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Winter 2012



Pageantry wins hearts at Len Hall Memorial match



Horseman Merv Wilson, president of the Kelmscott/Pinjarra Memorial Troop, parades to the delight of 38,000 football fans at the Len Hall Memorial Football Match at Subiaco Oval, part of Anzac Week. More pictures of the spectacular event on Pages 4 and 5.



JAMES MORRISON JOINS THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND PERTH TO PRESENT OUTSTANDING CONCERT AT PERTH CONCERT HALL

Lovers of music of all kinds will relish the thought of one of Australia's finest virtuosos and a military band that has won the respect of audiences everywhere for its versatility and musicianship performing together in a rare concert in Perth in August.

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James Morrison joins forces with the Australian Army Band Perth to present an evening of music guaranteed to enthrall any audience at the Perth Concert Hall on Saturday, August 18, in support of the Army Museum of WA.

Best known for his skill with the trumpet, James also plays trombone, euphonium, flugel horn, tuba, saxophones, double bass and piano. In classical mode, he has played with the London Symphony Orchestra and the London Philharmonic and has performed at the Royal Opera House, two Royal Command Performances and for US Presidents Bush and Clinton at Parliament House, Canberra.

(Continued on Page 3.)

PHASE THREE REDEVELOPMENT LATEST: WWI, HERALDRY, COLONIAL, AND POW GALLERIES

Tenders for the redevelopment of these galleries were called and we have received a number of proposals for their redevelopment. These are currently being assessed by the Board prior to letting the contract with a number of possible options being considered by the Gallery Planning Committee.

Of course this is contingent on Lotterywest coming forward with the necessary funds to complete the redevelopment. The preferred proposal looks very exciting and will continue the world class standard achieved in the Post 1945 gallery. It will reflect the décor of the era of the WWI and colonial periods which

**By George Sulc
Chairman, AMWA Foundation**



means that the major building works that were required in the Post 1945 and WWII galleries will not be as involved as was previously the case. It is intended to be a four phase redevelopment so that the minimum disruption of galleries will be required.

Termites on the attack

You may be aware that a major infestation of termites was detected in the flooring of the WWI Gallery necessitating the closure of the gallery for safety reasons however, temporary exhibitions of the WWI era have been set up by the busy Curatorial Department so that the public still has access to some of the displays of WWI artifacts. As the damage to the floor in the WWI gallery is the responsibility of Defence Department to repair no cost will be incurred by the Foundation who are a lessee of the Barracks not the owners. Work is already underway on repairs that will take several weeks to complete.



Pictured above: An atlas with a significant difference. Robert Mitchell explains in his column (right).

Organiser commends volunteers for successful effort at Len Hall Match

Museum volunteer Joe McKenna, who, with museum volunteer Ken Walker and museum manager Maj. Henry Fijolek, organised the Dockers Len Hall Memorial Football Match has thanked all volunteers, family and friends who assisted with the fundraising effort at the game. Your efforts raised \$4088.35 for the museum.

Joe has also commended the Military Section of the Veteran Car Club of WA for their support in providing the drivers and vehicles on the day, the WA Great War Living History Association, Mr. Merv Wilson, President of the Kelmscott/Pinjarra Memorial Troop and his horse Suzie, aged 32, in leading the WW2 Veterans in their lap of honour around the oval.

Pictures from the event on Pages 4 and 5.

Working Together Ethically

**by Robert
Mitchell,
Curator**



One of the privileges and positive experiences of being Curator is the opportunity to interact with other collecting

institutions. The museum and galleries sector in Australia has a well deserved reputation for collegiality, mentoring and sharing ideas and expertise. All members of

Museums Australia have agreed to ethical standards to govern practical issues of collections management and museum operations. One of these standards is to have a collections policy relevant to the role of the museum and collecting practices which reflect best practice and international conventions. Some recent examples illustrate how collections policies are being applied in interactions with the Army Museum of Western Australia.

(Continued on Page 6)

Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation Management

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Museum Assistant Manager

Captain Wayne Gardiner

Museum Curator

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Please send all letters, contributions and suggestions to the editor, Graeme Hunt.email: graemeh@bigpond.com

CLOSE-UP AND PERSONAL: HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES HELP DVA OFFICERS MAKE SENSE OF MILITARY TERMS IN CLAIMS

A group of 12 officers from the Department of Veterans' Affairs spent a morning at the museum on a reconnaissance mission to gain a better understanding of the ways in which a range of injuries to servicemen have occurred in the past and present.

DVA staff have to deal with claims for assistance arising from injuries and disabilities caused by myriad forms of environments or incidents.

Guided by museum assistant manager Capt. Wayne Gardiner, the visitors toured the galleries to familiarise themselves with conditions, weapons and equipment used from World War 1 to current



deployments in several parts of the world, as well as in training exercises in Australia. They braved consistent showers to learn how unexpected hazards could trap the unwary in and on the various

vehicles and armaments used by the army. They were invited to sample the weight of several weapons, including a Bren Gun and an M60 and to feel what it's like to wear a backpack while wearing a battle helmet and carrying a weapon. Capt. Gardiner said the visit and its purpose was another example of the museum's relevance to modern times.

"It's another demonstration of the museum's significant role in community education," he said



Pictured: Karen Corr (above left), with Kerry Forster, (above) and Sharon Woodyard (below right) learn how it feels to be an infantryman on patrol. Capt. Wayne Gardiner introduces the group to the Post-1945 Gallery.



Outstanding concert (From Page 1)

He's equally at home in the company of jazz greats Dizzy Gillespie, Cab Calloway, Woody Shaw, Red Rodney, Geogre Benson, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Ray Brown and Winton Marsalis.

James was awarded the Order of Australia in 1997 in recognition of his service to Australian arts and culture. He spends much of his time in education, including master classes and workshops in many countries.

Army Band is 63 yeas old

The Australian Army Band Perth was formed in 1949. Originally a Brass Band known as the Western Command Band, it was converted to a concert band in 1972.

1992 was a landmark year. The Band received its current title and attained the distinction of Freedom of Entry to the City of Perth in recognition of the Band's outstanding achievements and long, close association with the city.

Another major change occurred in 1993. The Band was transformed from a full time Regular Army Band to an Army Reserve Band of 42 Army Reserve Soldier/Musicians who perform mainly on weekends and public holidays.

Regardless of the change from full time to part time, The Australian Army Band Perth, based at Irwin Barracks, retains a prominent position in Western Australia.

This distinguished group of soldier/musicians maintains a high standard of performance at official and public performances in Perth and throughout Western Australia.

The role of the band is to provide music for Defence training, ceremonial occasions and

Commonwealth, Royal and Vice Regal ceremonial functions.

The band is equally at home on the parade ground or in the concert hall and it is this versatility that sets them apart from other musical ensembles. From Opera to Jazz, Tchaikovsky to Top40 their extreme flexibility is displayed every time they perform.

Cavalry stars in tribute to Anzacs at Len Hall



"ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA"



How to honour ANZAC Day on a Portuguese ship somewhere in the South Atlantic Ocean - with a veteran Regimental Sergeant Major. See Page 8

Memorial Match

An Australian light horseman from the Kelmscott/Pinjarra Memorial Troop and serving members of A Squadron 10th Light Horse stole the show at this year's traditional Len Hall Memorial football match between the Fremantle Dockers (our community partner) and Essendon at Subiaco Oval.

Museum volunteers turned out in force to rattle the tins at the oval gates and succeeded in raising more than \$4,000 to add to the museum's coffers. Museum foundation chairman George Sulc thanked all participants for their willingness to become involved. It wasn't all good news, though. The Dockers lost by eight points.

Some of the museum's restored vehicles were on display and a contingent from the 10th Light Horse paraded for the memorial ceremony on the oval. A crowd favourite was Merv Wilson, a Founding Member of the memorial troop, on his 32-year-old horse, Suzie, pictured top left.

Merv is a Vietnam Veteran, who served with 1 RAR in South Vietnam in 1968 - 69.

In other pictures, clockwise from above right: Wes Olson gets into the spirit of the occasion; Cyril Allender accepts a ride in a non-military vehicle; "front-and-centre!" Clarence Cole at the ready; troops from the 10th Light Horse Regiment; event organisers Joe McKenna and Ken Walker; Rod and Kaye Bird and Mark Stevens; Maj. Henry Fijolek (museum manager) and Capt. Wayne Gardiner (museum assistant manager); a young Dockers supporter digs into his pocket money to make a donation.



Pictures by David Nicolson.



Next edition:

A visit to the Beijing Military Museum

The Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution, in Beijing, displays restored military equipment from the history of the People's Liberation Army, up to and including modern-day machinery. The museum's four floors include ten

halls, the largest of which is the Hall of Weapons. Its 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 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. The Hall of Weapons displays equipment from China's space program, such as satellites and a two-seat orbital capsule.

Pictured (above) the editor shapes up to one of the patriotic sculptures and (below) a Dongfeng 2 CSS (Chinese Surface-to-Surface) nuclear missile. It is a medium range weapon (1,250km) .



The Battle of Long Tan Revisited:

An evening with a platoon commander who was there

A former 6RAR platoon commander who fought at the Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam in June, 1966, will be the guest presenter at the next in the "Back to the Barracks" series held by the Army Museum of WA.

Former Lieut. Dave Sabben, now a celebrated author and presenter, will deliver his story of the battle at the museum's meeting room on Wednesday July 4, at 7.30 pm.

David Sabben was born in Suva, Fiji in 1945 but moved to Australia in 1958 to attend Trinity Grammar School in Sydney, where he boarded and spent his High School years.

He was called up in 1965, aged 20, for the first intake of Australia's National Service scheme. He applied for officer training and completed the first course of the Scheyville National Service Officer Training Unit (IOTU).

In January 1966 Dave was posted to 6RAR in Brisbane and appointed 12 Platoon commander. 12 Platoon was sent to Vietnam in June 1966 where he served the full 12-month tour as its commander. He was a platoon commander at the Battle of Long Tan for which he was recommended for a Military Cross (MC). But that award was downgraded to an MID. In 2008, the award was upgraded to a Medal for Gallantry (MG). After returning to Australia in 1967, Dave was discharged from his National Service obligation but served a further 4 years with the CMF. He resumed his civilian career first in Sydney and then



Melbourne, ending as a Project Manager in the computer industry. He retired in December 2004 and has spent his retirement writing. He was co-author of the book "The Battle

of Long Tan by the Commanders" which is probably the definitive account – the first hand writings of the seven men who commanded the various

elements "on the ground" (though one was in the air and one on the APCs). He then published his own book, "Through Enemy Eyes", which

is an account of how the enemy would have seen the coming of the Australians into their territory in 1966 and what the enemy did about it. Both of these books are available through publishers Allen & Unwin. Dave is currently working on another novel, but this time, not about Vietnam.

With his wife, Di, he takes tours to Vietnam each October to walk the decisive battlefields – For the Australians, Balmoral, Coral, Long Tan, the Minefield and others but also takes an extension tour to places like Da Nang, Hue, Khe Sanh, Hanoi and Dien Bien Phu.

Bookings for the presentation are essential. Phone 9430 2535, or email info@armymuseumwa.com.au or karamac@iprimus.com.au.



Lieut. Dave Sabben, Commander 12 Platoon 6 RAR, on patrol in South Vietnam, 1966 (above).

Working ethically (From Page 2)

Two months ago, the Princess Royal Fortress in Albany advised that they had in their collection two shifting bars from a 4.2 inch mortar. As a coastal artillery fortress and a site commemorating the departure of the first two ANZAC convoys, these items were not relevant to their collection.

A quick discussion with the Army Museum revealed that our 4.2 inch mortar was missing these items. A transfer was quickly approved and documented and the shifting bars are now on display with the mortar.

A telephone call from the archivist at the Subiaco Heritage Centre of the Sisters of St John of God indicated that they had a copy of the Fortune Atlas for World Strategy published in 1944 by Alfred A Knopf. The atlas was well known for its unique projections illustrating conflict areas of World War Two. As the publication fitted the Army Museum's collection policy and was outside that of the Subiaco Heritage Centre, a transfer was quickly documented and effected.

One of the maps will be scanned and used in the World War Two Gallery. The next edition of The Magazine will feature examples of working together with the State Library of Western Australia, the Scout Heritage Centre, Claremont Museum, the Army Museum of South Australia and others.

By working together cooperatively and ethically, the museum sector is adding value, relevance and access to our shared heritage. What better way to celebrate International Museums Day?

Below: Curator Robert Mitchell with the Knopf atlas.



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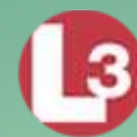
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Mr Graham McEwan



Nautronix



What is that?

A clue: it's part of one of the museum's most-popular vehicles on the parade ground - a vehicle that has a proud and colourful service history.

Answer: Page 8



Date set for opening of new World War II Gallery

The much-anticipated opening of the new World War 2 Gallery, on the first floor of the Army Museum, will take place on August 10. His Excellency, the Governor of Western Australia, Malcolm McCusker AC, CVO, QC, who is the museum's patron, will officiate.

The completion of the new gallery is eagerly awaited by the museum's founders, Brig. Bill Jamieson (88) and his wife Norma (85), pictured below right.

Bill served in WWII as a rifle platoon commander with the 2/6th Infantry Battalion. They sailed from Cairns for Aitape in December 1944 and Bill's brigade, the 17th, was allocated the inland sector - the Torrecelli Mountain Range - in the drive to capture Wewak.

"It was a platoon commander's war, operating in remote localities, usually in thick jungle, which was ideal for ambushes, raids and fighting patrols," Bill says. "We accounted for many Japanese, but regrettably lost some of our own. "I grew up very quickly!"

Off to Korea with 1RAR

After the war, Bill served in a number of posts, including as a captain and company commander of 1RAR in 1953. The battalion sailed for Korea, where they spent the following 12 months.

When the war ended he returned to Melbourne, then Adelaide.

In 1950 he was selected as the first Australian Student to attend the Staff College, Wellington, India.

In 1965 he was responsible for the raising of the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion at Puckapunyal.

2RTB had a staff of 300 and trained 1,500 National Servicemen in each intake - four intakes a year.

Then back to Army HQ Canberra in 1967 before a posting to Bangkok, Thailand, to SEATO HQ.

On returning to Army HQ, Canberra, Bill became the Director of Military Intelligence followed by an appointment to HQ AFV in Saigon, as Chief of Staff.

In August 1972 Bill was promoted to Brigadier and appointed Commander

Western Command, which was later redesignated 5 Field Force Group and 5th Military District.

Rather than return to Army HQ in 1978 Bill elected to retire in Perth - after 35 years in the Regular Army.



In retirement, he became a non-executive director of six public companies and Consul-General for Thailand, a post he held for 32 years.



ANZAC DAY - SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

At the age of 78 and with a long history in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, what do you do when you find yourself on a Portuguese cruise ship somewhere in the South Atlantic Ocean with Anzac Day only a few days away?

You organise a Dawn Service, with the help of the ship's captain, that's what! At least that's what retired RSM Bruce Atherton did.

Bruce was a passenger on the MV Athena, which was heading for Southampton for the northern summer, having been based in Fremantle for its southern summer cruise program.

Bruce (pictured above right on board the Athena) had no trouble convincing the ship's master that the Anzac dawn ceremony was a sacred Australian tradition and Captain Pedro Pinto was happy to oblige. He and Bruce organised a dawn service and then cast a wreath over the ship's stern, which was flying the Australian flag for the occasion. (Pictured top)

Bruce joined the 1st Armoured Regiment in 1952 and went on to serve in several roles, including a tank commander and QMS in New Guinea and Vietnam.

Left: Capt. Pinto and Bruce with the wreath on Anzac Day.



What is that?

From Page 6



The image shows the .30 and .50 calibre machine guns in the T-50 turret on our M113A1 Armoured Personnel

Carrier/Light Reconnaissance Vehicle. It's the only one in WA and served in South Vietnam from 1965 to 1969. It was damaged by a mine and repaired in the field, later returning to Australia to 20 years service with A Sqn 10th Light Horse.

It is estimated that more than 80,000 M113s of all types have been produced and used by more than 50 countries worldwide, making it one of the most widely used armoured fighting vehicles of all time.

