

Flint & Cap

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

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

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www.nzaaawgtn.org.nz

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Committee.	
Rex	
John	
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Glenn	
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Brent	

We have three committee members standing down for various reasons and I wish to thank them for their efforts, they have certainly made a difference. The past year has seen the following activities;

- The bus trip to Palmerston North.
- The running of the National half yearly meeting and combined auction which was held in October 2007, profits from the auction going to the National Association.
- Range days run over the summer months with regular shooters turning out for these events.
- The Christmas luncheon.

These activities are always well attended, however it would be nice to see some new faces helping with these events.

Claude Poulsen was awarded life membership many years ago but no certificate of any sort was awarded at the time, so I would like Claude come forward to receive his long postponed certificate.

Wayne Joseph has been a committee member for as long as I can remember, always taking a very active role in club activities such as shifting auction lots, helping cataloguing, tea making, and of course his catering and kitchen skills which are second to none. I can't remember him not running around looking for an urn or milk, so I would like Wayne to come forward to receive the lifetime membership award.

Alwyn.

March AGM Meeting

Owing to us having our AGM and micky mouse auction there were no displays this month so there are no pictures or write ups to post from the meeting

Report for 2007-2008. by President Alwyn Davies

As President 2007 has been an exciting year and 2008 will be no different. As you will be aware we are now in full swing with processing items for the July 2008 auction and the trip to Omaka is starting to take shape. The committee member must be acknowledged for the tremendous effort that is put into running the club. During the year we have witnessed some exceptional displays of an assortment of collectibles. Full credit must go to the exhibitors; your displays are a true honour to see.

Anzac day

With Anzac day nearly upon us for 2008 spare a thought for the history of this commemoration. We know the date of 25th April was the date of the landings at Gallipoli on that fateful day in 1915 when New Zealand and Australian forces were pitted against the Axis forces in Turkey. But this commemoration is now for more than just Gallipoli and the First World War and has long since been extended to cover all subsequent wars.

Our country is dotted with monuments to the fallen with statues or monuments in almost every city and town in the country. What surprises me is the number of fallen in some of the very small communities. It has often been said that New Zealand lost a generation in the First World War and this not difficult to understand when you look at some of the memorials. An example would surely be Glenorchy at the top of Lake Wakatipu and at the time of the First World War would have been even smaller. The memorial there shows a list of 25 names of locals who gave their lives in that war. Another example is Riverton at almost the very bottom of the South Island with a large list of names and one can only wonder at what population that place may have been in 1914.

An unusual example is a bridge built near Mauriceville on the main road north from Masterton where locals built a bridge as a memorial to their sons who died in the First World War. Sadly the bridge, which was built in 1922 is not up to present day traffic requirements and has been superseded by a wide modern structure that aligns with what is now a high speed section of road. The old bridge however remains and has a NZ Historic Places Plaque affixed which suggests that it will always remain as an Anzac memorial. Mauriceville barely makes a mark on the map and even in those days was little more than a place to water the horses yet they lost six men, a number that would surely have been disproportionate to the number of residents when compared with the losses in the larger towns and cities.



War memorials around the country are of numerous types and styles from concrete and stone monuments, church windows, gateways, archways and the like to the more modern

Approach of practical and useful amenities such as halls, parks, swimming pools etc. However there still remain numerous examples of the old memorials. Another spotted recently was the series of stone cairns at Sumner beach in Christchurch and while these do not list names of the fallen they record the names of the battles instead and are spaced along the beach front. An Archway adorns the lakefront in Queenstown and once again this records a long list for the size the place must have been in 1914 but additionally the reverse side of the monument also lists the names of all men from the district who served and returned safely. With a renaissance of interest in Wars that involved New Zealanders, memorials have become more of a focal point than perhaps was the case in years gone by. Take the recent example of the Greymouth War memorial gate posts that were removed without the consent of the community. This created a major uproar which all goes to prove that the public still demands these monuments be treated with respect.

Anzac Day is also taken seriously in Australia and one only has to go to Melbourne to see the huge crowds that turn out for the parade and service at the National War Memorial on Anzac day. As the saying goes “Lest we Forget” but the writer personally had a reminder of this a couple of years ago when several of us dined at a Services Club in Warrnambool Victoria and found the place came to a standstill at 6pm as the Last Post was played over the loud speaker system. We were told that this was done at 6pm everyday the Club was open. Perhaps an extreme example and not something I think should happen here but let us remember the sacrifices that gave us our freedom in this country, even if it is only for a moment.

Rex.



Ruahine Meeting

After Ruahine holding a successful enjoyable bring/buy/display meeting in Palmerston North last year and following popular request we are holding another one this year.

Details will follow but please mark the date in your calendars. Last year a bus and cars came from Wellington and one car came from Central North island.

Last year was a little experimental and we only invited Wellington Branch, this year we would like to extend the invitation officially to Hawkes Bay and Taranaki. Of course, any other branch that wants to attend, would be most welcome. More details will be announced at a later date.

APRIL RANGE DAY.

Due to requests we have managed to book a range day for April.

The date will be Sun 13th April. Should this day be used by members, or our regular shooters we will consider booking an April range day in future years.

Omaka museum trip

This trip is planned for Saturday 26th April. We will be leaving from Wellington airport 9:00 am sharp and returning later in the afternoon, Probably about 4:00.

We have one or two other activities organised for the day once we have finished at the Museum.

We are now taking your money for this trip, and don't want to have outstanding money owing on the day, so payment at the next meeting would be great.

Remember to check your Firearms Licence expiry date

Letter of the month is H and I

Things to think about are: Henry, hand held, holster, Hungarian, hand guns, hats, interesting, Irish, Indian, just to name a few, lets see what else you can come up with.

Venue is Petone Working Mens Club at 1.00pm Sunday 6th April, See you there.

Our guest speaker will attend the meeting and will speak from about 2.15pm onwards, he is looking forward to his visit. If you want to hear his stories please try to be early.

Thanks Alwyn