

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association

Wellington Branch Inc. P.O. Box 14-029 Kilbirnie, Wellington



<http://www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz/>

NOVEMBER 2013

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The Year as I see it.

Once again, we have had another good year. In February, we hosted another gun show, that was deemed by all as a success. We have gained several new members, I welcome these people along. Our annual auction once again was a success.

During the year, we looked at a trip to Omaka museum in Blenheim, and a night at the movies however due to lack of interest we didn't proceed with these activities.

Our club range days attract a core of keen shooters that enjoy a day at the range.

During the year we had several committee members resign from their roles, and to this date haven't had too many people come forward, despite asking, and putting notes in the Flint and Cap.

A big thanks must go to the likes of Rex, Steve, Maxine, and James and Gabi for their extra efforts in times of need.

In recent times I have contacted our friend in Waikato

museum, and have enquired about having another look around the vehicle sheds and barns. We did this trip some years ago, and it proved very popular. We will also have another look at the movies in the new year.

Our monthly meetings are always well attended, with many assorted displays exhibited at each meeting, and today is no exception.

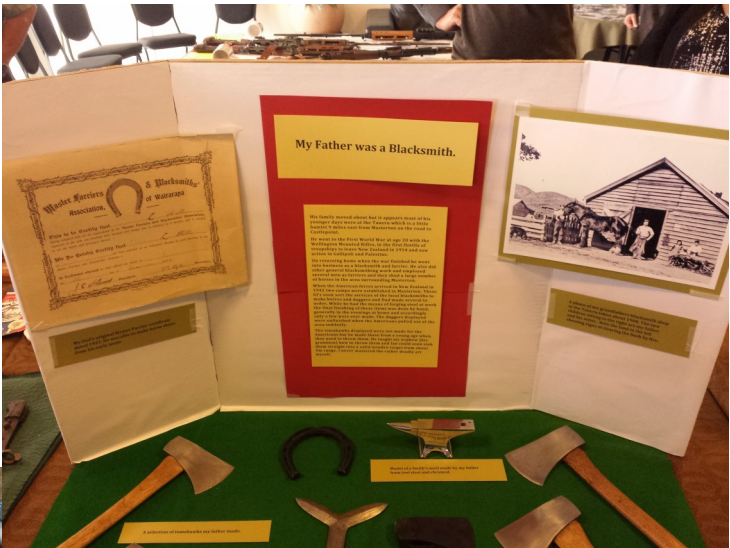
Our interest seems to be alive and well and we all look forward to next year.

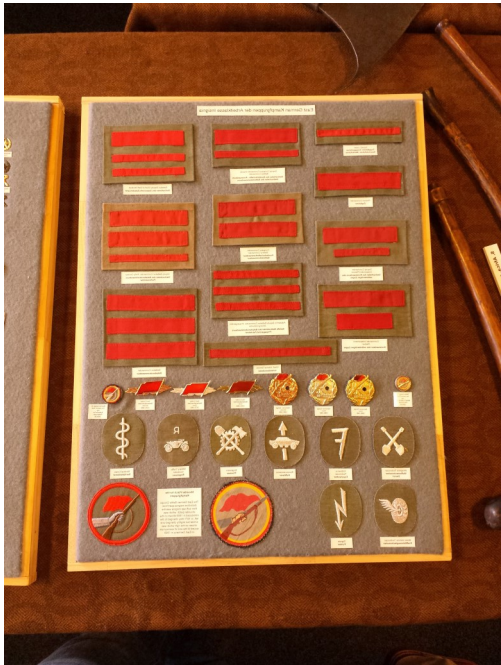
Alywn

The Longest War

The "Hundred Years War" between England and France was the longest war. It lasted for 116 years from 1337 to 1453. It may be said the ninth Crusades, comprised a single holy war, extending over 195 years, from First (1096 - 1104) to the Ninth (1270 - 1291).

Displays from Christmas Function





10 Interesting Facts About Antique Firearms

The long history of firearms demonstrates a willingness to attempt new ideas in the manufacture of these weapons. The resulting antique firearms often look strange to modern eyes, but some innovative ideas went into their design.

Oldest Firearm

The oldest existing firearm in the world dates to the late 13th century and was cast in bronze. This gun was found in China where gunpowder was in use a full 700 years before the western world would discover it.

The First Handheld

The first handheld firearms did not have triggers. They function more like cannons than guns with loading done from the front and firing it by applying a fuse to the rear of the weapon.

The First Trigger

The matchlock mechanism was an improvement, however slight, over the fuse method of the first handheld firearms. After loading the weapon, and priming it with a bit of powder, the soldier would pull the trigger and an S-shaped piece of metal would move forward and touch a lit fuse to the priming powder.

The Palm Pistol

A lot of early firearms were for personal protection and intentionally made small and easier to conceal. There was a circular gun known as a palm pistol that could be carried in the palm of a person's hand. The small barrel would protrude from between the fingers and firing it was mainly a matter of clenching the fist.

The Ring Pistol

Another easily concealed weapon was the ring pistol. Primarily made for women, it is a close personal defence weapon worn on the finger.

The Harmonica Gun

This weapon is the result of an attempt to increase the number of rounds contained in a cylinder. The name derives from the rectangular shape of the cylinder which features multiple holes like a harmonica when

viewed from the back side. It was impractical in its shape and after firing a round, the owner must manually move the cylinder over to load the next cartridge.

The Key Gun

In the 17th century a firearm combining a key and gun became popular. It was a big iron key with a short barrel underneath the key mechanism. A few of them will shoot the person holding it if not used properly.

Double Barrelled Pistol

Double barrelled pistols were also part of the 19th century innovations with firearms. These have two barrels side by side and feature two separate cocking mechanisms to allow firing one barrel at a time.

The Two Millimetre Bullet

The manufacture of smaller weapons for concealing necessarily led to making smaller cartridges for their use. The smallest of these was two millimetres. The average size of a BB is 4.5 millimetres.

Square Bullets

The first attempt at a machine gun during the antique era led to a weapon that could fire up to nine rounds a minute. The device could fire square bullets by switching the bullet chambers. The developer felt that square bullets would be more painful.



A Blast from the Past



This photograph of a view of the massive gun, Tanjore, Tamilnadu, is part of a collection entitled 'Photographic Views in Tanjore and Trivady ' (Madras, 1858) and was taken by Linnaeus Tripe in 1858. It shows a view of the barrel of the massive cannon (length 24 feet 5 inches), with a 'native' posed beside it for scale. The photographer writes: "It has received the name of Rajah Gopala, and as this is a name of Vishnu it may be inferred that it was made by one of the Vaishnava Nayakar kings. It certainly belongs to that period. It is said to have been once fired, on which occasion the inhabitants of the Fort were warned by beat of drum to leave their houses. A trail of powder was laid for two miles and 40 minutes elapsed before the fire reached the gun. The sound, it seems, was as if Mount Meru had exploded..."

News letter Submissions

If anyone has anything they think would make an interesting read or has something they wish to share with the Flint and Cap readers please contact me using on 04 5650112 or via email antiquearms@stuartfamily.co.nz

Thanks James Stuart

UPCOMING EVENTS

Once again, we have reached the end of another year. The committee thank you for the lovely displays that have been exhibited during the year. We certainly get some unusual and rare items to view.

We wish you all a safe and happy time over the holiday break.

Christmas family fun day. This will be run on Sunday **15th December, 2013**, with a set up from 9:00am. Events will be in line with previous years with a children's event, ladies event, Iron chickens, cadet rifles, a teams event, and a shot-gun event.

Children's event. 6 chickens, 6 shots. any .22, any sights. Shot in the prone position, with a licenced helper, at a distance off 30 yds.

Ladies event. 6 chickens, 6 shots. Any .22rifle, any sights. Shot in the prone position with a licenced helper if this applies.

Iron chickens trophy. 6 shots, 6 chickens, any .22 rifle, iron sights only. No scopes or target aperture sights. The winner gets the Iron chickens trophy.

Cadet training rifle trophy. 5 shots standing, 5shots sitting or kneeling, and 5 shots prone. 1 minute per position, all fired at a 50 meter distance.

Teams event. .22 rifles only, any sights. Balloons and pine cones. Pop the balloons, and push the pinecone up the range. Timed to 30 seconds. 4 to a team. The furthest distance the pinecone is moved will determine the winning team.

Shotgun trophy. Knock over the disc. the distance keeps increasing, until only one shooter is left. Usual rules for this event safety glasses and ear protection will be compulsory. timed to 3 seconds per shot.

The club will put on a BBQ lunch, and we will have an unusual guns session over the lunch break

Alwyn.

Use your Smart phone and this QR code will take you directly to our website @ <http://nzaaaw-gtn.org.nz>



An Interesting book.

Peter Cooke and Ian Maxwell have released a new book titled Artillery Heritage. This book focuses on the artillery guns that are in N.Z. The book has approx. 450 pages, is very well illustrated, and is selling at around \$45. We may possibly be able to get Peter to come to a meeting and sell these books if there is interest

Colt Books available. Steve has managed to source a small quantity off the new colt book by the late Mr Raply. I believe these books are once again, a wealth of information to the Colt collector. These will be available at the October Meeting.

Firearms License Reminder

Check your Firearms License Expiry Date Now!
It has become a lot harder to get a new license (if it has expired) than renew...

Remember it can take up to six weeks for the Police to act on a renewal request. So keep yourself updated and don't delay.

CLUB AMMO FOR SALE

We still have some Winchester .22 ammo for sale.
A box contains 555 rounds @ \$38.00.
Bring \$\$\$, no credit given

Decembers Letters are O & P

Some ideas are: Orberndorf, Ordnance, Over and Under, Parabelum, Paterson, Pepperbox, Pinfire, Police, Purdy, Powder and

We're looking forward to these displays, be creative and have fun!

Venue is Petone Working Mens Club @ 1:00pm First Sunday of the month.