

## Black Rose Media



### RE: The Inclusion of Harry Morant on the Adelaide War Memorial

I would like to add my voice to the chorus in support of the proposal to include the name Harry Harbord Morant to the Adelaide War Memorial. Morant signed up as a volunteer in the South Australian Mounted Rifles in Adelaide in 1899 and sailed for South Africa with the Second Contingent at the turn of the year. Therefore, it follows that he is entitled, according to all established conventions, to be included on the memorial.

Given the headlines surrounding both his departure and the news of his execution I cannot imagine why his name was not included when the memorial was unveiled in 1904. Perhaps it was a political decision, given the controversy surrounding the execution and the campaign that followed, but that should not have come into it as *the purpose of these memorials is to recognise service*.

As the author of the bestselling book *Shoot Straight You Bastards! – The Truth Behind the Killing of Breaker Morant* and the writer/ director of *The Retrial of the Breaker* History Channel documentary series, I am of the strong belief that Morant, Handcock and Witton did not get a fair trial and should not have been punished alone. There is clear documentary evidence that British officers - right up to Lord Kitchener – were equally as culpable so in 2023 politics or history should not be an impediment – if they ever were.

I sincerely hope that the council and can bring this unfortunate chapter to a speedy and humane conclusion as the relatives of Morant have been denied this consideration for far too long - especially as his name already resides on War Memorials in Canberra and Renmark.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Bleszynski".

Nick Bleszynski  
author/ film-maker

Ms Anne B Morant

17 July 2024

Hon Dr Jane Lomax-Smith  
The Right Honourable,  
Lord Mayor City of Adelaide

### **The inclusion of Sergeant Harry 'Breaker' Harbord Morant on the Adelaide Boer War Memorial**

I am writing in support of the application by my sister, Ms Cathie Morant, seeking to include the name of Harry Harbord Morant on the Boer War Memorial on North Terrace, Adelaide.

I understand a thorough heritage assessment has been completed by the Department of the Environment & Water and approval given for the inclusion of a name plate bearing Harry Morant's name to be placed on the step of the Memorial and an interpretative panel located near the Memorial.

Our family's ongoing interest in the matter arises from a history of distinguished military service by our forefathers. In particular: our great great grandfather, Colonel Charles Morant, who served in the Madras Cavalry; our grandfather, Commander Ernard L Morant, twice commended for bravery in the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli landings; and our father, Group Captain Roy A L Morant, OBE, a WWII RAF spitfire pilot.

From the late 1800s Colonel Morant was an active pioneer in the development of fruit growing blocks in Renmark, South Australia (SA). The then infamous "Breaker" Morant occasionally stayed at the family property and corresponded with the Colonel over many years. A daughter of Colonel Morant prior to her death confirmed with Cathie that Colonel Morant had acknowledged the Breaker as a Morant, and that he was a distant cousin.

Based on the detailed rationale set out in Cathie's application and separate letter of support from my other sister, Elizabeth Morant, dated 3rd May 2024, I am also a strong family advocate for the inclusion of Harry Morant's name on the Adelaide Memorial. Compelling arguments are based on the facts that Harry Morant was a volunteer with the SA Mounted Rifles contingent, he had an unblemished service, he was promoted to Sergeant, was commended by his Commanding Officer and his service recognised on the Boer War Memorials in both Canberra and Renmark.

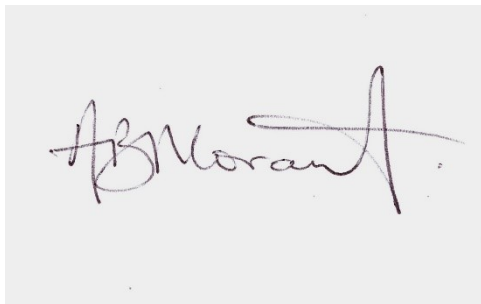
I also understand the details of about twenty-two other men who served as South Australian volunteers are yet to be acknowledged. This may be a matter that Council and South Australian RSL could collaborate and provide a fitting solution so they are recognised and provide an important and fitting testament for the families of these men.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our family's appreciation of Mr James Unkles' long-term personal commitment and advocacy in representing the interests of the Morant family in this regard. I also support his broader proposal for the design of a separate supporting a free-standing panel near the Memorial to highlight the history of South Australia and the contingent's involvement in the Boer War and the reason for Harry Morant's inclusion on the Memorial.

Given the limited general public knowledge about the Boer War, the addition of the name plate and a free standing panel would be in the public interest in understanding South Australia's history of the Boer war. These additions will enhance the completeness and understanding of what is a very impressive historical Monument.

I have requested Mr Unkles forward this letter on to your office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "AB Morant". The initials "AB" are written in a larger, more prominent font than the surname "Morant".

Anne B Morant



The Hon  
**ALEX HAWKE** MP  
Federal Member for Mitchell



12 January 2023

City of Adelaide Council  
25 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

To Whom It May Concern,

INCLUSION OF LIEUTENANT H.H. MORANT ON THE ADELAIDE BOER WAR MEMORIAL

On behalf of the descendants of Lieutenant Henry Harbord Morant, also known as 'Breaker Morant', I write to request the inclusion of Lt. Morant's name on the Boer War Memorial in Adelaide, South Australia.

Lt. Morant was a notable figure in the Boer War. He served with distinction in the 2nd Contingent, South Australian Mounted Rifles, first as a dispatch rider and later working with the British war correspondent, Bennett Burleigh. His service to his country and his fellow soldiers was commendable and has left a lasting impression on the Australian public.

Despite the controversy surrounding his actions during the war, Lt. Morant is considered a folk hero by many Australians. His story, his poetry, and his larger-than-life persona have become an integral part of our national narrative. I believe that his name deserves a place on the Boer War Memorial as a testament to his service and his impact on Australian history.

It is my understanding that Adelaide City Council has been assessing this application for over two years and appreciate the thoroughness with which the request is approached. On behalf of Lt. Morant descendants, we are hopeful that a decision will be reached soon. I believe that the inclusion of Lt. Morant's name on the memorial would be a fitting tribute to his service to South Australia.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and I look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,

**The Hon Alex Hawke MP**  
**Federal Member for Mitchell**



[Redacted email address]



alexhawkempmitchell



alexhawkempp

[Redacted address line 1]

[Redacted address line 2]

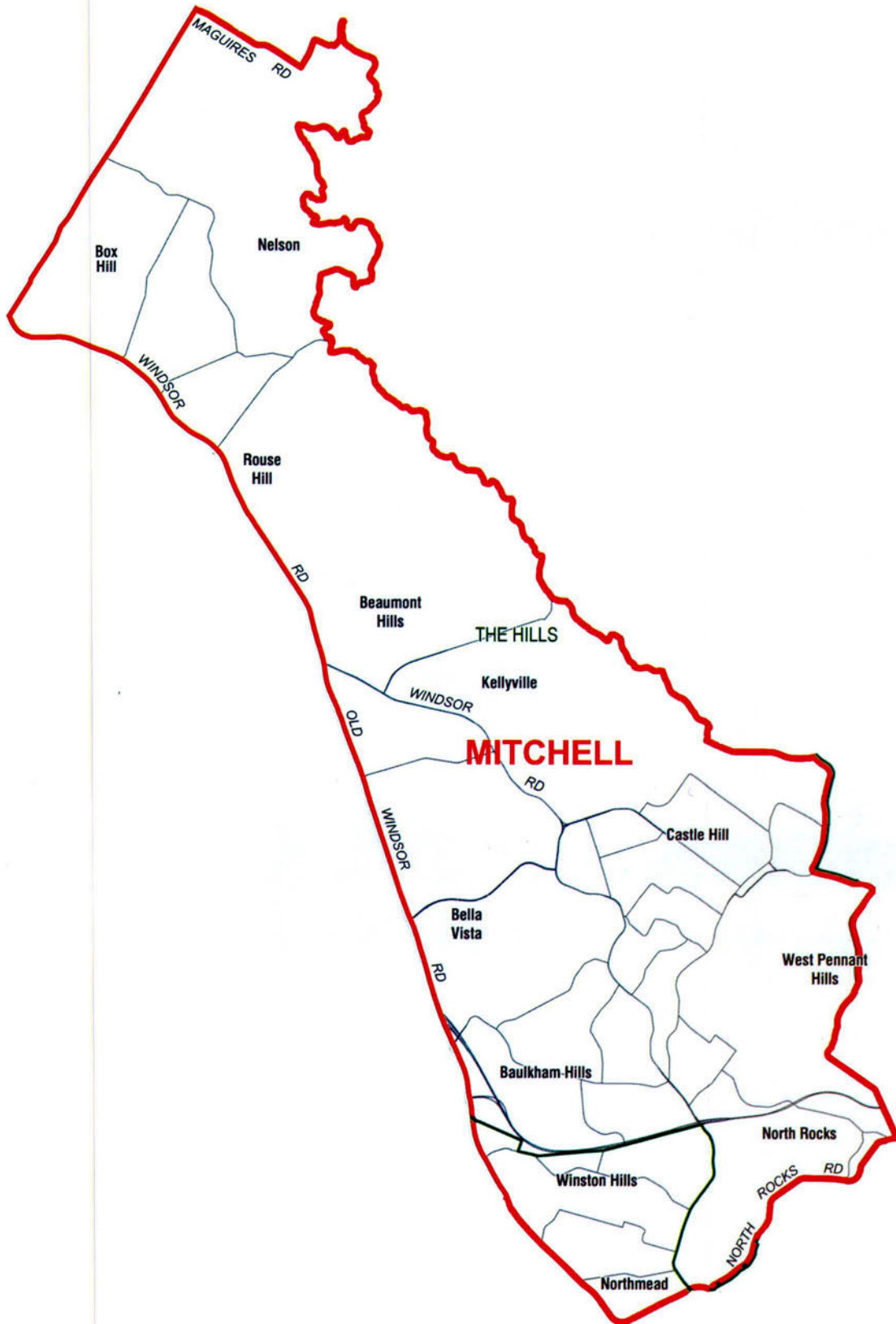
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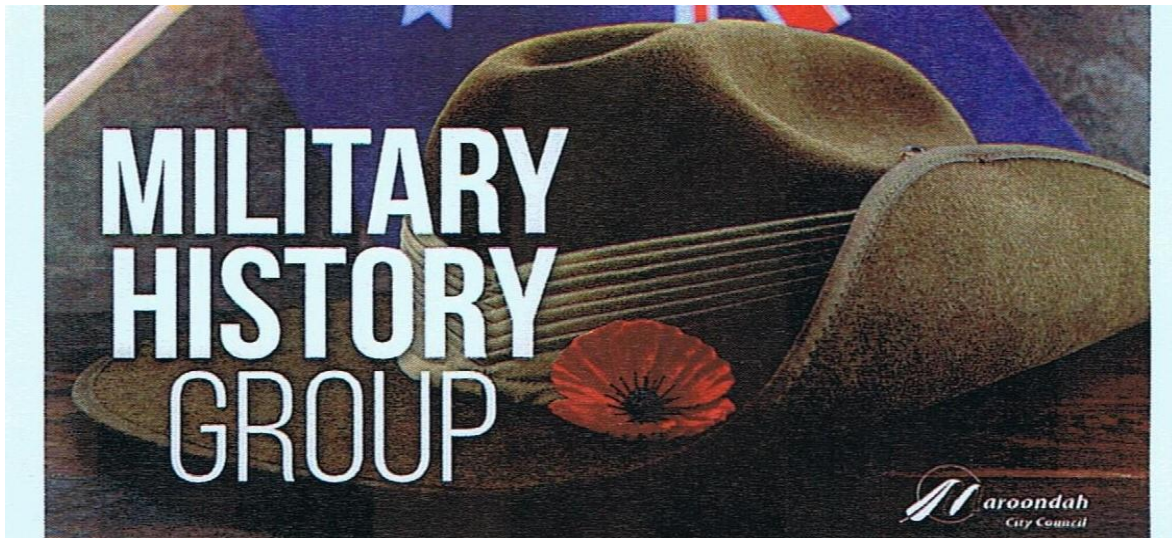


# The Electorate of MITCHELL

Representing the communities of:

Baulkham Hills, Beaumont Hills, Bella Vista, Box Hill, Castle Hill, Kellyville, Nelson, Northmead, North Rocks, Old Toongabbie, Rouse Hill, Winston Hills and West Pennant Hills.





**Meetings are at the CROYDON R S L at 2pm on a Thursday Afternoon.**

**2023 Dates: Feb 23, April 27, June 29, August 31, October 26, December 7**

## **Application by Cathie Morant to have the name of Harry Morant included on the Boer War Memorial in Adelaide**

I write on behalf of the Croydon Military History Group in Melbourne. The group has met six times a year for nearly twenty years and comprises a learned group of historians, authors, researchers and ex-service people.

The application by Cathie Morant to have the name of her relative included on the Boer War Memorial was discussed at length by the 32 group members in attendance at our meeting on October 26.

There are actually a few in the group who are not keen on the current push to have Morant pardoned (or at least re-tried) in respect of his later deeds while serving in the British contingent of the Bushveldt Carbineers, but the overwhelming opinion of the group was that these later actions in a different unit are certainly irrelevant to his recognition as a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Australian Mounted Rifles.

Apparently the Memorial was erected in 1904 from an imperfect set of records and it would seem simply fair and reasonable that any recent discovery of the names of any more men who served for South Australia should be added.

If there is any logic in leaving off the name of someone like Harry Morant because of later actions, then the ridiculous extension of that logic is that all the details of all the currently recognised men should be studied. Those who led a blameless life could then be retained, and all the others removed!

One aspect of later and more careful historical research is that it creates a chance to right wrongs and to remedy omissions, either in records or publications or memorials. In this case it would be quite wrong not to add all the names that have come to light, and that certainly includes the name of Harry Morant.

Regards John Howell

*John Howell*

Convenor of the Croydon Military History Group 20/11/23

**Bronwyne AUGUST (Thomason) PhD**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5 October 2023

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide  
Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM  
City of Adelaide  
GPO Box 2252  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

RE: ADELAIDE BOER WAR MEMORIAL – LEUTENANT H. H. MORANT

I write to lend my support as an advocate for fair justice for Australians who fought on behalf of our beautiful country. In 2014 I completed my PhD with Deakin University about Australian male identity, specifically in relation to H. H. Morant and his friends at *The Bulletin*. I found that, although Morant was a larrikin, a braggart, and cheeky bugger, he represented the epitome of what it meant to be an Australian man at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He fought for us under horrible conditions in the Boer War alongside his fellow Australians. They were a community and they cared deeply for each other. Even those such as A. B. Patterson, who were unable to join the forces went to war anyway. Australian men, to this day, carry within them the remnants of *The Bulletin* men, the benchmark and idol of whom was Harry Morant.

When he died, *The Bulletin* mourned and was flooded with stories of Morant's escapades and heroics. They loved him and looked up to him as a poet, a character, and most importantly as a friend.

Whilst the circumstances of his court martial continues to be under discussion and may never be truly resolved, the fact remains that H. H. Morant fought bravely and lost his life to war.

For his gallant and commended services in the Boer War with the Colonial unit, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Mounted Rifles in South Africa I strongly believe that H. H. Morant deserves to be remembered in the same way as his mates.

It would be a great service of justice to remember him, and include his name on the on the Boer War Memorial in Adelaide.

Yours sincerely,



Dr B J August

Gerard Nash

To: [REDACTED]  
16 Oct 2023

Dear Jim,  
Please pass this on to the relevant authority.

Lieutenant Harry Morant served as a loyal, dedicated officer in the South Australian contingent of volunteers who fought in the Boer War.

Subsequently he served in another unit, "the Bushveldt Carbineers".

For his service in the latter unit, he was rewarded with dishonour and execution, because he obeyed orders.

Some years ago, when I was Dean of Monash Law School, I had occasion to examine a number of trials where justice had miscarried. Lieutenant Morant's trial was one of them. I am satisfied that his trial miscarried, both because he was denied an opportunity to call witnesses in his defence and because his impugned actions were carried out in accordance with express orders emanating from Lord Kitchener. The trial was a travesty and the charge unjustified

Irrespective of the validity or honesty of that trial, Lieutenant Morant's unblemished service with the South Australian contingent justifies, and logically requires, the inclusion of his name on the memorial to the South Australian volunteers.

Gerard Nash KC





Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**RE: The Inclusion of Harry Morant on the Adelaide War Memorial**

I would like to add Renmark Paringa Council's support of the proposal to include the name Harry Harbord Morant to the Adelaide War Memorial.

Morant signed up as a volunteer in the South Australian Mounted Rifles in Adelaide in 1899 and sailed for South Africa with the Second Contingent at the turn of the year. Therefore, it follows that he is entitled, according to all established conventions, to be included on the memorial.

His service was unblemished, he was commended by his Commanding officer and promoted to Sergeant. In his subsequent service with a British Contingent, the Bushveldt Carbineers (over 12 months later) he was executed for war crimes.

We are not asking for his service to the Bushveldt Carbineers to be recognised. His service for South Australia in the war is distinct, separated by time, having served in a Colonial Contingent as opposed to a British Contingent in 1902.

We sincerely hope that you can bring this unfortunate chapter to a speedy and humane conclusion as the relatives of Morant have been denied this consideration for far too long - especially as his name already resides on War Memorials in Canberra and Renmark.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hunter  
Mayor  
Renmark Paringa Council



## BOER WAR MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF WA Inc.

[www.boerwarwa.org.au](http://www.boerwarwa.org.au)

1899



1902

*Spectemur Agendo*  
(Let us be judged by our acts)

13 September 2021

To whom it may concern,

### **Re: Inclusion of Lieutenant H.H. Morant on the Adelaide Boer War Memorial**

The Boer War Memorial Society of Western Australia Inc. (BWMSWA) is established to promote the preservation of the South African War Memorial in Kings Park in Perth and the education of all Australians about Australia's involvement in, and commitment to, the Boer War of 1899-1902.

To this end the Society supports the inclusion of Lieutenant H.H. Morant's name on the Adelaide Boer War Memorial. We recognise that Lieutenant Morant was executed as a result of his actions in the service of a locally raised (South African) unit, however, he rendered efficient and valuable service as a member of South Australia's second contingent and should therefore be memorialised accordingly.

Yours sincerely

*Brendan Cook*

Brendan Cook  
President, Boer War Memorial Society of WA Inc.



# PHILLIP THOMPSON OAM MP

Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence  
Federal Member for Herbert

19 September 2023

## **RE: INCLUSION OF LIEUTENANT HARRY MORANT ON THE ADELAIDE BOER WAR MEMORIAL**

I write to support the request to have Lieutenant Harry Morant included on the Adelaide Boer War Memorial.

Lieutenant Harry Morant rendered valuable service as a member of South Australia's second contingent, he served in South Australia with distinction and without military or civil infractions. Lieutenant Harry Morant was promoted to Sergeant and was commended by his Commanding Officer.

Lieutenant Harry Morant's service with the Bushveld Carbineers was after his service with the South Australian Contingent.

War Memorials are an important part of Australia's heritage. They honour those who have paid the supreme sacrifice. The Boer War Memorial Society of Western Australia Inc. is established to promote the preservation of the South African War Memorial in Kings Park in Perth and the education of all Australians about Australia's involvement in, and commitment to, the Boer War of 1899-1902.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Thompson'.

**Phillip Thompson OAM MP**  
**Member for Herbert**  
**Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence**



Boer War Memorial Society of WA Inc | [REDACTED]

Web: [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au) | [REDACTED]

**The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide  
Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM  
City of Adelaide**

**Inclusion of Lieutenant H.H. 'BREAKER' MORANT on Adelaide Boer War Memorial**

Dear Jane,

I am writing on behalf of the Boer War Memorial Society of Western Australia Inc. (BWMSWA), an organisation dedicated to commemorating, preserving, and educating about Australia's involvement in the Boer War of 1899-1902. Our mission encompasses the physical preservation of memorials significant to this historic conflict and the broader remit of ensuring that future generations understand Australia's role and the valour demonstrated by Australians during this period.

Central to our commemorative efforts is an acknowledgment of the complex nature of war and the individuals who, amidst such complexities, served with noteworthy distinction. In this context, we write to advocate for including Lieutenant Harry "Breaker" Morant's name in the distinguished Adelaide Boer War Memorial.

Lieutenant Morant's tenure and actions while serving with a locally raised unit in South Africa have been a subject of considerable historical scrutiny and debate. Executed for his alleged actions during the war, his story is a stark reminder of the harsh realities and moral challenges faced by those who served. However, it is also crucial to recall that Lieutenant Morant rendered efficient and valuable service to South Australia as part of its second contingent. His commitment to his duties and the skills he brought to his role align with the qualities we seek to honour in our memorials.

We recognise that the inclusion of Lieutenant Morant's name may evoke a range of emotions and viewpoints. However, acknowledging his service is not an endorsement of all actions taken but rather a recognition of his participation and sacrifice as part of the Australian contingent. We believe memorials serve as tributes and instruments of education, prompting reflection, discussion, and a deeper understanding of history's complexities.

Thus, the BWMSWA respectfully requests that the committee consider including Lieutenant H.H. Morant's name on the Adelaide Boer War Memorial. Such an action would be a significant step toward a comprehensive and inclusive acknowledgment of all Australians



who served during the Boer War, reflecting the nuanced nature of historical memory and the importance of remembrance.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and are available to provide further information or discuss this matter in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Thomas', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. A long horizontal line extends from the right side of the oval.

David Thomas  
**President**  
BWMS WA Inc

Cc:

Paul Papalia  
Hon. Paul Papalia CSC, MLA  
GradDipBusAdmin  
Minister for Police; Corrective Services; Racing and Gaming; Defence Industry; Veterans  
Issues  
Member for Warnbro

**Re the proposal to include the name of LT Harry Harbord Morant on the Boer War Memorial North Terrace Adelaide**

I am pleased to support the above proposal. I do so having had a longterm interest in this matter.

Much of the production of the film "*Breaker Morant*" was filmed in the then SA Film Corporation studios on Norwood Parade, Norwood SA. In 1979 I had recently been elected as the State MP for the electorate of Norwood and my office was a few doors away from the film studios.

Lewis Fitzgerald who played the role of George Witton in the film visited me and asked if I would take an interest in the South Australian, Morant and his trial and execution by a British military battlefield tribunal. Fitzgerald said that he had read extensively on this topic and believed that Harry Morant, Peter Handcock and George Witton were wrongly convicted and their cause should be further reviewed and brought to public attention. He said his fellow cast members felt similarly.

I did my own research and in due course spent many years advocating for the acknowledgement of Morant's service on the Boer War memorial in Adelaide. A sad story evolved of resistance to this request despite Morant's name being recognised at the National War Memorial in Canberra and Peter Handcock's name being placed on the Boer War memorial in his hometown of Bathurst. I received heartfelt representations from both the families of Morant and Witton. Eventually I withdrew from public advocacy because of the emotional distress caused to the families and those closely involved in this cause each time it was raised in the public domain and the authorities simply pigeonholed the pleas and their hopes dashed.

I trust that the brief so carefully prepared by Mr James Uncles on behalf of the Morant family will shed new light on the purpose of a public war memorial, the importance of the memorial containing accurate information and names, and the duty of authorities vested with the care, maintenance and ongoing responsibility for such memorials to listen to the cries of the families of their forebears who gave their lives for King and Country.

Yours sincerely



Hon Greg Crafter AO

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██████████  
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# MIS32958 Breaker Morant Interpretive Sign - Memorial



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# South Australia's History in the Anglo Boer War

The Boer War, also known as the second South African War took place from 11 October 1899 to 31 May 1902. It was a battle between Dutch-Afrikaner (Boer) settlers and Britain and her colonies. It was the first war in which South Australians fought overseas. It is also the first war in which South Australian women served as nurses.

It was a conflict between British colonists and Dutch-Afrikaner settlers, known as Boers. The two had co-existed in South Africa with separate republics since British acquisition of land during the Napoleonic wars. Throughout the nineteenth century tensions mounted.

The Boers wished to maintain independence and saw British Imperial ambition as threatening gold and diamond discoveries in Boer



2nd South Australian Mounted Rifles training in Adelaide, prior to deployment to South Africa, early 1900. (Harry Morant third from left).

territories and this led to influxes of British settlers and Britain felt the Empire's interests and the rights of British citizens should be protected.

Australians fought as members of the British Empire. It was a harsh war in an unforgiving continent. Disease, exhaustion and starvation were endured by both sides and the medical teams that cared for them. Those who survived often had to live with the legacy of illness. Many Australians were killed in action and many more were killed by disease, accident and unknown causes.

## South Australian Contingents

On 5 October 1899, the Premier of South Australia, Charles Cameron Kingston, sought the Parliament's approval for a proposal to equip and dispatch a contingent of 125 South Australian volunteers to aid the British war effort in South Africa.

Out of approximately 16,000 Australians, nine contingents comprising 1631 South Australian men served in the Boer War. Six contingents sailed from Port Adelaide and three Australian contingents included some South Australians. Up to 1610 horses went with these men. In addition, some South Australians also served as colonial troops, having paid their own way to South Africa or already present in the region.

The South Australian (Citizen) Bushmen's Corps took pride of place amongst the South Australian contingents. There were three contingents of the Imperial Bushmen and two of the Mounted Rifles.

After September 1900, by which time the war had become mainly a guerrilla conflict, Australian troops were deployed in sweeping the countryside and enforcing the British policy of cutting the Boer guerrillas off from the support of their farms and families. This meant the destruction of Boer farms, the confiscation of horses, cattle and wagons, and the rounding up of the inhabitants, usually women and



2nd South Australian (Mounted Rifles) Contingent, non-commissioned officers. (Corporal Harry Morant front row, second from left).

children. These civilian captives were taken to concentration camps where, weakened by malnutrition, thousands died of contagious diseases.

At least 59 South Australians were killed in action. A further 16 died in connection with the war, while another four died in training or on their return to Australia.

## Why has 'Breaker' Morant been included on the Memorial?

Harry 'Breaker' Morant's inclusion of the Memorial after 122 years is in recognition of his loyal and unblemished service to South Australia. He represents all the South Australian volunteers who served, including those who died in combat and after the war ended in May 1902.

Harry 'Breaker' Morant was a citizen soldier who served with the 2nd South Australian (Mounted Rifles) Contingent from 1899. During his service he was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant and was



Harry Harbord Morant, better known as Breaker Morant, was an English horseman, bush balladist and military officer.

commended by his Commanding Officer for his loyal service without military or civilian infractions.

Following his service to South Australia, he served from April 1901 as a Lieutenant with a British Contingent, the Bushveldt Carabineers. He was executed along with his co accused Lieutenant Peter Handcock on 27th February 1902 for acting under lawful orders of reprisal in



NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST





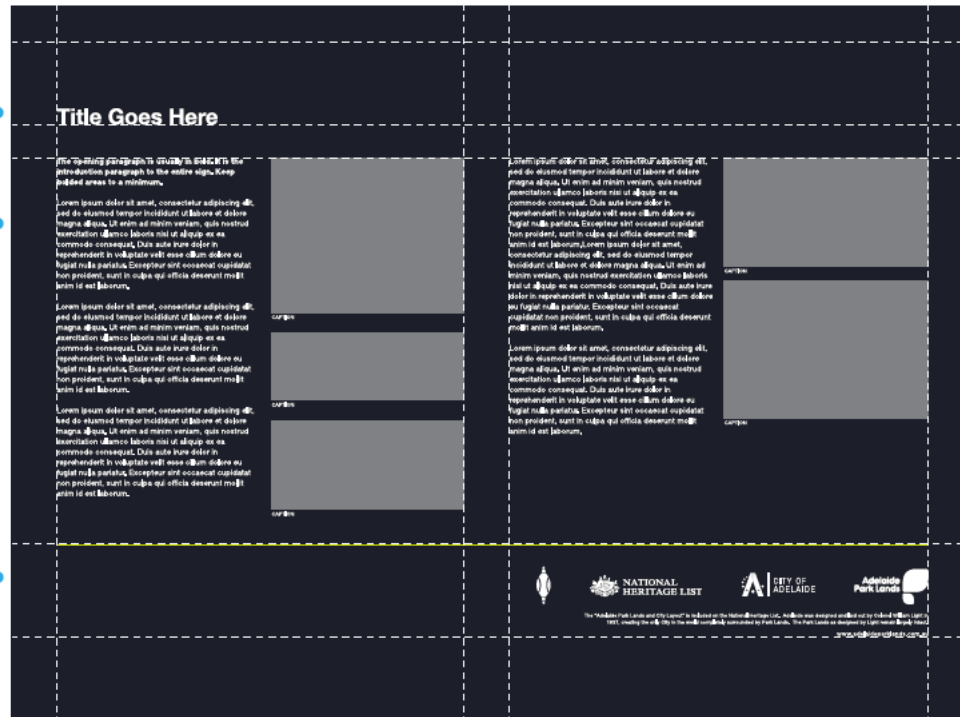


MIS32958 Breaker Morant Interpretive Sign Style

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 Leading 60pt

**Body Text**  
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 Leading 26pt  
 Body text  
 Helvetica Neue Roman 20pt  
 Leading 26pt

**Logos**  
 Kaurna Shield 12 x 33mm  
 National Heritage List 99 x 19mm  
 City of Adelaide 64.7 x 20mm  
 Adelaide Park Lands 65 x 30.9mm  
 Text  
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 Leading 17pt  
 Website  
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 Leading 18pt





## Handing over the Memorial.

The chairman of the fund (Hon. G. Brookman) formally handed over the statue to the mayor, as representing the city of Adelaide. He said:—Your Excellency, ladies, and gentlemen—We have met to-day to do homage to the memory of the brave men who gave their lives in South Africa, and to do honor to those valiant soldiers who rendered such distinguished service to the Empire. This statue is symbolical of the loyalty that unites Australia to the motherland. We rejoice to-day that our nation is at peace, but no citizen or stranger will be able to look on this emblem without realising that the foe that strikes at England must in future reckon with Australia. All sections of the community contributed towards the raising of this noble statue, which may therefore be regarded as a national memorial. The committee feel that in every respect it is worthy of the people of South Australia, and a triumph for the artist, Captain Adrian Jones. Your worship—On behalf of the subscribers and in the name of the committee of management, it is my pleasing duty to ask your acceptance of this statue for the citizens of Adelaide. (Cheers.)

## The Gift Accepted.

The Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. L. Cohen, M.P.), in accepting the gift, said:—Your Excellency, your Honor, My Lord Bishop, Mr. Brookman, ladies and gentlemen—The presentation which has to-day been made to the city of Adelaide might very well be said to mark another epoch in the history of South Australia. (Cheers.) We have indeed assembled here to-day to do honor to the brave and noble sons of South Australia, who responded to the call of patriotism, and laid down their lives in the interests and for the defence of the Empire. (Cheers.) I have had occasion before to say—and I am sure that it is even more manifest to-day—that in accepting this magnificent monument, as the City Council do, on behalf of the citizens of Adelaide, we do not accept it merely and simply because it will adorn the city. (Hear, hear.) We accept it because of the reverence felt for the noble sons of South Australia—whose names we desire shall ever remain green—for their patriotism, their loyalty, and their duty to the Empire. (Cheers.) On behalf of the corporation of the city of Adelaide, and on account of the citizens, I accept this monument. (Cheers.)



