

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Historical
and Antique Arms

Association Wellington Branch Inc.

March 2006

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz

President Steve
and Auction Convenor

Vice President Alwyn

Secretary Tim

Treasurer Margaret

Editor Rex

Committee.

Terry
John
Vic
Wayne
John
Glen
Terry
Frank

being held over three days in conjunction with the National Association half yearly meeting. There will be a Management Committee meeting on the Friday and the General Meeting on the Saturday when a new President and Vice President will be elected. A further Management Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday when the new President will outline the direction he wishes the Association to take and the 12 elected Branch representatives will form sub committee's to achieve this.

If there are any issues that you might have and would like to have conveyed to the Management Committee, then talk to me at the next meeting.

Steve

Christchurch Firearms Safety Seminar

February 21st-23rd 2006

The seminar attracted approx 120 delegates with some traveling from overseas representing Canada, USA, Australia and the Pacific Islands. Each country had speakers with each speaking on his or her area of expertise which briefly ranged from,

Permits to carry concealed weapons	USA
Breaking the Barriers – Rural NZ Maori needs.	NZ
Range designs and templates	NZ Army
Range safety records	Australia
Accidental deaths in homes	USA
Hunting incident investigation	USA

Other speakers were from,

NZ Police
NZ Mountain Safety
Colfo
University of Canterbury
to name a few.

It was very pleasing to hear many overseas visitors commend and applaud the NZ system of firearm applicant vetting and the relationship between the NZ Police, NZ Mountain Safety, Colfo and other groups and perhaps this method will start to be used in other parts of the world.

I am aware that our Association has numerous members who have served with the NZ Mountain Safety Club volunteering to do firearms safety courses and assisting with the training of new shooters. This activity has been on going since the mid 1960's and has made a considerable impact on the attitude of the public and authorities to the benefits of "self regulation".

I feel that law abiding citizens have very little to worry about and as long as the huge issues with gangs, the "P" drug industry and boy racers etc continue to stretch Police resources and keep Politicians busy, the prospect of new firearms legislation seems

President's Report

The Presidency of Wellington branch was hotly contested at the AGM, but as you can see, I survived to see another term in office, it was a close run thing and you will have to read all about it in the AGM report.

I would like to welcome the new Committee on board and say a big thanks to Ray B who has stepped down from the committee but is still our resident Arms Dealer and looking after the endorsed items for the auction.

The Committee is constantly looking for ways to entertain members, so please, if you have any bright ideas give one of us a ring.

The July auction is well under way with cataloguing of auction lots and photography of items now completed. Still quite a lot of fine tuning to be done before the catalogue is printed but we have a nice selection of items this year and the auction promises to be a great success.

On the 20th of April Margaret and I are off to Invercargill for the AGM of the National Management Committee. This is

remote. However, public abhorrence to firearms in general is never far from the surface and another tragic multiple shooting incident could soon result in change.

For our part it is essential to remember,

- Keep all firearms safe and secure when not in use.
- Keep firearms deactivated, ie bolt and ammo locked separately when not in use.
- Education. Let children see and handle your gun under your supervision, explain the workings and dangers associated with firearms. Set rules that they must agree to and obey.

All in all it was an interesting seminar,

Alwyn

My two cents worth.

The AGM meeting and Mickey Mouse sale attracted an excellent attendance and although I have some reservations about the tender table sale, the meeting itself went well. A new constitution was approved and name change passed to comply with the National Association rules. Some discussion arose over the need for National Affiliation and the cost thereof, but it was pointed out that our fraternity needs to speak with one voice and the only way we can do this is through a National Association. While the recent history of the National Association has been somewhat tainted, historically the Association has really done great job to protect and advance the interests of the collecting movement and there is no reason to believe this will not continue in future. Hopefully the problems of the past are well behind us now.

Steve was re-elected unopposed and is carrying on the heavy burden of President and Auction convenor. We are very fortunate to have a man like Steve who is able to devote so much time to the Branch. Ray B has stood down from the Committee after a long association but is continuing to act as our Licenced Arms officer. Our thanks go to Ray for his sterling effort. It was very pleasing to see Frank T accept nomination and be unanimously voted on to the Committee. Frank is a long standing member and I am sure will be a great asset to the committee.

Our own catering at the Workingmens Club is now almost a thing of the past. Under new OSH hygiene rules they cannot allow us to bring in our own food for meetings although we are still permitted to provide biscuits with the tea and coffee. In effect we have to buy from the Workingmens Club or go without, so it's goodbye to the other food that Wayne usually bought in for the meetings.

Wayne has recently had surgery to correct a torn shoulder muscle and is presently convalescing. He is unable to lift or work for another couple of months and is unable to drive so won't be handling any catering duties for some time now. I thought he was in danger of becoming bored with himself but I hear he has managed to wangle a lift up to the Hawkes Bay auction so he is definitely on the improve, however we wish him a speedy recovery.

As our old name tags have been made obsolete by the new name change it was agreed the Branch should bear half of the cost of new tags for all financial members and Margaret has been arranging the production of these. For those who missed the last meeting the cost is \$5 so please order one asp. New tags ordered should be available at the next meeting, so when you do get one please wear it.

Subscriptions have been rolling in and at the last count over 2/3rds of members had renewed their membership. If you are one of the few who have not yet paid please attend to this right away.

Ed



At the last range day Robin was seen doing a good job of encouraging and supervising a young enthusiast, whom I understand was consistently hitting the target.



Some of the old hands at the Club Range Day with their big bangers

AGM Report

After having breakfast with Wayne we arrived at the Workingmens Club at 10am, to find the hall already half full of members, some with arm loads of items for the mickey mouse auction/tender table .

Rex and Margaret were recording flat out with Ray and his team labelling and setting the auction lots out , such was the volume we had to delay the start of the AGM while items were still being processed.

However we got under way with a few moments silence for deceased members John Mck, Julian W and Andrew W, then Margaret read the financial report which was well received and showed the Branch with a healthy bank balance. The next item was the adoption of a new Constitution a change of name and a new set of rules. A copy of the Constitution and rules had been circulated two weeks before the AGM so everyone had a chance to read them thoroughly. There was some constructive discussion and then both rules and constitution were adopted unanimously.

The election of officers went smoothly with all members (apart from Ray B) of the out going committee agreeing to stand again, a call for more nominations produced an old

battle scarred cowboy, complete with his Winchester, welcome aboard Frank .

Under general business the joint National and Branch sub was discussed and the branch sub for 2007 was voted on, this will remain the same for the 2007 financial year as well.

Name badges were discussed and new ones will be ordered for members with the Branch paying 50% of the cost .

After the meeting Wayne served up tea, coffee, savories and cake. The tender tables had been open the whole time and as closing time approached a feeding frenzy atmosphere pervaded the room.

Some good prices were achieved and some bargains had with everyone hopefully going home happy

After cleaning up, a few of the diehards retired to the bar for a well earned beer

Steve.



A view from Fort Balance (we visited last month) down on to Karaka Bay. The Fort had a high concrete wall with rifle slots to protect it against a land based attack from this direction.



Would you believe. Our keen Garand collector shooting with a bolt action rifle on the Club Range day.



Cooks at the Christmas Barbecue

10th Annual Field Trip of the Defence of New Zealand Study Group by Tim R.

Several members of our club have asked me about coming on these field trips and how they are publicised. They grew out of a trip around sites in the Wanganui region by Peter Cooke and Tim Ryan in the middle of the 1990's. Peter Cooke, who is not a militaria collector or a member of Antique Arms, publishes a journal called "*Forts & Works*" devoted to fortifications of all periods in Australasia and the Pacific. Peter's journal is the only publication that advertises the event and we find that because we use our own cars that it is totally unmanageable to have more than 30 - 40 people attending a Field Trip. Many sites are on private land and permission to visit must be obtained from land owners. A number of the field trips have involved the help of Department of Conservation staff and archaeologists so any suspicion of illegal digging or use of metal detectors on archaeological sites relating to the New Zealand Wars will mean our Field Trips will come to a sudden halt. This is not in any way an elitists or academic group but tends to involve ordinary people who have a great interest in our Colonial Wars.

This year our Field Trip was to the Gisborne area and involved visiting three main sites,

The Siege of the Hau Hau Pa Waerenga-a-Hika of November 1865 near the present day town of Ormond, Matawhero just south of Gisborne the site of the Poverty Bay Massacre perpetrated by Te Kooti and the Siege of Te Kooti's Pa on Ngatapa Mountain. Our group rendezvoused at the Matawhero Church one of the few buildings that was not burnt to the ground during the November 1868 attack. Te Kooti harboured hatred for a number of the military settlers and members of his own tribe, blaming them for his deportation to the Chatham Islands. Despite warning of an impending attack the settlers were taken by surprise and 33 Europeans and 37 friendly Maoris were murdered. We visited the Makaraka Cemetery is now situated in suburban Gisborne where the victims of the massacre are buried in a common grave.

The most impressive site visited on this year's field trip was Ngatapa Pa, a position that is possibly the most spectacular New Zealand War site in the country, situated on a huge mountain some 30 kms inland from Gisborne on the Opotiki Road. We drove along Highway 2 until we turned off onto a dusty side road, driving up a high escarpment, before opening a farm gate and driving down a farm track for several kilometres before fetching up on a flat in a valley just below Ngatapa Mountain. From there it was a two hour walk to the summit over a rough farm track negotiable only by 4 wheel drive in dry weather. The weather was clear and sunny and the view from the summit of the Pa was spectacular with a glimpse of the sea in the far distance. The siege of Ngatapa occurred some two months after Matawhero also known as the Poverty Bay Massacre and it is hard to understand why Te Kooti choose to made his stand at Ngatapa, a place that is very difficult to escape from, surrounded as it is on two sides by huge cliffs that fall hundreds of feet into deep valleys. The Pa had a limited water supply and is partially overseen by the "Crow's Nest" a hill located some half a mile metres away from which snipers could fire into the Pa's trench lines. An abortive December 1868 attack on the fort by Kupapa led by Major Ropata & Captain Preece ended because of lack of ammunition and dissention over the treatment of prisoners. January 1869

saw a force of 350 Ngati Porou under Ropata and 400 Armed Constabulary Colonel Whitmore to entrench the hill they called the "Crows Nest" and commence to bombard the Pa with a coehorn mortar. Over a period of 3 days saps were dug along the cliff tops on both sides of the Pa and the outer trench was taken. On the final day of the siege 50 Ngati Porou scaled the steep cliff and took the second line of trenches and the defenders retired into the inner defences. Over night Te Kooti's garrison evacuated the Pa and escaped by letting themselves down the perpendicular cliff by means of vines. A ruthless pursuit was ordered and many of Kooti's followers, weakened by hunger & thirst, were captured. A number were executed on the spot and others were taken back to Ngatapa where they were summarily executed by shooting them on the edge of the cliff as utu for the Poverty Bay Massacre. Sixteen of Te Kooti's followers were killed in the siege and a further 120 were killed in the pursuit. Te Kooti survived terrorise the Bay of Plenty and Poverty Bay for a further 3 years.

Our second day in Gisborne of our trip dawned showery as we visited the Captain Cook 1769 landing site an early cemetery and WW2 defences before driving out the Waerenga-A-Hika mission and battle site of 1865 which is presently occupied by St Luke's Anglican Church and a cemetery. The Curate of the church was most helpful and gave us some insight into where Bishop William Williams house must have stood, which was used by snipers of the Colonial Forces during the siege. Waerenga-A-Hika Pa was built by Hau Hau adherents when the Pai Marire religion reached Poverty Bay. Over a 7 day period the besiegers sapped towards the defences and in reply a desperate foray by the defenders took place. The Hau Hau believed that they were invulnerable to bullets but after 34 had been killed and a similar number wounded they found that they had been deceived by their leaders. Morale was running low and the defenders were running short of ammunition so a decision was made to surrender. However a number of Hau Hau escaped through the unguarded swamp at the rear of the Pa. The attackers suffered 11 killed and 20 wounded.

Fighting on the Colonial Side was a warrior named Te Kooti who was accused of firing blanks at the Hau Hau Pa, he denied the charges and was released. However he had many Maori and European enemies who considered him a trouble maker. He was re-arrested and deported to the Chatham Islands as without trial where he gained adherents, overcame his guards, and escaped to the mainland thus beginning another round of warfare.

I had not been to Gisborne for a number of years and found many pleasant changes had occurred. The main street is attractively landscaped with flourishing palms lined with cafes and restaurants. The port area has new apartments and wharf sheds have been converted into eateries.

Tim R.

"Dear Editor

At our last Annual General Meeting, once again the Club showed a very healthy financial balance sheet. The credit for this goes to Committee members, the President and a few general members for their hours of dedicated work. We are fortunate that many of these people are in circumstances and have the enthusiasm to devote so much time to the Club.

It was to be regretted that no one from the floor thought to stand and thank their hard working representatives. What was heard were complaints:

- That capitation with the National body is not value for money;
- That the \$25 Branch sub should be reduced;
- That more should be done to promote the Club's profile in the public arena including exhibitions and shows. The complainant didn't acknowledge that the above mentioned folk already pursue such activities and certainly didn't offer his services for the future.

In 2005 a questionnaire was sent to all financial members asking what they wanted from their club and what effort they were prepared to contribute. The response was poor.

In order to redress the balance I should like to go on record as having had a particularly satisfying year for which I am grateful. This year has included:

- Focused monthly meetings in comfortable surroundings with good eats;
- A lunch with a notable Military Author as Speaker;
- A Christmas lunch with food and wine freely available;
- A Christmas BBQ/shoot again catered without charge;
- A range day if desired;
- Stimulating, informative newsletter every month;
- National Auction being acknowledged as efficiently run, profitable and again a dinner catered for without charge;
- Attractive and up to date web pages.

For a local membership fee of \$25, we are fortunate to enjoy these activities. For a further \$55 I have my interests as a gun collector promoted by a national body, complete with Secretary who I can contact 24/7 if necessary.

This is incredible value for money. Maybe some of our members should reflect on the thought that "you get out what you put in" and support their Club in more practical and positive ways.

Wayne J"

Next Meeting.
Sunday 2nd April at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone from 1.30pm.
 Display theme for the meeting will be letter "M"

Coming events
8th Apr Sth Canterbury Br Auction & Trade Day
22nd Apr NZAHAA AGM at Invercargill
8th & 9th July - Our Auction