



THE MAGAZINE



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A "feather in the cap" as AMWA uniforms help Banksia Hill Detention Centre win a national award for ANZAC Day project



They say winners are grinners and museum volunteer Valma Hanson (pictured above in the museum hire store) certainly proves that. Valma, who supervises the loan and hire of museum uniforms and equipment, organised the loan of a range of uniforms for a group of young residents of the Banksia Hill Detention Centre, who compiled a national award-winning ANZAC Day project. Valma says she feels the award represented "a feather in the cap" for the museum and her role in the project. For the full story and pictures, go to Page 5.

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Who is he?



He's a trombone soloist who can blow two notes, simultaneously, an octave apart.



A saxophonist who knows a thing or two about improvisation.



And a pianist who can boogie with the best. Who is this multi-talented musician? Find out on Page 3.



LotteryWest agrees to fund redevelopment of four museum galleries

The AMWA Foundation Board has announced the go ahead for the final stage of the gallery redevelopment program. The museum has been successful in obtaining the necessary funding to complete this exciting project. Advice has been received from Lotterywest that our request for a grant to complete the redevelopment of the WWI, Colonial, POW and Heraldry galleries has been granted. The total sum of \$548,000 has been made available for this project. The contract is in the process of being finalized with the successful tenderer

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Graeme Hunt



By
George Sulc
Chairman
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Foundation

BKDESIGN who also developed the Post 1945 gallery and are in the process of completing the WW2 gallery.

The new WW2 Gallery is scheduled to officially open on 15 October 2012. Credit for this achievement must go to all members of the Board and to our patrons, who together put forward a convincing case to LotteryWest officials during the March 2012 briefing. Well done to all of those involved!

Admiral visits AMWA

Also I report on the recent visit of Rear Admiral Doolan (retired). The Admiral is the National President of the RSL as well as being on the committee which is organizing the centennial commemorations of WWI. He also sits on the board of the AWM. Admiral Doolan had not visited the museum before but stated that he was most impressed with the museum and the progress being made in the redevelopment of the galleries. He will keep us informed on the arrangements being made for commemorative activities being planned in Western Australia. While we are aware that much of the focus of these activities in Western Australia will be on Albany, the point was made to him that much of the departures for and return from WWI of servicemen and women occurred through the Port of Fremantle, which should not be forgotten in any commemorations.

With the foundation's annual meeting on September 23, the board membership is now:

WORLD WAR TWO GALLERY ALMOST READY TO OPEN

The curatorial fitout of the new World War 2 Gallery started on September 1, in readiness for the official opening by His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC, CVO, QC, Governor of Western Australia, scheduled for 15 October. The World War Two Gallery is Phase Two of a comprehensive redevelopment of the Museum's galleries first initiated by the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation in 2009.

The redevelopment program has been made possible through fundraising by the Foundation, generous public donations and ongoing support from LotteryWest. Phase One, the Post 1945 Gallery, opened in August 2010 and the Entrance Gallery and Shop funded by the Foundation and Army opened in early 2011.

Planning for Phase 3, the World War One, Prisoners of War, Heraldry and Colonial Galleries, is already well advanced. Lotterywest funding has been secured, Foundation funding is in place, the scope of works developed and contracts are being finalised.

When completed in 2014, the entire program will be the largest undertaken by a Regional Museum in the Australian Army History Unit and the largest volunteer-based Museum redevelopment in Australia in recent times.

The World War Two Gallery remains consistent with the overall corporate style of the Army Museum but will have a distinctly different feel to the open and modern feeling of the Post 1945 Gallery. Entry will be through a transitional domestic kitchen space to position the visitor in 1939.

A newspaper lined orientation hall will then introduce the Gallery. The ferocity of the fighting, the threat of bombardment and air attack and the short range fighting in the African and Pacific theatres will hopefully be conveyed through a more contained and closed in feeling in the main Gallery areas. (Continued Page 7)

Military + Morrison = Musical Magic

Australia's best-known trumpet virtuoso, James Morrison, and the Australian Army Band, Perth, teamed up to present a memorable concert at the Perth Concert Hall - a fund-raiser for the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation. James proved to be not only our foremost trumpeter, but showed his multi-skilling ability, performing on the saxophone, trombone and grand piano, as well as a stand-up comedian, displaying a keen sense of humour and timing in his delivery.



Army Band vocalist Cpl Mark Underwood (above), accompanied by James Morrison. Right, pipers from the Australian Army Band Pipes and Drums.



The Australian Army Band Perth ensemble, directed by the CO, Capt. Steve Cottier, with vocalists from the band and young dancers from Dynamic Performing Arts. The concert generated \$14,000 for the Army Museum of WA.

Never a shot in anger as Charger Car Club invades army museum

By John Hartley, Charger Car Club

It was a “brisk” but windless July morning that greeted us as the Club gathered once again at the Lathlain Oval car park for a cruise down to the Army Museum of Western Australia, in Burt Street, Fremantle.

It was a fantastic sight to see 25 vehicles ready to start the cruise and after a short briefing we left heading down Orrong Road, through the Tunnel, up onto Kwinana Freeway then down South Street to Fremantle and to the Museum.

The Museum knew we were coming and the cars were able to park on the Museum Parade ground giving members peace of mind that their cars would be safer than out on the streets.

We were fortunate to be addressed by Capt. Wayne Gardiner – the museum assistant manager - who gave us a good overview of the Museum, its history and its place in the community.

Inwards and onwards

Then inwards and onwards we went. With so many things to see, read, experience and ogle, the time passed us by very quickly, leaving most with the decision to come back at another time and spend half a day there! The great thing about this trip to the Museum is that it has enlightened people to the fact Western Australia has such a great asset available to the public.

After the Museum experience a few headed down to Captain Munchies to grab something to eat, which turned

into another episode of the day.

While we were eating we were met by “Kowalski” the Dodge Challenger, then the “Flying Falcons Club” arrived soon followed by another Challenger, so with all the colour and range of cars the public

car park looked like a car show in itself.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you to all those who attended, to the Army Museum and Capt. Wayne Gardiner for the welcome.



Banksia Hill boys use research and technology skills to win national award



World War 1 army uniforms lent by the Army Museum of WA have played a major role in the success of Banksia Hill Detention Centre staff and students, who have won a national award for an Anzac Day tribute.

West Australian Senator Mark Bishop presented the Centre's Education Services with an Anzac Day 2012 Schools' Award in the 'Best use of technology' category.

The detainees submitted a book that won the accolades of the award organisers, the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Affairs Commemorations Group.

The annual Anzac Day Schools' Awards encourage students to learn about Australia's wartime history and develop

relationships with local veterans and current serving communities.

Banksia Hill Detention Centre teacher Diana Retel said Anzac commemorations were a highlight of the school year.

She and fellow teacher Tahlia Sperry worked with the Banksia Hill boys to create a book detailing facts about Australia's battles: its soldiers, nurses, gains and heart-breaking losses.

The book included photos taken by Banksia Hill students of their classmates in vintage military

uniforms, borrowed from the Army Museum of WA collection.

The detention centre's computing class then crafted the photos using design software to make pictures resemble scenes from the war.

Six weeks research

"For six weeks before Anzac Day the students in the computing class and one of our general classes began researching and preparing for the photo shoot," Diana said.

"The teachers borrowed WWI and WWII uniforms from the Army Museum of WA and used fake blood, bandages and crutches to recreate scenes.

"Some students donned the uniforms and others acted as photographers,

prop assistants and directors.

"The students then created an Anzac book with facts and figures about the wars using the edited photos as visual aids."

The students also used individual photographs of themselves with letters they wrote imagining they were soldiers on the front line.

"We are very proud of our Anzac book and of this award," Diana said.

Banksia Hill Principal Suzanne Rose said the project was part of larger commemorations in April. Suzanne said the centre's

Anzac Day Ceremony was a major event, supervised by Deputy Principal Glenys Mulvany each year, that allowed detainees to better understand the significance and importance of remembrance.

"We are proud to have veterans and members of the local RSL return each year to attend the service and participate in educating detainees. "It supports the kind of ethos Banksia Hill works to instil in the boys."





The People's Revolutionary Military Museum in Beijing is an impressive building, housing a massive collection of weaponry, heraldry, statuary, works of art and history.

The museum's four floors include ten halls, the largest of which is the Hall



include Soviet tanks purchased or donated during the 1950s and 1960s, American weaponry captured from the Kuomintang during the Chinese Civil War and from UN forces during the Korean War, and Japanese weaponry captured during the Sino-Japanese War. In addition, the Hall of Weapons displays equipment from China's space program, such as satellites and a two-seat orbital capsule.



The other halls are largely historical exhibits, combining plaster sculptures, maps, paintings, artefacts, movies and plaques.

Included in the more than 5,000 exhibits are an oil lamp used by Mao Zedong during the Jinggang Mountain struggle, and photographs showing Mao writing his essay "On Protracted War" and delivering his famous speech at the celebration of the founding of New China. The outdoor plazas on either side of the central hall exhibit representative weapons used by the People's Liberation Army and the



weapons captured from the enemy during various periods of the revolutionary war. The museum is composed of two four-storey wings and a main building of seven stories topped with the gilded emblem of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. It occupies a total area of 60,000 square metres.

Pictures: Graeme Hunt

of Weapons. The Hall's extensive holdings of antiquated weaponry showcase domestic and foreign weapons, including blades, small arms, artillery, tanks, armored personnel carriers, anti-air weaponry, jet fighters, rockets and rocket launchers, and cruise missiles. Foreign weapons



"Sneaky Pete", the Museum's suitcase radio, used to fool the Gestapo in clandestine operations during WW2

One of the Army Museum's lesser-known artifacts is the most popular and most-used portable radio unit of WW2 – an AWA Type A Mk 3 suitcase radio from 1942.

Sometimes known as "Sneaky Pete", the radio had the appearance of a small suitcase and could be carried on clandestine operations behind German lines.

It could also be transported in two waterproof steel boxes. It weighed 15kg and had a range up to 800km.

The radio was used to transmit intelligence from behind the enemy lines to allied forces at the front.

It was designed to operate on 97-250 volts mains or 6-volt battery power, so that when Gestapo agents picked up a transmission and sought to stop it by closing down power generation plant, the operator could switch immediately to battery power and maintain transmission.

The museum's radio was bought by volunteer Frank Beardmore's father from a secondhand dealer in North Perth and spent much of its life in the family shed.

The suitcase was divided into four compartments.

One housed an accessories box, 20 metres of antenna wire, 3 metres of ground wire, supply and battery cords, a lamp-socket input (to get current from a light socket) and a collection of keys, headset, extra tubes, transmission coils, fuses and screwdrivers.

Two centre compartments housed a transmitter and a receiver and the remaining compartment housed the power supply components.

In the event of detection, the power supply could be changed from mains to



Museum volunteer Frank Beardmore, with the suitcase radio (above) and a smaller version (below).



New Gallery - from Page 3

Beams, unfinished timber, rough signage and ammunition box inspired display cases will reinforce the overall effect.

Moving from the desert colours of the Mediterranean theatre (Cyrenaica, Greece, Crete, Tobruk, Syria, El Alamein), the Gallery transitions to the Australian home front featuring an Anderson shelter and domestic living spaces. The stories of 3 Aust Corps and home units both military and civil will be told before an abrupt transition to jungle green in the second large portion of the Gallery covering Malaya in 1941 through to the surrender of Japan in 1945.

The conditions of fighting in Malaya and the South West Pacific theatres will be highlighted by a floor to ceiling diorama of the Kokoda Track. Throughout the intent is to provide concise text and overview maps and allow the displays (artefacts, weapons, uniformed mannequins) to speak for themselves. A major challenge was moving and mounting of the Z Force "Sleeping Beauty" in a constrained display area.

The end of the war, VE and VP Days and repatriation will be presented through another newspaper wall before a transition panel featuring the preamble to the United Nations' Charter as a lead in to the Post 1945 Gallery.

The World War Two Gallery represents a tremendous team effort by the Army Museum of Western Australia. It will become a must-visit site for schools, locals and out of state visitors.



Robert Mitchell
Curator

What is a Sapper?

This is the first in an occasional series explaining the origin of military ranks and army terminology

In an earlier report on the historic Russell Cross, on display in the museum entrance, we referred to soldiers with the rank of “Sapper”. Sapper is the correct title for an engineer private. It is also the generic term now given to all members of the Royal Australian Engineers. The term originally comes from the term “to sap”. This was the art of digging trenches, particularly during sieges, to enable the infantry to get close enough to the fortified position to conduct an assault. The diggers were known as sappers.

A sapper, also called pioneer or combat engineer, is a combatant or soldier who performs a variety of military engineering duties such as bridge-building, laying or clearing minefields, demolitions, field defences and general construction, as well as road and airfield construction and repair.

They are also trained to serve as infantry soldiers in defensive and offensive operations.

A sapper, in the sense first used by the Assyrian Army in the early 7th Century BC, was one who excavated trenches under defensive fire to advance a besieging army's position. This was achieved by digging what the French termed a sappe (derived from the archaic French word for spade).

Using techniques developed and perfected by Marechal (Marshal)

Sebastien Vauban (pictured below), an 18th Century military engineer, the sappers began the trench at such an angle so as to avoid enemy fire enfilading the sappe. As they pressed forward, a position was

prepared from which cannon could suppress the defenders on the bastions.



Military tour company offers detailed tour of the AIF's WW1 experience on the Western Front

The Australian's Western Front Experience of 1916 – 1918 is the title of a specific tour scheduled for next year. The period 1916 to 1918 saw the First Australian Imperial Force (AIF)

Prominent military historian Neville Browning presented an outline of the tour at the Army Museum of WA. The Australian's Western Front Experience Tour is a 12 day program, planned to provide both information and explanation which

will enable an effective understanding of the role and contribution of the First Australian Imperial Force in their Great War activities in Belgium and France 1916-18.

The tour has been researched with detailed and extensive ground reconnaissance, coupled with academic and general factual research to

deliver truthful, interesting and effective explanatory commentary, on the actual sites where the events happened. It will be hosted by Neville and fellow historian Frank Taylor. For more information on the tour, visit the tour company's website: www.kokoda.com.au.



in action on the mainland of Europe in Belgium and France after their gruelling initiation to battle at the Dardanelles in Turkey.

It was here that the result of the First World War – The Great War – was decided under conditions often beyond full description and at terrible cost to those involved on the battlefields and those at home in Australia. The Australians and New Zealanders gained worldwide recognition and esteem for their contribution to victory. That legacy remains and commands our respect as we visit the sites where on, over and under those tumultuous events unfolded. They're the focus of the detailed remembrance tour planned for next year.



Pictured (from top): The Australian Corps Memorial; a monument called “Cobbers”: an Australian monument.