

## The Oversight ... to be Corrected

The Boer War is Australia's  
only major conflict that is not  
commemorated on  
Anzac Parade in Canberra.

The **National Boer War Memorial  
Association** is seeking support to raise  
funds to construct such a memorial  
and to identify the descendants and  
relatives of the soldiers and nurses  
who served in the war

## Further Information



<http://www.bwm.org.au/>

## Boer War Units Comprising Personnel from NSW

- The New South Wales Lancers
- The Australian Horse
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> New South Wales Mounted Rifles
- The Army Medical Corps of New South Wales (Field Hospital and Bearer Company)
- New South Wales Army Nursing Reserve
- New South Wales Imperial Bushmen
- New South Wales Citizens Bushmen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> New South Wales Imperial Bushmen
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions Australian Commonwealth Horse
- NSW Special Service Officers
- NSW Members of South African Irregular Units
- NSW Members in British Forces

*Australia  
in the  
Boer War*

*Our first Military  
Conflict as a  
Nation*

**A reminder of the  
sacrifice  
by our earliest  
Australian Veterans ...  
*for all current  
Australians.***

## About the War

The Boer War took place between 11 October 1899, when the Boer issued ultimatum to the British to withdraw its forces was rejected, and 31 May 1902, with the signing of the Peace of Vereeniging.

### ➤ The Environment:

- Men spent long periods in the saddle with few opportunities to bathe or change their clothes; lice were a constant problem.
- Temperatures ranged from relentless heat during the day to freezing cold at night

## Notable Facts

- ❖ The Boer War was the first conflict in which Australian forces were involved as a nation, as the Federal Government sent Commonwealth contingents to the war after 1901.
- ❖ Australian contribution took the form of five waves - the first, mostly from militias, the second, from bushmen, the third, imperial bushmen, then the draft contingents, and finally the Commonwealth Horse contingents.
- ❖ About 23,000 Australians served in the Boer War, nearly 1,000 Australians paid the ultimate price for their service.
- ❖ Six Australians earned Victoria Crosses, the first time any Australians were awarded this highest honour, 161 additional bravery medals were awarded.
- ❖ Australian soldiers were highly regarded by all, drawing acclamation for their horsemanship and bush skills in particular.
- ❖ Australian troops served closely alongside more than 6,000 New Zealanders, truly becoming the first ANZACs. Australians fought and died alongside men from New Zealand, Canada, Britain, and the Commonwealth.
- ❖ It was the first time that Australian women (nurses) had served their country in uniform and the first time that a woman was lost on active service.
- ❖ 43,000 horses were sent from Australia and none returned.
- ❖ When the war was over Australian school teachers, mainly women, helped build the education system of the Transvaal and Orange Free State.
- ❖ Many of the officers and NCOs in the First World War were drawn from men who fought in the Boer War.