

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH Australia



AMOSA

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30th Birthday Celebrations.....

The Army Museum of South Australia Foundation (AMOSAF), in conjunction with the Army History Unit, celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the creation of the Army Museum of South Australia on Saturday 8th October 2022.

WOW - WHAT A DAY!

Over 3,500 people joined us for an Open Day at Keswick Barracks to celebrate the occasion; a favourable reflection on a carefully orchestrated advertising campaign.

While the Museum has many display items



of our own, we were joined on the day by several Regular and Reserve units who came to show their range of current equipment which was displayed and demonstrated on and around the Parade Ground. This was complemented by a range of food and coffee vans, all located adjacent to an area set up with tables and chairs as a food court. With a lovely sunny day of about 24°C this area proved very popular with all the visitors. We also enjoyed a range of music provided by the 10/27 RSAR Band and an ensemble from the Army Band Adelaide. The formal part of the day included speeches by Tim Gelle, Head of Australian Army History Unit and our local Member of Parliament, Jayne Stinson MP, (also representing the Premier). This was followed by the cake cutting ceremony where Jayne was joined by our youngest and oldest volunteers (Rui and Malcolm) using the traditional military sword to cut the cake. The event was enhanced by two special groups who joined with us to make the day such a success. The first was the Port Lincoln Military History Group which



Adrian Pederick MP, Malcolm Simms, Jayne Stinson MP, Verity Rosser and Rui Jiang ready for cutting the cake.

included a re-enactment team who moved around the parade ground area in a variety of historical military uniforms which they changed regularly. They also provided two horses with their riders dressed in Boer War era Mounted Rifles uniforms, as well as a military working dog with handler. The second group was the National Military Vehicle Museum which provided a display of a number of their historic vehicles, which were very popular with the children who were able to sit in the vehicles. They both proved very popular as photo opportunities for families and other groups. A key contributor to the success of the event was the hard work and careful planning of the Museum's military staff – with particular credit to Major John Burns for a tireless planning effort - and many of our volunteers, who worked diligently to make sure everything went to plan and the guests all had a great time. A special thanks goes to the vehicle entry and parking team who managed the entry, parking and departure system without incident. The Head of AAHU (Tim Gelle) sent formal correspondence to the Museum's military staff and volunteers commending everyone on their efforts to make the day such a great success. I would also like to pass on my personal thanks to all those who contributed, in so many ways, towards making our Birthday such a successful activity and helping to market the facility so effectively.

Greg Rosser, Chairman AMOSAF

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Key Dates 2023
 Anzac Day 25 Apr
 History Lunch 10 May
 Armed Forces Day 25 Jun
 Remembrance Day 11 Nov



From the Manager

As this will be the last Manager's Report that I write I thought I'd take the chance to summarise a few of my feelings just prior to standing down from a position that I've proudly held for nine years. Before I do that, it's important to thank Nick Williams for the fine work he does in putting the newsletter together. As so often with AMOSA it demonstrates a capacity to produce a professional and informative document with limited resources to do so, and Nick's role in that is absolutely fundamental.

Before I mention a few general observations it would be remiss of me not to report on the 30th Birthday Open Day, the single most impressive activity of its type in the unit's history and, I'm sure, a highlight for all who were involved. It was something that we had wanted to do for some time but heavy commitments, COVID and other factors mitigated against and it fell by the wayside. This time, however, we made the commitment, ran with it through to conclusion and, with the blessing of the weather gods, hosted a most enjoyable event which attracted favourable comment and publicity for us from a wide variety of sources. Many people contributed but particular credit goes to the Assistant Manager, soon to be Manager, Major John Burns ('JB' as we know him) for his sterling efforts in pulling the activity together. There are other reports on the event in this edition.

After nine years of effort one hopes to leave the unit in a better place than when one arrived and I think that has been achieved, due to the efforts of many people. We had numbers, enthusiasm and goodwill but needed to align ourselves better with the basic requirements of an Army unit especially in regard to security, WHS and an understanding of what our aims, as directed by our higher, actually were. Our achievements in these areas leave us, today, much better placed to avoid criticism pursuant to audit and review, to meet basic administrative requirements, and to fully justify our

place in the Keswick Barracks domain.

Moving forward we now work constructively and safely towards the best interests of the Australian Army and its history in this state. Our WHS standards stand proudly with the best of the Army Museum Network and our security protocols are vastly tighter.

We have not lost real estate in a time of great austerity for Defence in this area, and we came safely through a once in a lifetime (I hope!) pandemic. Our galleries are modern, bright and interactive and we are gaining skills all the time in areas such as external display capacity, and assorted information technology mediums that make us more effective.

My thanks go to many volunteers (over a hundred at various times) who have served at AMOSA, and those no longer with us, who we remember and honour. Lastly, but vitally, I thank a wide range of immensely hard-working, loyal and creative military staff who have adjusted to an environment unlike others in the Army with great skill and patience, harnessing the financial power and support of the broader ADF in the best interests of a regional Museum. I wish you all the best in the future and look forward to viewing, from a distance, the future development of The Army Museum of South Australia.



*Major Christopher Roe
Manager*

Christopher Roe

Manager

February 2014-December 2022

Head of AAHU Open Day Address.....

Today we mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Army Museum of South Australia. And it is with thanks to the initiative, foresight and hard work of the Museum's dedicated founding volunteers that we have this occasion today. If imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, it is a sign of how successful the Museum was that six years later, the Australian Army History Unit was established to operate Army's network of Museums across the country. While the Army and the Department of Defence now provide paid staff and additional resources, the Museum's ongoing success remains underpinned by an unbroken record of dedicated and committed service by today's Museum volunteers. You continue to build and care for the outstanding collection of artefacts, images and stories on exhibit today. Those

artefacts tell the history of the Army in South Australia, and the history of South Australians' service in the Australian Army and its predecessors. All served their nation and their community. In that same spirit, I would like to thank the many units and organisations who have joined us today (some travelling 700kms to help celebrate this milestone. Lastly the volunteers and staff of the Army Museum of South Australia. Your service has made those stories available to South Australians for the past thirty years, and ensures they will be available to future generations.

Tim Gellel

Head Australian Army History Unit (AAHU)

What's New in the Museum.....

The Camel Corps display cabinet and the WW1 gallery cabinet 7 have been improved with the addition of medical items plus a rare pith helmet (thank you Heather Simms). Rolf has produced an extremely fine and detailed diorama of the Camel Corps Medical Section treating the wounded at a desert oasis. The Artillery cabinet 19 WW1 gallery has also been rearranged and upgraded with additional explanatory captions. Please take some time to check out these two displays, Rolf's diorama is well worth a look. **Brenton Williams, Curatorial**



The Children's University

The Children's University began in the United Kingdom and is now available in Australia, New Zealand, Asia and Africa.

Its aim is to develop a lifetime love of learning for free-thinking and inquisitive children of Primary School age. In joining the programme children are given a Passport to Learning where they record their visits to participating activity centres such as zoos, museums, etc. A record is kept of attendance and when sufficient hours are accumulated they are presented with a certificate. In October Joy and Heather were invited to attend the latest Graduation Ceremony at the Bonython Hall, Adelaide University. Approximately 200 children were present from schools such as Pooraka Primary, Port Elliot Primary, Paringa Area School, Murray Bridge Primary, Waverley and Blanchetown Area and Meningie Area School. Many such ceremonies are held throughout the state over the year. Hours achieved ranged from 30 hours to over 200. The

scene inside the hall was a sea of yellow and black with the children dressed in black gowns with gold collars and



black mortar boards with gold tassels. I was amused to note one small boy shredding his gold tassel and using it to apparently "floss" his teeth. Our museum has been associated with the Children's University for five years and the association has worked well for both organisations, as was shown on our Open Day when

several families with young children presented their passports for validation.

Heather Simms

Remembrance Day 2022.....

Army Museum volunteers attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at West Terrace Cemetery. It was an enjoyable activity with the excellent musicians from the Brighton Secondary School band rendering appropriate music. Students from various secondary schools also played their part extremely well by reciting poems such as 'In Flanders Fields', and placing wreaths at the base of the Cross of Sacrifice. It was a lovely sunny day with excellent coffee for all to cap off a day of remembering, and giving thanks, for those who fought, and died, so we could live in our wonderful country.

LEST WE FORGET

Joy Souter



The Army Museum of SA was well represented by Greg Rosser, Heather Simms, John Claxton, Malcolm Simms and Joy Souter

Open Day Highlights



Bushmaster from 7 RAR Edinburgh



Vehicles and weapon systems deployed on the parade ground at Keswick



Piper Fortune and Drummer Ferguson from 10/27 RSAR band performing for our visitors



Crowd assembling for the birthday celebrations and cake cutting



Greg Rosser, Chairman, AMOSAF and Tim Gellel, Head of the Australian Army History Unit, Canberra addressing the crowd



Malcolm Simms, Jayne Stinson MP and Rui Jiang cutting the birthday cake. Wayne Birch supervising!



Keswick Barracks Parade Ground—crowd scene



Vehicles on the Parade Ground

Open Day People.....



WO1 Stephen Taylor, Jayne Stinson MP, BRIG Graham Goodwin, MAJ Christopher Roe



Joy Souter and Heather Simms manning the Museum stand and shop



MAJ John Burns, CPL Adrian Li, SGT Troy Oakes and WO1 Brian Kirby.



Nick Meredith, John Claxton and CPL Adrian Li outside the Heritage Walk Display



Bradley Theakstone and Glenn Fowler from the Port Lincoln Military History Group



Dirk Nieuwenhoven, Reg Williams and Jim Kennelly helping with the Museum Mounted Rifles Collection



Museum volunteers serving food



10/27 RSAR Band performing for the crowd



Visitors to the Museum during the Open Day—scene in the main gallery of the Museum

From the Curator

30th Anniversary of the Foundation

The Open Day celebrating our 30th Birthday was an outstanding and historic event. I wish to sincerely thank all of our members and military staff for the work they did to make the day as good as it was. The whole of October was a very busy period for the museum but we met the challenge and carried out all of our work to our normal high standard. I have tasked Elaine Hanneson to put together a booklet titled *"The First 30 Years"* which will be a short history of the Foundation. I am asking anyone who has original photographs or any interesting stories that relates to our history to please give it to Elaine. Original photographs will be scanned and returned to the owners. For the ongoing recording of the Foundation's history, I have asked Peter Haran to conduct a number of oral history interviews with the following Foundation members, Oscar Wayland, Annette Summers, Nick Williams, Peter Collins, Kevin Draper and Paul Longstaff. These oral histories will be stored onto the database, Mosaic, for future reference.

Displays

Militia Display

Brenton, and Rolf are progressing the Militia display cabinet and it should be completed by December 2022. The display highlights South Australian citizen soldiers' individuals' military careers and their Corps.

Catering Corps Display

A significant Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) display is planned to be ready by early February 2023. It will link in with the new Militia display which features a AACC soldier and will have, as its centrepiece a WW2 Wiles cooker and a 1970's vintage Kitchen Field Trailer. These large items have been placed on the western side of building 76 under the veranda.

Vehicle Display

In response to a request from John Burns I have prepared a plan to display the following vehicles in the new Museum Precinct, the Unimog and the Land Rover FFR and trailer. The Museum Precinct is defined as that car park area between the old HQ 9BDE building to the south, the Museum building 76 to the east, building 134 to the west and the main entrance road into Keswick Barracks. This will exclude all other Units from parking as it will now be display space. The other planned exterior displays in this area will be the Rapier repair Modules, the 58th Searchlight Battery RAA, the 155mm "Long Tom" field gun fitted on the M2 mount, and the 4.5-inch gun fitted on the M2 Mount. It is planned to move the Leopard tank from its current location on the lawned area into this precinct as well. Most of our exterior caption signs need replacement, I have made it a priority task for the curatorial group to check the data and make amendments as needed. They will also address issues of uniformity and current nomenclature. The reason why most of the captions have deteriorated

is because of sunlight and weathering. Their replacement will be funded by AAHU.

16 Regiment Woodside Open Day

At the request of the CO of 16 Regiment, the Museum provided a display at the Woodside Army Barracks on Saturday the 30th of April 2022. The display theme was "Artillery" as the RAA recently celebrated their 150th Anniversary. The Museum was provided with a large tent by 16 Regiment to house the display. The display planning and content was managed by Henry Jolly along with logistic support provided by Troy Oakes and Adrian Li. On the day 12 Foundations members attended to help out with merchandise sales, interacting with the visitors and answering questions about the display. For the first time the complete Rapier Missile system was taken up to Woodside and displayed. The 2IC of 16 Regiment Major Westcott commented on the standard of the Rapier display and attached some of his own photographs depicting the Rapier when it was the operational Air Defence System for the Army. Thanks to Henry Jolly and his dedicated helpers we have again demonstrated that the Museum can deploy into the field and provide an interesting and informative display.

Fort to Fort Display

The Fort 2 Fort Remembrance walk took place on the 6th of Nov 2022 – between Fort Largs and Fort Glanville. This was a leisurely walk for charity and raised funds for Operation K9 and The Lefevre Peninsular Veterans Centre. The walk is run by the Largs Bay RSL and was held for the first time in 2021. The Museum supported this event by providing a small display at Semaphore. The RSL provided us a tent and the museum staff were allowed to sell our merchandise and hand out our flyers.

Future Bomb Disposal Display

The South Australia Police (SAPOL) Historical Society have recently donated to the Foundation an Echidna Remote Positioning Vehicle (RPV) This vehicle was used by the South Australia Police Bomb Response Unit and the Australian Army in South Australia from the late 1980's to the early 2000's. It is a unique artefact given that it was designed and built by Evens Deakin Industries in Brisbane, Queensland. It was used for the remote examination and rendering safe of suspect Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Along with this donation the SAPOL Bomb Response Unit donated a Med-Eng EOD- 8 bomb suit and a Med-Eng SRS-5 lightweight bomb suit. These items were also used by the Australian Army. The Museum will use these artefacts next year for a display highlighting the Army's role in dealing with IED and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats.

Le Hamel Display

In August 2022 the Museum received a request from LT COL Roland Spackman who is the CO of 7RAR to provide a display for a dinner to be held at the RAAF Officers Mess at Edinburgh. It would tell the story of the Battle of Le Hamel. The Battle of Le Hamel was a successful attack by Australian

From the Curator (Cont)....

Army and US Army infantry, supported by British tanks, against German positions in and around the town of Le Hamel, in northern France, during World War I. The attack was planned and commanded by Lieutenant General John Monash, Commander of the Australian Corps, and took place on 4 July 1918.

The display was assembled at very short notice, the display team was headed by Brenton Williams, and he was ably assisted by Rolf Sellentin, Malcolm Simms and Heather Simms. Offsite displays always provide logistic issues, and this was no exception, and this essential support was provided by JB, Chris Roe and Adrian Li. This was Brenton's first display which he solely put together and he is to be congratulated for creating an interesting and comprehensive display.

Defence Reserves Employer Support Awards Display

The Museum provided a small display and uniforms for the Defence Reserves Employer Support Awards presentation night. The awards acknowledge employers that have gone above and beyond for their reservist employees, either over a sustained period or for a special effort to enable the member to complete their Reserve commitments. This was held at the Sanctuary Function Centre at the Adelaide Zoo on Wednesday the 21st of September 2022.

Eccles Brass Cannon

The Eccles brass cannon is a significant artefact that has been on loan to the Foundation from the South Australia Police for the last 16 years. This item had been on display in Gallery 1 for most of that time, but it was removed last year to make room for the MP bike display. The cannon was used by the Colonial Gunners at Fort Largs in the late 1800's and in the 1950's it and another similar cannon were transferred to Government House. Governor Roma Mitchell had the guns removed and they were taken into storage by SAPOL. SAPOL then loaned one to the Foundation and the other to the Fort Glanville Historical Association. SAPOL has decided that the most appropriate owner for the cannon was the Foundation and ownership has now transferred to the Foundation through a Ministerial Agreement.

Exterior Support AUR (Ongoing)

Adelaide Universities Regiment (AUR) had made a request to provide support for a unit collection display at Hampstead. AMOSA had already provided advice on cabinets, uniforms, and mannequins, these have now been purchased by AUR. Brenton and Rolf will complete this display in the new year.

Exterior Support Keswick (Ongoing)

The Museum has supplied display cabinets to the Keswick Barracks Officers Mess and the Keswick Barracks Sergeants Mess. The Museum will also be giving a display cabinet to 9 CSSB and two display cabinets to 7RAR.

Exterior Support Fort Largs (Ongoing)

Wayne Birch has been attending meetings with Peet Ltd who are the new land developers for Fort Largs. The company will build high density housing on most of the site but have sold the Fort itself to a private individual who will be building a restaurant which will be attached to the fort walls. The upside is that the company will restore and rebuild the

fort to the standards required by the State Heritage Branch. The meetings have included representatives from the Police Historical Society and the Largs Bay RSL. This is part of the public consultation process, but Peet has asked for advice on a proposed Heritage Walk, proposed Community use of the Fort and the naming of the streets which would reflect on the historical nature of the site.

Port Wakefield P&EE

Ken Scott reports that Port Wakefield P&EE internal planning for the transfer of 2 Rapier Repair Modules, a 155 mm Long Tom gun with carriage, film archives and a small number of test instruments to the Museum is proceeding. A MOU has been completed and been forwarded to AAHU for approval. The Port Wakefield P&EE Collection will be managed by Ken Scott who will be the Curator for the collection. Many of the items will be displayed in the Rapier Repair Modules which will be located in the car park to the west of the Museum.

Weapons Audit

On Wednesday the 14th September the South Australia Police (SAPOL) completed a check of the 122 weapons owned by the Foundation. These were examined to see if they all conform to the state deactivation criterion, at the end of these examinations SAPOL will issue a registration certificate for each weapon. It was found that the majority met the SAPOL standards, but a few needed more work. Sgt Troy Oakes has been consulting with SAPOL and is confident that by December all firearms will meet the SAPOL standard.

Edged Weapon Audit

I have completed a 100% audit of all the edged weapons in the Museum, in conjunction with Brian Kirby. This involves all the Unit Collections so as ascertain ownership, some of the information on Kemu is sketchy at best. The Edged Weapons Section has been given direction by me to check through all the paperwork, from the donation form through to the ODR. If any are missing, they are to make further enquiries on the Kemu computer and to check through the Donor forms. The end state is for all Edged Weapons to have an ODR filled in as per our SOP and to establish ownership.

Medal Audit

I have asked the Medals & Heraldry Section to commence a 100% audit of all the Foundations collection of medals and badges. In conjunction with this audit there will be requirement to ensure all medal groups and badges have individual ODR filled in accordance with our SOP. I have asked that the Section starts with the Freeman Collection of medals as a matter of priority.

Arts & Graphics Audit

Arts and Graphics are a sub section of Archives and Rolf Seletin and Gary Satterley have been given the task of auditing the entire collection of paintings, large, framed photographs, posters, and art. For those who are unaware the Arts and Graphics store is at the southern end of building 80. There is an enormous range of items, and some are over 100 years old. Some are catalogued but most are not, this means a lot of research into each item by Gary and Rolf. Ownership of these items is spread across all the Unit

From the Curator

Collections and the Foundation. Each Unit Collection is involved in the process of culling and/or documenting and bringing them onto their databases. The processing of all of the items in the Arts and Graphics store should be completed by March 2023

Cage Five

Cage Five, building 8 contains the bulk of the Foundations artefacts and only some of the items have been documented and ODR raised. Before any more can be processed they need to have research done on them to see if they are relevant to the Foundations Collection policy. If not, they are disposed of through a deaccessioning process approved by the Board. Peter Collins oversees this long and laborious process with his 2IC Jannette Rogers and Bob Major and Roger Donnelly. This process will take about 2 years to complete.

Transition Bay

Building 80 Bay 8 has been reconfigured and AAHU provided new shelving for this area. The concept of the area is to provide temporary storage for:

- items which have been donated and awaiting labelling, ODR and data entry,
- items which are surplus to requirements and awaiting disposal, and
- items which are ready to be put on display or into storage.

Museum Courses

Trudy and Ray have been running ongoing courses for those volunteers whose work involves the preparation of Object Data Records. This is one of the most important documents in the Museum and it is imperative there to be a consistent and clear procedure to be followed. This involves photographing the object so that all important features are shown, written details of the object, comprehensive provenance and following naming conventions.

Online Business Accounts and Social Media Sites

I am proposing that a register of all our online accounts and social media accounts that the Foundation maintains be established. This must include all usernames and passwords, there must be redundancy on these sites as having only one person having access is problematic. This register would be kept on our SharePoint site which can only be accessed by the two Foundation Administrators.

IT Report

Peter Clark reports that Version 12 of the Collections Mosaic program has been installed on the Foundations network and is now being used successfully by the Foundation and the Unit Collections. Thanks to a kind donation by John McInnes the server now has an Uninterrupted Power Supply that will provide a seamless transition if the power supply is cut. Our vital network data is now protected by an exterior provider and by the backing up to two external hard drives after each workday. Peter reports that our Resident IT Manager Dean Calvert has provided ongoing support to the Foundation on a weekly basis at no cost to us.

Due to bandwidth problems with the Mosaic program in

building 136 John McInnes has installed ethernet cables direct to the computers in Elaine and Trudy's offices. He has also tidied up the cables and installed a metal structure to support the router. This direct connecting of the computer to the servers has resulted in download speeds increasing from 10 bps to 50 bps. Thanks again to John for undertaking this most important task. We have installed an extra 8 Meg of RAM in the server to cope with the additional workstations. We recently installed a wireless network to building 8. and purchased another computer for building 8 so they can interrogate Mosaic data and conduct research on artefacts through the internet.

Security

At a meeting I had with John Burns, I asked about improvements to our security procedures. The reason I raised this issue was to improve our procedures in line with Defence Security protocols.

Scanning Project

The Archives Scanning Project which endeavours to scan our very large collection of photographs has been on and off for a number of years. The project will scan relevant photographs onto a data base with detailed information on each photograph. The main problem is that all of these photographs need to be gone through and assessed. A number of these do not have any information as to who they are or even where they are. Whilst they are interesting, they have no value for researchers or historical purpose, and these are being culled. Elaine Hanneson has been in charge of the Scanning Project for a little over a year and she took on an enormous task.

I can report now that this Project has been completed.

Wayne Birch

November 2022



Morning teas are organised for the last Wednesday of the month in Building 34A. Gathering together gives an opportunity for mixing between the work groups, celebrating birthdays of our members and an update briefing on current initiatives of the Museum.



Remembrance Day at Hahndorf.....

At 11.00am on 11 November we pause to remember the sacrifice of those men and women who have died or suffered in wars and conflicts and all those who have served Australia since World War 1. The date commemorates the day and time when the guns on the Western Front fell silent following the acceptance of an armistice (suspension of fighting) agreement by Germany, ending 4 years of hostilities. After World War 2 the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom's proposal that Armistice Day be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars. Today the loss of Australia lives from all wars, conflicts and peace operations is commemorated on Remembrance Day.

Silence

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919, two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new cenotaph in London. Australian journalist Edward Honey proposed the silence. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the Armistice 'which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom'. The two minutes' silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations of Armistice Day. In 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute silence at 11.00am on 11 November each year, to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

Has Remembrance Day any significance for the young of today? It certainly had for the students of the Hahndorf Primary School and numerous other schools in the area. This year, after an enforced break due to COVID, the Hahndorf Primary School celebrated Remembrance Day with a ceremony for the whole school organised teacher, Alison Marsh. Preceding the ceremony Grandparents were invited to visit the children in their class room and view

projects that they had prepared on major conflicts that Australia has been involved with since World War 1. The classroom walls were adorned with photos and interpretive write ups that the students had produced based on their research. Many of the photos demonstrated the hardships and trauma that is caused by conflict. The students were impressed that the teacher had got to the school early and set up the quadrangle with the associated decorations and equipment for the ceremony. Adjacent to



the dais was a Cross of Remembrance set on a plinth in front of the wall of the school gym that formed an ideal backdrop displaying the word REMEMBRANCE which had been prepared by the students. A particular part of the display which stood out were the 45 White Crosses of Remembrance, each bearing the name of

a member of the local community that had lost their lives while serving their country. The grandparents were seated in the quadrangle surrounded by all the students looking on from the verandas. There was a palpable feeling of excitement and hushed anticipation as the 1040 start time approached.

The ceremony was conducted entirely by the students who moved through the program without a hitch. This included representatives of each class group laying the wreath that collectively the class had made. Last Post sounded at 1100 on the dot, followed by a minute's silence. The National Anthem concluded the Ceremony. Following the Ceremony, the guests were invited to morning tea and entertained by the school choir.

Well done Hahndorf Primary School and all of the other schools that made the effort to commemorate this special day.

Nick Meredith

Dikko



Museum Activities



WO1 Brian Kirby in the 'Cherry Picker' to retrieve paintings from the wall in the Museum



David Williams in the 'Cherry Picker' as a licensed operator—AAHU rented the device to help retrieve the pictures



Terry Izatt, Garry Satterley and John McInnes processing and photographing the objects.



Bruce Watkinson inspects the Westley and Richards Monkey Tail Carbine for the display



Brenton Williams, Wayne Birch, Graham Janz, Peter Kriel and Bruce Wilkinson after successful completion of the restoration Westley and Richards Monkey Tail Carbine



Garry Satterley auditing the paintings on display in the Museum



Samuel White—Reedbeds Cavalry Colonial display complete with Westley and Richard Monkey Tail Carbine



Westley and Richards Monkey Tail Carbine is added to the Samuel White Reedbeds Cavalry Colonial Display



Geoff Laurie and Wayne Birch restoring a 'bomb disposal robot'

School Students Visiting the Museum.....

With a recent upsurge in school visits to the Army Museum it may be worthwhile examining the reaction of both boys and girls. There are only a few differences between genders in regard to reactions and queries during the forty-minute sessions run by four AMOSA guides. The girls are sensitive and ask personal questions; the boys ask about guns and fighting. Only a few have any interest in the reason the various wars started and why Australia was involved. All guides make it clear war is a catastrophic event, and their purpose is to tell students of the hardships soldiers endured and the day to day life of the Digger on the ground. The three main questions asked of the guide by students in the Vietnam exhibit are:

1. Did you shoot anyone
2. What did you eat (did you sometimes shoot game to eat!)
3. How did you poo in the jungle?

Such questions are answered tactfully, as you can imagine. The initial response to first entering the museum is one of awe and surprise. The quality and

range and presentation of the exhibits surprises all, including the accompanying teachers. In the vast majority of visits students are both respectful and attentive and make much use of interactivities. The CASEVAC by helicopter and the film showing real-life action is by and far the most captivating - that along with the chance to actually wear a flak jacket (protective vest) and steel helmet and have their photo taken. They are almost shocked to be told the exhibits of damaged rifles and other artefacts are actually from the war itself. It must be mentioned here every group of students recognise the AK47, and many know the Kalashnikov story. The reason is simple – they see the weapon in war gaming shows and recognise it from war newscasts. Many male students are immediately attracted to the Classic Guns display and easily identify with the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun. Girl students love the EID dog and its handler in the Afghanistan display. In the past recent years of school visits, we have had two faintings and one girl break into inconsolable sobbing! It certainly seems the popularity – and value - of school visits is spreading far and wide.

Peter Haran

Restoration of Truck 2½ TON, GS, 6x6 Studebaker.....



Recently AMOSA held an 'un-veiling ceremony' to recognise a milestone in the restoration of the Studebaker truck. The Project Coordinator, Geoff Laurie, himself a former driver of such vehicles in the 1960s, welcomed special guests Mr Dennis Ship & his wife Cynthia – Dennis had previously been the proprietor of the well-known

towing company, "Don't go Dippy, just ring Shippy", and had willingly provided his time on several occasions to assist in moving the heavy components of the vehicle. The Studebaker was first manufactured in 1941 and used widely by American forces when they entered WW2, and then later in the Korean war. It was later adopted by the Australian Army in (roughly) the late 1950s, replacing the well-known 'Blitz trucks' of WW2 fame, and in turn being replaced in the early 1970's by the International Mark 3 & Mark 5's. Studebaker designed and built these 6 x 6 trucks, and between 1941 – 1945 produced almost 200,000 vehicles, while the Reo Corporation produced an additional 22,000 under the same contract. In its day it was the main vehicle issued to units for field operations, its main roles including:

- Transport of troops & all types of cargo;
- Towing of field guns & ammunition by artillery units;
- Fuel / water tankers;
- Tip trucks, both rear & sideways tipping,

- RAEME workshop vehicles;
- On rare occasions, when modified, as a prime mover for a semi-trailer.

Some vehicles were fitted with a self-recovery winch behind the front bumper bar. When the Studebaker trucks were 'pensioned off' by the Australian Army, many were converted for use as 'logging trucks' in forests, or as a platform for drilling rigs, because they were sturdy vehicles capable of carrying loads well in excess of the official 2 ½ tons, and able to operate reliably in rugged terrain. Sadly, after leaving the Army, the one which we bought had been converted to right-hand drive, and the driving cabins (we had 2) and bonnet were in need of 'considerable conservation work'! Why did we purchase and restore it? The museum didn't have one, even though it was a key part of the Army's vehicle history; I advised the Board where there was one for sale, and it was delivered to us in June 2017. However, work didn't start for a couple of years because the same team members were still restoring the 18 pdr field gun. We received a Grant from History SA, and work commenced in late 2019, only to be interrupted by Covid 19 restrictions, which you will all remember. We dismantled the truck down to a 'rolling chassis' and began the arduous task of cleaning every part we could reach, treated rust in many places, painted all metal parts with heavy duty primer, then applied 2 top-coats to every part. Dave Williams almost single-handedly cleaned & painted the whole tray, top and bottom! While this was happening, Pete Jarrett & Garry Robinson converted the truck back to

Restoration of Truck 2½ TON, GS, 6x6 (Cont)

LHD, involving re-locating the steering, and brake, clutch & accelerator pedals & under-floor linkages. Our 'new recruit volunteer,' Richard Sutherland, retired panel-beating instructor, took on the large task of converting 2 very battered cabins into 1 'good as new' cabin, we couldn't have done it without Richard & we are very grateful for his willing expertise! Pete, the Welder & Johnny Black also played important roles on many occasions when available in between other work that they were tasked with. Our Monday volunteer, Bruce Watkinson, has been busy over the past few months replacing all of the wiring to 'better than new' condition. Although we managed to have it on display for the recent Open Day, there are still a few small jobs to finish, so it has been returned to the work area in Bldg 8 for the next couple of months to keep it out of the weather. What was the biggest lesson learned? The Biggest Lesson Learned was to "take photos & make notes before you begin to dismantle", all of which we will do more carefully next year when we begin work on the Blitz wagon!

What do the signs mean? Several people have asked "what do the coloured signs mean"? All military vehicles display 'tactical signs', referred to as 'tac signs'; the colours red over blue, as shown, indicate an ARTILLERY unit; in the late 1960's the number 45 denoted 13 Field

Regiment here in Keswick Barracks; the white square in the top RH corner indicates the vehicle was part of P Battery, the senior Bty in the Regt; as most of these trucks in an artillery regt towed guns, this one is towing Bravo gun, an example of which is outside the main door to the Museum gallery.

SUMMARY

In summary, my heartfelt thanks to all the members of what I refer to as 'THE A-TEAM', Pete, Richard, Garry, Dave, Pete the Welder, Bruce, & Johnny Black, for all of their hard work & good company, given willingly, because we all felt that the job was important, both to us, and the Army Museum. Thanks for a job well done. Thanks also to the long-suffering wives & partners for their willingness to 'issue all of the leave passes, especially on the 'extra days' when I was trying to 'make more progress'!

Thanks also to our Curator, Wayne Birch, for his patience with this extended project, and his advice, both of which allowed us to eventually get the job done.

A special thanks to Amanda James and History SA for the Grant provided to us, to Dennis Shipp for his special assistance with his crane truck, and to Ray Carn, from whom we purchased the truck.

Geoff Laurie



Amanda James from History SA who provided the restoration grant.



Geoff Laurie at the launch of the finished Studebaker



The team of volunteers who worked on the Studebaker Restoration Project.



Volunteers assemble for the official launch of the restoration of the Studebaker after 3 years of effort sometimes interrupted by COVID restrictions.



Geoff, Dennis and Cynthia Shipp inspecting the Studebaker

Replica .45 Capping Breech Loading Carbine

On Monday 28th November the AMOSA Restoration Area team handed over to the Foundation Curator a splendid replica of a .45 capping breech loading carbine of the type manufactured by the Westley Richards Corporation of Birmingham, England. This was the culmination of nearly two years of painstaking work by the Restoration Area team, and also by other AMOSA volunteers, and with input from external subject matter experts. The Westley Richards "Monkey Tail" was a popular capping breechloader, first designed in 1858. Capping breech loading arms used a paper wrapped cartridge that contained the lead projectile and the black powder charge, as was the case with military muzzle loading arms. The difference in operation was that they were breech loaded. The percussion cap ignited the charge in the chamber, through the thin paper wrapping of the cartridge.



Wayne Birch with the 'Monkey Tail'

The Monkey Tail was finally adopted by the British Army in 1866, and served until 1881. It was issued to both regular British cavalry regiments, as well as to volunteer Yeomanry units. It was also a popular commercial rifle, especially in remote places like Australia and South Africa. It was named for the long lever on top of the action used to open and close the breech. The Monkey Tail was supplied to the Reedbeds Cavalry in 1862, four years prior to its adoption by the British military. Although a carbine, the Monkey Tail was a highly accurate firearm as it had Whitworth patent octagonal (polygonal) fast twist rifling. Records of shooting matches from the

time detail how Reedbeds Cavalry members distinguished themselves with this weapon. With the inclusion of Samuel White of the Reedbeds Cavalry as one of the three characters of the Militia Display, it was apparent that the lack of a Monkey Tail carbine was a significant gap in the AMOSA collection. Acquiring and rendering a non SA provenance Monkey Tail was ruled out almost immediately, as such an inappropriate way to go. Also, the Portuguese contract and South African retailed Monkey Tails differ visibly in the nipple bolster area.

That left replication as the only sensible course of action. Replication also offered another advantage over rendering a non SA original. The registration of the rendered AMOSA, RSAR, and SAMRA firearms with SAPOL was an ongoing process. The rendering of another weapon would have created unwanted difficulties with the process. Replicas of pre-1900 non metallic cartridge firearms however, are not registerable with SAPOL.

The replication process...

A cut down original stock for a Victorian Volunteer issue Monkey Tail was sourced from former AMOSA volunteer Gary MacArthur. The Victorian issue carbines had a 25" barrel whereas the SA issue carbines had a 20" barrel. Even though the stock was no longer suitable for restoration of a Victorian carbine, it was long enough for replication of an SA carbine.

Only six original Monkey Tail carbines with South Australian provenance are known to survive. Two of these originals are held by History SA and the others four are in private hands, but still in SA. Three of the privately held Monkey Tails were used as technical references for the creation of the AMOSA replica. The three SA originals were photographed in detail, and a 3D scan of the barrelled action of one of them was made by Dave Veale at Bespoke 3D. Marcus Scibberas of Damocles Media digitally manipulated the 3D file and printed a resin model of the receiver. Adelaide Brass Casting then cast the receiver in iron. The rest of the fabrication was undertaken by the Restoration Area members. Other volunteers were involved in liaising with external artisans and the subject matter experts. Once the receiver and barrel were at a suitably advanced stage of completion, they were engraved as per the SA originals by The Engraving Crew at Glynde. Peter Foster repaired existing damage to the Victorian stock and remodelled it the style of the SA issued stock. The creation of this replica represents an ethical choice by AMOSA. With the creation of this high quality replica, we have achieved the same effect as if we were to display an original arm. The Samuel White section of the Militia Display is now complete.

Brenton Williams



New Office for AMOSA.....

Now located towards the rear fence to Keswick Barracks across the Keswick Creek!

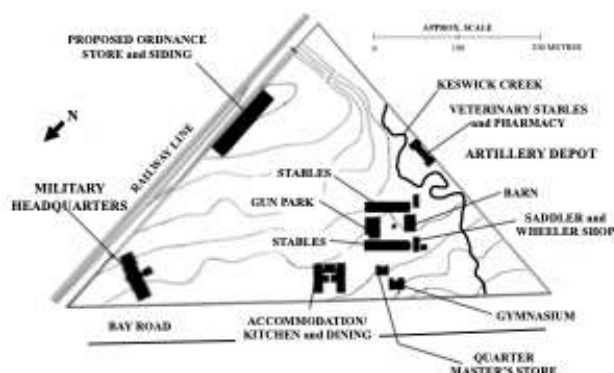


The sign-in sheet and key issue point are now located at the new offices (Building 112). It is suggested you drive to the new building, sign on (and collect keys) and then drive to your normal parking spot and park your car ready for your days' work.



The building was built in 1913 for the purpose of stabling horses with a pharmacy included in the drawings. In the 1930's it was remodelled for use by Military Police as a 'detention barracks'. Some of the original buildings have

KESWICK BARRACKS 1914



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now been demolished including a building housing the MP Unit admin demolished due to an infestation of white ants in 1974 to make way for the District Support Unit (DSU) of the Adelaide Logistics complex. The building was one of several building designed to house an artillery battery with 4 x 15 pounder guns, 32 saddle horses, 60 gun and wagon horses, and horses for the first line transport of ammunition—57 draft horses, 9 vehicles and 37 drivers. Some of the horses were located at O'Halloran Hill with the 'Remount Section' who provided training for the horses.

The building also houses elements of the 47 Army Cadet Unit. The building was used for many years by elements of 2 Provost Company and more recently as offices and meeting rooms for 10/27 RSAR elements. The two rooms

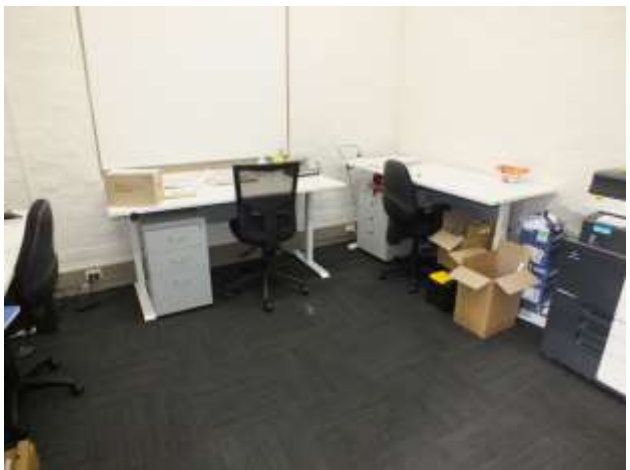


allocated will accommodate the uniform staff of the Museum and provide a place for the staff to undertake their administrative duties.

The rooms allocated for the Museum staff are currently receiving an upgrade to the air conditioning system and adjustments for the work areas for the staff.

The vacated building next to Gate 4 on Anzac Highway will be handed over to a military police (tri-service) component. You may notice on the map from 1914 at the meandering nature of the Keswick Creek as it finds its way through its natural course through Keswick Barracks.

Research undertaken by Paul Longstaff photo's by Nick Williams



Office accommodation in the new building

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