

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.nzaaaawgtu.org.nz

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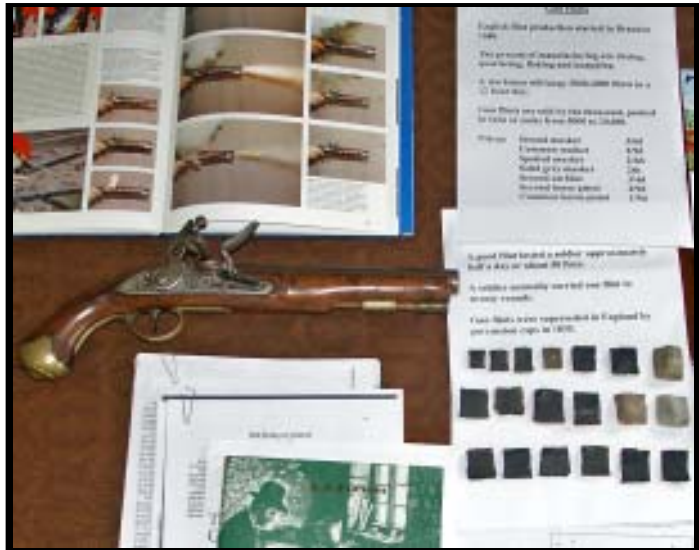
Terry

- Hilter's clock. A ship's clock taken from "The Aviso Grille" by British forces and now resides with one of our members. The Aviso Grille was a Nazi ship built in the 1930's and although it appeared not to have been built specifically for Hilter it was used on occasions of State and for movements of VIP's before it was captured by the Royal Navy in 1945.
- An SLR rifle and accessories including design drawings and parts in various stages of manufacture which illustrated the complexity on individual pieces.
- Shaving gear, an extensive display of old shaving gear including cut throat razors and sharpening stropps, numerous shaving mugs of various types with badger hair brushes. There were Rolls Patent safety razors as well as a number of other safety razors. An illustration of items that were part of every day life until the advent of the electric razor.
- A pair of American Civil War era revolvers. One an English 54 bore single action Kerr made by London Armoury Co (LAC) and the other a .44 double action revolver by Starr Arms Co of New York.
- Gun Flints. A well researched illustrated history on the use and manufacture of flints in firearms. It appeared that English flint production was centred at Brandon in Thetford forest area in 1686. The documentation indicated a replacement flint was required in a musket after 25 to 50 shots. Flint production was a very large and perhaps overlooked industry with flints produced in thousands and packaged in tubs or sacks of between 5000 and 20000 flints.
- Reloading tools. A large selection of early hand tools for reloading and resizing shotshells. Including a most interesting German made complex reloading machine dating from 1886 that inserted the powder and shot with adjustable rotary measures. Clearly this system was the basis of the modern rotary powder thrower now commonly used to dispense accurate volumes of powder for high velocity rifle and pistol cartridge reloading. The display also included several old tools for checkering and inletting barrels to stocks. One was an unusual round rasp that had four rotating faces with different grades of cutting teeth. A pair of adjustable balance type powder measures were somewhat of a rarity also.
- Badges, medals, buttons and broaches. A wonderful display. (Regrettably I omitted to photograph this display as I intended to ask the owner to open the cabinet so a I could avoid the glass reflection but then forgot to do so. Ed)
- Walking sticks. An amazing selection of ivory handled and even two full ivory walking sticks, all beautifully carved. (One of our members is preparing for his old age – all he needs now is a walking stick gun.)
- A German MG34 general purpose light machine gun set up on a bipod with a full range of accessories, magazines, ammunition box and fitted with an aircraft type foresight. Complete with reference literature.

Our November Luncheon Meeting attracted the usual good attendance and produced a wide range of fine displays. Items exhibited included;

- A selection of six different Webley revolvers.
- A display of shotgun shell packets
- A range of semi-auto pistols manufactured in ten different countries. Scandanavia, Japan, USA, Europe and UK.
- A Snider Artillery Carbine with matching sawbacked bayonet.
- Medals with a history of the recipient.
- An extensive display of model farm tractors and farming machinery. Interestingly a number of models illustrated the progression of John Deere from the manufacture of early stationary engines through to the huge tractors of the present.
- A display of dolls and a toy pet cat.
- An comprehensive display of Japanese military items including mannequins dressed in uniforms, with belts, cartridge boxes, hats, boots, binoculars etc. Also included were helmets, rifles, bayonets, a sword, a strip of Jap machine gun cartridges which I believe was for the Type 92 machine gun which came to be known as the "Woodpecker" from its peculiar stuttering noise. All in all a really excellent display.

- Revolvers including Webley-Kaufman, Colt and Smith & Wesson. All manufactured around the 1880's.
- Books. A selection of childrens' books and book marks.
- Badges, belt buckles, fighting knives and grenades.
- Hats. A selection of Naval hats, mostly from East European countries with information and matching badges.
- A display on the French Foreign Legion with recruiting posters, hats, a flag and numerous qualification and other badges.
- A display of early NZ Volunteer militaria items including swords, trophies, belts early NZ Volunteer helmets an a three band Snider rifle that was a Prize Rifle from the Picton Company Marlborough Rangers Volunteers 1872.
- Hungarian bayonets, a display a four of these distinctive and unusual bayonets.
- Swords. Katana swords a nice display with relevant literature.
- A display of blue glassware, aptly labelled "Out of the Blue"
- Pinfire shotguns and pistols with information and cartridges.
- The British Army in New Zealand. A large cabinet with various medals, badges, buttons and belt buckles from the early days of colonisation.
- Carbines used in NZ from the 1840's to the turn of the century including a percussion cavalry carbine, Calisher & Terry carbine, Snider Cavalry and Artillery carbines, Martini-Henry carbine, Martini- Enfield and a Lee-Enfield carbines.
- An excellent display of American M1 Garand rifles by various manufacturers complete with bayonets, accessories data and cartridge packets from the WW2 period. (I can't think of anyone who would derive more pleasure from visiting the Armoury museum at Springfield Massachusetts where these were originally developed and built than the owner of these rifles. Ed)



A display on the history and manufacture of flints



Shaving gear from yesteryear

All in all a great selection of collectibles that any of us would be pleased to own.



Part of the display of Japanese uniforms and equipment

The German MG 34 General Purpose Light Machine Gun displayed.



Ray Brown, 2005 winner of the Joe Bartlett Memorial Cannon.

Presidents Report

Another year has come and gone, it's just about Christmas and Wellington Branch has had another excellent year. It's been great to see the large number of club members that have got in behind the club activities and helped to make everything so successful. Our meetings have been well attended with members supporting the "theme displays" and as well as this the range shooting days have also been very popular. This years auction was a major success with a record attendance and excellent turnover, additionally the branch scored a real coup by bringing that well known author and authority on Militaria, Ian Skennerton over from Australia for a weekend.

The Committee has worked very hard this year and I would like to thank them and everyone else who helped to make this year a success. Planning is well underway for next years events and auction cataloguing is well advanced. Another item of interest will be "The International Firearms Safety Seminar" to be held in Christchurch on the 21st -23rd of February 2006. (Details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

I wish you all a safe Christmas and Happy New Year .
 Don't forget we still have the Picnic shoot on the 11th of December
 See you all there
 Steve

Below. The display of ivory and ivory handled walking sticks.



Kevin Adams, 2005 winner of the new award for best and most informative displays this year.

Our November end of Year luncheon meeting was very successful and as usual was well attended. It was great to see so many women made the effort to come along and support the Branch. The problem we experienced last year with a lack of tables for displays was corrected this year and for a change we had space to spare with room for more displays. Hopefully everyone who attends next year will bring something to display.

Congratulations to Ray Brown the winner of the Joe Bartlett Memorial Cannon for 2005 for outstanding services to the Branch and to Kevin Adams, winner of the new award for best and most informative displays for the year. Both were well deserved winners but never-the-less there were a number of others who were well up on the judges' list for each category. On the subject of displays the committee has been considering plans to give more emphasis to displays next year and a system of awards may be introduced at some stage, so keep up the good work and remember you are not expected to produce the rarest of the rare, but do give an explanation with exhibits.

Our Branch has also been very fortunate in having such a patriotic and energetic President in our El Presidente Steve otherwise known as "Sum Yung Gai" who has done a great job of marshalling the troops and also representing us at National level. In this latter respect he has done wonders in resolving the long running dispute that threatened to destroy the very fabric of the Antique Arms Association. Steve has also been a great ambassador for the Branch and is usually seen at Auckland Gun shows as well as the odd overseas auction. A more loyal and enthusiastic President would be very hard to find.

Ed



Page 3 An old balance type powder dipper displayed.

Western Australia

Last month we had a trip to Perth, Western Australia. While getting there was a long journey as compared to travelling to the East Coast of Australia we found the place very interesting and without the congestion evident in other Australian cities we have visited. A perusal of one of the many tourist guide books indicated that the Museum of Western Australia was located right in the heart of the city and a visit there was a must. There were excellent displays of natural history and pioneer life in the west with quite an emphasis on the gold and mineral discoveries but very little in the way of firearms on display. One thing that surprised me was a big rock outside the place that would have been four feet high and about eight feet long, the sort of thing you might see as a large garden ornament or support for a seawall or the like, but it wasn't rock, it was a lump of naturally occurring almost pure iron ore. The west is of course rich in minerals and much of the wealth would appear to be derived from that source and supporting industries.

Freemantle which is now almost a suburb of Perth is steeped in history and has numerous stone buildings that date back to the days of convict labour. A renaissance of preservation has seen numerous buildings restored and the city has become a haven for tourists and the weekend latte set. The place was put on the map when the Australians took the America's cup from the Americans in 1983 and is one of the few deep water ports on that side. Freemantle and the Swan river are home to numerous marinas that hold a great number of pleasure craft, most of which appeared to be fairly large.

We found the Army Museum of Western Australia at Freemantle and my friend and I made a visit while the ladies indulged in coffee and shopping. The museum had some very good displays but the emphasis was almost entirely upon the exploits of servicemen from Western Australia and much of this meant very little to us. Unfortunately we were plagued by an overzealous attendant who insisted on following us around and boring us with every last detail about all manner of things from the Government of the day to politics of the local council as well as whatever display we looked at. This was rather unfortunate as we probably would have got a better impression of the place without him. The museum is situated on the site of a working military base and accordingly some security restrictions applied but all in all we were a little disappointed that there weren't more items to interest us.

There were several surprisingly good second hand shops in Freemantle that displayed some excellent items, including a few swords, but little in the way of militaria. Interestingly big items of beautifully made furniture and English china etc were in abundance, and with a high proportion of Australians living in apartments it seems that many of the younger ones are no longer interested in these sorts of thing now-a-days.

We also found a Militaria Museum listed in one of the guide books and duly made an effort to find this place which was in a rural area north of the city. After some fruitless searching we made inquiries in the general locality and discovered it was not well known even to the locals but we learned it was a private museum and only open by appointment. Fortunately a phone call resulted in an invitation to call and we soon made our way there. Surprisingly it was on a rural block up a back road and down a long secluded track of a driveway, however we were made very welcome by the owner a Dr Leo Laden whom I understand is known to several of our members. To say his place was a surprise would be a gross understatement, we were quite blown away with what we saw and his displays were certainly world class. Fortunately Leo was quite happy for us to take photos and I will include several. It was difficult to take everything in but numerous items stood out as most unusual. One that would have our shotgun collectors from Rangitikei going was a double barrel bolt action shotgun. No it's not a joke, I saw it with my own eyes and even got a photo to prove it, it had a bolt action on each side, one left and one right. I'm not sure of the make or age but I think it was German and made in the late 1800's but it was in good condition and Leo said he had fired it on numerous occasions. Other unusual items included a percussion whaling gun with a double

width hammer to fire two percussion caps simultaneously, also a big naval mine that stood about 4ft 6" high, as well as pistols, revolvers, swords, spears, bayonets, rifles, shotguns, reloading equipment, grenades and everything in between. To cap it all off there was a cabinet full of our host's shooting medals and this must have contained all of a couple of hundred.

As we all know Australia has rather repressive firearm laws with the result that firearms have become very difficult to own, but what surprised us I was that although there was no such thing as a gun shop in Perth city there were shops selling the most wicked and useless looking knives that one could ever imagine. Perhaps not double edged but ridiculously long "hunting" knives were in abundance. So much for their logic.

Rex

Swords rifles and other items seen in Perth with bolt action double barrel shotgun at bottom.



**International Firearm Safety Seminar Christchurch,
New Zealand 21-23 February 2006**

The New Zealand Police, New Zealand Mountain Safety Council and New Zealand Council of Licensed Firearm Owners (Inc) have joined forces to organise an international seminar on firearm safety to be held at Christchurch, 21 -23 February 2006. Inspector Joe Green, speaking on behalf of the organising committee said that several seminars focussing on arms control regimes have been held at various locations around the world. 'None of these has addressed the issue of the safe use of firearms' he said. This seminar aims to address this gap. At the UN Conference on Small Arms in the Pacific (Nadi, August 2004) the Council of Licensed Firearm Owners (COLFO) offered to assist Pacific States address the need for training civilians in firearm safety. 'We have expertise that Pacific States do not have', John Howat, Chairman of COLFO said. 'It is only right that we offer that expertise to our Pacific neighbours. This seminar is a first step' Mr Howat said. 'We are bringing together some of our most experienced instructors to deliver practical firearm safety workshops' said Mike Spray, Firearm Programme Manager for the Mountain Safety Council. 'Seminar participants will have the chance to get hands on experience' he said. The seminar will include the world's top research into firearm and community safety from New Zealand, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. Further information can be found on www.firearmsafetyseminar.org.nz.



The old shotshell reloading tool that must have been the last word in reloading shotgun cartridges 120 years ago.

Below. An extensive display of old shaving gear



Below. A pair of Civil War era revolvers



A fine pair of circa 1880's double action revolvers displayed



The display of Hungarian Bayonets



Part of the display of Naval Hats

Christmas Family Fun Day – Sunday 11th December
Kaitoke Deerstalkers Range
 Setup from 8.30-9-30am

- 1st Event.** Air pistols, rabbit target 15yds 10 shot.
2nd Event .22 rifles under 16yrs, 6 iron chickens, 6 shots any sights 25yds. All shooters must be accompanied by a licenced adult.
3rd Event. .22 rifle, iron sights, standing position, 6 iron chickens, 6 shots. This match has a chicken trophy for the winner.
4th Event. .22 rifle iron sights, prone, 6 iron chickens, 50yds 6 shots.
5th Event. Action “M” any rifle, any caliber 100yds 1 minute. Extra 15sec for senior shooters and retired. (Hurrah Ed) Format load 5rds, fire two shots prone, stand up and fire 2 shots, sit or kneel fire 1 shot, reload 5 shots, fire 1, stand up and fire 2 shots then lay down and fore last 2 shots.
6th Event. Shotgun disc. Load one round on whistle, aim at disc and knock it over. Timed 4 seconds per shot. Ear and eye protection compulsory for all shooters.
7th Event Teams. Balloons and cubes. 4 shooters per team. Shoot out the balloons and shoot the cube of wood up the range. Furthest distance is the winning team. Timed 45sec. There will be a penalty for surviving balloons. During the lunch break there will be a cannon shoot and unusual gun shoot.
As usual the Club will put on another of Wayne’s famous BBQ lunches.



Below. The display of French Foreign Legion Badges etc



Taranaki GunShow

On Guy Fawkes weekend I decided to attend the Taranaki Gunshow in New Plymouth. Combining business with pleasure I took my annual wool clip with me (about a ute load) to sell at a wool buyer along the way, thus giving me some spending money, plus I had arranged to pick up some auction lots on the return trip.

I arrived in New Plymouth in the afternoon and headed straight to the hotel where the Gunshow was held, the set up was well under way so I wandered around talking to the dealers and collectors as well as checking out the bargains. Around 5pm the show closed for the night and as I left the venue I introduced myself to the two security guards Merv the Taranaki President and his offsider Norm. After a brief chat they produced a large bottle of rum, I could hardly refuse this northern hospitality, so 2 hours and 4 glasses later I staggered back to my room.

The show opened again the following day with a steady crowd attending including a few Wellington Members who were engrossed in the trade tables. The Taranaki branch members and visitors had put on some very good displays and being a visiting “dignitary” I was asked to help Judge the different categories. This proved harder than it looked as the range and quality of displays was outstanding.

On Saturday evening after the show Taranaki branch put on a meal and visitors were invited to attend, then later they held a mini auction and a prize giving for the displays, then finally of course more rum appeared.

The Taranaki Gun Show was a great social event and well worth the visit, my thanks go to Peter and his crew for a most enjoyable weekend.

Steve



Blue glassware and a Dolly collection

Next Meeting

Sunday 4th December at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen’s Club Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm
 Display theme for the meeting will be letters “J & K”. I thought just the letter “J” might have been a bit too restrictive but there should be plenty of scope with the letter “K” as well.

Coming events.

- Sunday 11th December,** Christmas BBQ Shoot
- Sunday 25th December,** Father Christmas comes to all good collectors and children – ex North Pole.
- 18th & 19 Feb 2006** Wellington Firearms & Militaria Show – Lower Hutt
- 21st – 23rd Feb 2006** International Seminar on Firearm Safety - Christchurch

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and Prosperous 2006 from the team at Flint & Cap