

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH
Australia



AMOSAF

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Foundation Members' Medical Cover

Greg has recently been looking at the medical cover available to our members and would like to give you a summary of the cover provided.

The AAHU (Army) via MAJ Chris Roe advise their cover is limited to:

"If a volunteer is injured, or obviously unwell, while on site and a Defence member calls an ambulance then Defence will cover the cost of that trip. Medical assistance that person then requires above and beyond this is their responsibility, generally through either Medicare or private health insurance."

Nick Williams and I have spoken at length to Peter Alderson from Shield Insurance Brokers who manage our Voluntary Workers Group Personal Accident Insurance policy for Dual Insurance/Lloyds.

He advises that we have the best Voluntary Workers policy available and that it covers our members for most events. Some of the key covers include:

- * No fault cover
- * To and from home cover (direct route and

no stopping)

- * Weekly benefit cover (up to 102 weeks)
- * Domestic help up to \$500 per week (up to 26 weeks)

Like all insurance companies they don't cover anything when you receive payment from other sources (Medicare, Private Health Insurance, Third Party cover, etc) but I believe this is fair. The main thing is that you are not out of pocket.

The maximum Benefit coverage from our policy is:

- \$100,000 for accidental death and permanent disablement (per incident)
- \$20,000 for Injury resulting in Surgery
- \$1,500 for Non-Medicare Expenses
- \$1,000 Weekly benefits (Injury)

with items covered on a sliding scale depending on the severity. The policy has an aggregate limit of liability of \$1,000,000.

Greg has a copy of the Policy and the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) if anyone would like to see it.

Greg Rosser (Chairman AMOSAF)

Keswick Barracks Heritage Walk

There's more than meets the eye of the old red brick buildings adorning Keswick Barracks. Recycling was alive and well in the early 1900s as most of the buildings were, at some time, used in a completely different category as they are today.

For instance, Building 134 – commonly referred to today as the Band Building. From 1916-1920s it was a gymnasium for amputee soldiers returning from World War I. Injured soldiers would attend the gymnasium to be fitted for artificial limbs, then use it to strengthen limbs and muscles to support their new arms and legs. In the same area,



Amputees waiting outside the gymnasium

Building 136, now the Paul Longstaff Research and Education Centre, was the Quarter Master's quarters. However with the increase of injured returned soldiers and an increase of nursing staff, accommodation was required for the many nurses needed to help the injured. .

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Remembering our Veterans

Vietnam Veterans Day & the Battle of Long Tan

18 August 1966



Keswick Barracks Heritage Walk (cont)....



Inside the gymnasium learning to use new limbs

As the QMs store was adjacent to the hospital, the stores were moved and the building served as the nurses and Matron's quarters. Matron Hancock was the first Matron for the new hospital and her quarters, on the left hand side of the building, still has the original fireplace.

If you would like to learn more of the history and double use of Keswick Barracks buildings, book a place for the Keswick



Building 64, now soldiers' accommodation, became to the Army Barracks Heritage Walk, by contacting Nick Meredith, Functions Officer at amosafuctions@gmail.com The walks occur on Sundays.

By Joy Souter, Marketing

Museum Catering Group (MCG) Update

COVID19 has resulted in a couple of changes to the MCG Group staffing. Trudy Babinskas has transferred to the KEMU and AMOSAF Data Input areas and will remain in that role post COVID19. Dave Duncan has decided to leave us and return to his role as caterer for the Plympton-Glenelg RSL as they are again providing "Schnitty" Specials on Wednesday evenings. Thanks for your help at the museum Dave, and you are always welcome to visit. He would also love to see our members at the RSL to try one of the Schnitzel Specials. The rest of the team remains the same with our Head Chef Darian leading the way. We had a number of groups scheduled to visit during 2020, but COVID19 restrictions forced the postponement of all catering. Although the original lock-down ceased many months ago, it was not until June 2021, when we reverted to Level 1 restrictions that we had seated catering venues large enough to handle tour groups of 25(+). At that time our AMOSAF Functions Manager, Nick Meredith, started contacting some of the groups we had previously listed for "Visit and a Meal" deals to try to reschedule their visits.



A recent 'pre-COVID lunch for an auto club visit.

The first to accept was Dirk Nieuwenhoven, an AMOSAF member who had recently retired as a



Dirk Nieuwenhoven

guide at the museum after 20 years' service. His dedication to the museum was such that he drove from Hindmarsh Island to Keswick for every activity.

Dirk is heavily involved in a number of activities in the Goolwa District including their RSL and he invited members of the Milang Vintage Machinery Club to partake in one of our

"Visit and a Meal" tours on Wednesday 14th July 2021. The tour was conducted by John Claxton and then they joined the MCG team of Darian Leckie, Jan Saunders and Greg Rosser in the Officers Mess Annex for a delicious upmarket BBQ meal followed by Chocolate Bavarian and icecream. They had 24 attendees, their feedback was very positive all agreed they would come again. We had the West Lakes Probus group booked in for the following week, Wednesday, 21st July, but unfortunately the third COVID19 SA lockdown started on Tuesday 20th July, so it couldn't happen. It seems like we now have to wait until the Covid Restrictions get back to Level 1 before we can recommence the "Visit and a Meal" program. In the meantime, we look forward to catering for our volunteers at our Monthly Morning Teas in Building 34A on the last Wednesday every month.

See you soon **by the Museum Catering Group**

From the Manager

For the second newsletter this year I can state that we continue to make good progress here at the Museum. We remain mindful of COVID-19 which hangs over us to some extent although we are not suffering currently, I'm pleased to say, as much as some other states. That said, we are only one or two community-based transmissions away from problems so I encourage everyone to remain vigilant and act, at all times, in accordance with our regulations in this matter. We continue to develop the Museum, especially in regard to essential compliances. The matters of surplus explosive ordnance and weaponry are being dealt with and, by trying to better raise public and military awareness of our existence, we are making a determined effort to raise the level of visitation to the galleries. This is supported by an active program of external support around the local military fraternity which, as we manage it correctly, greatly enhances the good name of the unit.



Major Christopher Roe
Manager

My major concern, with me now into my penultimate year as Manager, is the military manning succession plan and I'm pleased to report some good progress here. Major John Burns, a vastly experienced Regular officer based locally here at Keswick Barracks, will transition to the Reserve in October and assume the role of Assistant Manager until the end of next year, then moving into the Manager slot in January 2023, after my departure. WO1 Brian Kirby joins us

from Woodside in early September, and SGT Troy Oakes, for one day a week on a DA 26 contract, likely from early August. We will be sorry to see three departures (two of them, Deb Spicer and Danee Davis, both of long and eminent service here, and Maria Vallis) during the end of year posting cycle but we can say that good progress has been made to secure their replacements.



Congratulations are due from everyone to Maria Vallis for her fine achievements in, principally, WHS but in many other domains too, acknowledged by an award from the Director General Future Land Warfare, BRIG Ian Langford. Maria

received her award from SADFO Keswick Barracks, LTCOL John Daunt.

I look forward to the continued development of the Museum as the year goes on. Quite how Keswick Barracks will look in five years' time is hard to predict but I'm very confident that the Museum is well placed to argue its case to remain here as a valuable and worthy contributor to the cause of the Army locally. My best wishes to the many people associated with the unit, military and volunteer, that assist in the retention of our good name.

Thank you **Christopher Roe Manager**

Digger returns to War Zone

Peter Haran was just 19 years old when he was deployed on his first tour of duty to Vietnam in 1967 as part of the Australian Army's dog tracker section. With him was Caesar, a black Labrador-retriever crossed with a kelpie – a mongrel, to be more accurate, or as Pete described his four-legged best mate, a 'smart arse' dog. The pair were members of the 2nd Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) and their job was to track down the enemy Viet Cong.



Caesar with his handler, Pete Haran

Earlier today, Pete (seen in the picture holding Caesar's collar) sent me an email alerting me to a new short film made by his son, Brady Haran, when the father-son duo returned to Nui Dat in Vietnam last year. Pete took Brady to the same jungle track where Caesar saved his life while in pursuit of two injured enemy fighters who fled after a firefight with an Australian infantry platoon out on patrol. The dog tracker team was choppered in to the war zone and Pete instructed his dog to "seek". "This was the worst day of my life," Pete reveals in the film. But, because of luck and "a dog with an incredible uncanny ability", Pete survived. As I write in my

book, *Saving Private Sarbi*, Caesar was a first-class tracker dog, and one of the Army's best. In fact, he was one of the first two dogs deployed to Vietnam. It was the dog's mission to find the enemy who had opened fire on the Australian soldiers. But what Caesar did that day in the jungle not only saved his handler's life, but the lives of a platoon of about 20 Diggers, several of whom were wounded when the platoon commander stepped on an M16 land mine. Sadly, when Pete's tour of duty was over, Caesar was handed to an incoming dog handler. When the Australian Army was withdrawn from the war, he was adopted by an Australian diplomat. Caesar lived a great life and did invaluable work. As Pete says in the film, without his beloved mutt, his son wouldn't have been standing in the same jungle where he stood as a young man in 1967. To read more about Pete's and Caesar's work in Vietnam, you should grab a copy of his top book, *Trackers*. To see Brady Haran's film of his dad in Vietnam – and I recommend you do – go here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xet4ijKvVgo>

It won't cost a thing, and you'll learn plenty about our Military Working Dogs.

'In dogs we trust.'

Article sourced by John Claxton



Our Recent History

What is considered to be an historical article? The answer is anything. AMOSA Uniforms and Textiles Department was recently tasked with dressing three mannequins in historical uniforms on behalf of the Seaton RSL. We were unwilling to provide early uniforms such as WW1 and WW2 uniforms and apart from any other consideration these would not fit on a modern day mannequin. The three examples selected are examples of more recent Australian Army uniforms which are no longer in use: the Jungle Greens, Desert Cams and a WRAAC uniform. The earliest version of the Jungle Green uniform was developed in 1944 to address the problem of jungle rot and to provide an alternative to khaki drill. It was made of lightweight jungle green denim. Early versions were of a brighter green than the present design and there is evidence that some of the Khaki drill uniforms were dyed in order to comply with the new colour. During operations in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam in the 1950s to 1970s the Australian Army wore "jungle greens" as field wear. The uniform depicted on the model shows how it was worn in the Vietnam conflict. Jungle greens were replaced in the late 1980s by the Disruptive Pattern Camouflage Uniform (DPCU) specifically designed to wear in the semi-arid bush of the Australian mainland. Later as a result of operations in the arid terrain of Iraq and Afghanistan in the 2000s a Disruptive Pattern Desert Uniform (DPDU) was introduced in 2006. Further changes resulted in the Australian Multi Camouflage Uniform (AMCU) from 2014. Note that for practical purposes the identifying name badges, corps identifier, Australian flag and Rising Sun badges are attached by Velcro. The badge of rank is no longer displayed on epaulettes but on a removable tag on the front of the uniform. The Women's Royal Australian Army Corps was established in 1951 to cover a manpower shortage due to the Korean War and National Service. The Corps had its own dark green service dress quite distinguishable from the male uniform. In the 1970's fashion designer Prue Acton was asked to "jazz" up the style which resulted in the more modern green tailored jacket and skirt with a striped shirt. In 1976 the WRAAC CMF/ARES was disbanded and all members were recruited and enlisted into male units. (The WRAAC ARA did not disband until 1984).



Uniforms destined for Seaton RSL display

Although the WRAAC uniform was retained it was now worn with buttons and badges from the relevant corps. The model is wearing WRAAC buttons and corps badge with silver sergeant's stripes. Prior to the "Prue Acton" uniform the Nursing Corps had its own identity and wore a grey service dress. This uniform was later phased out with women wearing the same style service dress, jungle greens or camouflage uniforms as the men. In 1965 the Army made the decision to allow married women to continue their service and in fact I was the first WRAAC in South Australia to do so with the CMF/ARES leading the way and the Regular Army following a couple of years later. This progressive move also resulted in a maternity smock being introduced as part of the female uniform. A recent newspaper article reported that the Army now recognises that women are not just smaller men and working dress such as boots and cams will now be manufactured to suit the female form. As Maurice Chevalier once said "Vive la difference"!

By Heather Simms AMOSA Uniforms & Textiles Curator

Dikko



Patriotism and Part-Time Soldiers

Is it patriotism or is it propaganda? From the advent of WW I onwards advertising in the form of posters has been the rallying call to Australian men and women. It pre-dated newspapers. It was colourful, clever and simply could not be ignored – “We Need More Men, Your Country Needs You, Join Your Mates...” The idea of government -instigated recruitment posters was, of course, to get more men to the front line in Europe; fight them over there, not over here, and support Mother Britain. And the messages were multipronged. The wording was such a young Aussie would immediately see adventure overseas; he would be with mates fighting an aggressive enemy and wouldn't hold back when his country needed him. It was patriotism and propaganda in one. And it was effective.

Every picture told a story. The museum includes recruitment posters in its forthcoming display on the **militia, the CMF**



Brenton Williams adjusting a poster in the new Tascho cabinet.

and the Army Reserve. Today's recruitment appeals to today's citizens, and importantly focuses on professionalism, trades and skills as well as illustrating the non-combat role part time soldiers play – flood, fire and Covid 19. By today's standards, those early recruiting messages are appallingly brutal – inducing men to partake in a meat grinder of war, and women to support their men and also do their bit on the home front. It is a complex challenge for AMOSA curatorial, incorporating how our part time military and recruitment have travelled hand in hand across major conflicts. We start with the mid-1800 and look at Adelaidean Samuel Albert White, a member of the Reedbed Cavalry, part of the SA Voluntary Militia. They were bold, brash, patriotic and a fashion statement who provided their own horses and uniforms. It came on the eve of recruitment posters for WW I which included a manic man in a saddle at full charge. And our first AIF drew down men from the Militia for war in Europe. The White display, prepared by Danee Davis, Brenton Williams and Henry Jolly, involved months of sourcing and display. It was an exercise in exactitude and care to detail.

The Militia became the Citizen Military Forces after WW II in 1948 and we chose two other members of the AIF/ Reserve as examples. The recruitment posters changed tone to *Spare Some Time For Australia's Defence*. South Australian Ellen Brooks became a member of the Army Reserve Catering Corps in 1984, a position in which she excelled and rapidly rose through the ranks to sergeant and saw overseas service in the Solomons Islands and Timor, swapping kitchen wear and carving knives for a rifle on board an armoured vehicle. Some of Sgt Brooks' mementoes are on display. So too Louis Leeuwrick, a



Henry Jolly arranging some of the display posters

telephone technician who became a member of the Reserve Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers after enlistment in 1974. Militia and CMF members were often denigrated as “weekend warriors” in the early years. Far from it - they were frontline at Kokoda in our darkest years and later went on to serve in Vietnam, Timor and more recently Afghanistan. Today they all are integrated in the ADF as part of a current and standby force – and the recruitment is live your job, have some adventure, and get paid.

By Peter Haran



From the Curator August 2021.....

Displays Gallipoli Neil, Stefan and Robert have almost completed the new interactive Gallipoli display in gallery 1. This features an original Gallipoli battle map that is housed in a purpose-built drawer under the diorama.

Militia display Henry, Brenton, and Peter are progressing the Militia display cabinet and it should be finished by mid-September. The display highlights South Australian citizen soldiers' individuals' military careers and their Corps.

Military Police Motor bike In April of last year AMOSA received a Suzuki 650 Military Police Motor bike from the AAHU at Bandiana. Conservation and Restoration are currently fabricating a stand for the bike so that it can be displayed. The bike will go on display in early September and will replace the WW2 football display at the entrance to gallery 1

Catering Corps Display A significant Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) display is planned towards the end of this year. It will link in with the new Militia display which features a AACC soldier and will have, as its centrepiece a WW2 Wiles cooker and a 1970's vintage Kitchen Field Trailer. These large items will be placed on the western side of building 76 under the veranda. The Austin Champ will be removed to accommodate these items.

Vehicles AMOSA has received a Unimog from 10/27 RSAR to add to its collection and it has been stored temporarily in 222 Compound. It is hoped that a request to 9 BDE to allow the use of its undercover parking on the eastern side of building 76 will allow AMOSA to display this vehicle. The Studebaker restoration program should be completed by the end of the year and the plan is to display it as soon as it is finished. It will replace the Blitz which has been on display for some time and is showing serious signs of rust. This will be the next task of Conservation and Restoration. Conservation and Restoration have just completed a conservation task on our 1950's vintage 1 ton trailer. This had large areas of surface rust that have now been dealt with.

Exterior Support Seaton RSL A request was received from Seaton RSL to supply uniforms to dress three mannequins. The mannequins were purchased by the RSL and Heather and Malcolm dressed one of the male mannequins in jungle greens, the other in Desert Cams and the female mannequin in WRAANC uniform. Each of the mannequins will be supplied with captions describing the uniforms and information that they have been supplied by the Foundation.

Exterior Support AUR (Ongoing) A request had been made by Adelaide University Regiment (AUR) to provide support for a Unit Collection display at Hampstead. AMOSAF had already provided advice on cabinets, uniforms, and mannequins, these have now been purchased by AUR. Peter Haran and Wayne Birch have visited AUR and will progress the display over the next couple of months. *The original concept has been changed by AUR and they now want a story/uniform of a WW1 LH Officer and a current Officer Cadet.*

Exterior Support Keswick (Ongoing) The Museum will be supplying display cabinets to the Keswick Barracks Officers Mess and the Keswick Barracks Sergeants Mess. The displays

will highlight local Reserve Unit histories. These cabinets are currently stored in the Museum theatre and when they have been moved to the Messes the theatre will reopen. A theme for each of the cabinets will be formulated after consultation with the PMC of each mess. *A quote for the move of these cabinets has been obtained by WO1 Vallis and will be forwarded to AAHU for action. It is anticipated the move will occur in early September.*

Exterior Support 16 Regiment Woodside (Ongoing) The Museum has been asked to provide display support to the 16 Regiment at Woodside for a public Open Day. It is proposed that the Rapier missile system be loaned to 16 Regiment for this event, along with several mannequins and objects. *Due to COVID this event has been pushed back to October.*

Exterior Support Fort Largs (Ongoing) Wayne Birch has been attending a number of meetings with Peet Ltd who are the new land developers for Fort Largs. The company will build high density housing on most of the site but has sold the Fort itself to a private individual who will be building a restaurant which will be attached to the fort walls. The upside is that the company will restore and rebuild the fort to the standards required by the State Heritage Branch. The meetings have included representatives from the Police Historical Society and the Largs Bay RSL. This is part of the public consultative process, but Peet has asked for advice on a proposed Heritage Walk, proposed Community use of the Fort and proposed naming of the streets which would reflect on the historical nature of the site.

Port Wakefield P&EE (Ongoing) This project has been put on hold. I still believe that it is a priority task to preserve the artefacts at the range.

Weapons Audit Trudy Bambinskas has undertaken a comprehensive audit of the KEmu records of the weapons held by the Museum. This was to determine ownership. On Monday the 16 August the South Australia Police (SAPOL) commenced a check of the 122 weapons owned by the Foundation. These will be examined to see if they all conform to the state deactivation criteria; at the end of this examination SAPOL will issue a registration certificate for each weapon.

Transition Bay Building 80 Bay 8 has been reconfigured and AAHU provide new shelving for this area. The concept of the area was to provide temporary storage for:

- * items which have been donated and awaiting labelling, ODR and data entry.
- * items which are surplus to requirements and awaiting disposal.
- * items which are ready to be put on display or into storage.

This plan has been delayed as the southern wall of Bay 8 has white ant damage. This has necessitated the movement of the new shelving away from the wall to effect repairs. The bay has been closed for the last three weeks and hopefully will open again in early September.

Sandblasting and Painting of Exterior Vehicles A quote for the first vehicle has been received by Wayne Birch and was forwarded to Chris Roe. The quote was accepted by AAHU with

Curator (Cont)

the proviso that only vehicles owned by the Commonwealth would be painted.

Grants Wayne Birch submitted four grant applications and was successful with three of them. The first was from DVA for an amount of \$720 being for the Veterans Health Week function that AMOSA will hold in October. The second was from History SA for an amount of \$8604 for new computers in the Archives area. The third was from History SA for a sum of \$770 for seven persons to attend an online training course for Mosaic. The last grant application was to DVA for an amount of \$20,000 being for the Port Wakefield display, the outcome of this will not be known until February 2022.

Museum Courses A number of our members have recently attended Foundation run Museum Practise courses so that they have a better understanding of how the Museum operates. Given COVID it seems likely that these will be the only course opportunities' that our members will get. All members attending these courses have been presented with certificates and have had their

Our Museum

Why not visit the Museum and see the development of new exhibits and interactive displays.



Thelma visits our Museum for information about the 48th Bn



Our History Lunch speakers May 2021

History of the Australian Artillery

The Australian Artillery marked its 150th anniversary on August 1 – a century-and-a-half of continuous service. By the end of 1870, as British forces withdrew, the separate colonies of Australia each became responsible for providing its own defence. Prior to 1871, all Australian colonies had their own volunteer artillery batteries to augment permanent garrisoned British forces. The departure of the British batteries meant the loss of artillery technical proficiency. Colonies needed their own permanent artillery forces to sustain the necessary expertise, particularly for the defence of their ports. The story of today's Australian Artillery originates on August 1, 1871, when the NSW Colonial Government funded and raised its first permanent battery. Officers, gunners, guns and equipment formerly with the original NSW Artillery Battery helped form subsequent batteries in 1876 and 1877, serving as both garrison coast artillery and mobile field artillery. Army's longest continuous serving permanent unit is A Battery, currently part of the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. A Battery traces its history to that original NSW Battery. Soon after, the other colonies raised permanent batteries to complement their volunteer and militia batteries, as the demands for self-defence grew across Australia. Eighteen



months before Federation, Queen Victoria conferred the title of Regiments of Royal Australian Artillery on the permanent artillery units of the Victorian, Queensland and NSW colonies from July 14, 1899. It foreshadowed cooperation across the colonies to establish a coherent, modern and capable Australian artillery force. In the years that followed, these regiments combined with all other Australian artillery forces. The power of artillery on the battlefield is built on a uniting philosophy of rapidly combining the target effects of many units as one through command and control. Over 150 years of distinguished service, this united group has evolved to become today's Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. August 1, 1871, unites all regiments and gunners, serving and retired, across all states and territories, as the date that captures and symbolises the beginning of the Australian Artillery. The August 1, 2021, anniversary recognised and celebrated the 150 years of distinguished service of the Australian Artillery. It's because of artillery's widespread and diverse role that the Royal Australian Artillery has one single battle honour royally conferred, which is also its motto: Ubique – that is, "everywhere".

By RAA Association



A 'birthday' salute to the Artillery Corps performed on the parade

Schools Visits 2021

After over 12 months' break from school visits to the museum due to the COVID19 restrictions they have all come back with a rush. In late May 2021 our Schools Program team ran Schools Activities for 5 different schools in a period of just over 2 weeks. The schools were Pinnacle College, Wirreanda High School, Langhorne Creek School, Brighton High School and Unley High School (about 150 students plus staff). Normally our Schools Program visits are more spaced out than this, but our team (all volunteers) were really keen to get back into running the program, so they made themselves available, even on non-museum days so we were able to have the required 5 instructors per visit for all of the school programs. **A big thanks to all involved.** The feedback from the schools was excellent. The coordinator from Brighton High School wrote: *Thank you so much for yesterday! The students have not stopped raving about the excursion, and both the Principal and Deputy Principal have not heard the end of how amazing the experience was for myself and the other two teachers. I have also spoken to the History Coordinator, and we are going to make it a regular excursion for our year 9, 10 and 11 students.*

We even had some of the students from Unley High School send personal thank you emails:

"I am a student from Unley High School, we visited the army museum on Monday. I would just like to say thank you for having us and organising the activities for our school. I very much enjoyed the museum and looking at all the weapons, letters, uniforms and reading about the soldiers' stories and listening to the war veterans and their experiences with wars. It was a really good experience and I learned many new things about the wars that Australia participated in. There was so much to see and do I would like to come back again sometime. "

"I am one of the Unley High School students that were at the museum yesterday. Thank you for having us at the museum. I loved learning about Australia's history in war and looking at the weapons and gear the soldiers had. I found it interesting and enjoyed looking at the mini dioramas of Gallipoli and the trenches. I also loved experiencing what the trenches were like and how the weapons."

By Greg Rosser Schools Program Team