



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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PREMIER LAUNCHES RESERVE FORCES DAY EVENTS

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced that next year's Reserve Forces Day will give special recognition to those Reservists who served in the Boer War.

Mr O'Farrell officially launched Reserve Forces Day 2012 after reviewing a parade of Reservists from Hyde Park to NSW Parliament - including descendants of Boer War veterans.

"This is important recognition of the 516 young Australians who lost their lives in the Boer War and to reflect upon the fact that soldiers were dying when our nation was formed," Mr O'Farrell said.

"This history will be celebrated in 2012 – a year that will mark the 110th anniversary of the end of the Boer War.

"The first Reservists to answer the call came from New South Wales – with the NSW Lancers applying their bush skills and ingenuity in combat.

"On the 19th of November in 1899, the New South Wales Lancers took to the battlefields of Belmont and since that day they have served our nation and our State with honour and skill.

"One such example was Captain Neville Howse of the New South Wales Army Medical Corps, who was awarded Australia's first Victoria Cross.

"Since its inception in 1998, Reserve Forces Day has been used to recognise the selfless contribution made by Defence Forces Reservists and to thank the families and employers who have encouraged their service.

"I am pleased to launch Reserve Forces Day 2012, with special recognition to be given to those who served in the Boer War.

"I wish the Reserve Forces Day Councils throughout NSW and Australia successful celebrations," Mr O'Farrell said.

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