

# THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA



AMOSA

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## THE MANAGER'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone associated with our Museum for your contribution this year which has seen our visitors increase and the days we are open for ADF members and the public to visit being more frequent. Our commitment to always providing the best service available to those who seek our help has been the subject of much favourable comment throughout the year. Whenever you have time have a look through the pages of our visitors book which is the foyer of Building 76. It is one random measure which indicates how our customers feel about us. 2012 will be a year of consolidation as we review and refine our systems and procedures.

Governance issues will be at the forefront with the universal Federal work place legislation commencing on 1 Jan 12. It will apply to ALL jurisdictions. Our new security system will be phased in during the first quarter of the year. It will be a once only card issue which will take away the need (and time wasting) of having a card renewed each year. We are a unique lot at the Army Museum of South Australia bonded by a common purpose. Indeed it is the sum of all our efforts that produces the positive results we enjoy by being part

of the Museum Team. For almost twenty years Paul Longstaff has been in the AMOSA engine room heading up the Archives Team and providing research, advice and leadership to the Board and Museum Manager on all aspects of Museum functioning. His Reserve service and lifetime work as an educator equipped him admirably for the role. At the November 2011 Foundation Board meeting Paul tendered his resignation as a Director. Thank you Paul for your enormous contribution to the structure and fabric of AMOSA. To all Museum members and their loved ones have a safe and joyous festive season. If you are having one enjoy your break. The Museum will not be open on Christmas Day or New Years Day but in all other aspects it will be business as usual.

**Merry Christmas everyone for 2011.**

Barry Willoughby  
Manager AMOSA



Major Barry Willoughby  
Manager of AMOSA

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### Special points of interest:

- Digger says 'Don't blame me ...
- Is the trooper back on his horse after the Battle of Beersheba?

## MUSEUM SPONSORS & DONATIONS

We are looking to increase our sponsors for various objects and exhibits within the Museum. We are interested in memorabilia that can be donated to the Museum to enhance our collection. We are also looking for funds to buy or restore new exhibits. We currently have plans for the acquisition of a Bren Gun Carrier produced at the Islington Workshops and the restoration of a WW1 Cooker. Please let us know if you can contribute towards their acquisition or restoration.

## BREAKER MORANT....

Once again the cries of "Morant is innocent". The people who say so must find it ironic that the charge on which Morant and Hancock were found innocent, it can be shown that they were guilty. That is the killing of the missionary, Pastor Hesse.. In a letter dated 21 Oct 1929, Wilton wrote to Thomas, the defence at the trail. "Personally I think the attitude you take in regard to Morant and Hancock is not the right one. I am inclined to think that neither of them took you into their confidence over that case. Up to the time of the Court of Enquiry when I was charged with complicity in his



Article by Don W Pedler, noted Boer War specialist at the Army Museum

death I had no more knowledge of how Hesse came by his death than the babe unborn nor did I have at any time the slightest suspicion that Morant or Hancock was connected with it. It staggered me at the time but my statement in reply I think cleared me of that count at the enquiry. Subsequently when we were allowed to see each other Morant told me that Hancock had broken down and confessed to everything including shooting Hesse. I saw Hancock shortly afterwards and asked him about the Hesse business.

He said "Why, wasn't you standing beside Morant when he asked me if I was game to follow the missionary and wipe him out?"

"I had been with them up to the time Morant returned from interviewing Hesse when he drove past the fort. I left them there and went to my tent and did not see them again until they came in to dinner about 7 o'clock. I believe Morant got Hancock to deny his previous statement in which he had made "a clean breast of everything" and they got to work to frame up an alibi which you know was successful and the means of their acquittal. The shooting of Hesse was a premeditated and most cold blooded affair. Hancock with his own lips described it all to me. Morant and Hancock being acquitted, my lips were sealed." So in the words of a man best placed to know, Morant and Hancock were guilty of murder and perjury. How much reliance can we place on other evidence given or claims made by them?



Don W. Pedler  
Historian, AMOSA

## DIGGER'S REPORT



When I walk around Keswick with the guides and staff on Sundays I cannot help but notice the amount of change which has happened just this year at the Museum. New cabinets and work in the Museum. The Keswick Barracks Heritage Walk (KBHW) has had just under one hundred complete the five plinths journey. Regarding the walk I would like to clear my name regarding the plinths and dispel any rumours or innuendos being put about by Neil Wilson, Jeff Ayles, Peter Collins or John Claxton. I did not and have not "christened" the five plinths as it has been alleged. I did to the one adjacent to the tennis courts but that was in the line of duty as some civvy dog had wandered into the Barracks and was heading towards it. I beat him to it. What would the quartet be saying if any riffraff cocked their leg on our plinths? With my mate Daisy

I have been doing special training with the "Scholars in Collars" training group. From what we hear its a bit like going to college for your secondary schooling. We should be able to give you a progress report on the school's activities next year. Talking about next year if Nick and the Board give the thumbs up Daisy will join us at the Museum as it's female ambassador. Apparently some people have ordered Daisy Dogs already so that they have a pigeon pair, one of me and one of her. Its good to see the money from the sales helping Patto's Foundation Bank accounts. We had a moving Remembrance Day at the Adelaide Convention Centre. About 600 were there. Civvies they were involved in seminar on oral health. They all stopped when Hagen (Amtsberg), Baz, Jim Love playing his bagpipes and I walked in all dressed in our polys. At the short ceremony I laid a

wreath at the base of the Australian flag and as I looked around I saw a lot of men and women crying in response to what Baz said when he talked of the 60,000 lost Australians from WW1 and of the 275,000 Australian horses that were deployed during that war one (Sandy) home. You could have heard a pin drop. I have made a lot of friends at the Museum and love helping out in any way that I can to help raise the profile of our special place. Plenty of bones and water to your household pets over the holiday season. Merry Christmas and a happy new year.



*pawed' Digger*



**DIGGER:** The Exhibitor's new columnist

# FROM THE FREEMAN/GRAY ROOM—MEDAL NEWS



Thank you once again to Roger Freeman for his donations and also for the people that having seen the Gallery at his request have also donated some excellent groups of medals. We have had Light Horse Regiment WW1 trios and pairs donated by the

public after seeing and hearing about our display and are on show in the medal room with story boards on the soldiers. Jeff Ayles and Keven Draper are in discussion preparing to show/display a South Australian/Pilot group who was killed in action with his crew while being attached to the RAF Coastal Command flying Short Sutherlands searching for submarines hunting Allied shipping, his group of medals includes the Atlantic Star which is scarce among Australian decorations. With this group a Short Sutherland Flying Boat model is being made by Ron fleet, a long time volunteer with the Museum. He is a model maker and a very good one. Display photos

and paperwork will enhance the display.

Brian Thomas and scribe Dave Glover are preparing the Gray Medal Collection for stocktake - Dave with the help of Freddie and John Fuller is recording and repackaging the Gray Collection as they go. This will include the Freeman Collection upgrade for easy identification. Brian and Keven are putting names and research details in an A4 envelope on the back of our framed Soldier photographs as we all know how many times we pick up a photograph without details of who, what and where information on the back. We have just had a magnificent group donated from a Colour Sergeant, a soldier served in the reign of Queen Victoria, Edward the Seventh and George the Fifth. The group contains an Indian General Service Clasp, Boer War pair 1899—1902 Queens South Africa clasps, Kings South Africa clasps also included a military Medal (GV) awarded for Fromelles 32nd Btn AIF and WW1 Trio.

Keven Draper



## AMOS HAPPENINGS



Remember techo Jeff? Surrounded by technology, Jeff is getting a handle on the latest gear to record curatorial information into the laptop. Notice that the mobile has replaced the Leatherman on his hip!

**Name these medals and the famous recipient?**



Can you tell us about these medals and where they are displayed? A famous South Australian who served with the British Army in WW1 As a Major with the Department of Munitions. He was buried in St Judes Cemetery, Glenelg.

**Remembrance Day at the Bank SA**

Nick Williams attended a colourful display and ceremony held in the foyer of Bank SA. The Museum loaned some mannequins and uniforms for a display recognising those who served in all wars. The occasion also marked the 70th Anniversary of the Bank's Social Club.



# RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION SECTION

As the Section name suggests, this Section has changed from "Edged Weapons" to "Restoration and Preservation" which covers the many different tasks carried out of the past 4 years. Work has covered such tasks as restoration work on muskets, mine detectors, saddles, leather rifle holders, bayonets and swords of various types. The main function is to restore the item to it's former glory and to preserve it so that further deterioration to the material it is made from doesn't occur. We work with wood, iron, brass, copper, silver, leather, plastic or Bakelite. It is most important that the right



Barry Leon

preservation substance is used otherwise a wrong choice could cause further deterioration to the item. Due to our known specialised treatments, places like the Adelaide Museum send people to us to have their swords and the like restored in return for a donation to the Museum. This has generated a significant revenue for the Museum. Barry would like to see in the future is a service to RSL Clubs who are holding collections of war souvenirs. We could arrange with these RSL's to restore items of these collections in return for them being put on special display at a designated position in the Museum. This will create further public interest in the activities and displays of the Museum. *Written by Barry Leon*



## DONORS AND SPONSORS



Nick receives the donation of welding equipment from BOC sponsors Darren Cock and Phillip Iasiello

Members of the Large Technology Objects were having difficulty getting rusty old nuts and bolts apart in their restoration of some of our vehicles. BOC gases came to the rescue with the donation of welding equipment.

Graham, John, John, Ted and Geoff will put the equipment to good use in the workshop and on the restoration projects. The bottles are portable and will be useful to use in the vehicle park or elsewhere.

Thanks BOC Gases.

Graham Janz showing Darren over the Ferret Scout Car Project



## From Dikko ....

