




## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE**

Today we remember the Boer War and the service by Australian men and women who served together as one nation for the first time in Australia's history. As we gather around Australia and remember those who served, we also remember those who did not return and the lasting impact on their families.

Although many who gather are descendants of Boer War veterans; it is a day for all Australians to recognise this significant chapter of our military history. Of the 23,000 Australian men and women who served, 16,175 of them served in mounted units with almost as many horses. Six Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions, and many more were decorated or mentioned in dispatches for their courage and achievements under fire. The hostile conditions required all of their skill, mateship and courage; qualities we still honour and value in today's Australian Defence Force.

I commend the National Boer War Memorial Association for its continued commitment to honouring the sacrifices made by Australians during the Boer War. The Association's work to create a national memorial in Canberra has ensured that the sacrifices made by Australians will always be remembered by future generations.



**MD Binskin, AC**  
Air Chief Marshal  
Chief of the Defence Force

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