



# E - GAZETTE MK II

**New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Inc. # 16 April 2012**

## EDITORIAL

Prompted by Terry Willson's article on the Swinburn Henry of the Natal Volunteers, Pat Glynn kindly loaned me his Swinburn Henry carbine to review and there then followed an international discussion on who his carbine may have been issued to and this in turn resulted in debate about the bayonet. So we have a strong Swinburn theme this month. If you have one of these relatively rare rifles and carbines, or knowledge about them, please get in touch.

Now that I am no longer National Secretary I have discontinued the NZAHAA Secretary Blog, however if you wish to be kept up to date with what the NZ Arms Register is doing please visit:

<http://nzarmsregister.blogspot.co.nz/>

If you have comments to make or news or articles to contribute, send them to [oilyrag@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oilyrag@xtra.co.nz)

*All views (and errors) expressed here are those of the Editor and not necessarily those of the NZAHAA Inc.*

Phil Cregeen, Editor [oilyrag@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oilyrag@xtra.co.nz)

## AN INTERESTING BAYONET photos by Terry Willson and Derek Complin

Here we have a knife bayonet for a Swinburn Henry Carbine, as issued to the Natal Volunteers and Mounted Police, (see BCB S1) . OAL 284 mm, Blade Length 183 mm, MRD 18.1mm .



The only marking is JKL on the blade. They appear to have been made in two batches, an example of the second type is shown below. Only 190 of these bayonets are known to have been made and because of the nature of the hilt are thought to be specially made rather than cut down from a sword bayonet.



2<sup>nd</sup> Type

Note rivets in grip and length of false edge to blade.

OAL: 285mm

Blade length: 180mm

MRD 18.5mm

Hilt length : 97mm

**GUN REVIEW** from Pat Glynn collection, Photos by Phil Cregeen

This month we have a Swinburn Henry Carbine. In outward appearance very similar to a Martini Henry, however while it has a Henry barrel of .577/450 calibre the action is of the Swinburn patent. In simple terms this has a falling block and cocking lever as in a Martini, but employs a V leaf spring and hammer to strike the firing pin and a side lever which allows the hammer to be cocked without operating the under lever. For a full description see The Single Action Patent Site listed under WEBSITES below. The carbine has a 23.25 in. barrel and is fitted with a bayonet bar, the fore-end is secured by a pin and the sling eye. The rear sight is graduated to 800 yds. on the ladder and 1-3 on the bed, with two screws in the stock for a leather cover. The butt, fitted with a steel butt plate, is secured by a screw through an upper tang forming part of the body and lower tang which is a component of the action.



RHS marked V & R Blackmore London



LHS Marked Swinburn Patent

Note cocking lever



Barrel marked Henry Patent A & T 1064 with Birmingham proof marks, 52 (bore) and crown over AS



MP 139 issue mark believed to be Natal Mounted Police, the barrel and butt have a crown over AS inspection mark.

Although not Ordnance Board issue Swinburn rifles and carbines were inspected at RSAF Birmingham and records show that between 1875 and 1886 a total of 450 rifles and 1340 carbines were processed in four batches, it would appear that all of these were sent to Natal. Was this carbine one of them? Were other Colonial forces armed with the Swinburn?

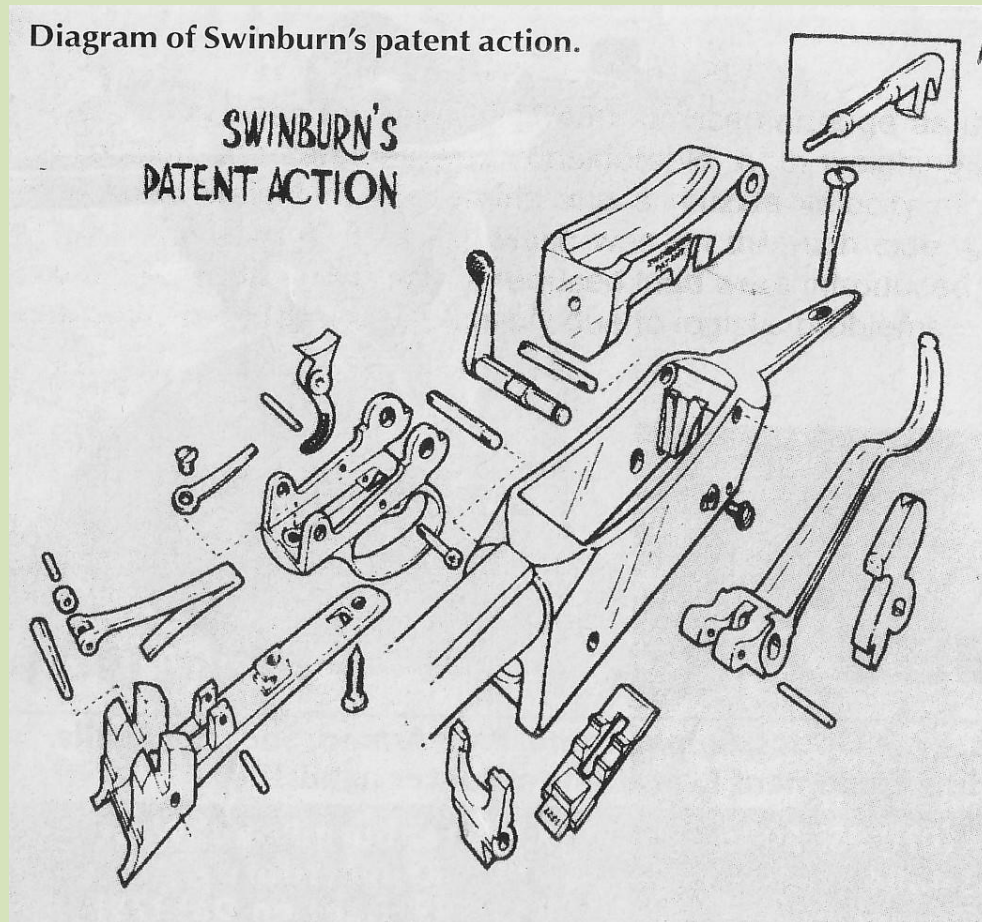
## The Swinburn Henrys of the Natal Volunteers. By Terry Willson

Formed in 1854 to protect the young colony from the perceived threat of the Zulu Nation upon its border, the Natal Volunteers saw more active service than any their counterparts within the British Empire. Up to the time of their incorporation as militia into the Union Defence Force in 1912 they had participated in four campaigns, the Zulu and Boer Wars and also the Langalibalele and Bambata Rebellions. Over this period almost sixty units had been formed, retained, disbanded and even resurrected. Some are with us to this day though their future is now uncertain. During their fifty-eight years of independence they were issued with thirteen different rifles and carbines. Of these, the longest serving and perhaps the most famous, was the Swinburn Henry, the rifle of the Zulu War which in its carbine version armed the Volunteer Units and Natal Mounted Police at the battle of Isandhlwana.

Following the marginal performance of the Calisher Terry Carbine during the Langalibalele Rebellion of 1873 and continued presence of the Zulu threat, it became obvious to the Natal Government that rearmament with a modern rifle was both essential and very urgent. Some Sniders had been acquired, but at best these could only be considered as a stop-gap measure. The obvious choice was the newly introduced military Martini Henry, but in view of commitments to the British Government, the manufacturers were unable to supply. The eventual compromise involved the purchase of the Swinburn Henry in its rifle and carbine versions. This weapon, manufactured by the Abingdon Gun Works, traded upon its external similarity to the British service rifle but was in effect a patent circumvention with a different but more fragile action. Perhaps, its only advantage was an external cocking lever, but it did at least take the standard Martini Henry cartridge thus simplifying supply.



Diagram of Swinburn's patent action.



Although the Swinburn retained the Henry rifling, its action was more complex and prone to wear with a troublesome firing pin assembly



The Swinburn Henry rifle and Carbine as used by the Natal Volunteers with their bayonets, the Patterns 1871 Cutlass, 1875 Commercial and the Bowie Knife. The two rifles with the Pat.'75 and Bowie bayonets are stamped "J.K.L." This is believed to stand for "John Kerr London", a possible agent.

Over the period 1875 to 1886 some 880 rifles and 1380 carbines were purchased, mostly just before the Zulu War. With these came 190 bowie knife bayonets for the carbines and an unknown number commercial Pattern 1875 for the rifles. The carbines were issued to the mounted units and the rifles to the infantry. At a later date, probably in 1885, a batch of Pattern 1871 ex-naval cutlass bayonets were obtained for the newly formed Naval Volunteers based in Durban. The bowie knife bayonets were mainly issued to the Natal Mounted Police and two of the Mounted Rifle Regiments. They were not considered a success, with a survivor of Isandhlwana even referring to his as a “foolish thing”.



Early Volunteer Marking on a Swinburn Henry  
The mark between the V and the rack number is obviously a stylized Union Jack.



Later Volunteer Marking on a Swinburn Henry  
Probably a locally made replacement die

At Isandhlwana on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1879, the Swinburn Carbine had its moment of glory, or perhaps rather, its darkest hour, for at that battle some 55 of the Mounted Volunteers and Natal Police met their end fighting to the last. Back to back they fought, volleying into the Zulu warriors with their carbines until their ammunition was exhausted. Then with revolvers, knives and bayonets until they were finally overrun and slaughtered to a man. The seared hands of some of the disembowelled bodies bore witness to the rapidity of their fire and the fierceness of the fight. “Tell England that we died doing our duty” reads the memorial tablet in St. Peter’s Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg and few could disagree.

Conversely, the Swinburn Rifles saw limited active service in a war where mounted men were mainly needed as scouts. Volunteers in the infantry units served as town guards and as such saw no action.



Sir Evelyn Wood’s Bodyguard during the Zulu War with Swinburn Henry Carbines. While these men are not Natal Volunteers, it is highly probable that their carbines are Natal Government issue.





Natal Naval Volunteers parading with their Swinburn Henry Rifles and Pat.1871 Cutlass Bayonets



Volunteer Marking on a Commercial Pat .1875 Bayonet

The Swinburns remained in service until 1895 when they were replaced by Martini Metfords. By this time, after up to twenty years of use, they were out of date, in poor condition with bad sighting and worn out barrels. They had become most unpopular and few lamented their passing – a sad end to an historic rifle.

### **WHERE ARE THE GUNS?**

These two guns are to be found at the north end of the main street in Otorohanga on SH 3, standing beside the war memorial. Can you provide any information such as type, history etc.?



My thanks to Phil Moore for contributing this website which gives details of more guns on public display, mainly in the South Island: [www.nzrifle.com/ml\\_gate\\_guardians.htm](http://www.nzrifle.com/ml_gate_guardians.htm)



**BIG BOYS TOYS** contributed by Graeme Barber

In February several Canterbury members re-enacted in the Big Boys Toys and Girls Things display at the Rangiora Show Grounds



## **NZAHAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 21 APRIL IN TIMARU (Notice with March Gazette)**

### **Election of Officers**

Nomination for President: Kath Arnold, proposed by Alwyn Davies & Steve Privett.

Nomination for Vice President: Steve Privett, proposed by Andrew Edgcombe & Andrew Barker.

### **Remits to change the Rules of the NZAHAA**

From Northland Branch: to include the exchange of knowledge as an object of the NZAHAA

From Ruahine Branch: to abolish Life Membership of the Association.

Have your say on these important issues, use your proxy voting form if you are unable to attend the meeting and tell your proxy how you wish your vote to be cast.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS 2012**

31 March & 1 April	Auckland Arms Fair, Henderson
21 April	NZAHAA AGM & Auction, South Canterbury Branch, Timaru (see photos under News at <a href="http://www.antiquearms.org.nz/">http://www.antiquearms.org.nz/</a> )
13 May	Carvell's Auction, Auckland
19 & 20 May	Ted Rogers Militaria Auction, Kilbirnie, Wellington
23 June	Whangarei Hunting Shooting & Fishing Show
1 July	Auckland Branch Gun Show, Mt Eden
7 & 8 July	Wellington Branch Auction
21 July	Mainland Arms Gun Show, Christchurch
17 & 18 August	Arms & Militaria Show, Tauranga
8 7 9 September	Hamilton Shooting & Outdoors Expo
22 September	NZAHAA HYGM & Auction, hosted by Wellington Branch, Feilding
29 & 30 September	Auckland Arms Fair, Henderson
13 & 14 October	Ted Rogers Militaria Auction, Kilbirnie, Wellington

### **WEBSITES**

NZ Arms Register Blog: <http://nzarmsregister.blogspot.co.nz/>

You will find the Swinburn Patent here along with others of the period:

The Single Shot Action Patent Site: <http://users.telenet.be/Gert.Claes1/index.html>

Trevor contributed this website for air gun collectors: <http://www.cinedux.com>

Michael Carrick contributed this site for a collectors magazine: [www.ArmsHeritageMagazine.com](http://www.ArmsHeritageMagazine.com)



**MYSTERY OBJECT** (the piece between barrel and rod, below right) answers please to [oilrag@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oilrag@xtra.co.nz)

Phil Moore was the first with the correct answer for last month, which was a Bolt stripping tool for an US M1 carbine. Below left.



### **PISTOL MISSING FROM A CASED FLOBERT** by Jim McCaw

In my collection I have a really top quality Flobert rifle in a case which also has provision for a pistol, which is no longer there. If the pistol is still out there in the collecting world I would like to locate it and possibly purchase it.

The pistol is by Mariette and of very high quality. Looking at the rifle, it will have an ebony stock (not ebonised) carved with vines and possibly chequered. It is probably No. 3 size bore and the barrel is hexagonal at each end and fluted in between. "Flobert de Paris" may be gold washed on the top of the barrel with other gold decoration. The steel furniture will be polished and finely engraved. The outline of the pistol can be seen in the case below. The pistol is 15 3/8" long but if anyone thinks they have it I will send them a cut out of the recess for the pistol. The tools are also missing so if anyone knows where they are I would like to get them as well.

Obviously this is a valuable pistol and I would like to re-unite it with the rifle which is a delight.

If you can help me please contact Jim (03) 327 4123



## COLFO REPORT

Dear Members,

In the last column I considered the statistics for New Zealand of deaths and injury relative the hours of loaded firearm use that occurred in 2008. I estimated there are 1.9 million hours of safe firearms use every year in New Zealand. In statistical terms there was one accidental death every 8.9 million hours of loaded firearm use, per 100,000 of population.

This time I look at New Zealand's statistics in comparing international death rates. This is not easy because different countries measure in differing ways and title it differently. Although there is a move in recent times to move to a standard international measure has been no long term consistency.

Accidental death is simple to search, however in a number of cases with firearms the shooter is found to be culpable, so the death becomes manslaughter and may result in a conviction, therefore is not recorded as accidental.

In the 2008 year in New Zealand there were 1918 deaths as a result of injury. The majority of these were as a result of motor vehicle accidents, suicide or deliberate self harm, falls, assault or drowning. I have looked at activities that are accidental rather than intentional.

I have prepared two simple tables below comparing data from 2008. The sources are – 'The National Injury Prevention Research Unit at Otago University NZ'; 'The Australian Bureau of Statistics for 2008'; and Canadian Statistics from the 'CANSIM site' for 2008 and 'Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA', whose latest data was 2007 in the same areas. While I considered United Kingdom the data is separated between England, Wales and Northern Ireland with unique issues, so no combined view.

	Deaths per 100,000 of population in NZ	Deaths per 100,000 of population in Australia	Deaths per 100,000 of population in Canada	Deaths per 100,000 of population in USA
Unintentional Deaths	30.6	25.5	30.7	41.0
Falls	11.1	6.7	9.3	7.5
Motor vehicle	8.6	7.2	7.9	13.9
Poisoning	2.5	3.7	4.3	9.9
Drowning	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.1
Unintentional firearm deaths	0.09	0.05	0.1	0.2
Firearm related Total	0.16	0.15	0.7	10.4

What does it all mean? As a snapshot in time it says two things to me;

Firstly - in New Zealand firearms are largely in responsible hands. The number of, firearm related accidental deaths, is small compared to other causes of death such as falls, motor vehicles and drowning. Given the high number of deaths by falling, I am surprised a licensing system has not been suggested for ladders. In comparison to Australia, in 2008, we have similar levels of firearm related deaths as a percentage of population but we had more unintentional or accidental deaths and less intentional deaths.

Secondly - trying to control accidents through legislation is expensive and ineffective.

In my opinion New Zealand's excellent firearms safety record has been achieved and can improved through three areas;

- Education – such as is offered by the NZ Mountain Safety Council, teaching responsible and safe practice with firearms. If these courses were offered in schools it would reduce the number of airgun accidents, as it has with defensive driving courses with the number of motor vehicle accidents for those who have attended these courses.



- Safe areas for firearms to be used – up to now shooting ranges have been a part of most communities, look at your local map you will find a road called “Rifle Range Road” or similar near most towns. Every district council should plan for shooting ranges to provide a safe training and shooting area for their population,
- Reward compliant behaviour – the “Fit and Proper person” test allows individuals to be assessed for the appropriateness to access firearms as they demonstrate their interest and responsible behaviour - rewarding the right behaviour rather than banning access to firearms. Banning can create a decision cross road for young people to head down a criminal path if it is their only opportunity to pursue an interest.

The point of this baseline is to measure the public safety of responsible firearm owners against their own actions, accidental death and injury, and not against the actions of criminals.

Michael Dowling

Chair, COLFO

## **HAVE YOU SERVED IN THE NEW ZEALAND MILITARY OR POLICE?**

To aid the research for the NZ Arms Register we would be pleased to hear from any ex-servicemen or police who can provide a list of the arms (weapons) that they trained with or used in their service career. This includes: small arms, artillery, AFVs, aircraft, ships etc. information required includes but not limited to such things as (example below):

Year,    weapon name,    model,    unit,    where first used,    date if withdrawn from service.

1965    MG    M60    RNZA    Vietnam    not known

Copies of dated photos would also be useful.

We are currently researching the SLRs used by New Zealanders ( FN FAL, X8E, L1A1, L2A1) and would be pleased to hear from any ex-service men who have first hand experience of when they were first issued in the 1950s and 60s, (Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam & NZ) and any special modified versions, such as large capacity magazines etc.

If you can help please reply to [oilrag@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oilrag@xtra.co.nz)

## **TAKING PISTOLS TO EVENTS** contributed by Andrew Edgcombe

Recently there has been confusion over the requirements for B category firearm storage while shooters attend events. Here is some clarification on this issue.

The Operations Advisory Committee has established the following Policy:

In terms of carriage of a pistol for target pistol shooting the interpretation of the standard condition for pistol club members should be interpreted to mean: Carriage is permitted between the licence holder's home and stated destinations regardless of whether the pistol will need to be away from its usual and Police approved security overnight.

B endorsement holders do not need to obtain a 'permit to carry'/endorsement on their licence each and every time they take pistols away overnight.

**In stating this policy the OAG reinforced that they are required to secure the pistols as specified in Regulation 28 of the Arms Regulations 1992.**

The full paper noted that failure to comply with regulation 28 might result in revocation of the endorsement.

Joe Green  
Inspector  
Manager LVSC

## COMPETITION RESULTS FOR THE 2012 NATIONAL SHOOT:

There were 13 shooters registered, with all events well competed for. The day went smoothly, with all participants enjoying the lunch and the mix of events.

### Results:

#### Event #1, M/L Shotgun:

1st: Tony Stones-Havas  
2nd: John Collins

#### Event #2, B/L Shotgun:

1st: John Milligan  
2nd= Steve Tregoweth  
John Collins

#### Event #3, Snider:

1st: John Collins  
2nd: John Milligan  
3rd: Steve Tregoweth

#### Event #4, Martini- Henry:

1st: John Collins  
2nd: Steve Tregoweth  
3rd: Trevor Marshall

#### Event #5, M/L Rifle:

1st: John Milligan  
2nd= Tony Stones-Havas  
Ernie Haghin

#### Event #6, B/L Rifle:

1st: John Collins  
2nd: Tony Stones-Havas  
3rd: John Milligan

#### Event #7, Sniper Shoot:

1st: Steve Tregoweth  
2nd: John Collins  
3rd: Tony Stones-Havas

#### Event #8, Military Rifle:

1st: Steve Tregoweth  
2nd: Tony Stones-Havas  
3rd: Trevor Marshall

#### Event #9, MSSA:

1st: John Collins  
2nd: Steve Tregoweth  
3rd: Ernie Haghin

#### Event #10, Offhand Rifle:

1st: John Milligan  
2nd: John Collins  
3rd: Paul Exler

#### Event #11, .22 Rifle:

1st: John Collins  
2nd: Mark Downey  
3rd: John Milligan

#### Event #12, Cannon:

1st: Kevin Hussey  
2nd= Paul Exler  
Trevor Marshall



## BUY SELL OR SWAP (Free advertising for NZAHAA members for 2 months)

**FOR SALE OR TRADE :** Canadian Issue Enfield Enforcer Sniper Rifle in near new condition fitted with Pecar Scope; Australian Military Issue Pattern 14 Sharpshooters Rifle fitted with early Fecker Scope ex A.D.F. & Australian Government Ammunition Factory; British Royal Navy marked .22 calibre War Office Pattern Training Rifle with Military type Scope; Collection of approx 80 British & Australian Lee Enfield Range Sights including many RARE examples.

**WANTED :** British Commonwealth Trials Rifles especially Pattern 1913, No 1 MK VI & No 4 Trials Rifles; WW I Lattey, Gibbs, Martin, and similar Optical Sights; Rifle Grenade Cups & Spigots, and Wire Cutters & Breakers.

**CONTACT :** Colin Green, 5 Tiffany Grove, Templestowe, Victoria 3106, Australia.

Phone : ....61 3 98462070. Email : [colingreenaust@hotmail.com](mailto:colingreenaust@hotmail.com)



### **\*WANTED:**

New Zealand ZC1 Radios, Aerials and Spare parts.  
anything considered.

Please Phone Mark on 0274 572 124 or

e- mail - [markarnott@rockmail.com](mailto:markarnott@rockmail.com)

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GREENE BREECHLOADER 1851

COLT REVOLVING RIFLE 1855

HENRY REPEATING RIFLE. 1862

Please contact Tony on 027 5233318 or

E mail [tonyandanita@xnet.co.nz](mailto:tonyandanita@xnet.co.nz)

**\*FOR SALE:** Cartridge collection, about 1K rounds,  
sporting & Military, some pistol & .22

Contact: Don Collins [[dgcollins@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:dgcollins@vodafone.co.nz)]



**\*Victorian Military Accoutrements**



Contact Phil Moore: [yma@nzrifle.com](mailto:yma@nzrifle.com)

Tel: 03 980 7612 [www.nzrifle.com](http://www.nzrifle.com)

**WANTED:**

French MAS 36 rifle in original very good to excellent condition (including bore), complete with bayonet.

Phone Graham 03 684 8880 work  
email: [graham@pauljohnston.co.nz](mailto:graham@pauljohnston.co.nz)

**WANTED:** Fore-end for an SMLE No 1 Mk III\* to complete a restoration project.

Contact: James Cagney

Tel: 027390000

e-mail: [cagney.james.debra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cagney.james.debra@xtra.co.nz)

**GAZETTE** Dec 2005 to Dec 2011

Back issues available from the  
National Secretary

Cost \$5.00 each, plus \$2.5 P&P up to 4 copies

Note: March 2006 sold out

**AUCKLAND BRANCH GUN SHOW**

**Sunday 1 July 2012**

**Mt Eden War Memorial Hall, Auckland**

**Contact Myles Chandler 021 897 455**

**for bookings**

**Hamilton Shooting & Outdoors Expo**

To be held on

8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012

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9.00am to 3.00pm daily

Featuring:

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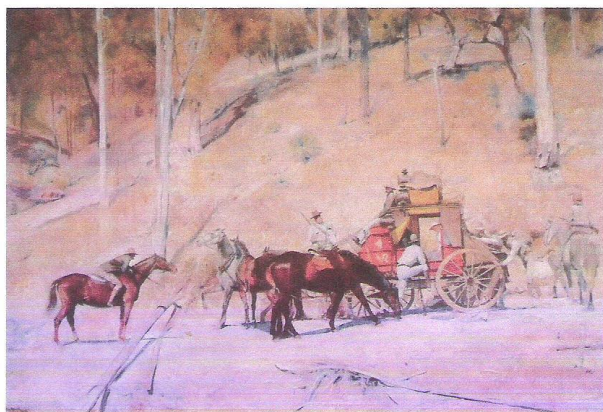
Entry Cost \$10.00 adults  
Children Free (under 16 years)

**Contact: Ken Picknell 078472626 cell 0277335535**  
email: [homeacc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:homeacc@xtra.co.nz) (for bookings)



## COL. COLT DOWNUNDER

By Hayden Hughes & Robin Rapley



**Coming out in June/July 2012**

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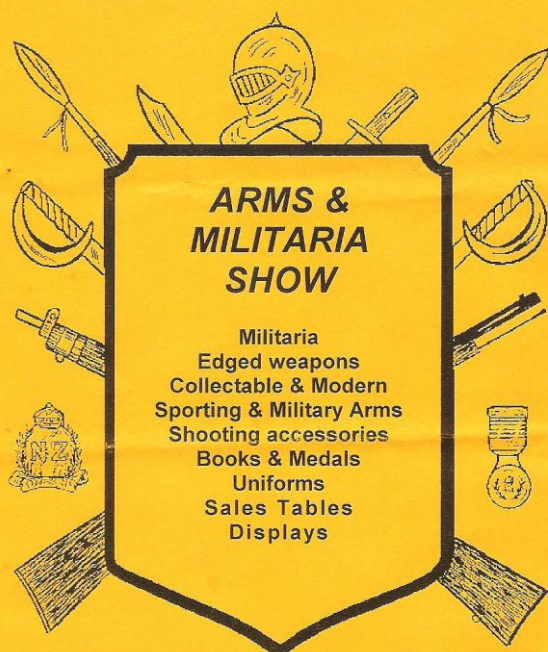
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[a.j.webster@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.j.webster@xtra.co.nz) or [oilyrag@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oilyrag@xtra.co.nz)

SSANZ PROMOTING FIREARMS SAFETY AND AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY

## Wellington Branch Auction

7 & 8 July 2012

We are currently seeking lots

And will be picking up in Auckland on the

w/e of 31 March, 1 April

Contact Steve Privett

04 9342756 or 027 4411785

or e-mail [steveprivett@paradise.net.nz](mailto:steveprivett@paradise.net.nz)

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Saturday 21 April 2012

Look out for the catalogue in your mail and photos  
at <http://www.antiquearms.org.nz/>

Phone: 03 6157 673 (day) 03 686 6884 (evening)



**THE RUAHINE BRANCH**  
**NEW ZEALAND ANTIQUE AND HISTORICAL ARMS ASSOCIATION.**

**AUCTION 2012**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE**

**NZHAAA HALF YEARLY MEETING FOR 2012**

**Hosted by the Wellington Branch at Feilding**

**Is pleased to advise that they are now accepting  
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and militaria, to take place at the usual venue**

**21/22 September 2012**

**RANGITIKEI CLUB, FEILDING.**

**We have the same low bidders/vendors premiums as before.**

**For further information please contact.**

**Auction Convenor: Tony Mathews 06 374 9164**

## GUN SHOW

**Saturday July 21 2012**

9am-5pm

(Set up from 3pm Friday 20)

**Club Stand**  
**Riccarton Park Function Centre**  
Riccarton Raceway  
Christchurch

**PUBLIC ADMISSION \$10.00**

WW 2 Veterans free

Children 12 & under with adult free

### *Special Feature*

*Display section for school children to the  
theme-*

*"My Grandad (uncle or relative) went to War"*

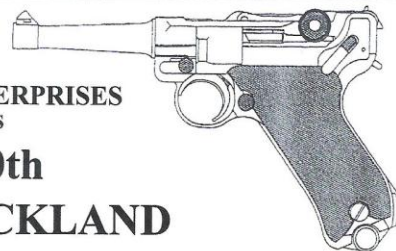
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**GRATON ENTERPRISES  
PRESENTS**

## THE 30th AUCKLAND ARMS FAIR



**SAT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH & SUN 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2012**

**HOURS: SATURDAY 9.00am - 5.00pm SUNDAY 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**AT THE WEST WAVE RECREATIONAL CENTRE  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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**[www.gunshows.net.nz](http://www.gunshows.net.nz)**