THE EXHIBITOR

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRLIA



October 2026

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1

'HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM' LUNCH 13 MAY 2026

AMOSA's History SA Month Lunch and talk this year was held in Building 34A where we all enjoyed a delicious two-course lunch which was cooked and served by our volunteers. The menu consisted of roast chicken (with a special glaze) and vegetables followed by shared platters of sweet treats. Compliments to our chef Darian Leckie for another great menu. This was followed by a series of talks by our panel of guest speakers and hosted by **LTCOL Reg Williams AM RFD**. The talks began with a short video interview with our museum's inaugural President, Brigadier Oscar Wayland AM ED. He spoke about the origin of the museum as well as some of the major difficulties encountered.

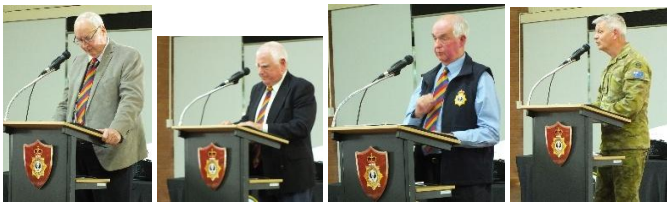
The guest speakers included:

MAJGEN Neil Wilson AM, RFD who informed the guests of his team's initiative in developing the interactive displays and equipment, e.g. Beersheba diorama, Vickers machine gun simulator, Vietnam casevac display, the WW2 interactive display and the interior workings of two of our armoured personnel carriers.

MAJ Geoff Laurie RFD who spoke about the Conservation and Restoration group's projects including the stripping and rebuilding of a Studebaker truck, restoring an Austin Champ military jeep and most recently, a Blitz truck.

MAJ John Burns (JB) told of his experience as the current Museum Manager and the relocation of the museum to a new location.

This was a special event which was enjoyed by the 95 guests who attended. Following the lunch they all had the opportunity to tour the museum and view the current exhibits and interactive displays both inside as well as outside in the external display area.



By Greg Rosser



The assembled patrons





Volunteers serving food and drinks





Patrons and Members





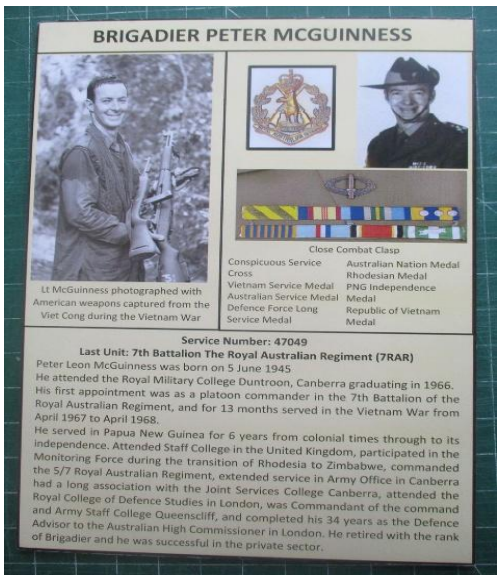
Menu and Main Course

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD … OR IS IT?

"I like a bit of bling", Brenton Williams is often heard to say.
Ever since Brenton first set eyes on the service dress jacket of Brig McGuiness, resplendent with golden aiguillettes he has wanted to put the jacket on display. His plans have now come to fruition and we will now be able to see a new mannequin dressed in the full- service dress uniform of Brig McGuiness complete with the shining golden aiguillettes. But not before Brenton had tried the jacket on for size!

By Heather Simms Uniforms & Textiles Curator





Profile board prepared by Brenton Williams

VOLUNTEER PROFILE - TERRY IZATT

Name	**Terrance Reginalt Izatt**
Nick Name	Reggie
Where were you born	West Ham, London
Other places lived	Australia
School attended	Smithfield Plains High School
What did you want to be when growing up	Didn't really know
What was your first job	
Have you served in the ADF	No
What was your civilian employment	I have had about 30 different jobs ranging Antiques restorer / Maintenance man Business/Bar tending at Casino/Abattoirs/ Film Extra/Artist
When did you start at the museum	Jun-14
What bought you to the Museum	Invitation from Barry Leon
What is your role at the Museum	Conservator/Curator
Most memorable event at the Museum	AMOSA Xmas Party - Come as your military hero theme
Do you have a war hero	My Grand Fathers
Do you have any hobbies	Target shooting, gold prospecting & dancing
Favourite food	Lasagne
Favourite drink	Brewed coffee
Favourite sport	English Premier League (Soccer)
Favourite sports team	West Ham Soccer Team
Favourite holiday spot.	Laos/Brunei/Borneo
Favourite film	Perfume
Favourite song/band	Anything upbeat that I can dance to.
Favourite saying	Still standing, still smiling
Favourite car makes	Toyota Land Cruiser

Favourite car makes	Toyota Land Cruiser
What's at the top of your bucket list.	Madagascar and Japan
Any comments	Had a great life with many different experiences and met many lovely people and that's why I come to the Museum.



Terry Izatt



Terry the Actor!



Terry?

43RD ARMY CADET UNIT FORMAL DINNER

Recently AMOSA was asked by the 43rd Army Cadet Unit to provide a speaker on the subject of the Australian Women's Army Service for their annual formal dinner and I was nominated. At the start of my talk, I did make it clear that I am not quite old enough to be able to speak from personal experience and so had to undertake research on the subject. I would like to thank Sue Urban and Lynne Smith for providing me with books and articles which proved most helpful. I found several amusing anecdotes from the ex-servicewomen which I hope lightened things a little.

In my research I was astounded by the fact that the Australian Government was initially very much against involving women in the Army as they felt there were sufficient men available to serve both in Australia and overseas. From the very beginning women were keen to do their bit to help and even in the face of an abstinent government trained themselves in useful skills. This came to a head when Japan declared war and the government finally decided they did need women. In 1941 Colonel Sybill Irving was appointed to organise the formation of the AWAS and enlistment finally commenced in 1942. From the outset Colonel Irving wished to stress that while she knew women had to be capable, they should also be seen as feminine and nurturing and would not be involved in the taking of lives and as a symbol of this she wanted the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) uniform to have a soft felt hat rather than a peaked cap.

In South Australia the AWAS were formed as the 58th Searchlight Battery with their headquarters on the northern side of Bartels Road in the city. The men were on the other side of the road to the south. The women were responsible for guarding the searchlight installations and their own area and as such were issued with .303 rifles which had to be carried at all times. I'm not sure how this tied in with the policy of not being involved with the taking of lives. Perhaps if called on to fire on someone they could only aim to wound! It should be noted that when I served in the Army Reserves in the 1960s women were not permitted to handle firearms at all and it was not until the 1980s with the disbandment of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps WRAAC and women fully integrated with the male corps that this policy changed. An AWAS drum and pipe band was also formed and it is believed that this was the only all-service, all-women pipe band in the Commonwealth at the time. Although the AWAS were meant to only serve within Australia a small contingent was sent to New Guinea to be attached to the Pacific Islands Regiment. As you can imagine their arrival there proved most popular. Apparently the Fuzzy Wuzzies were very taken with the blonde women and often visited with gifts of fruit for them. Although not recognised formally by the Government of the day women also joined what was known as the Women's Land Army to cover the shortage of labour when men from farms left to enlist. It was not an enlisted group but a voluntary group and the women were paid by the farmers and not the government. I felt that it should be stressed to the cadets, especially the females, that this era in our history was very important in that it was the beginning of opening up a life for women outside of the home. They learned what they were capable of achieving during their service and although they did find that on the return of men from the war they were again relegated to the role of homemaker, it was a start. We now have a policy of equal opportunity for both men and women in the work force, and supposedly equal pay for equal work. I found the whole evening to be well organised and a most enjoyable experience. The cadets were smartly dressed in after-five outfits and took the formalities very seriously. I was hosted by a cadet who looked after me prior to the dinner and formally introduced me to the group assembled in the anteroom. The adults in charge had an obvious interest in nurturing the development of these young adults and were aware of them as individuals. It is anticipated that some will go on to have a service career, if not in the regular Army, then the Reserves.

I would also like to thank LCPL McGarry for his support on the evening in setting up the display of the AWAS mannequin and information boards. (I believe he whiled away the hours while we were at dinner at the Marion cinema.) Thank you too Malcolm for coming along for moral support.

By Heather Simms Uniforms and Textiles



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Held on Wednesday 27th May 2026, AMOSA has regularly supported one external charity each year and this year we went back to our original charity activity by running an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in support of the Cancer Council, who use the money to fund vital cancer research, prevention programs, and support services for patients and their families.

This year the catering team decided to serve and sell (for a minimum of a $5 donation) an individual decorated plate consisting of a variety of goodies including a chocolate coated profiterole, scone with jam and cream, mini quiche, slice of cake, Anzac biscuits and lollies. the collection total on the day was $440 and the AMOSAF board made the total up to our donation amount of $500. At the time of writing the Biggest Morning Tea total for 2026 is almost $15 Million. On the same day two of our volunteers Barry Leon and Malcolm Simms celebrated their recent 90th birthdays with Birthday cakes cooked especially for the occasion by Trudy Babinskas. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to them both

By Nick Meredith

Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea







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Sturt Street Primary School – Honour Roll WW1

During May I was privileged to attend the Sturt Street Primary School with the granddaughters of Stanley Holm Watson CBE DSO MC ED – Margaret Southwell and Kathy Ramsay. LTCOL Watson is a famous South Australian Signals Corps Officer who was the last officer and second to last person to leave Gallipoli. Upon his return from the Great War, Stan became the Deputy Commissioner of the South Australian Railways. His portrait still hangs in Adelaide Railway Station.

Stan, who was born on 24 October 1887 in Parkside attended Sturt Street Primary School, and his name is featured on the Honour Roll. Margaret and Kathy were are aware of their grandfathers' exploits did not know of the existence of this honour roll, and they were very happy to see it. The Honour Roll was completed in 1918 – before the Great War had even ended! The Honour Roll was originally held at Keswick Barracks, before being returned to the school some years ago. It now sits proudly opposite the reception counter in the main foyer. Interestingly, you will notice blank spaces on the right of the board, these are for around 800 students' names who are yet to be discovered and added.

By Major Patrick Trainor







VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL WALK EDITHBURGH

On 18th August 2025 (Vietnam Veterans' Day) Greg Rosser and I, together with our wives travelled to Edithburgh to attend the official unveiling of the Vietnam War Memorial Walk, the purpose of the Walk being to recognise the service of, and pay respect to the thousands of Australians who had served in Vietnam in the 1960's and 70's. The Australian Army with their combat units and their supporting units were the largest group involved in Vietnam, however the RAAF provided extensive service in both troop transport and fire support with 'Huey' helicopters as well as little-known support by Canberra bombers working with the USAF. In addition, the Royal Australian Navy transported troops to and from Vietnam on the HMAS Sydney (the 'Vung Tau ferry'), and when required provided naval gunfire support from other ships off-shore. As with other Memorials there is an Honour Roll, spread over 2 boards naming the 523 Australians who were killed or died of their wounds. The 210 National Servicemen who died are noted with NS alongside their name. Provision has been made for individuals to place a poppy alongside names on these Honour Rolls.

General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Retd) officially opened the Memorial Walk, and his speech culminated in him 'declaring the Walking Trail "Open". My article last year relating to this event described the Trail as being about 5kms long, however on closer reading I found that the length is actually 3.7 kms.

We didn't have time then to walk the Trail so Greg and I returned in early Sept this year to undertake the walk. Despite stopping to read the signs, take photographs and appreciate the scenery, it only took us about 1.5 hours to complete the walk. The sealed and flat trail follows the wooded seafront from the northern edge of Edithburgh to the hamlet of Coobowie, a very pleasant walk with attractive scenery along its length. The rain forecast for the day did not eventuate thankfully because there is little shelter along the way. The main road to Edithburgh is only metres from the Trail, although when driving along the road it is difficult to see the Trail in most places. Along the Trail are a number of excellent signs providing information on, and respect to the many units of the Australian Defence Force which served in South Vietnam during that period. Also, along the Trail are several 'decorative' bench seats on which to rest. All the signs and seats are excellent in the way they are constructed and presented. Members of the Edithburgh RSL, and others involved in planning and implementing this Memorial Walk should be justly proud of their efforts.

The following are just a few of the approximately 30 signs along the Trail. Greg and I can recommend the Walk as both pleasant and informative.

By Geoff Laurie

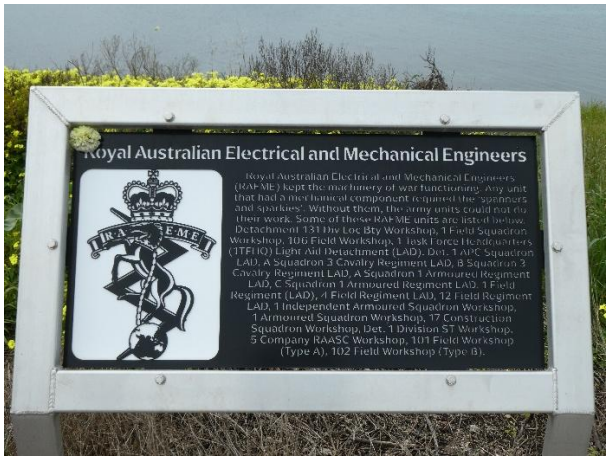


Greg Rosser and Geoff Laurie at the start of the 3.7km walk









UPDATE RESTORATION OF THE 'BLITZ' TRUCK

SINCE writing the article in December 2025 the 'A Team' has continued to make good progress on restoring AMOSA's BLITZ truck; I can now report that the project was recently completed on 30 September.

At the outset of the project the Team discovered considerable corrosion on the underneath surface of the tray and the chassis members, so we arranged for the tray (approx. 1 tonne) to be lifted off the truck and turned over to allow team members to clean the corrosion from the underneath side. Having done so the surfaces were treated with a product referred to generally as 'rust eater', followed by application of a primer coat. This in turn was followed by brushing on 3 top-coats of a 'desert sand' colour. At the same time other team members applied the same skills to cleaning the top and sides of the vehicle, plus inside the cabin area. The Team next tackled the cleaning & painting of the engine and transmission (yes, the engine is mainly accessible from inside the cabin!), plus cleaning and re-painting the wheels, inside the tray, the bench seats and spare wheel carrier (quite a heavy component). In mid-year we called on our 'friend of the Museum', 'Mr Len' to apply his special skills and create and fit a new canvas canopy.

During the Second World War a combined effort by the Ford and Chevrolet motor companies within Canada, USA and Australia (incl in Adelaide) produced about 800,000 vehicles of different sizes to suit employment in different roles, e.g. radio trucks, ambulances, workshop trucks, general service cargo and troop carriers, and to tow artillery guns and ammunition. A small number of our AMOSA volunteers have driven one of the Blitz trucks in their early days in uniform.

When the Blitz trucks finished their 'duty' in the Australian Army in the late 1960's, because of their great reputation for reliability, ruggedness and ability to carry much heavier loads, many of them were snapped up by Rural Fire Brigades, timber companies operating in forests, drilling companies and outback transport companies. As an example, some people may recall Tom Kruze, the famous 'outback mailman' – he used 2 or 3 Blitz trucks during this period delivering mail (and many other stores to outback properties), and if he couldn't repair faults during the trip he simply abandoned the truck in the desert! They are still there!

Many AMOSA members would be aware that military vehicles usually display a couple of 'tac signs' to indicate the unit and/or formation to which it was currently allocated. In recognition of the early history of the Blitz in the Middle East campaigns, AMOSA's truck now displays 2 main signs; the front left-hand sign shows the symbol of the 'Rats of Tobruk', while the front right-hand sign indicates that the vehicle belongs to the HQ, 9th Australian Division. The circular yellow sign displaying the number '7', indicates the (military) classification of bridge which the vehicle can safely cross.

Many thanks to ***Peter Jarrett, Tony Matz, John Black, Pete the Welder and Ken Sanders*** for all of the hard work over many months.

As they say, "no rest for the wicked", so the 'A Team' has just commenced its next project, the restoration of AMOSA's Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) – watch this space!

By Geoff Laurie



This photo shows 'progress being made' on restoring the chassis, while the photo below is of the completed truck.



Finished and on display