

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of the New Zealand Antique Arms
Association Wellington Branch Inc.
P.O.Box 14-029
Kilbirnie
WELLINGTON

March 2002

2002 Annual General Meeting

A good crowd arrived for this year's AGM with many coming early to help set up the room and to enter items for the Mickey Mouse auction.

The meeting started promptly with a welcome to members and was quickly into the order of business. The Presidents report gave a summary of the years activities and the Audited Annual Accounts showed the Branch to be in a healthy financial position. The very complimentary note provided by the Auditor gave added emphasis to this.

The election of Officers followed and your Committee for the coming year is;

President	Ron S
Vice President	Vic C
Secretary	Steve P
Treasurer	Margaret B
Newsletter Editor	Rex H
Committee -:	
	Clive A
	Ray B
	Ron C
	Alwyn D
	Wayne J
	Phil McC
	Glen McM
	Tim R
	Tony S

Our Auction Convenor is Steve P;
Phone /Fax (04)387-9499

Photographers Tony C & Melva C;
Range Officers Alwyn D
assisted by John B & Henry F.

The meeting acknowledged the support given by Michael D over the many years he had been our Range Officer.

Subscriptions were confirmed at \$25 with Spouse membership at no extra charge. Please ensure your spouse's name is shown at the time you pay your subscription, this will make sure each spouse has the maximum possi-

ble effect on our membership numbers.

The Krupp Gun dedication is now likely to be on Saturday 13 April and details will be confirmed as soon as possible so members are fully informed.

Letters sent to the Ministry for Culture & Heritage, the Prime Minister and the Evening Post were read giving support for the new drive launched by the Prime Minister to "**Search for and Preserve Souvenirs of War**", ensuring that this important part of our heritage is not lost forever. The meeting expressed approval for the sending of these letters.

Progress towards our July auction was reported and reminders given for members to submit their auction lots promptly and to be at the Picnic Shoot.

Possible events for the coming year were also considered including a bus trip to Waiouru, a trip to the Featherston Military Museum, as well as details of the display to be held at the Kaitoke Range to support the ANZAC Day Shoot organised by the Service Rifle Association.

The meeting also recognised the Police "Year of the Volunteer 2001" Award presented to Richard R for his services in support of Firearms safety with the Mountain Safety Council.

Following the conclusion of the official part of the day, Steve and his support team got into gear with the Mickey Mouse auction. Some good items were well contested and the afternoon finished with a "Wayne Special" afternoon tea.

Our thanks go to all who participated and made this another good Branch meeting. The number of items on display as well as the auction lots were good to see as was the level of support from so many members for the day's activities.

Ron

BRANCH PICNIC SHOOT

On Sunday the 10th March the rain delayed December Christmas Picnic Shoot was held. The day was clear and sunny, and 70 odd people turned out.

This was to be the last NZAAA shoot that Michael D will run, and a speech was made to thank him for the events he has previously organised so well. He's off to concentrate on his other projects and is handing over the reins to Alwyn and others.

The days shooting was intense as usual, and several close shootoffs occurred. Especially so for the Iron Chicken Trophy which was won by Henry F again.

During the lunchtime Ray B fired up his cannon and put 2" holes in a 44gal drum 100m away.

Other rifles that came out during this time were a variety of muzzleloaders, Sniders and lever actions.

After lunch the Zulu shoot was something radically different, firing 5 shots in a minute with a Martini at a target shaped like a Zulu shield. Made even more difficult if you tried it with a military musket in 450/577cal like I did.

The food was once again well prepared and the organisers and cooks have done themselves proud. They have set a standard that would be envied by other clubs.

An unusual aspect to our picnic shoots is the activities organised for the children. The sack races, egg and spoon, and 3 legged races and ongoing cricket game kept the kids busy and happy for the day.

Well done Ron for keeping these games alive.

A couple of fun incidents that stuck in my mind:

- In the Iron Chicken shoot Tony B's front sight fell off. He **bashed** it back on and shot a 5 out of 6.

- In the shotgun shoot Craig D who has a gammy leg **had to** shoot sitting on a deckchair....the inspiration for a future shoot....shotgun shooting from a lazyboy chair perhaps?

Overall another enjoyable and well run shoot, and I salute all who helped to run it.

Tony

Results of Branch Christmas (March) Shoot

Air Pistol.

- 1. Alan C
- 2. James
- 3. Tony C

Air Rifle.

- 1. Tony B
- 2. Damien S
- 3. George S

Iron Chickens.

- 1. Henry F
- 2. Alan C
- 3. Ray B

Hare Pie.

- 1. Tony B 115pts
- 2. Keith J 111pts
- 3. Rob 105pts

Rorke's Drift.

- 1. Alan C 100pts
- 2. Keith J 100pts
- 3. Rex H, Karl and Ron B 90pts

Trinity.

- 1. Tony B 114pts
- 2. Karl 101pts
- 3. Alan C 92 pts.

Down the Line.

- 1. Craig D
- 2. Alan C
- 3. Tony B

Some photos from the Picnic Shoot held on 10th March.



Ray's Cannon in Action. A lot of noise from a small charge. Note how they all stood well clear and Reg has abandoned his hat in the rush.



Reg, Frank, Geoff and another bystander inspecting Ray's masterpiece.

Computers - Love them or Hate them.

Clearly more and more people are using computers for much more than just word processing and I myself have heard numerous reports of people buying items off the Internet. One of our expert computer members Tony B recently drew my attention to an interesting shooting trophy that was offered for sale on Ebay. As I have had no experience with buying through this medium and I imagine many others of our group are the same, I have asked Tony to give us a run down on the procedure. Ed

Internet Auctions - A Beginners Guide

For those of you on the search for that elusive something, or the next bargain, or trying to find the value of that item in your collection, may I suggest trying some of the internet auctions. There are so many out there that I wouldn't attempt to list them all, however they all work in a similar manner to our Antique Arms

The process of bidding is:

- 1) Buyers and Sellers must register at the auction site to get a bidding ID or number. Depending in the site, this may be or may not be free.(This registration is done the first time only).
- 2) An item is put up for sale for a fixed period (often a week), and everyone can see each bid and whether the Seller has put a reserve on it. Sometimes the Seller will specify the reserve in the description in order to save everyones time.
- 3) Buyers scan the auction items each time they go to the site
- 4) You can ask questions via the auction site to the seller. But you will basically be buying the item on the basis of the description and a picture if there's one on the auction page.
- 5) You must log into the auction site in order to place a bid. The Auction Site will send you an e-mail to acknowledge your bid.
- 6) If someone else outbids you, the site will send you an e-mail to advise you that you no longer have the highest bid.
- 7) The winning bid at the close buys the item. The Auction Site will send the Buyer and Seller an e-mail to acknowledge the winning bid.
- 8) The Buyer and Seller arrange between themselves how the money is to be paid.
- 9) The Auction site bills the Seller for the commission

Things you the buyer must be aware of:

- Your bid is a legally binding action ...be careful how you enter in the bid amount.
- Caveat Emptor...you have almost no legal comeback if the item is defective. You can complain to the auctioneer but you might not be supported. If your complaint is supported, the Seller may be removed from the site... however you still probably won't get your money back.
- You must watch the exchange rate for the real price
- Many Sellers will not deal with overseas and ammo because of the hassle. buyers for firearms
- Always ask the seller if they will deal with you before you win the bid.
- Don't forget to get your Police "Permit to Import" before the item arrives.
- Postage on any rifle over 33" long is exceptionally expensive, and must be taken into account.

Having given the warnings, I must say that I've had no problems so far, and had the "thrill of the chase" over the period of the bidding.

Where to go?

A good starting point is the NZ site Trademe http://www.trademe.co.nz/structure/category_index.asp
They have a militaria section, and lots more.

Some US based sites
Auctionarms www.auctionarms.com

E-Bay www.ebay.com (Hundreds of different categories)
Gunbroker www.gunbroker.com
AOL Online
UK Site Antiqueguns www.antiqueguns.com

Otherwise go to a Search-Engine like Google (www.google.com) and type in "auction" and what you're looking for eg "Luger". In this case your search string would be "auction luger" .
Then scan through the hits you find, or try again if there were none or if there were too many hits eg: try "auction luger artillery" to narrow the search down. Then search through the sites that come up.

Good luck with your searching, and please don't bid on the items I want.

Tony B

10th March Picnic Shoot.

The Air Rifles and Air Pistols were well used by a small group of shooters and it was good to see a few people shooting who had never handled guns before. A couple of the enterprising young lads found the challenge of card targets rather tame so they found other items to shoot, one being an empty spray can. After the can was punctured they had a competition to see who could hit the plastic nozzle on the can top and it soon became evident whose children had previous experience with air rifles. Anyhow an enjoyable day was had by all and a special vote of thanks must go to Dave G of the Upper Hutt Gunshop for supplying the shooting tube, air rifles and consumables.

Thanks to all who assisted. Alwyn.



Ron S, Rex B and some of the other contestants in the Iron Chicken shoot.



Some shooters on the mound. Robin W and Geoff C in the foreground with Sue taking orders from John B. (standing)



Don't jam on me now says Barry I



If you can do better then cook them yourself says Vic C.

RANGE DAY – 14th APRIL
KAITOKE DEER STALKER'S RANGE.

With the Wellington Service Rifle ANZAC shoot not far away we have decided to have a .303 practice day and sight-in session.
 Iron Chickens will be available for anyone using .22 rim-fire rifles as well (Not Magnums)
 The start time will be from 9.30am and people will be able to practice as they wish.
 Alwyn & Henry.



Helen C show the boys how its done with the air rifle.

NAPIER ARMS AND MILITARIA AUCTION
9th MARCH 2002

Leaving lunchtime Friday and picking up Nathan in Ashurst saw us hit Napier at about 4pm, and went straight to the Museum to view an Antique Auction scheduled for Sunday morning. This included a Brown Bess, several rifles, a sword and a collection of Nazi items. After a quick look and finding out the reserves, we decided it was worth a re-visit on Sunday. It was then off to the main event.

We arrived at the Taradale Club for the auction viewing, to find the hall already half full of lookers and hopefuls. After checking off the items I had marked in the catalogue it was time for a general perusal and a catch up with the out of town members as well as the large contingent from Wellington.

At 7pm the hall was closed and we went off in search of food and to find beds. This was a saga in itself, I had phoned about a dozen motels but all were fully booked because of a Pipe Band competition the same weekend. A well known bayonet collector from Wanganui had made the mistake of not booking and had to drive back nearly to Bulls before he found a room. We managed to get a cabin at the Snapper Park Holiday Camp which had me wondering if it was something out of Hi De Hi, but it turned out to have nice modern beach front cabins .



Andrew B helping his friend Marcus with the air rifle as his sister Beth waits for her turn

Saturday morning saw us back at the auction for the 9.30am start. The hall was packed and had standing room only with the crowd spilling out into the bar. The venue was very good in this respect as you could have a beer and lunch while still keeping an eye on the auction. Good prices were being achieved for swords and bayonets with the Remington Lee getting \$6200, the Charlton Machine Gun \$13200, and the Fosbery \$6000.

After the auction Barry kindly invited us back to his house, so we joined 20 or so other collectors for an evening of socializing and looking at selected items that some of them had brought along.

On Sunday morning we went to the Museum auction, the small crowd present appeared to be mainly dealers with not that much interest shown in the militaria. I managed to pick up an Engineer's Sword in need of a clean, with the only competition coming from a postal bidder. The rifles appeared to go reasonably cheaply, but the Brown Bess was passed in. Then it was back home after checking out a few Antique shops on the way.

Sum Yung Gai

**A Tale of Five Campaigns:
The 6th field trip of the Defence of New Zealand
Study Group to the South Taranaki and Wanganui
districts on the 2-3 March 2001.**

For the last six years Peter C and myself, Tim R, have organised field trips throughout the North Island based on Peter's Journal "Forts & Works". The intention of these field trips is to visit battle sites, Maori Pa's and European fortifications of all periods that are often on private land not accessible to the general public. During the last six years we have travelled to Northland, Waikato, North Taranaki, South Taranaki, Wanganui and Wellington. It is usual for us to have quite different group of people on each trip apart from a small core of enthusiasts. This year several Antique Arms members attended. The planning of these trips usually entails a recce by Peter & myself, as permission must be obtained from local farmers if sites are on private land.

This year we all rendezvoused at the Shell Service Station in Hawera. The first site we visited was the spectacular Waimate Pa situated on a cliff top overlooking the sea. This was the scene of the Harriett Incident of 1834, the first intervention of the British Army in New Zealand affairs. After visiting the interesting Ohawe military cemetery it was back to Hawera and lunch at the best private museum in the country, Nigel Ogle's Tawhiti Museum. The day was warm but showery and the group was caught in a heavy shower whilst climbing up to the Ruaki gunfighter's Pa the site of a massacre during the Waikato raids of 1833. After our soaking the hot sun came out and everyone dried out quickly. We visited another local Pa plus a redoubt site then it

was on Waitotara to view Weraroa Pa and the Nukumaruru Battle sites both of which relate to General Cameron's 1865 campaign. One could not but reflect that the two south Taranaki Tribes the Ngati Ruanui and the Nga Rauru put up a tremendous defence against massively superior British and Colonial forces in three consecutive campaigns of 1865, 1866, and 1868/69 during which most of their villages and cultivations were destroyed.

We spent the night in Wanganui and a group of us had a very enjoyable meal at the Rutland Arms. The Sunday was spent visiting sites around Wanganui relating to the 1847 fighting and the later 1865/69 campaigns. The highlights were Moutoa Gardens, the Rutland Hill Stockade site and Maori War Memorial, two redoubts at Kai Iwi, a loopholed & fortified cave built by a farmer in 1869 as a defence against Titokowaru and the Cameron Blockhouse. We also visited the WWII gun position overlooking the Wanganui River Mouth after which we lost three cars at a busy intersection, two of which caught up with us later on. All in all a most enjoyable trip except for a couple of glitches and a good time was had by all. On our return journey Peter C and myself got caught up in a Armed Offenders call out and were stuck in a line of traffic at Manukau for a couple of hours.

PS. Antique Arms members may be interested to know that a revised version of my book, "The Colonial New Zealand Wars" is with the printers in Hong Kong and is expected to be available in late May.

Tim R.

Wanted. Spotting scope & stand required, good condition. Tel Rex B 939-9398

Next Meeting.

Sunday 7th April at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm. Theme for displays will be letters X, Y & Z. Another difficult one but how about Xcut, Xtra, Yellow Boy, York, the Duke of, Young American, Zig Zag.

As well as this we are expecting a guest from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage at this meeting and would like members to consider displays with a cultural aspect or to display items particularly with a New Zealand historical or family history significance.

Reminder—ANZAC Day 25th April

The Wellington Service Rifle Club will be holding their annual .303 shoot at the Kaitoke rifle range on Thursday 25th April. For more info contact Alwyn Phone 528-8190