

Flint & Cap

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

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON

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www.nzaawgtn.org.nz

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Tim



From the President.

It is with regret and sadness that I have to report the death of our Past President Ron Stewart.

Ron passed away on the 14th of August after suffering a debilitating illness from which there was little chance of recovery. He carried this burden in his usual cheerful and uncomplaining manner and continued his interest in the Branch activities in spite of his illness. The high regard in which Ron was held, was evident by the large number of branch members present at his funeral, and also by the moving tributes from friends and family, which included a Saxophone solo from one of his musician friends.

Ron joined the Wellington branch in 1976 and he served on the committee, had two terms as President, only stepping down in March because of ill health. He was a life member of the Wellington branch and a recipient of the Perham Medallion for services to the NZAAA. Ron's collecting knowledge was vast, and he and Maxine had an interesting and varied collection, which included china, sharpening steels, saxophones, as well as militaria.

Ron was an authority on Tranters, and over the years had researched widely and built up a world-class collection. He had also written a book on the subject, almost getting it to the publishing stage before illness prevented him finishing it.

Ron was a driving force behind the branch and our successful auctions for many years. Always calm and level headed, he was a strong supporter of Antique Arms and a voice of reason and moderation in many a difficult situation, his wide knowledge and long experience will be sadly missed. Our hearts go out to Maxine and the family who have shown great strength and fortitude in the eighteen months or so since Ron was first struck down with signs of his illness.

Our condolences to Maxine and family.

Steve

Items on display – August meeting.

The letter W certainly brought out all sorts, World Wars – Winchester – Webleys, Watches etc, etc.

- Webley revolvers and Webley can launcher.
- WW1 Colt .45 Semi Auto pistol.
- Webley revolver complete with bayonet.
- Soldier's Bible
- Webley cartridge collection.
- Advertising brochure on Westley Richards firearms.
- Winchester Model 1889 lever action rifle in .46-70cal
- Whitney Kennedy lever action rifle in .44WCF
- Webley Wilkinson revolver in .450-455 with historic information
- Winchester ammo packets and watches.
- NZ marked Snider Rifle marked BSA&M Co 1874
- Wellington Harbour photos, maps and relevant books.
- Whitworth tap and die set with thread gauge set in a case marked Sir W.G.Armstrong, Whitworth & Co Ltd. Manchester 1913
- A "Wonderful" display illustrating the history of the British Army in New Zealand from the 1840's to the 1870's. This was all in a glass framed case and included items such as a pair of New Zealand Wars medals, a belt buckle, a cross belt plate, a helmet plate, forage cap regimental numbers, a collection of Regimental buttons displayed with miniatures of soldiers of the time and their rifles. All in all an outstanding collection of Militaria items of the period.
- T.Wilson's Patent conversion of the muzzle loading Enfield to breech loading.
One of several ingenious ideas to modernise the stocks of old muzzle loading Enfields.
This system was probably considered too complicated and ultimately lost out to the Snider conversion system. Never-the-less a very rare item and interesting exhibit.
- Ammo – large collection including whale killer wooden projectile, Welcom dummies, Warrior AGV rounds.
- Waffen and Walther, a nice display of water bottles, ammo pouches, bayonets, cutlery, rifle cleaning kit, helmets, handguns etc.
- Wade and Windsor mugs of various shapes and sizes.
- Worked and Woven cotton embroidery items.
- Westley Richards sporting carbine 45cal in 1 ½" case with unusual Martini action.
- Winchester Lever action rifle Model 1895 in .405cal with India Sub Continent retailer's markings.
- Westclox, a number of early time pieces.
- Winchester Shotguns in 12g and .410
- Webley and Scott air rifles.
- Unusual Walther 12g semi auto shotgun with relevant documentation
- Westley Richards rifle dated 1880.
- Winchester, more of them in .22cal and .32cal.
- WW1 posters, nicely glazed.
- What's new, some latest acquisitions, helmets and bullet proof jackets.

Alwyn



Walther verse a Webley with bayonet. (While some early percussion pistols were fitted with bayonets but these were hardly an effective accessory for modern warfare.)



Our guys examining the finer points of a couple of helmets.

Bus Trip - Waiouru Military Museum.

The Club is looking at running a bus trip to the Military Museum at Waiouru. We are hoping to obtain access to some of the non-public areas as well as the usual public displays and are currently working on this.

At this stage we are planning to leave from the Johnsonville – Porirua area at around 7am – 7.30am with one or two pick-up points along the way probably in October or November and most likely on a non meeting Sunday.

It will be a case of first in first served and there will be a charge of \$20 per person (non refundable) towards the bus fare with the Branch paying the balance.

Pick-ups could be Johnsonville, Porirua, Paraparaumu, Levin & Sanson or other points by arrangement. Members arranging pick-ups will be expected to carry a cell phone and be at the pick-up points on time without fail.

It will likely be a full day with return probably around 7.30pm and we anticipate filling one of the larger busses.

Should you be interested please contact Phil or Alwyn to secure your seat or seats.



Display illustrating the history of the British Army in New Zealand.

Buying at Auction.

In recent times – our last two or three Club auctions, I have been asked numerous questions about the procedure of bidding and buying at auction. To most of us it is pretty basic but many newcomers are often a little uncertain and perhaps nervous about the sale process or being landed with something they may not have wanted.

So here goes,

1. When you receive an auction catalogue read it through and mark the items that interest you.
2. Read the terms and conditions that are printed in the catalogue and if you don't understand any of these seek advice about the matter before the auction.
3. Make a point of going to the viewing and check out the items that interest you. Be certain that any particular item is what you want and make a note of what you are prepared to pay for it.
4. On the day of the auction make certain you get along early and after registering you will be issued with a bidding number card. Get yourself into a position where you can see both the auctioneer and the items that are being held up.
5. When sales are approaching a Lot that interests you don't go off for a cuppa or a yak to your friends, stay focussed and be patient. The auctioneer will call for bids that he believes will attract interest and quickly work his way through until there is only one bidder left. At this point he will either tap his hammer to denote a sale or advise that the reserve has not been reached. In this latter event he may ask the final bidder if he is prepared to pay



The forend of the Walther 12g Semi Auto shotgun with a small plate engraved with what appears to be OK. If anyone has any knowledge of such a plate the owner of this gun would be very pleased to know about it.



T. Wilson conversion of an Enfield Musket to a capping breech loader

whatever sum was the reserve price. Alternatively he may ask if the vendor is prepared to allow the sale to proceed at less than the reserve price. Generally, in these circumstances the bidding will be reasonably close to the reserve price. If no one is prepared to pay the reserve price the item will be withdrawn.

6. Later in the auction it is our practice to display withdrawn items and you may purchase a withdrawn item by agreeing to pay the reserve price. This should be done by contacting the person in charge of that section who will authorise the sale. Remember you may not be the only one contemplating the purchase of a withdrawn item and it doesn't pay to dilly dally too long making up your mind. Many a buyer has found to his or her dismay, that someone else has beaten them to the withdrawn lots table and bought the very item they wanted.
7. Absentee or Postal Bidders. An auctioneer may start or advise of absentee interest, generally by saying the bid is with him and by doing so he may announce a figure and take a bid from the floor only to say his next bid is with him and then take another from the floor and then perhaps will say the bid is with him and so the price will increase. This is often somewhat confusing to newcomers but the system is fair and above board and works as follows:

If for example an item has a reserve of \$200.

The auctioneer may have two postal bids, one being \$200 and the other \$250 so he will start the bidding at \$210 and by doing this

has knocked out the postal underbidder and is now trying attract a bid of \$210 from the floor and if none are forthcoming he will to purchase the item for the postal bidder as cheaply as possible which in this case would be for \$210. If a floor bidder accepts the \$210 he started at he will then increase the bidding by \$10 to \$220 on behalf of the postal bidder and then call for \$230 from the floor. If the floor bidder is prepared to go to \$230 he will accept that bid then increase it by another \$10 to \$240 on behalf of the postal bidder. If no further bids can be extracted from the floor the sale will go through to the postal bidder for \$240 but if the floor bidder continues he will have to bid in excess of \$250 to beat the postal bidder.

8. Make a note of the item number and your bid on the reverse of your card or in your catalogue to remind you of the number of items you have purchased.

Alwyn

Questions invariably asked – and answers.

1. What is the reserve? This information is held by the auctioneer and not disclosed until after the item is offered for sale.
2. Is there any postal interest on a particular item? Again this information is held by the auctioneer and not disclosed until after the item is offered for sale.
3. What time will the auction start – finish?
Read you catalogue, but start will generally be 9am sharp. Finish is difficult to establish without a crystal ball.
4. How many lots will be auctioned / before lunch / today etc ?
Very difficult to set times but we generally get through at least 1000 item on the first day.
5. What will a particular item sell for ? I really love this one.
Once again the crystal ball comes into play. However, if you hold your card up really high when the item is offered for sale you will most likely become the proud owner.
In due course, and on payment of the purchase price, you will be issued with an invoice and then are able to collect the item from the dispatch area. If the item was a restricted firearm you will have to take your invoice to the Police Officer present and obtain the necessary permit before you can uplift the item.

I hope this helps some of you and good luck with your future bidding.

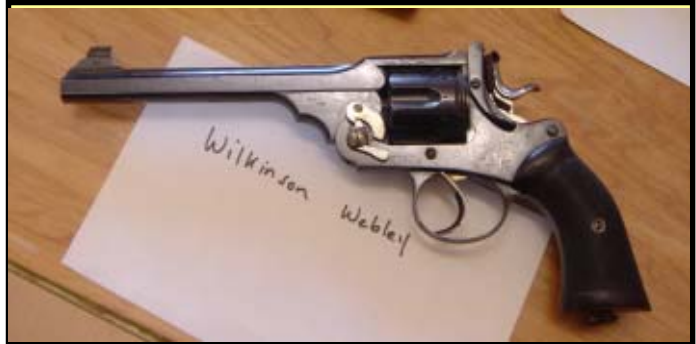
Alywn

Branch Survey.

The Committee has decided to run a survey to obtain input from the members on how the Club could be improved or changed. A form will be included with your Flint & Cap and members are requested to complete and return this at the next meeting or by post. The survey is to be completely anonymous and no identification is required.

Please attend to this promptly as questionnaire forms should be returned by 20th September.

Ed.



A Wilkinson Webley revolver in .450/455 cal

NEXT MEETING

A repeat of last years most successful

BUY – SELL – TRADE - SWAP

Sunday 5th September at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone from 10.30am

Note the early start. Yes there will be some snacks available at lunch time and afternoon tea but for those with a hunger and a thirst the Club has excellent Bistro and Bar facilities that are available to our members on the day. Be sure to wear your name tag.

We are hopeful of another tremendous response with a wide range of items on offer.

This a wonderful opportunity for members to dispose of surplus collectables at no cost to the seller so sort out those unwanted treasures and bring them along for another fun day. Don't forget to bring some cash as most sellers have a preference for the folding stuff.

Display items will of course still be welcome, so bring along something either to show or sell.