



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

## MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

### RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE 2012

Trooper Victor Stanley Jones was described by his brother as “a fine young man ... who at the first announcement of sending a Queensland contingent to South Africa gave up a good position, home and friends to fight for his Queen and country.”

Eleven decades after the end of the Second Boer War, a war in which Trooper Jones was the first of over 500 young Australians to lose their lives, we honour the sacrifices made by those who fought and pay tribute to the fine tradition of reserve service which they forged.

The strength of this tradition is embodied in the invaluable contributions which Reservists made during recent natural disasters in Queensland and Victoria and which they currently make to military and peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands and East Timor.

On Reserve Forces Day, we recognise the service of men and women who devote their time and skills to secure our freedom and serve our nation’s interests. Reservists served with distinction as our nation was being formed and they continue to display selfless commitment to public duty to this day.

On behalf of the Government and people of Australia I thank our Reservists for their bravery and sacrifice, and express my gratitude to the Reserve Forces Day Council for its dedication to ensuring that the work of Reservists continues to be recognised and held in high regard.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julia Gillard'.

The Honourable Julia Gillard  
Prime Minister of Australia