



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

*Message for Boer War Day 2015*

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The Boer War is significant in our military history and to our nation's development.

With the formation of the Australian Commonwealth on 1 January 1901, the soldiers and nurses from the Australian colonies became a unified force representing a new nation.

These men and women were the first to serve Australia in battle, and they did us proud. Their knowledge of the bush, their riding ability, exceptional shooting skills and the medical attention they provided earned them universal respect, and their loyalty to each other forged the sense of solidarity that lives with our soldiers to this day.

In a difficult war far from home, our Boer War veterans showed what it was to be an Australian. In this ANZAC centenary year, their deeds are as important and relevant as ever and they are widely regarded as the fathers of the ANZACS with many from the Boer War going on to serve in World War I.

As our nation was born, these servicemen and women were at war. We remember them for the sacrifices they made and for their contribution to our emerging nation.