

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of the N.Z. Antique & Historical Arms Assn

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www.nzaaawgtn.org.nz

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- Sporting guns, a Schultz & Larsen 7x61 cal. Savage sporter .250. SKS semi auto 7.62, Squires Bingham .22 all with relevant books
- Sporting Snider by Hollis & sons fitted with express sights in .577 cal.
- SAP 250lb bomb foil with a silhouette of the A.P. projectile.
- An impressive display of South Seas weapons of war. A taiaha, Te whatewha, patu, patiti and an early Brown Bess made in 1759.
- A fine cased fully engraved shotgun by UDA of Spain. A truly magnificent piece bought new by one of our members over 50 years ago for \$U.S. 200. The action still remains crisp and tight despite years of continued use.
- Spandau machine guns. German WW II helmets and a superb selection of self-loading pistols.
- South African photo's, medals and marriage certificates.
- S.S. helmets, belts, badges, bayonets, postage stamps of Third Reich era and other related items.

The Letter "S"

Our December meeting was very well attended and produced a wide range of quality items being displayed. The following is a brief description.

- Sandstones & sharpening stones; a selection of sandstones in many shapes and sizes.
- Snider Enfield, two fine examples with military markings associated with New Zealand land wars.
- Sig Sauer handgun and semi-auto service rifle.
- A sectionalised display of grenades, bombs and nose caps.
- Stamps: postage stamps of third Reich era. SS helmets, belts, bayonets, badges and other related items.
- Spanish and Swiss military helmets with full information and I.D. cards.
- Stripper Clips; a large selection of up to 200 different stripper clips from many countries including Australia, America, England, Canada, Greece, Holland, India, Nigeria etc.

Once again an excellent selection of items on display.

President's Report

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2007, I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Maybe you managed to pickup a little something for your collection or managed to get out for a shoot or just spent time with the family around the BBQ.

The Branch has once again offered space to put on displays at the Wellington Firearms and militaria Show on the 17th and 18th of February.

Last year we had a good turnout of members and some great displays. Even if you are not able to put on a large display the Branch will have some cabinets available for small items for joint displays. If you wish to put on a display please ring Alwyn, it will be great to see everyone supporting this event again.

Our first meeting for the year will be on Sunday 4th February. I hope to see you all there.

Steve

Historical Highlights:

Napoleon and His Part in the History of Canning



Canning started in earthenware jars. The process was invented in France in 1795 by Nicholas Appert, a chef who was determined to win the prize of 12,000 francs offered by Napoleon for a way to prevent military food supplies from spoiling. Appert canned meats and vegetables in jars sealed with pitch and by 1804 opened his first vacuum-packing plant. It was a French military secret that soon leaked across the English Channel.

In 1810 Peter Durance, an Englishman, patented the use of metal containers for canning, and by the next year others had opened factories. The troops that faced off at Waterloo had canned rations.

A number of inventions and improvements followed, and by the 1860's, the time it took to process food in a can had been reduced from six hours to 30 minutes. Canned foods were soon commonplace. Tin-coated steel is used today.

Originally, scientists thought canning worked by eliminating oxygen in the container. But sufficient heating amounts to sterilization, which destroys the bacteria and enzymes that can cause spoiling. Hermetically sealing the food in glass or metal prevents new air or other organisms from contaminating it.

All canned food is thoroughly cooked, and as a consequence, preservatives are used in relatively few canned foods, far less than for so-called fresh foods. Sodium is added for flavor, not to enhance shelf life. Commercially canned food is very safe — much safer than the home-canned kind — and has a shelf life of a good two years, often much more (as caches left by polar expeditions have shown).

Although studies show that shoppers also think canned food is less nutritious than fresh or frozen, an analysis of 84 fresh, frozen and canned foods, just released by the University of Illinois, show that once the food was prepared for the table, canned foods were equal and often better in nutrient levels.

Fresh fruit and vegetables may start with more vitamins, but crops that go directly from field to processor often retain vitamins better than those that travel across the country and sit for days in produce bins or at home in refrigerators.

There have also been improvements. Many canned fruits are now processed with less sugar than formerly. Low-sodium and sodium-free canned foods are widely available. Canning companies are experimenting with cans of thinner metal to permit shorter processing and give the food better flavor and texture.

The old adage of “An Army marches on its Stomach” still applies today. So next time you open up a can of baked beans just pause for a moment and spare a thought for who created an idea which today we all take for granted.

Etiquette

A timely reminder at the start of our collecting year to all members, especially the newer ones on the etiquette involved when viewing items on display at our monthly meetings. All too often there are occurrences where people uninvited pick up and handle items without first asking permission of the owner.

Some items displayed are very valuable and irreplaceable, so first, ask the owner's permission for a closer look and I am sure that owner will only be too pleased to show it to you, and even to explain in detail the workings and the history of the item.

We all started off our collecting careers by looking at the valuable items the “Old Timers” displayed, items we then could not afford. They imparted their knowledge to the younger ones coming through and helped to nurture the collecting spirit and today we don't want to dampen their collecting spirit either, so would like to educate them that they don't pick up an item for a closer look until invited to do so. **“Look with your eyes only and don't touch”**
Ed.

Wanted.

Collector of Household Division Collectables needs a complete set of buttons for a Blues and Royals tunic and riding cape, as well as jackboots size 10 to 11 plus white buckskin breeches. If anyone can assist please contact Tim on (06) 308-9812.

Editorial

This is your newsletter. For you to get the most out of it make use of this free service that is available for all members to advertise in, whether buying, selling, or items wanted etc. I am always looking for articles to publish and as **YOU** are all specialists in your own collecting fields, you have such a wealth of knowledge to share with fellow collectors so there should be no shortage of suitable material forthcoming. I look forward to receiving your contributions for publication. Contributed articles can remain anonymous should you prefer.

Photographs from the December meeting.



Sporting Sniders



South Seas Weapons of War



A selection of sharpening stones



South African – Photo's, Medals, Marriage License



Specialised supplies: English Soldiers kit WWII



Spandau Machine Gun



A fully engraved shotgun by UDA, Spain



An assortment of Nazi S.S. items

Christmas BBQ Shoot – 10th December

A good crowd had arrived by 9.30 a.m. The tent was erected and BBQ set up and all other relevant gear was set out with true military precision. A short practise session was had and targets put up for the air pistol match. Results are as listed:

Air Pistol:

1st Tony B.
2nd Terry A.
3rd Tony C.

Iron Chickens Under 15 yrs:

(all first equal)

1st Robert A. 5
1st Alex A. 5
1st Alex McC. 5
1st James A. 5
2nd Rhyannon 4
3rd Hanera 3
4th Nathan 2
4th Liam 2
4th Sam 2
4th Daniel 2

Iron Chickens – Trophy Match:

1st Neville A.
2nd Brian J.
3rd Henry S.
3rd Ray (visitor)

Chickens – 75m:

1st Ray (visitor)
2nd Phil McC.
2nd Tony C.
2nd Neville A.
3rd John B.
3rd Mark G.
3rd Alex
3rd Glenn McM.

Shotgun Trophy Winner:

1st Mark B.
2nd Josh (visitor)
2nd John B.
3rd Many others.

Teams: Balloons & Chickens:

1st John B. Henry S.
Tony C
& Brian J.
2nd Neville. Tony B
Wayne J
& Jeremy.
3rd Ray, Jeremy, Wayne,
& Tony.

A good time was had by all with many younger shooters showing a keen interest. Some invited guests did very well even with borrowed rifles lent to them by some of our members.

Wayne's famous BBQ lunch was once again a feast fit for a King, with steak and coleslaw sandwiches proving very popular on the day with an endless supply being eagerly devoured.

A big thank you to John B. and Glenn for range officer duties, and also to the team who helped with the setting up, the food preparation and finally, the all important task of cleaning up at the end of the day.

Photographs from the Christmas BBQ shoot



Wellington Gun Show 17th & 18th February Lower Hutt Town Hall.

Once again we are looking at putting on a Club display at this event and require people to display and assist. Please do not just leave the displays to the usual few, as we would like to see others take an active role in this area. Our displays at the monthly meetings prove that members have desirable and interesting items in their collections and this is a good chance to try and attract others to the collecting hobby. There will be sales and trade tables available to anyone who wishes to purchase space for this purpose. For more details contact Steve (04) Tel/Fax: 934-2756 or info@nzaawgtn.org.nz

Next Meeting.

Sunday 4th February. At the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's club, Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm.

Display theme for the meeting will be **the letter "T"** which presents a multitude of choices. Remember Terry will be running his lucky draw for exhibitors so make sure you are in the draw.

Coming Events.

Sat & Sunday 17th & 18th February 2007. Gun show at the Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall.

Wanted to Buy.

Magazine for a Squibman .22RF cal rifle.
(Rifle made by Squires of Birmingham.) Magazines were made in both 5 and 10shot. Either would do. Please phone Mick on 06-343-7039

Old Newsletters & Catalogues

Frank T is compiling a record of our Branch Newsletters and would appreciate help from members who might still have old copies that they might care to donate for our Archives.

The following are ones he requires,

- 1982 All months
- 1983 Feb, Apr & Dec
- 1984 May, July, Sept, Nov, Dec
- 1985 Mar, Apr, Aug, Oct, Dec
- 1986 Oct, Nov, Dec
- 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, All
- 1995 Nov.
- 1996 May, Nov
- 2000 Jan, Mar, Nov
- 2001 All
- 2002 Feb
- 2003 Aug
- 2004 Jan Mar
- 2005 Jul to Nov

He also requires Branch Auction Catalogues pre 1985 plus 1988 and 1990.

President's Report

Welcome back from the holidays , I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable time. Most of you will be aware by now that a few days before Christmas at 7am in the morning the police simultaneously searched over 50 homes looking for firearms. These people were not criminals but collectors like yourselves, however collectors being what they are, some of them had items that under the current Arms Act should have been registered, and as a consequence some of them have had their collections confiscated.

This brings me to the point of my report, having half assembled unregistered MSSA's, pistols, machine guns or even some parts lying around your gun room or in your safe is an offence. Also some items that did not need to be registered a few years ago now do!! Things like mortar tubes, rocket launchers and Oerlikon guns all now require a "C" cat endorsement and some parts for MSSA's require an "E" endorsement . If the police do a spot check of your gun room or safes, would you end up losing your collection ?? It is up to each collector to make sure his gun room is in order and if in doubt check with your local Arms Officer.

Remember the ownership of firearms in this country is a privilege not a right, and even seemingly minor breaches of the regulations can result in your licence being revoked at the discretion of the Police .

On a brighter note, things are shaping up for a great year. On the 17th and 18th of February Wellington Branch is holding a Gun / Militaria show in the Hutt Valley Horticultural Hall. Not only is this a good chance to buy items for your collection but it is a good promotional exercise and will help educate the public about firearms and collecting.

There will be dealers from around the country selling items, trade tables, interactive displays, plus displays from other organizations and our own members.

We do however need some more member displays, it's a

great opportunity to display your collection, plus there will be prizes for the best displays, with a first prize of \$350 so if you would like to put on a display please ring me or Alwyn, and I hope to see you all there .

Our next club meeting is Sunday the 4th of February see you all there

Steve

The Great Bunny Hunt

(a cautionary tale)

I was having a quiet morning over New Year break when Alwyn rang asking if I wanted to sharpen up my rabbit hunting skills. Having Liam my twelve year old with me for the break I figured it was a good chance to get some fresh air and teach him a bit about hunting.

After a drive over the Rimutakas we arrived at the farm around 4.30, and after a quick word to the farmer drove to the back of the farm and checked out a couple of likely paddocks. I must add at this point that the grass was very long in some paddocks while others had been mowed, but there was plenty of ground to be explored.

We decided to split up at this point ,Alwyn went alone towards the bush on the back of the farm while Liam and I circled the edges of the main paddocks. Liam at this point proceeded to run around like a mini Steve Irwin, going "look at this little beeeeeeauty" and then wanting me to put a bullet into everything that moved from magpies and paradise ducks to dead sheep and fence posts. He had every rabbit within a kilometer radius running for cover.

After a fruitless circuit we arrived back at my trusty 4x4 to find Alwyn had bagged 3 hares and a rabbit, Liam whose interest had started wane decided we should go for a walk and flush out a few more. By this time the light was fading and the rabbits were starting to come out and we managed to get a couple for the pot. At this point we were trying to get Liam to look down the sights at his first rabbit, however he wasn't confident of a long range shot so it entailed 50 metre crawls through wet grass and then as he is left handed, last minute decisions on which eye to use.

Once it was dark we rigged up the spotlight and drove off looking for more quarry. During the day we had spotted an area of cleared scrub that looked promising, but to get to it we had to drive through a paddock of not-so-short grass and half way across this we came to grief as

Alwyn's face was planted into the windscreen and Liam shot from the back to the front with an assortment of flying rifles, torches, shot shells and drink bottles as the front of our truck disappeared into a large ditch, luckily I had been going quite slowly. I stuck my trusty old 4x4 hastily into reverse but it was immediately obvious she wasn't going anywhere and on getting out we were greeted with a scene resembling something out of the Titanic movie with the rear high in the air and the bonnet disappearing into the ground. "I think I can get this out" was greeted with howls of derision from Liam who was starting to complain of cold, hunger and fatigue. He proceeded to wrap himself in my Swannie and curl up on the back seat while Alwyn and I stripped down to our teeshirts and dug, jacked and heaped rocks under the front wheels, 90 minutes and a lot of swearing later we had the bugger out and fortunately were still mobile.

By this time it was 11pm and it was decided to call it a night, however we did manage to pick up a couple more bunnies on the way home.

I guess there is a lesson to be learned from this, never drive through long grass if you don't know what's there, and twelve year olds may have lots of energy but they don't have the stamina of us old fella's.

Sum Yung Gai

Coming Events.

4 th Feb.	Branch Meeting – at the usual venue.
17 th & 18 th Feb	Gun Show at the Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall.
4 th Mar.	Branch AGM and Mickey Mouse Auction
4 th Mar	Central Branch Gun Show at Otorohanga.
31 st Mar	Auckland Arms Fair – Henderson.
10 th Apr	H.B.Arms & Militaria auction