

# NOVEMBER 2013 MEETING

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**Speaker: Tony Larnach-Jones**

**Topic: National Boer War Memorial**

Our November speaker, Tony Larnach-Jones, who is the Deputy National President of the National Boer War Memorial Association, presented a very enjoyable and informative talk.

Tony provided a brief background to the Boer War in South Africa between 1899 and 1902 which involved two stages. Australia's participation commenced at the outset in 1899 when Britain called upon the colonies of the British Empire to send troops to support its army in South Africa to fight the Boers who had declared war. With the aid of maps and diagrams, Tony's talk provided a valuable insight into the Boer War and the significance of Australia's contribution to this war.

Tony referred to the fact that the Boer War was the first war in which the Commonwealth of Australia fought as a nation. Overall, a total of 23,000 Australian soldiers and nurses served between 1899 and 1902. In addition, some 43,000 horses contributed to Australia's war effort. Nearly 1,000 Australians made the ultimate sacrifice in South Africa. Six Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross and 161 people received other decorations. Australians and New

Zealanders often fought beside each other in the Boer War and can be considered to be the first ANZACS. Boer War Day is commemorated throughout Australia on or about 31 May each year.

A National Boer War Memorial to honour and commemorate the 23,000 soldiers and nurses who served in South Africa between 1899 and 1902 is to be erected on a dedicated site at Anzac Parade in Canberra and a national Boer War Memorial Appeal is underway. Tony is playing a leading role in this important project. Much more can be found out about the Boer War Memorial Association at [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au).

Of particular local interest is the Memorial in MacCabe Park, Wollongong, which was erected by the citizens of Wollongong and unveiled at a public ceremony on 2nd June 1902, to commemorate the death of Trooper Frank Andrews who was killed in the Boer War at Ottoshoop in South Africa, August 1900, aged 20 years. An article about this Memorial (originally located outside the Town Hall on the corner of Crown and Kembla Streets) is contained in our IHS November/December 2013 Bulletin. **TB**