

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH Australia



AMOSA

April 2023

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1



AMOSA End of Year Breakup 2022

Wednesday 14th December was a busy day at the museum for the volunteers and GRes Staff. As it was the final volunteer day for 2022, we all participated in a big “End of Year” morning tea in our new garden outdoor



meeting/training area. While still having more work to be done on the outdoor area, it already has shelters, lawned area and an old built-in BBQ (which will require updating). Our normal tea and coffee with cakes and biscuits was upgraded by the Army History Unit (AAHU) who generously provided a lavish array of food to share at our “final activity for the year”. This was an enjoyable way to end a very busy year as we came out of COVID lockdowns. Our major activities during the year included celebrating the AMOSA 30th Birthday with an Open Day in the Barracks (see the November edition) plus the reintroduction of our schools initiative programme and group tours. The evening was also a time for celebration when we held our volunteers and partners breakup function at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL. This was the same venue we used in 2021, upsetting our normal routine of one year in barracks

and the next one out of barracks. Unfortunately for us the Officers Mess Annex we had been using in recent years was closed for major renovations, so we will hopefully be going back there again in 2023. The RSL is a great venue for this type of activity as they have a separate room which is large enough to hold over 120 people and it has its own kitchen, toilets, sound system etc and is adjacent to, but separate from the bar area. A great place if you are looking for somewhere to run a function. Thanks must go to Kim Hutton for producing a great PowerPoint display of things happening in and around the museum including the background music both of which played throughout the evening. The evening started with drinks in the bar from 6pm to 6.30 pm and from there we moved into the dining hall which was all set up with a Christmas theme. Streamers and bon bons adorned the tables. The decorations went well with the food selection which was Roast Turkey and Leg ham with rich gravy and roast vegetables followed by Christmas Pudding with Brandied Custard. During the evening we had a number of presentations including farewelling Major Chris Roe who had been the Museum Manager for 9 years. The presentation of the Curator’s Awards is always a high point of the evening and this year the awards went to Rolf Sellentin and Garry Satterley. Unfortunately, Garry couldn’t be there on the evening, so he was presented with his award at the museum early in the New Year. **by Greg Rosser and Wayne Birch**



Rolf & Garry being presented by Wayne Birch

Inside this issue

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>From the Manager</i> | 2 |
| <i>Admin Office</i> | 2 |
| <i>Dikko</i> | 2 |
| <i>AMOSA Tours</i> | 3 |
| <i>What’s New?</i> | 3 |
| <i>Tours—Feedback</i> | 4 |
| <i>From the Curator</i> | 5 |
| <i>Adelaide Zoo Display</i> | 6 |
| <i>AMOSA Happenings</i> | 6 |
| <i>Drummers Sword</i> | 7 |
| <i>History Lunch</i> | 8 |

2023

Tickets are available from mid April to book in at your table for our annual History Lunch to be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at Keswick. Book early to avoid disappointment.



From the Manager

HELLO,

Well after standing in the wings and observing from afar for the last 12 months I have now officially taken over as manager of the Army Museum. Chris Roe has moved on to pastures new and I thank him for a great handover and we all wish him and his family well. I will state from the start that I am extremely proud and honoured to have been appointed to this position, especially after my period as assistant manager, I knew from the very start that this was the place for me. I know from personal experience and interactions not only the highly valued service the AMOSA provides in preserving Army's proud history in South Australia, but also the highly valued service provided by the AMOSA volunteers. Our volunteers are a great bunch whose contributions of time, effort, hard work and expertise is not only an outstanding example to others of how its done, it is also unreservedly respected and appreciated. The past year has been simply amazing with the highlights being we battled COVID, put on the open day which was the biggest single event in AAHU history, completed edged weapons and firearms audits and squeezed in a move



Major John Burns (JB)
Manager

of the AMOSA HQ location to new digs in a Building 112 (Southern boundary of the Barracks).

So to the year ahead which is shaping up well, visitor attendance numbers are looking good, the schools programme is well underway and gaining momentum and planning for AMOSA major calendar events such as Veterans Health Week, The History Lunch and our Defence Work Experience Programme is well underway. This year will be our reconstitution year, where we look to confirm our procedures, update displays and undertake the first complete audit of the museum in our 30 years history, not a small task. Yes a lot of scratching heads but I am delighted to say it's already underway. So to all volunteers and Defence members I'd like to say thank you for your efforts over the years and your continued dedication, hard work and support to the AMOSA in its mission to preserve Army's history in South Australia. Your continued support is vital to the success of the AMOSA and I sincerely look forward to working with you during the year ahead. **By 'JB'**

Major Chris Roe handing over the 'reins' to JB... Major John Burns. JB is familiar with the operation of the museum having spent 12 months in 'stewardship' at the museum.



Museum Administration Office.....

The museum GRes staff occupy some rooms in Building 112 on the Southern boundary of the barracks. Formally used by elements of the 10th/27th Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment. When visiting please park in one of the designated parking spaces.



Dikko



AMOSA Tours

AMOSA is fostering relationships with various historical clubs throughout South Australia. Recent visits includes the Aviation Museum, the Antique and Historic Arms Collectors, and the South Australian Police Historical Museum, with several others in the planning. The Arms and General Collectors Club of South Australia



Our Senior Research Officer, Ray Saunders, discusses some of our display features with the Secretary of the Arms and General Collectors Club, Jeff Copley.

had an evening visit to the Museum on Friday 30th March. Approximately 40 members attended the evening which included a heritage walk of Keswick Barracks and a 'thorough' inspection of our various galleries followed by a light supper.

by Nick Meredith



What's New in the Museum

Cabinet 30, Special Exhibits Room: Kev Draper kindly provided two awards – a King George V Military Medal and a George Cross, complete with ribbon bar and sew-on Cross attachment. These two awards now compliment the photographs of the recipients.



In the same cabinet Rolf and Brenton have put together "The Fraser Hay Collection", donated last year by Fraser Hay's nephew. Fraser Hay was born here in Adelaide, worked as a freelance commercial artist, enlisted in 1940, trained as a medic, and transferred to the 2/8th Australian Field Ambulance. He was captured in a German ambush while travelling with a convoy in North Africa. Fraser spent some time in German P.O.W. camps before being relocated to an Italian camp in Italy. Under the Geneva Convention all medical personnel, which included Fraser, were later repatriated back to

Australia.

Fraser was an expert at miniature writing and recorded troop movements plus other vital information. He wrote on cigarette and toilet paper which was then rolled up and concealed in holes drilled into a bar of soap. Before his repatriation he wrote



down all the names and addresses of the prisoners in the camp, and on his return home he personally contacted a number of the families.

Please check out this display as there are many interesting personal artifacts including his miniature writing. My favourite item is a cigarette case which was given to him by an Italian woman who worked in the camp.

By Brenton Williams, Curatorial

Tours—Feedback from Patrons.....

Children's University:

We enjoyed pressing all them buttons. We liked it because the buttons make noise (well some of them!)
I liked using the machine gun and the coordinating.
I liked the medal room because of how different they all are. (Stephanie)
Operating the machine gun and getting to know what they actually did in the army / war. (Indie)
I loved seeing the medals. (Jake)
Firing the machine gun! (Rocco)
I have enjoyed everything.
I like the Medal room and the guns, swords.
I enjoyed the tanks because they have big missiles and weapons. I also enjoyed wearing an army flak jacket and helmet.
I really enjoyed learning about the fuzzy wuzzy angels because I like people helping. I liked trying to work out the coordinates.
Looking at the displays. I got to learn about the history of war.

From general feedback sheets (13):

Adults:

What did you enjoy most?

Layout was nice, interactive displays enjoyable. As a former soldier bought back memories that were good.
All displays were excellent
I enjoyed the small theatre most
Vietnam war Display
All of it. Displays and information are excellent. Easy access. Well set out. Great Parking

What could we improve?

Any other sources provided for more military information.
Nothing that I can think of.

Children

What did you enjoy most?

Everything
All the interactive things
The machine gun and tanks 16 pounder rm1 mk1 field gun barrel and the pistols and rifle and pictures on the walls
Gun tank
Getting to know what the soldiers did and why they fought for us
The interactive parts
Display of the Japanese army and display of WWII

What could we improve?

Make the museum bigger
You guys don't need to improve anything!
I have no idea

From Google reviews:

Selection from the last 6 months

There are 196 reviews over 4 years, with a rating of 4.7 of 5 stars.

Great place to visit. Lots of interesting displays and equipment. Nice conversation with staff. It's not the biggest thing to see but I was here over 2 hours and enjoyed my time.

Fantastic place to visit for the Army enthusiast. Very informative with hands on interaction. Lots to see and learn. Was very surprised with the thought gone into the displays, very well presented .

This is so worth a visit. It wasn't even on my radar but really it should be for everyone. So much care has been taken to present an informative and important part of our history.

Everyone should visit here, especially with teens to connect them to their past, even if they don't have a family connection, as Australians we all have a past we need to recognize and be humble towards.

The displays and stories are a real eye opener. The staff were amazing and very accommodating to our clients and staff. Highly recommend.

Educational and the guides are passionate and engaging for all people who attended. Children found the experience both interesting and educational.

Great place to take the kids to learn about our military history.

A must-see attraction. Lots of hands-on exhibits and information on important military conflicts such as WW1 & 2 and Vietnam and Afghanistan. Many vehicles as well. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit.



Patrons visiting the Museum during the Open Day in 2022. 3500 people came to the open Day!

Collated by Sue Urban, Coordinator Tour guides

From the Curator—March 2023.....

Benefactor

I am pleased to inform our members that Ernie Reichstein has given the Foundation a substantial donation to be used as the Foundation determines. I will be asking the Board to formally thank Ernie for his kind donation, and I am also proposing that as a sign of our appreciation that we recognise this donation by naming an object or area after him.

Museum Audit

A 100% audit of every item in Building 76 commenced on Wednesday 1st March 2023. I have consulted with all the curators of the unit collections and my curatorial staff about their responsibilities in this audit. Each group will supply a team member for the audit, and we will be checking all items against records in Ke EMu, unit collection records and Mosaic. All items will be photographed and documented onto a spreadsheet.

Arts & Graphics Audit

Arts and Graphics are a sub section of Archives and Rolf Selletin and Gary Satterley were given the task of auditing the entire collection of paintings, large, framed photographs, posters, and art. For those who are unaware the Arts and Graphics store is at the southern end of Building 80. There was an enormous range of items, and some are over 100 years old. This task has now been completed and thanks to Rolf and Gary.

Militia Display

Brenton, and Rolf have completed the Militia display cabinet. The display highlights South Australian citizen soldiers' individuals' military careers and their Corps.

Catering Corps Display

A significant Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) display is planned to be ready by May 2023. It will link in with the new Militia display which features an AACC soldier and will have, as its centrepiece a WW2 Wiles Cooker and a 1970s vintage Kitchen Field Trailer. These large items have been placed on the western side of Building 76 under the veranda.



Future Bomb Disposal Display

The South Australia Police (SAPOL) Historical Society have recently donated to the the foundation an Echidna Remote Positioning Vehicle (RPV) This vehicle was used by the South Australia Police Bomb Response Unit and the Australian Army in South Australia from the late 1980s to the early 2000s. It is a unique artifact given that it was designed and built by Evens Deakin Industries in Brisbane, Queensland. It was used for the remote examination and rendering safe of suspect Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) Along with this donation the SAPOL Bomb Response Unit donated a Med-Eng EOD- 8 bomb suit and a Med-Eng SRS-5 lightweight bomb suit. These items were also used by the Australian Army. The museum will use these artefacts next year for a display highlighting the Army's role in dealing with IED and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats.



Port Wakefield P&EE Display

Ken Scott reports that Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Establishment internal planning for the transfer of 2 Rapier Repair Modules, a 155 mm Long Tom gun with carriage, film archives and a small number of test instruments to the museum is proceeding. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed. The Port Wakefield P&EE Collection will be managed by Ken Scott who will be the curator for the collection. Many of the items will be displayed in the Rapier Repair Modules which will be in the car park to the west of the museum.

Museum Courses

AAHU are conducting Museum Practice (Basic) courses and I have been asked to nominate 4 people for the course. It will be held at Enoggera from the 7th to the 12th May 2023.

Online Business Accounts and Social Media Sites

Sue Urban now has administrative control of all our social media sites/ web pages and the online sales under the Foundation Marketing and Merchandising portfolio.

By Wayne Birch, Curator

Adelaide Zoo Display—February 2023

Once again the museum was called upon to mount a display at the Adelaide Zoo, sponsored by the Defence Member Family Support Unit, and was held in the evening of Friday, 10th February from 5.30 to 8.30 p.m.

It was quite a large event with various stalls dotted along the walkways as well as inside activities including the Army Band playing on the green



which proved most popular with the visitors.

We were located in a well-lit dining room along with some 30 support members seated at their tables.

The museum had a prime corner position which suited us perfectly for our four military mannequins and story boards. Also provided was a table on which we placed the give-away sample bags which were soon snapped up by the families.

Brigadier Goodwin, Commander of 9th Brigade, paid us a visit and complimented the team on an excellent display. The team consisted of Major Burns and Corporal Li for the Army, with Brenton and Rolf from Curatorial. Everybody enjoyed the evening and the museum's display was a strong talking point with the Defence members as it seemed to rekindle many enduring memories.

By Brenton Williams, Curatorial

AMOSA Happenings



Sue Urban, Greg Rosser, Danny Davis and Wayne Birch took a display to the Fort to Fort charity event at Grange in February 2023.



Peter Haran gave a talk about his experiences in Vietnam with the tracker dogs.



Annual training day for volunteers at Keswick



Wall decorations in the Paul Longstaff Research and Education Centre

Drummers Sword Pattern 1856

The Edged Weapons team recently carried out conservation work on a Drummers Sword Pattern 1856. The Edged Weapons team had not previously encountered a sword of this pattern. The sword along with its original scabbard was being transferred from a local militaria collector to the collection of Southern Rangers Black Powder & Modern Shooting Club, for use by their Noarlunga Volunteer Rifles historical re-enactment group.

Upon seeing the sword for the first time, team leader Barry Leon remarked that it was "... the ugliest sword I have ever seen". The Drummers Sword Pattern 1856 is a Gothic style sword that was issued to Drummers and Buglers for personal protection, since they usually were not issued with a rifle. The Pattern 1856 Drummers sword has brass cruciform hilt in the Gothic Romanesque style, with Queen Victoria's monogram in the centre of the cross-guard. The scabbard is of black leather with brass chape and locket. These swords were carried on a waist belt in the same bayonet frog that was issued for carriage of the Yataghan style bayonet for the Pattern 1856 Short Rifle (Sergeants Rifle). A variation of this sword pattern had an iron hilt, and was issued to The Rifle Brigade.

Use of the Drummers Sword Pattern 1856 by the Volunteer Rifles in colonial South Australia is documented. In State Library of South Australia collection image B 675, a Drummers Sword Pattern 1856 can be seen on the waist belt of a Bugler; (7th man from the left).

The Drummers Sword Pattern 1856 that was conserved by the Edged Weapons team had a crown acceptance mark, but the maker could not be identified. There were no markings to any British regiment. It is therefore possible that this sword could have been used by the Volunteer Rifles in colonial South Australia.

The issuance of a Drummers Sword was to continue in the British Army as a ceremonial dress item until the current era. As at the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the Pattern 1895 Drummers Sword with the EIIR cypher was still being issued to musicians in some regiments. Although it is noted that many British regiments are now having their musicians wear the SA80 bayonet.

By Danee Davis



Terry Izatt works on Pattern 1856 Drummers Sword



A band in the circa 1860's



This sword is located in the National Army Museum UK

Army Museum History Lunch

Wednesday 10th May from 12 noon



Defending Australia Are We Ready?



- A two course meal, tea /coffee
- 3 exciting speakers serving in operational SA Units
- Seating with friends
- Drinks available for purchase at the bar
- Door prize and raffle
- 12 noon—2pm
- Visit the Museum after lunch

Booking online to reserve your seat and table with friends

<http://e.mybookingmanager.com/E12616393387377>

You can register from Wednesday 12 April 2023

Lunch in Building 34A at Keswick Barracks



Cost \$25.00pp (Drinks extra from the bar)

