

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



AMOSA

April 2019

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1



2019 Scout Jamboree (AJ2019)



As a fund raiser, AMOSAF was offered the chance to sell Ice creams and Drinks at the 2019 Jamboree Water Activity site at Wellington SA. The 2019 Scout Jamboree was held in early

January. It was a major event with 10,000 scouts and 2,500 leaders and support staff located at the new "Bend" Motor Sports Complex near Tailem Bend. To put this in perspective it was like creating a town the size of Mount Gambier for 2 weeks. The water activity site at



Wellington was 15 km from the main Jamboree site and 1,500 scouts were bussed to and from the site for each of the middle 7 days, arriving from approx. 9.30am and leaving from approx. 4.00pm each day. There were also 60 staff permanently on site to supervise the activities and provide security for the site. Our initial reconnaissance identified that heat would be a problem and we needed 2 large marquees to provide the maximum amount of shade possible. So that we could give a military feel to the stall we elected to use two army 20'x30' tents which we set up in a supermarket style arrangement with the scouts entering from each end and exiting from the centre after passing through and paying at one of the checkouts. We had cash and EFTPOS facilities available and it was interesting to see the scouts budgeting their money to try to get the best value out of their "pocket money". Our staff actively promoted the Army Museum (and the Army in general) and we had a small

display of banners, flutter flags and silhouettes from the museum as well as promotional handouts detailing the location and opening times of the museum. It was interesting to note that a number of the scouts brought their parents to the museum in the following days. Six of our volunteers decided it was a good opportunity for a holiday as well and took their caravans down to the Wellington Caravan Park, and we also booked 2 onsite cabins for those volunteers who elected to come down and support the activity for a couple of days at a time. A roster was established, and staffing varied between 6 and 8 volunteers per day. Getting the logistics right for the activity was critical and to this end we hired a 50 KVA generator through the scouting system and organized a large portable cool room, commercial drink fridges and ice cream freezer units, cash registers, EFTPOS facilities, fans and misting fans to make sure we could keep everything cool or frozen. Over the 7 days of trading we sold 8,000 ice creams (mainly Magnums), 3,000 soft drinks, 500 bottles of water and 2,500 scout badges. We had daily resupply of ice creams thanks to Streets, and we picked up soft drinks daily from the scout's



food warehouse facility to make sure we could maintain supply. Planning worked so well we ran out of ice creams at 1pm on the last day and drinks at 4pm on the last day. While the weather was hot (35 degrees plus most days) we did get a cooling breeze from the lake which made it bearable. In the evenings we returned to the caravan park for happy hours and shared meals. A great time was had by all and one of the caravanners was heard to comment "he had never worked so hard on a holiday, but it was one of the most enjoyable holidays he had had".

By Greg Rosser

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Dates 2019

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



AMOSA Website

amosa.org.au

Internet access in the
Museum for enquiry
and research

From the Manager

We are now well into my sixth year as Manager and we continue to make very good progress in a number of areas. These can be divided into three main areas: the obvious in terms of what visitors see in our galleries, the not quite so obvious in regard to developments in our other buildings (Archives especially) and the mostly invisible which refers to the work done by the military component of the unit.



Major
Christopher Roe

Within the galleries we have had a number of excellent – ‘obvious’ - developments in recent times. The 18 pounder restoration project was reported on previously but the rededication of the PTE Weir cross was a well-planned and successful event that attracted favourable publicity for us and is, in itself, an impressive exhibit. The arrival of seven new Tashco cabinets (after chasing them for a few years!) was a great coup and we thank AAHU Headquarters for facilitating this outcome. They look most impressive and enabled us to transition out of the galleries a number of older cabinets and display cases and generate uniformity within the Museum. The ‘less is more’ vision within the galleries is gradually starting to take effect with space being created and the attention of visitors being centred on a small selection of interesting and relevant (in regard to provenance) displays. I am particularly pleased with the Air Raid Precautions display case – something different and local – and the item of the month, currently a Great War typewriter, at the main entrance to the galleries. I encourage everyone to keep thinking outside the square to assist the Curator.

External to Keswick Barracks we continue to make progress. Our public speaking and representational programmes are gathering momentum as we appear on more local invitation lists, which gives us the

opportunity to speak out about the Museum and encourage visits. A very good example of this was our small display cases – as used last year at the Chief of Army’s Land Force Seminar – which were on display at the Defence Reserve Support – South Australia’s Employer Support Awards evening and attracted much favourable comment. As always my thanks to volunteer staff who worked hard to assemble and disassemble the items and then secure them on the evening.

Within Archives building – ‘not quite so obvious’ – progress continues. The Diver Derrick Room remains a useful multi-purpose venue, good for functions and meetings and our work to clear the old library area is progressing well although removing the compactus will, of course, be a challenge. The refinement of our Wi-Fi connectivity is an essential step in developing online research capacity and also lines up with our website developments. My thanks to those volunteers who work in this space, which has seen much change in recent times, and the patience that you continue to show.

Finally my thanks to our military staff – ‘mostly invisible’ - who work tirelessly, and usually in least ostentatious fashion to keep essential military administration under control, without which the conditions under which volunteers can attend and enjoy working at the Museum would either be different or, possibly, absent altogether. It sometimes becomes necessary to engage volunteers in a paper war themselves, especially in the area of workplace safety so please bear with us in regard to this. If it is done it will be for economy of scales purposes and as a time-saving measure.

Thank you to everyone for their hard work and keep it up: the Museum will remain a busy place as we approach History Month and the end of the financial year.

Thank you
Christopher Roe
Manager

Harry’s Corner



Well! Another year in my life at the Museum! Some great action already with the finalising of the 18 Pdr Gun in the WWI Gallery and the dedication of the Private Patrick Weir Cross. It’s good to see some of our volunteers active again. Ray Saunders, Tickety

Boo Gilmore and Jeff Ayles to name a few. We also have some newcomers in to bolster the team in Archives. It is refreshing to see the tour groups using the new ‘Research and Development Centre’ in the Archives building. It makes it easier for Harriet and me not to have to travel over to the Officers Mess and Building 34A for a nibble! We seem to be working with significant upgrades of the displays in the Korea and special Exhibits Rooms with New Tashco display cabinets. Ernie Reichstein has been busy updating our volunteer records. He has left some important people off as I don’t see my name or Harriet’s appear in the Register!

I am looking forward to our next big event on 22 May

2019. I am in deep discussions with Chef Darian about what food he will serve before I invite all of my friends for an ‘under table’ banquet. Three top speakers and a new host in Helen Meyer from the Service Voices will be entertaining. The Jamboree 2019 held at Tailem Bend and Wellington was a great success. Greg, Darian, Graham, Ray and Geoff took their caravans to the Wellington Park and travelled daily across the mighty Murray to serve and sell the drinks and ice-creams. I think they also did a few coffees for the supervisors and workers at the ‘Wet and Wild’ stand on the banks of the water sports area. Sadly there were no ice-creams left over and the lads did a great job packing and cleaning up after 8 days of toil in the tent serving the drinks and ice cream. The dedication of the Weir Cross was another highlight with Isobel Weir singing and Anthea and her staff serving a magnificent morning tea for the visitors and volunteers. We catered for about 100 people in the Other Ranks Mess. A big thank you to our uniform staff and volunteers who make our events so successful. Happy Easter to all our supporters and we would like to see you visit the Museum on a regular basis.

Cheers Harriet & Harry.

Private Patrick Weir Dedication 3 April 2019.....



Members of the Weir family, The Honorable Andrew MacLauchlan CSC MHR, Ester Huxtable and Robert Pitt from the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority and volunteers at the Museum joined together in the main gallery of the Museum to dedicate the Cross originally located on the grave of Private Patrick Weir who died on 2 September 1918. He was buried in Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Picardie, France. The cross was re-located to the Cheltenham Cemetery and has recently been restored and given to the Army Museum for safe keeping and display. Members of the Weir family travelled from Western Australia to attend the Dedication Service. After the Dedication there was a morning tea held in the Other Ranks

Canteen generously provided by the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority. Our Curator, Wayne Birch accompanied members of the Weir family to Cheltenham Cemetery to visit the memorial plinth and plaque which commemorates Private Weir's service and sacrifice. The restored cross is on display in the main gallery of the Museum. A photograph of Private Weir together with the details of his death are also on display. Patrick Weir died from a German machine gun bullet possibly as he and his section were assaulting and breaching the German positions forcing their withdrawal back towards the Hindenburg Line. Private Weir was a soldier of the 27th Battalion born in Semaphore South Australia. During this action in Northern France, 3,000 Australian soldiers were casualties. 8 Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australian soldier during this 3 day period.

By Nick Williams



Of Interest ...



China Incident Medal 1939 -45. A label on the back of the medal case states that this medal was obtained by Mr. Eric Ross Growan in Japan 1946 by exchanging one tin of condensed milk and an army issue cigarette lighter.

The Japanese Good Luck flag was a traditional gift for Japanese servicemen deployed during military campaigns of the Empire of Japan. Family and friends signed the flag often with short messages wishing the soldier victory, safety and good luck.



Dikko



From the Uniforms Department

There has been speculation about the possible kinky happenings recently in the Uniforms section with a large roll of chain being ordered, pool noodles being off-loaded and much to and froing of the men from Graham's Restoration crew.



However I am happy to now reveal that we have a brand new system for storing large textile items. As many of the textiles in our collection are rather fragile it is vital that they are looked after with tender loving care. The larger items can be a problem as it is not recommended that they be unnecessarily folded. The process involves layering the fabric with tissue paper and rolling around the pool noodles which are environmentally friendly



Geoff Laurie helping with the installation framework.

towards the fabrics. We then roll in an outer layer of Tyvec and gently secure with cotton tape to ensure that there is the minimum amount of pressure on the item, thus minimising possible creasing. Finally the rolled item can be suspended on the hanging chains ensuring there is no additional pressure on it which would be the case if they were simply stacked on shelving. Attached to each roll is a swing tag identifying the contents.

Our thanks go to Graham and his crew who manufactured the framework and installed the chains.

By Heather Sims

Anzac Commemoration

I attended the Anzac commemoration at Golden Grove Primary School, representing the Museum and was very pleasantly surprised. It was lovely. The whole school participated with the Grade 7 children taking it in turns to speak about different parts of WWI. They used a PowerPoint Slide Show to tell their stories and the first slide up was a few of our displays with the Museum's name in huge letters.



The teachers must have taken some photos when the children visited in February. There were 3 or 4 slides of our displays which were well received.

An Airforce Catafalque Party was provided from Edinburgh base, also with an Army bugler. The Mayor of Salisbury, local MP and reps from Salisbury RSL plus parents attended the ceremony. The school choir sang, we all stood while the Army Bugler played the Last Post and we all observed a minute's silence. It was a really impressive presentation which would have taken a lot of organisation and I congratulate the teachers and students for this lovely commemoration.

By Joy Souter

National Volunteers Week



The official hashtag for National Volunteer Week is #NVW2019 and this year celebrates 30 years. The Adelaide Volunteer Week Parade and BBQ will take place on Monday, 20th May. The Parade will begin at Torrens Parade Ground and finish at Victoria Square for a BBQ lunch. If any volunteers would like to attend and promote the Army Museum of SA, please contact Joy Souter, at amosamarketing@gmail.com by 16th May so they can be registered.

Keswick Café



Have you visited the Keswick Café with Anthea and her friendly staff? Open Monday to Friday 7am—3pm and Tuesday afternoon to 5pm. Hot brews, tasty pastries, sandwiches and rolls. This Café is becoming a focus for staff and volunteers at the museum and in the broader Barracks area. Good effort Anthea Keep up the good work and great service!

Rifle Restorations

In January of this year AMOSA was approached by Peter Summers, on behalf of the Naval and Military & Air Force Club of SA, to mount two antique breech loading firearms on display boards. A commitment was made for AMOSA to carry out the project, with materials cost and a remuneration for our volunteer labour to be paid by the Club. The task was envisioned along similar lines to the display board above the Simpson Trophy, which holds a Pattern 1853 Enfield 2nd Model, as representative of AM Simpson's original volunteer issue rifle, which is kept in the armoury. There was a Martini-Henry 577/450 Mk II infantry rifle, original South Australian volunteer rifles issue, with a lock marked ENFIELD and 1878. These markings tell us that the Martini-Henry was made at the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock. Enfield Lock only produced weapons for British and the colonies.



The other firearm was a Snider Enfield Artillery carbine with a lock marked TOWER and 1861, meaning that it had been converted from a muzzle loading carbine between 1867 and 1870. Also that the carbine was originally manufactured by the Birmingham gun trade to a War Department sealed pattern.



Both of the firearms needed to have parts replaced. The Martini-Henry rifle had the remnant of a cleaning rod stuck fast in the stock channel. The section of the rod that normally protrudes beyond the stock beneath the barrel had been snapped off long ago. The Snider was missing a hammer screw and a cleaning rod. Both rifles were otherwise complete. Under civilian firearm laws in all Australian states and territories, antique long arms manufactured before 1900, which are either muzzle loading or chambered for ammunition which is no longer commercially available, do not need to be registered or held by licensed persons, where they are kept solely for display or curio purposes. Both the Martini-Henry rifle and the Snider carbine fall into that category. The Martini-Henry had an original aged patina to both the

stock and the metal work, which showed no sign of ever having been re-finished. The stock appeared much as it would have looked when the rifle was in service, and the metal finish had aged to what is often referred to on untouched antique firearms as a 'plum brown' patina. The Snider had been re-finished some time in the past. The stock appeared to have been lightly sanded and sealed with a polyurethane, giving a light walnut appearance. The metal had been lightly polished to a speckled grey appearance, and also appeared to have been sealed. In line with the museumology principle of conservation, the surfaces would be maintained as found. A couple of drops of linseed oil was applied over each of the stocks, and Renaissance Wax was applied to the metal parts. In order to replace the missing parts; a new Enfield Hammer Screw was ordered from Peter Dyson & Son in Huddersfield UK, and a new Martini-Henry Mk II cleaning rod was ordered from Historical Reenactors in Kanpur India. No suitable cleaning rod for the Snider was available off the rack. As the jag head on Snider rods is the same as the jag heads on muzzle loading Enfield rods, a decision was made to fabricate the rod in-house, given that AMOSA Restoration Area volunteers had already made some similar rods for our Pattern 1853 Enfield's. Suitable timber back boards were selected, and the edges were routed. Steel clamps were fashioned to secure the firearms to the boards, strong enough to prevent opportune theft or mishandling. Consideration of this request prompted the Foundation Curator to establish a consistent hourly rate of remuneration for such tasks from this point forward. The Naval, Military & Air Force Club intend to produce framed documents to articulate the provenance of these firearms. These documents will be displayed with the mounted firearms, and AMOSA's role in preparing the weapons will be acknowledged. The Provenance of the Martini-Henry was already known as it was a family heirloom that had been handed down from one of Peter Summers' ancestors who had served as a South Australian volunteer. The Martini-Henry rifle was clearly marked SA3411, with the 'sold out of service' opposing broad arrows clearly marked. The provenance of the Snider Artillery Carbine was nowhere near as simple. As most AMOSA members know, South Australia was unique as being the only Australian colony never to have Sniders of any type for volunteer military service. Instead, South Australia had the five hundred Braendlin-Albini rifles purchased in 1867. A likely explanation is that this was one of the one thousand Snider carbines that were purchased by the Education Department of South Australia between 1878 and 1880 for drill use by the cadets of the public school system. Many of these carbines of both the artillery and the cavalry pattern were stamped EDSA on the stock. This carbine however did not have that stamp. Even without the EDSA stamping, the EDSA purchases remains the most likely origin. This carbine did however have an unusual engraving on the butt tang; W^TF A over 96. The letters WA may seem to indicate a Western Australian provenance. However, the only colonial era weapons known to be stamped with a marking that included the letters WA were the Pattern 1853 Enfield rifles that were issued to the Enrolled Pensioner Force.

Rifle Restorations (cont)

Those rifles were all engraved WA over EF, with no superscript characters, and they were issued to the Pensioners in Britain when they departed for Fremantle with the convicts that they were to guard.

The Enfield's that were issued to the Pensioner Force



by the British Government were never converted to Snider action or shortened to carbines, and they only became the property of the West Australian Government long after being landed in the colony at a time when most of the Enrolled Pensioner Force had become too old to render any further service. George Trotter, formerly of the Western Australian Museum, and author of *Guide to Small Arms in Western Australia* confirmed that no Snider Artillery carbines were ever issued in WA. The engraving on this carbine must

therefore have belonged to another military force within the British realm, and outside of the Australian colonies. There were no acceptance markings of any foreign non British forces, and no export mark (25 indicating the gauge equivalent of the .577 inch bore). The carbine therefore must have been issued to a British force. There is no way of knowing if the W^{EF}A over 96 marking dates from original service as a muzzle loader, or later service as a breach loader. Thus the most likely explanation for the existence of this carbine in South Australia is the EDSA purchases. These mounted weapons will no doubt provide a great talking point for members and visitors to the Naval and Military and Air Force Club.

By SSGT Danee Davis



The completed display boards with firearms attached (Left to Right) Paul Fribbins, Peter Summers, Wayne Birch, Graham Janz.) Picture by Henry Jolly.

Our Grant Tank

Following my post and request for information with regard to the General Grant tank at the Keswick Barracks Military Museum, I received a number of comments, contacts and emails. The sign on the tank says it was used as a camera post in Woomera but I have not had anybody endorse that point of view. If you look at the tank it is hard to conceive that it was used for that purpose. More than likely it was used as suggested in the document below.

The General Grant Tank on Display at the Keswick Military Museum is almost certainly one of 1,900 transferred to the Australian Army from the USA during WW2.



General Grant Tank

It was probably transferred to Woomera in the early 1950's. Its current signage indicates it was used as a camera post at Woomera. I have been in contact with a number of former camera operators who worked in Woomera in the early 1950's. They all remember seeing the tank, and one has a photo of it, but none remember it being used as a camera post.

More than likely it was used during the firing trials of Project E3 a wire guided anti tank rocket later designated Malkara. It streamed a wire behind it as it flew with an operator controlling the rocket by sending signals down the wire to the rocket. Malkara was tested in Woomera during December 1954. The Department of Defence Publication "Fire Across the Desert" details the use of the General Grant Tank as a safe haven for the pilots of the Malkara Rocket Firing Trials to protect them from mishap. We will continue our research and look for photos in the Woomera collection.

By John Claxton

John Claxton (Clackers)

'Clackers' is one of our volunteers that just goes around photographing, researching and producing some amazing historical photos and doing some great work for the Army Museum. He does this off his own back, and spends many hours researching and producing many different photos and suggesting items for our Curator to use in displays. On many occasions

we don't know where he finds out about projects but with his many contacts he is often notified of events where subject material can be used for the benefit to the Museum and its volunteers. Clackers also volunteers to look after the Museum in the lunch break so the Museum can stay open. He helps out with marketing and our Museum shop.] Thanks John for your effort and dedication to your mates at AMOSA.

From our Curator.....

We have been successful in a request to Australian Army History Unit to fund the supply of 7 new Tashco display cabinets for a total cost of \$100,000. They have been installed in the Museum and our volunteers are busy setting up displays in each of them. The 77mm gun and GS Wagon which were in the WWI Gallery have been moved out to make way for the new exhibit of the 18 Pounder Gun and associated display material. The projected move of the Adlam Display from Port Wakefield is under planning approval. We are also negotiating with Port Wakefield staff for the supply of the 155mm gun carriage—we have the barrel and need its carriage to complement the display. We have successfully negotiated to install a high speed Internet connection into our Research and Development Building. The development of a research facility for our volunteers and visitors to the Museum is an essential component of our services to the Museum visitors. The Internet replaces a very slow service previously installed over

land line within the Barracks area. An area previously housing our uniform collection has been converted into a display area, meeting room and space to provide a light lunch to our tour groups. The advantage of having this room as a multi-purpose area is to optimise the limited space we have for providing lunches and morning teas as part of our income raising function of the Foundation.. We continue to look for the development and enhancement of the Museum and the display preparation areas of the Museum. We would like to see an upgrade to the lighting in the Museum to highlight our displays and remove the ancient fluorescent tubing as part of the original building lighting. The refurbishment of the Edged Weapons preparation area and the Conservation and Restoration Room adjacent to it is a further proposal for redevelopment. I am grateful for the efforts of our volunteers and their assistance in moving items and maintaining the exhibits in a great condition. We continue to develop and improve our interactive displays to enhance the learning experience of our visitors and patrons.

Our New Website



The museum's new website www.amosa.org.au has been 'on line' for a few months now and we are receiving good reviews, which is heartening after 6 months of hard work. The website is, and will always be, an ongoing development with postings of new displays, functions

and news items. Adding to our social media program, the Museum now has Instagram and Twitter accounts which will quickly disperse information to a wider audience and hopefully will generate interest from a younger generation to discover the delights of our wonderful Museum.

New Display

18 pounder gun used in both WWI and WWII, lovingly restored by volunteers



Book Now and Avoid Disappointment!



ARMY MUSEUM HISTORY FESTIVAL LUNCH

**THEME:
NEVER LET A MATE FIGHT ALONE –
LISTEN, SUPPORT, CONNECT**



Speakers:

Helen Meyer—Executive Producer—Radio Adelaide
Philip Payton— Professor of History, Author
Dr Susanne Neuhaus CSC— Associate Professor Conflict Medicine
Emilea Mysko - Invictus Games Participant

WHEN

May 22th, 2019
12 noon - 2.00 pm



WHERE

Building 34A Keswick Barracks

FEATURING • 2 course meal, drinks purchased from the bar, raffle prizes, 3 prominent speakers on their experiences of Conflict and soldiers return to Australia.
Lunch will be followed by a discussion on the topic :
Of Repatriation ..., The Homecoming! About soldiers dealing with physical and mental health problems .
ANZAC': Tour of the Museum after 2.00pm. Park on the parade ground and you will be directed to the lunch venue.

Name:
Amount paid: \$ Member Non member
No of persons coming in your payment:
Vegetarian/Gluten free meals? Y/N Number required ...
I would like to be seated with:
My contact mobile/phone no is:
Email:

HISTORY FESTIVAL EVENT

ADVANCE TICKETS

\$25 General
\$20 AMOSA Volunteers

Seating for 160 !

Book early to ensure we have a reservation for you!

Email your details to:
amosalunch@gmail.com

BOOKINGS

By EFT Account Name:
AMOSA Foundation
BSB No 803 205
Acc No 205 150 18

By CHEQUE

AMOSA Foundation
Keswick Barracks
Anzac Highway
Keswick SA 5035

SEATING

Please let us know who you would like to be seated with at the meal table.

MEALS

Please let us know your dietary requirements well beforehand.

The Barracks—Early Days

