



# Foundation News

## Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation

December 2007/January 2008

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### From The Chairman's Desk

#### Change in Board Office Bearers

At its first meeting following the Foundation AGM (held on Sunday 21 October) the Foundation Board, in accordance with the Constitution, called for nominations for the positions of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Honorary Treasurer from amongst the current Directors. The elected Office Bearers for the Foundation Board (\* shows changes) are:

**Chairman – Lt-Colonel Tom Goode (Rtd)**

**\* Deputy Chairman – Colonel Michael Brennan**

**Hon. Treasurer – Mr Joe McKenna**

Other new Board directors elected at the AGM include Mr David Nicolson, Mr Peter McMullan and Mr Chris Hawkins.

October 2007 celebrated 30 years of existence of the Army Museum of Western Australia. It is particularly pleasing to note that some of those who attended the

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### From the Manager's Desk

Now that 2007 has ended and 2008 has started I would firstly like to wish all Foundation members and volunteers a happy and healthy New Year.

The last major function for the year was the annual Band Concert which again was an outstanding success and I congratulate Tom Goode and his committee including all the volunteers who helped in preparation and running of the concert. The Head of Army History Unit (AHU), Mr Roger Lee, attended the Concert on behalf of the Army and was impressed with the museum's organisational efforts in staging such an event and had nothing but praise and good comments on the advancements that the museum has made since his last visit back in 2002.

The Volunteer Christmas Function at Leeuwin Barracks Officers Mess on Sunday 9 December was a good opportunity for me to catch up with those volunteers that work on the weekends and are not often seen by myself or the majority of the weekly staff. It was also good to see the majority of volunteers enjoying themselves after a good year at the museum. At that event I had pleasure in presenting a number of certificates and awards and also making a significant announcement relating to ongoing support for the Artillery Barracks Precinct Plan

#### Certificates and Awards Presentations

Certificates of Attendance at the Museum Volunteers Induction Course were issued to seven Volunteers. Army History Unit Commendations were presented to the following volunteers:

Ron Fuller OAM; Ken Crane; Joe McKenna; Kath Properjohn; Carole Temple; Dave West

My congratulation's for their outstanding service to the

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inaugural meeting of the museum in October 1977 are still involved. Of particular note is Arthur McGrath who was appointed as Deputy Curator at that meeting and in addition to his curatorial tasks provided general maintenance support around the museum (then located at 'Dilhorn', in Lord Street, Perth). Arthur has subsequently maintained his connection through the medal mounting service which he continues to provide.

Others also involved early in the museum's development include Peter Shaw (appointed as a board member in November 1977), Graham Donley and Glyn Mawson (both representing their Army Reserve units on the Museum Committee). Glyn's brother Ray later served as Treasurer on the Board for a number of years.

**Tom Goode**  
**Chairman**  
**Army Museum of WA Foundation Board ■**

## Vale Bob Raine

The museum bids a sad farewell to its dedicated Workshop Team Supervisor, Bob Raine, who passed away on 7 January 2008. Bob had been with the museum since 2001-02 when, seeking something to stimulate his idle engineering mind, he became involved in a project to spruce up the tired looking Stuart Tank – before long it looked like new and he moved on to various other projects, all the while generating a dedicated team of followers working to conserve the museum's many items of large equipment from 52 tonne Centurion tanks through various artillery pieces to a total rebuild of a wooden 1916 military horse wagon.

Bob's military career began in the Regular Army when he enlisted as Army Apprentice in the early 1950s.



museum goes to them. At this event the Chairman of the Board also acknowledged the Hon Life Membership bestowed on John Deykin at the AGM.

### Artillery Barracks Precinct Plan

Two major announcements were made in relation to the Precinct Plan. The first was the news that WAUR has been tasked to co-locate itself to Leeuwin barracks with the Land Warfare Centre – WA (LWC-WA). This move will start in Nov 08 and be complete by Jan 09. This move is in line with and conforms to Army policy on the co-location of University Regiments and LWC's across Australia. This move also means that the expansion of the museum into the remainder of Artillery Barracks can proceed, in accordance with the Precinct Plan signed by AHU and DSG earlier this year.

The second announcement was that the Corporate Support and Infrastructure Request (CSIR), lodged by AHU for funding support for the Precinct Plan has been approved and a sum of approx \$240,000 (GST included) has been allocated. This is a major boost for the museum that will see the much needed lift to the second floor of building 17 and the conversion of the existing WAUR Q Store into a dedicated workshop go ahead. The funding will be available from 01 Jul 08.

**Capt Henry Fijolek**  
**Museum Manager ■**

*Vale Bob Raine – continued*

Bob graduated from the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe in Victoria in December 1957 and was posted to the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME). During the 1960s he served with various workshop units in WA and the Eastern States, attaining the rank of Warrant Officer. He served in Vietnam 1969-1970 and was posted to an engineer unit in Singapore 1970-71. He retired from the Army in January 1976.

On leaving the Army Bob took a position with WA TAFE as a trade lecturer instructing vehicle mechanic apprentices and served there for 20 years in positions at Fremantle and Bunbury. He retired from Government in 1996.

He will indeed be sorely missed both by his friends at the museum and his many army mates. ■

## 2007 CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

For the third consecutive year the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation organised another successful concert under the stars, held on Saturday 17 November. The event featured the Australian Army Band Perth, the Army Pipes and Drums Perth, with special guest star Kate Ceberano. Although down in numbers compared to the 2006 event, the crowd of around 1700 enjoyed the evening and funds raised still made a significant contribution to the museum. Included here are some selected photos from the event ■



## BACK TO THE BARRACKS PROGRAM 2008

The first two of our 2008 Public lecture Series presentations are scheduled as follows:

- **Thurs 28 February – Presentation by Mr Roger Tingley on the Tet Offensive, South Vietnam**
- **Thurs 10 April - Talk on Operations Coral and Balmoral, South Vietnam** (The museum will be mounting displays relating to these operations in May)

All foundation members, and guests are welcome.

**Cost:** \$15 (includes supper)

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Venue:** Conference Room, Bldg 7, Leeuwin Barracks, Riverside Road, East Fremantle.

**Bookings:** Ring 9430 2535. Further information is available from coordinator Norm Wells ■

## OTHER EVENTS

The **Military Historical Society of Australia** is to hold its 2008 **National Biennial Conference** at the Museum over the Easter weekend in March. This is to be hosted by the Museum in conjunction with the WA Branch of the Society. The conference will be open to Society delegates only. ■



## From the Curator's Desk

As recorded elsewhere in this newsletter you will all be aware of the tragic death of one of the Army Museum's most highly regarded volunteers, Bob Raine. His contribution to the museum had been tremendous: a fact recognised in 2006 when he was awarded an AHU Commendation. He will be long remembered and terribly missed.

Bob's 2IC, Lyall Guley, will now take on the leadership role in the Vehicle/Artillery Section and the Workshop area and continue the great work that this group has become known for. The 1916 GS Wagon is very near full restoration while work continues on the Centurion Tank and 3/4 long wheel base Land Rover. Lyall will turn his crew's attention to an on-going maintenance program to look after the vehicles and artillery in the museum's collection.

All Curatorial Sections are now getting back into stride with the on-set of 2008.

Two small exhibitions are planned for 2008 – May is the Tet Offensive /Coral Balmoral battles in Vietnam (40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) and in October - a display for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1918 with an emphasis on the great offensive that commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1918.

The Army Museum of WA has not yet received the Leopard Tank that we believed would be with us by December 07. Once AHU are fully back on deck we will pursue this matter. At last though, we have received a 106 Recoilless Rifle (this has been in the pipe-line for some years). The gun will be fitted to the museum's RCL Land Rover for display.

2008 is the planning year to lay the foundations for the development and installation of new galleries, curatorial and admin areas in accordance with the significant Precinct Plan that was approved last year. This is a major, vital task with the project being largely driven from the curatorial perspective. More will unfold in future editions of the Foundation News on building usage and gallery design. This has now commenced with the imminent move out of Artillery Barracks of WAUR by November 2008.

In the last Foundation News I advised you that I was going to walk the Kokoda Track. I did this amazing trek in October over nine and a half days. To say the least, it was a physically demanding however an incredibly moving experience. The major action fought on the Kokoda track - the Battle of Isurava (fought by the 39<sup>th</sup> Militia Battalion and the 2/14<sup>th</sup> Battalion) deserves far greater recognition than is current - it is up there with Lone Pine, Villers Brettoneaux, Tobruk, El Alamein and more recently, Long Tan. Isurava - the critical battle that ultimately denied the Japanese Port Moresby and led to their demise at Gona, Buna and Sananada following the Kokoda Track Campaign. I am in awe of Australian New Guinea veterans !

To all our museum volunteers – continue your great work.

### Capt. Wayne Gardiner, Curator



*Bob Raine (2<sup>nd</sup> on left, rear) with members of his workshop team.*