

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



AMOS A

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No place to fight a war

There never has been a good environment in which to wage war!

From the trenches of Europe to the Russian Front, from Korea and Borneo to Vietnam and Afghanistan, the climate always conspired and both sides of the conflict suffered in heat or cold. None more so than Korea, where the winter was as deadly as a bullet. The theme in AMOSA's latest display graphically portrays in some way the horror of the cold. Korea could be hot and stifling in the summer, but come the winter came a different sort of challenge.

The AMOSA curatorial staff considered what story to tell about a very complex conflict. The recurring theme seemed a frozen, barren mountainous landscape. So, we opted for a simple display to realise one aspect of the "forgotten" war: the Aussie Digger facing the winter environment. The main picture from the AWM was blown up to show Diggers tramping through snow. To then display his equipment and clothing was not so easy. It was typical of the Aussie battler to acquire, borrow or steal to make his life better against the cold.. And on North Korea things got cold. Temperatures regularly dropped to -32c. Courtesy of what some called the "Siberian Express", northern winds pushed the wind chill factor down to an eye-watering -70c. Imagine blood from wounds freezing on flesh, and frostbite so severe skin peeled away when socks were removed. Also weapons froze, artillery malfunctioned, water and

rations could not be consumed and parts of the brain closed down along with the organs in the body...soldiers dropped, froze as stiff as hardwood and died. It was reported medics carried morphine ampules in their mouths to stop them freezing.

It fell to families back home to knit and dispatch scarfs, balaclavas and beanies to send to their sons, who only had a basic cold weather combat jacket. Along with gear from home, Australians acquired shin-high Marine gaiters to stop snow getting into boots, cold weather hats to shield the face and pulled socks over their hands. The result is a soldier resembling Darth Vader with a Lee Enfield. Next door in the Indonesian Confrontation exhibit it's back to the familiar open shirt, bush hat, heat and humidity of tropical Borneo (incidentally the centre man in the photo is a local: Oscar Johnson from Birkenhead). The danger here was heat stroke, malaria and chronic skin disease. There never has and never will be a good environment for war.

By Peter Haran—Volunteer photo: John Claxton



12 June 2019—Korean Veterans visit the Museum -

L- R Ken Cocks, Peter Clarke, Mick Woodley, Maurice Evans, Jim Stevens, John Jarrett

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Dates 2019

- **30 Aug**—Blood Sweat and Fears III—Book Launch
- **18 Sep**—Parliament House visit
- **30 Oct**—Health Day veterans
- **9/10 Nov**—Edinburgh RAAF Air Show
- **11 Nov**—Remembrance Day
- **11 Dec**—Christmas Dinner

Visit our website to find our news for our volunteers and current activities within the Museum

www.amosa.org.au

Contact Joy Souter to add material & information

From the Manager

As we approach some warmer weather after a lengthy period of rain and cold it is to be hoped that visits to the Museum increase. We continue to make improvements in a number of areas and there are interesting new displays for visitors to see. It is busy for us in the second half of the calendar year and while this is a good problem to have it is important for me to again thank all of our volunteers and military staff for their tireless work in continuing the development of our facility. The changes in the Museum are most impressive and we are quickly approaching our goal of a truly modern and progressive research facility. In this edition I want to introduce readers to some intended changes to Museum operations.



Major
Christopher Roe

Firstly, and the area into which I hope volunteers will invest their energy and intellectual capital, it is intended to tell the story of the entire Army in South Australia. This is perhaps not as big a job as it seems given that we already do so to a large extent, but military history does not need to move, in the telling, exclusively from conflict to conflict. There are events, units, training areas, military trends and developmental changes that have affected the local military throughout our State's history and there is more to this story than the Regular Army and the major conflicts. Representing this story will be a challenge for Curator Wayne Birch and his team of volunteers, but the Unit's military component will contribute as well. It should be an interesting challenge with the story of the Proof and Experimental Establishment Port Wakefield being planned to be our first project and a test case to see how well we can do this; I'm sure the outcomes will be excellent.

Secondly, we are now implementing a five year plan, a 'Plan on a Page' as it is sometimes known which endeavours to annotate clear and manageable targets

for development over the period 2020-24. While this will likely outlast my time as Manager I hope it will put into place a clear way forward for the Unit, at least in terms of developmental targets while we continue to track the daily challenges of keeping the Unit in good order. The plan will feature targets pertaining to infrastructure in regard to which buildings we do and do not need and where the Unit 'lives' within the barracks environment of the future, as well as volunteer demographic considerations. It will also feature targets that are time dependent and recurring, for instance Corps and Unit birthdays and anniversaries, as well as notable events in military history. These events, targets and aspirational outcomes will be measurable and achievable and within the capacity of this Unit as it currently stands, while at the same time challenging and, by necessity, requiring agility and patience to achieve.

Finally I ask you all to be patient with the military component of the Unit. We are busy trying to ensure that the Unit is as compliant with current policies and industry standards in a number of areas as we can (must) be and achieving this often involves volunteers completing paperwork and directly complying with a number of requests. It can sometimes be frustrating but it is fair to say that our Headquarters works very hard to put in place the conditions in which our Unit can continue to thrive on Commonwealth property and everyone has a part to play in contributing to this. I look forward to the continued development of the Unit for the remainder of 2019 as a number of exciting projects come together, but also trust you will enjoy some of our external and recreational activities such as Museum field days and operations away from the comforts of Keswick Barracks and events such as the 'Danger Close' film preview which was a most worthwhile activity in late July.

Thank you
Christopher Roe
Manager

Harry's Corner



What a fabulous year we are having immediately after the Centenary of ANZAC. We now have a great working connection to the Internet, we have great numbers coming along on Wednesdays and thanks to the Army History Unit, we now have some tea and coffee provided by our HQ. Luckily Roberto, our Treasurer, is still baking cakes for the volunteers and I get to clean up the crumbs afterwards. The Museum is looking great with new displays in the Tashco cabinets.

Harriet and I ventured out to the Unley Museum last month to see the display of 'Unley's Own—stories of the 27th Battalion soldiers'. Great display Karen! This was followed up by a talk at the Unley Town Hall by Sandra Kearney and her research into what happened to these WWI soldiers when they returned home. Sadly all of the cheese and biscuits were up on a table out of reach for us shorter patrons!

Over recent months we have lost some dear friends and supporters of our Museum. They include Graham Growden, Denise Ayles, Ted Kaminski, and Bruce Tunstill. We will surely miss them!

I may sneak a ride onto the bus ride to Parliament House on the 18 September. The speaker of the Upper House, Andrew McLachlan CSC MLC, has invited us for a tour of Parliament House and hopefully some tasty morning tea! We welcome SGT Ewens to join our GRes staff at the Museum. Mimi will be helpful in reducing the workloads of the other staff since David left us to go and work in the Hospital (3AGH).

We are looking forward to a busy few months with plenty of school children visits and some Army Cadets looking over the Museum, and undertaking their studies into military history.

Cheers and best wishes Harriet & Harry



A soldier with PTSD fell into a hole and couldn't get out. When a SNCO walked by the soldier called out for help, but the SNCO yelled back, "Suck it up son, dig deep and drive on," then threw him a shovel. The soldier did as he was told and dug that hole deeper. A senior officer went by and the soldier called out for help again. The officer told him "use the tools your SNCO has given you", then threw him a bucket. The soldier used the tools and he dug the hole deeper still and filled the bucket. A psychiatrist walked by. The soldier called, "Help! I can't get out!" so the psychiatrist gave him some drugs and said, "Take this. It will relieve the pain and you will forget about the hole." The soldier said "thanks" and followed his advice, but when the pills ran out he was still in the hole. A well-known psychologist rode by and heard the soldier's cries

for help. He stopped and asked, "How did you get there? Were you born there? Did your parents put you there? Tell me about yourself, it will alleviate your sense of loneliness." So the soldier talked with him for an hour, then the psychologist had to leave, but he said he'd be back next week. The soldier thanked him, but he was still in the hole. Another soldier, just like him, happened to be passing by. The soldier with PTSD cried out, "Hey, help me. I'm stuck in this hole!" and right away the other soldier jumped down in there with him. The soldier with PTSD started to panic and said, "What are you doing? Now we're both stuck down here!" But the other soldier just smiled and replied, "It's okay, calm down, brother. I've been here before. I know how to get out."

No matter what you're going through, you are never alone. But don't be too proud to shout out!, 'HELP I'm stuck in this hole'. We all get stuck in a hole from time to time, but all it takes is to ask your mates for help and we will be there even if we have to jump in that hole with you. *By ANON*

Ambassador George

George's Bio

Hi my name is George, you may have seen me about the Museum recently. I live with Trudy and John. Sadly John has been in hospital for ages, so Trudy has had to bring me along on Wednesdays.

I was bred to be an RSB Guide Dog. When I first left my mother I was given to some people to raise me but they gave me back after two weeks. I then had two foster families until Trudy and John did some training and decided to take me. I felt frightened after all the new homes and couldn't sleep unless I was really close to my carers. John took me to all my training sessions. I had to put up with nasty dogs barking at me and not take food from strangers. After about a year I started proper harness training and John and Trudy went on a holiday. I was pretty good at it and my new trainer even took me to an ANZAC dawn service at Semaphore. Luckily I am not afraid of loud noises as they fired a volley at Semaphore - a lot of people

jumped!

Apparently I was not as good as I thought I was and I was not accepted as a Guide Dog. I suffer from separation anxiety, I need to be with people and I might bark if something pops up unexpectedly. I now live back with John and Trudy. I love to play at the beach and with empty boxes. My favourite snack is a raw carrot which I have for lunch. I also like pate when I can get it.

If you see me, I like scratches behind the ears and that bit above the tail I cannot reach.

Cheers *Trudy Babinskas*



Dikko



Sound Ranging Development WWI....



In September 1915, William Bragg was serving in France. He heard the terrible news that his brother had died fighting at Gallipoli. Soon after, he received a much happier letter from his father telling him that they had been jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. Lawrence was the youngest Nobel Laureate in Physics at the tender age of 25 years. Bragg paired with another researcher, CPL Tucker and together they got a small empty wooden box, ran a thin platinum wire along inside the box, and drilled a hole in the box near the wire. They ran electricity through the wire, which heated it up. When a big gun fired, the infrasound pressure wave forced a puff of air onto the hot wire and

cooled it down. This changed the resistance of the wire, which they did have the technology to measure. Using this method, the Allied sound ranging could locate German artillery to within 25—50 metres. It was brilliantly demonstrated on 20 November 1917, near the German occupied city of Cambrai. Thanks to the new technology of sound ranging, the German artillery was silenced. Sound ranging was used to devastating effect in the Battle of Amiens, on 8 August 1918. Shortly after the war was over.

At the age of 23, Bragg was appointed Eminent Professor of Mathematics at the University of Adelaide. The Bragg name has been used for a Gold Medal in Physics and the naming of the Bragg Building in the University of Adelaide Precinct. He was knighted in 1941 and passed away in 1971.

War Veterans Home Myrtle Bank

A BRIEF HISTORY

Most members of AMOSA will be aware of the War Veterans' Home located at Myrtle Bank, but how did the property begin its life? The following is an extract from a brief history, the original source of which is unknown to me.

The original 'Myrtle Bank' property was purchased about 1839 by Captain Berkeley, an early colonist, who did very little to the land, because he became Inspector of Police. When Adelaide's male population stampeded to the Victorian goldfields, Captain Berkeley did the same, and in 1852 he was appointed to the Victorian Police Force. He died on 26 January 1856, at Portland, where he held the position of Sub-Inspector for the district. Captain Berkeley sold 'Myrtle Bank' in about 1842 to William Sanders, who was born in Kinross, Scotland, and he and his family sailed from Leith (Scotland) in 1838, taking over five months to arrive at Port Adelaide. He was a civic-minded man and was elected to the City Council in October 1840. Having purchased 'Myrtle Bank' he built a house (see copy of painting below) and began mixed farming. He named his property 'Myrtle Bank' after a friend's fine property in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1844 'Myrtle Bank' was under crop with sixty acres of wheat, four acres of barley, four acres of maize, as well as an acre of garden; it also carried eight cattle and two horses.

During a trip back to Scotland by William Sanders, 'Myrtle Bank' was rented by Captain William Elder, who arrived in South Australia in 1839 in command of the vessel *The Malcolm*; during Sanders later trip to Scotland in about 1854 'Myrtle Bank' was sold to William Ferguson, who had arrived in South Australia in 1836 with his wife Rosina in the ship *Buffalo*, and had first purchased land at Magill, before purchasing 'Myrtle Bank,

and making alterations and extensions to the property. The Fergusons lived there for many years until his death in 1892 at the age of 82 years, and his wife's death the following year. During World War 1, 'Myrtle Bank' became a Repatriation Hospital. There are many brass plates giving details of donations by citizens, companies and organisations, while inside there are hundreds of brass plates resembling the faces of bricks; etched on these are the names of contributors to the upkeep of the home who were mainly school children of the 1914–18 era. Some 50 returned servicemen (at the time of writing the original article) reside at 'Myrtle Bank' – it is most fitting that such good use is made of this fine old home, for 'Myrtle Bank' is part of the historical association of the district, while the present occupants have done their share in the history of conflicts.



Note: In the original article the following note was included: "Reproduced by the National Bank in 1978, from the original oil in the collection of the Art gallery of South Australia, by permission of the Board".

Our Studebaker Restoration Update

Although AMOSA took possession of the Studebaker truck, and a spare cabin, nearly two years ago, progress on its restoration has been slow, with the 18 Pdr Gun Project occupying most of our time during 2018. During this year the team, on most occasions comprising Peter Jarrett, Garry Robinson, David Williams and myself, has been distracted by other tasks within the overall Museum (e.g the Scout Jamboree, emptying & moving old display cabinets, preparing the Rapier units for movement to Woodside, etc.).



Nevertheless some progress has been made, including:

* 5 of the 11 wheels have been removed, cleaned and re-painted,

* The bonnet, engine-bay side panels, radiator grille, front mudguards, headlights and running boards have been removed, stripped back and painted.

* Acting on expert advice, a decision was made to concentrate our efforts on restoring the 'spare' cabin, which has now been stripped of all fittings & rear window, and the badly damaged roof has been removed; We have recently removed the complete dashboard assembly (we only discovered by accident that it actually was able to be removed!).

The immediate challenge facing the team is to remove the 2 doors from the spare cabin, both of which require rust removal and replacement panel work. The challenge is in removing the bolts securing the door hinges to the door frames, all of which have been quietly rusting themselves solidly to the concealed nuts for the past 76 years! We can't afford to damage, or cut the hinges because we will need them when re-fitting the repaired doors. Concurrently we will begin to remove flaking paint (of at least 3 colours) from all internal & external surfaces, weld a couple of small cracks in the firewall and floor panels, remove & replace some rusted bits under the floor area, and otherwise prepare the cabin 'tub' for new paint.

The attached photo shows the spare cabin as it appeared in mid-June - watch this space for further updates!

Geoff Laurie

The Paul Longstaff Education & Research Centre ...



Reception area groups before a tour of the Museum

During the past year a number of changes have or are about to occur to enable the museum to reach the Museums objectives of making available resources to provide Defence, schools, visiting groups and

individuals the ability necessary to research and collect information of past defence members or activities. Located within the Research and Education Centre is a special area called the "Diver Derrick" Room after Sgt Tom Derrick VC DCM 2/48 Bn. This room is a result of the re-energised project to make an area available for defence members, public visitors and volunteers to undertake research and other planned activities.

The room has three personal computers connected to Wi-Fi and one pc/video player to project images to a large TV screen. Volunteer staff are available to the public to undertake any research they require or

provide supervised assistance for those who undertake their own research. The area is also being used as an educational area for school classes and work experience students. It is an ideal room for large meetings, e.g. Board Meeting etc. The room also has a small display that welcomes group visitors who are visiting the museum and enjoy either a morning tea or lunch provided by the Museum Catering Group (MCG).



Internet access for research

Volunteer helping a visitor to the Museum



Long Tan Remembered 18 August 1966.....




 Museum latest Display
 Anniversary of Battle of
 Long Tan **1966**



Unley's Own the 27th Returning Home

'In preparation for History Month our Museum was asked to assist with the loan of uniforms and memorabilia for the Unley Museum's display "Unley's Own Returning Home".



During World War 1 the City of Unley saw many of its young men volunteer for service with 27 Battalion, and the exhibition tells the personal stories

of their wartime experiences and their return home to resume their civilian lives, adapting to family life and peacetime employment.

The main display features wooden cut-outs of the individual soldiers with their own story attached. The silhouettes are personalised in that each one is made to the exact height of the soldier whose story is featured. A mock-up of a typical trench scene has been constructed with periscopes, which the visitor can look through to view the battlefield.

This small museum also features rooms telling the

story of early life in the Unley area. During the 1800s the town experienced frequent and severe flooding of the Brownhill Creek causing serious disruption to daily life and creating a health hazard with mud and, often, effluent flooding the streets and houses. As a result the Council took steps to improve drainage in the area and one instance of this may be seen in the large stormwater drain which runs through Keswick Barracks. We were very impressed with Unley Museum and urge members to visit. The set-up of the displays is quite different from our own Museum and I'm sure there are ideas which we can use.



Silhouettes matching the height of the soldier story after war service.

An early washing machine?

By Heather Simms



From Our Curator.....

This year has been busy with a number of displays being completely upgraded and changed. This was driven in the main by the supply of our new Tashco cabinets. We have continued to undertake exterior displays and our volunteers have enjoyed visits to other Museums and military establishments. We have seen a significant increase in Army Cadets visitation at the Museum which is in line with AAHU directive for contributing to Army capability. I wish to thank all of the volunteers for their untiring efforts in creating a Museum which I believe is, among the best Regional Museum in the AAHU network.

Policy One of the most important initiatives that I have implemented this past year is a collection reduction and auditing program. In the past we have not followed our collection policy which has resulted in many non-relevant items being accepted, I have tightened up the process of accepting any donation to ensure it complies with the following policy:

- It must have a distinctive and verifiable connection with the South Australian Military.
- Documentation and provenance must be available,
- It must be relevant to the collection,
- The condition of the item must be reasonable,
- Conditional terms will not be accepted, and
- The donor must demonstrate clear legal title.

The excess items are being sent to the AAHU Repository in Bandiana. Navy and Air Force artefacts are being sent to the Air Force Museum at Point Cook and the Navy Museum at Garden Island. Some items will be sold through the Museum shop.

Gallery Lighting The light levels recorded throughout the Museum are far too high; some areas are in excess of 90 lux when the recommended level is a maximum of 50 lux. Over time this causes damage to textiles, photographs, leather and plastic artefacts. It is proposed to limit the lux by installing LED ceiling track lighting and the light from the display cabinets for the safe movement of visitors through the galleries. There will be a significant reduction in lux and the other benefit will be to improve the ambience within the Museum. Some display cabinets which are not lit will need LED lighting fitted. Quotes to install track lighting in the World War 1 Gallery have been obtained from three local companies and have been submitted to AAHU for funding. I am hopeful that these will be funded in the near future.

Museum Shop Thanks to Greg Rosser and the money that was made during the Scout Jamboree in January, we now have a dedicated EFTPOS machine in the shop. Greg has also provided merchandise pricing software with the EFTPOS tablet so that our guide's job is made significantly easier when using the machine. Joy Souter has continued increasing the range of merchandise that is available in the shop.

Volunteer Courses Heather Simms attended the

AAHU Introduction to Conservation Course and Henry Jolly attended the AAHU Introduction to Museum Practice Course. Ernie Reichstein attended the Introduction to Mosaic Course conducted by Information Services & Technology. A Metal Conservation course will be conducted by the Museum towards the end of this year

Bosisto Display The Bosisto display has been significantly refurbished and has been relocated into the main World War 1 gallery and is now housed in a glass cabinet given to us by the DSG Museum. Ongoing conservation work on certain metal items of the Bosisto Collection will be carried out as grant funds become available

Watherston Display The Watherston display has also been relocated from a small wall mounted cabinet into a much larger floor mounted cabinet by Kevin Draper and Mike English. This new and enhanced display shows the great sacrifice the Watherston family made for Australia during WW1.

Korea/Confrontation In May of 2019 I tasked Peter Haran, Brenton Williams and Henry Jolly to organise a display in the Malaya/World War 2 Gallery. It would tell the story of two of Australia's mostly forgotten and least known conflicts, the Korean War and the Indonesian Confrontation, sometimes known as 'Konfrontasi'. The display they have produced is one of the best in the Museum.

The Hero & the Healer In June of 2019 I tasked Peter Haran, Brenton Williams and Henry Jolly to organise a display in the World War 2 Gallery. It was to be titled 'The Healer and the Hero'. It was to tell the story of two famous South Australians, Don Beard and Len Opie. Both of these men's war time experience bridged World War 2, Korea and Vietnam conflicts. Len Opie was an infantry soldier and Don Beard a Doctor.

WW2 Japanese Display The WW2 Japanese display has been significantly upgraded by Brenton Williams. A feature of this new display shows the home front in Japan during the war and shows how the families supported their soldiers through letters and specially signed banners.

Sword Display The Museum has a unique collection of swords, bayonets, sabres and daggers which were not being displayed. In 2018 I tasked the Edged Weapons Section to prepare a display in the Special Exhibits Room. This display has now been completed and shows different types of edged weapons throughout the ages, thanks to the Edged Weapons staff. Special mention should also be made of Edged Weapons craftsmen who professionally restore and conserve these most valuable items in our collection. They also provide this service to members of the public, and in doing so provide an income stream to the Museum.

APC An interactive display for the M113A1 Armoured Personnel Carrier is currently being worked on by Neil Wilson, Stefan Landherr and Robert Fraser. Steve Rogers has installed the power required to run the electronics and lighting. A plexi-glass door has been fitted to the rear door access port by the Conservation and Restoration Group.

From the Curator (cont)

When the rear metal door is opened visitors can view inside the carrier through the plexi-glass door. The interior will be lit and when an exterior button is pressed an audio program will start. This will have the sounds of the carrier's engine/tracks and radio traffic being received. The interior will have three mannequins, depicting an infantry soldier, the driver and the crew commander. The work on the mannequins has been done by Heather and Malcolm Simms. A complementary display in the Museum depicting the Battle of Long Tan has been completed by Peter Haran, Henry Jolly and Brenton Williams in Gallery Three.

Wiles Cooker After a request by AMOSA to AAHU for items pertaining to the Catering Corps we have been given a Wiles cooker. Delivery of the item should be by October this year. It will be placed under the exterior veranda next to the Austin Champ.

Restoration and Conservation Room A proposal for the construction of a Restoration and Conservation facility in Bay 1 of Building 80 has been forwarded to

AAHU for consideration and approval. 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. Quotes for the electrical and building work have been obtained and the Project Manager for this work is Graham Janz.

Adlam Collection The transfer of the Adlam Collection from the Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Establishment has been on and off for the last three years. I can now announce that this transfer is imminent and along with the collection we are to receive the M3 gun carriage for the 155mm gun barrel. AMOSA will also receive a RAEME repair module which will be placed outside, next to the Bofors Gun. The interior will be used as display area and will show some history of the Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Establishment from 1922 to the present day.

Wayne Birch—Curator

Blood Sweat and Fears III

Blood, Sweat and Fears III completes the trilogy of books of the lives of South Australian doctors who served during the World Wars. There are 279 one-page biographies in this book that describes the commitment and compassion of the doctors who were willing to set aside their professional lives to serve their country, during this terrible time. Interspersed with the biographies are snippets of direct quotes from diaries and newspapers, which places the reader into the context of Australian people during WW2. This important book completes a trilogy that documents the war service of South Australian doctor's from 1914-1975.

Authors:

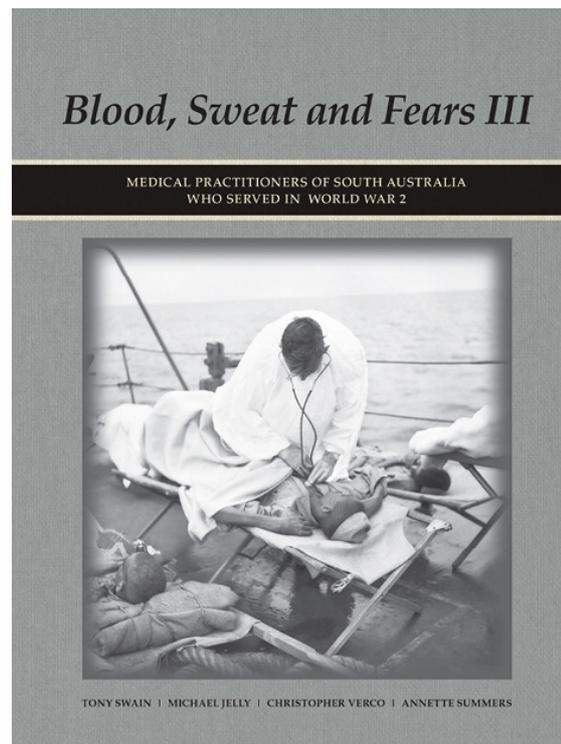
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Book Cost \$30



Book Launch—Evening of 30 August 2019

Book Launch to be held in Building 34A at Keswick Barracks. Launched by General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, AC(Mil), CVO, MC (Retd) and attended by The Governor of South Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le, AC. The Museum is expecting about 200 people to attend the book launch.