



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

As we commemorate the 114th anniversary of the official end of the Boer War, it is a poignant time to reflect on the impact this conflict had on our nation. The Boer War holds a significant place in Australia's history as the first conflict that Australian contingents served in as Australian citizens and the first military contribution after Federation in 1901 when a joint Commonwealth contingent was raised and deployed. Moreover, we reflect on the qualities instilled in the men and women of today's Australian Defence Force that have their roots in the Boer War: courage, good humour and resilience in the face of adversity.

Today, we join others at many sites around Australia, and overseas, commemorating the end of the Boer War. Many of those who gather are descendants of Boer War veterans, reflecting on the impact that this conflict has had through generations. We will never forget the contribution of the 23,000 Australian men and women who served in South Africa. We especially remember the sacrifice of those who did not return, and think of their families, affected by their loss for many years after the war ended.

I wish the National Boer War Memorial Association members all the best for the 2016 commemorations. I commend the Association for their continuing commitment to honouring the sacrifice of Australians during the Boer War, and their efforts to ensure this important period in Australian history is properly recognised by future generations with the inspiring memorial planned for Anzac Parade.

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

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