THE EXHIBITOR THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH Australia



Which is the Real Dog?.....



AMOSA

August 2022

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

Hemi War Dog: 'EDD Hemera tries to confuse us in the Afghanistan Display.'

As a part of the recently conducted 9 Brigade Exercise Arras, a local security activity, a team of dogs from 2SECFOR at RAAF Amberley (near Brisbane) paid South Australia and Keswick Barracks a visit. Finding themselves with a little spare time they were drawn to the Museum and it was decided to see how well their scenting and tracking skills had survived the flight from Queensland.

EDDs (Explosive Detection Dogs) Hemera,



Jasper WW2: 'EDD Jasper visits Tobruk.'

Ash and Jasper, under the overall supervision of SGT Marc Douglas, RAAF,



Ash & her mate: 'EDD Ash at the Gallipoli Diorama.

and two other handlers soon went to work finding some dodgy packages and quickly discovered them in various corners of the Museum, while at the same time posing for



Hemi Trenches: 'EDD Hemera takes cover in a Western Front dugout.'

some very good photographs. It was to the Museum's credit, I think, that at times the dogs were nearly invisible amongst darkened and camouflaged displays, or alongside our dog model when it became a challenge to see which of the canine soldiers was the real one, and which an imposter in uniform!

By Christopher Roe Manager

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Long Tan Day 18 Aug 22 AMOSAF AGM 28 Sept 22 AMOSA Birthday & Open Day 8 Oct 22 Volunteer Visit to

Aviation Museum 12 Oct 22 DVA Health Presentation and Lunch 19 Oct 2022

From the Manager

We continue to make good progress throughout 2022. To some extent this year has been about bouncing back from the limitations imposed by COVID for much of the last two years and I think this is occurring if walk-in visitation numbers and the return of school groups are a guide – but now it appears new strains of the pandemic might need to be dealt with as an



Major Christopher Roe Manager

ongoing task. The necessary steps will be taken when required and experiences gained in the recent past will be of benefit in informing decisions. It has been very noticeable to me how much more engaged volunteers are in certain aspects of their work, the empowerment to make decisions assisting progress on various projects needed to best represent the unit to as broad a range of stakeholders as possible, and ensure the always important devotion to mission and capability. In general we seem more familiar now in answering by actions queries about why we're actually here, and what by these actions we offer to Army in general. External support tasks are especially important in generating a positive perception of the unit to a broader (mostly military) audience and a number of these are scheduled for later this year, either side of the 30th Anniversary Open Day in early October, a most important day that is

Dikko

being carefully planned as an ongoing project. Some high profile visitors, including our friends from the Port Lincoln Military History Group in late May and a team of RAAF security dogs have given us great photographic opportunities and good publicity, and enabled us to demonstrate our hosting protocols for activities at our home, here at Keswick Barracks. The transition to a new financial year gives our military staff security moving forward and it is pleasing that all of our 'uniforms' are taking to their duties with enthusiasm and efficiency and preparing themselves for the likely, or in some cases certain, assumption of new duties after January, especially in regard to the unit's command and control which will see the first major change for almost a decade. Lastly my thanks to everybody for their patience and persistence in what has been one of the coldest and least hospitable winters I can recall for some time. We have not really seen a major reduction in numbers of volunteers as people go north in search of warmer climes. Instead everyone has kept going very well to put the Museum into a stronger position as we prepare for, likely, a series of visits by the Canberra HQ later this year. Early next year we will turn our attention to the internal moves around Keswick Barracks that should see a new Museum HQ location, and some changes to how we display our Large Technology Items as a part of amended outdoor display protocols and locations.

Thank you

Christopher Roe, Manager



National Volunteers Day

Once again hardy volunteers fronted up at Torrens Parade Ground on Monday, 16th May to celebrate National Volunteers Day with a march (leisurely walk) from the Parade Ground to Victoria Square. The rain kept away during the stroll and the 5 of us managed to arrive at Victoria Square just in time for the sausage sizzle - perfect timing. The walk is a lot of fun, meeting and talking to volunteers from all over the State. Thanks go to Heather Simms, John Claxton, Peter Collins and John McInnes (and me) who keep braving the elements each year to wave the flag for the Army Museum of SA. We can't wait for next year's get together.

By Joy Souter Marketing Section



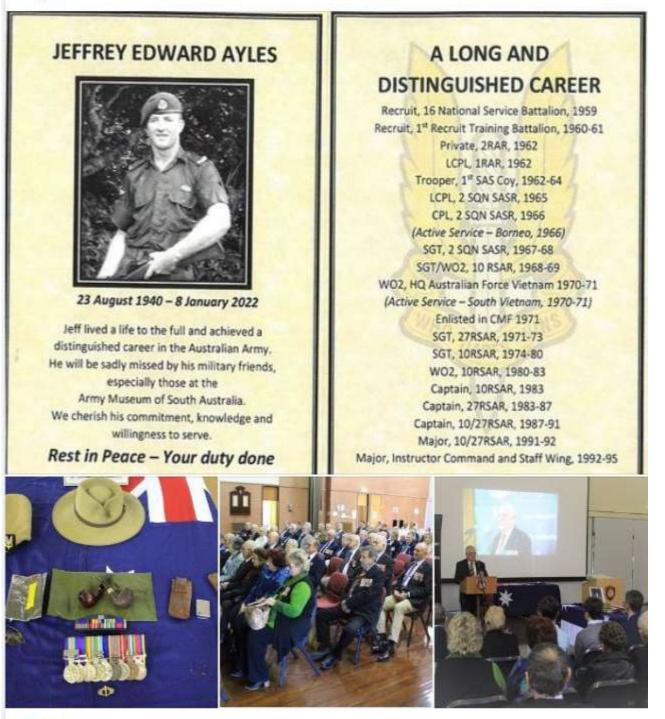
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Vale Jeff Ayles.....



RSL South Australia

Renowned soldier and military history authority Jeff Ayles suddenly passed away earlier this year but due to Covid restrictions his funeral attendance was limited in numbers. On Saturday 18/6/22 a memorial commemoration was held at Keswick Barracks by the Army Museum of South Australia and several invited speakers delivered addresses before Jeff's family and friends. Lest We Forget.



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Teddy Bear

We have been asked to rehome a very much loved Teddy Bear. His owner, PTE Frederick K.R. Ward, enlisted in the Army, transferred to the RAAF, but was never deployed overseas as he was plagued by health problems during his service life. He had a number of hospitalisations and the bear was 'born' during one of those stays for rehabilitation at Keswick Barracks. His coat is brown velvet velour and his paw pads are brown stippled canvas, a fabric used widely in upholstering lounge suites and chairs in the past. The materials were recycled from the 1920s era. I am sure, over the years, he has been given various names by his carers but this wasn't passed on to us so I have decided to call him Keswick Bear and in the usual Aussie fashion he will be known as "Kezza". We hope he will be very happy in his retirement at the Museum and will attract much interest, particularly from our younger visitors.

By Heather Simms, Uniforms & Textiles Curator

The Biscuit

Some months ago I wrote an article about the WW1 hard tack biscuit which had been donated to the Museum. I am pleased to advise that with the help of Brenton Williams, "The Biscuit" is now on display in the Special Exhibitions Gallery 'Souvenirs of War' cabinet. In order to display the biscuit it was important to ensure that it was in an environment where it couldn't deteriorate or be eaten by any insect predators. Brenton has crafted a special display from an old glass clock dome and which allows the biscuit to be easily viewed. So perhaps when you are next sitting down to your muesli or cornflakes for breakfast you will be able to appreciate that life wasn't quite so easy for our men at the front. I am sure when Roy arrived home Hilda would have been happy to bake some fresh hot scones for him. I'm not sure if the jelly would have survived the trip to Egypt.

By Heather Simms, Curator Uniforms & Textiles

Brenton mounting the display





Kezza at home in his current residence in the Uniforms and Textiles office.



'The Biscuit' on display (above) Gallipoli biscuit shown (below)



From the Curator July 2022.....

30th Anniversary of the Foundation Planning is well underway to conduct an Open Day at Keswick Barracks to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the forming of the Army Museum of South Australia. This will be held on Saturday 8th October 2022, 1000 hrs until 1600 hrs. It is planned to have most South Australian based Army units represented at the Open Day as well as a number of community organisations. The Museum owes its existence to the drive and commitment of the inaugural committee members who were passionate about the retention, renovation, and exhibition of SA's military artefacts. After two years of meetings and planning conferences, the inaugural meeting of the Army Museum of South Australia's Committee was held on 21 September 1992, at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club. The Museum was officially opened by Dr Erica Roberts, Army Historian on 30 September 1992, after which the inaugural General Meeting for members was held. 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 hoping to have it printed in time for the Open Day. 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 returned to owners.

Displays

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 30^{th 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.

Le Hamel Display 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 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

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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 a comprehensive and interesting display.

Defence Reserves Employer Support Awards Display The Museum has received a request to provide 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 will be held at the Sanctuary Function Centre at the Adelaide Zoo on Wednesday the 21st of September 2022.

Fort to Fort Display The Fort 2 Fort Remembrance Walk will take place on the 6th of Nov 2022 - between Fort Largs and Fort Glanville. This is a leisurely walk for charity and will raise 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 has been requested to support this event and will do so by providing a small display at Semaphore. The RSL will provide a tent and the Museum will be allowed to sell our merchandise and hand out our flyers. I will be asking for volunteers for this event closer to the date of that activity. Australians with Serbs in World War One On Saturday the 7^{th of} May 2022 the official opening of the "Australians with Serbs in World War One" exhibition took place in the Keswick Barracks Sergeants Mess. The opening was conducted by Bojan Pajic who is the driving force behind the exhibition. The core display was housed in the Museum but as a number of persons were to be invited. The opening was moved to the Keswick Barracks Sergeants Mess. This involved moving the display from Gallery 2 and reconfiguring it in the Mess. The move also made it possible to further accommodate a significant art and medal exhibition. The exhibition highlights the service of South Australians in the Serbian Campaign through a display of a range of items, many of which were being exhibited for the first time in Australia. One of the guest speakers was Annette Summers who gave insight into the medical support that the Australians provided to the Serbs. This was a professional and well-planned exhibition and through the great efforts of Henry Jolly and Brenton Williams it was a great success. The task of setting up and closing down of the exhibition was a mammoth task and those involved worked from early morning up until late afternoon to

Curator (Cont)

complete it. This was the first of three exhibitions to be held by Bojan Pajic, the next will be at the Shrine in Melbourne and the last in Brisbane.

Catering Corps Display A significant Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) display is planned to be ready by late September 2022. 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 1970s vintage Kitchen Field Trailer. These large items will be placed on the western side of Building 76 under the veranda. The Austin Champ will be removed to accommodate these items. Cage Five, Building 8 contains the bulk of the Foundations artefacts and only some of the items have been documented with ODRs raised. Before any more can be processed they need to have research done on them to see if they are relevant to the Foundation's Collection Policy. If not, they are disposed of through a deaccessioning process approved

Hints on Health in 1915

Having lived through two years of the Covid pandemic I am sure we will appreciate these "Hints on Health for Soldiers in the field, in camp, and in bivouac during peace or on active service" compiled in 1915. Cleanliness: Dirt does not exist in nature (What's that my garden is growing in then?); matter only becomes dirt where it is in the wrong place. The refuse and waste that accumulates about men and their dwellings is the most dangerous form of dirt and is the main cause of preventable disease. (Oh dear! I must catch up with the vacuuming and dusting.) There are five ways to catch disease:

- 1. By breathing in live germs
- 2. By swallowing the live germs
- 3. By touching the live germs

4. By having the germs stuck into the skin by the bites of insects

5. By inheritance from one's parents (That's right. It's always good to have someone else to blame) Among suggestions to prevent sickness: Do not pick the

Army Museum Lunch—18 May 2022

A successful lunch with a sell out audience. A very tasty two course lunch was prepared by Darian and his helpers. Our three speakers gave an interesting overview of their experience in the 50 years since their service in the Vietnam War. Thank you to Michael von Berg, Bob Kearney and Peter Haran for taking on the task in presenting three different aspects of the aftermath to the war. The audience greatly appreciated their talks and insight into their lives after this experience. by the Board. Peter Collins oversees this long and laborious process and thankfully he has been joined by Jannette (his new 2IC), Bob, and John to help him out. This process will take about 2 years to complete. IT Report Peter Clark reports that Version 12 of the Collections Mosaic program has been installed on the Foundation's network. Apart from a few initial hiccups it has 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 also 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.

By Wayne Birch Foundation Curator

nose with fingernails as it makes sore spots. (Cut your fingernails??) When sweeping always wet the floor first to keep down the dust. (Does this eliminate the need for me to dust?) Do not pet animals in camp that have been handled by everyone else. (Reminder to have wet wipes in the morning tea room when George attends.) Do not wet lead



pencils with your tongue. (The younger ones may well ask "What's a lead pencil?")

Do not sleep in houses left empty by the enemy unless ordered to do so. (Sounds like something from Housing SA dealing with the current shortage of rental properties.) Lighthorsemen should not let sick horses or mules sneeze in their faces. **Researched by Heather Simms**



From the left: Peter Haran, Michael von Berg, Bob Kearney and Oscar Wayland.

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Whats Happening in Photographics?....

When I (call me 'E') arrived at AMOSAF to work with images and digitisation, I was told the photographic collection had 'a chequered past'. A few false-starts had culminated in a long pause and total disarray. Filing cabinets loomed brimming with chaos, much unidentified. My role was trifold: Work out what was there; sort it meaningfully; and scan every photo for the server, reviving the beleaguered AMOSA Scanning Project of days of yore. This imposing job came with the payoff that I could then use the entire collection in my research. A no-brainer, I grudgingly signed my life away and then excitedly dug in to see the treasures revealed.

We set the parameter that low-demand items (e.g. albums of individual soldiers or nurses and specific subject collections) would not be scanned page-by-page at this stage, but accessioned to Mosaic akin to entering them at a 'series' level. There were 149 such collections, now all in archival-grade housing and catalogued, and searching Mosaic for keywords will find them with corresponding shelf locations. All individual photographs (not part of a collection) and the higher demand collections, such as the awesomely inspiring Roger Freeman collection would be scanned.

Photographs, albums and personal collections have been donated to AMOSAF by well-meaning ex-soldiers and families with the intent that they are accessible. In the major libraries, researchers usually pay \$10-40 for a copy of a single photograph and rescans up to the holding limit of the photograph can cost hundreds of dollars. AMOSA now has these done and ready to go. My computer tells me I have digitised 1563 images for a quite modest total data size around 1TB. I'm already using these images in my research and there is now scope for others to do the same. Furthermore, the scanning project is effectively a digital backup at full resolution of everything scanned.

If a picture tells a thousand words, there are sure a lot of 'words' in this collection. If you are looking for that 'unique' photo to publish or display your research project, drop in and see me in Room 6 of the Archives building. I like a chat, I don't bite, and you likely won't leave empty handed. And, if you have any South Australian relatives in the 1st AIF (infantry) or the Boer War and would like to share a photo or two, it will help to identify diggers who have lost their names over time. Conversely if you have any 'lost diggers' in your family and would like an image, let me know and I can hopefully find them in the course of my ID project.

I look forward to sharing AMOSAF's photographic collection with you!

Photographics Section



A rare shot of personnel of the 4th Motor Transport Company, Drivers A. ATTENBOROUGH, H. MUMFORD, R.BOULTON and C. GRIFFITHS from the collection of Bill JOYCE who is standing next to the lorry, an electrician from Port Adelaide.



No 7 Australian General Hospital Keswick, 1920. (Taken from the Northern side of 'Bays Road' Anzac Highway)



Built in 1912 to house the Repatriation Hospital at Keswick. Now used as transit accommodation. Located opposite the Ármy Museum on 'Bay Road' renamed in 1923 Anzac Highway

Do you remember?

Readers are asked to identify all three persons by name and rank in this mystery photograph. The first correct answer received will win three bottles of South Australian wine. Answers to <u>wayne.birch@amosa.org.au</u>

Wayne



Port Lincoln Military History Group Visit (PLMHG)

PLMHG has visited AMOSA on several occasions in the past but certainly never with such a comprehensive plan, and commitment of people, horses and resources, as they did in the last weekend of May. This saw the SA Boer War Association (SABWA) conduct its annual Descendants and Friends' Day on the 29 May but, being a Sunday, this of course meant a normal opening time for the Museum itself, enabling us to gain extra value from the visit. The activity began in driving rain on the Friday night as we agisted the horses on base and settled their primary handlers. Glenn and Bradley. into on-base accommodation. After six or so hours in their transport vehicle the horses themselves seemed unconcerned by the rain, glad no doubt to stretch their legs and have something to eat. From there we watched the weather carefully to see how likely the Memorial Service, preceding SABWA DFD and marking the signing of the peace treaty that ended the second Anglo-Boer War on 31 May 1902, was to be affected by the elements. As it happened a very welcome half-day of cool but clear weather appeared on the Sunday and all activities were conducted successfully although the weather, as if giving us enough time to conduct our activities but no more, closed in again just as the PLMHG team began their return journey. The SABWA event was attended by two

'troopers' of the day from the Boer War resplendent on horseback, and they also supported the Memorial Service with a traditional hold ground exercise. Photographs and selfies of the riders were taken by the DFD attendees while, down at the Museum, PLMHG's locally based reenactors gathered at Building 136 to set up, and in rotation wear, upwards of fifty different uniform combinations from colonial days through to more modern conflicts, delighting visitors to the Museum during our Sunday afternoon opening period. We offer our sincere thanks to PLMHG for their support of AMOSA. COVID had precluded their attendance on two other occasions in recent years but this time it was full steam ahead and a most enjoyable two days was had by all. We acknowledge in particular the tremendous logistic achievement, on the part of PLMHG, that this activity, and others like it, must represent. Port Lincoln to Adelaide is a round trip of well over a thousand kilometres, and to move six horses with their food, temporary stabling and ancillary equipment, countless items of uniform attire and the coordination of the reenactors on the day is a major task. They greatly enhanced the weekend's activities and we look forward to welcoming them to Keswick in the future, perhaps as early as the Museum Open Day in early October. By Christopher Roe Manager



James Hurst & Rohan Main at the Memorial Plaque on Keswick



Bradley Theakstone(L), Glenn Fowler ® holding ground outside the 9th Brigade HQ



From left SGT Troy Oakes, Rohan Main, James Hurst, Rolf Sellentin

Gertrude Marie Ottilie Dorsch – A Case Study

The Virtual War Memorial (VWM) is a valuable resource for establishing the provenance of objects offered for donation to AMOSA. Along with Australian War Memorial (AWM) embarkation records, at a minimal level, these web resources enable Museum staff to verify the correct service details of long deceased Army members. Confirmation of Army service and a connection to South Australia are essential pre-requisites in documenting the provenance of items offered for donation, and in determining worthiness for collection. While many items offered for donation may be marked with service numbers, many are not. A service number is usually, but not always, a unique identifier of the individual who is reported by donors to have served.

The VWM pages for South Australians who have served also offer the potential to share both research undertaken at AMOSA, and the objects that we add to our collections. This case study examines the sharing of research and the cross promotion of an object related to the First World War service of Australian Army Nusing Service (AANS) member Gertrude Marie Ottilie Dorsch of Prospect, South Australia. Gertrude was born in Callington, SA, in 1886, into a large and well schooled Lutheran family. She began her training as a nurse at the Adelaide Hospital in 1911. In July 1915 Gertrude joined AANS, being over the required 25 years of age, single, having completed three years of training, and two years of professional practice. Gertrude served overseas for four years until July of 1919, mostly with 3rd Australian General Hospital, but also with 2nd Australian General Hospital. Prior to the addition of research and media from AMOSA, Gertrude's VWM page consisted of her family biography and service history, supported by a solitary image of her headstone at West Terrace Cemetery. The biographical information on her VWM page advises that Gertrude married John Tomlin and that she died at Springbank in 1957. Springbank was the location of the Repatriation General Hospital. The trigger event for conducting research in Gertrude's service was the acquisition by AMOSA of her Victory Medal in January of this year. While a Victory Medal is a very common First World War artefact, the collections at AMOSA did not include a single medal for a female 1st AIF member. Prior to the acquisition of Gertrude's Victory Medal, the Foundation collection held only three catalogued artefacts with provenance to women who





acquisition of Gertrude's medal provided AMOSA with a First World War medal for a female member, it did not give us a displayable artefact because it was part of an

Victory Medal images (front and back)

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incomplete set of awards. The AMOSA Medals Curator confirmed that Gertrude had also received the 1914-15 Star, and the British War Medal. Those medals are not documented to have survived. A request was made to upload images of Gertude's Victory Medal to her VWM profile. The rationale for this action was that the publication of images of her Victory Medal on her VWM profile, along with giving AMOSA as the location of the medal, may one day see either of her other medals come to AMOSA if they still exist. Gertrude did not have any children, so her medals were not passed down a direct family line. If either her 1914-15 Star or her British War Medal still exist, they may be in the hands of persons who have no family connection to her. It is now a common behaviour that people finding or coming into possession of numbered and or named military medals will type the name information engraved on the rim into Google and see what comes up. People who have a slightly higher awareness will go directly to sites like VWM or the AWM. Upon finding that Gertrude's Victory medal is at AMOSA, anyone holding either of her other medals may be tempted to contact us. Research into Gertrude also revealed other images that were potential additions to her VWM page. An image on the AWM site of the nurses of 2nd AGH in France taken in 1918 identified Gertrude as third from the right in the front row.



The various wartime images of Gertrude, as well as images of the obverse, reverse, and rim engraving of her Victory Medal were all submitted to the VWM administrator, and were added to her profile. This is an example of how fairly simple research can enhance a VWM page, and also get one of our artefacts out there into cyberspace. Incomplete medal groups, (which would be displayable if complete), either because of who they were awarded to, or good supporting media exists, are potential candidates for uploading to the recipient's VWM profile. This course of action may possibly lead to such an award group becoming complete and thereby more displayable inhouse at AMOSA. While medals are the most common surviving artefacts of those who have served, the collections at AMOSA include many other fascinating artefacts that have a provenance to individuals. The VWM pages of these people provide an opportunity to share images of these artefacts in cyberspace. By SSGT Danee Davis {Retd}

Henry Jolly

'Henry Jolly first came to AMOSA as a work experience secondary student seven years ago. He enjoyed his week here so much that he soon became a volunteer on a permanent basis, and with his Megadeth belt buckle and some spectacular hairdos quickly became a very popular member of the volunteer community. So adept was he at the job, and so obviously did he enjoy the environment, that he became one of our most trusted and reliable staff members. He eventually moved into the Curatorial subsection where he proved skilful, versatile and persistent in sourcing material for displays, arranging items creatively and putting in long hours in the best interests of of the unit. Henry completed all of the AAHU's training courses and put these skills to good use here. Not having a permanent salary did represent, of course, an impediment to Henry but he did not let this get him down and eventually landed an outstanding appointment at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, not just giving him financial security but also a chance to work in the Museum world that so seems to suit him. We were sorry to see him go but it was also a source of great pride to this unit, and the broader network, that a young man is making such

Activities

good progress and perhaps a validation of the training and earnt experience of Museum Network staff. Henry represented, while here, the best of the volunteer community; skilful at the job but always on hand when help was needed, and invariably putting the best interests of the Museum and the Army ahead of his own. We wish him well on his journey towards, in time, The Australian War Memorial.

By Christopher Roe, Manager



Henry and staff at the Museum

