

# THE EXHIBITOR

## NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH Australia



**AMOSA**

**April 2025**

**VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1**

## Womens Day at 1 Armd Regt.....

AMOSA display at 1 Armoured Regiment International Women's Day event held at Edinburgh Thurs 13 Mar 2025. AMOSA was recently invited to provide a small display on behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment (1 AR) to commemorate International Women's Day.



This was to provide a visual backdrop to a short verbal presentation by one of 1 AR's female members. The exhibition was set up in the CPL Mick Rainey, MM Club in the 1 AR lines at Edinburgh Military District. CPL Rainey was a decorated member who served in the Vietnam War. The presence of a couple of Leopard AS1 Main Battle Tanks as backdrop made the atmosphere all the more dramatic. The short preparation lead time was mitigated by the prepared artifacts and material already pertinent to the subject of the event.



This included female mannequins dressed in WWII Australian Women's Land Army uniform and current AMCU camouflage. 'Angelina' is the mannequin in the photographs.

This combat attire is to illustrate the change in women's role in the uniformed service over time. We also employed a prepared banner showing the evolution of Women's Army service organisations from WWI onwards. An audio-visual presentation on the subject was a little trickier to manage but through trolling through YouTube, several suitable clips presented themselves to be made into a continuous presentation on the topic.



The exhibition was well received by members of 1 AR, and 'Angelina' has officially been badged as a 1 AR member! This exercise goes to show that, with the diversity of artifacts and display materials available, AMOSA is able to turn its hand to a large variety of topics at short notice.

**By Adrian Li**



## Inside this issue

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>AMOSA at the Zoo</i>                     | 2 |
| <i>GS Wagon on Loan</i>                     | 2 |
| <i>Willo humour</i>                         | 2 |
| <i>The Austin Champ</i>                     | 3 |
| <i>The Sinclair Sword</i>                   | 3 |
| <i>The New Fort Largs</i>                   | 4 |
| <i>25 years for Keven Draper</i>            | 4 |
| <i>Display for 9 Brigade</i>                | 5 |
| <i>Edged Weapons and the Sinclair Sword</i> | 5 |
| <i>History Lunch Poster</i>                 | 6 |

## 2025 ACTIVITIES

**Vietnam Veterans Walk** between Edithburgh and Coobowie. Official opening 18th August 2025.

## AMOSA Youtube Videos

There are 6 there at present and more to follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/@armymuseumofsouthaustralia11>

## AMOSA at the Zoo .....

On the evening of Friday 7 February, the AMOSA Curatorial Team set up and manned a display at the Adelaide Zoo at the request of the Defence Members and Families Support (DMFS) organisation. The event allows ADF families newly posted to SA to not only visit the zoo but also avail themselves of the multitude of support functions provided by Defence Welfare, Mental Health and Sports organisations in a family-friendly atmosphere.



AMOSA was invited to participate for the third year running and each year we have increased the variety and complexity of the display to the extent that we now have



one of the largest footprints there. Four mannequins (and one dummy dog), numerous banners, a badge panel and video display required the AMOSA Curatorial Crew of Rolf and Brenton, ably assisted by military members, JB, Adrian and Macca to set-up, man, and then dismantle for the 4 and a half hour event. The end of the night saw all of our show bags distributed, a new generation of ADF families aware of AMOSA, and the DMFS representative very happy, ensuring our continued support for this important community event next year.

*By Adrian Li*

## GS Wagon on Loan .....

Wednesday 15 January saw the removal of the General Service Wagon from Bay 7, Building 80 and the Water Cart which was located in Building 8 near the railway line.

Both items are now on long term loan to the National Museum at Millicent. This has opened up more space to prepare for future museum exhibitions and marks another drawdown of larger exhibits in preparation for the potentially imminent move to a new premises. Volunteers helped the staff load the flat bed trailer/truck.

*By Adrian Li*



## Willo.....





## The Austin Champ .....

Following my article last year relating to the restoration of AMOSA's Austin Champ, I am pleased to report that the project has recently been completed, and the vehicle is now on display under the verandah on the Anzac Hwy-side



of the Museum building, tucked in behind the M113 APC.

We extend a huge vote of thanks to Mr Len EY, who freely gave of his time and expertise in working with canvas to manufacture the new canopy for the vehicle, and with which he has done an excellent job. The 2 photos show the vehicle on display, the second of which displays the 'tac



sign' as would have been used when such a vehicle was in service with our own 3<sup>rd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> South Australian Mounted Rifles. The 'added patina' on the paint work was a result of high winds the night before I took the photo! As I mentioned in my article last year, AMOSA's Austin Champ was donated in memory of 4718041 Trooper Kenneth William ROBINSON, who served in Vietnam between 9 Feb to 6 Dec 1967

*By Geoff Laurie*

## The Sinclair Sword .....

To follow up a previous article regarding a return of artifacts to AUR in January after being restored by AMOSA's Edged Weapons Team, an 1827 Pattern Rifles Officer's Sword found in storage at the **Adelaide Universities Regiment** (AUR) has now been reunited with its owner's family.



On 3 March, CO AUR, LTCOL Scott Calvert, together with RSM AUR WO1 Micheal Edwards presented Sydney resident Mr. George Sinclair, aged 92, with the sword that originally belonged to his father, Captain Herbert Darbishire Sinclair. CAPT Sinclair was born in Belfast in 1894 and gained his commission with the British Army in 1914. He was posted to the Royal Irish Regiment and was wounded

opposite St. Quentin in 1918. After leaving the Army he emigrated to Australia in 1922 and married locally. On the outbreak of WWII he re-enlisted into the Australian Army



and posted to the 2nd Aust Garrison Bn. He was heavily involved in the Legacy organisation and subsequently passed away in 1965 at age 71.



How his sword came to be at AUR is anyone's guess, although AUR has had an affiliation with the current Royal Irish Regiment for many decades.

*Infantry sword guard (photo)*  
*By Adrian Li*

## The New Fort Largs .....

Many of you will recall that as you drive along Lady Gowrie Drive in the Adelaide sea-side suburb of Taperoo, the site on the corner of Strathfield Terrace was occupied by Fort Largs, which, along with Fort Glanville (a couple of kilometres to the South), was built in the 1800's in response to a perceived threat of a Russian invasion. A third fort was planned, as Fort Glenelg, adjacent to the current suburb of Glenelg, but was never built. During World War 1 and World War 2 the forts were both manned mainly by fairly experienced gunners, and in February 1942 it was decided to construct a fourth fort, Fort Malta, approximately 600 metres North of Fort Largs; this was also manned during World War 2, but was demolished after the end of the war. Following the end of World War 2 the Army sold the site of Fort Largs to the SA Government and following some alterations it became the location of the SA Police Academy for many years. Some years ago members of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of SA visited Fort Largs and were fortunate to have as their personal guide retired LTCOL Stuart Kingwell, formerly a Sergeant when serving at Fort Largs during the war. Some years ago, the SA Government decided to relocate the SA Police Academy to land just to the East of the fort, and offer the site facing Lady Gowrie Drive for redevelopment; sufficient progress has been made over recent years to enable the developer to open the new facility to the public in late 2024, whilst work continues on housing units on adjacent land immediately to the North. Much of the old fort buildings remain but were not open to the public when I visited a few weeks ago. The two 6-inch guns have been re-positioned and are now in plain view on the built-up and land-scaped frontage to the site. A new building has been built to provide indoor and outdoor eating areas, and car parking is available behind the complex (access from Strathfield Tce), and on the seaward side of Lady Gowrie Drive. In general terms the impressive new building contains several food outlets selling pizza, pasta, seafood, breakfast & burgers, and coffee & cake

respectively. At present they are only open Wed to Sun inclusive – times are shown on the website but may change according to the season. I understand that a 'market', may also be held on weekends. In my view, prices are quite reasonable, and the quality of food that my wife and I consumed was above average, so I can recommend a visit to make up your own mind! The Gunners of 'yesteryear' would no doubt be amazed at the transformation! Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

**By Geoff Laurie**



## 25 Years for Keven Draper.....

Congratulations Keven in your 25 years as a Volunteer at the Army Museum. Kevin is responsible for the documentation, renovation and display of our medals collection



*Certificate of Appreciation presented by Major JB*



## Display for 9 Brigade ....

AMOSa was again invited by 9 Brigade to set up a display on the occasion of the Army Birthday on the evening of 1 March at the Navy, Military and Air Force Club on Hutt St.



The military Curatorial Team with the assistance of volunteer John McInnes set up a number of mannequins, banners, mobile display cases and weapons to showcase the museum and its historical versatility. The display cases proved the biggest challenge but were able to garner particular interest by featuring a small collection of pistols, including the COLT M1892 double action revolver, carried by (then CAPT) Sir Ross Smith



when he was posted to the Australian Flying Corps in Palestine during WWI. The other display case featured a bevy of edged weapons including fighting knives used by Z-Force Commandos and the late Jeff Ayles.

The display was well received by all who viewed it and added another feather in the cap of AMOSA's reputation.

*By Adrian Li*



## Edged Weapons and the Sinclair Sword ....



Barry and his team of dedicated volunteers are responsible for the refurbishment of swords, bayonets and other display items for the Museum. On occasions they accept work in restoration for Units and museums in the Adelaide Region. The finished product is often better than the original particularly restoring damage caused by normal wear and tear of its usage. Well done to the team in 'Edged Weapons'.

*By Editor*



## Our Annual History Lunch .....



### **Festival Lunch** **80 Years since WWII**

**Wednesday 14 May 2025**  
**commencing at 12 noon.**  
**Building 34A Keswick**  
**Barracks**

Our annual history lunch with a two course meal and a talk from some experienced and knowledgeable speakers about the development of South Australia in the post war period. Changes in preparedness, technology, transport, communications, military and international links will be part of the discussion.

For a booking and a seat at a table with your friends please send to:

<https://tinyurl.com/amosa25>

**Cost for the lunch and talk is \$35 and a concession of \$25 for volunteers at the Museum.**

Please book early to avoid disappointment—  
this year will be seating for 100 people.

