

# THE EXHIBITOR

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



**AMOSA**

**August 2018**

**VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2**

### Japan At War ....

#### Among several new and refurbished AMOSA exhibits

The Japanese soldier, his family and his culture are highlighted in a new AMOSA exhibit completed last month. Museum volunteer, Brenton, established the display using his knowledge of Japanese artefacts, which shows World War II through the eyes of the soldier and his close relatives. It includes unique "flags" carried by the combatant which were given to the young soldier usually by his parents. The flag was carried within the soldier's equipment or worn around his neck or waist during the conflict. These flags had one sentence messages of good luck and well wishes and hopes for a return home written on them. The Japan display also incorporates weapons, included a Samurai sword captured from an officer, and medical kit and Japanese ceramics. The role of Japanese women during the war is also shown. Another AMOSA exhibit shows legendary handguns – pistols and revolvers as well as other weapons from iconic manufacturers with names which

will be familiar to the public. Incorporated in that exhibit as well are two unique sectionalised Australian weapons – a Bren Gun and a SLR. The two weapons have been carefully "peeled apart" to show their inner workings. A Lee Enfield .303 will be added later. Other changes visitors will notice in the coming month is a refurbished display of the Bosisto Collection. It has been moved from its place in two display cases to a new Tashco cabinet acquired from Edinburgh by Captain Munro. In its new home the Bosisto Collection will be under special lighting and hold a greater position of prominence. Work at protecting this most valuable of the AMOSA collections will continue for several months. One of the most exciting projects underway at the Museum is the renovations in the old archive building. There is now a fully functional education and research centre, which will double as a venue for special tours and catering. The centre will also display historic banners, pictures and displays resurrected in the past two months.

**Peter Haran**

#### Inside this issue

<i>From the Manager</i>	2
<i>Harry's Corner</i>	2
<i>Restoration of the 18 pounder Gun Project</i>	3
<i>Dikko</i>	3
<i>Conservation of Artefacts</i>	4
<i>From the Curator</i>	4 & 5
<i>Vale Trevor Phillips</i>	5
<i>Vale Jack Tredrea MM</i>	5
<i>Visit to National Military Vehicles</i>	6
<i>Juggling the Juggernauts</i>	7
<i>Open Day—National Military Vehicle Museum</i>	8

#### Dates 2019

- Centenary of Armistice—11 November 2018
- Army Museum Foundation AGM—24 October 2018 @ lunchtime
- AMOSA Christmas Party 5 December 2018—Theme TBA
- ANZAC Day services 25 April 2019
- AMOSA History Lunch 22 May 2019

**NEW AMOSA Website**

**Coming soon!**



## From the Manager ....

We are continuing to make good progress at the Museum, with many positive developments that are indicative of this. There are, of course, sad days that we must endure, usually to do with the passing of well-known Museum benefactors and supporters and, rather more immediately, volunteers. At the time of writing this several of our most loyal and valuable volunteer members are seriously unwell; at the time of reading their journey may be over and we are mindful, too, of other members of our fraternity who no longer feel able to attend Keswick Barrack any longer. It is the responsibility of all Museum staff – volunteer and uniform – to keep their memory and legacy alive and to continue the fine work that they contributed so much to. On the good news front we have much to report. The changes in Building 136 (Archives), that seem to have come apace in recent times, are most welcome and practical as we recently saw when we were able to conduct our first catered function in there; just one of the possible uses that we will in time find for this valuable facility. The dedicated research space, the creation of two new office areas and the refinement of the library are continuing as is the structural and maintenance work need to keep the building safe and compliant with current regulations. Much credit goes to the Assistant Manager, Captain David Munro, supported by other uniform staff and volunteers, and very many journeys in a heavily-loaded vehicle, for their patience and persistence in producing this very good outcome. We have been pleased to welcome a number of new volunteers in recent times, with our numbers still rising, even allowing for those issues described



*Major Christopher Roe  
Manager*

earlier, and they all add to the Museum community with a range of different interests and experiences. This has meant the increase in importance of our Monday parade day which is fast becoming comparable to the more traditional Wednesday numbers in terms of attendance figures. Several major new acquisitions, notably artillery pieces and vehicles with strong local provenance, have added to our collection and we have made acquisitions in terms of further storage space in the barracks and work done by base support authorities to improve the currency and functionality of facilities. Our Work Experience week was again very successful and it is noticeable how much better we are at conducting this, after several years of experience, as volunteers take pride in working with young people and demonstrating their skills. We continue to work hard in support of other military history groups and government agencies that have the same broad objectives as ourselves as this will, sometimes immediately and sometimes a little later, be in the best interests of our Museum. This is manifested in visits to our facility (which we sometimes reciprocate) and the Museum's public speaking and representational programme which has been very favourably commented on and assists in passing the right message to the world outside Keswick Barracks. In this final year of the Great War commemorative period, leading to the centenary of the armistice that ended the 'war to end all wars,' we are again an important part of Adelaide's effort to acknowledge the past and be a part of what will be one of the most significant dates in national memory. As always my thanks go to all of those people who contribute in so many ways, usually ostentatious and humble, in the ongoing effort to raise the profile of our facility and to keep it modern, current and interesting. It is very much appreciated by me but also, I think, by our Headquarters staff who visited us earlier in the year and will do so again before the end of 2018; I think they were quite impressed by what we have achieved. Keep up the good work.

Thank you *Christopher Roe, Manager*

## Harry's Corner .....



What an exciting time we have had at the Museum over the past three months. All the armoured vehicles have been shuffled around in the outside exhibit. I think they made a space for the new 106mm Recoilless Rifle and its Landover.

The new 'Paul Longstaff Research and Education Centre' is taking shape with a big table and chairs in the old Clothing Store. There is a new door on the western side and some computer desks and photocopier re-located into the Research Centre. The lads have used the new rooms for some tour group catering—a warm and comfortable area with air conditioners. The MCG was challenged a week or two ago with a tour group which started out at 35 and grew to 53. Luckily they planned to have it in the Officers Mess Annex and there was plenty of food for all! Our volunteers continue to put on weight due to

the generous helpings of cake and biscuits served at morning tea by our Treasurer Kenny and the cooks, Babs and Dunkey. 2018 marks the end of the Centenary of Anzac with Armistice celebrated on 11th November. I understand we are sending a few people off to the Invictus Games in October with a morning tea in the Museum. I hope there are a few crumbs dropped for Harriet and her friends? I was sad to hear of the passing of Jack and Trevor, they were good friends and very supportive of our Museum. We will all miss them. Paul L and Terry N are also on the sick list. We extend to them our best wishes for better health. We have started planning for support to the Boy Scout Jamboree in January 2019. We will be supporting the activity selling ice-cream and drinks to the scouts during their watermanship training at Wellington. It will be very exciting to see so many young people enjoying themselves and learning kayaking, canoeing and other water skills. I hope its hot and we sell lots of ice-cream. Bye for now and back to my house next to the Museum



# Restoration of the 18 pdr Gun Project .....

## Why restore a 100 year old gun?

During World War 1 (and between the two World Wars) the 18 pdr gun was the main, and most successful, field gun in service in the British, Australian and other Commonwealth armies. 18 pdr guns in service with Australian Artillery units saw service in Gallipoli, but really came to the fore in the horrific campaigns in France and the Western Front. In speaking of the success of the Australian Second Division in late September 1918 (Australia's last attack of the war), Brigadier-General Coxen (Artillery adviser to the Australian Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Monash) reported that "the success of the operations of this Corps is, in very great measure, due to the excellent work of the field artillery", (*The Gunners*, by David Horner). As an indicator of the significance of the 18 pdr gun during World War 1, between 26 September and 4 October 1918 (9 days), over 934,000 rounds of 18 pdr ammunition were fired by Allied artillery. It is argued that the 18 pdr gun significantly contributed to the shortening of the war. It is difficult to estimate how many 18 pdr guns were in service with the Australian Army, but a figure of 500 might be indicative. The 18 pdr gun was withdrawn from service in the Australian Army early in World War 2, and, despite its 'place of honour' among Australian Gunners of that era, sadly very few remain in existence. In order to utilise modern developments at the time, between the wars all 18 pdr guns in service were converted from wooden spoke wheels to steel wheels fitted with pneumatic tyres, thus facilitating their towing by trucks rather than teams of six horses. The intention is to have the restoration project completed and the gun and ammunition limber (wagon) sited in 'pride of place' in the World War 1 gallery inside the main entrance to the Museum. Thereafter the gun and limber will remain inside the Museum to maintain its longevity and pristine appearance.

**Grant.** An application was made to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, under the 'Centenary of Armistice Grants Program' to fund the project; this was successful, and over \$7,000 was paid into our account in early July. In addition, the Royal Australian Artillery Association of SA (of which our 'Gunner volunteers' are committee members) donated \$1,000 to assist with the completion of the project, in recognition of the significant role

played by the 18 pdr guns, as part of the RAA's history.

**Progress Thus Far** Our original plan, of having some work undertaken elsewhere, had to be changed, and the Museum's Restoration & Conservation Team stepped to the fore and commenced to disassemble the axle assembly. The key issue was that a completely separate axle assembly was fitted to the gun in order to fit the pneumatic-tyred wheels; in order to fit new wood-spoked wheels it was necessary to completely remove the second axle assembly, and to 'uncover' the original axles, which, it was thought, had been shortened in the 1920's in order to enable the second axle to be fitted; a look at the photo below will explain these comments. The trouble was, that the project team (Geoff Laurie, Peter Jarrett, & Dave Williams) were more or less feeling their way in the dark, but over several weeks have managed to expose the original axle and now know what we are working with. Luckily Geoff was able to make contact with a WW1 gun expert in the eastern states who had worked on restoring the Anzac Gun (another 18 pdr that was fully restored prior to the commemoration of the outbreak of WW1, to such an extent that, with specially trained horses and drivers, it was paraded at the full gallop!), and the team now have a list of steps forward. Further progress will require some professional engineering support, but every effort will be made to have the gun completed prior to the Centenary of Armistice on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Not to be forgotten, is the accompanying ammunition limber, which is steadily being worked on by Pete Jasson. More information to follow in the next newsletter. *By Geoff Laurie*

Later axle assembly    Original axle assembly, showing shortened axle shaft



## Dikko .....



## Conservation of Artefacts .....

**To save or not to save?** In military organisations the practice of carrying colours was to act as a rallying point for troops and to mark the location of the commander. They are always treated with reverence and Colour guards from elite troops were appointed to protect the Colours. Due to the advent of modern weapons and subsequent changes in tactics, Colours are no longer carried into battle but continue to be used at formal events. Museums such as ours are about conservation, not restoration. We recently came across this pennant of the 3rd Light Horse AIF which had been stored flat and in tissue but hidden away in the Archives office. Sadly, as can be seen, it is an extremely poor state and very bedraggled, and unfit for display unless it could be laid flat in a special case. Colours are never carelessly destroyed – when too old to use they are replaced and then laid-up in museums, religious buildings and other places of significance to their regiment. However, in some modern



armies Standing Orders call for the Colours to be intentionally destroyed if they are ever in jeopardy of being captured by the enemy. So, the question is, what do we do with it? *Heather Simms Uniforms Curator*

## From the Curator ....

The display of the WW1 Lewis Gunner on the Southern Wall trench is now complete. The display comprises a mannequin dressed in WW1 uniform and webbing standing behind a Lewis Gun. The Lewis gun was funded by AAHU and the uniform and webbing by the RSAR Regimental Council. The display was a joint effort undertaken by Heather and Mal Sims and Conservation and Restoration Section. Restoration of the 18 Pounder Gun and Limber is now being undertaken by Museum volunteers and is being managed by Geoff Laurie. The original intent was to have Port Wakefield P&EE Workshop to carry out the gun restoration but they have decided it was beyond their capability. Work is progressing well and we hope to have it ready by late October. We were successful in our grant application and have received \$7158 of the \$8000 we requested. This will be enough to fully fund the restoration. Peter Foster, one of our volunteers is a wheelwright and he has been given the task of making new wooden wheels for the gun and it's limber. The gun will be displayed in the centre of the WW1 area, the GS wagon and the 77mm German gun will be removed and stored in Building 6. PTE Weir's original Grave Marker has been donated to the Museum by the State Cemetery Authority. They have had it restored by ArtLab and are prepared to fund a suitable enclosure to house it at their expense. This work has now commenced and it will be put on display in early October. The Bosisto display is not in good condition and needs immediate attention as a number of the artefacts are badly rusted and are falling apart. We have now received a glass cabinet from the DSG Museum and the artefacts which are in good condition will be placed into the

cabinet. The cabinet position will move from the passageway where it currently is to into the WW1 area proper. Ongoing conservation work on the Bosisto Collection will be carried out as funds become available.

**WW2 Gallery** A Mural of AEME in action at El Alamein has been completed and has now been hung above the Theatre entrance. This work was carried out by Brian Budgen and was partially funded by the AEME/RAEME Association of South Australia. Installation of the sniper interactive display on the Kokoda display has now been completed and is in operation. The work was carried out by Neil Wilson and Stefan Landherr.

**Malaya/WW2 Gallery** Brenton Williams one of our new volunteers with a passion for all things Japanese has completed an upgrade of the Japanese soldier in the Kokoda display. An Arisaka rifle has been attached to the soldier as well as webbing and new captions. The Japanese mannequin was also in need of TLC which was provided by Mal Sims. Brenton has just completed a new WW2 Japanese Display in one of the Tashco cabinets. This was his first attempt at a display of this size and he has done a great job.

**Special Exhibit Room** Ray Saunders has completed a comprehensive display of WW2 POW photographs, artefacts and information in one of the Tashco cabinets.

**Outside Exhibits** RAEME Elements of 1 Armoured Regiment moved the following vehicles and guns:

## From the Curator (cont).....

The Grant Tank, Saracen APC, ¼ ton land rover fitted with the 106mm, Series 1 SWB Land Rover, MK 1 Ferret, Austin Champ, MK 2 Ferret, M113 APC, BAT and the 25 pounder. These are now lined up along the western wall of the Museum and have new information signs fitted. The barriers have been removed and this has enhanced the display, visitors can now touch the artefacts. The Leopard tank is another job they will undertake in due course. This will be moved to the north of its current location and on the bitumen and adjacent to the band building. The Bailey Bridge which the tank is now mounted on will be removed and disposed of.

**Museum Shop** The shop is now complete and has a glass counter fitted and show case. A cash register has been mounted onto the counter top and the stock is stored below. Joy Souter is now managing the shop and looking at further stock items to sell.

**Significant Items Received** Perentie Landrover Fitted for Radio (FFR). This has significant provenance as it was on issue to 144 SIG SQN for all of its service life. A ½ ton GS trailer to compliment the FFR will be coming shortly when the paper work has been completed. 144 SIG SQN will also be supplying the radios and fit out kits for this vehicle in the near future.

**Museum Facilities** The Museum water fountain has been repositioned to the front of the Museum and is now wheel chair accessible. New stainless steel work benches have been installed in the kitchen.

**Archives Building 136** This building has been the subject of much work this year by the uniform staff and volunteers. This has resulted in a significant reduction of the many WHS issues that have been ongoing for many years. Captain Dave Munro had been given the task by MAJ Roe and he has consulted with Wayne Birch during this work. Dave is to be

congratulated for the work that he has achieved. The northern room is now a multi-purpose area which can be used for tour groups, school groups, the MCG for meals, curatorial meetings and as an interpretive centre for young people. The room is fitted with a large table and banners have been put up on one wall. The other walls will be used to display artefacts and photographs from our collection. It is planned to install a drop down screen and data projector so it can be used for education and training purposes. Mr Peter Clark who has extensive experience in project managing in large companies all over the world has volunteered to become the new Section Leader for Archives. There is a significant amount of work ahead of him in rationalising and reorganising this area. I also propose that this building be called the Paul Longstaff Research and Education Centre so as to recognise the immense amount of work that Paul has contributed over the years. I also propose that to recognise the new focus of this area, it now will be called the Research and Education Section.

**Future Works** Construction of a Restoration and Conservation facility in bay 1 of Building 80. It is intended this facility will provide the Museum with a properly equipped and air conditioned area to conduct conservation and restoration that will conform to current WHS standards. An interactive display for the M113 APC, this will be constructed by Neil Wilson and Stefan Landherr. An internal Perspex door has been fitted to the rear access door of the carrier. When the rear metal door is opened visitors can view inside through the perspex door and when a button is pressed an audio program will start. This will have the sounds of the carrier's engine/tracks and also radio traffic being received.

*Wayne Birch*  
(AMOSA Curator)

## Vale Trevor Phillips ....



A valued volunteer and member of our Archives Team.

Trevor passed away peacefully on 24th July 2018.

Thank you for your friendship and your service.

## Vale Jack Tredrea, MM....



A great friend and supporter of our Museum. A veteran of WWII who passed away on 17th July 2018.

Thank you for your friendship and your service.



# Volunteers Visit National Military Vehicles Museum.....



*Our host, Don Blackmore giving us a brief of the exhibits and layout.*



*Dougies Dream!*



*A photogenic couple!*



*Geoff's Dream*



*Annette's Folly?*



*A little Wiles cooker*



*Half track—go anywhere!*



*Nick's our Jeep man!*

“



# Juggling the Juggernauts .....



*The moving crew from 1 Armd Regt and the RAEME LAD*



*Positioning the APC M113*



*Before!*



*The Big Picture!*



*Lifting the APC M113*



*Moving a Bofors*



*The Grant*



*Our curator behind the Bar!*





# National Military Vehicles Museum Open Day .....



1948



2018

**The National Military  
Vehicle Museum**

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND ROVER

**SUNDAY 18th of NOVEMBER 2018**



**TIME: 10AM TO 4PM**

**COST: ADULTS \$15**

CHILDREN UNDER 15 FREE

10 STURTON ROAD  
EDINBURGH SA 5111

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE

Museum Calendar Launch

### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Classic & Civilian Military Land Rovers on Display
- Weapons Display
- Military Vehicle Rides
- Antique Weapons & Uniforms Display
- Military Vehicle Manoeuvres
- 25 Pounder Field gun Firing
- Army Cadet Display
- ADF & Static Military Vehicle Display
- Barry Spioer Military Artwork Display, Sales & Signing



*Fundraising to Restore  
Museum Heritage  
Listed Buildings*



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[www.military-vehicle-museum.org.au](http://www.military-vehicle-museum.org.au) or  
our facebook page



*Created by Maggie Bogar*