



Foundation News

Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation

October/November 2009

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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 20 September) 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 – Mr Graham Horne**
- * **Deputy Chairman – Mr George Sulc**
- Hon. Treasurer – Mr Joe McKenna**

The outgoing Chairman **Mr Tom Goode** was appointed to a new position of **Gallery Appeal Coordinator**.

May I extend my congratulations to the newly elected Office Bearers and say that I am looking forward to a very fruitful and rewarding year ahead for the Foundation and the Museum. It is going to be very exciting indeed.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** From the Chairman's Desk
- 1** Museum Receives Lotterywest Grant to Initiate Gallery Appeal
- 3** Personal Profile – Cyril Allender
- 4** Volunteer Long Service Awards
- 5** Events, Sponsors and other items
- 6** From the Curator's Desk

Photography courtesy of Museum Volunteer David Nicolson

Museum Receives Lotterywest Grant to Initiate Gallery Appeal

On Thursday 22 October the Army Museum held the formal launch of its Gallery Development Appeal. This was attended by the Honourable John Day MLA, Minister for Planning, Culture and the Arts as well as Mr Clyde Bevan, Chairman of Lotterywest. The Minister, in launching the appeal, handed over to the Army Museum Foundation a cheque for \$581,000 from Lotterywest.



The Hon. John Day MLA presenting the Lotterywest cheque to Foundation Chairman, Graham Horne.

This cheque is an initial grant and will fund the development of the Post 1945 Gallery, the first phase of the museum's gallery redevelopment program.

Other special guests included Lt-Colonel Bill Houston representing the Director of the Army History Unit, various other Army representatives from 13th Infantry Brigade as well as representatives from Defence Support Group, WA. In addition to the Foundation

continued on page 2

From the Chairman's Desk - continued from page 1

I would also like to extend my warmest thanks to the outgoing Museum Liaison Officer Mr Peter Shaw who has worked tirelessly over many years to ensure that the relationship between the Army History Unit and the Foundation has grown from strength to strength. It is very important that we fully understand this relationship because without the extensive support from AHU, the Department of Defence, and in particular that given by the Manager, Army Museum of Western Australia, Captain Henry Fijolek, we would not be where we are today. Mr Norm Wells has been appointed as the new Museum Liaison Officer.

We have just received formal advice that work will commence on the installation of the lift to the upper Gallery level in January 2010 and funding is also available to carry out other tasks within the Artillery Barracks Precinct. As many of you are aware a Ministerial was sent off by the Past Chairman, Mr Tom Goode, detailing our concerns about the delays associated with the installation of the lift. What we should also acknowledge is all the behind the scenes work undertaken by AHU and in particular, Captain Fijolek, that has assisted us in getting the funding for the installation of the lift re-prioritised to 2010.

It is very humbling that after only being a Foundation member for just under two years the Board has chosen me as its Chairman. It is certainly my intention to apply myself diligently to the position and make available all my knowledge and experience acquired over the past twenty or so years working in a number of specialist museums. I am also planning to spend as much time as I can talking to the active volunteers so that I can get a better understanding of your requirements.

What a great evening was had by all who attended the Launch of the Gallery Appeal reported on elsewhere in this newsletter.

2010 is going to be a milestone year for the Museum. We currently have scheduled a number of events including an Appeal Concert at the Concert Hall on 15 April, the opening of the Post 1945 Gallery in April and the Centenary of the Barracks Celebrations over the weekend of 27 and 28 November culminating with a Black Tie Dinner. As well as these events we will need to get out there and raise public awareness of our Appeal and the Gallery Redevelopment that will be going on for the next three years or so.

Graham Horne
Chairman
Army Museum of WA Foundation Board ■

Chairman Mr Graham Horne and Gallery Appeal Coordinator Mr Tom Goode, the Army Museum was also represented by the Museum Manager, Captain Henry Fijolek, Curator Captain Wayne Gardiner and Clerical Assistant Private Danielle Taylor with a good representation from amongst the museum's many volunteer staff.

The Coordinator of the Gallery Development Appeal, Mr Tom Goode, former Chairman of the Foundation Board, provided an overview of the museum's gallery development program and the objectives of the appeal before inviting the Minister to make the official launch. Graham Horne provided the formal response to the Minister's launch.



L to R: Foundation Chairman Graham Horne, Chairman of Lotterywest Mr Clyde Bevan, Minister for Planning, Culture and the Arts Hon John Day MLA, Gallery Appeal Coordinator Tom Goode.

Tender for Post 1945 Gallery goes to WA Company

At the Appeal launch the Chairman of the Foundation Board, Mr Graham Horne, announced the winning tender for the fabrication and installation of the Post 1945 Gallery, based on the original concept design developed earlier this year under a separate tender project.

The winning tender for the gallery construction and installation went to BKayDesign. Graham congratulated them on providing the Foundation with a tender that met all the museum's requirements and actually showing what the gallery will look like.

Work will commence shortly with a target gallery opening set for 22 April 2010 ■

Personal Profile Cyril Allender



Cyril Allender is the museum's most senior active volunteer, having recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

Born in Fremantle on 12th October 1919, Cyril spent the major part of his childhood on the family farm in Nabawa in the Chapman Valley area North East of Geraldton. The farm grew wheat and oats and Cyril's early life was not easy. In addition to attending school he had to help around the farm with many manual labour tasks.

Around the age of 12-13 he went to stay with an aunty who lived in Wiluna where he continued his schooling, returning to the family farm in Nabawa at the age of 15 where he worked for a further 2 years undertaking many tasks, including assisting with fencing around the property. He eventually left home at the age of 17 and took up employment on another farm in the same district. Cyril can recall during his early teenage years seeing many people "down on their luck" but was too young to realise the full significance of what was then the great depression.

By the age of 18 he decided that farming wasn't for him and that there must be a better way to make some dosh, so he returned to Wiluna, attracted by potential work in the goldmine up there.

He initially worked as a truck driver around the mine, even though at the time he didn't have a driver's licence. The owner of the truck hinted that it might be a good idea if he applied for a licence which he duly did. Eventually Cyril lost his truck driving job. He can recall that he somehow got the truck bogged then walked several miles back to the truck depot where his

boss asked where the truck was. Cyril explained what had happened and that he had walked back. His boss just told him that he could keep walking. (No unfair dismissal laws in those days!)

He managed to obtain another job as a yardman-barman in the local Lakeway Hotel in Wiluna. He was still only 18 which in those days was below the legal drinking age, but he was able to serve drinks in the pub. Cyril then worked for a mining prospector, eventually securing a job in the mine itself operating a conveyor belt and earning 2 Pound per day. He had never seen so much money in his life.

With the outbreak of World War Two Cyril recalls that both he and his cousin tried joining the Navy in 1940, but both were rejected. He returned to Wiluna and in June 1941 managed to enlist in the 2nd AIF, being allocated to 2/16th Infantry Battalion. He remembers undergoing initial training in Northam Camp and departing with a group of reinforcements for the battalion in September 1941 on board the 'Queen Elizabeth', finally arriving in Palestine.

Cyril did not remain with the 2/16th, transferring to the 2/14th Infantry Battalion which had mainly been recruited from Victoria and together with 2/16th as part of 21st Infantry Brigade had already seen action in both Syria and Lebanon.

The 2/14th sailed back to Australia from the Middle East in January 1942. After taking some leave back in WA, Cyril recalls undergoing jungle training with the battalion in Queensland before proceeding to Port Moresby in Papua in August 1942. The 2/14th, together with other units of 21st Brigade, advanced along the Kokoda Track to confront the rapidly advancing Japanese.

After seeing action on Kokoda, Cyril contracted typhus and did not participate in the action at Gona in November of that year. The battalion returned to Australia in early 1943 where it underwent further training and Cyril rejoined the battalion once more.

The battalion returned to New Guinea in August 1943 where they saw action as part of the operations in the Ramu Valley and the Finisterre Mountains including the battle for Shaggy Ridge. Cyril was once again unlucky with his health and returned home with dengue fever.

continued on page 4

The 2/14th returned to Australia in March 1944 and Cyril recovered his health and set sail with the battalion for its final war action in Balikpapan in Borneo in July 1945. He remained with the battalion until it returned to Australia and disbanded in late February 1946.

Despite the many hardships endured during the war, Cyril enjoyed life in the army and made many good mates during his service.

At the start of his post-war life, Cyril admits it was difficult settling down again. However, for Cyril 1946 was a milestone in his life for it was in that year that Cyril married Elizabeth Pettigrew. He and Elizabeth later had 2 daughters and Cyril is now a proud grandfather of 3 and great grandfather of 7. Sadly Elizabeth died some 22 years ago.

Cyril worked in a variety of jobs after the war including the South Fremantle Power House then for 23 years, although not continuously, with Bell Brothers. This was mainly driving trucks and other vehicles. During a break from Bell Brothers Cyril took on a job as a taxi driver, later returning to Bell Brothers and finally retiring in April 1979.

In the latter part of his retirement Cyril has maintained an active social life. He joined the Army Museum of WA as a volunteer in 2001 and has regularly provided support as a gallery attendant. He goes dancing at least 4 times a week and as if that is not enough to keep him in trim he has a regular regime of daily exercises. On the day of the interview for this profile he revealed that he did 30 push ups that morning followed by 100 knee squats. As he said to the recent gathering of volunteers at the museum on the occasion of receiving birthday wishes – he will be back next year and has no intention of yet retiring as a volunteer ■



Cyril receiving a memento from Tom Goode to mark the occasion of his 90th Birthday.

Volunteer Long Service Awards

Following the completion of formal proceedings at the recent Foundation AGM held on Sunday 20th September the retiring Chairman of the Foundation Board, Mr Tom Goode, announced a number of long service awards to be presented to several Active Volunteers. Those present came forward to receive their long service badges, the others were presented on subsequent occasions.

The awards announced were as follows:

10 Years Long Service:

Mr John Borrett, Mr Norm Wells

5 Years Long service:

Mr Graham Berry; Mr David Legg; Mrs Carole Temple; Mr Errol Cowley; Mr Ron Fuller; Mr George Peacock; Mr John Schnell; Mr Wayne Smith.

Congratulations to all those who received their awards



Graham Berry receiving his award from Tom Goode.



Ron Fuller receiving his award from Tom Goode

COMING EVENTS IN 2009

LT-GENERAL HOBBS EXHIBITION AND PRESENTATION NOVEMBER

Special Exhibition of items relating to Lt-General Sir John Talbot Hobbs - Soldier and Architect. Items will include material from the National Trust of Australia (WA), the Army Museum of WA and the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society (WA).

Presentation by the Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust of Australia (WA)- "Talbot Hobbs in Conversation with CEW Bean 1919". Saturday 7 November

Lt-General Sir John Talbot Hobbs (1864-1938) is recognised as Australia's finest soldier architect. Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean (1879-1968) was selected by the Australian Journalist's Association as the official war correspondent to the AIF in 1914. He was the general editor of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918.

Cost: \$15 (includes entrance to Museum and afternoon tea)

Time: 2:00 pm

Venue: Army Museum of WA, Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle

Bookings: Ring 9430 2535. ■



ARMY MUSEUM VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS SUNDOWNER BARBEQUE

Sunday 20th December

Time: 16:00

**Venue: Officer's Mess
Building, Artillery Barracks**

The Combined Mess at Leeuwin Barracks where the Volunteer Christmas Function has normally been held was fully booked from late November right through December.

MUSEUM CLOSURE – CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR

The Army Museum will be closed to the public from **Monday 21 December 2009 to Tuesday 5 January 2010 inclusive**

Museum Sponsors

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



Successful School Holiday Event

During the recent school holidays 26 September – 11 October the museum put on a special display of army field kitchen equipment as well as dress up items for the kids. The big attraction was the provision of free hot dogs for the kids. This was a very successful event attracting over 1800 visitors to the museum.

A big thankyou to Joe McKenna for organising this event and to his wife **Sue and the many other volunteers** who agreed to assist on the roster ■

Hobbs Lecture well attended

The recent public lecture entitled "Lt-General Sir Talbot Hobbs- Australia's First Soldier Architect" held on the evening of Thursday 15th October at the museum was attended by over 70 people. The lecture was presented by members of the National Trust of Australia (WA) Defence Heritage Committee. Special guest presenter Associate Professor Dr John Stevens from the Department of Architecture at Curtin University provided an overview of Hobbs's architectural background and achievements. Robert Mitchell provided the military background to Hobbs ■

Band Concert 15 April 2010

Mark your calendars now for this special event to be held at the **Perth Concert Hall** in support of the Museum's Gallery Appeal. Guest star will be **Marina Prior** with support from the **Australian Army Band Perth**

From the Curator's Desk

The curator continues to work on researching the text for the new Post 1945 gallery and is busy with weapon checks.

Heraldry has moved out of the administration building and is now in its new location in building 15, and the Trench Gallery is once again open. The mounting of the GPMG on the gun Landrover is progressing and trench art has been relocated to building 15. Weapons are also now located in our own armoury.

Curatorial has recently supplied artifacts for the school holiday project and the gallery appeal opening, both of which were highly successful and have been reported on in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter.

Items have also been earmarked for the forthcoming Hobbs Exhibition and work is underway in organising the Hobbs display in the WW1 gallery.

The repainting of the artillery pieces at Garden Island by the RAN is nearing completion and both of these guns are expected back soon. Plans are also underway to bring back to the museum the last of the vehicles at Karrakatta and the Turkish gun captured by 10 Light Horse is being assessed for conservation.

Several of the curatorial staff recently received their 5 year long service badge (David Legg, Carole Temple).

Some recent acquisitions of interest include mess silver and plaques originally from Swan Barracks and two large flags commemorating a WW1 soldier who was killed in action. These flags originally hung in the Beaconsfield church.

David Legg

For 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

Some additional photos taken during the Museum's Gallery Appeal Launch:



Some of the guests at the Appeal Launch: L to R in foreground- Mr Andrew Forrest, Curator Capt Wayne Gardiner, AHU Rep Lt-Col Bill Houston, Museum Volunteer Helen Birch, Foundation Chairman Graham Horne



Foreground, L to R: Museum Manager Capt Henry Fijolek, Mr Andrew Forrest, Foundation Chairman Graham Horne, Hon. John Day MLA, Mr Joe Francis MLA.