



Foundation News

Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation

March/April 2007

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From The Chairman's Desk

In January 2006, Lorraine Fitzpatrick, a Museum Consultant from the firm Vade Mecum, was appointed by the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation to prepare an interpretation plan for the Artillery Barracks site. Funding for the interpretation plan was made available from Lotterywest's Cultural Heritage Interpretation Grant program.

For the benefit of Foundation members an extract from the Executive Summary of the above consultant's report is included here.

Tom Goode
Chairman
Army Museum of WA Foundation Board

Artillery Barracks Interpretation Plan Executive Summary

This interpretation plan aims to assist the Army Museum of Western Australia to achieve its objectives of:

- a. establishing and maintaining a permanent museum for the display and conservation of historical Army items in Western Australia.

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From the Manager's Desk

With the anticipated move from the barracks of WA University Regiment in the 2007-08 financial year, preparation and planning is underway for the future expansion of the museum.

The site interpretation plan already commissioned by the Foundation, the executive summary of which is included in this edition of the Foundation News, will provide a general framework within which the museum can be developed for the best interpretation of its collection and the heritage site it occupies. This will need to fit in with the Artillery Barracks Precinct Plan that has been developed and submitted to Defence Support – Western Australia (DS-WA) with major input from the Curator and volunteer staff from the various curatorial departments.

The precinct plan takes into consideration the overall future requirements of the site from both a museum and defence perspective which may place some constraints on specific building use recommendations made in the interpretation plan. The precinct plan has been accepted by DS-WA and also approved by the head of Army History Unit, who will be seeking approval from the Army's Infrastructure and Support Planning Group for overall control of existing buildings within the barracks precinct when they become available.

Meanwhile work continues on the relocation of various departments, particularly those originally housed in Building 26. This will enable administration functions to be better located and organised within the one building, including dedicated office space specifically for Foundation administration.

Capt Henry Fijolek
Museum Manager

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- b. fostering public interest in the history of the Army and the Armed Forces in Western Australia.
- c. collecting, preserving and displaying relevant items of Western Australian military history for the enjoyment and education of the public.
- d. encouraging the preservation and maintenance of items of historical military value held by or in the possession of other organisations.

Vision

To create a window to the Army as the premier Army museum in Western Australia.

Mission

To increase visitation to the Army Museum of Western Australia and greater appreciation and understanding of Western Australia's military history through the development, implementation and marketing of meaningful interpretation of the Artillery Barracks heritage precinct and the Army Museum collection.

Key Interpretation Themes:

The Artillery Barracks site is a complex one for those visitors unfamiliar with the operations of an Army facility or the hierarchy of military ranks and therefore interpretation of the overall site and its development is necessary to acquaint visitors with its heritage values and former uses.

The history of the Army in Western Australia is also complex and the chronological presentation of historical events tied to changes in the organisation and structure of the Army, through discrete exhibition areas, is the most logical way to offer interpretation to visitors.

In devising the interpretation plan it is useful to have an overall theme that addresses the question of why the Army Museum exists and what purpose it wishes to serve with respect to its visitors. A suggested answer to this question and therefore, overall interpretive theme is:

Through Army service Western Australians from all walks of life have made sacrifices to protect our way of life and promote peace in the world.

Interpretive Sub-themes and storylines:

The following interpretive sub-themes and storylines are suggested on the understanding that the Army Museum of Western Australia will be able to access

the buildings currently occupied by the Western Australia University Regiment.

- 1. Cantonment Hill Heritage Precinct**
 - a. Original topography, vegetation and environment and significance to Noongar people.
 - b. Arrival of the British and their use of Cantonment Hill as a look-out and quarry.
 - c. Federation and proposals for defence of south-west coast of Western Australia.
 - d. Building the Artillery Barracks
 - e. Using the Artillery Barracks from World War 1 to the present.
- 2. Understanding the Army**
 - a. How is the Army structured and organised?
 - b. What jobs do people do in the Army?
 - c. Terminology used in the Army.
 - d. Army ranks
- 3. Service in Albany and the Swan River Colony – 1826 – 1901**
 - a. Albany settlement in 1826 with troops from NSW
 - b. British Army in the Swan River Colony 1829-1870s.
 - c. Enrolled Pensioner Force 1850-1887.
 - d. The Western Australian Colonial Volunteer Movement 1861-1903.
 - e. Boer War 1899-1902.
- 4. Citizen Soldiers 1911-Present**
 - a. Militia 1903-1911 & 1930-1942
 - b. Universal Service 1911-1929
 - c. Citizen Military Force
 - d. Army Reserve
- 5. The Great War – World War 1**
 - a. Raising the Australian Imperial Force – Western Australian battalions.
 - b. The Egyptian experience.
 - c. The Gallipoli experience
 - d. Warfare on the Western Front (France and Belgium).
 - e. The Light Horse in Sinai and Palestine
 - f. The impact of World War 1 on Western Australia.
- 6. Australia in the World War – World War 2**
 - a. Raising the Second Australian Imperial Force – Western Australian battalions.
 - b. North Africa, Greece, Crete and Syria
 - c. The War against Japan.
 - d. War comes to Western Australia.
 - e. The impact of World War 2 on Western Australia.
- 7. After World War 2 – 1946 - present**
 - a. The British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan.

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ARMY MUSEUM DISPLAY AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL 21 APRIL - 3 MAY:

The Museum has put on a special display in conjunction with the Military Historical Society of Western Australia in support of part of the Burt Memorial Hall restoration at St George's Cathedral.



Caught on the wire...

Australians on the Western Front
1916 - 1918

Following Australia's baptism of fire during the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, attention was now drawn to other fields of battle. Most of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was to find themselves on what was known as the Western Front.

Discover the truth about our brave men and their sacrifice at this special exhibition in Burt Memorial Hall illustrated with 12 life size displays of original uniforms & equipment from a world class collection enhanced with graphic images, narratives and maps.

The outstanding work of Australians on the Western Front put Australia on the world stage. We remember them in the Soldier's Chapel, in St George's Cathedral and in our hearts.

Gala Opening 20 April 7.00pm
\$50 per head
Drinks & canapes
Proceeds to restore BMH

21 April - 3 May 2007
10 am - 4 pm
Open Anzac Day
Entry: Gold coin donation

Burt Memorial Hall
38A St George's Terrace
Perth WA

ANZAC DAY

The museum will be open on Anzac Day ■

UNVEILING OF BRIGADIER ARNOLD POTTS STATUE - KOJONUP SUNDAY 6 MAY

The museum will be supporting this event with a small mobile display. Our Curator, Captain Wayne Gardiner has been requested to act as MC for the unveiling and several others from the museum will be in attendance ■

BAND CONCERT - NOVEMBER

The museum has secured **Kate Ceberano** as this year's guest performer at our band concert. Further details will be in the next newsletter ■

- b. The Korean War.
- c. The Malayan Emergency.
- d. The Indonesian Confrontation
- e. The Vietnam War.
- f. The Gulf War, East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq

8. Peacekeeping 1976-2006

The Australian Army has been involved as part of the United Nations peace keeping force in 30 countries.



The centurion Tank which has been undergoing renovation by our workshop team since 2006 and has a number of final components to be added, including the side turret bins.



105 mm Pack Howitzer

Museum Sponsors

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



From the Curator's Desk

As always, the reporting period has been very productive and rewarding in the areas of Public Programs (exhibitions & displays) and Collection Management.

The most obvious event has been the appearance of the significant M113A1 Armoured Personnel Carrier/Light Reconnaissance Vehicle (APC/LRV) at Artillery Barracks. This vehicle is not yet part of the permanent collection as it is still on Army's books however in time it will pass to the AMWA.

Now that A Sqn 10th Light Horse no longer operates with APC's all their armoured vehicles have left WA except for this one. It is therefore now unique to WA. The vehicle (134175) is extremely significant as it served in South Vietnam from 1965 to 1968. It returned to Australia in 1968 following it being damaged by a mine (the driver being wounded during this incident). We also have an image of it on operations in 1965 with C Coy, 1 RAR. It had been in service with 10th Light Horse since 1985. It is the only vehicle in the AMWA collection to have seen overseas operational service.

Great news on the AMWA's firearms. At this time most of the AMWA's firearms have been rendered innocuous to Army specifications and over the next months, the Keeper of Firearms and I will return these weapons to public display within the galleries. With the firearms rendered, new examples will also gradually appear on display. Understandably, firearm enthusiasts/collectors are disappointed that our military firearms had to be rendered innocuous however this is a not negotiable instruction by Defence. Very fortunately though, it allows present and future generations to see an extensive range of authentic military firearms in one location at the AMWA, in context within the military operations in which they were used combined with uniforms, equipment and related memorabilia which complement our displays.

The AMWA's major exhibition for 2007 is "Caught on the Wire - Australians on the Western Front 1916 - 1918" Exhibition. This is part of an important fund raising project for the restoration of Burt Memorial Hall and runs at the Hall within the St George's Cathedral precinct from the 21st of April to the 3rd of May, 10am to 4pm (including Anzac Day). The AMWA worked in

conjunction with the Military Historical Society of WA largely through the fabulous private collection of life size mannequins owned by Gary Hayes. He has provided 12 figures in full uniform representing Australian, British, American, French and German soldiers together with a nurse and an Army Chaplain. This major and unique exhibition has been planned since September 2006 and is a quality production. AMWA volunteers are manning the display and volunteers are still required on certain days. Please contact Norm Wells (0417 945 157) if you can attend.

The AMWA has been very involved with Murdoch University's Centre for Social and Community Research in researching the history of Northam Army Camp and as a result, a DVD has been produced.

New moves - Archives, Images, the Library and Maps have moved within Artillery Barracks to more suitable locations. Congratulations to all involved with all aspects of this re-location.

Work continues with Heraldry completing a project on documenting our collection of Identity Discs and has now started on a similar project on Cloth Insignia. The Vehicle boys continue great work on the Centurion Tank and the 1916 GS Wagon. An important donation was also received – the Joan Dowson collection of WWII VAD and related memorabilia. More on this in a future edition of the Newsletter.

The Brig. Arnold Potts DSO, OBE, MC Project at Kojonup. I will be the Master of Ceremonies as the unveiling of this project by His Excellency, the Governor General of Australia, Major General Michael Jeffery on the 6th of May. The community of Kojonup have done a wonderful job in honouring its favourite son – Arnold Potts. The AMWA has helped significantly along the way and Norm Wells and our own Kokoda veteran (and museum volunteer) Cyril Allender ex 2/14th Bn will also attend.

Capt. Wayne Gardiner,
Curator

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