

NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION



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

National Patron
Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC, AFC *Chief of Defence Force*
Queensland Patron
Mr. Campbell Newman *Former Lord Mayor of Brisbane*



1899



1902

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING

- Queensland Edition -

Vol 3. No.2
June 2011

Quarterly Newsletter of the National Boer War Memorial Association – Queensland

Brisbane's National Boer War Day Commemoration Ceremony



In a re-enactment of the original 1899 ceremony, Lady Mayoress Mrs. Anne Quirk presents a replica banner to Major Lilliebridge, who accepted it on behalf of the Commanding Officer of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) – story on pg 8

Qld Chairman's Report

Welcome to the ninth Queensland National Boer War Memorial Association newsletter.

Just where are we with the Project?

Why are we running around spending much of our valuable time seeming to be doing so much for so little tangible gain for a conflict that occurred over one hundred years ago? As many of our Queensland Committee are direct descendants of Boer War veterans, we have a strong desire to commemorate the memories of our relatives and to ensure they are not forgotten.

We are trying to educate the current Australian Population that 23,000 Colonial troops served in the conflict and 1,000 of them did not return, and that those who did, returned as Australian Troops to a new Nation. As yet we still do not have a memorial to them in the national capital. It certainly is a most important part of our history that has to be recognised.

We are undertaking this education through this newsletter, presentations to interested groups, having schools involved, holding commemoration services for the last major battle in the Boer War, and the signing of the Peace Treaty on 31st May 1902. We have also started a Supporter's Group to further spread our information.

We have commenced steadily in South East Qld but we hope to cover the State with the help of District RSL contacts throughout Qld.

The State of the Monument

After many months of working with a Project Manager through many designs, a preferred option has now been prepared for the Government. This submission will be considered by the Government in July, hopefully.

National Boer War Day to Commemorate the Signing of the Peace Treaty

On 31st May 2011 a Commemoration Ceremony was conducted in ANZAC Square Brisbane, at the base of the Boer War Memorial, to commemorate the signing of the Peace Treaty in Melrose House Pretoria in 1902. The day was supported by the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI). There were similar ceremonies all over Australia on the 29th May.

Our guest speaker on the day was Air Commodore Peter Growder (Ret) the President of the Royal United Service Institute of Qld, an organisation that was founded in 1892 to contribute to the debate on Defence and Security.

As part of the ceremony, the Lady Mayoress Mrs. Anne Quirk presented a replica banner to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI), replicating a similar event in Oct 1899 when the then Lady Mayoress presented the original banner to QMI. We had in attendance more than 100 people and all were invited to morning tea provided by the Brisbane City Council. Further detail and photographs are included throughout the newsletter.

BWM Supporters Qld

Details of our BWM Supporters Group Queensland are shown elsewhere in this newsletter. Descendants please consider joining.

Future Events

Both Colleen and Miles continue to deliver presentations to interested groups about the origin of the conflict and the progress of this project. We are available and happy to continue this service as a means of spreading the message regarding the need for a National Memorial. To date we have given presentations at functions from Brisbane and the Gold Coast, to Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, as well as Maleny in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

Descendents Register

Don't forget the Descendant's Register. There are many more people who would qualify, so please pass the word to friends and acquaintances. We need the names of the direct descendants and relatives on the register to prove to the Government the community support for the project. We will be contacting local newspapers throughout Queensland to spread the word about the Descendents Register.

Financial Situation

Queensland has so far raised \$46433.10 towards the memorial.

A very special thank you to all of our supporters for your continued commitment. This task will take time, great effort and financial support to complete.



Ron McElwaine
Chairman



Editorial

I would like to address two specific issues with you in this edition. However before I get to that I would like to say a big thank you to all who were involved in our Boer War Day Commemorative Service in ANZAC Square on the 31st May.

Our special banner presentation by the Lady Mayoress Mrs Anne Quirk was wonderful and the attendance numbers are growing each year. However, it was very disappointing that the media chose to stay away once again. A little interest on their part would help our cause a great deal in getting this memorial built.

It seems all services held around Australia this year were well attended.

If you go to our website [www.bwm.org.au/boerwarday2011] there is a good representation of the services held.

Part of my responsibility along with the publishing of this newsletter means I am also the keeper of the mailing list. To ensure you get your copy I endeavour to keep our list as up to date as possible. However, of late some postal and emails have been returned. So if you or members of your family have changed their email or postal address I would appreciate it if you could advise me of any changes. It would be a shame to loose you, you are a very important to us and a large part of what we are trying to achieve.

As most of you know the Queensland Committee have started a Boer War Supporters Group, the numbers are growing and although we original started this to include people who want to be involved but who are not necessarily a descendant of a Boer War Soldier. However, the response from descendants and interested parties has been wonderful and we would like to make the distinction that *descendant or interested party* - everyone is welcome to join. In the next edition of this newsletter we will be inviting members to a get together in late September. So fill out the form at the back of this edition and join up, we would love to meet you all.



Colleen O'Leary

Editor.

OUR NEW DISTRICT MEMBER

We have a new member helping us in the Stanthorpe and Wallangarra areas of Queensland. If you are from this region and would like any information, Max Wilson will be happy to talk with you.

Welcome on board Max. We look forward to working with you



BWM SPEAKERS AVAILABLE



As you may be aware, several of our committee members are quite conversant with the History of the Boer War. However, as the momentum of the project builds, so too has their speaking engagements increased in number. Therefore, if you would like a speaker to talk about the many aspects of our project at an upcoming function, our speakers would be only too happy to assist. We do, however, request that sufficient notice is given so a speaker can be arranged.

Fundraising Merchandise

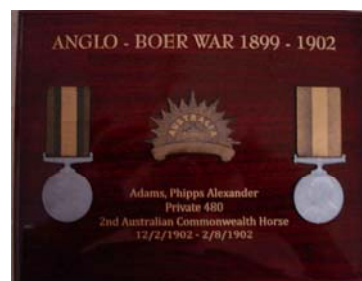
Boer War Service Plaques

225 x 175 mm engraved wood suitable for wall mounting as a family reminder of your ancestor's Boer War service.

\$60 + \$10 p & h

For application form contact:

Bill Woolmore, Victorian Committee



See Order Form on back page for full range of new plaques now available

NSW Lapel Pin

\$7.50
each [+ Postage]



Victorian Boer War Day Lapel pin

Reduced price
\$5.00 + postage



Victorian Stickers

Stickers can be purchased for \$2 each.



Illustrated Roll Of Qld Units CD

CD's can be purchased for \$15 each
[\$1.50+ Postage].



Polo Shirts

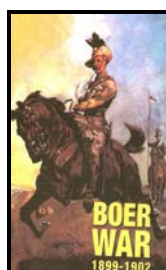
Embroidered black BWM polo shirts.



Ranging in sizes from Small to 4XL, polo shirts are \$30 [short sleeved] or \$36 [long sleeved] each [+ Postage].

[Version with chest pocket – 50 cents extra]

History of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen
by Alan Fogg MBE



Books sell for \$15.00 each + postage.

Copies can be obtained from Ron McElwaine,
Qld Chairman [m] 0419 678 721

Except where otherwise stated, products may be purchased from Colleen O'Leary

REQUEST TO ALL DESCENDANTS – BECOME A SUPPORTER!

All of you who have registered as a Descendant of a Boer War Soldier are a vital and a valued part of our campaign to obtain Government recognition and financial support in our campaign to have a National Boer War Memorial erected on Anzac Parade in Canberra. The numbers are growing daily and will soon give the “pollies” something to think about and respect. We thank you also for donations you have made.

There is another way in which you could help us, and that is by joining the “Boer War Memorial Supporters Group, Qld”. An application form to join is included in this copy of Monumentally Speaking. It also explains in more detail the reasons and purpose behind this group, and its informal nature.

The annual subscription of \$15 will help defray operating costs, such as Newsletters and other mail-outs throughout Queensland. This will preserve donations for their real purpose which is to get a memorial approved and built in Canberra.

TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICAN BATTLEFIELDS & OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

A tour of South African battlefields focusing on those in which Qld units took part is being considered for March 2012. Other place of interest will also be included.



Brisbane's National Boer War Day Commemoration Ceremony

112 years ago a group of ladies in Brisbane decided they wanted to do something for the soldiers of Queensland who were about to embark for the war in South Africa. They hand embroidered a banner. It was maroon in colour, in the left hand corner was the Union Jack, and in the middle of the banner was the unit's badge. On the 30th October 1899, the presentation of the banner was made by the Lady Mayoress Mrs. Seal to the Commanding Officer of the 1st Contingent, Queensland Mounted Infantry, COL Percy Ricardo and his aide Lt Adie.

The original banner now resides under glass at the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment [QMI] museum at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

This year, at our Boer War Day Commemorative Service on the 31st May in ANZAC square, we re-enacted this presentation.



Lady Mayoress Mrs. Seal presenting the banner on behalf of the Ladies of Brisbane 30th October 1899.



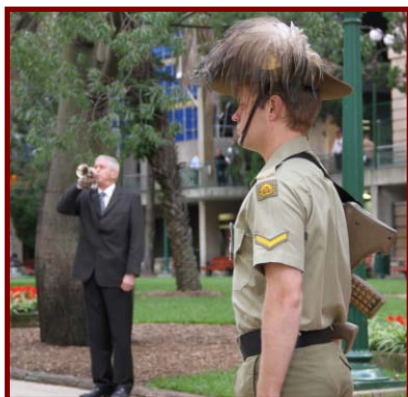
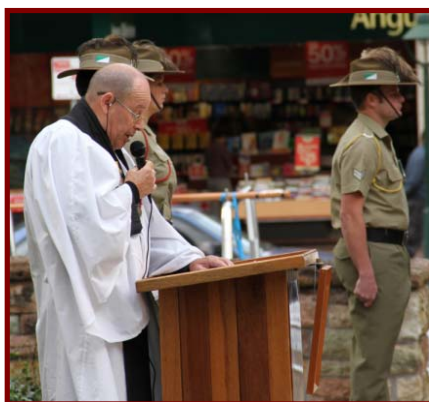
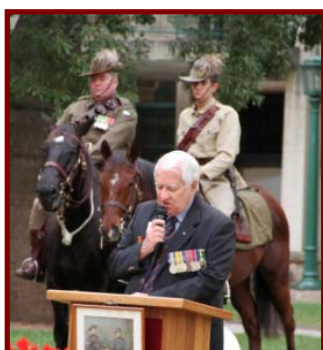
Replica banner presented on 31st May 2011



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My Memories of the QMI Banner

As told by David Feez

The Banner was presented to my grandfather COL P.R.Ricardo by the then Lady Mayoress of Brisbane Mrs. Seal at a parade of the 1st Contingent of Queensland Mounted Infantry [QMI], prior to embarkation for South Africa in November 1899.

COL Ricardo's daughter Mrs. M Feez, my mother, became the custodian of the banner following the death of her father from a hunting accident in 1907, while he was the commandant of the newly formed Australian Military Forces in Melbourne

I remember as a child back in the 40's finding the banner in mother's linen press, and marveling at the lovely colour and the tassels with the emu printed on it, mother explained the significance of my find. I am the opinion that the Banner went to South Africa with the troops.

Then many years later, I believe in the 70's, mother was asked to attend a parade of the newly reformed QMI, when they were stationed at Wacol near Brisbane. The occasion being that the regiment was to receive a new set of Gideon's. My mother attended this parade with her eldest son Douglas Feez. In response to the invitation it gave her the opportunity to return the Banner to the QMI.

I remember being told that mother was thrilled at the response which came from the Officers and men to her gesture, and it gave her much pleasure to know that all the years she had cared for the banner had been worthwhile, and that it had returned from whence it came, and would always be safe.



Pictured [Left to Right]: Trooper Richardson, 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment [QMI] is a forth generation Light Horseman; Mr. Angus McDowall, Grandson of Major General Sir Thomas William Glasgow CB CMG DSO; and Mr. David Feez, Grandson of Colonel Percy Ricardo CB.

THE RICARDO SCULPTURE

As told by David Feez

Amongst the artifacts of the Queensland Club hangs this Sculpture [see photo] of COL P.R. Ricardo CB, who helped form and then led the 1st Contingent of the Queensland Mounted Infantry [QMI] to the Boer War. It is worth noting that the slouch hat is showing the smaller brim, and that the feathers are higher and thicker than those later used by the Australian Light Horse.

The sculpture is a tribute to the troops who served in the Boer War.

There is an interesting aside to the work; it was sculptured by COL Ricardo's great-grand son W. (Bill) Feez, whose work is also displayed at The Royal Military College Duntroon. He was commissioned to sculpture 3 figurines, one each representing the three armed services, and these are presented to the top cadet for the year for each service.



The figure Bill Feez used to represent the Army was taken from a photo of COL Ricardo in his dress uniform of that time

BOER WAR MEMORIALS

We are endeavouring to list on our web site the Boer War Memorials and their locations in Queensland. They will be added to our website so there will always be a permanent record. I already have most of them with details and photos. However, it is in the north and western parts of Queensland that I really do need some help gathering them all.

If you could contact me about a BWM in your area, I would appreciate any further information. I can be contacted at:



CEREMONIAL TREE PLANTING

The ACT Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association and the Chief Minister of the ACT will conduct a formal ceremony to plant trees of a South African species (*Widdringtonia cedarbergensis* - Clanwilliam cedar) at a designated Boer War Grove at the National Arboretum commencing at 1400h on Sunday 26th June 2011. This is to commemorate the men and women who served and the many who gave their lives during this conflict.

Many veterans of the South African war were to fight again in the 1st World War, large numbers providing the officer corps with a leavening of invaluable experience. The links between the two wars are closer than most historians have given credit. Because this war provided the genesis of the Digger tradition it should not be forgotten. Because Australians played an active and vital role disproportionate to their numbers, they should not be marginalised. These men, like those who fought in Vietnam, deserve great credit for their commitment to a cause; their honour in service, and their courage in the face of a dogged enemy. Like the Digger in World War 1 the 'Bushmen' left a legacy of which all Australians might be proud.



This will be a significant public occasion for the ACT attended by a large number of Federal, State and Local Government Officials, senior Australian Defence Force Officers and descendants of those who served.

Nigel Webster, Chairman NBWMA Committee Canberra

The Chairman of the ACT Committee, Nigel Webster, has come up with an innovative tribute to the Boer War soldiers and nurses. Well done Canberra.

Ed.



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Boer War Memorial Association Committee Victoria
Mail: P.O. Box 2006, Blackburn South, Victoria 3130 - Tel: (03)98902465 - Web: www.bwm.org.au

Boer War Service Plaques

These are engraved wood plaques that are 225mm (9") x 175mm (7") and can be displayed on the mantelpiece or wall. They are a beautiful reminder of your ancestor's service to the nation.

A, B & C are optional centrepieces. Photograph required for option C



Option A



Option B



Option C



ORDER FORM

PLEASE SEND ME PLAQUE: A B C (circle your choice(s), use separate form for each plaque)

Option C - Include photo or email photo to [at the time you mail your order form](#)

NAME..... ADDRESS.....

PHONE NO..... EMAIL.....

VETERAN'S DETAILS: FULL NAME.....
(if known)

RANK & SERVICE NO.....UNIT.....DATES OF SERVICE.....TO.....

MEDAL/S AWARDED:.....CLASPS

COSTS: SEND ORDER FORM AND CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER TO "NBWMA VIC" PO BOX 2006
BLACKBURN SOUTH VIC 3130 - \$60 EACH for PLAQUE A or B, \$75 EACH for PLAQUE C,

Include \$10 POSTAGE for first plaque \$5 for each additional one if mailed together.

Allow 3 weeks for delivery. Proceeds go towards the National Boer War Memorial Appeal.



South Africa, The Boer War



South Africa in 1899

Military History Tours has been taking the families of those who fought in far away places to visit the areas where their family had fought, to walk the battlefields, visit the memorials and in some cases to visit the grave of that family member or friend of the family who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

Gallipoli, the Western Front, North Africa and Greece and Crete are areas well known and visited but that first engagement of the 20th Century where Australians had fought, the Boer War, has been somewhat overlooked.

This is a special tour developed by Military History Tours for the very special purpose that we hope will, in a small way, ensure that this part of Australia's military history is not forgotten as we visit the battle sites, each with an informative briefing, meet the local dignitaries who maintain our military heritage and pay our respects at the resting places of our fallen.

- Pretoria- Legislative Capital of the Republic of South Africa.
- Be at Verneering on the 110th anniversary of the historic treaty that marked the end of the war
- Conducted tour of the Battlefields where the Australians had fought,: Diamond Hill, Wilmansrust, Rhenosterkop, Elands River, Mafeking, Belmont, Modder River, Sunnyside and Colesberg.
- Pay our respects at the Memorials dedicated to our fallen
- Visit those places where the first Australian Victoria Crosses were won.
- Captain Neville Howse's heroic action at Vredefort and much more...

As we travel through the countryside in our air conditioned coach, you will pass through those same towns and historical locations that our men saw as they campaigned, the same areas where they rested when out of the line and where they prepared for their next engagement. We meet in Johannesburg, travel to Pretoria before setting off to move through the area of operations of all those years ago. Following that expansive tour we return to Pretoria for a make and mend before we transfer to the airport for our return flights or to take the opportunity to extend and spend more time in this diverse country.



Costs: Full costs to be advised. The costs will be per person twin share and there will be a . Single Supplement additional cost for those wanting a single room.

Included in this price:

- Accommodation,
- Battlefield tours with military historian,
 - Local guide
- Air conditioned coaches,
- Most meals as per programme,
 - museum entrance fees.
 - Transfers.

Not included in this price:

- Air travel.
- travel insurance,
- laundry and alcohol.
- tour extensions &
- personal expenses
- Tips to Drivers and Guides

** Conditions apply, costs and itinerary subject to change.*

Further information or to Register please contact:

Military History Tours

www.militaryhistorytours.com.au

