

# Army Museum of Western Australia

# THE MAGAZINE



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## Volunteers turn out in force for Len Hall Match

**F**ourteen volunteers stepped up to rattle the tin at the annual Len Hall ANZAC memorial football match this year, raising more than \$5,200 for the museum.

The event is a major fund-raiser for the museum and also raises the museum's profile in the community with the help of community partner, the Fremantle Dockers Football Club, and the military vehicle section of the Veteran Car Club of WA.

Among the VIPs this year were the former Minister for Veterans Affairs and Vietnam veteran Graham Edwards and Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, who addressed the crowd during the event.

Museum volunteer David Nicolson's pictures on this page and on Page 12 capture the spirit of the day.



## IN THIS EDITION



A visit to the Vienna Military Museum



Chief of Army commends the museum during a visit



Another win for Valma and the museum's collection



## Chief of Army impressed by museum collection



The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, visited the Army Museum of WA in May and remarked that he was impressed by what he had seen.

After speaking to a meeting of the WA branch of the Royal United Services Institute, he was given an extensive tour of the museum by the manager, Major Henry Fijolek, Assistant Manager, Captain Wayne Gardiner, and Curator Robert Mitchell. (Pictured above.)



He later issued a statement through the Army Media Unit, saying:

“The network of Army History Unit Museums plays an important role in preserving the proud traditions of the Australian Army's 112-year history. “I was impressed by the breadth and calibre of the collection at the Army Museum of Western Australia, as well as the tireless efforts of the military staff and volunteers who collect and present the artefacts for display.

“Their important work ensures Army's history is preserved for current and future generations.”

From the Manager:

## Meeting delivers new

As you are all aware by now a new Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation (AMWAF) Board has been elected at an Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the AMWAF held at the museum on Sunday 28 July.

Graham Horne has been elected as the new Chairman of the Board and Graham McEwan as the Vice Chairman. The meeting went smoothly with the museum lecture room packed to capacity by Foundation members.

I would like to congratulate the new Board and wish them well in their positions. I would also like to thank the previous Board under the leadership of George Sulc. The last Board guided the Foundation through the priority tasking of gallery development and contributed greatly to the development of the museum along with the modernisation of how the Foundation manages its finances.

### Challenges ahead

The future will hold many challenges for the new Board which include the finalisation of the gallery development, recruiting and training volunteers, attracting more visitors to the museum and raising the profile of the Army and the museum through the education and marketing departments. The Board has also recognised the revenue stream must also be improved to fund future development of the museum.

We are also actively planning the



Lieut. Gen. Morrison in the WW2 Gallery

Please send all letters and contributions to the editor, [graemeh@bigpond.com](mailto:graemeh@bigpond.com)

## AMWA Foundation Board

Commemorations of WW1 which are due to start next year and liaison with the numerous organisations who are stakeholders in the commemorations has already started. The new WW1 gallery which has an opening date of 11 October 2013 will feature heavily in the museum's contribution to the commemorations.

### New DVA Access Centre

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has opened an office at the museum which is located next to the Curator's office and has started to provide counselling and information services to veterans. The DVA office is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during museum open times.

### Volunteer attendance is a concern

I am concerned at the manning of the galleries during open hours with a few days lately where only four volunteers have turned up for rostered duty. While this low attendance is barely acceptable in the short term with only two galleries effectively open, it will certainly not be acceptable when more galleries are open and come on line, starting in October with the WW1 gallery.

It has always been Army policy due to Security and Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) issues to have a minimum of seven volunteers on rostered duty at the museum during open hours, and if the numbers remain as they are currently, the Army Duty Officer of the day will be forced to close the museum for that day. Any closure of the museum on an open day will damage the reputation of the museum, not to mention the morale of the volunteers. I ask that you maintain your rosters and if you are unable to attend contact the museum as early as possible so a replacement can be sought. Also if you can spare more time please consider another shift in the galleries.



Maj. Henry Fijolek  
Manager  
AMWA

# FROM THE COLLECTION – FOREVER REMEMBERED

**A**mong the first donations to the Army Museum of Western Australia were framed studio portraits of World War One soldiers. These photographs were often taken after uniform issue and basic training but prior to departure overseas.

Most were against a painted backdrop, full length or head and torso; some included a variety of weapons and equipment. Many were printed in large format (roughly A2 equivalent today) in the plain sturdy wooden frames of the period. Over the years, the Museum received donations of several dozens of these portraits and each has a story.

Some sitters are identified, some were treasured family mementos; others are anonymous and were rescued from the tip.

Many were removed from their frames which were then used for other purposes.

Very few have ever been displayed in the Museum.

Between now and 2019, the curatorial team at the Museum will endeavour to fully document and research our collection of studio portraits from World War One.

Our aim will be to identify the sitter if possible and to link him or her to a service history, honour board, medal group, memorial and family connection as appropriate.

Through careful examination of the physical evidence (front, back, liner,

frame and donor record), we hope to be able not only to complete the documentation above but also to link to known photographers and studios such as the Dease Studios.

The Dease Studios Collection of Photographs 1900 – 1927 is now held in the State Library.

These glass photographic negatives including many of World War One



*Robert Mitchell*  
Museum Curator

soldiers have been digitised.

The negatives were found in the old Victoria Park Fire Station where they apparently had been used as a handy source of glass for fire alarms.

Initially the studio portraits in the collection will be displayed, ten at a time, in the temporary exhibition gallery hallway.

Periodically as documentation is completed, they will be rotated and replaced with new portraits.

Ultimately it would be desirable to have the entire collection and documentation available digitally.



**M**useum Assistant Manager Capt. Wayne Gardiner was guest speaker at a crowded ANZAC Day service organised by the Applecross RSL. Some 450 veterans and residents applauded his address. Capt. Gardiner is pictured after the service (third from left) with veterans and museum

volunteers Kevin Costello, Bill Thorpe and Wayne Smith.



# Community engagement, recruiting, strategic planning all part of new board's agenda

by Graham Horne, Chairman, AMWA Foundation

A crowded Special General Meeting, during which there was a lot of discussion, has demonstrated a high degree of interest in the museum's operations and elected a new Board of Management for the Foundation.

As the incoming Chairman, elected by the board following the SGM, I have outlined a busy program for the next few years.

The opening of the new World War 1 Gallery, scheduled for October 11, will lead into our program for the commemoration of the centenary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.

We have started planning for our role in the ceremonies and events that will mark this significant milestone in Australian military history and it is

intended that the museum, with the support of the City of Fremantle, will ensure West Australian stories are told.

But there are also a number of important matters that will keep us all busy, starting immediately.

For example:

**We need to work to ensure** ongoing engagement with the community, to cement our place in the developing culture of our home city and the whole State. The new national schools curriculum, with its emphasis on Australian history and especially the ANZAC tradition, has sparked increased interest from schools in our collections and the stories that go with them. We need to foster this interest and continue to work with the schools to develop a strong relationship. Our Education Services Department has done a magnificent job in this area, but the demand is increasing dramatically and they need support from the volunteer community to maintain the pace.

**And that means recruiting** more volunteers. We all need to be aware of the need for constant recruiting and be ready to approach people in

the community we think should be encouraged to join us. Our human resources, particularly tour guides

and gallery attendants, are stretched now and we need to increase our pool of people before the new galleries open in the next few months.

**One of our priorities is the** development of our strategic plan, which will provide a guide to how we can best maintain the development and relevance of the museum into the future. This, I'm sure, will occupy a significant part of the board's deliberations in the coming months.

Your board members will tackle the future with enthusiasm, but we need your input to make sure we keep up to date with developments in all aspects of the museum.

Please do not hesitate to speak with me or your other board members about any issues or suggestions.

We value your input.



## Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation Management

### Museum Manager

Major Henry Fijolek

### Museum Assistant Manager

Captain Wayne Gardiner

### Museum Curator

Mr Robert Mitchell

## AMWA Foundation Board Chairman

Mr Graham Horne

### Deputy Chairman

Mr Graham McEwan

### Treasurer

Mr Lloyd Halvorson

### Directors

Mr Graham McLure

Mr Richard Bennett

Mr Bruce Hamling

Mr Monte Montefiusco

Mr Graeme Smith

Mr Dave West

### Company Secretary:

Mrs Dale Olson

### Editor, The Magazine

Graeme Hunt



**I**t was a case of "all hands to the cameras" when a group of volunteers paid a visit to the remains of the former No. 16 POW camp at Marrinup, near Dwellingup.

Built to house 1,200 prisoners, it had a complement of 300 Germans, 400 Italian Fascists and 500 Italian Royalists, who provided labour for farms and for cutting timber.

The camp was prone to escape and at

any one time, there could be as many as 40 prisoners on the run.

The area is now a protected site under the WA Heritage Act and on the register of the National Estate.

The visit was organised by the museum's

Education Services Section. More pictures on Page 7.



# Heeresgeschichtliches - Tough to pronounce, but more than worth the effort, says Lloyd Halvorson

An account by AMWA volunteer and AMWA Foundation Treasurer, Lloyd Halvorson

A visit to the Austrian Museum of Military History, or the Heeresgeschichtliches, to give it its Austrian name, is a must for a keen military historian or anyone interested in historical developments.

The superb museum is housed on two levels in the Arsenal in Vienna, a large neo-Byzantine barracks and munitions depot and works its way from the Thirty Years War (1618–48) to WWII, taking in the Hungarian Uprising and the Austro-Prussian War (ending in 1866), the Napoleonic and Turkish Wars, and WWI. Generally, the style of the Arsenal resembles fortresses of the Italian Renaissance with elements of Byzantine and Moorish fortress traditions.

The museum claims to be the oldest and largest purpose-built military history museum in the world. Its collection includes one of the world's largest collections of bronze cannons and focuses on Austrian military history from the 16th century to 1945.



The museum consists of five major parts: a main entrance hall containing the tomb-like Hall of Generals, and four large exhibit halls, in which the collections are kept. Bronze cannon are arranged outside the museum, on the Arsenal grounds.

You probably need to be interested in either the military, history or both in order to go there in the first place.

However, the museum has several items on display that make it a genuinely interesting place even for



people with moderate fondness for army history.

For example, there is the sofa on which not-quite-democratic-but-rather-fascist "Chancellor" Engelbert Dollfus bled to death in 1934 after being shot by Nazi revolutionaries.

A similarly macabre exhibit is the Gräf & Stift Automobil car in which Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were shot in Sarajevo in 1914 - triggering the outbreak of WWI, steals the show.

The car (above) belonged to the Count of Harrach and his successors tried

to sue the Republic of Austria in 2003 in order to get the car back. They failed and so you can still marvel at this crucial vehicle complete with bullet holes - alongside with Franz Ferdinand's grisly uniform jacket, in which you can still see the hole from the bullet and the blood stains, the chaise longue on which he bled to death on , the pistol used by Gavrilo Princip to

shoot him, are all on show on the ground floor

Each of the four exhibit halls is devoted to a segment of Austrian history, beginning with the Thirty Years' War and the Ottoman Turks, continuing through the Napoleonic Wars, World War I, and World War II. There is also a small special exhibition hall where the contents are changed regularly.

The museum was opened in 1891 and The Arsenal served as an army base and an ammunition factory during both World Wars and suffered considerable

damage during the WW2 from air raids and during the Battle for Vienna in 1945.

The museum has the usual array of items that every capital of current or former empires has - planes, tanks, plates and dioramas. With a regional focus on the Austrian-Hungarian period, including the navy (at its time the biggest fleet in the Mediterranean) and other details that might surprise the naïve visitor of Austria. The exhibition starts with a "Hall of Fame" with early Austrian



military heroes and continues chronologically.

(Continued on Page 8)



# Retraction and apology to Mr Graham McEwan

A letter to members of the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation

## Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation

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## Retraction and apology to Mr Graham McEwan

Dear Valued Foundation Members

The Chairman and Board of Directors of the Army Museum of Western Australian Foundation (AMWAF) accept that our letter to all AMWAF members, dated 22 May 2013, contained assertions about Mr Graham McEwan that were false, and also misleading.

The Board accepts that there was no basis whatsoever to publish falsities about Mr McEwan's actions in his former role as AMWAF's sponsorship manager, as we did in our letter to you of 22 May 2013.

We acknowledge that Mr McEwan did, in fact, work hard in that role, and was responsible for many thousands of dollars of sponsorship support dollars being donated to the museum. Mr McEwan has also been very generous in donating significant sums of money from his own pocket.

We were wrong about our account of Mr McEwan's role concerning the no confidence in the Chairman motion that was considered by the Board in January 2012.

We unreservedly withdraw each and every one of the false assertions we made about Mr McEwan. We unreservedly apologise to him for any harm and damage he has suffered by our letter. We "played the man", rather than the "the ball".

We are concerned that the false and misleading statements in our 22 May 2013 letter have the capacity to impact the way members might vote on the motions for resolutions at the special general meeting of AMWAF to be held on 16 June 2013.

Accordingly, we ask that you destroy our letter dated 22 May 2013, and in lieu thereof we attach a revised letter which has the offensive passages about Mr McEwan removed from it.

Yours sincerely

George Sulo – Chairman of AMWAF

Mr Bob Coventry – Director of AMWAF

Mr Tom Goode – Director of AMWAF

Mr Ken Walker – Director of AMWAF

Mrs Carole Temple – Director of AMWAF (absent)

Mr Ian Menzies – Director of AMWAF (absent)

# Marrinup POW Camp visit by Education Section

(from Page 4)



Ten volunteers made the trip to Marrinup, near Dwellingup.

The camp has been gradually demolished over a number of years, leaving only the concrete slabs where the buildings once stood. Armed with a map, the group



negotiated its way round the remains and were able to identify much of the layout as it was in the 1940s.



The visit was made possible with the help of the Carson Street School, East Victoria Park, which provided the bus.

With special thanks to:  
Our supporter



Our Community Partner



And our sponsors



Mr Graham McEwan



Nautronix





# Vienna Military Museum . . . worth the effort

(continued from Page 5)

Starting with the 30-Years-War and the Turkish Wars, it continues with the Napoleonic Wars, the Austrian-Prussian War and the two World Wars. At latest by then you will realise that Austria was involved in a lot of warfare, but not



necessarily with a great deal of success (apart from the Turkish Wars).

One wing covers the republic years after WWI up until the Anschluss ( Union with Germany) in 1938; the excellent displays include propaganda posters and Nazi paraphernalia, plus video footage of Hitler hypnotising the masses. The interior is beautifully

works to illustrate the course of Austria through the ages.

A considerable number of paintings in the exhibition put the emphasis on everyday life in the military and the social circumstances of the war situation instead of showing battle scenes and army leaders. Today, a small section of the arsenal still serves for military purposes with other sections housing the workshops of the federal theatres,



completed with marble sculptures of Austria's most prominent rulers and military commanders, frescos of some of the most significant battles and events in military history and a large collection of art

offices and technology support for the Austrian mailing and telecommunication services. Since the 1990's, the Burgtheater uses parts of the arsenal for rehearsals. Other notable exhibits include the medieval giant bombard Pumhart von Steyr, the original shipbuilder's model of the battleship SMS Viribus Unitis, flagship of the Austro-Hungarian naval fleet during World War I, the French observation balloon and oldest preserved European aircraft L'Intrépide, and the remains of SM U-20, an Austro-Hungarian

Navy submarine sunk in combat in 1918.

A beautifully appointed museum which is well worth a visit for a person interested in military history.

## Another accolade for Valma Hanson and the museum's loan service

The museum's uniform and equipment loan store, supervised by Valma Hanson (below), has again been part of a major achievement for a local school.

The Comet Bay College won the



award for Australia's best ANZAC service, a win it attributed to Val's help and the loan of WW1 uniforms. The school's Defence Transition Mentor, Claire Hunt, praised Val's role in the prestigious award win. It's the second school this year to have won an ANZAC Day award, with Val's and the museum's help. Congratulations, Valma! Pictures from the service on opposite page.

Gabby's from the Government - and she's here to help!



The Department of Veterans Affairs has opened an office at the museum. The office, supervised by Gabby Ryan (above), is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during museum opening hours, to prove counselling and other services to veterans.

Gabby is one of five DVA people who will staff the office from time to time. The office is next to the Curator's office, near the main gate.





## ANZAC Day at Comet Bay College

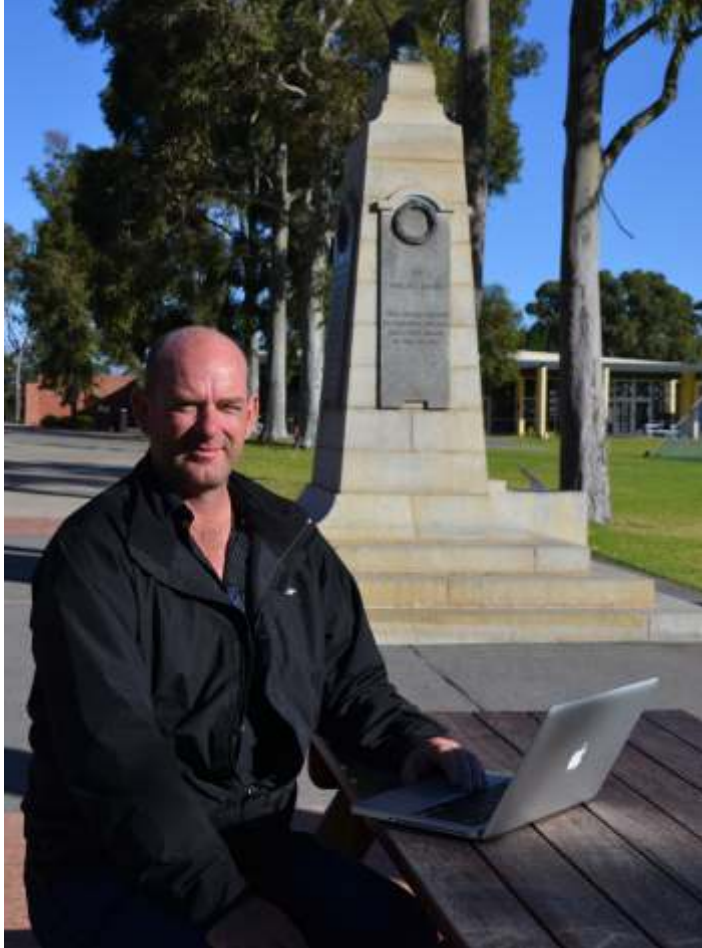
A selection of pictures from the college's ANZAC Day service, which won a national award for the best school service. The historic uniforms were provided by Valma Hanson and the Army Museum of WA's hire service.



# ANZAC RESEARCH PROJECT GIVES NEW

What began as a research project to enable travelling Perth Modern School students to add value to their overseas tours has resulted in the development of a significant new online resource for those wanting to know more about former students who took part in the two World Wars and in other conflicts around the globe.

Teacher Neil Coy (pictured left), who has accompanied several overseas student tours, realised something was needed to act as a catalyst for students to become more involved and more inquisitive when they visited the battlefields on which thousands of Australians died in action.



In a presentation to the 2013 AGM of The Perth Modernian Society, he said:

“We've had three tours in the past 10 years and we've deliberately visited battlefields in Europe, in Belgium and France, taking our students to places like Villers-Bretonneux, or Ypres and the Menin Gate,” said Neil, a music specialist teacher.

“It was a bit disappointing to me, the very first time we went, to see how disconnected or disengaged some of the students were with the experience.

“They would go to some very meaningful place, but some of them would play games, or be bored or want to know ‘when are we going to the shops?’

“Some students had had some preparation in the form of advice from their parents or they'd done some reading or had at least watched films and were able to relate to the experience, but many seemed blocked.”

I thought that as we toured we should do something from time to time to educate them about the history of Australians in the war and the places they were going and what happened.

The best experience I think we had was on our last music tour, because, having been to Villers-Bretonneux a couple of times, I got curious. Being someone who rehearses in the school hall four times a week, I stand on the stage and see all these names (on honour boards) and decided we should see if we could find any connection. And rather extraordinarily, in a place like V-B, which



The Menin Gate



Bethlehem Farm East Cemetery

we've been to on two tours, it turned out there are three PMS boys remembered on the monument and two in the cemetery in front of the monument.

This could have been a very meaningful observance for us. On our last visit we went out of our way to tell the students and make them familiar with the stories of the boys from the school community and this made for a very different experience.

The students can relate to these stories and I wish I could definitively say why.

Part of it I can guess – part of it's simply school pride – they feel they belong here, that these are people they can relate to. They are going to places that the same people shared the same buildings and the surroundings.



# RESOURCE TO SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

If we watch the movie “Gallipoli”, we see lots of stockmen and shearers and people who fought with bare knuckles in pubs and in some ways there's a bit of a block for them on that identity. But the students from this school were brilliant and interested in writing – in fact we had their poetry and were able to read their own words in reproductions of the Sphinx Magazine from the early



gravesites.

One (left) was for David Stewart, who was the first captain of the school. The students were quite traumatised, actually, and we thought maybe we'd gone a bit too far, because, I think, they had read about the experiences of these men in their own words.

## A gift for the school

“So I decided that we'd go a bit further and make a resource as a gift for the entire school community, perhaps forever, and memorialize the service of these soldiers who had sacrificed their lives. Hence this online resource. Students can access this and have been accessing it already.

Year 9 students in first term study the history of World War 1 as part of their Society and Environment History studies, according to our new national curriculum.

One of the activities that Year 9 students completed in this (2013) first term was to trace the histories of the Anzacs at Gallipoli, but through a PMS soldier. So we go from some text written by some of the

boys – you might know the story of John Anderson and Marshall Fox – who both died at Gallipoli – they looked at Simpson's donkey



days. It had a profound effect on the students – we had several memorial services at

and all the familiar stories as well, but they found it intriguing to follow these personal stories also and look at the primary evidence. They have now produced responses – wonderful essays – and clearly that has helped them make a connection. Perth Modern School made an incredible contribution in both major conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It's recognised that 147 boys from this school, who served in WW1, are named on the memorial in the hall.

I have found the names of another 30, so there were 177 boys who had attended the school. So we need to remind ourselves that the school opened in 1911 and the boys in fourth year were just turning 18, so they were born in 1896. I found 50 boys born in 1896 and 44 of them enlisted. Of the oldest 73 students in the school, 61 of those had enlisted and fought in the First World War.



It appears six boys managed to slip through the enlistment age-checking process and were under age when they enlisted.

## A network of information

On the website there is a network of information to be explored. There are many links in the text, leading to information about each reference.

There are links to the soldiers' AIF records. Sometimes these can be a little dull, but sometimes also they are amazing. I've found 1555 men and women who served in the armed services and in the RAF



during WW2.

One of the key aspects is that 560 of them were airmen – a very disproportionate figure when related to Australia's participation in the war. One student is writing an essay on PMS participation in WW2 and the relationship between the RAAF and the RAF.

The death toll of PMS students in WW2 was 118.

Of the 118 who died, 84 were airmen. A third who served were airmen and 80% of the casualties were airmen.

It's a real insight into the danger of that task. A fifth of them died in training. On the map on the website, there are many graves in Australia and at other places around the world.

(Tour photographs by Graham Hall, Perth Modern School teacher.)





Pictures from the Len  
Hall Match  
(from Page 1)



Photographs by  
museum  
volunteer David  
Nicolson

