



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

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

for Boer War Day

The Boer War is an important part of Australia's distinguished military heritage. It has now been 115 years since men and women from the Australian colonies volunteered to fight for the British against a formidable enemy, the Boer settlers.

Even before Federation, Australians involved in this hard-fought guerrilla war were displaying characteristics that would later become part of our national identity. Our mounted rifles and nurses were highly regarded for their indomitable character and skill. They were tough, they were reliable, and they were brave.

This year we particularly remember the events of May 1900, when after seven long months Australians at home rejoiced with the news of the Relief of Mafeking. It had been a decisive victory and Australians had been right there as the siege was finally brought to an end.

I commend the National Boer War Association for their commitment to honouring the service and sacrifice of Australians in the Boer War. As times passes, it becomes more important that we proudly remember their heroic deeds.