

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



AMOSA

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Launch of the 18 pdr Gun Exhibit ...

Australia received 116 18 pdr Mark 1 guns before the outbreak of the First World War. It is estimated that up to 500 may have been used by Australian Military Forces during the First World War though exact figures are unknown due to losses through enemy action, exchanges of equipment on relief between artillery units and organizational changes 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 allied 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



Geoff Laurie

Fromelles, and Amiens, over 1.5 million rounds of 18 pdr ammunition were stockpiled, and between 26 September and 4 October 1918, only 9 days in total, over 934,000 rounds of 18 pdr ammunition were fired by allied artillery.

The Exhibit launch was conducted by Geoff Laurie with special guests Ms Janice Silby, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, and Ms Jane Stinson, State Member for Badcoe. Geoff thanked them both for supporting the funding of the 18 pdr gun.



18th battery, Australian Field Artillery was raised here in Adelaide, comprising 29 officers and 363 men; equipped with 18 pdr guns. It was in action for 602 days of the 1227 days overseas - during that time it fired 146,264 rounds. These quantities of ammunition are almost mind-boggling! By the latter half of the great war the allied gunners had learned how to effectively employ both the 18 pdr gun, and the larger 4.5 inch howitzer, and it is argued that together, these guns significantly contributed to the shortening of the War. Our thanks go to Peter Jarret, David Williams, Garry Robinson, Graham Janz, Heather and Malcom Simms, Peter Foster, Dave Edgar, Barry Goldsworthy, Frank Miller, Peter Jasson, Wayne Birch, and other volunteers at the Museum who supported the Project. It was an absolute pleasure to see this project completed on time and within budget!

Our thanks to *Geoff Laurie, Project Manager*



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, (1995) David Horner'). As an indicator of the significance of the 18 pdr gun during World War 1, in the lead up to each of the key battles, such as

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Dates 2019

- *Museum reopens*
Monday 7 January 2019
- *ANZAC Day services* 25 April 2019
- *AMOSA History Lunch* 22 May 2019

NEW AMOSA Website

Amosa.org.au

Internet access in the
Museum for enquiry
and research

From the Manager

After another busy year it is appropriate to review developments at our Museum. A month or two ago there were clear signs of tiredness and friction in a number of our processes, both personnel and procedural but we have had an excellent November and will, I think, go into our Christmas break still tired but cheerful. Because the unit is much more capable than it used to be in terms of the range of activities in which we participate there is, apropos, more for us to do and thus greater demands on us all but this is the right sort of problem to have. This article will, thus, refer to a number of areas in which we have refined our processes and continued to develop our skillsets and extend our capacities. Within the galleries the less is more maxim is taking effect. Clutter has been reduced which has, in turn, directed attention on to a number of key displays with strong local provenance. The experience for the visitor has been enhanced and this has been commented on favourably. We can now answer the question "What is there new for me to look at?" with much more integrity than previously. A revision of methods in regard guided tours has also been well received, in reality meaning that the 'guided' aspect has been replaced by an 'assisted' focus. Our visitor demographic is mostly very young, the Schools Program for instance or, nearer the other end of a broad age spectrum being retired and club organisations. They have in common the desire to do things at their own pace, respectively quickly and slowly, but have no desire to concentrate on detailed military history for long periods. As they wander the galleries, spending more time in areas of particular interest to them, then the role of the guide becomes to assist where asked to do so, maintaining an emphasis on customer service, safety and security. In regard to these two fundamental matters – safety and security – I am very pleased with what has occurred. An open base presents issues for us, both beneficial and detrimental, but I think our volunteers are now much safer from both physical threat and workplace hazard than they were even at the start of this year. Safety is a dynamic area where changes



Major
Christopher Roe

in legislation and a continual shift in emphasis between identified hazards and issues keeps us working hard, but we have made substantial advances in a number of areas with our collective mindset now much more accepting that a paper war and some inconvenience can mitigate, if not totally remove, hazard and danger. Our range of resources for projection of a professional demeanour is also enhanced. I am hopeful that we will have no need for an armoury within a year, that ROA 136 will be exploited to its full capacity, following on the excellent work already done in there, and that several other minor projects on the conservation and restoration front will come to fruition. We have involved ourselves broadly in the community with regular attendance at external events including visits to churches, RSLs, community centres, country locations and unit Open Days all of which demonstrate a greater level of proficiency at the skill of marketing ourselves which, in turn, should translate in to greater visitation to the Museum. This leads on to my final point which is to, again, express my frustration (at myself really) that we cannot get more people to visit as 'walk-ins', not counting organised tours where we are at, or near, capacity. People often tell me how much they like the Museum but that they had no idea it existed. Everybody has put substantial time, money and effort in to this facility and yet I still often preside over a Sunday afternoon, four hour opening on a beautiful, warm day with three to five people attending. This is despite a great effort by our marketing team (rewarded with a place in the holy ten of Museum operational departments!), countless letters written, flyers distributed, views of a new website and speakers out in the community providing entertainment to many organisations in exchange, one hopes, for a visit to the Museum. This remains our greatest challenge and the one that is hardest to crack. I can only assume that there is too much recreational choice for people and families, so we will redouble our efforts in this space and go at it even harder in 2019. Largely due to an outstanding and dedicated group of people we have a fine facility: the challenge remains to get people here to see what we have to offer. I wish you all an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year period.

Thank you
Christopher Roe

Harry's Corner



Well! What a year it's been! The Museum has had a wonderful year in the final year of the Centenary of Anzac. I don't think we can relax as the momentum established over the last 5 years is set to continue. We have established the area for the Paul

Longstaff Education and Research Centre, we have cleaned out Archives and set up an area for luncheons and presentations in the old Clothing area. This is a great venue close to the Museum for Tours and very handy for Trudy, Dave and Darian to prepare their meals in the annex to the Museum. (Sadly Trudy locks up the fridge which restricts any 'after hours' snacking!) The volunteers seemed excited with the visits to the National Vehicle Museum and the Open Day at Port Wakefield. Sadly I wasn't invited so I missed an opportunity to catch up with cousins at Port Wakefield and Edinburgh. I was saddened at the loss of Trevor Phillips, Jack Tredrea, our Padre Terry Natt and more recently Bill Corey, OAM.

They were all great ambassadors for the Army Museum and we will miss them. It was great to see young Pete Harran do a display for the 'Land forces' Conference in September 2018. We also got a few dignitaries visit the Museum from Peru and Timor Leste. I am starting to get excited about our bold new venture at Wellington in January 2019. Some of us will be traveling to Wellington to sell ice cream and soft drinks to Scouts attending the 25th Australian Jamboree at Tailem Bend. Some 1200 scouts per day will be travelling to the aquatic park at Wellington to do their water sports activity. Greg and his team will be ready to sell them ice cream and soft drinks—we hope it will be hot weather! Not much fun for Harriet and I as we don't like water and we do eat ice cream! Maybe some ice cream cones will drop off the counter? We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we are looking forward to an innovative and creative new year full of activity and patrons to our Museum. Best wishes from Harriet and myself and please continue to support our Museum with visits and development of the older exhibits.

Cheers Harriet & Harry.

From the Curator

I had planned for next year to be one of consolidation after the very busy last five years. This is so we can focus on the auditing and conservation of our existing collection. This will still be my main priority during the year but, last year I submitted a request to our HQ for a number of new Tashco display cabinets and I was told that it would not be funded. I can now announce that the Australian Army History Unit has approved the purchase of 7 new Tashco cabinets for our Museum at a cost of \$110,000. This is great news and means that a number of the old wooden displays cabinets can now be replaced. However it also means a lot of work for our volunteers during the first three months of 2019. The existing displays and cabinets will need to be removed and stored whilst the new cabinets are installed. Some of these new cabinets are up to 4 metres long and will have to be built in. It will also give us the opportunity to tidy up some of our existing displays. I have also submitted a request though our GRes staff to upgrade our Museum lighting. The work, if approved, will involve the replacement of the existing fluorescent lighting with LED spotlights. This will give us the ability to focus and vary the light and colour on our displays and greatly enhance the Museum experience. On Remembrance Day 2018 I was invited by the Burra RSL and the Regional Council of Goyder to open their restored 77mm Krupp Field gun, this is the speech that I gave prior to the opening.



“Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls I would like to take some time to share with you the history of your 77mm Krupp Field gun. In 1928 war trophies arrived in Australia and were allotted to towns/cities/regions across Australia in thanks for their recruiting efforts in WW1. Burra, for assisting in the recruitment for the 27th Battalion Australian Imperial Force and the Australian Light Horse were presented with 2 German

77mm Krupp field guns; they were Serial number 12917 which was captured by the 27th Battalion on the 8th Aug 1918 at Warfuse Belgium and Serial number 18354 which was a gift from the French Government. Under the care of



local councils and ex-service organisations they were to be displayed in Parks/Memorial Gardens and prominent areas as a reminder of the sacrifice made by local members of the community. Deterioration of the gun at Burra, after being exposed to the weather for many years, made it a safety hazard and in early 2003 approval was granted to remove the gun to the Army Museum of South Australia where it was proudly displayed in the 1914/18 Gallery. In 2017 the Regional Council of Goyder approached the Army Museum of South Australia with the intent of reclaiming the gun and undertaking an extensive restoration and conservation effort. This they have now completed and I congratulate them on their efforts The 77mm Krupp Field gun you see today is a reflection and a lasting memorial of your town’s community spirit and shows a strong desire to remember those from your community that made the supreme sacrifice. “

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers and uniform staff for the help and assistance they have provided to me and the Museum over the last 12 months. It is only through your dedication and enthusiasm that the Army Museum of South Australia can provide such a high standard of service to the community. I look forward to working with all of you again next year and I wish you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Wayne Birch

Dikko



Recognition of Service



Heather Simms received a Curator's Award from Deputy Commissioner DVA, Janis Silby, in recognition of her service in the Uniforms Store and preparation of uniforms and mannequins for the 18 pdr display. Heather was ably assisted by husband Malcolm.



Geoff Laurie receives the Curator's Award for the project management of the 18 pdr gun and the application for Government Grants. A great effort in developing what is now our centre piece display in the main gallery of the Museum. Thanks Janis for presenting these Awards.

From the Medal Room....

Earlier this year a lady visited the Museum and saw the Medal Room display. She returned the following week and made a donation to Sergeant Deborah Spicer of her family's items of memorabilia. Kevin subsequently received these items for cataloguing the following Wednesday. Mike English and Keven studied the items and checked them into the register. The items consisted of a trio of medals, a death plaque, post cards, photos and a medaleta from the post office where her relative was employed before joining up for his exciting adventure in the Great War 1914—1918. Mike and Keven made up a story board about the soldier which is now on display in the Medal Room. John Claxton took a photo and we sent it to the family to invite them in to view the display. They subsequently visited the Museum and were very impressed that the Army Museum had honoured their relation who had given his life for his King and Country. Two weeks later they visited again with some original letters including one from the State Premier of the time, signed by him and a second letter from the Post Master General's Department saying how sorry they were for the loss of their family member. The original paperwork was donated for safe keeping.

The details of the soldier are:



8409 Gunner Charles Gordon Beauchamp

Field Artillery Battery Brigade 6, Battery 18. He was born in Naracoorte, South Australia . Occupation: Postman. His Unit embarked from Melbourne on board HMAT A34 Persic in November 1915. He was killed in action on 7 August 1916 in the Somme Sector, Northern France. Aged 20, buried in Owillers—La—Boiselle, France

Lest we Forget

Keven Draper, Medals

Heads Up from Monica

The Museum gets support from many quarters. Our new 18 pounder display required two new mannequins. But, of course, they are about 185 cm tall and fresh faced young men – nothing like a war weary WW1 gunner. I was not sure what to do until I remembered that Jim Love's wife, Monica, had done some excellent work for the Museum during Jim's tenure. Rather sheepishly I rang to enquire if, perhaps, Monica would be able to help us with these two. She accepted the challenge enthusiastically and has done a very professional make over. The results can be seen on the exhibit in the main gallery of the Museum. Thank you Monica we appreciate your willingness to assist.

John Nield



The Monash Centre—Villers - Bretenneux

I recently had the opportunity to visit the new Monash Centre which has been constructed behind and below the Australian War Memorial at Villers - Bretenoux in France. It can only be described as stunning. It is equipped with the standard handsets which provide an audio narrative as you move around the galleries and enter a code on a keypad.



Private Russell Bosisto

At the exhibit on the Battle of Pozieres, they had the rifle used by Pte Bosisto and a number of photographs showing the soldier and the burial ceremony conducted in 1998. For those who don't know, Pte Bosisto was a member of A Company, 27th Battalion who enlisted at Keswick Barracks on 15th March 1915. He was killed near the Windmill Feature on 4th

August 1916 during the Battle of Pozieres. His body was not recovered until January 1998 and he was buried with full military honours at the Courcellette Cemetery by members of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR on 5 July 1998. The narrative for this display informs the visitor that: ".....the remainder of Pte Bosisto's effects are on display at the Army Museum of South Australia in Keswick Barracks, Adelaide." I listened intently to all of the other 70 or so narratives in the exhibition. No other army museum was mentioned; not even the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. So my message is this. As we go about our respective menial individual tasks, like painting the wheel nuts on an armoured vehicle, or dusting off yet another old uniform, or explaining an exhibit to yet another visitor to the museum, reflect on this. Collectively, AMOSA has been singled out and recognised on an international stage and that makes me very proud to work with you. I think it should make us all proud as well.

Neil Wilson

Visit to Proof Range Port Wakefield (P&EE)

We have endeavoured in recent times to provide visit opportunities for our volunteers, the Military Vehicles Museum and the Police Barracks are good examples. We attended with almost twenty volunteers and two uniform staff, the contingent commander being the Assistant Manager, Captain David Munro. This gave us the opportunity to provide an enjoyable and different activity to our volunteers but also to demonstrate some items of Museum equipment to the general public. We were also able to market ourselves both through word of mouth and our promotional material. The 106 mm RCL Gun Jeep, a very popular exhibit at AMOSA (and a personal favourite of mine) was freighted up to the range as were several other

modern military kit and observe battery firings and proofing of ammunition, the core task of P&EE Port Wakefield. It was noticeable how pleased our volunteers were to be a part of the day, and their enthusiasm for promoting AMOSA was certainly evident. A fortnight or so later a large school visit from Balaklava (about thirty kilometres from Port Wakefield) attended Keswick, advising us that some of their parents had seen Museum displays at the range, suggesting that our marketing plan was efficient. My thanks to everyone who participated, the local support agencies who assisted us in getting up there, and Captain Munro and Sergeant Spicer for planning and managing the activity very effectively. Correspondence was later received from Lieutenant Colonel Tony Watson, Commanding Officer of the Joint Proof and Experimental Unit, thanking us for our contribution.

Christopher Roe



historical items. We were given a prominent location adjacent to several attractive items of modern kit belonging to 7 RAR and there was a steady flow of interested visitors through our stands. The host unit was extremely pleased with the outcome of the event which attracted well over two thousand visitors on a warm and pleasant day. Our volunteers were able to observe for themselves, at close range, many items of



What's Happening in Archives?

There has been a lot of work done to clear the mess and clutter from Archives. One of the results of this work is we now have a functions room that is being used for meetings and displays. Archives is currently going through a rebuilding, reestablishment process.



Meeting/dining area—formally the Uniform Store

We are required to ensure that the Library Section meets current safety requirements. To this end we are reviewing the library collection with a view to reducing its size. We have identified and removed duplicates and other items that do not relate to our museum or are readily available on the internet. This task is estimated to be 90% complete. We have

identified 1228 books and 1864 periodicals that are to be relocated. We are going to circulate lists of these items to other libraries to see if they would like to have any of them. The next step is to empty the Compactus and catalogue and relocate the contents. The Compactus will then be removed and relocated. We will replace the Compactus with a book shelf. We will then adjust the position of the remaining shelving to meet the safety requirements of a minimum of one metre distance between shelves. We are also reviewing the Library Management System. The current data base system is very old; it logs the details of the items but does not categorize them or allocate a location. We are in discussion with the library people at Bandiana and hope to get significant input from them that will assist us to set up a functioning, researchable library. We plan to upgrade our internet access to provide AMOSAF with network capability via Cloud storage and fixed wireless internet capability. The basis for the system will be a folder for AMOSA created in the cloud using a platform such as Microsoft One Drive. This folder will enable us to create sub folders to cover our databases and business . It will also enable us to provide two information streams. A secured one for AMOSA personnel for the day-to-day running of the museum and an unsecure one for other people to use who are using the AMOSA site for research. Links can be provided to give access to visitors to our website. We are in the early stages of this project

Peter Clark

Gunners on the 18 Pdr

Allow me to introduce two new members of our museum. Meet Gunner Fred and Gunner Sid in the WW1 Gallery.



Malcolm Simms is well qualified in orthopaedics having had one or two surgical procedures in the past on his joints and Bert being ex-Medical Corps has capably supervised last minute adjustments. I would like to know who modelled for another part of Fred's anatomy so if anyone has any information on that please let me know.



Bert Henstridge assisting with the display

Malcolm Simms working with the manne-



For any future displays I would request that a unit with simpler colour patch be used, as despite a recent visit to the eye specialist I am still seeing little red dots before my eyes!

Heather Simms Uniforms Department

CA's Land Force Seminar—Support

This large and complex biennial event was, in 2018, held in Adelaide and the Head of the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU), Tim Gelle, tasked this Museum to support the activity in two main ways. Firstly we were asked to provide an historical display for location in a prominent position near the Chief of Army's suite. Curator Wayne Birch and his team put together a thoughtful and compact display which told a very good story with a strongly Asian and Pacific flavour to it (in line with the seminar's themes), referring to Australia's involvements in wars



Peter Harran briefs senior international delegates on the Museum display.

throughout the region, over the last seventy or so years. This was favourably referred to by visitors over the course of the week, in early September. Secondly we arranged and coordinated transport to move AAHU staff around the city, and to and from Keswick Barracks, as required. The greater range of rooms and resources that has become available to us during the refurbishment of Building 136 was useful at this time enabling Head AAHU to conduct rehearsals for his presentations, and for HQ staff and some other overseas officers attending the event, to visit our display galleries. All of the unit's military staff and some volunteers contributed to this support activity. Senior Museum staff enjoyed dinner in the city with Canberra based staff and took the opportunity to look through the complex series of displays – occupying all of the Convention Centre – that were central to the seminar. This was a fascinating opportunity and we were most impressed by what was on display as a part of well-planned and impressive activity, reflecting well on our Defence Force. We were pleased to be able to make a contribution and were grateful for correspondence received from Tim acknowledging our assistance during the week.

Christopher Roe

The Children's University



The Army Museum of SA is pleased it is now a Learning Destination for children involved in the Children's University of Australia. Children's University Adelaide encourages children between the ages of 7 and 14 to become involved in exciting learning activities beyond the classroom. Participating children have a Passport to Learning in which hours of learning are recorded. Currently Children's University

Australia (CUA) membership is based around a child's school and the school has to be registered with CUA for the child to be able to participate. Children who are part of CU Adelaide will attend the Museum with an Activity Sheet requiring answers to questions about various Museum exhibits. When the Activity Sheet has been completed, the children will then take their passports to a Volunteer Guide in the Museum's office to obtain a stamp/sticker. Once enough hours have been collected, graduation will occur in an iconic location such as Bonython Hall at the University of Adelaide, where the children will be presented with a certificate, wearing a cap and gown, like any other university student.

Christmas Dinner at the Watermark

60 Volunteers and their partners enjoyed a smorgasbord meal at the Watermark hotel at Glenelg.



AAHU Conservation Course

In September I attended the Australian Army History Unit Conservation Course held at Singleton Army Base. Singleton Army Base, as many of you will know, is located in a lovely bush setting with as many resident kangaroos as there are Army personnel. They are everywhere and live quite happily with the comings and goings of soldiers training at all hours and the odd gunfire and smoke bombs. The course was designed to give participants the knowledge required to apply basic conservation techniques when working with objects in their museum collections. The programme included some theory sessions as well as hands on workshops dealing with a wide range of artefacts such as textiles, metal, all types of paper and artwork, leather. Participants were from the Army Museum of Tasmania, Fort Queenscliff Museum, Army Museum of South Queensland, Army Military Intelligence Museum, Army Museum of North Queensland, Army Museum of Bandiana and of course the Army Museum of South Australia. The sessions were conducted in the Army's Infantry Museum at Singleton. This museum is only 6 years old and was purpose built with every facility one would wish for in a complex. There are specialised workshop areas, storage, conservation room, a theatrette, lunch room and office space. Incorporated in the museum building are a cafeteria and large shop which are privately run. While none of the proceeds from the shop or cafeteria go to the museum both parties co-operate with group functions and their staff act as reception and handle ticket sales for

the museum. As the museum is located outside the gates to the base they are able to open to the public seven days a week. One of the workshops of particular interest to me was the procedure for storage and display of items such as unit banners which are often in poor condition. However as each item requires a large wooden box to lay the item out, which is then sealed with a Perspex cover, both display space and storage space may be a problem for our museum. We also undertook remedial management of photos and leather by rehydration methods. I may have been seen carrying an armful of pool noodles and the question has been asked "Are you planning on taking a swim". Well, pool noodles are a very useful resource in storage and display of all types of museum artefacts. We have been rolling large textile items around them (combined with tissue paper), and they can be used for padding coat hangers and also as padding for storage of edged weapons and other delicate items. As a finale to the course, John Land, the Course Presenter, charged all participants with a project to prove or disprove that a solution of water and molasses can be used to remove rust on metal. Last year I suggested to John that he should try this method but he wasn't particularly receptive as he said there is no scientific proof as to how it worked. He is now a convert and now has physical proof.

Heather Simms— Uniforms Curator

Christmas Dinner

Thanks Trudy and Joy for organising the function and the gingerbread gifts.



What ever Happened to

Heylen Challenge Shield

Army Museum of South Australia have finally located the Heylen Shield after all these years, which was first awarded to the winning football team on the Anzac day from 1920 on. 1919 yr. game was held in Oct 1919. 27th Btn team won the majority of games and they borrow the S.A.R football Guernsey in 1920. (as per photo)

27th Battalion Team

Football was played on ANZAC DAY from combined A.I.F and Militia soldiers and Navy Reservists

Anzac Day Football matches winners

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1919 Won by 27 th Btn | 1930 Won by 27 th Btn |
| 1920 Won by 27 th Btn | 1931 won by 27 th Btn. |
| 1921 Won by 10 th Btn | 1932 won by 43/48 Btn. |
| 1922 won by 48 th Fid/Art | 1933 won by 27 th Btn. |
| 1923 Won by 27 th Btn. | 1934 won by 10/50 Btn. |
| 1924 won by 27 th Btn. | 1935 won by 10/50 Btn |
| 1925 won by 27 th Btn. | 1936- |
| 1926 won by 27 th Btn. | 1937- |
| 1927 won by 27 th Btn. | 1938 won by 10 th Btn |
| 1928 won by 27 th Btn | 1939 won by RANR . |
| 1929 won by 27 th Btn. | |

1919 game Was played on Peace Day ,all other games played on ANZAC Day

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| | | | | | | |
| 27 th Btn. | 10 th Btn. | 43 rd Btn. | 48 th Fid. Batt. | 43/48 Btn | 10/50 Btn | RANR |

John Claxton found the Shield in our collection and did the extensive research to find out who had 'won' the Shield and how it was used in competition between SA Units in the years 1919 to 1939. Well done Clackers!