

Boer War Day 2018



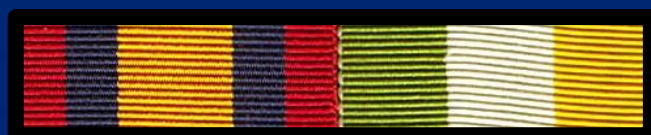
Commemoration Service
Sunday 27 May 2018
Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

Souvenir

Programme

Commemorating the
116th Anniversary
SIGNING OF THE PEACE TREATY OF VEREENIGING
and remembering those who did not come home

SOUTH AFRICA 1899—1902





His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Boer War Commemorative Day 2018

Well over a century ago, soldiers and nurses from all six Australian Colonies volunteered to serve in the Boer War. When Federation came they were the first to serve our new nation in conflict.

It was in this war that the Australian spirit was revealed.

Through their deeds, these men and woman showed to each other and to the world what it meant to be Australian.

They displayed bravery, loyalty and mateship, qualities that live on in our defence forces to this day

Our first six Victoria Cross and 161 other decoration were gallant testament to the Australian way.

This war, far away on the African Veldt, was a defining moment for a new nation and its people.

On this day, we pay tribute to those who sacrificed, fought and fell in the Boer War. We remember them at memorials around the country: and they are remembered at the National Boer War Memorial in front of the Australian War Memorial.

These first diggers, these fathers of the ANZAC, are with us and never forgotten

Peter Cosgrove

NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION



Patron
Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC
Chief of the Defence Force



1899

1902

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

We warmly welcome you all here today to honour the memory of those Australians who served our country in South Africa between 1899 and 1902 and especially the nearly one thousand who gave their lives in that conflict. We especially welcome our distinguished guests:

Mr Nick Wakeling *MP Member for Ferntree Gully*

Cr Philip Le Lui *Representing The City of Melbourne.*

Cr Bernadene Voss *Mayor, City of Port Phillip*

LTCOL Lauren Grimes *Veterans Council, Dept. of Premier & Cabinet*

LTCOL(retd) Neil Smith *AM Master of Ceremonies*

Chaplain Russell Adams *Salvation Army*

Mr. John Cullen OAM *State Treasurer, RSL Victoria*

MAJGEN (retd) the Honourable Justice Greg Garde AO RFD

MAJGEN (retd) Jim Barry AM MBE RFD ED

MAJGEN (retd) Mike O'Brien CSC *President RUSI Victoria*

BRIG (retd) Peter D. Alkemade RFD *President DRA Victoria*

BRIG Douglas Laidlaw CSC *Commander 4 Brigade*

CDRE Peter Habersberger AM RFD RANR

Mr. George Ward *Representing Melbourne Legacy*

COL Marcus Fielding *Military History & Heritage, Vic.*

MAJ (retd) Maggie Moore RFD *Shrine Governor,*

LTCDR Chris Le Marshall *Shrine Governor.*

LTCOL (retd) Graham Lockwood RFD ED

The Hon Michael Baden-Powell *Representing Scouts Australia*

The Hon Wendy Baden-Powell

BRIG (retd) Neale Bavington RFD ED

LTCOL Michael Sasse *Representing the Australian Defence Force*

ORDER OF SERVICE

12.00 noon— The march will commence at the lower end of the Shrine forecourt.



5VMR Wilmansrust Memorial

ORDER OF MARCH

Mounted Infantry Section (Creswick Light Horse)
Rats of Tobruk Pipes & Drums
Boer War Banner
BWM Association & Distinguished Guests
SASA Banner
Descendants of Boer War Veterans
Cadets, Scouts & Guides

*The march will proceed to the Eternal Flame where
the service will take place*

Master of Ceremonies ... *Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith AM*

Welcome to Shrine *Major Maggie Moore, RFD, Shrine Governor*

Welcome ... *The Hon Michael Baden-Powell*

“We welcome all descendants of our Boer War soldiers and nurses, their families and members of the public that wish to commemorate this day. We are gathered to honour their service, and all it has meant to Australia and especially to remember those who gave their lives in the conflict.”

Messages... *His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia*

*Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC
Chief of the Defence Force*

Read by Lieutenant Colonel (retd) Ian George OAM RFD ED

COMMEMORATION ADDRESS

delivered by

*Major General (retd) the Honourable
Justice Greg Garde AO RFD*

FED UP *by Banjo Paterson*
Read by
Lieutenant Colonel Laureen Grimes

ALL STAND

Mounting of the Catafalque Party

Royal Hymn ... 'God Save Our Gracious Queen'

The Lord's Prayer ... *Chaplain Russell Adams*

Band Piece ... *Rats of Tobruk Pipes and Drums*

Wreath Laying

The Ode ... *Mr. John Cullen RSL (Victoria)*

*"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Response: "We will remember them"

The Last Post (One minute silence)

Response: "Lest we forget"

Rouse

Closing prayer ... *Chaplain Russell Adams ... 'The Soldiers Prayer'*

Australian National Anthem

*"Australians all let us rejoice, for we are young and free,
We've golden soil and wealth for toil, our home is girth by sea.
Our land abounds in nature's gifts, of beauty rich and rare,
In history's page let every stage, Advance Australia Fair,
In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair."*

Remain Standing for the Dismounting of the Catafalque Party

Announcements MC Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith AM

CLOSE OF SERVICE - Thank you for your support

AUSTRALIA AT WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Boer War was the first full commitment of troops by all the Australian Colonies to a foreign war and with the formation of the Commonwealth on 1 January 1901 it became the Nation's first military involvement.

It is now 115 years since 23,000 young Australians served with distinction in the South African War. About 1,000 were killed in action or died on service—our greatest loss after the two World Wars of the 20th Century. Our Boer War dead exceeded in number the total losses in all conflicts since World War II.

The early volunteer contingents to the war were sent by the six colonies but after Federation in 1901 the first Commonwealth troops, Australian Commonwealth Horse and medical units were sent to the front. The contribution made by our fledgling Nation, of small population, was staggering

Australian contingents fought in the early engagements on the Kimberley front and rode with General French in the epic ride which lifted the siege of the diamond mining town. They were engaged in the battle of Paardeberg which forced the surrender of Boer General Cronje's army of 4,000 and cleared the way to the capture of Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State. In the later guerrilla phase of the war they quickly adjusted to the tough gruelling conditions against an enemy mostly indistinguishable from civilians - so often the case in this type of campaign.

Australians, whether in our own contingents or in other colonial or irregular units were engaged in every theatre of the war and generally drew the highest praise from their commanders and the troops of our allies in the conflict.

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE: MAY 1902

Towards the end of 1901 the guerrilla phase of the war was taking a heavy toll of all the parties involved in the Boer War especially on the Boer forces and their civilian population on which the commandos relied for much of their resupply and their R & R leave.

The British Commander-in-Chief, Kitchener, had ordered the burning of their farms, a move which put great stress on the Boer population and their commanders in the field.

A message went out offering the Boers a temporary halt in hostilities to facilitate the holding of a conference at Vereeniging of their commanders to discuss a permanent cease fire. The conference opened on 15 May 1902 with much heated discussion between those who felt that further resistance was futile and placed an unacceptable burden on the Boer women and children and the “Bitter Enders” – those who demanded a fight to the finish.

Argument went on for days and finally the terms for a cease fire were agreed.

Despite holding a very strong negotiating hand the British proved magnanimous in victory which assisted the conference to reach agreement. The Boers were presented with a compromise by the British on the 27 May 1902 and given 72 hours to agree to it. Both Boer and British combatants in the field were notified and the Peace Treaty, incorporating the terms as agreed at Vereeniging, was signed at Melrose House in Pretoria on 31 May 1902 which formally ended the war.

THE NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL WAS DEDICATED ON WEDNESDAY 31 May 2017

It was an historical day in Canberra as the His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (retd) Governor General dedicated the long awaited National Boer War Memorial. After years of fundraising over 1,200 descendants join the official party at the event. The photos below give a glimpse of the day dedication.



FED UP *by Banjo Paterson*

I aint a timid man at all, I'm just as brave as most,
I'll take my chance in open fight and die beside my post,
But riding round the 'ole day long as target for a Krupp,
A-drawing fire from koppies – well, I'm fair fed up.

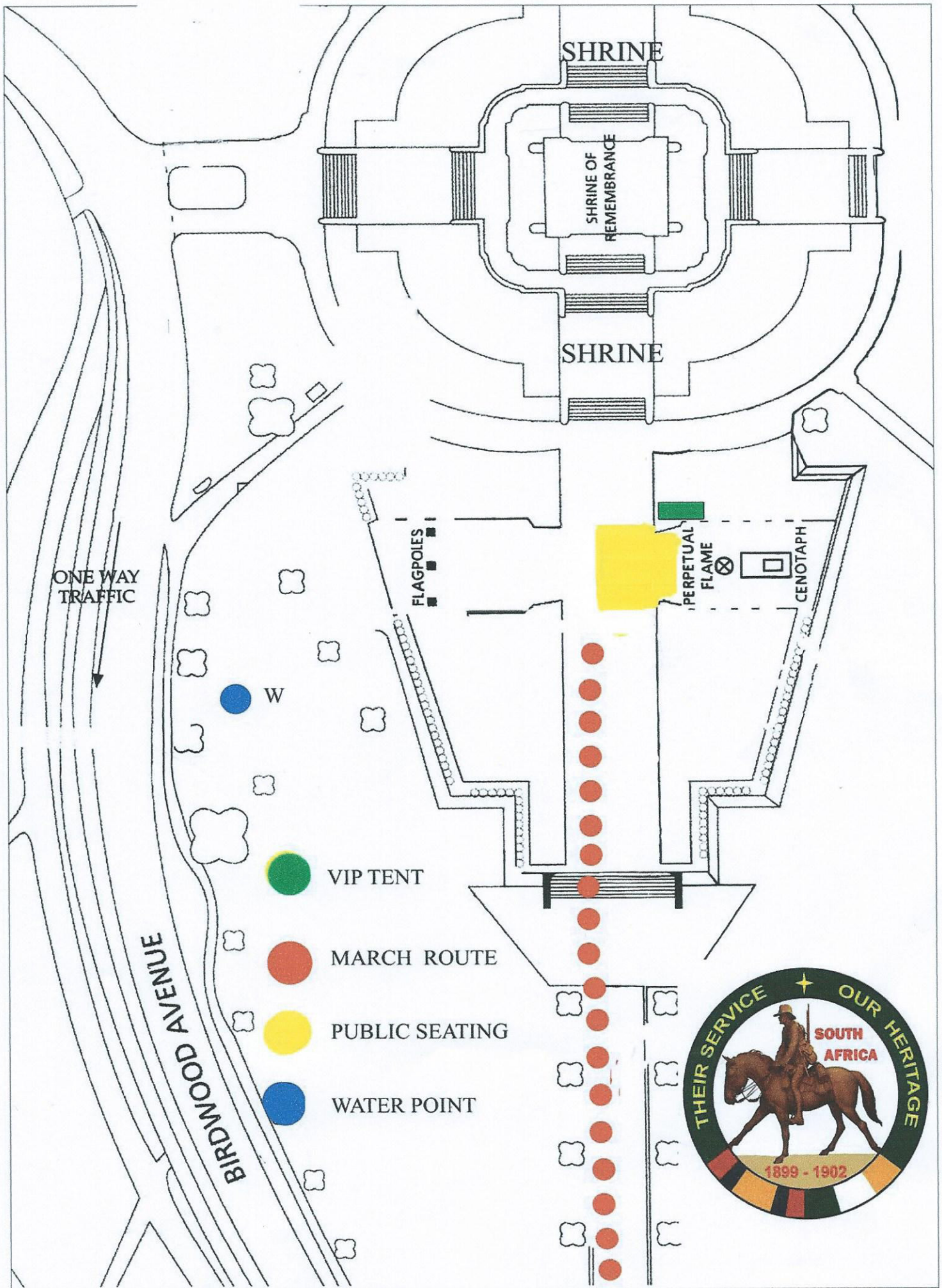
It's wonderful how few get hit, it's luck that pulls us through,
Their rifle fire's no class at all, it misses me and you,
But when they sprinkle shells around like water from a cup
From that there bloomin' pompom gun – well, I'm fair fed up.

We never get a chance to charge, to do a thrust and cut,
I'll have to chuck the Cavalry and join the Mounted Fut,
But after all – what Mounted Fut? I saw them t'other day,
They occupied a koppie when the Boers had run away.

The Cavalry went riding on and seen a score of fights,
But there they kept them Mounted Fut three solid days and nights –
Three solid starving days and nights with scarce a bite or sup,
Well! After that on Mounted Fut I'm fair fed up.

And tramping with the Footie saint as easy as it looks,
They scarcely ever see a book except in picture books.
They do a march of twenty mile that leaves them nearly dead,
And then they find the bloomin' Boers is twenty miles ahead.
Each Footy is as full of fight as any bulldog pup,
But walking forty miles to fight – well, I'm fed up!

So after all I think that when I leave the Cavalry
I'll either join the ambulance or else the A.S.C;
They've always tucker on the plate and coffee in the cup,
But bully beef and biscuits – well, I'm fair fed up!



Boer War 1899 - 1902

MAFEKING

KIMBERLEY

LADYSMITH

ELANDS RIVER

CAPE COLONY

RHODESIA

RHENOSTER KOP



PINK HILL

TRANSVAAL

ONVERWACHT

KOSTER RIVER

WILMANSRUST

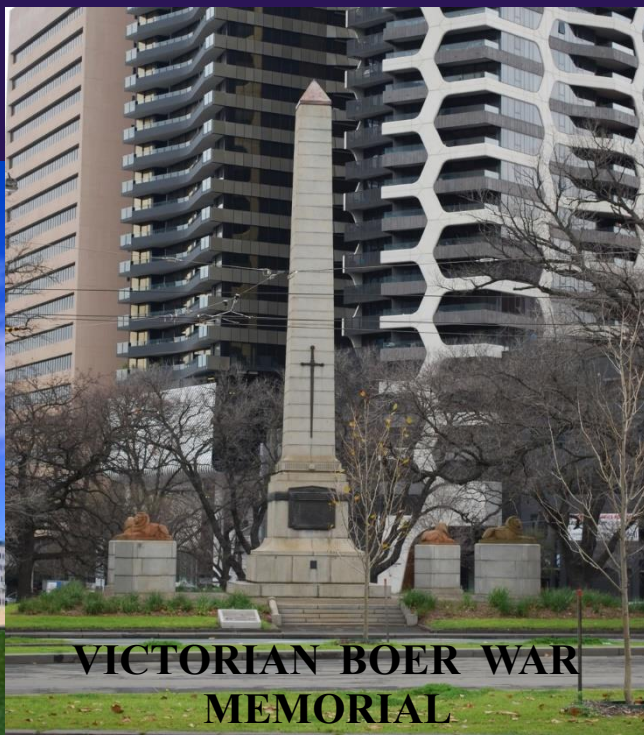
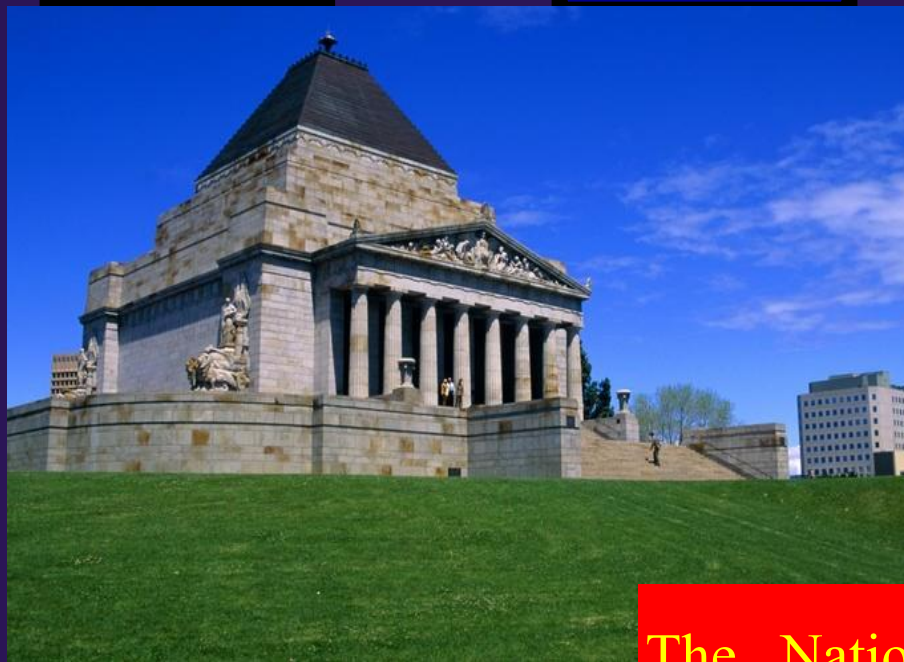
WITTEBERGEN

PIETERSBURG

6 VICTORIA CROSSES TO AUSTRALIANS

These two banners are used in Victoria by Boer War interest groups and can be seen at various related functions including the ANZAC Day march. The banner below is a copy of the one used by veterans after the Boer War. The original is now held at the Australian War Memorial.





VICTORIAN BOER WAR MEMORIAL

The National Boer War Memorial Association is grateful to the Veterans Council, Department of Premier and Cabinet for assisting with funding for this Service



We are grateful for the interest and support of:

- SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE
- CRESWICK LIGHT HORSE
- RATS OF TOBRUK MEMORIAL
- PIPES AND DRUMS
- AUSTRALIAN GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION
- HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
- SCOUTS VICTORIA
- GUIDES VICTORIA
- SALVATION ARMY

