



# National Boer War Memorial Association

Patron-in-Chief : Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

National Patron : General David Hurley AC DSC, Chief of the Defence Force

VICTORIAN COMMITTEE PO Box 2006, Blackburn South 3130

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MARCH 2012 Edition

## MEMORIAL DESIGN APPROVED



**UNVEILED**  
on March 1st  
in Canberra  
by General  
David Hurley  
Chief of the  
Defence Force

Below  
General Hurley, assisted  
by Colonel John  
Haynes OAM,  
President of the  
National Boer War  
Memorial Association,  
unveils the design for  
the new Memorial in  
Canberra

After a world wide design competition and a very long delay the design for the National Boer War Memorial has now been approved by all levels of government and on 1st March the design was unveiled by General David Hurley AC, DSC, Chief of the Defence Force.

Our Australian Forces in South Africa were almost entirely Mounted Infantry and the design will represent a Mounted Infantry Section on patrol. The MI Section, the basic unit, comprised 4 mounted men. When the enemy was encountered one was the designated horse holder for the 4 mounts while the other 3 moved forward and engaged the enemy. The horse holder often got the worst of it as he and the horses were prime targets for snipers.

The four horsemen which will make up the Memorial's main exhibit will be sculptured in bronze and will be 1.5 times life size. The emphasis is on realism and the Victorian sculptor, Louis Laumen, is just the man to produce that.



Our Boer War Volunteers have waited over a century for this recognition so let us hope that the \$3.5 million dollars does not hold up its completion for too long and our monumental history in ANZAC Parade will no longer be missing its very foundation stone. That highly conspicuous and embarrassing gap will be filled.



The Victorian Committee of the NBWMA is seeking recruits to assist with the major efforts that will be needed in the next couple of years. We especially need one or two new members with computer skills in WINDOWS - Publisher, Photoshop and Excel. If you can provide any assistance with this or other aspects of organisation and fund raising please contact our State Secretary, Bill Woolmore on 98902465.



The banners above and below are used at all Boer War Services and functions in Victoria. They will be on display at the march off point on ANZAC DAY and Boer War Day. Personal & family medals should be worn on both days.



### Boer War Veteran's Parting Words

".....as will be seen during my service, I have been hungry and tired several times. It really did me no harm though I felt it at the time - one generally does. I should not have missed this campaign for something; it has been a grand experience and should ever England require the services of Australians again to assist in keeping the flag flying, those fit should not miss the chance of gaining the experience that I have. Taking it all in all it's good fun. Of course that is if you get out of it....."

**PETITIONS : WE HAVE INCLUDED ANOTHER COPY OF THE PETITION TO PARLIAMENT WITH THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE GET IT FILLED AND RETURN A S A P.**

## RESERVE FORCES DAY

Over the weekend of 25th-27th November 2011 Peter and Diana Wilmot attended the launch of the Reserve Forces Day Council in Sydney for 2012 day activities throughout Australia. A reception was held at Parliament House on the Friday evening where we were all welcomed. Saturday afternoon followed with a parade starting from Hyde Park, led by the Lancers army band followed by 4 dressed in Boer War uniforms, the 10 Boer War descendants which were followed by association standard bearers. We marched up to Parliament House forecourt and were inspected by the Honorable Barry O'Farrell MP New South Wales Premier and Air Marshall Mark Binskin AO. Before making our way inside Parliament House for the launch of the 110th Anniversary of peace treaty which ended the Boer War on 31 May 1902. A Regimental dinner followed that night at the Royal Automobile Club. Sunday attended a meeting at Victorian Barracks in preparation the 2012 coming events, followed by a visit to the New South Wales Lancers Museum at Parramatta, which houses items from the different wars. The Boer War section has some very historical items. I met up with a number of committee members from the other states of the National Boer War Memorial Association. Congratulation to Lieutenant Colonel John Moore OAM RFD ED and his team for a well organized and enjoyable weekend. You can find links to this event on [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au)

## BOER WAR MEDALLIONS

Two magnificent medallions on lengths of QSA ribbon for wearing around the neck will soon be available. The one for descendants of Boer War veterans will be 50mm diameter and the medallion for supporters will be similar in design but will be oval in shape with the words "In Memory" instead of "Descendant".



The medallions will cost \$37.50 each and will be a valuable family heirloom. The R.F.D.C. are donating the proceeds to the National Boer War Memorial. By now you will have the Application Forms and these should be returned with the \$37.50 by April 30th or earlier.

## Promotional Merchandise (order form next page)



**Vinyl Car Sticker**  
10mm X 10mm, \$2.00 ea.



**Pens**—Maroon & Gold or Black & Gold  
\$10 each



**Metal Lapel Pin**  
25mm Diam \$2 each

WHEN ORDERING PLEASE USE FORM ON NEXT PAGE AND COMPLETE ALL DETAILS

**Queen Victoria Chocolate Tin \$25**  
It is 204mm X 60mm X 26mm and contains 8 slouch hat chocolates and a brief history of the slouch hat in the Boer War



**Attractive Wooden Plaque:** Please provide details below. The central motif can be replaced with a photo or a badge if arranged when ordering. Price \$60 (+ \$15 if photo used).  
Phone 03 98902465 for more details and order form.



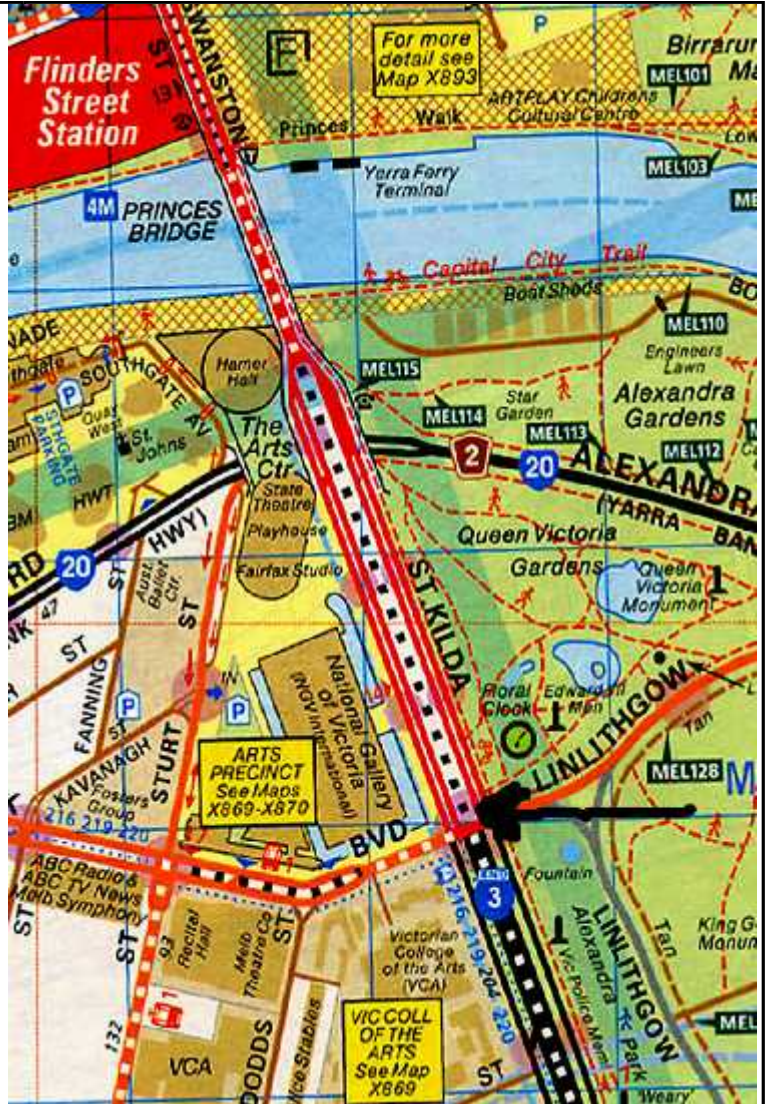
**Clear Crystal Glass Memorial—Laser Etched**  
130mm X 155mm X 30mm....Weight 880 grams  
In lined presentation case. (Image has been shown with dark background to highlight engraving. Please provide details below with order. Can be supplied without badge or with the April 1902 pattern ACH Badge instead of that shown. \$120 +PP&I \$22 in Victoria (may be slightly higher in other States).

<b>VETERAN INFORMATION</b>		<b>(Please print)</b>
Given Names .....	Surname:.....	
Rank:.....	Regimental number: .....	
Unit: .....		
Second tour if applicable		
Rank:.....	Regimental number: .....	
Unit: .....		



# ANZAC DAY

will soon be here and we will need a big turn out of Boer War descendants and supporters to march. This year the march will start further towards the Shrine. We will meet on St.Kilda Rd. just north of Linlithgow Drive. The point is indicated by the black arrow on the map and is just a comfortable walk from Flinders Street Station. Our assembly time is 8.45 a.m., to march off at about 9.07 a.m. following the Dignitaries and flags etc. in our usual position. Look for the twobanners illustrated on page 2. The Government and politicians will gauge how much community interest there is in the Boer War and the Memorial.



## SHOW THEM YOU CARE

At the conclusion of the March, those who would like to meet for a catch up chat and coffee can meet at the Boer War Memorial Jacaranda tree behind the Shrine and near the Fromelles 'COBBERS' memorial. We will then cross St. Kilda Rd. to the La Venice coffee shop at 360 St Kilda Rd.

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## BOER WAR DAY



2012 is the 110th anniversary of the signing of the Peace Treaty which ended the Boer War in 1902 and will be the theme for this year's commemoration service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 27 May 2012

## BOER WAR DAY

We had a very good turn out at the 2011 day. (See September news letter) We need you to support this day again in 2012. We will form up and march from the bottom of the Shrine forecourt Anzac Avenue to the Eternal Flame, behind a contingent of Light Horse followed by the Police Band and Boer War Banners, to where the service will be conducted. Time 11.30 am to form up for instruction on the part that you will play in the service before marching up to the Shrine for the Commemoration Service at 11.50 a.m.

Personal and family service medals should be worn.

Free coffee and biscuits will be provided for descendants and supporters and it will be an excellent opportunity to meet other Boer War friends and enthusiasts.

## RESERVE FORCES DAY :

On July 1st the Reserve Forces Day will be observed and this year will have a big Boer War theme.

LIFE ON SERVICE WITH AN AUSTRALIAN IN  
ROBERTS' HORSE (A SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIAL  
REGIMENT). EXTRACTS FROM A DIARY:

[courtesy of Pamela Hore]

On Enlisting with a South African Colonial unit: "Many blokes heeded the call for able bodied men to serve their Queen and Country. Those who volunteered often had no reason not to go to war were Royalists or saw it as a cheap way to get to South Africa and from there on to adventure. Many paid their own way; took their own money; sometimes got money from home. Most arrived in Cape Town with other men of same thoughts; horses often aboard. Men would enlist next day, have medical, be passed & assigned duties by day's end. Those who knew anything about horses trained the others; they were taught to look after the horses ahead of themselves – this may save their lives one day. 1 week in training, then 4 days probation; ½ rations immediately while still in camp. Most men had little camp experience; no assigned cook to any of the regiments so men formed groups of 4-6 and always kept a plate for a mate late to return. Many had little or no camp experience or any idea how to run one – learnt on the go."

On trek with the regiment: "Looting became necessary due to ½ rations; bartering with farmers occurred if men captured wild geese, fowls or stray pigs and cows. If a horse [was] killed in action and time allowed men would roast the horse meat. Troops could go hungry for 3-4 days and have little or no water. Rations consisted of 2½ biscuits and 1 piece of bouilli beef OR 1 biscuit, 1 pound of flour to be made into damper, 1 teaspoon of tea and/or coffee and sugar per day. Pumpkins were free and often found in the fields. Stew recipe: broken biscuits, bouilli beef, preserved veggies, curry powder boiled for ½ hour and salted to taste. Mealie meal porridge (ground maize) a standby – mealies were picked from fields. Those with an Australian bush background often assigned to ride look out, carry despatches or do picket duty due to their ability to read the land and the night sky. Tickey Beer cost 3 pence per bottle, butter 2 shillings and 6 pence per pound, small loaf 1 shilling, Apollinaris water (bottled water) 1 shilling and 6 pence. Soldiers managed to 'commandeer' Ushers OVG on occasions for those 'needy moments' – not supposed to have hard liquor, unlike CO's. If a store [was] found abandoned with food on the shelves it was looted based on soldiers existing on ½ rations or less. After major battles towns people showered men with food, drink and gifts aplenty.

Troops sometimes given ¼ pound of tobacco or Queens Chocolate after big battles. During bad weather/fighting supplies often didn't get through – looting [was necessary] again.

Soldiers sometimes felt neglected by superiors who commanded from a distance. If Boers killed in action were left on the veldt by their own they were often buried by the Australian/New Zealanders/Canadians out of respect and a sense of honour. No. 9 pill used by Army doctors for most ailments – if they ran out of these then Nos 5 or 4 had to be used. The Boer Soldiers often filled water holes with dead carcasses; also burnt [the] ground to ensure no wood or South African Coal (cow dung) [was] available to cook with. Washing of clothes and bodies infrequent. Outfitted in new clobber every now and again – gift from Lady Roberts or sent from HQ in London. When Robert's Horse soldiers came across bayonets which Boers had left behind they retrieved them and took the opportunity to learn how to use them. [Ed. These must refer to bayonets taken by the Boers from the British for the Boers were not issued with bayonets] Regularly marched on empty stomachs and 4 hours sleep a night. Our soldiers often travelled at night - Boers tended to be unsure in dark and much preferred to move carefully in the light of day."

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## TASMANIAN NEWS

Our next (June) newsletter will have Tasmanian content as we work towards a joint Victoria/Tasmania publication. Meantime this edition will also circulate in Tasmania where Boer War Day will be celebrated on the two Sundays following 31st May.

**HOBART** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at the Boer War Memorial, Queen's Domain at 12 noon. It is hoped that a plaque to the memory of Nurse Elizabeth Orr will be unveiled.

**LAUNCESTON** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon at the Boer War Memorial, City Park.