

THE EXHIBITOR

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



June 2023
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

Museum History Festival Lunch 2023.....

For over 10 years we have been running our History Lunches as part of the annual South Australian History Festival. The History Trust of South Australia, the organisation responsible for the delivery of South Australia's History Festival, have been keen promoters of our lunches. The 2023 lunch was held on Wednesday 10th May in Building 34A at Keswick Barracks.

This year we changed our focus from celebrating our military past to looking towards the future. This year's theme was "Defending Australia....Are we ready?". To assist in our discussions we sought the services of Dr James Hurst, a noted historian and talented presenter, organiser and speaker as our MC. We also asked three military Commanders, BRIG Graham Goodwin, Commander 9 Bde, LTCOL James Floyd, CO 16 Regiment and MAJ John Burns, OC AMOSA, to participate in our panel discussion.

The discussion was open and frank and



L-R Dr James Hurst, Brigadier Graham Goodwin and Lieutenant Colonel James Floyd—our guest speakers

gave the attendees an understanding of where we are now and what we can expect in the future.



The day's activities started with a delicious two-course meal consisting of chicken with a tomato glaze and vegetables followed by a strawberry trifle with cream. For catering purposes, numbers were limited to 100 and our catering team were proud of their efforts in feeding 104 people (including the Guest Speakers) and tidying up in the allotted one hour. After the meal and speakers' segment, all participants were invited to visit the museum to see our new additions and changes. Upgrading is always an ongoing activity in progressive museums, so if you have not been there lately, you should drop in soon and check them out for yourself. I would like to thank all those who helped in any way towards making our History Lunch such a success.

Greg Rosser Chairman AMOSAF



Guests attending the lunch.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**End of the Vietnam Conflict
16 Aug 2023**

**AMOSAF Foundation AGM
13 Sep 2023**

**Army Safety Day
23 Sep 2023**

**Catering Corps (AACC) display
and function
4 Nov 2023**

**Remembrance Day
11 Nov 2023**

**Volunteers Christmas Function
13 Dec 2023**

From the Manager

Greetings from AMOSA HQ.

I hope this edition finds you all well and looking after yourselves. Although I am aware that some volunteers are unwell or looking after loved ones at the moment and wish them well and a speedy recovery. I will take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who provided guidance and suggestions of places to go and see for my recent trip across The Nullarbor to WA. Your advice and guidance was fantastic. And yes it's June already! With the year going at a great pace, the museum programme of visits and events is well underway and work continues on audits, assistance to unit events and daily operations of the AMOSA and for this I thank you all. Recent events to name two include a very successful Police Museum visit (thank you to Wayne Birch) which is probably the last chance to visit this SA icon despite having a small flood in Building 8 that day the visit still went on. The support provided to the RACT 50th Anniversary, a very successful event with approximately 680 visitors to the museum on the day. A big thank you to all those available to assist on the day. The big question on everyone's mind at present is what does the future hold for Keswick Barracks and more importantly the AMOSA. The current



Major John Burns (JB)
Manager

plan involves a two stage divestment is proposed to occur over a 6 year period with an optional 2 year extension. Stage 1 would occur in 3 years and Stage 2 would occur no sooner than a further 3 years later. There is no requirement for barracks occupants to relocate before this time. Keswick holds important heritage value such as the Army Museum of South Australia and Building 32. The entire site is being considered as part of the divestment and the SA Government will take on existing heritage obligations. Units and functions at Keswick Barracks will be relocated to other Defence sites in accordance with the two stage timeline. Decisions on the timing and receiving sites of relocations have not been determined. Initial planning suggests that Edinburgh Defence Precinct and Warradale Barracks will feature prominently. So now the discussions and planning start with initial thoughts being a new museum being built at Warradale. I stress initial but I will keep you informed.

And yet again I find myself saying Thank You!, These thanks are in relation to our recent Explosive Ordnance Inspection which took place in March this year but we have only just received the final report. The report is absolutely dynamite (pardon the pun) and states The standard of inert and display EO management at AMOSA has been elevated to an excellent standard due to the tremendous efforts of uniformed Defence and civilian volunteer members who work at AMOSA on a part time basis. Finally and as always please look after yourselves and each other. Your contributions to this unit are highly valued and much appreciated in support of our mission to preserve Army's history in South Australia. **JB**

Membership Subscriptions 2023/24.....

PAYMENT FOR 2023/24 MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE As approved at last years AGM the fee for 23/24 will increase from \$10 to \$20 so **subscription payment this year will be \$20.**

Payment can be made:

In **cash** (to Ernie or Greg Rosser), or

EFTPOS in the Museum Office (including completing

the Membership Form on the counter) or

EFT and sending an email to 'Ernie' at ernie.reichstein@amosa.org.au advising him of the payment, your name and preferred email address.

EFT Details - BSB **833-205** Account Number - **20515018**

Account Name - **Army Museum of SA**

Dikko



Visits to the Army Museum

Volunteers of the Army Museum of South Australia Foundation in conjunction with the Army History Unit staff arrange visits to the Museum. Requests for visits come from a variety of sources including service clubs, defence organisations, aged care facilities, historical organisations, other museums, collector's clubs, schools, motor vehicle enthusiasts and individuals and the general public. Last year there were over 5000 people recorded as visitors to the museum.



The Verrier grandsons and great granddaughter with Keven Draper

Visitors come to the museum for a variety of reasons, many come in remembrance of a past family member. One such visit recently was from the family of COL Arthur Verrier OBE (Military), DCM, ED, MID who was a famous South Australian soldier. Colonel Verrier served in World War 1 and had been wounded twice on the Western Front and been awarded the Distinguished Conduct medal for his efforts. Between the wars he was an officer in the 27th Battalion in the Citizens Military Forces (CMF). At the outbreak of World War 2 he was already a Lieutenant Colonel and appointed to reform the 2/10 Battalion of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force. Records showed that Colonel Verrier commanded the Battalion until it was relieved during the siege of Tobruk in North Africa, hence he was one of the famous 'Rats of Tobruk'.

The visit request came from an Adelaide based grandson, Jonathan Russack, who himself had served in the CMF, initially with the South Australian Mounted Rifles before transferring to the 27th Battalion where he joined the drum corps as part of the band, later transferring to the 10th Battalion when the bands merged. He was also a volunteer in the early days of our museum working with our research group headed by Paul Longstaff. Jonathon's mother, Colonel Verrier's daughter, had moved to the United States after the war as a war bride and married an American

serviceman starting an American family, leaving Jonathon in Adelaide. It was not until 1998 that Jonathan was able to contact his half-brother and sister in the United States. The Medal Room has a prominent display of Colonel Verrier's career and a medal collection donated by the family. On a recent visit to Adelaide, his half-brother, Greg, asked to see his grandfather's medals and so a visit was arranged during his April visit.



Jon and daughter Jennifer inspect Verrier's cigarette case

The visit was hosted by our Medals Curator, Keven Draper, who has a detailed knowledge of the career of Colonel Verrier and was able to provide information to the family to enhance their knowledge of their grandfather. Allied to this, Keven was able to provide a cigarette case that had been presented to the then MAJ Verrier by the Officers of the 27th Battalion on the occasion of his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1939. They were really taken aback with the display and information that Keven was able to provide. They loved the story board about Verrier and Jonathon's daughter was quite emotional when she held the cigarette case that her great grandfather had held so many years ago. The family had a good look around at the other museum displays but kept going back to the Medal Room. Jonathan Russack thanked Keven on behalf of the family for making their visit so memorable.

Nick Meredith and Keven Draper



The Verrier story board in the Medal Room

Army History Unit 25th Birthday.....

At our End of Month morning Tea on Wednesday 24th May we had a joint birthday celebration, not only did we celebrate the birthdays of our volunteers born in May, but also the 25th birthday of the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU).

As it was their Birthday AAHU offered to pay for our morning tea on the day and the Keswick Cafe excelled themselves with a range of freshly prepared healthy sliders, fruit kebabs, mini baguettes, mini choc slices, mini pies, cakes, biscuits etc.



The great spread for morning tea

Along with the birthday boys and girl our 2IC accepted the traditional cupcake and candle on behalf of AAHU. It was a very joyful occasion and a great opportunity for our volunteers to spend some time together with members of other work areas. In addition to the morning tea, AAHU also provided all museum staff and volunteers with a 25th Anniversary Medallion.

Greg Rosser



*The birthday boys and girl and WO1 Brian Kirby
L-R Peter Jarrett, Libbie Kalatzis, Kim Hutton & WO1 Kirby*

Museum Practice Course Sydney

CPL Li and I recently attended the 'Introduction to Museum Practice' course at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney, which was an interesting and eye-opening experience. We joined 21 other students from a range of backgrounds and ranks, both volunteer and military staff. The course involved a mix of theoretical lectures and practical workshops running from 0800 – 1630hr each day.

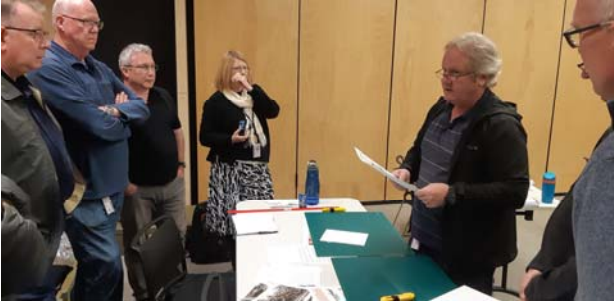


Sculpture in front of entrance to Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering (AAMME) at Holsworthy commemorating Explosive Detection Dogs and their handlers

The course was professionally facilitated by a cadre of instructors, including Neil Daley, whose experience ranged from museum curatorial and conservation to many years of military experience. We were introduced to the 'National Museum Practices, Principles and Standards', which all museums are encouraged to adhere to. We learnt that as a museum we must adapt and encourage safe work practices and to arrest the degradation that time and extended human interaction may cause to different types of artifacts. One of the main positives was the venue itself, the Museum of Military Engineering is a 'working' museum in that it actively participates in the training and education of its main audience, being the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers. It was well designed, well lit, and easy to move around to view artifacts and follow the Corps' story. Its conservation area was truly an eye-opener, being well equipped, organised and everything you would expect in a professional conservation workspace. The neighbouring Museum of Military Police, located in two WWII-era wooden barracks, was no less amazing

Museum Practice Course (Cont)

with its well-designed displays.



Lesson on photograph conservation given by AHU Manager, Mr. Neil Daley, during the Introduction to Museum Practice (IMP) Course held at AAMME

But it was not all work for us. We managed to get off-base to catch up with Henry Jolly at a pub which was like meeting a long-lost brother! It was good to see he was doing well at the Powerhouse Museum and enjoying the work. On another brilliant night, we took a ferry ride around Sydney Harbour, seeing the lit-up skyline of Sydney, Lunar Park, the Harbour Bridge and finally the Sydney Opera House, where we came across the famous British chef, Gordon Ramsay! The final night was the course dinner at the local Sports Club, which afforded a last opportunity to network with other course participants in a casual environment.

In summary, our time away on this 4-and-a-half-day course was stimulating, exciting and challenging at times. It was a very visual program but also stimulated other

senses and made us think about how to perceive displays and layouts, and by extension, how to design them.



'Rising Sun' motif made out of Australian Army bayonets and SLR magazines, seen in the OR's boozer, Holsworthy Barracks

Terry Izatt and Adrian Li May 2023

Gallipoli Rosemary



In 1915 a wounded digger from Adelaide was being repatriated to the Army Hospital at Keswick Barracks. As he was packing he remembered the frantic climb up the cliffs when he, and his mates, used the rosemary bushes as hand holds to help them get away from the madness of the beach landings. As he was packing to return to Australia, the memory of the rosemary bushes, and their aroma, was still fresh in his mind, so he stowed a small rosemary bush in his pack to bring back with him, (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) dug up from the slopes and ravines of Anzac Cove. It survived the journey and was

planted in the Hospital grounds of Keswick Barracks.

For decades small sprigs of the digger's rosemary were worn to honour the fallen on Anzac and Armistice Days. After the Repatriation Hospital at Daw Park was established following WWII, cuttings were taken and planted in the hedgerows around the new buildings. Today, only a few remain. Over the passage of time, the original rosemary bush disappeared from the grounds of what is today, Keswick Barracks.

In 2021, with help from the Avenues of Honour Project, cuttings were collected from the descendant bush at the Repatriation Hospital.

On Anzac Day in 2023, the rosemary cuttings were replanted around the Lone Pine (*Pinus halepensis*), another descendant from Gallipoli which was planted in commemoration of those young Australians who served and were left behind.

Cuttings of the rosemary have been planted in many areas around Keswick Barracks.

Joy Souter

Have you considered being a Sunday Guide?

My opening into the museum was becoming a Sunday Guide as it worked with my full-time work. Coming in on a Sunday was a pleasant break from the planning, marking, and escape of report writing, as a teacher. Along with the opportunity to showcase our wonderful museum to the public, I could work with a fabulous team of guides.

I believe that Sunday is the day where the public sees the outstanding work of our volunteers. Many say to me that they need to know military history to be a guide, absolutely not! You will be surprised how much you do know from your own experiences. You can always ask one of the other guides. By the way, "I don't know" is accepted by many. In a nutshell, the most important aspects of being a guide is meeting and greeting the public and wandering around the museum as bit of a security check and helping out with the Vickers Gun, after you have stood back and watched if people can work it out. If your answer to my question is 'yes', please have a chat. I am now

around on Mondays and Wednesday (retirement pay!) or give me a call.



And finally You will never know who pops in on a Sunday.....Keith Payne VC in 2017.

Sue Urban Guides Coordinator
Ph 0427 820 700 guides@amosa.org.au

Anzac Day Keswick & Police Museum Visit.....



Anzac Day Dawn Service conducted on the Parade Ground at Keswick Barracks. Wreaths were laid under the Lone Pine.



Amosa Keswick
1h · 🌐

Today we were hosted by the South Australian Police Historical Society as we visited their Museum. We thank them for their hospitality and sharing their history.
<https://southaustralianpolicehistoricalsociety.com/>
PS the SAPOL museum is open on Sunday 28th May, the final open before they move to their new site further along Port Road.

Humour.....



BAD NEWS SOLDIER, YOU'RE BEING TRANSFERRED TO A MASH UNIT.



Ernie.....



Ernie Reichstein has been a volunteer at the Army Museum of South Australia since 2018 and is a familiar sight in the archives area and guiding duties. Having recently achieved the venerable age of 80, Ernie has experienced changes in his living circumstances

unfamiliar to the younger generation. He was born in Woodville but when he was three, his family including a brother and sister moved to the country. We know the area as Tea Tree Gully, Ernie's dad worked in a local white clay mine. The house was in the middle of a paddock with no running water or electricity. A kerosene powered fridge and hurricane lantern by which to do homework. With his siblings, Ernie worked picking almonds in the summer. At the age of nine Ernie saw the miracle of running water and electric lights.

Some people seem to have problems pronouncing non English names Reichstein became Boxdine And Roxdine. Completing his education at Adelaide Boys High School, where he also played football. Ernie

went on to work with the Prudential Insurance Company earning the eye watering amount of 135 pounds per annum. Ernie enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces (pre curser of Army Reserve) with 13 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. He still enjoys the friendships he made during that time.

In 1971 Ernie met the love of his life, Judy. They married in 1973 and moved into his present home at Fulham Gardens. The couple enjoyed travel and made the most of their time together. In 1978 Brett was born and in 1980 Mark came along. As the boys grew, more world travel was enjoyed whilst coping with illness and subsequent loss of parents. In 2000 Judy won a trip to the Sydney Olympics and they stayed at the Carlton Ritz and enjoyed the opening ceremony. Sadly in 2013 Judy was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was in remission for a time allowing for more travel but unfortunately this did not last, and she lost her battle with a return of the disease. Ernie has had his own battles with cancer but has never recovered from the loss of his beloved wife. Another devastating loss in 2018 when his eldest son Brett passed away.

Ernie is an example to us all of resilience in the face of tragedy. In addition to his volunteering several days a week at AMOSA, he also volunteers at an Op Shop in Woodville. He is a kind and generous man who has donated more than his time to the ongoing function of the museum.

Trudy Babinskas

Womens Land Army WWII



Flora Hardy of the CWALA cuts hay near Stawell, Victoria, in September 1942. (AWMA 009296, photographer Edward LF Cranshaw)

During WW2 many Australian women joined the workforce, filling essential industry positions left vacant by men who had gone overseas to fight, and in doing so they performed duties that were usually considered part of

the male domain.

Women began to join military organisations such as the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAAF), Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) and the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS). Women were seen to be "doing their bit" for the war effort. The Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA) was a national scheme introduced by the Manpower Directorate 1942. Women were employed on farms operating machinery and maintaining farm

infrastructure. They were paid directly by the farmers who employed them. The minimum wage was 28 shillings (\$2.80) per week and from this was deducted 14 shillings (\$1.40) for board and lodging. Working hours were usually 48 hours a week in winter and 50 hours in summer.

Despite a vigorous advertising campaign the AWLA was competing with the other women's services so in January 1943 Cabinet decided to make the AWLA an official fourth service. However delays meant that the War's end the AWLA was not officially recognised as an enlisted auxiliary service despite being issued with khaki uniforms. This meant that they were discharged as a civilian body as they had signed up with the Directorate of Manpower and not the defence forces. Members of the AWLA were not eligible for the same benefits as the other women's services, nor were they allowed to march on Anzac Day until 1985. Twelve years later they were awarded the Civilian Service Medal.

We are currently preparing a mannequin in the AWLA uniform which should be on display in the museum in the near future.

Heather Simms Curator, Uniforms & Textiles

Curators Report June 2023

We recently had a visit from the Minister for Veterans Affairs for South Australia, Geoff Brock and gave him a tour of the Museum. He was keenly interested in the museum and confided that he had been in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) in his younger days. He complimented the museum on our displays and that we continue to educate the public about the contribution South Australians have made to the military in times of Peace and War. I spoke to him about the future of the Museum, given that Keswick Barracks will be transferred from Commonwealth to State ownership. I mentioned to the Minister that a previous Museum Manager always thought we should create a "Keswick Barracks Military Museum Enclave" covering Buildings 76, 136, 134 and the Navy HQ. and perhaps this area could be excised from the transfer. He gave an assurance that the Foundation would be kept informed during the transfer process. Who knows what will happen!

The Curatorial Team are currently conducting an audit of all artefacts within the Museum. The audit is about 70% complete with items being tagged, photographed, and entered onto an spreadsheet. Once complete the data will be interrogated to ascertain if donor forms, object data records have been completed and if the items are recorded on purpose specific software such as software Kemu or Mosaic.

We plan to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) with a display and function to be held on Saturday the 4th November 2023. I have been in contact with local Catering Corps personnel, and it is anticipated the AACC HOC, Colonel Commandant and Corps RSM will attend this function. There is a possibility of funding for the function from AACC funds. The plan is to set up a field kitchen using our KFM that will then be used to make scones and light meals for the function attendees. There is also a possibility that a formal corps dinner will be held but this is only in the planning stage.

Gallery 5 (Theatrette) in the museum is being repurposed and will be used to display our large collection of paintings and framed photographs. To this end the ceiling and walls have been painted and a picture hanging rail mounted. Recessed and directional LED lights will be fitted to the ceiling to illuminate the paintings. A small display cabinet will be placed in the gallery, and this has been purchased through AAHU. The inaugural display will feature the 10th Battalion.

I have commenced the journey for AMOSA to gain National Museum Accreditation. To achieve accreditation the Army Museum of South Australia will have to meet the requirements of the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries. To help us in this process I have enlisted the help of the Curator of the Unley Museum, Karen Paris, who is one of our AMOSAF Board members. This accreditation will allow for new funding avenues for the museum.

Wayne Birch



L-R: COL Burnard, Geoff Brock MP, Wayne Birch and COL Orders



The Wiles Cooker ready for the 80th Anniversary celebrations for the Catering corps



*Transport Corps display at Keswick Barracks
17 June 2023*



Outside vehicle display at the Army Museum at Keswick Barracks.

South Australian Police Museum Visit - May 10



Celebrating Australian Army History Unit 25th Birthday

