clubs and the Boer War

Contributed by Mr Chris Roberts, Port Macquarie.

Being a member of a reserve army unit was a preferred way of being accepted into a colonial army unit for service in South Africa.

Being an active member of a rifle club was also valued, largely due to Maj Gen Edward Hutton, the NSW Army commandant, who was also restructuring the colony's army. When Gen Hutton also became the President of the NSW Rifle As-

sociation 1895 he argued that the shooting skills of members were going to be useful in the colony's defence. He encouraged members to take the Oath of Allegiance.

In November 1899 our colonies offered military contributions. Would-be recruits flocked to rifle clubs in order to be able to demonstrate that they met at least the 'good shot' recruitment criterion. Gen Hutton's foresight and influence paid off in sending better trained soldiers and officers to South Africa. The Rifle Club ethos continued after the Boer War.

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA – National Boer War Memorial Assn Presentations Bookings

6 Mar Balaklava Museums & Historical Society
16 Apr Walkerville Historical Society
Both by Mrs Monty Smith.

Monumentally Speaking No 22, planned to be published in late June with reports of Boer War Day commemoration ceremonies around the nation, will include a feature article by South Australian historian Dr Tony Stimson.

2013 Descendants Gathering in South Australia

On 10 November 2013 at the Burnside Civic Centre descendants of South African Boer War veterans gathered for their second annual afternoon of fellowship and memories. This year the event was planned by some of the committee members of the NBWM (SA), led by Mr Brian O'Halloran, himself a grandson of Trooper Edward Clanfurgal O'Halloran of the 5th South Australian Imperial Bushmen.

SA-NBWMA Chairman, and descendant, Mr David McGowan, welcomed everyone. John Spencer spoke the Exaltation and Ode of Remembrance. This year those who attended were seated in their contingents which made table discussions and shared memorabilia much more relevant and produced a few surprises too.

Mr Don Pedler and Mr Brian Goodall, both descendants told the story of their shared ancestor Sergeant George



Grandsons

Goodall of the 2nd South Australian Mounted Rifles. Sgt Goodall was the 'head' model for the exceptional Adelaide Boer War monument. Sgt Goodall also served again in WW1 with the 16th Light Horse.

Georgina Batten with Tpr Laurie Batten's watch and John Ragless with Pte Benjamin Ragless's.



This was followed by a photographic session, a long overdue but great fun session which has now given us the genesis of a photographic archive. Our thanks to Bill Watson,



Granddaughters



Great nieces & nephews

husband of committee member Joy Watson, who was dubbed in for the job and who has given us some stunningly good pictures.

After afternoon tea the Q & A session between the historian facilitators, Dr Tony Stimson and Monty Smith and the descendants was so popular it went an hour overtime. We will have to do this again next year.

A most pleasant Sunday afternoon, friendships renewed and made anew.

Text and photos by Monty Smith



Son & daughters

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

HOW MANY AUSTRALIANS ACTUALLY FOUGHT IN SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1902

How many went? - Part 1 The Official Contingents.

One of the most frequently asked questions of our organisation is how many Australians served in the Boer War. It is asked by business and government leaders when we meet with them, as well as by you – our supporters.

The problem is that the records of the personnel are relatively poor. In the early 1900s, realising that many records had already been destroyed, the Defence Department commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel P L Murray, (himself a two tour veteran of the war,) to head a committee which produced a set of official rolls. This work is now the only authoritative work available.

OFFICIAL RECORDS
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY CONTINGENTS
TO THE
WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA



Between 1986 and 1988, Dr Robin McLaughlan (now senior lecturer in history at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst), indexed the names as an exercise to see what could be done with existing software and an Apple IIe computer.

This is the basis for the Australian War Memorial's list of Boer War soldiers.

Murray's work cites the Boer War totals for the official contingents as 16,463, which is the figure that the NBWMA has always used.

However the AWM, allowing for some duplications in the McLaughlan count, list the number as 17,280. Thus it is clear that there are about 800 names in Murray which are not included in his statistical tables.

To add to the uncertainty there are a number of official Australian units which are not included in Murray at all or in one case not accurately included. These are the Australian Mounted Pioneer Corps, Australian Commonwealth Regiment and its successor Doyle's Australian Scouts, Hasler's Scouts, the South Australian and Western Australian nurses, the other ranks staff of the Special Service of officers group, the Civilian Telegraph Operators detachment, (many of whom were reservists,) and the Army Post Office Corps detachment.

Some of these are recorded elsewhere in Murray but not all. Plus what are we to make of the 39 women school-teachers sent to South Africa initially to work in the concentration camps and then to rebuild the Transvaal education system? Ought we to count these as well?

In addition, weekly since our NBWMA project started we have added names of Australians who served in official contingents but who are not in Murray. By size of unit, 'A' Field Battery is one of the worst offenders here – but that's a story for another day.

David Deasey

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

RESERVE FORCES DAY COUNCIL

The support the RFDC has given fundraising for the National Boer War Memorial has been invaluable, as has the side-effect of spreading the message about it. The RFDC has now moved on towards doing similar work for the centenary of the First World War in August when the combined naval and military Australian Expeditionary Force went into battle in the German Pacific in 1914 only a week after the Australian government joined Great Britain in declaring war against the Kaiser. As we know, nearly 30% of early enlistments were by Boer War veteran soldiers and nurses.

The RFDC will continue to make their Descendants and Supporters medallions, and the War Bars for descendants of multi-war enlistees available, and pass the proceeds to the National Boer War Memorial project.

RFD Medallions and War Bar clasps still available



War Bars

Boer War veterans also in
WWI, and even WWII

They may only be worn with the Boer War
Descendant's Medallion
(medallions still available)

Application: [www.rfd.org.au/documents/
BWM_Medallions/Claspapp.pdf](http://www.rfd.org.au/documents/BWM_Medallions/Claspapp.pdf)

Or ring RFD on 0403 160 750

Non-descendants "IN MEMORY"

Medallions may be worn by all supporters of the
National Boer War Memorial project to any Boer
War related event.



The New South Wales Contingents for South Africa

BEING a Pictorial Record of the organisation of the Colonies' Forces for active service, and the scenes of unparalleled enthusiasm marking their departure for the front.

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Tie-wearing weather is coming.
Help raise funds for the National
Boer War Memorial.

All of the memorabilia items from around
Australia appear with more details on the
National Boer War
Memorial Assn's website:

Morning Tea at Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW

Tour with the Corps of Guides of the Barracks' historic buildings. Successive waves of Boer War troops left the Barracks to march through Sydney streets to the troopships bound for South Africa.

Visit to the VB's museum - see artefacts dating from 1841 including Sydney's second water supply Busby's Bore. Final arrangements being negotiated for an early April weekday date.

Details to be advised asap by email to all supporters.

Reprint of original and available
NOW

The Australians in the Boer War

By RL Wallace

New foreword by Col. John Haynes OAM

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