

# Army Museum of Western Australia

## THE MAGAZINE



Artillery Barracks  
Burt Street, Fremantle, WA 6160  
Open 11 am - 4 pm  
Wednesday - Sunday

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## TOURISM ACCREDITATION A MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR ARMY MUSEUM

The Tourism Council of Western Australia has recognised the performance of the Army Museum of WA by awarding it accreditation as a tourist business, a major achievement for the museum.



The accreditation entitles the museum to use the council's logo on its advertising and promotional materials. Museum Manager, Major Henry Fijolek, congratulated the Foundation chairman, Graham McEwan, on his work to gain the accreditation (see Manager's Report, Page 2).

Pictured left: Volunteer receptionist Yuting Liu shows the certificate of accreditation awarded by the WA Tourism Council.



### Become a Museum Volunteer

The Army Museum of Western Australia is seeking volunteers to help maintain its services to the community. Gallery Guides and Attendants are in constant demand as visitor numbers increase, but you may be able to bring specific skills that can be applied in the museum's various departments, including curatorial, administration, reception and conservation. A military background is not necessary and both women and men are encouraged to apply. For more information, call the museum on 9430 3525.

### AN IMPORTANT SECURITY MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER, MAJOR HENRY FIJOLEK

All volunteers by now would be aware of the Federal Government's heightened security alert. This has raised the Defence Force Safe Base alert from Bravo to Charlie.

As Artillery Barracks is a Defence site and the museum an Army sub-unit of The Australian Army History Unit, I am required to take certain measures by restricting access to Artillery Barracks.

To date Artillery Barracks has been an open base allowing access to all members of the public and their vehicles unchecked.

While there has been no specific threat identified, Defence has an obligation to ensure that all staff and volunteers to the museum are not placed in an exposed position. This does not mean closure of the museum, however, we have to change the way we are operating to minimise any risk and ensure the safest possible working environment. Access to the museum will be restricted to the general public, who will not be allowed to come and go as before.

We recognise that booked tours, which are the lifeblood of the museum, will remain and plans are in place to conduct guided tours for members of the public who book in advance. These courses of action will allow the museum to continue its funding stream and enable us to showcase the galleries.

# SURGE IN ACTIVITY PUTS PRESSURE ON STAFF AND RESOURCES - BUT OUTLOOK FINE FOR YEAR AHEAD

I would like to start by thanking the Foundation Board and its volunteers for the tremendous effort they have put into the museum's operations this year. We all knew we were in for a busy few years and this year to date has certainly exceeded our expectations.

The volume of support requests and rise in donations has placed a great strain on our resources, especially on the Curatorial Department, which keeps getting diverted from its primary task of finishing the Pre-Federation and Colonial gallery to provide that support.

The requests come from not only outside agencies, but also within the museum, to support event requirements from the Marketing Dept and Manager through the Museum Advisory Committee (MAC).

This has extended the time required to finish the gallery and while every effort is being made to complete the gallery on time we must be patient during this surge in activity and understand the reasons for delays. I thank and acknowledge Curator Robert Mitchell and his staff for their determination and ability to cope with the increasing demands from all quarters on the Curatorial department.

I would also like to thank the Board for its efforts in gaining accreditation from the Tourism Board as a major attraction within WA.

Accreditation from the Tourism Board is very hard to achieve and the museum had to go through a lengthy process of proving its safety, security and professionalism to achieve it.

Many thanks to Graham McEwan for his efforts.

As the year progresses the Army and museum staff are preparing for the annual Mandatory Training sessions which will start in November. This year will see the introduction of a new Emergency Control Organisation which is in use Army wide.

It is important that all volunteers attend the Mandatory Training sessions to prepare themselves for duty in 2015.

This year the museum will close for the Christmas break on Sunday 14 December which is also the date of the Christmas function, and re-open on Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

Thanks to the efforts of the Education and Marketing Departments museum attendances are up on previous years with the expectation that we will see a 50-75% rise in visits.

This is complimented by the efforts of the Human Resources Department in raising active volunteer numbers from around 100 to 141. These figures place the museum in a healthy position for the start of 2015.

In closing I urge all museum volunteers to continue to support the museum especially the Gallery Guides and Attendants whom without the museum would only be a collection repository not

the showcase that it is.

Major Henry Fijolek  
Australian Army  
History Unit  
Manager  
AAMWA



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Mr Graham McEwan



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Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.  
Contact: [marketing@armymuseumwa.com.au](mailto:marketing@armymuseumwa.com.au)



# Pre-1914 and POW Gallery work goes on as curatorial staff prepare exhibits

Work continues the redevelopment of the pre-1914 Gallery, the POW Gallery and a heraldry display, as part of the museum's ongoing gallery redevelopment program.

The Pre-1914 Gallery will cover the Colonial Forces in WA, the Boer war and the WA units in the early Commonwealth Military Forces before World War 1.

The POW Gallery will incorporate the existing POW display that has been a feature in the museum for many years and will include the story of POWs from all campaigns from the Boer War through to post-1945.

The Heraldry display will feature amongst other items, the Light Horse Guidon and various sets of Infantry Colours that were previously laid up and have been passed on to the museum for safe keeping.

This gallery covers the Colonial period, Western

Australia's involvement in the South African (Boer) War and the formation of the Commonwealth Military Forces

that existed prior to the outbreak of War in 1914. The colonial period highlights the role of British Army garrison units stationed in Western Australia during the early years of the Colony and the formation of local Volunteer forces in the latter part of this period. A number of these Volunteer units became the forerunners of later Militia units that were formed as part of the Commonwealth Military Forces.

Pictures: Army Museum of WA Foundation Chairman Graham McEwan, veteran museum volunteer Kevin Delves and neighbour Dave Simpson (above) and three of the old uniforms on display in the new Pre-1914 Gallery (left).



# A word (or two) from the Chairman . . .

Graham McEwan

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Foundation members who attended the General Meeting on Sunday, 24 August to vote for a new constitution. There was an overwhelming ninety per cent support for this constitution.

Thanks must go to our Company Secretary, Lloyd Halvorson, for his very diligent and extensive work on the amendments, ably supported by the Deputy Chairman, Richard Bennett. Besides updating the constitution to meet current legal requirements, it now allows the Board operate with a professional company instrument. I am very proud to inform all members of the Foundation that our Museum has passed all the required stages, and is now a fully Accredited Tourism Business. This will provide us with greater opportunities for marketing and networking. It exposes us to opportunities for special advertising programs and campaigns at competitive advertising rates. I would like to acknowledge all the extra work carried out by our Company Secretary, Lloyd Halvorson.

Thanks to the support from Graham Edwards AM and Phil Orchard from the RSL WA, we now have a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the RSL WA, to support each other during this very important commemoration period for the Centenary of World War One 2014 to 2019. We are currently working on several joint projects for not only this year, but into next year as well.

One of the many benefits from our Museum receiving extra television and newspaper coverage this year, has been the numerous requests to take part in various community events off-base. In August we were asked to have a display at the State Library in Northbridge as part of the Family History Week. My thanks to Rod Bird for his support.

On October 19 we will present a display in Parliament House as part of WA History Week and on October 30 we will be at the commemoration afternoon for the 11th Battalion at Blackboy Hill. We will provide a militaria display at the Fremantle Ports Community Day on November

9. I am continuing to attend the Department of Veterans' Affairs community evenings held at various places. I have been to Port Kennedy, Kalamunda and Armadale, with the next one being in Mandurah.

Planning is well underway for a concert at the Perth Concert Hall on 23 April 2015. This will be a joint venture with the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra and our Foundation, with the support of the RSL WA. It is envisaged that the Army and Navy bands will also take part. When all the details have been confirmed, the appropriate information will be made available to all members.

In July last year, we had only 109 active volunteers on our books and today we have 141 active volunteers. On October 5, Captain Wayne Gardiner will conduct his third Induction Training Course for this year, the first time we have had three courses in one year. Graeme Smith will then conduct a Tour Guides Course shortly after that. It is still the Board's intention to recruit more volunteers to provide allowances for sickness and holidays. Well done to Graeme for his work in human resources to recruit the new volunteers. I urge all our regular volunteers to welcome and encourage our new arrivals. On behalf of the Volunteers and the Board of the Museum, I would like to acknowledge the services provided by two retiring directors. Vittorio Montefusco has reluctantly retired due to his new work commitments. Dave West has resigned due to the board numbers changing under the new constitution. Both gentlemen have worked hard since July last year to support the museum's goals. We thank them very much for their efforts.

Bruce Hamling from the Education Section is now back from his well-deserved holiday and back arranging the tours of the museum. I would like to acknowledge Mark Stevens and Mary Tomshin for stepping in to cover for Bruce. Well done and a big thank you.

Our profile on Facebook has

increased greatly since David

Ammon has been able to dedicate the time to continually update our pages and answer some of the

numerous questions. Megan Cornwall and Robin Hoffmann are also actively supporting David. A great team effort. The Museum TripAdvisor profile is also increasing with public comments. We are now number 6 out of 21 preferred destinations in Fremantle. All these sites provide extra public awareness of our Museum without the cost of spending our valuable capital resource.

This will be the last Magazine that the Editor, Graeme Hunt, will produce. Graeme is leaving us [sort of] for his first love, community broadcasting. He has been asked to take up a volunteer position with a local community radio group. Although we will not see his happy face as regularly as before, Graeme will still be involved with the Museum in producing regular short documentaries and interviews to be used during this commemoration period on air.

After taking the editorial role over from a hard pressed Peter Shaw, Graeme has established the quarterly magazine into a "must read" item. He has actively sought out interesting articles to keep us all well informed. On behalf of the Volunteers and the Board at the Museum, I wish Graeme well in his new venture. If anybody is interested in being involved in producing The Magazine, please contact me at the Museum.

As you can see the tempo of events and changes has increased greatly this year. It has been a very busy period and seen many of our Volunteers step up and take on extra work loads. The Board thanks those Volunteers and encourages others to assist where possible. Thank you all.





# EX-SAS UNIMOG FINDS A HOME ON MUSEUM PARADE GROUND



The museum's parade ground is home to some unusual vehicles, but the latest addition, an ex-SAS Unimog, is possibly the strangest. The Mercedes Unimog Truck, is manufactured in Germany and produced in a range of variants. It was procured by Australia in the 1980s for the Army.

The example in the collection of the AAMWA has been substantially modified "in-country" while in Afghanistan around 2005.

It has been "up-armoured" to suit operational conditions and specific requirements.

It was used in Afghanistan by the Royal Australian Engineers (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) from about 2005 to 2011 as part of Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) in support of the Australian special

forces.

It was especially used by the RAE against Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

This is a rare vehicle, especially having been deployed in an operational theatre and is the only one of its type on display in WA. The name Unimog is German and is an acronym for the German "UNIversal-MOTOR-Gerät", Gerät being the German word for machine or device. Daimler Benz took over manufacture of the Unimog in 1951.

Apart from the Bundeswehr, Unimogs have been used by many different militaries, including the Argentinian, British, Belgian, Danish, Dutch, French, Irish, Indonesian Army, Portuguese, Finnish, Estonian, Greek, Swiss,

Chilean, Bolivian Naval Force, Mexican, Pakistani, Paraguay, Rhodesian and Singaporean armed forces.

They are also used extensively by the Brazilian Marine Corps, the South African National Defence Force, the New Zealand Army, the Turkish Army, the Australian Army, and the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

The Unimogs are used as troop carriers, ambulances, and mobile command centers equipped with radios (radio boxes).

The United States Marine Corps uses an engineer version, while the United States Army uses Unimog vehicles to access remote installations.

## Phase 3 progress: Gallery restoration at an advanced stage



### **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 Graeme Smith

**Company Secretary:**  
Mr Lloyd Halvorson

Since 2010, the Army Museum of Western Australia, through Lotterywest funding secured by its Foundation, has been following through in an extensive Gallery redevelopment process.

The past six months has seen an extensive team effort to progress the process and to meet the forecast completion date of 1 January 2015. Priority has been given to finalising the details of the World War One and POW Galleries. Electrical works have been completed and the last of the display labels for cabinets and dioramas have been approved by the Gallery Development Committee and sent for production, which will see effective completion of these Galleries.

As the Museum becomes better recognised across the community, through our promotional initiatives, significant donations continue to be received.

In the past months these donations have included a rare Distinguished Service Cross (US) medal group and a Military Cross group relating to the Imperial Camel Corps. The Foundation and Curatorial have worked closely with the Padgett and Gull families respectively to ensure a professional display of the medal groups and the war story of their recipients.

A significant partnership has been developed with the Kerry Stokes Collection and Curators through the personal interest and ongoing support of the Museum's activities by Mr Stokes. Current support includes the loan of artefacts, letters and Gallipoli diary in the World War One Gallery. Also on loan in the Gallery is a significant Septimus Power painting, one of the earliest depictions of a tank action. It is a privilege that the Army Museum has been entrusted with the stewardship of this artwork for the period of its loan.

Access to the World War One and POW Galleries and the support and knowledge of the Gallery attendants and guides has been one factor in the rise in attendance at the Museum in the first six months of 2014. Our education programs, resources and ongoing liaison with schools and teachers have brought large groups, who, armed with prior understanding and smart phone technology, have been able to take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The challenge now is to continue to meet the expectations of our visitors.

Behind the scenes work preparations for the Pre 1914 and Heraldry Galleries remains ongoing. A curatorial session with the Embroiderer's Guild of Western Australia saw the first of the Regimental Colours transferred to the new display cases in the Heraldry Gallery. The skills transferred to our in-house team will enable the remaining Colours to be progressively transferred to the new cases. As part of this process, a definitive photo record will be obtained. Work continues on the text panels, photographs and displays for both of these Galleries.

It is also a privilege to offer mentoring and project opportunities to student volunteers from Curtin and Notre Dame Universities. Following the standard induction and mandatory training, those selected are undertaking Gallery familiarisation duties and undertaking projects as part of the Curatorial team. Not only does this partnering approach through HR provide access to contemporary museum skills but it provides valuable work experience for those intending to follow a career in the collections or heritage sector.

**Robert Mitchell**  
**Curator**



# A FAMILY AFFAIR - A SIGNIFICANT MEDAL GROUP FINDS A NEW HOME



Members of the extended Gull family gathered at the museum for the official presentation of a group of medals awarded to Lieutenant Arthur Wilfred ("Pompey") Gull, a member of the original 10th Light Horse AIF in World War 1. Lieut. Gull was awarded the Military Cross.

Arthur Gull enlisted in 10th Light

Corps, Gull was transferred to 14th Light Horse Regiment and participated in the final push against the Turks in Palestine and the Great Ride to Damascus. During the final push to Damascus in September 1918, the 14th LH was at the head of this historic charge and was the first regiment to enter Damascus through the gardens. It was here with a small Troop sent ahead by the commander



Horse Regiment, AIF, in January 1915 and saw service with the regiment at Gallipoli, including the famous charge at the Nek. In July 1916, along with other light horsemen, he transferred to the Imperial Camel Corps, rising to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2. He saw action in the campaign in Gaza and by 1917 had been promoted to Lieutenant.

With the disbandment of the Camel

that Arthur ('Pompey') Gull was awarded the MC for taking a Turkish machine gun post. Gull remained to assist with quelling the Egyptian Uprising joining other members of the 10th and 14th LH detailed to continue with patrols until evacuated home in July 1919. In 1920 he returned to his home town of Broome, WA, and to his work in the pearling industry.

## Special concert to honour ANZACS planned for April 23

The Army Museum of WA has joined with the WA Symphony Orchestra and the RSL to present a moving and reflective concert as part of the commemorative celebrations of the centenary of the Gallipoli landings on April 23 next year. The orchestra and chorus will be accompanied by special guest artists for an evening of fine music, including Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* and Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*.

There will be historical displays in the foyer of the Perth Concert Hall.

Details of the program and guest artists will be announced on December 1.

Tickets are available now from WASO as part of its "Create Your Own Package" deal, or single tickets will be on sale from December 1.



# We shall remember them - volunteers learn to give a new lease of life to honour boards

Honour boards, once a significant and omnipresent feature of offices, shops and business premises, have become less conspicuous in recent years.



Honour board restoration workshop

Western Australia and was conducted in accordance with National Standards for Australian Museums, particularly Standard C2, requiring the museum to preserve its significant collections for future generations.

A Certificate of Competency was issued by Museums Australia Western Australia to recognise the ongoing professional development value of the workshop. The Army Museum of Western

The presentations emphasised the assessment process to determine not only the significance of the board and its physical attributes, but also where professional conservators needed to be consulted either for advice or contracted work.

Hands-on sessions included an introduction to cleaning, preparation and finishes.

Following practice on individual test pieces, participants worked on portions of Honour Boards in the Museum's collection being prepared for eventual exhibition.

Supporting the course were Museums Australia Professional Development Coordinator, Rosemarie Fitzgerald, Army Museum Curator, Robert Mitchell, and Army Museum Manager, Henry Fijolek.

The 10 registered attendees came from as far away as Albany, Kalgoorlie, Rottnest Island and Armadale.

With the centenary of World War

One anniversaries now upon us, it was pleasing to see the extensive community interest in the care of Honour Boards and their presentation in a respectful manner.

It is all part of Remembering Them.

Because the modern decor of commercial premises, especially department stores and banks, doesn't fit kindly with the ornate hardwood and gilt lettering of the honour board, they are quietly removed and stored.

The Army Museum of Western Australia makes a point of accepting unwanted honour boards, restoring them and displaying them in many of the galleries, rooms and hallways of the Artillery Barracks.

As aging has caused many honour boards on premises around the State and the nation to deteriorate, the museum hosted a workshop on the Care and Conservation of Honour Boards. The workshop was presented in concert with Museums Australia

Australia was chosen as the workshop partner for several reasons, including the extensive collection of Honour Boards displayed and conserved throughout the museum premises and



galleries.

The displayed boards offered an overview of the variety of form, style and craftsmanship and the Museum's conservation workshop provided a safe and compliant venue for hands-on aspects of the training.

