

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of the New Zealand Antique
Arms
Association Wellington
Branch Inc.
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Kilbirnie

May 2002

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May Meeting and Displays.

Displays included;

- Accuracy and accessories. Lee Enfield Long Tom target rifle complete with an assortment of target sights and instruction manual.
- Artillery piece and artillery part. A wonderful homemade home made cannon and books on British artillery, complete with bottle of plonk.
- Artillery and Airforce collection of hats ranging from WW1 Pickehaube to RNZAF peaked caps, cigarette cases and personal effects belonging to the owner's father.
- Axe collection including specimens from India, Africa and some wonderfully ornate Maori carved items.
- My One Accident !! Very funny story and evidence of the deed, a lesson in checking Arms before storing them. (Sounds like a good one for the newsletter – pity they didn't get more detail.

Ed)

- Another large collection of china featuring Tanks, Machine guns and figures all dating from the First World War.
- Klingon Batlith, hand made Star Trek fighting swords and made to order ! (Andy 526-7773)
- Armed Constabulary display featuring police baton and hand cuffs with documentation.
- Display of NZEF Reunion and souvenir programs mainly concerned with the 12 Field Artillery Battery.
- Automatics, display of 3 handguns. Two Webley and one Colt, all in .38 ACP calibre.
- Australian Imperial Force display consisting of wall charts showing divisional colours and patches from WW1
- Aircraft armament ammunition, collection of various calibres .50, 303, 20mm and even a 70mm rocket.
- Astra Model 4002 Falcon hand gun. A wonderful example fully engraved with Pearlite grips in its original box.
- Artillery plotting calculator featuring grids for different ranges. Does anybody know how these work ?

Thanks to everyone who made the effort to display.
Glen.

Despite the Auckland AGM and the opening of Duck shooting season over 50 members turned up. Not expecting such a large number we ran out of tea bags and milk and had to borrow off the PWMC.

Good to see some of the old faces such as Jim Glover and one or two others.

Tim R sold two boxes of his new book, still has a few left so be quick if you want a signed copy.

Ron S and Margaret B called on their way back from Auckland and Ron gave us a quick run down on events in Auckland.

Vic

We are sorry to report the loss of Daryl Hicks who died on 6th May 2002.

Daryl lived in the Waitara area and over the past few years made a considerable effort to attend our meetings on a regular basis. Such was his interest in collecting that the journey of some four or five hours each way did not deter him and I would suggest that few have shown such dedication. Our sympathy goes to his family and particularly his close friends in our organisation. For the benefit of those who may not have known Daryl so well a copy of his photo from the funeral service sheet, dressed in the uniform of a British Redcoat is attached. Ed



TRIBUTE TO A LEGEND.

In trying to think of a heading for this tribute I felt the above could be "over the top" or "too much," but on reflection and considering my 25 years association with the man, there is no doubt he was a legend.

Daryl Hicks died on the 6th May. He has clinched his last deal. His deals always had an element of mystery about them, Daryl would lean back, tilt his head back, look at you down his nose with eyes squinted and talk in riddles about the proposed deal and his contingency plan if it didn't come off. Daryl had a few setbacks in recent times, deteriorating health was probably the one that tested him the most. Throughout all of these his sense of humour shone through.

I well recall a visit to hospital after his kidney transplant operation. The nurse was informing me that he was taking a shower, when his voice boomed out, come in, come in. On entering the cubicle which was large and had a spare seat, there was Daryl in full view stark naked and with more hoses, tubes and wires coming out of him than the latest Jap motor car. He had not been able to take a shower for some time and was relishing the hotwater running over him. We must have yarned for 20 minutes or more in that situation.

In more recent times when you met up with him and he didn't look so good, on asking how he was doing he would usually reply "never better" with a faint knowing smile, and all the time one sensed that he was far from feeling as good as he made out. Daryl had a big input to his funeral arrangements and even then his humour was evident. From his War Dept marked coffin with "Bugger" written across the end in large black letters, to the messages to all in the service paper. A huge gathering of mourners turned out to farewell Daryl and witnessed a send off in a unique manner, but not entirely unexpected by those who knew him well.

He was carried and spoken of by Wellington Branch members and many others of course in a moving and fitting ceremony. Every organisation has its characters and certainly needs them. We have lost a mildly eccentric, enthusiastic member who usually livened up our meetings in one way or other. Whenever collectors get together in the future and a deal is in the pipeline the name Daryl Hicks is certain to be remembered. The mould is broken, there will never be another so Daryl John Hicks was, is, and always will be a legend.

Des Perado

National Association Annual General Meeting – May 2002 - Auckland.

A good contingent of Wellingtonians made the trip north to join about 80 Aucklanders and other mainly North Island members for this years AGM. As the bulk of the issues facing the Association had been fully discussed at the Executive meeting on Friday, the meeting did not take too long to cover the scheduled business.

Our new President, Paul Shoebridge was welcomed by acclamation and Ted Rogers was re-elected as Vice President.

Both of the Remits circulated, having been fully discussed earlier, were withdrawn and following the outgoing President’s report, items including the financial position were discussed. Ted reported on the current position with COLFO and with this being election year, reminded everyone of the importance of the selective and considered use of both of our votes at the time of the Parliamentary elections. COLFO will again be canvassing the position of all of the political parties and Branches were encouraged to invite local political candidates to our meetings to make sure they understood our views. This will also confirm to them the depth of our feelings and that many of our members would only be supporting candidates with whom similar views are shared on firearms ownership and related issues. Ted also raised the possible need for COLFO to have access to additional funds for a “fighting fund” if unacceptable legislation or other restrictions were to be advocated for responsible firearms owners.

Following the completion of the formal part of the day, the auction got under way and some good prices were realised. It was unfortunate to see the number of items withdrawn, especially after the very high prices recently recorded in Auckland and to those there from Wellington it appeared the restrictions on the number of people allowed to bid was one factor in this.

Most of those from Wellington came home with a new treasure, either from the auction itself or from one of the number of trade tables also at the venue.

Another good weekend and the chance to renew friendships with members of our Association.
Ron.

Another Unfortunate Accident.

Thinking of accidents with firearms brings to mind an experience of a friend of mine. This fellow purchased a new lever action rifle in 308cal which had a Mannlicher-Schoenauer type rotary magazine. On top of the receiver was a little indicator window that showed the number of cartridges in the magazine. He and I returned from a deer shooting expedition very late one night and I dropped him off at his house. He went into the laundry and discarded his gear then proceeded to unload his rifle by operating the lever action and ejecting the live rounds. He did this a number of times until he saw the indicator read zero then pulled the trigger. Boom and rifle went off. He then discovered the counter did not include the round in the breech.

Next morning after he had finished milking I went around to his place and his wife gave me an earful about what a rowdy pair we were, waking her and the children up in the middle of the night, what was all that noise about etc. My friend Trevor played dumb and I didn’t really know what she was on about but thought it must have been the car or Trevor’s dog that woke them. Shortly after she went into the laundry to put on a load of washing and came back complaining that her washing machine wouldn’t work. My friend gave me a knowing look and finally the story came out. The rifle had discharged and was pointed towards the washing machine when it went off, the bullet just missed the bowl and went into the skirt of the machine. We discovered it had smashed the motor away from the gearbox, deflected out the other side and gone through 5 walls of the house. All from a soft nose hunting round.

Luckily nothing else was hit and the machine didn’t leak water otherwise we would have been in even more trouble. Needless to say we weren’t very popular and my friend had to buy a new washing machine.

Rex

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER.

Subscriptions for 2002 are now overdue. If this box is coloured yellow your sub has not been recorded as received so please put pen to paper right away, otherwise next may be a red card.



NZSRA Postal Shoot Results

Wellington Branch members and friends featured well in the results of the first New Zealand Service Rifle Assn (NZSRA) postal shoot.

Fourteen, three shooter teams competed, ranging from the Bruce Rifle Club in Dunedin to the Northland Black Powder Club (NBPC).

The shoot consisted of three matches, Trinity, Action M and The Mad Minute, all shot at 100yds with "as issued" service rifles.

The winners were NBPC (919 pts) with the WN NZAAA team of **John H, Henry F** and Chris P (I did say "and friends") coming second and scoring 892 pts. WSRA Pink!!! were third and the three other WN NZAAA teams placed lower (7, 8 & 12 places if you have to know).

In the Best Shooters results **John H** was first equal with Bill G (NBPC).

In the Individual Match results **John H** was first in The Mad Minute, second in Action M and third in Trinity. **Michael D** placed third in The Mad Minute.

Next Meeting.

Sunday 2nd June at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone from 1.30pm. Theme for displays will be the letter B. Some suggestions; Boxer, Braendlin, Bowie Knife, Box Lock, Breech Loading, Bren, British, Brno, Browning, Brunswick, Bullets plus new acquisitions or anything of interest.



Photos,

Top left. Auto Pistol display

Left 2nd down. Early Axes

Left 3rd down. Model Cannon

Left 4th down. Airforce and other Hats.

Left 5th down. Lee Enfield target rifle.

Above. Airforce Armament display.