



Foundation News

Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation

July/August 2009

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From The Chairman's Desk

Museum watchers would have noted that the number of museums in Fremantle has been shrinking and that some of the others have had to reduce the days that they are open. This does not in any way affect our plans to eventually be open seven days per week but it does highlight the tremendous value of our volunteers. All the exciting things that are happening at the museum are underpinned by your valuable contribution.

At its July meeting, the Foundation Board approved a budget for recurrent spending for the financial year 09/10. While the cost of maintaining the collection and running the museum has increased it was pleasing to note that our revenues from admissions and tours had also increased, allowing the Foundation to continue its usual level of support.

Much of the Board's recent attention however has been focussed on the Gallery Development Appeal.

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Photography courtesy of Museum Volunteer David Nicolson

From the Manager's Desk

As the year progresses the museum is very busy with infrastructure works that are being carried out in accordance with the completion of the Building Codes of Australia (BCA) works and the start of the Precinct Plan works for which funding has been received.

The Heraldry Department will be moving into the top floor of building 15 to make way for the secure Defence Restricted Network workstation to be installed in building 26 and the Trench Gallery is almost ready to be reopened. The Officers mess has been repainted and cedar blinds fitted to all windows and is now awaiting floor polishing and the fitting of new carpets. Work will also start on the new workshops with repainting and fitting out of the interior at the beginning of August.



Museum expansion – new workshops to be used (former Q Store area used by WA University Regiment)

Defence has been forced to implement cutbacks within Army and Army History Unit has had its Salary budget slashed across the board, resulting in the attendances by the Curator and the Admin Private being reduced. It is hoped that this situation may change in the longer term but all museum staff need to be aware of the reduced availability of the Army staff.

Capt Henry Fijolek
Museum Manager ■

Foundation members were invited to attend a special presentation evening on 14 May that provided an overview of the proposed future development program. Also in attendance at this was the acting Deputy Head of Army History Unit, Mr Neil Daley, as well as representatives from Defence Support-WA.

Raising \$2.5 million is a challenge but the Board is confident that the target can be reached. Our confidence has been boosted by very positive response from Lotterywest whose staff have been most helpful. I particularly want to acknowledge the work of our Deputy Chairman, Graham Horne, who has worked long and hard to put the application together.

Support for the appeal from the membership has been encouraging. One member has offered to donate \$1000 if four other members will do likewise. So the challenge is there. Further details regarding the appeal are now on the museum's website.

Tom Goode
Chairman
Army Museum of WA Foundation Board ■

Obituary Notice

It is with great sadness that the Army Museum of WA Foundation records the passing on of the following former volunteer:

Glyn Mawson - Sadly passed away on 21st April, the week prior to Anzac Day, after a long fight with cancer.

Both Glyn and his twin brother Ray have been associated with the museum since around 1978, with Glyn being a unit representative on the original Army Museum of WA Committee and Ray taking on the role of Treasurer of the Museum Board for a number of years. Both subsequently became Active Volunteers with the museum.

Glyn saw service with the CMF, serving originally with 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) during the latter part of the 1950s, continuing to serve with 1st Battalion, and later 16th Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment where he attained the rank of Major. His final Army Reserve posting was with Western Australian University Regiment where he was promoted to Lt-Colonel. He also served on the Committee of 16th Cameron Highlanders of WA Association in a number of positions, receiving Life Membership in 1984.

Reunification of the Sadlier VC and his Medal Group.

This much anticipated and significant event was held in St Georges Cathedral on the 23rd of April 2009 and proved a most successful occasion.

The Victoria Cross awarded to Lt. Clifford Sadlier was for outstanding valour during the famous AIF battle of Villers-Bretonneux in France on the 24th and 25th of April 1918 – coincidentally, the third anniversary of ANZAC Day.

As a result of a bequest in his will the VC was separated from his other medals and donated, as he had wished, to St Georges Cathedral to be with his unit's (the 51st Battalion) Villers-Bretonneux Cross. The remaining medals were eventually donated to the Army Museum of WA in the early 1980's by a family member.

The museum subsequently very generously decided it was time to have the medal group reunited and for all the Sadlier VC medals to be with St Georges Cathedral and the Villers-Bretonneux Cross.

The event was well attended with the Governor of WA, His Excellency Dr. Ken Michael AC (Patron of the AMWA) speaking following the presentation of a brief history of the Victoria Cross by Australia's latest recipient of the Victoria Cross, Trooper Mark Donaldson VC of the Special Air Service Regiment (his VC being awarded in recognition of his valour in Afghanistan in 2008). ■



Capt Henry Fijolek (Museum Manager), Tpr Mark Donaldson, VC and Capt Wayne Gardiner (Curator) at the event at St Georges Cathedral.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

For the next school holidays **26 September – 12 October** the Army museum is planning on some activities that the kids can interact with again. Extending the “life in the field” theme with an “**army marches on its stomach**” there will be a special display of **army mobile field cookers** with a **free hot dog for the kids**. “Big kids” can have one too for a small donation! Kids can also interact with other equipment similar to recent holiday activities ■

PUBLIC LECTURE 15 OCTOBER 2009

The third of our 2009 Public Lectures will be on **15 October** with a talk on **Lt-General Sir JJ Talbot Hobbs – Australia’s Finest Soldier Architect**. Speakers will be **Mr Graham Horne** and **Colonel Robert Mitchell (CAF Retd)**, both from the **Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust** and current volunteers at the Army Museum. Graham also holds the position of Museum Registrar and Deputy Chairman of the Foundation. This presentation will cover Hobbs’s military and architectural life. All foundation members and guests are welcome.

Cost: \$15 (includes supper)

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: Army museum of WA, Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle.

Bookings: Ring 9430 2535. ■

TALBOT HOBBS PRESENTATION AND EXHIBITION NOVEMBER 2009

On **Saturday 7 November** the **Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust** is organising a special presentation – ‘**Talbot Hobbs in Conversation with CEW Bean**’. This is to be held at the Army Museum and will involve two actors to play Hobbs and Bean and the conversation will cover the Western Front 1916-18. This is to be part of a commemorative **Talbot Hobbs exhibition** to be organised by the above committee and held **1-30 November** at the museum, comprising of objects from the Army Museum and Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society collections covering his military life. ■

Museum Sponsors

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



PARKSIDE
Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd



Successful July School Holiday Activities

During the recent school holidays (July 4-19) the museum once again organised some fun activities for children on their visit to the museum. As part of the theme “A soldier’s life in the field” children were able to dress up in an assortment of army uniforms with field packs and other equipment and to try their hand at using field telephones and Morse code sets. The Living History World One Re-enactment group kindly lent a WW1 bell field tent with ration packs and equipment to give atmosphere to the display and helped man the activity during week ends ■.



Photograph supplied by Peter Shaw of his grandson taken during the school holidays at the museum

From the Curator's Desk

There has been plenty of action since the last Foundation News.

The Precinct Plan continues on track with work going on in Building 15 where the Heraldry Section and Kit Section will soon be relocated. With Kit moving from the Lower Main Store, the Textile Section can expand.

The redevelopment of the museum's Post 1945 Gallery is the first priority of our gallery redevelopment program mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter and the Curatorial involvement has been most central in its progress. I am very pleased with the progress. I have now formed the Post 1945 Gallery Work Group (myself, the Deputy Curator David Legg, the Registrar Graham Horne and Louise Brennan). Other museum volunteers will be involved as the work progresses. We are building on the Concept Design that was developed by Freeman Ryan Design (submitted since the last newsletter) and have now completed Part One of the Design Plan which is in the hands of a draughtsman. Other concurrent work has also commenced.

The last two months of the Financial Year always bring specific stock take and audit demands from Army History Unit (AHU) that require curatorial response. All the reports have been delivered to AHU on time and I must thank Pte Danielle Taylor in Admin, our Deputy Curator David Legg and our Registrar Graham Horne for their timely assistance to me in these and related matters during that period.

The AMWA participated in Museum Week 2009 (16th to the 24th of May) as advertised in the previous newsletter. I conducted special "Behind the Scenes" tours of the curatorial workings of the museum to show how the collection is managed. There was not a huge response however those that did come along were pleasantly surprised about what they discovered about how a museum collection is managed and I am sure have benefited by the experience.

Some recent acquisitions of interest –

- A significant archive from the estate of Col. Leslie Le Souef (CO 2/7th Field Ambulance) that includes important photographs from his experience in North Africa, Greece and Crete and then as a POW. The AMWAF already has the Le Souef Collection with many of the important objects from his POW days on display in the WWII POW Gallery.

- An extremely rare WWI Australian slouch hat complete with 25th Light Horse insignia with very good provenance. The 25th LH being the militia predecessor of 10th Light Horse Regiment.
- An American M2A2 Howitzer 105mm. This field gun replaced the Italian L5 Pack Howitzer just after the Battle of Long Tan in 1966 as a more reliable artillery piece and went on to see extensive service during the Vietnam War and into recent times.



The newly acquired M2A2 Howitzer

Since the last newsletter, Graham Donley, John Knox and Barry Ford have left the AMWA – all were part of the curatorial section and I sincerely thank them for their important contributions to the museum. Bob Dennerley now looks after the Heraldry Section and will also assist myself and Wes Olson in the Weapon Section.

Finally, thanks to Dave West for re-establishing all the lighting in the World War One scale model Western Front diorama. The addition of a light switch allows a night and day effect both in the sky for the aircraft under fire and underground to highlight the war of the soldiers involved with tunnelling.

To all volunteers – keep up the good work and enjoy what we are building together.

Capt. Wayne Gardiner, Curator ■

MUSEUM MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICE

The Army Museum of Western Australia continues to offer a medal mounting service. This includes professional court mounting of medal groups with replacement ribbons and medal cleaning. Contact the Army Museum for further details on **9430 2535**