

# Army Museum of Western Australia

# 'THE MAGAZINE'



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Wednesday - Sunday

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Autumn 2014



Anzac Day commemorations reflect growing interest in Australia's military heritage

## Lest We Forget



Anzac Day commemoration ceremonies and services in all States attracted record crowds this year, the first of a four-year program to mark the centenary of World War I, 1914-1918. The Army Museum and the Fremantle Dockers continued the tradition of the Len Hall Memorial Match at Patersons Stadium. A full pictorial coverage is on Pages 2 and 3.

## IN THIS EDITION



- A mystery American World War 2 military dog tag is traced back to its owner and his family in the USA.
- Service Awards presented to museum volunteers.
- The personal story of a 35-year veteran museum volunteer
- Museum Manager flags this year's major issues.

All Anzac Day pictures in this edition by museum volunteer, David Nicolson.





## The Len Hall Memorial Football Match 2014.



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





## Volunteers turn out for Army Museum

Volunteers, families and freinds turned out in force to collect donations for the Army Museum of WA on Anzac Day. The occasion was the annual Len Hall memorial Match at Patersons Stadium, Subiaco. The force of tin-rattlers raised \$6,770 for the museum. Museum Volunteer David Nicolson was there, as usual, to record the event and some of his pictures are presented on these two pages.





# MARKETING AND PROFESSIONALISM ARE MAJOR AIMS OF AMWA FOUNDATION BOARD

A message from the Chairman, Graham McEwan

I would like to thank the Foundation Board for electing me to the position of Chairman. Also, I would like to acknowledge the support I have received from the many volunteers of this Museum. The Board has decided to run the Museum as a professional business and in line with that aim, are working not only long days at the Museum but, from home as well. It is the intention of the Board, with the support of the volunteers, to concentrate on three main areas.

## **Marketing, promotion**

Firstly, we aim to actively promote the Museum into the wider community.

This will be achieved by being more selective in our marketing program, forming reciprocal relationships with like-minded organisations and by attending various off-site events, both public and private.

For instance, we are working closely with the RSL in organising a concert in April 2015 for the benefit of both parties.

## **A more professional, accountable board**

Secondly, to promote a more professional and accountable operation of the AMWAF Board. Lloyd Halvorson, a qualified company secretary, has overhauled the Foundation books to a corporate standard and has advised each director of their statutory responsibilities.

Along with the Deputy Chairman, Richard Bennett, Lloyd has written a procedures manual and standards for the operation of the Museum Shop.

Graeme Smith, the Human Resources Manager, has been updating and correcting all HR records.

He has also been actively recruiting new volunteers from various sources. Richard Bennett, the IT Director, in conjunction with Peter Shaw, has reviewed our computer system and more upgrades and refinements are

planned for the future.

Some of the directors, including the Curator, Robert Mitchell, now have their own AMWAF email addresses linked to their home computers.

That way they can receive their emails on a daily basis and not wait till they are at the Museum to deal with them.

Bruce Hamling, the Education Section Manager, is communicating with all high and primary schools to encourage school tours.

Along with Mary Tomshin, Bruce attended the recent History Teachers Association event.

## **Professional operation of the galleries**

Thirdly, to promote a more professional operation of the galleries at the Museum.

To support the wonderful work performed by Bruce Hamling and his able team in the Education Section, Graeme Smith has organised a two day training course for Gallery Tour Guides.

It is imperative that when a school visits for a tour, each class receives similar information from each of the tour guides.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the extra responsibility that Thelma Chilton has taken on by volunteering to be the Shop Manager.

Also, thanks to Megan Cornwall for taking over the Museum's Facebook page.

Well done. Thank you.



## **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 McEwan

**Deputy Chairman**  
Mr Richard Bennett

**Treasurer**  
Mr Lloyd Halvorson

**Directors**  
Mr Bruce Hamling  
Mr Vittorio Montefusco  
Mr Graeme Smith  
Mr Dave West

**Company Secretary:**  
Mr Lloyd Halvorson

**Editor, The Magazine**  
Graeme Hunt  
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# SERVICE PINS PRESENTED

Fifteen volunteers have received service pins for their service to the museum for periods ranging from five to 35 years. The 35-year service pin was presented to Ray Mawson, whose story appears on Page 6.

The others were:

10 years - Graham Berry, Kevin Costello, Kelvin Delves and David Legg, all of whom started in 2003.

5 years - David Baker, Bob Collett, Graeme Johnson, John Mackay, George Neilson, James Olson, Ralph Paramor,

Gerry Pooley, Barry Scott and Pauline Steele.

Steve Fleming, Mary Tomshin and Monte also received commendations for their contributions.





# 35 years - a lifetime of service to the Army Museum of WA

My interest in the army museum dates back to June, 1975.

I was then in my last year (of 3 years) as CO of 16RWAR and was toying with the idea of creating a unit museum.

Colonel Bob Mercer who, at the time, was ACMD at 5MD, visited the Battalion and I told him of my idea. He showed interest in this, then said: "Why don't we make it a Regimental Museum"?

I could see the potential we could draw from the contribution of current members of the three battalions as well as from members of the associated organisations of the battalions that had been formed by war serving members and agreed to the idea of a Regimental Museum. Our first priority was somewhere to house the museum and Bob suggested he should approach Brigadier Bill Jamieson, the then MD 5MD to assess what may be available.

A week or two later I contacted him to find that instead of suggesting a building for our use, the Brigadier had decided that it should be an Army museum and would be calling an O Group to plan it, and I would be invited.

I could feel Bob's disappointment and felt likewise as I could see my dreams of a Regimental Museum, let alone a Battalion museum, fast disappearing.

The idea of an Army Museum was far greater than I had envisaged but as a Regimental Museum had gone the same way as a battalion museum, I decided I would support an Army Museum - and so my interest began.

I was not invited to the inaugural

meeting called by the Brigadier in

October 1977 as I had

been posted as

a senior lecturer to 5

Training Group

and was no longer a

member of the

Brigadier's O Group. On hearing that

Captain Syd Jenkins had been

by Ray Mawson

small group of helpers to document and prepare items for exhibition.

We met on Thursdays after work and on the occasional weekend when volunteers were called to clean up the surrounding grounds of "Dilhorn". My active participation began early 1978.

The Museum opened on June 11, 1978, and I began as a guide while continuing to work with Syd's little group.

Before the AGM held in 1979, I was approached to accept the position of honorary Treasurer. I agreed and joined the Board as Treasurer in April 1979.

The Board met monthly on a Thursday after work and reported quarterly to a committee of representatives of the associated battalion organisations.

The Museum opened for visitors on Sunday afternoon only, from 1300hrs to 1700hrs.

We did not charge an entrance fee, relying on donations from those who visited the museum.

This did not give us the funds needed, so in 1979 and again in 1981 we raffled a car.

Both raffles gave us profits of approximately \$9500 each, and with funds raised by Mrs

Norma Jamieson's "Lady Friends of

the Army Museum" and profits from Medal Mounting we were able place monies on deposit as well as operating a working account.

In December 1991 I resigned as Treasurer as my wife and I were leaving for voluntary work in Nepal. While overseas I was in touch with Museum members, including Syd, and between them I was kept up to date with museum proceedings.

We were fortunate to be home on leave in 1995 when it was officially opened in its new home, the Artillery Barracks.

I returned to Perth in December 1999 and was asked by the then Chairman, Colonel John Deykin, to again take on the role of Treasurer. This I did for about 18 months when I resigned from the Board. Wishing to retain an interest in the Museum, I started as a Gallery Attendant, which duty I still do today. It has been very interesting to see over the 35 years the small start of the museum to what we have today. There have been excitement, disappointments, changes in staff and board. Times when we thought we did not have sufficient funds to carry on. Then the change of location. The move to a foundation then coming under the auspices of the Australian Army History Unit.

All these changes have been for the betterment of the museum and today we can boast of a museum that ranks with the best in Australia. A museum that has been built on the labours of voluntary staff, seeking professional guidance only as needed, willing to give of their time and talents and not asking for recognition, as we feel the museum belongs to us.

If we continue to apply our time in this spirit the Army Museum of WA cannot but continue to improve.



Ray Mawson receives his 35-year service pin from AMWAF Chairman Graham McEwan

# US ARMY DOG TAG, MISSING FOR 70 YEARS, RETURNED TO OWNER'S FAMILY

by George Szulc

Every serviceman knows the dog tag is an essential part of his equipment. It serves to identify him should be killed or injured. With the tag the owner is identified thus the relatives can be notified of the injury or death. This is a tale of one dog tag that went missing for 70 years and finally made its way to the family of the deceased.

I was having lunch with a friend, Corrie Schutte, a few months ago and he told me he was given a dog tag by a local while working at a mine in Indonesia.



When he produced the tag it was one of the two all servicemen carry. In this case it was the one that is normally left with the serviceman's remains. Knowing that I was an ex serviceman he asked me if it was possible to trace the family of the owner of

the tag so that it could be sent to the family.

The tag was found on the island of Morotai in Indonesia which during WWII was the jumping off place for allied attacks against the Japanese on Borneo where many US and Australian servicemen spent time. The tag was obviously that of a US serviceman as it is made of aluminum and although old the markings are still clearly visible. The tag belonged to one Bruno C. Heinz Jr.

I agreed to attempt to find a member of the Heinz family as I have a ex US Army Colonel friend, Tom Ogles living in Tennessee



Corrie Schutte



Tom Ogles

USA, who I thought could help. I also enlisted the help of Robin Logan, a one time volunteer at the Army Museum who in a previous incarnation was a researcher. Tom Ogles tried the US military records office with no success so we all three began internet searches. This turned up the fact that the wife, Mrs. Heinz, had passed away in 2007 and although there were three

children of the marriage, two were male and the female had since married and changed to a married name that we did not know. The sons could not be located in the state of Connecticut where the family had originated using telephone lists and the census. We thought that we had struck a brick wall however Tom persisted and managed to find the daughter a Mrs. Linda Warinsky still living in Connecticut but not at the old family home which had been sold some months previously. Tom tracked her down at a new address and rang the

family home but Linda was out. He spoke to her husband who confirmed that she is the daughter of Bruno C. Heinz Jr. When asked he said that Linda would be very interested in getting the dog tag and asked if it could be sent to him so he could give it to Linda as a surprise.

I posted the tag with a letter of explanation to Linda on 17 February 2014.

I have had an email response to say that she has received the tag.



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Mr Graham McEwan



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# Training, Sunday numbers are cause for concern

2014 is upon us in earnest and when this magazine eventually hits your desk more than a quarter of the year will be gone. I want to start by thanking the volunteers for attending the annual mandatory training at the end of last year. Mandatory training is a part of museum life and while I can understand the reluctance of some volunteers to understand why we conduct the training, we must all realise the benefits it produces. Our WHS standards have risen with an accident free record for volunteers last year, we have also had no internal security issues arise, these achievements in part are because of our mandatory training regime.

We all knew that 2014 is going to be a busy year, especially with all the enquires and events being planned for the commemorations of WW1. This coupled with the demands of the gallery re-furbishment and the tempo of the museum visitations is keeping everybody busy. We still have some issues with volunteer attendances on a Sunday and Graeme Smith from the HR department is making every effort to plug the gaps, however, it will also require some efforts from our volunteers to assist where they can. We have over 100 volunteers to the museum yet we still struggle to get more than 3 gallery attendants on a Sunday, I urge you to look at your available times at the museum and let Graeme know if you can help further.

I want to thank the efforts of the Board, firstly under the leadership of Richard Bennett and now Graham McEwen. Their honeymoon period is now over and they have started to re-shape and re-model the museum in earnest. The general museum volunteer does not see the effort that goes into their museum work as Directors. I see this first hand, every morning when I turn up for work at the museum at approx 0630 am, I find Graham McEwen's car in the car park waiting for our early morning meeting. The work that has gone into HR, Education and finance over the last few months is now starting to bear fruit and it is because of the efforts of those Board Directors who

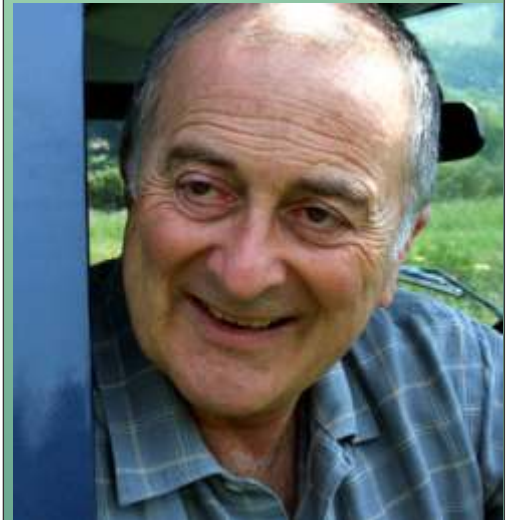
are in charge of those departments. A job well done. I recently attended the AAHU Museum Managers conference in Canberra and it amazed me at the changes that have occurred during the last couple of years. Many Museums have had changes in Managers and the new Managers attending were keen to learn and understand museum management and the challenges it brings. Some have not worked with volunteers before and have to learn a new culture within Army, something that I had to grapple with when I became the Manager at the AAMWA. The changes bring new blood into the museums and fresh ideas, coupled with up to date corporate governance, which is healthy for the Army Museum community, the changes mentioned have also occurred within the AAHU HQ. The conference focused on corporate governance issues and how we can standardise and template our policies and procedures, something that I welcomed and supported.

The AAMWA is still highly regarded within AAHU as one of the best museums, however, there is no longer a large gap between museums. The other museums are closing in and at a fast rate. This I attribute to the ability of AAHU HQ and their staffs to engage, direct, and provide support to all museums not only as a collective but also as individual museums with individual problems.



Major Henry Fijolek,  
Museum  
Manager

## "Baldrick" for Army Museum



British television presenter Sir Tony Robinson (above), perhaps better known as Baldrick (below), from the television comedy series *Blackadder*, will be doing the rounds of the Army Museum parade ground in May.

He and a production crew will record an episode of *Tour of Duty*, a 10-part series of 60-minute television programs focusing on 100 years of Australian and New Zealand war history.

The production includes a road show and the museum will be involved on May 25.

The producers hope to get a crowd of people from schools, community groups and associations to take part on the parade ground from 1 to 5 pm. There will be discussions and interviews and the program will lead to international exposure for the museum.

