

# Boer War Memorial



**Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association NSW Branch Inc.**  
Victoria Barracks, Building 96, 75 Oxford St, Paddington NSW 2021  
Telephone (02) 9339 3309 Fax: (02) 9339 2764  
Web: [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au) Email: [bwmone@bigpond.com](mailto:bwmone@bigpond.com)



## DESIGN BRIEF

2007

# **Boer War Memorial Design Brief**

## **Introduction**

1. This Design Brief is presented to the National Capital Authority (NCA) to set out our preferred parameters for the Boer War Memorial (BWM)

## **General**

2. The Australian participation in the Boer War (1899-1902) is not commemorated by a National Memorial in ANZAC Parade Canberra. A site for such a memorial has now been reserved.

3. The Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association (RAACA), whose members are the descendants of the troopers who comprised the majority of the Boer War soldiers, has been given the responsibility to raise funds for the construction of a suitable Memorial to all those from Australia who participated in the Boer War. This is in contrast to most of the memorials throughout Australia which commemorate only those soldiers killed in action.

4. The RAACA Federal Committee has delegated the responsibility to the NSW Branch which has established a National Boer War Memorial Committee with sub committees in all states and territories.

5. The Strategy to be followed by the Committee is detailed in the enclosed document; it covers all organisational, funding and associated aspects.

6. The design of the Memorial should be contemporary to the early twentieth century. It is intended to commemorate the personal and collective feats of courage, sacrifice and heroism of participants from Australia in the Boer War. There should not be a hint of any regrettable or negative aspect which could diminish this except for casualty statistics.

## **Physical**

7. The area allocated for the memorial is adjacent to the New Zealand Memorial on the West side. The dimensions of the site and other locality information such as utilities and surrounding landmarks should be specified by the NCA.

8. We understand that the NCA is responsible for the construction, security and maintenance of all memorials on ANZAC Parade. The involvement of other levels of government or authorities must be specified by the NCA.

## **Design Parameters**

9. The Committee wishes the centrepiece of the Memorial to be a Boer War era mounted trooper of life size or larger, holding a rifle, with the horse in an attitude of movement. Indeed the BWM in Adelaide is a perfect example of this desire. Therefore, to reduce costs the Committee would be satisfied if the mould for the Adelaide Memorial could be used for the BWM centrepiece. Anecdotal evidence is that the mould is still intact, although its whereabouts are uncertain. However, even if a mould is not found a replica of the Adelaide

Memorial could be made using modern technology. Another possibility would be to use the mould of the Perth Memorial which is also believed to be available. If either is used the concerns of copyright etc would have to be addressed.

10. If an existing Memorial is used the artist would be expected to make the National Memorial different from the Adelaide memorial by changing the plinth and pedestal, surroundings and landscaping. If the existing Statue is not used the soldier should be modelled by a serving trooper of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

11. The Memorial should portray an outlook contemporary to the Boer War era in attitude, design, finish and materials. It may be that a token piece or pieces of stone from a Boer War battlefield could be incorporated into the Memorial. There also is a possibility that Sydney sandstone may be donated for any plinth, pedestal or wall, if so the cost savings would dictate that sandstone should be used. However the weathering characteristics of sandstone may prevent its use. In that case technical advice needs to be sought. If granite is chosen Rustenburg Black Granite from South Africa should be considered, finance permitting. All other materials could be at the discretion of the artist. Other construction criteria must be provided by the NCA.

12. Participating artists should be provided with a copy of the Strategy document enclosed, which includes a summary of the Boer War History. The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra can provide details of all Boer War memorials in Australia which mostly will illustrate adherence to the Boer War era presentations required.

13. For example, the Parramatta Memorial features a broken column which was a contemporary representation of a life cut short. Many Boer War veterans are buried with similar memorials (despite dying at 80 or 90 years of age). Recent memorials on ANZAC Parade have featured walls that provide a vertical surface for displaying relief depictions, plaques and historic information. Whilst defining the memorial area, these back walls can dictate that the memorial be viewed from the front only. The use of broken columns instead of a back wall could make the memorial accessible from all directions.

14. Artists may wish to propose non-contemporary aspects that would not detract from the favoured era for the design. The intelligent and subtle use of lighting, water or sound may provide some relief to the portrayal of a war that started in the nineteenth century.

15. The memorial might be styled to reflect the nature of African fields of battle. Paving stones could be shaped like Zulu warrior shields or polished in differing textures to mimic zebra stripes or leopard spots. On the other hand it may be more appropriate to include representations of the South African veldt such as schanzes, wagons, tents etc. Instead of paving the entire allocated area, part could be of the shape of South Africa, the battle sites or areas of significance to Australia being highlighted by a subtle change in paving or diamond shaped lights. All 37 of the campaigns in which Australians served and for which ribbon clasps were issued, must be named and locations shown along with the names of all participating units specifying their Colonial State or Commonwealth origins. As a result the display of this detail may still dictate the need for a high wall as part of the Memorial.

16. Further to the above, on cast bronze plaques, there should be recognition of;

- The VC winners and perhaps other bravery awards such as DSO and DCM;
- The Lancers and Artillerymen of the Boer War being members of units which still existed more than a century after the War;
- The Medical Corps and Nurses' special achievements;

- The special relationship with New Zealand emphasised by the BWM being beside the New Zealand Memorial;
- As a low priority the King's Banners and other forces;
- Lastly if space is available and then only in an inconspicuous position, the major donors and Project principals;

17. As the Boer War was pre-mechanisation relying on horses and oxen for logistic support, a vandal resistant horse trough or troughs could be incorporated in the design, in memory of the animals, including some 38,000 horses from Australia, which suffered in this human conflict. A hand operated pump designed to appear contemporary to the Boer War could ensure vandals do not cause the memorial to waste water or become a maintenance burden.

18. There will no doubt be mandatory requirements to be specified by the NCA such as access for the disabled, provision for temporary flags and the placement of wreaths.

### **Conclusion**

19. While recognising that the NCA will decide on the final design we would be grateful if we could be consulted during the assessment phase. The BWM Committee is extremely keen to have the centrepiece of the BWM as a mounted trooper of the Boer War era. We appreciate that the final design accepted may not include any of the other parameters in this brief. However, priority must be given to inclusion of the details of Australia's service in the Boer War at the expense of any other facet which may come under consideration.

Colonel J.S.Haynes OAM (RL)  
National Chairman BWM Committee

Enclosed: Strategy Document