



Foundation News

Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation

2010 - 2

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Progress on the New Post-1945 Gallery

Like “a phoenix rising from the ashes”, the new Post 1945 Gallery is well and truly taking shape from fairly humble beginnings of some months ago. Everyone will be delighted to know that an enormous amount of progress has been made since the report on gallery progress in the last Newsletter.

A major milestone was reached recently with the signing off on the 71 Text, Image and Map panels that will be mounted on the walls throughout the various themes in the gallery. Each of these large panels takes between forty minutes to one hour to print and then will be mounted on sealed MDF boards. Two full size sample panels have been provided by BKay Design and are now at the museum for both volunteers and visitors to see.

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From the Manager's Desk

The first half of 2010 has been extremely busy with the ongoing construction work of the Post-1945 Gallery. A more detailed progress report has been provided elsewhere in this newsletter. As part of the building upgrade the much awaited lift has recently been installed at the eastern end of Building 17 and will be in service well in time for the opening of the new gallery.



Museum Manager with volunteer staff viewing work in progress in the new gallery, May 2010.

The Army History Unit which administers the Army Museum network throughout Australia has been recently renamed the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU).

From 18-20 May the Army Museum of WA was visited by the Deputy Director of AAHU, Mr Neil Daly, with one of the AAHU Q Staff members. They were able to inspect the latest developments and Mr Daly congratulated volunteer staff on their dedication, ranking the museum as one of the best in the network.

Capt Henry Fijolek
Museum Manager ■

In more recent times, the museum volunteers have now been upstairs to the West wing of Building 17 to see the progress for themselves.

The East room (of the West wing of Building 17) that will have the themes of the Occupation of Japan (BCOF), Korean War, Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation and Peacekeeping is virtually finished from BKAY Designs work and it is now over to the museum's Curatorial section to install the objects in this room.



Part of the East Room showing panels completed for the Korean War

Next will be the West room (Vietnam War, East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq) followed by the "Corridor Area" (CMF/ARES, ARA, Women's Army Service and Cadets in WA post 1945).

The visual and audio visual installations are through the design stage and when installed, will add another new, much anticipated, dimension to the new gallery.

Wes Olson has done a brilliant (dare I say, miraculous) job in creating new life-size mannequins and refurbishing some of our previous mannequins – these are ready for installation – 13 in total.

Gallery Guides and Attendants will be pleased to know that there will be only two switches for the lights –one for lights to be used by the cleaning and maintenance staff, the other light switch will turn on all museum display lights throughout the entire gallery. As the Museum Manager would say –“How good is that!”

All members of the AMWAF Post 1945 Gallery Committee have worked relentlessly and tirelessly to date on this huge project and I would particularly like to acknowledge the outstanding work of Graham Horne, Norm Wells and Carole Temple for their

contribution.

There is still much more work to be done by museum volunteers though to get it all ready for opening on the 6th of August and this is well under way.

Capt Wayne Gardiner
Museum Assistant Manager ■



Display cabinets being placed into the new gallery



Work being done on the final stages of the gallery



Mannequins and other artefacts being prepared for transfer into the new gallery

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Army Museum will be open every day for the next school holidays **3 – 18 July**. Normal opening times of 11:00am to 4:00pm will apply.

On **Monday to Friday** during the holiday period **dress ups will be available for the kids from 11:00am to 3:30pm** as well as **free hot-dogs for the kids during lunch time** ■



POST 1945 GALLERY OPENING 6 AUGUST 2010

This event is to be held to formally open the new gallery which is in its final stages of construction by BKay Design with funding provided by the LotteryWest grant received by the Army Museum in October 2009. As reported in recent editions of the newsletter and with the current update in this edition, the project has also seen significant input from Museum Staff and volunteers in ensuring that the exhibits and displays are prepared for final placement in the gallery.

Attendance at the opening event will be by invitation only. ■

CENTENARY OF ARTILLERY BARRACKS

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the construction of Artillery Barracks, the home of the Army Museum of WA since 1995. It is now the oldest building in the State to have been in continuous defence use. The Museum, in conjunction with other groups, is planning on special celebrations to be held later this year to mark this occasion.

Further details on this will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter. ■

Museum Sponsors

The Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation has received financial support from the following:



Successful Gallery Appeal Concert

The Army Museum of WA Foundation was very pleased with the outcome from the fund raising concert held at the Perth Concert Hall on the evening of 15th April. The event attracted over 1100 attendees and the Foundation raised around \$30,000 as a result.



Guest star Marina Prior provided some beautiful renditions of well known musical hits and worked in comfortably with the talented team from the Australian Army Band Perth and the Australian Army Pipes and Drums. The band demonstrated its skills and professionalism in not only providing the accompanying music for the guest star but also providing an extensive programme of its own numbers. The integration of the Pipes and Drums with the band in delivering part of this performance as well as the variety of war-time and other songs from amongst vocalists from the band delighted the audience and helped in making the concert a memorable evening. ■

From the Curator's Desk

Curatorial Assistance – Post '45 Gallery

It has been a case of many hands making light work as the Curatorial team joined forces with the Gallery Development team to make the final selection and positioning of artefacts for the display cases in the Post '45 Gallery. Weapons preparation, textile positioning, archival and photographic copying, exhibit mounting, cleaning and documentation skills have all been put to use along with artistic and design flair. Extensive weekend work has enabled the preparations to keep pace with Gallery handover and the East Gallery has now been "locked down" with items placed and labels being finalised. Subject to contractors meeting their deadlines, everything remains on track for the early August opening of the Gallery.

Site Development Plan – Curatorial Areas

Progress continues to be made on the transition to the Research Centre. The three compactus units are now in place and Archives and Images have largely finished the loading. The move of the Maps and Charts section has been completed through the generous assistance of the Vehicle Conservation team. Final positioning and cleaning of the library shelving is taking place and the move of the Library is planned for mid-July.



The new Research Centre undergoing development

Some final painting is still required in the Kit Store area in Building 15. This will be completed as soon as priority painting tasks related to Post '45 Gallery are completed. As soon as the Library move has been completed from Building 14, arrangements will be

made to transfer the Loan Store from its present location to the area vacated by the Library.

As time permits, the framed images will be transferred to the area vacated by Maps in Building 14. Before this is done, there will be an assessment process to recommend items which can go on internal display within Artillery Barracks and items recommended for disposal through approved processes. Once these actions are completed, the interim storage recommendations for framed images will have been implemented.

The Curatorial team has cleared the objects from the former Post '45 Gallery and moved cabinets to permit cleaning of half of the Gallery. Some further tidying up needs to be completed. Cases identified for the redevelopment of the Prisoner of War Corridor will be set aside. A number of non compliant cases may be adapted as furnishings in the Officers Mess. A proposal for a Barrack's Centenary Gallery and temporary use of the Entrance Gallery is under consideration.

In the Vehicle Conservation area, further refinements and equipment storage developments are underway pending OH&S inspection. Identified materials continue to be moved from the Gymnasium to their designated locations as part of the ongoing site clearance activities.

Site Development Plan – Lecture Theatre

As part of its contribution to the Lecture Theatre, the curatorial team is unpacking Honour Boards from storage and preparing them for display. The wall spaces of the Lecture Theatre will provide an opportunity to display, in a public place in a dignified and respectful manner, a large portion of the Honour Boards from the collection. Given the weight and size of some of the Honour Boards, the mounting process will take some time but it is planned to have everything in place for the early August opening of the Post '45 Gallery.

Robert Mitchell, Curator ■