

# Flint & Cap

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

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie  
WELLINGTON.

July 2004

[www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz](http://www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz)

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|------------------|----------|
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| Vice President   | Alwyn    |
| Secretary        | Phil     |
| Treasurer        | Margaret |
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| Editor           | Rex      |
|                  | Email    |
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| Tony             |          |
| John             |          |
| Ron              |          |
| Vic              |          |
| Wayne            |          |
| Glen             |          |
| Tim              |          |
| Ron              |          |

On the National front most of you will be aware that the National Body has changed its name from NZAAA to NZAHAA (New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association).

This has come about to cover a lot of the items we collect that are perhaps not strictly antique but are quite historical ie a firearm from the Second World War or Vietnam may not be antique but is certainly of historical interest to New Zealand. Our Wellington Branch will consider changing but as an Incorporated body we cannot change our name without a vote at an AGM so this will be discussed at a later date nearer our AGM.

Of the 12 branches in the National Association only four were incorporated at the last National AGM however, since then Canterbury Branch has become incorporated, but has done so under the name of Canterbury NZAAA (without the word Branch, or including the new name). The old Canterbury Branch has been wound up and the assets transferred to the new club. This would appear to be contrary to the National Association's rules and talks are continuing with the Canterbury Executive Committee over the move. At the time of writing there is some doubt whether the General Meeting and auction that was to be held by Canterbury in October will be going ahead.

Moving on to other business, the legal situation the National Association is facing is at a standstill for the moment, the whole thing is in the hands of lawyers, and out of ours. I understand they are following due process, it appears to be like an expensive game of chess. (I just hope they aren't waiting for the cheque mate).

However, all is not doom and gloom, there is the Tauranga Gun Show in August and the Auckland Gun show in October and possibly a General Meeting in Canterbury so there is plenty to look forward to including our next meeting on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, hope to see you all there.

Steve

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## Presidents Perspective

Greetings fellow collectors, another month has gone by, and for those of you that are not aware we had an auction, there is no hope for some. Our annual auction was a great success, helped of course by the efforts of many of our club members and other willing helpers. It would have been nice to see a few more different members helping, but hey you only get out what you put in to a Club like ours.

This year Todd Foster our auctioneer had strained his voice so he brought down his business partner and they ran a tag-team system, this worked very well and we had cut through 1100 lots by just after 5pm. A happy hour started at 6pm with Wayne and his team providing free drinks and nibbles, this was followed by a buffet meal and a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary birthday cake, complete with the Branch logo in marzipan. Everyone sampled a piece and the whole effort went down particularly well and generated a lot of goodwill.

Sunday went smoothly with some good prices realized and the auctioneers finishing off by mid-afternoon. Once again a team of willing helpers cleaned up and packed out. My thanks to all who helped. We had a lot of positive comments, however it was unfortunate there had been another auction two weeks beforehand and this disappointment was reflected in a good many of the comments I received.



Some of the punters at the start of the auction

## Auction 2004 – Vice President’s Report.

After a few weeks of intense activity and finalising tender table lots the day arrived and it was all on. Friday set-up started slowly with helpers starting to arrive from about 9.30am and after some 5 hours of sorting shifting and checking it all started to look pretty good. By 4pm there was a steady flow at the registration counter as keen punters began arriving with viewing continuing until after 8.30pm.

On Saturday morning Todd and Peter had the hammer tapping by 9am sharp and kept the lots tuning over briskly all day. The Saturday evening social event went very well with a chance to catch up with mates that haven’t been seen for a year and spin a few yarns. On Sunday Todd was back at it again by 9am and had the final 600 lots processed by mid afternoon.

Once again we were a bit light on members helping in many areas of the weekend operation. We really need to make a better effort in the regard next time around. However, helper of the auction must go to Vaughan Jackson of Blenheim who gave a huge effort in both set-up and pack-up. As usual prices seemed stronger than ever with many withdrawn lots being snapped up on the Sunday.

A big thank you must go to the crew in the kitchen who once again kept everybody well fed and lubricated and the others who helped with other duties including administration, security, sleepover, parcel wrapping on the following Monday and finally to the auction convenor who has done a great job. Without the huge effort made by these people this popular event just couldn’t happen. Thanks to all involved.

Alwyn

## Administration Report.

It seems that an Auction wouldn’t be an auction without some problems but fortunately this year we seem to have got on top of most of the old bug bears. This year we networked three computers which enabled us to proceed with routine loading and checking of sales on one machine without disturbing the operator unduly for inquiries. The second was used for inquiries and recording items picked up and the third for producing accounts. Generally this was the pattern although any one of the three could handle the work of the others. This gave us a good flow pattern and we could easily produce invoices faster than the cashiers could count and record the money, or than the other team could locate and hand over sold items.

We changed the bidding numbers to a maximum of three digits this year, much to the dislike of many of our regulars who have had the same numbers for years, but this seemed to assist the auctioneers who coped better with three digits than four digit numbers and we only had one case of an incorrect number being written down by the auctioneer.

The classic bobo was a member who wrote his number on a tender table ticket with the lead figure a one but made such a feeble attempt to write the lead figure we were all thought it was nothing but a smudge and the item went to the person with the same third and fourth numbers. This person said “I didn’t buy that” and after our team and himself had examined the card he agreed it was his number he said “what the hell it’s only a dollar” don’t worry about reversing it. The following day we received a plaintive call from our member who dearly wanted that lot. Pity he hadn’t put a realistic bid and then there would have been no question of the wrong person accepting it.

I think it would be fair to say this was the best organised and run auction I have ever been involved with even although we had several minor problems with the computer programme, the difficulties were few and far between. I am uncertain whether attendance was a record but it was certainly very close and there was little time lost in recording attendances and issuing bidding number cards with no undue delays or queues.

It was good that our Past President Ron was able to attend but sad to see he is confined to a wheelchair. Ron was the very first to register and in this regard the support we get from members could certainly be improved. I note that only 52% of our own Branch members attended or supported the auction in person or with postal bids, and that figure excludes overseas members. Certainly we all know that you can never expect to get 100% support for any event but 52% is nothing to rave about. What it really amounts to is that a very small percentage of the membership is doing one hell of a lot of work for the benefit of the majority. It will be interesting to note how many of the non attenders front up for a free luncheon if that practice continues again this year. However, as Steve says “you only get out of it what you put in” and this certainly applies to our Club.

The parcel wrapping day went extremely well with several members bringing their wives along to help. The venue for this job is second to none and the work was done by early afternoon with only the recording of weights and measures to be completed. As usual Margaret took this on her shoulders and spent most of the week battling away with a mountain of parcels, the costing of freight and charging buyers who settled with credit cards. This is another case of too much being work being lumbered on one person and something that will have to be addressed in future.

A day or two after the auction Steve received a call from an Invercargill bidder who looked up the list of Prices Realised on the internet and complained that an item was sold for \$240 when he had lodged a postal bid for \$251. We were pleased to tell him to wait for his invoice as he was the successful bidder. Perhaps the lesson here is not to publish the Price Realised list too early.

A special thanks to my team who made the job so much easier than ever before.

Rex

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The parcel wrapping hall - when it’s all wrapped up



**Our President Steve in jovial mood**



**A view of proceedings from behind**



**A few of the parcel wrapping team enjoying a cuppa**



**Two of the wives, Tess & Robin who helped out in kitchen.**



**Some of the punters enjoying the buffet on Saturday evening**



**Steve about to cut the Anniversary cake - and not a sword to be seen**



**The Anniversary Cake which went down well**

I have received the following list of websites from a member who suggests they may be of interest to our group. I haven't perused them myself yet but intend to do so before too long. Ed

The Times newspaper 1830s to 1960.

Can search for & download newspaper articles.

Good for WW2 actions.

password is "trial"

<http://web4.infotrac.galegroup.com/>

British & German WW2 reconnaissance Aerial photos.

<http://www.evidenceincamera.co.uk/>

London Gazette newspaper, good for WW1 & WW2 promotions & decorations.

Can search for & download newspaper pages.

<http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk/>

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, named index of all cemeteries.

Shows Surname, Rank, Service, Date of Death, Age

,Regiment, Nationality ,Grave/Memorial Ref.

,Cemetery/Memorial Name

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

UK 1901 census

<http://www.census.pro.gov.uk/>

You may find the owner of a named firearm here & get age & where he is living.

Any more info costs \$\$\$\$!

WWI record of medals:

<http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk>

where they have Medal Cards. You have to pay £3.50 to view it.

#### **Our Next Meeting**

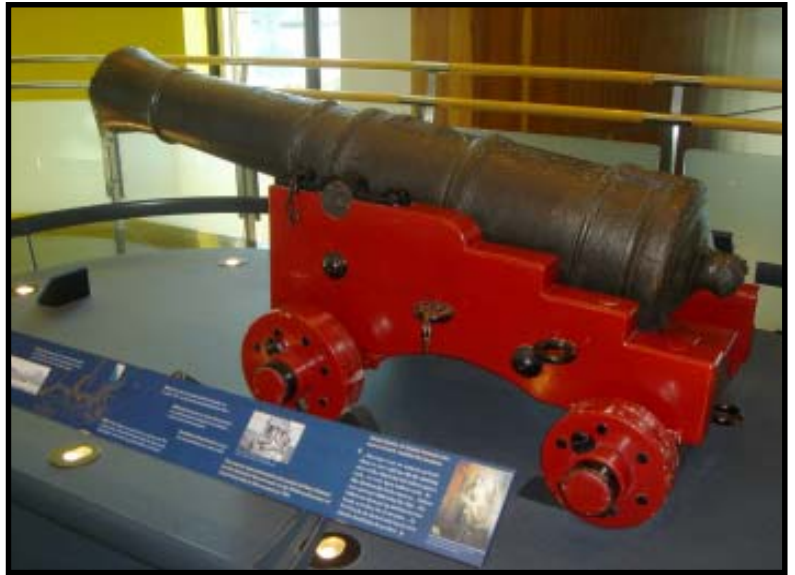
**Sunday 1st Aug 2004** – at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone from 1.30pm.

Display theme for the meeting will be the letter **W**. That should bring a smile to the Winchester, Webley and Wilkinson collectors.

Some other suggestions, Waffan, Walker Wesson, Westley Richards Wheelock, Whitney Whitworth and I am sure our resourceful clan will think of something original and unusual to surprise us with.

**Reminder.** See your Antique Arms Gazette June 2003 for details of the Arms & Militaria Show in Tauranga 21st & 22nd August.

**Reminder - Have you checked you firearms licence expiry date. Several people who registered at our auction had left their registrations late and were relying on letters of confirmation as they awaited renewals.**



**A cannon from Captain Cooks ship Endeavour which was jettisoned when the ship got stuck on a coral on the Australian Great Barrier reef on 11th June 1770. This cannon was salvaged after lying in water for 200 years and was presented to the people of New Zealand by the Government of Australia. The cannon is displayed in Te Papa National Museum Wellington.**

**On the subject of Te Papa - the museum has an excellent display on Antarctica and the race to the Pole by Scott and Amundsen. This is well worth the small entry price and a great insight into the hardships, heroism and failures of the British explorers who gave their lives in this venture.**



**Wellington on the sort of winter day we hold our auctions. The old floating crane Hikitea in the foreground with Te Papa National Museum in the background.**