

Flint & Cap

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

Oct 2002

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6th October Meeting.

Another good meeting with displays that included,

- Eley Cartridges including .303, Snider .577, Martini Henry 450/577 and others, all in original packets.
- Cased pair of Colt revolvers in .455 Eley calibre.
- Collection of cutaways, fuses, grenades, bombs and handguns. All sectionalised to show internal workings.
- Early Enfield Long Tom converted to SMLE Cond II then converted to .22 calibre trainer.
- English Armoured Breast Plate and other interesting items.
- Martini Henry Engineer's Carbine in 450/577 cal dated 1884
- Egyptian Martini Enfield with bayonet and other attachments. Marked Citadel 1903.
- Copy of the latest book on BSA Rifles which included details of a rifle from the collection of Tony Stephens and believed to be the only known specimen in existence.
- 23mmx 151B Cannon shell as used in IL-2

Wellington Branch Web Page.

For those on computer the reference is;
www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz

- Stormovick Tank Buster aircraft.
- Excavated, Eating, Eighteenth Century. Collection of unusual items including a small trunk and powder flask.
- English shotguns by various makers including 12g, 14g & 20g together with a bolt action in .410.
- Collection of Enfield rifles from .410 musket, .22 trainers and 7.62mm target rifle.
- Pair of Enfield Long Tom target rifles, one with a BSA aperture sight.

THE COLLECTORZ 2002

A dedicated group of Branch members made quite an impact at the recent public "Models, Hobbies & Toy's Exhibition" at Shed 11 on the Wellington Waterfront.

Our tables and cabinets were all in place on Friday night and on Saturday morning the exhibits were set up in good time for the 10am. public opening, despite a last minute change of location within the venue being required.

Glenn's display of British rifles and bayonets from the Zulu Wars to WWII attracted a lot of attention with a surprising number of people having either used one of the .303 rifles or recognising the medal groups from each of the wars as being won by their parents or grandparents. Alwyn had sprinkled the display with string tied packets of .303 ammunition from the same periods as well as filling cabinets with his impressive packets of shotgun cartridges. These blended very well with John's shotgun reloading equipment and the number of brass and early wooden pieces created a lot of comment. The 1892 clay bird thrower was also recognised by many people and displayed with the hand operated and blank cartridge types of more modern equipment, were very popular exhibits. Ron's flintlock's, percussion pistols and transitional revolvers, displayed with some of their accessories such as flasks and bullet moulds also got some of the parents explaining to their children how firearms worked in earlier times.

A spare table was seen leaning against a wall on Saturday, so it was decided we could add a few more items for the Sunday. Additional bayonets, target rifles used on the historic Trentham range as well as some other interesting bits and pieces were brought out and displayed. Sunday started with an increased public response, possibly because the local radio station supporting the event had increased its publicity and a steady stream of people arrived throughout the day. Many members of the public took the opportunity to take our pamphlets and some even commented that our display was worth the cost of entry on its own.

The public was very positive towards our efforts with a number of ladies asking questions or pointing out items and describing them to their children. There is no doubt that the opportunity to display at events such as this should not be missed and our thanks go to Alwyn for his efforts in liaising with both the organisers and our own members to make it all happen.

BOER WAR HISTORIAN

The following letter was received on 10th October and may be of interest to members

From Geoff Howe
2F Stiles Street
Croydon Park
NSW 2133
AUSTRALIA.

I write to tell you that I have recently published a book **Words of War**, which is based on letters from and newspaper interviews with more than 40 Boer War soldiers from Sydney who fought in the Boer War.

Included is material from NSW Lancers, NSW Mounted Infantry, NSW A Battery, NSW Army Medical Corps, Fighting Charlie Fox, Lieutenant Russell Watson of Pretoria fame, and a soldier who fought at Elands river.

The 124 page illustrated book has been supported by the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs under "Their Service – Our Heritage" program and Burwood (NSW) RSL Sub-Branch.

The book costs **Aust\$20 plus A\$8 economy airmail postage** and handling and is available from me at the above address. Cheques /Money orders should be made payable to Geoff Howe. More details are available on www.sydneyhistory.com.au.



Some photos of our members' displays taken at The CollectZ 2002 Exhibition by John K.

Right hand side Photos taken by Tony of items displayed at the October Meeting.



**Above .Martini Henry Engineers' Carbine. .450/577 cal dated 1884
Right. Pair of Colt revolvers in .455 Cal
Below. Breast Plate Armour etc**



Right . Collection of cut aways with revolvers and tankards etc



NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING
10th November.

A reminder to all members that they and their spouses **must be registered** before they are able to attend the November Luncheon meeting on **Sunday 10 November 2002** at the Petone Workingmen's Club. Confirmed numbers must be given to the caterer before the day and it is therefore critical that all those wishing to attend let Margaret know as soon as possible.

As usual, a display of collectibles will be held and all members and spouses who are attending are invited to participate. The wider the range of items on display the better so table space will be available for the expected large variety of quality items.

Tables will be available from 11 am on 10 November with the luncheon timed to start at approximately 1pm. A menu designed to tempt everyone is planned so make sure you book early and avoid disappointment.

The following dates should also be in your diary;

Sunday 1 December – our final meeting and display at the Petone Workingmen's Club for 2002 and;

Sunday 8 December 2002 – our Christmas Picnic Shoot at the Deerstalker's Range at Kaitoke.

RELICENCING REMINDER.

Have you checked when your Firearms Licence expires? You must apply for your new licence a month before the expiry date of your existing licence and the Police will not send you a reminder. The application forms are now available so check with your local Arms Officer early. Late applications for relicencing will be treated as New Licences with significant extra costs (and possibly delays) being involved.

Yes it's a case of bureaucracy setting their own rules. Can you imagine how many cars would be unregistered if the LTSA left it to motorists to apply to relicence their cars when their registrations expired. Seems to me the Police Department does not have sufficiently detailed records to know whose firearms licences expire at any particular date. There is really no excuse for this, I don't know about you but mine cost the not insubstantial sum of \$200 for a 10 year licence. The high cost was said to be necessary to set up proper records, what rubbish ! If the truth be known it probably all went down the drain with the failed Insis Police Computer debacle. Failure to send out reminders before due date and then make extra charges for overdue licences is a gross injustice by a Government agency and not the way this country should be run. I hope someone or perhaps our National organisation will have the courage to take them to Court to challenge the legality of this "Rule"
Ed

RANGE DAY REPORT – SUNDAY 13TH Oct.

Approximately 15 shooters turned out for our shoot, however as the weather deteriorated a few headed for the warmth of home and the Bathurst motor racing on TV. John B spent a little time shooting and a lot of time cleaning as he was running in a new barrel. Glenn's visitor raised a few eyebrows with the quality of her shooting ability. This young lady had never used a firearm until a few weeks earlier and made quite an impression. Phil was the only one that was keen to have a competition but the weather began to close in by this stage. An enjoyable but cold day was had by all. Alwyn.

CHRISTMAS SHOOT
SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

9am to 10 am Practice.
Competition to commence 10am

Match 1 Iron chickens, 25yds prone. Any .22 rf rifle (except magnums)

This match restricted to under 15yr olds. 6 shots and children must be under the supervision of an adult on a one to one basis.

Match 2 Iron chickens 25yds .22rf (no magnums) iron sights only. 6shots standing.

Chicken trophy for highest scorer.

Match 3 Trinity. NZDA target 100yds. 5 shot standing, 5 shots sitting or kneeling, 5 shots prone. 1 minute each position. Any rifle any calibre and sights. Extra points will be awarded to shooters using Martini action firearms. 15 shots in all.

Lunch break

Cannon shoot and unusual weapon demonstration.

Match 4 Shotgun match for Percival trophy. Steel disk timed ; 4 seconds per shot. Stand on line, load with one round, hold gun in both hands pointing down range and on whistle take aim and fire at disk. Competitors will then have 4 seconds to fire. If you fail to completely knock the disk over, fail to fire or miss the target you are out of the competition. The range will be increased in 5 metre steps until only one shooter remains. No buckshot or solid rounds permitted. Shot sizes 2s, 3s or 4s are recommended for this event with a full choke gun, safety glasses also required. There should be shotguns available on the day for those who do not have a suitable gun.

Match 5 Teams event. 4 shooters per team. .22rf rifles only (no magnums) timed 2 minutes, any sights. Start with all rifles and magazines empty, on signal load and shoot 18 iron chickens and start on NZDA target for scoring shots. Two shooters must sit or kneel, two shooters prone. Iron chickens set at selected ranges, NZDA targets will

be at 50yds. Unlimited shots, however a penalty will be incurred for chickens left standing.

AUCKLAND GUNSHOW.

While this event is not run by the Antique Arms Association and is privately run, it has been held annually for quite a number of years and has proved to be quite a drawcard for collectors. I personally had not been to one of the shows for about eight or ten years but decided to venture up to Auckland this time mainly because a number of our members were also both visiting and involved. In this connection almost 10% of our branch members were seen at the show which was rather surprising considering the event clashed with our normal monthly meeting. Margaret reported that our Wellington branch meeting on the Sunday had a somewhat depleted attendance but still ran to just on 50 members present so there is still considerable interest in collecting one way and another. The Auckland show was set up in a very large hall at Henderson and was packed with trade tables and displays. It was well advertised and well supported and traders appeared to be doing good business. The venue had a large carpark that was pretty well full all the time and there were reports of people driving away because they couldn't find a car park. Steve, Ron, Nathan Wayne and myself were all booked in at the Lincoln Green Motor Lodge as were quite a number of other Antique Arms members. Saturday night culminated with our President Ron showing his prowess at the bar on the Karoke machine. Perhaps he might be persuaded to will give a rendition of his favourite tune at the Xmas luncheon. Wayne and I returned on the Sunday as did Steve's group but they stayed on until the show wound up so were not home until the early hours. All in all it was a good weekend and I think it would be fair to say was enjoyed by all.
Rex

Photos from the Auckland Gun Show. Left. BSA Army push bike—Dad's Army's Dispatch Riders equipment ?



Right. Displays of Model Cannons on sale. Left A display of American Civil War items.



NEXT MEETING

As advised on page 3 our next meeting is the Xmas Luncheon on 10th November.

If you haven't advised Margaret of your intention to attend then **DON'T TURN UP**

We have to prebook the numbers for the luncheon with the Workingmens' Club so if your name is not on the list you won't get a luncheon ticket. It's as simple as that.

Members and spouses are welcome to attend but must advise Margaret by the 7th November.

Those that do attend are requested to mount displays, there is no set theme for displays and any collectibles will be most acceptable with a number of prizes awarded for best presentation etc.



Above. An extremely rare set displayed at Auckland. A NZ Forest Rangers war medal with battle bars and a Forest Rangers badge. I am told that the badge is one of only two known to exist.