

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH
Australia



AMOSA

December 2020

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 3

Our Museum in 2020

There were few visitors to our Museum this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our volunteers have been busy refurbishing the existing exhibits and remodeling the workshops to layout new equipment and to reduce potential hazards in the workplace. The Museum was fortunate in receiving new Tascho cabinets mid year which necessitated a complete review of our exhibits and the application of exhibit material to utilize the superior display qualities of these cabinets. Indirect lighting, glass shelving and a variety of shapes have challenged our Display Group to optimize the capacity and flexibility of these cabinets. The combination of lighting and photo mural backing gives us a fabulous display setting for the items on the shelves. The emphasis in our Museum is on South Australian relevant Army activity in peace and war and warlike operations. This will include support during bushfires and COVID deployments. Graham Janz and his volunteers have



redesigned the workshop areas to produce a useful workspace that is a safe work environment for our volunteers. The team from Edged Weapons look like the big winners by moving into a purpose- built workshop space, adjacent to a shared office used



for the documentation and design of new projects. Some of the display material is new. We have much more material and we are now able to vary the display exhibits in each cabinet to ensure that visitors are impressed with the quality and variety of the items on display. The Museum has an impressive collection of documents, posters and photographs which we will use in the



Museum and on our website. The opening of the Paul Longstaff Research and Education Centre will allow our volunteers and members of the community to utilise our archived resources and expertise to research information regarding the lives of South Australians involved in military activities in peace and war. Visitors are welcome to use our equipment or bring their own laptop, tablet or phone to access the Internet for research and to investigate activity that may be of interest to them and their families. Thank you for your support to our Museum and I encourage you to consider joining our volunteers in furthering the development of our Museum.



By Nick Williams Editor

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Christmas Stand down

It is intended that our closure period be: **Thursday 17 December 2020 until Tuesday 5 January 2021 inclusive.** Thus our last working day this year is: **Wednesday 16 December 2020,** and **Our first working day in the new CY is: Wednesday 6 January 2021.**

Our Christmas theme. Should we move to an Australian image embracing an outback theme and perhaps a Jackeroo as one of Santa's helpers? Merry Christmas to all our Volunteers and Supporters!



The Morris Cars Visit the Museum

The Morris Register of South Australia planned a visit to the Army Museum Earlier in the year, pre COVID-19. The Morris Register of South Australia Incorporated (MRSA), with origins dating back to 1973 and proudly the oldest Morris Register in Australia, had big plans for their Biennial Adelaide Heritage Vehicle Run 2020. This 'by invitation only' event is targeted at Heritage Vehicles manufactured up to December 31, 1960. It is a requirement that each vehicle has current road registration and arrives and departs under its own power. The plan was that entrants would assemble at various muster points in the metropolitan area (eg shopping centre car parks) and travel in small convoy groups to Keswick Barracks. Their arrival was to be staged to avoid congestion at the Anzac Highway entrance. The early plans had to be changed due to COVID 19 restrictions but a scaled down version of the event was conducted and the Club visited the Army Museum of South Australia on Sunday 8th November 2020 observing strict COVID Protocols. The weather that had been ordered (28° C) had arrived and a small work-party of Museum heavyweights erected two tents, one for the Morris Register Officials and the other for the Museum Catering Group. Who would have thought that an 11x11 tent would take so long to erect and have so many iterations. It should be noted that our Curator is to be sent for retraining in the supervision of the erection of an 11x11 tent. The Museum Catering Group was to provide a sausage sizzle on the day but COVID put a stop to that and a self service tea and coffee facility was provided, closely supervised by our new Foundation Chairman, Greg Rosser. The Morris Register Members self catered, but were pleased with the availability of the tea and coffee facilities. The heritage vehicles started arriving on schedule and were directed to their allocated parking spaces on the Parade Ground by the Club's Marshals. Sixty-one members arrived, parked their vehicles, registered at the official's tent and then parked themselves and their picnic lunches on the lawns under the shade of the trees adjacent to the Parade Ground. There they could keep a watchful eye on their vehicles and if anyone showed an interest in their vehicle they were quick to start an enthusiastic conversation with the onlooker. On closer inspection, there were a couple of vehicles which looked a lot like Ford vehicles, especially the 1916 Model T. The vehicles provided a colourful spectacle on the Parade Ground with the heritage buildings as a background. As part of the



A couple of old favourites—Q. What is the model of the white one?



Is this really a Morris in disguise?

activity for Club members, a tour of the Museum and a Heritage Walk of the Barracks was included in their entry fee. The visitors were treated to the tours by our own (born pre-1960) Heritage Guides, Jeff Ayles and John Claxton. Peter Collins and our COVID Marshal for the day, Ernie Reichstein looked after the museum tours. For those not familiar with the Keswick Barracks Heritage Walk' it includes a guided tour around Keswick Barracks to view the heritage buildings with a brief description of their history .

Words of wisdom from Jeff 'Morris' Ayles



There is a series of strategically located concrete plinths around the Barracks mounted with brass plaques which describes heritage items nearby. However our guides embellish the walk with anecdotes and snippets of history regarding the Barracks and the personnel who have worked within the Barracks. Feedback from the visitors was very positive and they were most impressed with the knowledge of the guides and standard of presentation within the Museum. This visit was the first group tour since reopening following the COVID closure. Overall the day was a success and showed that the Museum is capable and ready for more tour groups under COVID conditions in the New Year. Thank you for the volunteers that helped on the day Jeff Ayles, John Claxton, Peter Collins, Ernie Reichstein, Wayne Birch, Greg Rosser & Nick Meredith and the military staff that supported them.



Morris Register Officials checking members passes

If you would like to find out more about the Morris Register, the contact details are:

*Morris Register of South Australia Inc.
PO Box 118 GREENACRES SA 5086
www.morrisregistersa.org*

By Nick Meredith

From the Manager

As this will be the last of our newsletters for 2020 I would like to thank everybody for their patience and cooperation during a difficult and at times confusing year. We were closed to visitation and volunteer support for the best part of five months and then readmitted volunteers incrementally to comply with COVID limitations.



*Major Christopher Roe
Manager*

We are returning to nearly normal procedures in regard daily operations but we must be mindful of what is, I think, a new 'norm' in how society will operate. COVID-19 will not 'stop,' like daylight saving, at a predetermined time in the future when we think it should. It is here to stay, as will be caution in regard to

Our 18 Pdr Gun

Recycling is important to our lives now, but this is not a 21st Century idea. Believe it or not, the first instance of recycling was performed by the Australian Army during World War II, when they resurrected an 18 pounder gun left over from World War I and put it to good use in World War 2. We must firstly recognise the outstanding service this gun gave during WWI, and the Australian gunners who toiled under extreme conditions in serving



this weapon. During World War I (and between the two world wars) the 18 pdr gun was the main, and most successful, field gun in service in

the British, Australian and other allied armies. 18 pdr guns in service with Australian artillery units saw service in Gallipoli, but really came to the fore in the horrific campaigns in France, on the Western Front. In speaking of the success of the Australian Second Division in late September 1918 (Australia's last attack of the war), Brigadier-General Coxen (artillery adviser to the Australian Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Monash) reported that "the success of the operations of this Corps is, in very great measure, due to the excellent work of the field artillery", (*The Gunners*, (1995) David Horner). As an indicator of the significance of the 18 pdr gun during World War I, in the lead up to each of the key battles, such as Fromelles and Amiens, over 1.5 million rounds of 18 pdr ammunition were stockpiled, and between 26 September and 4 October 1918, only 9 days, over 934,000 rounds of 18 pdr ammunition were fired by Allied artillery. 18th Battery, Australian Field

artillery. We must embrace this rather than looking back in time enviously. For the record I consider the responses of the South Australian Government and the Army History Unit to have been absolutely correct in acting on a near unprecedented crisis. The good news was that the Army didn't down tools over the closure period. Despite difficulties in bringing resources in from interstate we persisted and achieved the delivery of hundreds of thousands of dollars of equipment and labour value. The many contractors we need to keep our unit in good order were from small businesses who still wanted the work, and so we were able to present an improved product to our volunteers when COVID circumstances allowed their return. Volunteers then worked diligently to re-establish our displays. One major project remains to be done over the closure period and then, in 2021, we'll take a breath and let the Museum operate in peace for a while. I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and New Year period.

Christopher Roe Manager

Artillery was an Adelaide unit, equipped with 18 pdr guns. The guns were in action for 602 days of the 1227 days overseas – during that time 146,264 rounds were fired. This quantity of ammunition is mind-boggling! The 18 pdr gun was modernised between the wars by converting the wooden spoke wheels to large truck wheels fitted with pneumatic tyres, which allowed them to be towed by trucks, instead of a team of six horses, hence the first invention of recycling. The ammunition limbers were still used with the trucks. Museum volunteers have worked long and hard to restore this gun to its original condition. To achieve this the truck wheels and pneumatic tyres were removed and our Wheelwright, Peter Foster, created a replica of the original wooden spoke



Peter Jasson working on the 18 Pdr wheels

wheels. With the expert advice of Engineer Frank Miller, the new stub axle components were also produced. It is well worth the effort for visitors to come to the Museum and stand before this mighty weapon

to witness the dedication and expertise of the volunteers who toiled to resurrect this piece of our history.

By Joy Souter Marketing Group

Bert Henstridge and Malcolm Simms adjusting the uniform on the mannequin sitting in the firing position.



Hard Tack Biscuits

What did our soldiers eat during WW1? Their diet generally consisted of bully beef, rice, jam, cocoa, tea, some bread and hard tack biscuits. Research shows that the biscuits were so hard soldiers sometimes broke their teeth on them. Some soldiers crushed or grated the biscuits up and mixed them with water or powdered milk to make porridge. The original recipe by Arnotts Biscuit Co. consisted of SR flour, wholemeal flour, sugar, powdered milk and water. It was rolled out into squares and punched with 49 holes. In March of this year the Museum received a donation of one such biscuit in excellent condition. As there appeared to be evidence of possible insect infestation the uniformed staff decided to place the biscuit in the freezer for storage where it stayed for some months while the museum was in lockdown. The biscuit was recently released from incarceration in the freezer and the decision had to be made as to how we could display it in a manner where it would not deteriorate. Contact was made with Art Lab who were most surprised when I stressed that I was enquiring about conservation of not a biscuit tin but an actual biscuit. The concern was that maybe it could have become soggy after thawing out but luckily the biscuit was still as hard as a rock. Fortunately our new Tashco cabinets have a controlled atmosphere so it appears that we will be able to safely display it on the glass shelving, protected by

Mylar sheeting.

As can be seen from the photo these biscuits were often mailed home as "postcards". This one has been neatly decorated on the front. The back has the message: "Many Happy Returns Feb 1st 1916 from Roy - How about some jellies of yours to eat with this rock Hilda - Jany 11th 1916; Just had some like this for dinner; We get 2 of these per man each meal". I'm not sure where the postage stamp went.



Please exchange this for some hot scones at once!

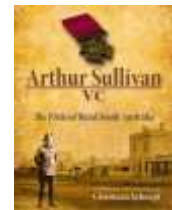
By Heather Simms, Uniforms & Textiles Curator

AMOS A On-line Shop

The AMOSA On-Line Shop became 'live' on **Monday, 13 July**. The Shop is accessed through the Museum's website - www.amosa.org.au from where all the Museum Merchandise can be purchased. We offer a great selection of Militaria books and souvenirs such as Rising Sun badges, Flanders Poppy mugs and lego-type tanks and jeeps for children to assemble. It has been a long journey to fruition of the on-line shop, but it will certainly be worth the hours spent building this section of the website to bring in much needed funds for the Museum.

Tell all your friends and family members to check out the website and **place some orders**.

By Joy Souter, Marketing Section



Dikko



Simpson Trophy Competition

Simpson Trophy Competition – Murray Bridge Range.

The Marketing Team, along with Curator Wayne, attended the Simpson Trophy Competition held at the Murray Bridge Training Area on Sunday, 15 October. What a difference we found from back in the dark ages when John Claxton and I went through the paces with



The Simpson Family attended the Competition at Murray Bridge Training Area. Nick and Anton Simpson presented the Simpson Trophy to the RAAF No 3 Squadron Team and associated prizes. The Trophy is on display in the Medals room at the Army Museum at Keswick Barracks

our various units – now there are big sheds for the competitors to sit in for shelter, a nutritious lunch provided and real toilets with running water! How spoilt

are the young ones now. Everything is now under computer command. The young men and women performed extremely well and it was very interesting to watch them using the latest weapons, and the various stances they have to take before firing. John had a senior's moment when he asked a young lad if cleaning his EF88 assault rifle was easier than cleaning an SLR. The young lad replied "what's an SLR?" John was shattered! I also had a



senior's moment when the young lads kept calling me "ma'am" and asking if I would like to sit down.

The RAAF won the day No. 3 Security Forces Sqn RAAF were presented with the trophy by Nick and Anton Simpson.

By Joy Souter, Marketing Section

From the Morris Register

"And so it was that almost too late the Museum was able to reopen to the public having taken the opportunity to upgrade the multiple displays and the AHVR2020 event dared to reignite.

The shortened time available to make arrangements resulted in a reduced turnout as expected but on the day a nice balance of historic motoring came together for a very pleasant day with tours of the Army Museum of South Australia and the Keswick Barracks Heritage Walk with refreshments provided by AMOSA volunteers and BYO picnic lunch.

Many SA Car Clubs were represented including the Model T Ford Club, The Vintage Sports Car Club, The Riley Car Club, The Austin 7 Club, The Volkswagen Enthusiasts Club, the Gawler Veteran Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club, and of course The Morris Register of South Australia.

The venue was ideal, the tours informative, the weather perfect, the

company excellent. What more can one say? The day was all round outstanding and enjoyed by all!

Our great thanks and appreciation go to the Army for site access and logistic support and the Volunteers of the AMOSA (Army Museum of South Australia) for their enthusiastic guided tours and refreshments and overall support.

The funds raised by way of entry fees have gone directly to AMOSA to aid in a modest way to maintaining their superb facility.

For more information please look up their website at amosa.org.au

Paul Scott"

A selection of 'Morris' vehicles parked on the Parade Ground at Keswick Barracks



Harry's Corner



A very different year for our family. We miss catching up with the volunteers each week and particularly miss a few crumbs left over from the cakes at morning tea! We are very wary of taking precautions so we don't catch this virus. Our cousin mink's in Denmark have suffered terribly due to transmission of the virus to our colonies and farms. We are looking forward to catching up with many volunteers at the Annual Christmas Party. We are

working on our outfits to dress in a Western theme. I guess for us that will be the Western Desert uniforms coming from our collection (cut down a little of course)! We wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas celebration and break from our normal Museum activity and we are optimistic that the doors will again be open in the new year. Harriet & Harry



The Way Forward from the Curator

COVID-19 continues to affect the operation of the Museum has resulted in a 2 week close down of visitor and volunteer attendance. Unfortunately this affected the planned official opening of the Paul Longstaff Research & Education Centre and the invitation AMOSAF made to all of its volunteers and their partners to visit and view the new Museum Displays. These events will be rescheduled for early in the New Year. For Remembrance Day this year a simple ceremony was conducted by Chris Roe in front of the AMOSA flag pole for our volunteers. The volunteers were joined by a large group of soldiers from different Units around Keswick Barracks. They had heard on the grapevine that it was happening and asked just prior to the ceremony if they could attend. It was fitting that they were part of this ceremony. Our AMOSAF Chairman Greg Rosser represented the Foundation at the official West Terrace Remembrance Day Function. After a lot of hard work our submission to gain Museum accreditation from History SA has been completed and sent off. This accreditation under the MaC program will enable AMOSAF to apply for SA Government grants. It is also a stepping stone for our plan to gain National Museum Accreditation; this will be a long process but will enable AMOSAF to apply for grants of up to \$50,000. In October AMOSA conducted another successful DVA Veterans Health Week Seminar. The theme this year was Social Connections and it was combined with healthy nutrition given the success of this particular subject last year. Natalie Mathews, a Psychologist spoke about social connections and Dr Helen Morris spoke about healthy nutrition. Chris Roe organised the attendance of Natalie and Joy Souter organised the attendance of Helen. Many thanks to Darian Leckie and the MCG for their efforts in providing the healthy lunch.

Display Committee I have given Henry Jolly and Brenton Williams the priority task of standardising all of the captions in the Museum. They will have the same format, font type and background colour. The font size will be determined by the distance from the visitor viewing point. To speed this process up Chris Roe has organised a new A3 colour printer which has been installed in Building 136. The printer is only on a three month loan so the team is working as quickly as possible. **Curatorial** To speed up the processing of auditing and completing documenting for the AMOSAF artefacts in Bay 5 I have given Peter Collins additional staff. He is now joined by Rolf Seletin and Jeff Ayles **Marketing** At a recent Finance meeting that I attended I was briefed by the Treasurer, Rob Kenny about the current financial position of the Foundation. It had been anticipated that the first quarter would have a substantial deficit given the COVID-19 restrictions on Museum Operations. I was most surprised to learn that due to the efforts of Joy Souter in establishing our on-line shop we had received the bulk of our income from sales. I wish to thank Joy for her considerable efforts in establishing the online shop. **Conservation and Restoration** The EME WO from 9 Brigade has given an undertaking to provide Serviceable Labels on all of the Machinery in the new workshop area. Once this has taken place Chris will decide if normal work shop activities involving these machines can take place. Graham Janz has now completed SWP training for

all of his staff in accordance with current WHS requirements. Bay 8 has had all of its old wiring removed and has new lighting fitted. Over the next three weeks quotes will be sought for the supply of a large shelving system to be installed in this bay. The purpose of this bay will be as a transitional storage area. The only items to be stored here will be those awaiting deaccessioning, disposal or accessioning. This bay was used by the welder but he will now move to the northern end of the Building 8 compound. Some minor works need to be undertaken for this area to be suitable for welding work. To prepare this area the German 77mm Krupp gun was moved to another building. This move was done professionally by Shipp Bros Towing. **Edged Weapons** Edged Weapons have conducted a 100 % audit of all of our Edged Weapons and have now completed any outstanding ODR. This has been a long and involved process and I wish to thank Terry Izatt in particular for his dedication in completing this task. The new Edged Weapons area has recently had its original stable barn doors repaired and painted; this gave the section the impetus to paint the rest of their work area. They have done a great job and the paint job combined with the new lights, benches and power tools gives it a professional look and a pleasure to work in. **Uniforms and Textiles** Heather, Mal and Bert are now basking in air conditioned comfort. This also means that our collection of uniforms, textiles and banners are now being stored under optimum conditions, which will prolong their life. All of the banners and flags currently on open display in the Museum are being taken down in preparation for the ceilings to be painted. These will then be treated and then assessed as to condition and suitability for future display. **Medals and Heraldry** Kevin and Mike have now completed the 18 Pounder gun, the Watherston and McKinna displays. Their main task now will be to finish auditing the Gray Collection. **EO** I would like to thank Paul Fribbins for the considerable effort that he has made in auditing and documenting the EO collection. This has been an onerous and difficult task given that most of it has been done by Paul alone. It is hoped that this task will be completed by the end of this year. **Outside Displays** The planned move of the Leopard tank has been put on hold after a recce by the Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Range staff revealed that they did not have the capability to move it. They did however move the Bofor gun to its new location in front of 48 Field Battery and removed the 155mm barrel back to Port Wakefield. This gun barrel was located on the foot path at the rear of Building 136. It had to be removed as underpinning of this building is about to be undertaken. It is planned that in the New Year Port Wakefield will deliver the 155mm barrel with M3 mount, the 4.5 inch gun with M3 mount and the Rapier Repair modules. The only Defence owned crane that can move the Leopard tank is at the 1 Armoured Regiment at Edinburgh. I would like to thank all of our volunteers for the considerable effort they have made for the Museum this year. It has been a most unusual and challenging time given the problems with COVID-19. I would like to wish all of the AMOSAF volunteers and military staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By Wayne Birch

AMOSAs Christmas Function....

Thank you to all our members and volunteers who have supported us throughout 2020. We would also like to thank our sponsors and supporters for their contribution to the development of our Museum. We pride ourselves in the quality of the displays, the enthusiasm of our guides and the significant work undertaken by our volunteers in shifting and displaying exhibits into the new Tascho cabinets. A great effort under the currently restrictions of COVID-19. We look forward to a healthy 2021 and we would like to see you come along and visit us again!

You are invited to the

2020 AMOSA Christmas Function



This year was supposed to be an away function but because of the COVID-19 restrictions and the minimal income achieved we are back "in-house" for our Xmas function this year. Unfortunately, the Board are unable to fund the activity this year so members are being asked to pay \$10 per person and \$10 for their partner so we can all enjoy a great activity. Bookings are essential.

Our theme for this year is 'Country and Western'

- Who:** Members, Volunteers and PARTNER
- When:** Wednesday 9th December 2020
- Where:** Keswick Barracks Officers Mess Annex
- Cost:** \$10 per Member and \$10 for a Partner (to be paid in advance)
- Timings:**
 - 1800 Drink and nibbles
 - 1830 Welcome by Chairman and Curator's Awards
 - 1900 Xmas Dinner
 - 2000 Fun activities – Best Dress-up Awards
 - 2130 Bar Closed
- Drinks:**
 - Free Bubbly on arrival
 - Drinks – BYO (Limited stock available for purchase)



LOTS OF PRIZES FOR DRESSING-UP SO JOIN IN THE FUN PLUS DOOR Prize and Raffles

I will be attending the AMOSA Christmas Function on Wednesday 9th Dec 2020

Name:

I will be bringing my partner/ guest YES/NO

My payment @\$10 per person will be \$

I am enclosing my payment YES/NO

I am paying by EFT See Page 2 of 2

Please specify any special Dietary requirements

.....

Contact email phone

Where shown YES/NO (Please Circle as appropriate)

To be returned with payment no later than Wednesday 2nd December to the Treasurer

We look forward to seeing you at the function

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Stop Press

Our Annual History Lunch will be held on Wednesday 19th May 2020 in building 34A at Keswick Barracks. The theme of the speakers will be: "The Changing Face of Warfare - smart bombs/drones/cyber/early warning and deterrents"