

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique Arms
Association Wellington Branch Inc.

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

March 2005

www.nzaaaawgtu.org.nz

President Steve
and Auction Convenor

Vice President Alwyn

Secretary Phil

Treasurer Margaret

Editor Rex

Committee.

Terry
Ray
John
Vic
Wayne
John
Glen
Tim
Terry

The AGM went off smoothly with no major Branch issues in contention, although there was some discussion on the lack of communication by the National Association on the ongoing legal action against the Association. Steve advised the matter is in the hands of the Association's Solicitors and as such was not open for discussion but he could report that the plaintiffs had been instructed by the Court to clarify their case. At this stage there had been nothing new to report for about the past six months. However, there was a definite feeling within the Branch that the time had come for the members to be fully informed. Steve assured the membership that the National Association was doing all it could to get the matter resolved.

There were no new nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Editor and the present incumbents were all re-elected unopposed. The election of a Committee resulted in several changes. Tony B and Ron C did not stand for re-election on account of work and family commitments and three new Committee Members were elected. The new Committee members are Terry A, John K and Terry S, we welcome these members and thank them for putting their names forward for election.

Ed

Wellington Branch President's Report For 2004 year.

Welcome to the Wellington Branch AGM, it's great to see so many club members here.

As most of you will be aware, we have had another busy and successful year.

Attendance at our monthly meetings was good, with outstanding responses to the monthly theme letter. With displays and trade tables there is always something interesting to see or buy. This is the reason membership in the Wellington branch is still growing and interest in collecting is strong.

The newsletter continues to be of a very high standard. Rex does a marvellous job of putting it together each month, along with Maxine who envelopes and posts it out. Rex's editing is so good I sometimes can't even recognize my own published reports. (What rubbish. Ed)

Our July auction was once again a great success, this event is the major fundraiser for the Branch and enables us to keep subs low and to carry out our many other activities. As you will see from the Branch accounts our finances have been well managed and are in a very healthy state, even enabling us to offer financial assistance to the National Association for production of its New Member's pamphlet.

The year 2004 marked our 20th Anniversary of Branch auctions. Wayne and his team did an outstanding job with the catering, even providing a Happy Hour and a Birthday cake, which was enjoyed by all.

March Meeting.

The meeting on 6th March was our Annual General Meeting and in conjunction with this we ran the usual Mickey Mouse auction. The meeting was well supported with about 70 to 80 members present. The auction went off without a hitch and produced a polished performance by our amateur auctioneer. There were about the same number of auction entries as last year and the sales total was slightly up on the previous year and above the average for these events. Not many items remained unsold at the end although one impatient vendor rushed off home with an item that had been passed in, but was subsequently sold to a late buyer who agreed to meet the reserve. With the item taken we had no option but to cancel the transaction and accordingly the vendor missed out on a sale. All of the paper work was completed promptly and vendors were paid out by the end of the week.

New arrangements with the Workingmen's Club make it difficult for self catering and Wayne was a little doubtful about whether we would be able to offer anything more than tea and coffee for the meeting, however he was fortunate in being able to negotiate an exemption and provided sausage rolls, cake and biscuits for the meeting. His catering efforts were well received and he says it was the first time he has run out of food at a meeting. Fortunately it was late in the day by the time supplies ran out and I don't think anyone went away too hungry.

The rifle range was well attended for our Sunday shoots and our range officers continue to do a sterling job. The Christmas shoot was very well attended with members and their families enjoying the food from the barbecue and the fine weather.

One of the social highlights of the year was the Christmas luncheon meeting. Once again we had a very good turn out and the quality of the items displayed was a credit to everyone who participated. We were also privileged to have the National President, Paul Shoebridge in attendance this year. Paul travelled from Napier especially for the event, and brought along an interesting item for display. He also presented two of our members (Wayne and Rex) with Perham Medallions for their services to the Branch.

Another of the year's highlights was the Sunday Branch trip to Waiouru when about 35 members travelled by bus to the Army Museum and were guided through the Military displays and vehicle sheds. This was an excellent day and we were privileged to gain access to some areas not normally open to the public. I'm sure this will be the first of many trips of this nature.

One of the more innovative aspects of the Branch has been the web site. With this we have copies of our newsletter with colour photos on the net, plus we have been able to advertise and promote our auction. This has brought in new members and is also raising our profile as legitimate collectors.

Your Committee has worked tirelessly throughout the year and this dedicated group must be congratulated for their efforts. In addition, a large number of other Branch members have worked hard during the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of these members, and of course, I look forward to your continuing assistance during the coming year.

The Branch after all is about the members, and with your support I look forward with confidence to 2005.

Steve P
President Wellington Branch



Above. South Australian Light Horse troops in the Sinai WW1 from a picture in the Mt Gambier RSL. Note the extra cartridge bandoliers slung around the horses necks, a practice the Wellington Mounted Rifles also adopted.



Above. Wartime memorabilia displayed at the Mt Gambier, RSL Club rooms. The swords etc were under glass and difficult to photograph but the machine gun was sitting on a ledge above head height and appeared to be secured with only a simple metal strap.



Above. South Australian Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch

The arch was built to commemorate the building of the Great Ocean Road as a memorial to Victorians who served in the First World War 1914-1918. The project was initiated to provide employment for returned servicemen and commenced in 1919 and proceeded for about 13 years. A total of three thousand men worked with pick and shovel to hack the road through very difficult rocky terrain.

A plaque states that this is the third arch, the first was replaced when the road was widened in 1973, the second was destroyed by fire in the Ash Wednesday fires of 15th February 1983. Accordingly, I was rather surprised to note that a resident in a house just through the archway had a bonfire and was merrily burning rubbish, the smoke is just visible in the photo.

Club Shoot Kaitoke 13th March

What a day, perfectly fine and no wind. A small number of shooters turned out with members trying new acquisitions, new sight elements or other changes, with many just keen to let a few shots go to prove they can still hit most targets.

This was our last Club range day until September and I would like to thank the members who have helped to make this past shooting season a success. I frequently rely on others to assist with the collection of supplies and essential components and would especially like to thank all of those who have helped to make these days enjoyable.

Alwyn



A 1941 Maple Leaf Chevrolet on display in the South Australian Railway Museum, Port Adelaide. This vehicle was adapted for use on rails and used by the Australian Army Servicing POW work camps on the Nullarbor plains. It was later placed with the Commonwealth railways and used as an inspection and pay car between Port Augusta and Woomera. I guess POW's were something we had little exposure to, but Australia was host to quite large numbers in WW2. Many of whom subsequently returned and settled in Australia after the war

Not being a vehicle buff I am uncertain of how the term Maple leaf came to be given to this model but a knowledgeable Chev expert in the Club suggests it relates to Canadian manufacture. US made Chevrolets were apparently all left hand drive and, of course, the Maple Leaf is the Canadian emblem.



A Mapiu and surrounding Districts medal issued to a local World War 1 Returned Servicemen. The reverse was inscribed Presented to XXXX of the 24th Reinforcement by his friends in Mapiu on his return from Active Service in 1918

Commemorations

I was reading a Waitomo district local paper late last year when I come across an article written about the unveiling of a memorial to World War servicemen in the form of Memorial Gates at the Mapiu Domain on April 25th 1925. The photo showed about 40 spectators at the ceremony and one person can be seen raising a flag. The report adds that six men from that tiny community were killed in the First World War with another three in the Second World War. Now eighty years later the entrance way and gates are still in existence and the names of the men killed can apparently be found on a plaque in the Mapiu Hall. The substantial iron gates were reported to have been forged by a local blacksmith and still appear to be serviceable.

Mapiu you might say, where is that ? Well I should think a good number of you will have zoomed past there in your cars at some stage. It's on the road between Taumararui and Te Kuiti, a place one would barely notice nowadays which has a school, a country hall, a garage turned café and a couple of houses as well as a Domain which you could be forgiven for thinking was just another paddock, with a couple of large masonry gate posts and old iron gates. Perhaps on Anzac Day there will be some floral tributes to decorate them. Mapiu is just one of the many small settlements in this country that have simply died since the advent of the motor vehicle and sealed roads.

However, something that took my eye in the article was a photo of a medallion that had been given to one of the district's returned servicemen. It seems that people of the district had these medals in 18 carat gold, especially struck and inscribed to honour their local returned servicemen.

I have personally have never seen a medal of this nature and wonder how prevalent the practice of issuing such local medals to war serviceman may have been. One of our more knowledgeable members says that prize medals were not uncommon in those times but he could not say whether other districts normally issued medals to returned servicemen. I am aware that medals for life saving, swimming, athletics and other sports are in abundance and indeed I have a similar one myself that was won by my Dad as a boy at a little country school, but how many other communities issued medals to their returned servicemen.

On the subject of Anzac memorials, on a recent visit to Australia we passed through the settlement of Mount Gambier in South Australia where we noticed there was an RSL Club so we booked in for an evening meal. All was well and we were seated waiting for our first course when the speaker system requested everyone to stand in silence. The place came to a standstill as the Last Post was sounded and the President recited the words of Laurence Binyon "They shall not grow old , as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them".

This was not an Anzac day commemoration and on inquiry we were told it was a daily practice and was held at 6pm every night. Hard to believe I know but check it out yourself if you doubt me. Australia has a lot of memorials to War Servicemen so perhaps this was not so surprising, even if a little unusual.

Ed

Australian & New Zealand Army Corps. 90th Anniversary Coin sets.

Members may have noticed that New Zealand Post is issuing coin sets to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand Army Corps during World War 1 at Gallipoli. I am uncertain of availability as I purchased the last bronze set on display at the Manners Street Philatelic Post Shop about two weeks ago. The lady there was uncertain of whether more were available or not, however at these prices I would think there will still be some available. Anyone who wants a set should contact NZ Post, Private Bag, Wanganui. Phone (06)349-1234 Fax (06)345-7120 or Email collectables@nzpost.co.nz

There are three sets of two coins in each set, the first in aluminium bronze is of a one New Zealand Dollar coin and a one Australian Dollar with the coins packed in a very well presented card folder and costs \$34.95

The next group is a pair of silver one New Zealand dollar and one Australian Dollar coins packed in a gold coloured replica Princess Mary Gift tin and costs \$165.

The third group comprises of a gold ten dollar New Zealand coin and a gold ten dollar Australian coin and is packed in a replica WW1 brown leather ammunition pouch and costs \$945.

Illustrations and details of these coins and their packaging and numbers issued can be viewed on the website www.nzcoins.co.nz



For those without access to computer web pages two of the coin sets are illustrated here.

Above and below is the silver set packaged in a replica Princess Mary 1914 Christmas Gift Tin.

Right is the bronze set in a cardboard folder.



Gun Show Lower Hutt Town Hall 16th & 17th April

Wellington Branch is putting on a large display at this show. We have been offered the stage in the Town Hall and need helpers with the set up on the Friday afternoon and will need assistance with security on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Additionally we will need help with tidying up at the end of the show on Sunday afternoon.

Would all members please make an effort to assist in some way. Many hands make light work.

The Club is looking at the feasibility of taking a sales table for members to trade a small numbers of items that do not warrant them taking a table themselves. Ideally this will let some members offer a few unwanted items without charge. However, we would expect anyone who avails themselves of this service to actually help with the club display and security etc over the weekend.

If you can help at any stage with set-up, security, displays or tidying up please contact

Alwyn 528-8190



With Anzac Day approaching I wonder how many of our members have visited our National memorial to the Unknown Warrior



Next Meeting

Sunday 3rd April 2005. At the usual venue. Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street Petone. Theme letter for displays "D" Should be plenty of scope this time, how about:- Daggers, Damascus, Deane/Adams, Decapping, Defender, Derringer, Detonator, Double/action/barrel, Dragoon, Dreyse, Drum, Duck, Duelling, DWM.

Reminders

16th & 17th April Wellington Firearms & Militaria Show. Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall.

22nd & 23rd April NZ Antique Arms & Historical Soc Inc. AGM at Whangarei

Subscriptions. Subs are due and accounts were posted out with the last newsletter. If you haven't already paid yours please do so now.