

YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT - 36

TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Welcome to 2021 The series will be continuing to present interesting features from the collection and their background stories.

The Australian Army Museum of Western Australia is now open three days per week, Wednesday through Friday. Recruiting of new volunteers and roster planning is underway to hopefully re-establish a 5-day open schedule in February.

POST 1945 GALLERY ANNIVERSARY



Amazingly, it is now 10 full years since the Post 1945 Gallery was officially opened in 2010. Over half of our current volunteers, have no personal experience of the Museum without this Gallery. The Post 1945 Gallery was the pivotal first step of the Museum enhancement program as it expanded to fill the spaces vacated by the University Regiment in Barracks Building 17. It is timely therefore to reflect on the progress and success of the Museum and to recognise and honour the contribution of all those who contributed to this Gallery.

It was the partnership of Army, the Australian Army History Unit, the posted Museum Army staff and the Army Museum Foundation working together to achieve a shared vision of excellence. The financial support of Lotterywest and years of internal fundraising enable the services of skilled consultants and contractors. Many hours of curatorial effort brought the interpretive and display concepts to reality while all volunteers supported the continued operation of the museum during the redevelopment process and the dust and debris of the renovation, construction and fit out and installation of the Gallery.



The upper floor former barrack accommodation appeared in reasonable condition although detailed examination revealed a century of dust and dead pigeons in the roof spaces and a chronology of electrical installations, interim repairs and upgrades.



Heritage features were protected and stable elements on which to hang and integrate displays were achieved through modular framing and cladding. Removal of internal partitions revealed the opportunities for exhibits provided by the large internal spaces.



The visual impact of a spacious and free flowing Gallery design became apparent as work progressed. Subtle colour changes in the camouflage colours marked transitions. Features like the floor stencilled graphics and audio-visuals have stood the test of time



The story of service is reinforced through crisp design, simple labels with focussed displays and concise summaries of the operational context. After 10 years the Gallery retains its fresh, contemporary ambiance and visitor engagement and feedback from all age cohorts remains positive. Well done to all concerned on its 10th Anniversary.



Malaya



Korea

