

MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL DESIGN COMPETITION OPENS

The Boer War is an important part of Australia 's national story, and one most worthy of commemoration. That's the message of the Boer War Memorial Committee.

Architects, sculptors and designers are invited to enter the National Boer War Memorial Design Competition. This opens on Wednesday, April 7. Total prize money is worth \$74,000 and the winner's work will stand forever in Anzac Parade, Canberra.

Colonel John Haynes OAM, Chairman of the Boer War Memorial Committee, said: "The Boer War is important for all Australians, past, present, and future. The Boer War Memorial will be a memorial for our generation, and for future generations of Australians. It is our heritage and our history."

The design of the memorial will acknowledge the substantial contribution made by the Australian colonies before Federation, the service of troops after Federation, and the service of the Australians who served in locally raised units in South Africa, as well as the key wartime role of the horse.

On March 1, 1901, the Australian Army was created when its soldiers were still fighting in South Africa. About 23,000 young men and women from Australia served there and nearly 1000 lost their lives. Although there are many memorials to the Boer War throughout Australia there is none in Australia 's principal military commemorative precinct, Anzac Parade in Canberra.

Fittingly held at the Duntroon Officers' Mess, the launching of the competition by the Vice Chief of the Defence Force Lieutenant General David Hurley AO DSC marks the beginning of the design phase.

It is Australia 's only major war that is not commemorated on Anzac Parade in Canberra, and importantly deserves a special place in our national commemoration. The site for the National Boer War Memorial was ceremonially dedicated on Boer War Day, May 31, 2008.

Competition registration is live on the internet until 11 May 2010 at:

www.bwm.org.au/competition

Ends

Media contact : Lincoln Hawkins lhawkins@beaconhill.net.au 0438 285855