



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

**NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL COMMEMORATION AND RECONCILIATION SERVICE 2014**

*They throw in Drummer Hodge, to rest / Uncoffined – just as found:
His landmark is a kopje-crest / That breaks the veldt around*

The words of Thomas Hardy, of the anonymous and hurried burial of a young Boer War enlistee, still resonate more than a century after the conflict's end.

The Boer War was the first military action in which we fought as a young nation.

Australian soldiers and horsemen responded to the call to battle and served valiantly alongside British forces.

These men fought and sacrificed under extremely difficult conditions. We will forever honour them.

Australians have always served to uphold the rights of the weak against the strong, the rights of the poor against the rich and the rights of all to strive for the very best they can. We don't fight to conquer; we fight to help, to build and to serve.

I express my gratitude to everyone who has gathered today to commemorate this historic event and I pay tribute to the memory of those who served.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of Australia

30 May 2014