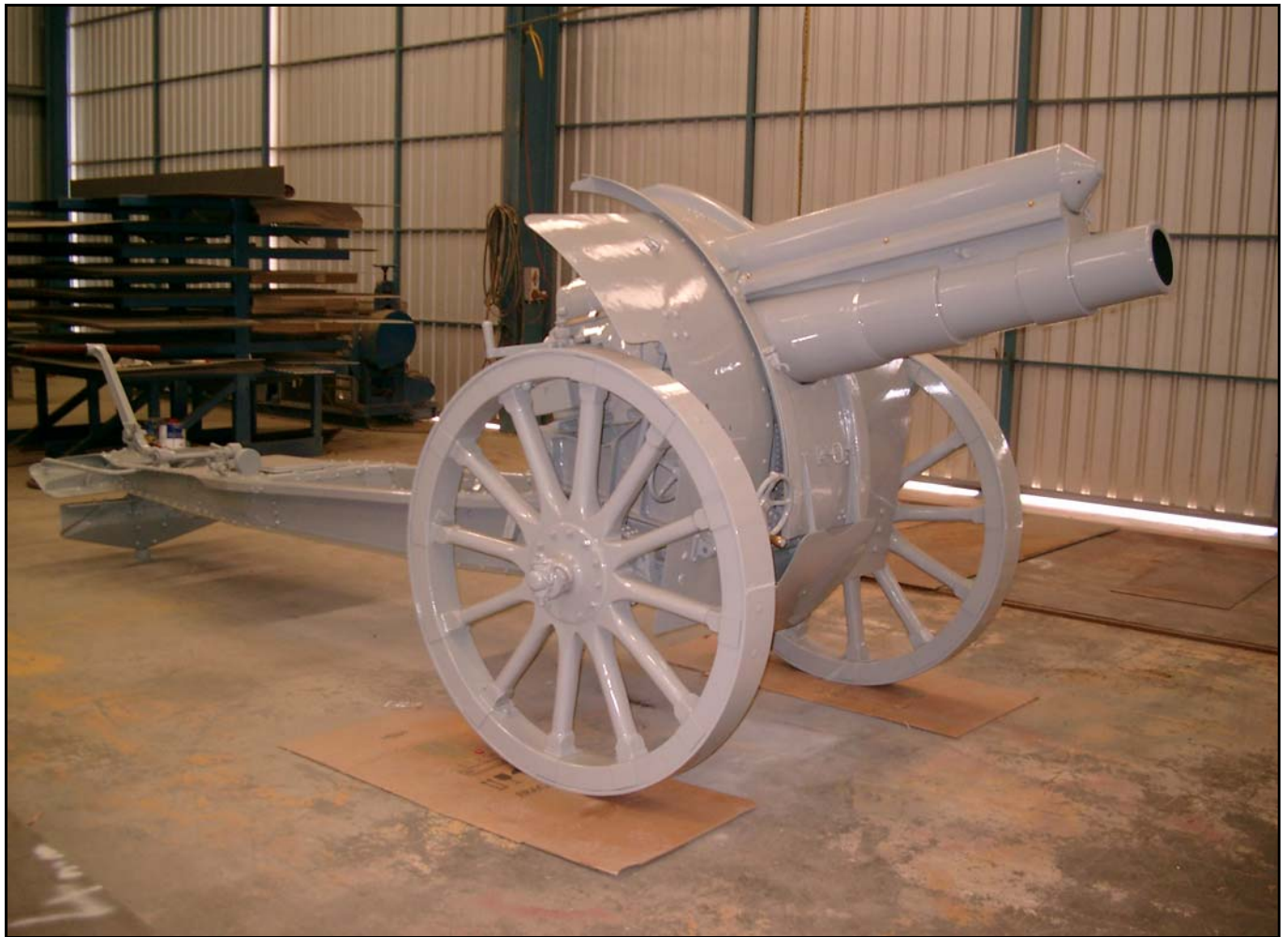


CATFORD ENGINEERING HELPS THE JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY TO RESTORE A RARE CENTURY-OLD CANNON



JAMESTOWN has been home to a rare piece of war memorabilia since 1920 but many people may not realize just how unique it is. The World War 1 Krupp Essen Cannon, built in 1907 in Essen, Germany was captured as a souvenir by our Diggers in Palestine in 1917 and is one of only two of its kind in Australia. Battered by the weather over many decades in Jamestown's Memorial Park since 1920, it is now fully restored to its former glory to honour all those who have fought for Australia. The cannon was one of many guns that fell into the hands of the First Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on far-off battle fields and these trophy guns were presented after the war to towns from which the men of the AIF volunteered. The guns were presented along with a written agreement guaranteeing that the trophies would be permanently displayed and preserved.

Jamestown, home of the 9th Australian Light Horse Brigade before and after WW1, was fortunate to receive a very unusual gun. The custom built cannon was known as a "5.9 inch howitzer". Only four were built and Jamestown and the Australian War Memorial in Canberra have the two known surviving cannons.



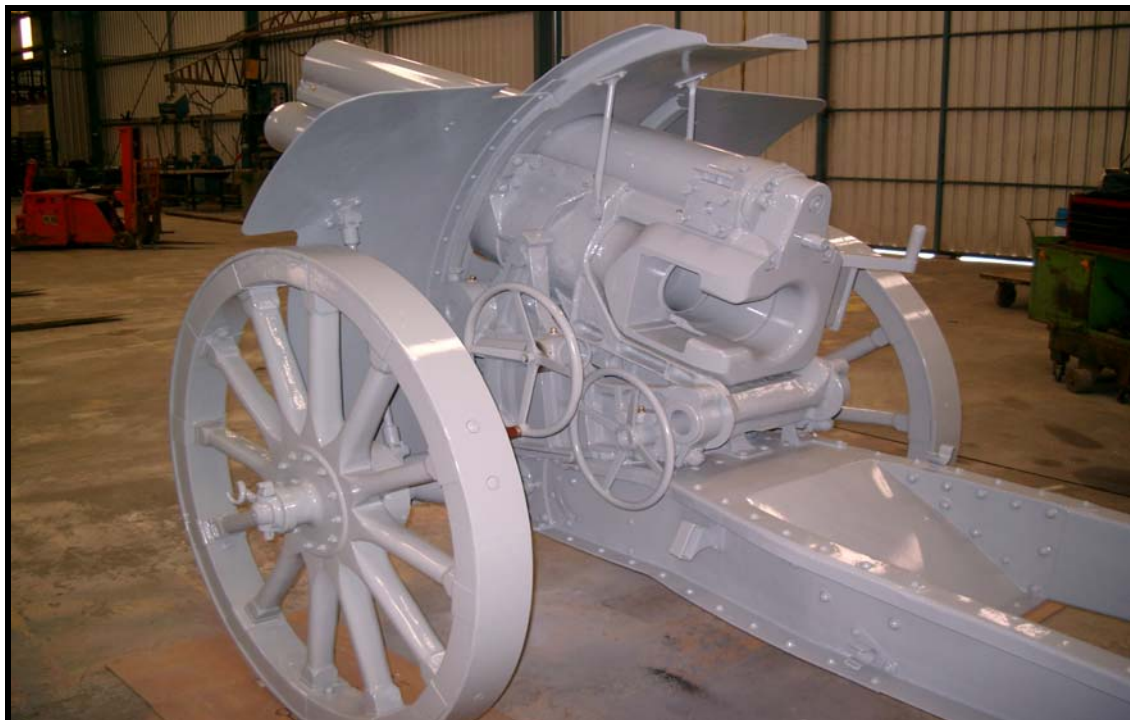
Original Condition WW1 Krupp Cannon
In 1998 Jamestown Memorial Park

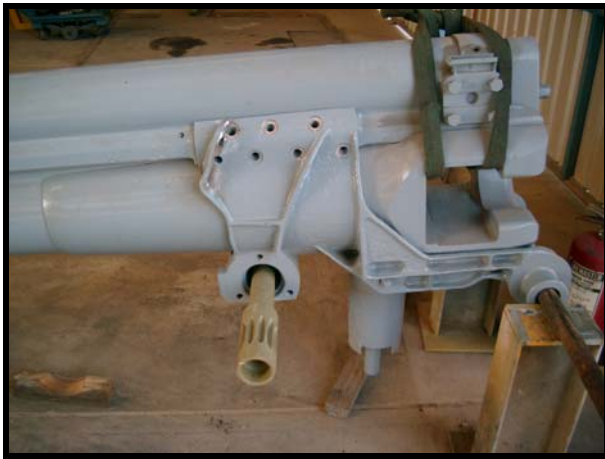


Restored WW1 Krupp Cannon
October, 2004 (Undercoated)

The council initially asked Catford Engineering at Jamestown to remove the cannon from the Park as it was a safety concern and then asked if they could “do something” with the gun and so began the restoration, working closely with members of the Returned & Services League in Jamestown. Charles Catford said “Catford Engineering has spent more than 2543 hours restoring the cannon and materials have cost \$4268.00. Now that the cannon restoration is completed, the cannon will not be returned to its previous ‘resting place’ to again be weathered by the elements. It contains too much history just to go back outside. We want to look after it and keep it in a shelter.” This is where the next phase of the project begins with the construction of a shelter in the Memorial Park worthy of housing the cannon. The Northern Areas Council has agreed to maintain the shelter.

“Without a doubt, we’re very excited to get it back to the Park as it’s been gone for seven or eight years now,” Charles said. “We will cherish this cannon and ensure that people recognise the sacrifices and commitment made by Australian soldiers for our nation. We need to preserve it for future generations to see. I think we owe it to the soldiers of both world wars and all soldiers who have fought for our Country. Without their commitment who knows what Australia would be like now.





Assembling the main cannon barrel



Putting the restored Cannon and Chassis back



Riveting the chassis back together



Robert Catford working on Cog assembly that winds the barrel up (Chief Engineer)



Charles Catford looking down the barrel (Project executive)



Painters Bob Hunt and Trevor Wehrmann



Riveting Team:

- Bryan Homann-Pichi Richi Railway
- John Lucas-Pichi Ritchi Railway
- Brett Sparks-Catford Engineering
- Robert Catford-Catford Engineering
- Merv Robinson (Not in photo)

Research:

John Hector, Nick Hector, Len Cooper, The Australian War Memorial, Catford Engineering Team, RSL Jamestown branch, Northern Areas Council, David Box, Craig Symonds, Ian and Jenny Hillam
 Total Volunteer Hours 3491.7 Hours. Materials at cost \$10,138