

Flint & Cap

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

Sept 2002

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1st September Meeting.

A **GREAT SUCCESS** was the general reaction to the "Buy, Sell, Trade, & Swap Day" held for our September 2002 meeting. Both sellers and buyers were out in force and every table seemed to be doing its share of business. A wide range of items were on offer including medals, badges, shooting accessories, books, magazines, silks, spare parts, rifles, shotguns, revolvers, sights, ammunition, equipment, uniforms & hat, bayonets, knives & daggers – in fact just about everything our members collect. The Branch took the opportunity to market a number of items and members responded magnificently by dusting off their wallets and buying well.

Wanganui and Palmerston North were well represented as usual and with book signings and a sprinkling of displays, another well attended meeting resulted.

Wellington Branch Web Page.
For those on computer the reference is;
www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz

A special feature of the meeting was the regaining by the Branch of a shooting trophy that had almost become lost. The trophy, originally presented to the Branch in 1972 by the Late B.F.J. Percival, had been traced by Claude Poulson, after a painstaking search. Claude, a previous long serving Branch Secretary and Life Member of the Association, collected the trophy from Palmerston North and used the September meeting as an opportunity to return it to the Branch. The carved figure of a crouched Maori warrior (as featured on the old one shilling coin) is holding a double barrelled percussion shotgun, one of the favourite Maori weapons of the Land War period. The trophy, which has made a welcome return to the Branch Trophy cabinet, commemorates the 1864 Battle of Orakau and will feature during our shooting programme later in the year.

Another worthwhile meeting for the Branch, confirming once again that the collecting spirit is alive and well here in Wellington.
Ron.



Claude handing Ron the late B.F.J. Percival trophy which he recently located in Palmerston North .



A close-up of the Percival trophy



Martin examining a Pattern 53 Percussion Carbine at the buy, sell, swap meet.



Above and below, selections of items on offer at the swap meet.



Items on display at the Porirua Museum.

Top Right; 1942 Chrysler Dodge Reconnaissance Vehicle complete with power winch on the front.

Centre Right. Diaorama with Jeep & Indian Motor Cycle etc.

Lower Right. GMC truck, Military tent & Radio equipment

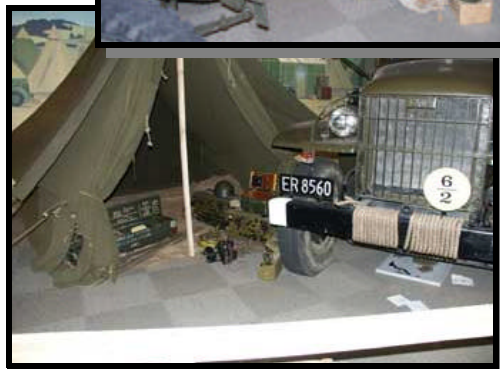
US Marines in New Zealand.

Members interested in the Pacific War should pay a visit the Pataka Porirua Museum where there is presently an excellent display about the American troops in New Zealand from 1942 with particular emphasis on the Marines camped at Paekakariki.

An extensive photographic record is displayed together with several restored American vehicles and a full sized diorama of life in the camps. Newsreel clips from the time are also played through video machines. It was interesting to note that credit for the displays included the name of one of our members. Well done George.

All in all it was well worth taking the time to visit. The display is scheduled to remain until 30th November. I recommend you go and have a look for yourself.

Ed



CLUB RANGE DAYS.

Club Range days are about to re-commence with the next scheduled for **Sunday 13th October.**

The programme will be set up from 9.30am followed by an informal sight in session for any rifle any calibre (maximum range 200metres) This will be followed by a .22rf competition (magnums not permitted in this competition)

Come along, try it out and bring a friend, you will enjoy a good day out.

Bring plenty of ammo, lunch, drink (non alcoholic) warm clothing/wet weather gear.

Alwyn

Shooting Programme.

Iron Chickens. 25 yards standing off hand iron sights. 6 shots.

Iron chickens – 50 yards iron sights, prone sitting or kneeling position, scopes permitted. 6 shots.

Chickens on the Loose. 8 chickens at various ranges, 16 shots. 2 shots per chicken in various shooting positions. A hit with the first shot = 5 points. A hit with the second shot = 2 points. Any .22rf rifle (except magnums.)

Trinity. 75 yards 15 shots. Five shots standing, five shots kneeling, five shots prone. One minute per position.

Ten in Twenty. 10 shots in twenty seconds. Range 50 yards for iron sights. 75 yards for scopes.

Trentham Rifle Range

Members may be interested to learn that the Army has finally seen fit to permit the Seddon Rifle Range at Trentham to reopen for full rifle bore shooting. The Wellington Rifle Association’s summer shooting programme commenced on 7th September with shooting at 500 yards and a fair number of members from the four local rifle clubs enjoyed a good day with favourable weather conditions. I think the consensus of opinion was that all were pleased to be back shooting at Trentham.

Hopefully the Clubs will now be able to pick up from where they left off almost 2 years ago when the

Army suddenly decided the range was unsafe and closed the range. Since then there has been a long battle and the New Zealand National Rifle Association has done a great deal to improve and upgrade safety to satisfy the demands of the Army. It will be interesting to see whether the Army will now upgrade the adjacent Sommerville range which they previously used for their own purposes as there doesn’t appear to be any sign of improvements being made to that range.

No doubt it will not have escaped the notice of members that our shooting team did well at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and also how little publicity they received for their efforts. How often did we see their medal presentations being played or even replayed on TV as compared with some of the more high profile sports persons. The time has come when we must all try to get in behind our shooters and endeavour to ensure they receive the attention they deserve.

Unfortunately shooting is not a great spectator sport but there are a lot of Kiwis who excel at this sport and our team brought home a disproportionately high number of medals compared to the size of the total New Zealand Games team.

Ed.

Wanted

I’m trying to get together some of the old gun oils, bore pastes and other shooting aids that used to be used. For example: Stephen Young, and Marksman oils, Motty paste, sight black, sight pencils, shooting lenses, bore gauges etc.. If you can help please call (06-3548290) or let me know at meeting time. Thanks Allan Colville

Wanted to Buy.

Bolt or bolt head for 1886 Steyr Kropatschek straight pull long rifle. 8 x 57r calibre. David Bell Phone (04) 973-7890



More items from the Buy, Sell Swap meet.

Top A display of old reloading equipment.

Middle. An Officers Model Repro Springfield rifle. Harrington & Richardson Centennial 1871-1971

Bottom. A display of daggers and knives etc.

Auction 2003.

Planning is now underway for another Branch auction to be held in July next year and our convenor reports that some very interesting entries have already been received. If you want to put items in this auction don't leave it until too late to book space or submit your entries. Indications are that we are likely to have a full catalogue and latecomers may be turned away. Every year we have members, often staunch supporters who want something entered after closing date and expect us to turn sommersaults to achieve their wishes. Those days are gone and late entries are unlikely to be accepted in 2003.

New Book—Bearded Brigands

Members may have noticed a write up in the Dominion Post of 14th September on a new book titled **Bearded Brigands** edited by Brendan O'Carroll. By coincidence this book landed in my home a week or so earlier on Father's day and was an interesting read. It was centred on the diaries of a New Zealander who was attached to the Long Range Desert Group. The newspaper reviewer concludes by writing " This is not just a book for those with a military bent; it's a great snapshot of Kiwis at their best." I enjoyed the book myself but thought it was rather sparse on maps of the locations they travelled, perhaps this was because the areas they traversed were uninhabited and considered impassable. Their efforts were truly remarkable. Ed.

Next Meeting.

Sunday 6th October at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm. Display theme for this meeting will be letter E. A few suggestions are; Edged weapons, Enfield, Egg, Ejector mechanisms, Eley, English, Ethnic, Eureka. Our displays are always interesting so let's keep it that way by all bringing out something to contribute.

Below: Another photo from the Porirua Museum display showing some American GI's gear.

