

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH
Australia



Opening the Paul Longstaff Research & Education Centre



Background When AMOSA was formed, Building 136 was provided by the military as our original Museum building. As the Museum grew, we acquired Building 76 (the current Museum building) and transferred all our exhibits to the larger building. Building 136 then became the library/archive area, general office and uniforms storeroom. It didn't take long for the building to become too small for all these activities, so recently it was decided to move the uniforms and the less important books to other storage areas. That gave us the opportunity to create a new research and education area consisting of an historically important books library, an office area and the Diver Derrick VC Meeting Room which incorporates five computer workstations which are available for volunteer and public research. The room is also home to many military history displays which are regularly changed (including loans to other museums)..... **Paul Longstaff** Paul was a Primary School Principal (and a Major in the CMF/ARes). When he retired, he joined the Museum as an eager volunteer. He soon became totally involved in Museum activities including running the library and archive areas. He was also a very dedicated Secretary to the Foundation Board spending many hours each week on various research and archival activities. Ill health forced him to give up his volunteer activities, but he still assists from home with research on various South Australian-based units soldiers at war and other happenings. His ongoing support is greatly appreciated by all those involved in setting up displays

and research documents.

The Opening The opening was originally planned for 2020 but COVID restrictions on attendance made this unviable so it was delayed until 2021 and combined with our Volunteer Family Day on 10th April. Although the day turned out to be wet and windy, we were fortunate that at the time of the opening the rain stopped and the sun shone weakly through the clouds. It had been



determined that the opening should be carried out by previous chairpersons of the Foundation Board. Brigadier Oscar Wayland – the founding chairman who spoke about the early days of the Museum. Colonel Annette Summers – the chairperson when Paul joined the Museum and Brigadier Nick Williams – the recently retired Chairman who has been in regular contact with Paul and was able to give us an update from Paul who tendered his apology that he couldn't be with us on the day. After the traditional ribbon cutting ceremony, the building was opened to the family members who had not had the opportunity to inspect the facilities. **By Greg Rosser**

**THE RESEARCH CENTRE IS NOW
AVAILABLE TO VISITORS
DURING TIMES THE MUSEUM IS OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC.**



AMOSA

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Lest We Forget



AMOSAF Family Day 10th April 2021

While the Museum was closed to visitors for most of 2020 as a result of COVID restrictions, lots of things were happening behind the scene. Eight new TASCHO all glass display cabinets were delivered which have now been placed in location in the Museum and the displays have been either completely redone or updated. The ceiling has been painted black and most of the proposed new track-style lighting has been installed and the remainder is on back order with the supplier and is progressively being installed as it arrives. Our new Archives and Research Centre has been set up and is now operational and was officially opened as the "Paul Longstaff Research and Education Centre". The AMOSAF Board is proud of all the work that has been completed and felt it was only fitting that we invite the volunteers and members and their families to a free "Afternoon at the Museum".



The afternoon included a Sausage Sizzle lunch, self-guided tours of the Museum and the Heritage Walk plus the official opening of the "Paul Longstaff Research Centre". A number of games and activities were organised to keep the children and grand-children occupied. Over 90 people attended the activity and we had lots of positive comments from those who attended. We also had a number of apologies from members who couldn't attend because of other commitments and they are all asking us to hold another Family Day later in the year. We had planned a picnic style activity on the lawns to the East of the parade ground and had set up the Gazebos and BBQ trailer in the morning and were all set for a great day. Imagine our dismay when the sunny morning became windy and



overcast with patchy rain. It was a big disappointment to everyone; after we had ordered a nice sunny day (which happened on the Friday and Sunday). Fortunately, we had

made wet weather arrangements, so our BBQ was transferred to the Officers Mess Annex and the children's activities were set-up in the main hall area of Building 34A.



The official opening of the "Paul Longstaff Research and Education Centre" was planned to be held in the area between the Museum and the Research Centre and scheduled for 2pm.



Fortunately for us, the rain stopped and the sun shone during the opening ceremony so it all went ahead successfully.



The Paul Longstaff Research & Education Centre

All agreed it was a great activity, particularly as it gave the volunteers' families an opportunity to mix and get to know each other.

By Greg Rosser Chairman AMOSAF

From the Manager

For the first newsletter this year it is most important to say, up front, that we hope 2021 is a less disrupted year than 2020 was! This was not anyone's fault; rather we accorded with national sentiment and higher Army's intent in ensuring that we acted conscientiously at all times during the pandemic. Individual safety was our priority. I remind everyone that although the worst is (I hope) behind us there are still residual behaviours that we must be mindful of. Distancing, general hygiene issues, and risk management with an emphasis on COVID planning are now fundamental to what we do, and will remain so, and I ask everyone to keep this new way of doing business front and centre in your minds.



*Major Christopher Roe
Manager*

Much good work was done over the New Year closure period and into February and March inside the galleries and they are now looking both professional and smart. Our thanks go to the many contractors, tradesmen and Ventia staff members who, along with volunteers, did so

Arms & General Collector's Club

On Friday night the 26 March the Museum hosted the Arms & General Collectors Club. This group are collectors of firearms, military and general memorabilia. When Nick Meredith booked the group, the numbers were to be 25 to 30 persons but on the night, this quickly swelled out to 45. As the night included some refreshments and nibbles Nick had to make a quick visit to the local Coles to ensure we had food for all. The group had a special request to view the Gatling gun which they had heard about, but which was not on display. I arranged for this to be brought out of storage for the night by Conservation and Restoration Team. This was a great topic of conversation for those that attended, a special flyer for the Gatling gun had been produced and was handed out. This gave details of the gun's history and tabulated data. I had also arranged for Danee Davis to come in on the night and talk to those collectors interested in Colonial firearms and history. This also turned out to be of great interest to those collectors interested in this period of our history. Many thanks to Danee who took time off work to give the talk.

Special mention must go to the volunteers on the night as we had to deal with COVID requirements for food serving and numbers in each of the galleries. Our COVID Marshal on the night was Ernie Reichstein who was kept busy at the front door checking people in and then roaming the galleries to ensure all distancing rules were adhered to. Ray Saunders and Nick Meredith were busy

much good work to bring about these impressive changes.

Volunteer Compliancy Training was better attended than in any previous year which was encouraging and suggestive of a keen desire amongst everyone to enjoy the year rather more than it was possible to in 2020. I hope the general public will think the same thing and, as COVID concerns recede at least partially into the background, will be encouraged to visit local attractions such as our Museum.

As I have mentioned on numerous occasions, and will be taking an active role in making happen, our most pressing challenge now is to increase visitation numbers to the facility. With no expenses spared in regard both dollar figures and physical effort to upgrade the facility, we now need to make sure that people actually see it! However impressive the facility is to look at, and enjoyable to visit, it is of limited utility if so few do, as is currently the case. I hope everybody will join in with this process to ensure that we fulfil our clearly defined responsibilities to engage with the local military and the civilian communities that we all belong to. There is a role for everybody in making this happen and I am very grateful for the excellent suggestions that have been put forward already.

Thank you *Christopher Roe Manager*

in the kitchen preparing food and Debra Meredith and Jan Saunders were busy in the Diver Derrick room serving food and refreshments. I would like to thank Debra and Jan for volunteering their time to help, given the numbers who attended the rest of us would have struggled to keep up. The president of the Club presented a cheque at the end of the night to Wayne Birch for \$450. Several of the group stayed on past the planned finish time of 2100 and when we closed the Museum at 2200 there were still people sitting outside beside building 136. *by Wayne Birch*



The Gatling gun proved popular amongst the younger members of the Group

Quilts of Valour

There seems to be no end to the treasures unearthed from the depths of Bay 5. Peter and Rolf have been working hard sorting through shelves and boxes and to date have catalogued a couple of thousand items. One recent find was a Quilt, donor unknown, which was handed to me as the Curator of Textiles. On the underside of the quilt the maker's name of J. Hough has been embroidered with the date of 2002. The date puzzled me as Quilts of Valour only started in Australia in 2010 when an Australian soldier, serving in Afghanistan, and recovering from wounds in a US Army medical centre in Germany, was given the quilt from his bed to take home with him. When he arrived home in Australia his mother (who just happened to be a quilter) felt there was a need to reach out to these service men and women and wrap them in love, care and healing. Groups of volunteers throughout Australia gather together and make quilts in varying patterns and colours with whatever materials they have. Some quilts have been personalised for the recipient and all come with a certificate explaining the meaning of the quilt. The recognition of service is also extended to families of ADF personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice. My curiosity regarding the origins of our quilt led me to the coordinator of Quilts of Valour in South Australia who referred me to the founder Helen Comport, based in Melbourne. Helen offered to do some research on my behalf and shortly after forwarded me an article which appeared in the South Australian DVA newsletter in

2005 which featured a commemorative quilt designed and constructed by the Vietnam Veterans' Federation Quilters Group of South Australia. And lo and behold one of the quilters mentioned was Joyce Hough. I contacted the Vietnam Veterans' office in Adelaide and was advised that



The quilt we have has been made for a Vietnam Veteran and has the awards replicated across the centre. The name of the lady who made the quilt is embroidered on the underside.

sadly Joyce Hough had passed away. However they did put me in touch with her husband John (Grumpy) Hough who was able to confirm that his wife would have made our quilt but he had no details as to the name of the recipient. If anyone has information regarding the original owner of the quilt I

would love to hear from them. Quilts are always presented, not purchased, although donations are welcome



By Heather Simms, Uniforms & Textiles Curator

Wanted



An Army Land Rover Series 2A 4x4 ambulance.

The Army Health Services Historical Research Group wish to purchase an Army Ambulance and have it restored by AMOSAF volunteers. After restoration it will be put on display at the Museum. If you have one for sale or know of one for sale, please contact Wayne Birch, Curator, at email: wbirch49@gmail.com

Dikko



Foundations Museum Practice Course.....

The Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) has been organising Museum Practice Courses for some years. In the past the courses were run by exterior organisations such as universities. These courses consisted of a basic course which covered artefact processing and general museum business practise which ran for a week. Attendance at this basic course became the pre- requisite for the advanced course which was also of a week's duration. The advanced course covered museum practice at a higher level and covered emergency management, conservation and storage considerations. As the cost of the course were quite high, AAHU decided to conduct their own courses in the mid 2000's. This somewhat limited the attendance and generally only two from each museum could attend, with 17 Museums in the network this meant some time before all volunteers could attend. This combined with uniform staff being given the priority of attending prevented any hope of all the volunteers being trained in any sort of reasonable time. The

emergence of COVID 19 then stopped all courses. The Foundation wishes to train as many volunteers as possible so has decided to conduct its own courses. This would give them the special skills and knowledge that they need at the Museum. The Foundation requested that the AAHU supply its course package so it could conduct its own courses. This did not happen so the Foundation has put together its own course package and will run courses in the near future. These courses will enable volunteers to gain Museum Practice Certificates which will be recorded on their personal file. The courses will generally follow the same format as the AAHU course and consist of a Basic and Advanced course. The course instructors will be Wayne Birch, Henry Jolly, Heather Simms, Kevin Draper, Peter Clark and Trudy Babinskas. The initial Basic course will be conducted over a three-week period on a Wednesday morning from 1030 to 1230. Ernie Reichstein will send out an email as to when the course will be run, so please consider nominating.

Banner Story....

During our recent Museum renovations, I decided to take down all our banners and flags which had been up on the gallery walls for years. It was the intent to take them down and have Heather and Malcolm Simms treat them for infestations and then if necessary, make repairs before putting them back again. Taking them down was a simple job using two long wooden poles with hooks under each end of the banner's poles, lifting them off their brackets and taking them down. Over the years a variety of fixing brackets had been used so I decided that new brackets would be made for uniformity and presentation. These brackets were made up by Conservation & Restoration Team and new poles and end knobs were made up by Malcolm Simms. To fix these new brackets meant that we would need to get access to the upper walls of the galleries, this presented a major problem as display cabinets and other permanent structures prevented access. The solution

was to get a battery-operated elevated work platform (EWP) which would get up to these places. Some time ago I applied for a grant to train one of our volunteers in a working at heights (WHC) course. David Williams attended this course and can now work at heights but not to use the EWP. The Foundation paid for David to attend the EWP course and the Army paid for the hire of the EWP. As you can see from the photographs the EWP is a complex bit of kit and it is entirely due to David's expertise that the whole task was completed in one day. This was however a team effort which required the ability to work with power tools at heights and be accurate to ensure the brackets were mounted correctly. David and Athy can be seen in the photographs aligning and drilling the walls for the brackets. The support team consisted of Libby Kalatzis, Graham Janz, Brenton Williams and Wayne Birch. **By Wayne birch**



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From the Curator April 2021.....

Displays The main task for the Museum during March was the reinstalling of 18 Unit Banners and flags to our Galleries. These were taken down before the ceiling was painted and downlights installed. Heather and Malcolm Simms have treated them, made repairs where required and refurbished the poles they hang on. Graham Janz and his crew made new mounting brackets for all these banners. As the banners were in inaccessible positions Defence hired an Elevated Work Platform (EWP) to gain access. The Foundation sent David Williams on an EWP course so that he could use the platform to carry out the work. Most of the banners did not have any captions so Henry Jolly and Brenton Williams have now produced them for all banners. **Local Reserve Unit History Display....**

In response to a request from AAHU to focus on South Australia Militia, CMF and Reserve units I have tasked our Display Committee to prepare displays on each. They will be housed in the new five metre long Tashco cabinet on the eastern wall of gallery two. The link to the Units will be through recounting the story of an individual soldier from each of the periods. I have directed that most of the soldiers will be from the Logistic Corps as this is a group that does not generally have its story told. A large photograph depicting the role of the soldier will form the backdrop of each display. **Gallipoli Display** Neil, Stefan and Robert have been working on the Gallipoli diorama interactive display for some time. It is hoped that it will be completed in the next 4 weeks. They have also made changes to the Gallipoli photographs and have attached a monitor next to the display which will provide information on the landing. The Watsons Pier display is now linked into this new interactive display and when the Pier Pulley button is activated a recorded commentary plays. **Exterior Support AUR** A request had been made by Adelaide University Regiment (AUR) to provide support for a Unit Collection display at Hampstead. AMOSAF had already provided advice on cabinets, uniforms and mannequins, these have now been purchased by AUR. The next step will be for the Display Committee to provide photographs and captions for each of the three displays. These will focus on the story of a WW 1 Light Horse Officer and an OR. **Exterior Support Keswick** The Museum will be supplying display cabinets to the Keswick Barracks Officers Mess and the Keswick Barracks Sergeants Mess. The displays will highlight local Reserve Unit histories. These cabinets are currently stored in the Museum theatre and when they have been moved to the Messes the theatre will reopen. A theme for each of the cabinets will be formulated after consultation with the PMC of each Mess. **Building 76 Upgrade**All the Galleries have now had their ceilings painted black and track lighting installed. I have been fine tuning the light intensity, beam focussing, and colours of the track lighting. Some minor ceiling repairs and light baffles are yet to be done by the contractors. **Conservation and Restoration....**The welding

bay has now been moved from Bay 8 of Building 80, down to the compound of Building 8. Conservation and Restoration staff have erected a concrete fibre board screen on the northern wall of this area and laid down pavers to protect the bitumen floor. A movable welding screen has been purchased by Defence and this will be placed on the inside of the welding bay. The main issue for Graham Janz and his staff is that Defence have not had the heavy equipment that are required to undertake most work, tagged as serviceable. This means our welders, milling machine, lathe, grinders, bench drills and engraving machines cannot be used. This is also impacting on the restoration of the Studebaker truck. It is hoped this tagging will occur soon. **Edged Weapons** Barry and his staff have the same issue with tagging their heavy equipment although the impact is not as severe. They continue to have work come in for sword restoration but will be focussing on the bayonet collection with a view to creating ODR and condition reports. **Uniforms and Textiles**Heather and Malcolm continue to provide excellent support to the Museum's Display Committee in relation to the provision of uniforms and banners. Heather's project of implementing an ongoing replacement of all the old mannequins in the Museum has had a good start. She has sourced a good quality mannequin at a reasonable price and has acquitted the budget allocated by the board last year. **Medals and Heraldry** Kevin and Mike continue with their long task of auditing the Gray Collection and fielding the many enquiries they receive from members of the public in relation to medals. **Research & Education**Peter Clark and his team have been busy with the entering of library books onto our new Mosaic platform. Mosaic is an Australian developed Museum software program for the recording of library books, artefacts, photographs and documents. The Foundation has purchased four licences for our computers and the Archives team are busy uploading information on our books and their location. Recently the Archives team went to the South Australian Aviation Museum to see how they enter artefacts into the Mosaic program. The intent here is to enter all the Foundations Collection, SAMRA Collection, Artillery Collection, RSAR Collection and the Gray Collection into this new database. In line with this, the Foundation put in for a grant to History SA for our volunteers to be trained in the use of Mosaic. This was successful and the online training course will commence within the next month. Peter has been busy with the creation of the Foundation's SharePoint site and the collation of all its corporate and historical records. All of this shows the commitment the Foundation has by upgrading technology and ensuring that all our records are safe. Another thank you to Dean Calvert from Calvert Technologies who has provided free advice on all of our IT requirements, this has saved the Foundation many thousands of dollars.

Curator (Cont)

To enable the Unit Collection's ability to download their information onto Mosaic, Building 203 has been linked by wireless to the central server in Building 136. This link has been funded thanks to a significant donation by Ernie Reichstein. A big thank you to Ernie for his donation. **Explosive Ordnance....**The issue that has generated the most comment from AAHU is EO. Paul Fribbins has done an outstanding job in piecing together all the EO and records. In our dealings with AAHU is apparent they did not know that the Foundation and various Unit Collections owned it. It was important that the EO collection was looked at again with the Foundation Collection Policy as the guiding principle of whether an item would be retained. I have given clear guidance on this project. In late March and in accordance with the Foundations directive, the EO has now been deaccessioned from the database, KEmu. These items will be removed from Commonwealth property in accordance with an agreement with AAHU by the 30 June 21. **Weapons....** In our dealings with AAHU it was apparent that they did not know that much of the Collection was not commonwealth owned. A number of weapons which were recently transferred from Foundation ownership to Commonwealth on the KEmu system have been transferred back to Foundation ownership. This must become a high priority for the Foundation to ensure documentation of who owns what and where it is located. It appears some Foundation and Unit Collection weapons may have been transferred to the Bandiana Armoury. Trudy Bambinskas is currently researching all documentation regarding weapon records on KEmu and will produce a report for the Foundation Curator. **Artefact Evaluation & Processing....** I need volunteers to assist in the evaluation and processing of our vast collection of artefacts. Peter Collins is in charge of this task and he needs additional help. I have decided that this will become a priority task for the foreseeable future. Peter will provide training in the process and the Foundation will provide online training in Mosaic for those persons who volunteer. If you have any friends or relatives who would be interested and are not Foundation members, please get them to contact our Induction Officer Ernie Reichstein. **Museum Attendances** There have been several comments made in relation to increasing the number of people attending the Museum. Now that

most COVID- 19 restrictions have been removed it was anticipated that our numbers would return to what they were previously. This has been the case and our numbers are increasing and our schools' groups are returning as well. The way forward to increase numbers is to identify groups who we believe would be interested in attending and engage with them by direct personal contact, or by email or letter. The issue with a comprehensive advertising strategy is that we may increase the numbers attending to a point where it becomes unmanageable, given that by any measure the Museum is not that large. At a recent planned event we had 45 persons in the Museum and though this was comfortable, any more would have caused congestion and not been within COVID guidelines. Planned events are by their nature easily managed and the Foundation can value add to these by supplying a light meal and refreshments package. I would encourage those volunteers who are affiliated with Corps or Unit associations to organise such events to our Museum. They can be organised for day or evenings, please contact Nick Meredith for further information about a visit and our package deals.

By Wayne Birch AMOSAF Curator



Have you been to the Museum recently? Come along on Monday, Wednesday or a Sunday—bring the family!

Stop Press

Our Annual History Lunch will be held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 in building 34A at Keswick Barracks. The theme of the speakers will be: **"The Changing Face of Warfare - smart bombs/drones/cyber/early warning and deterrents"**

Studebaker Truck – Work in Progress

Since I last reported, the ‘A Team’ has continued to make slow but steady progress on restoring the Studebaker truck. The project has progressed essentially in 3 parts; Richard has continued to work his magic on the cabin, with panel-beating & associated skills being his forte. You may remember that we started with 2 cabins, both damaged & both having several rusty panels – thanks to Richard we now have 1 cabin in sound condition, and with doors that open & close quite smoothly.



Most of the cabin has received a coat of primer, and he is currently working on fitting the rear window – a first top-coat of paint is likely to be applied by mid-April. Despite attending a ‘Cherry-

Picker Operators Course’ (in order to assist in the Museum gallery up-grade), David has continued to diligently work on conserving the truck’s 11 road wheels, and these have now all been cleaned, treated for rust patches, primed & had 2 x top-coats of paint (olive drab, of course), so are now all ready to put back on when the time comes.



The remainder of the team (Peter Jarrett, Garry, & myself, plus Pete the welder on occasions, have progressively removed heaps of dirt/gunk & rust from the chassis & running gear, treated most of the chassis with

rust-eater. We then removed the large fuel tank & carrier bracket (to allow access to the chassis behind it), applied a heavy duty primer to every surface, and have recently begun to apply the 1st top-coat – the photo shows the chassis showing off its primer coat! By the end of April we hope to

have the 1st top-coat applied to all of the chassis & running gear (& maybe the cabin), fuel tank re-fitted, brackets to support the cabin back in place, rear bumperettes and (maybe) running boards bolted on – fingers crossed! We are then faced with the challenge of trying to remember where all of the other smaller bits go back, given it will be nearly 2 years since we removed & cleaned them, & stored them on the shelf – our greying memory cells don’t help either!

By Geoff Laurie



History Lunch—Wednesday 19th May 2021

Bookings online through the History Festival Website.

