

# Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association

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

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July 2014

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at it knocking down the hammer at a quick pace for most of the day. Sunday, once again saw Todd going like a rocket looking for the last lot. We processed the postal items on Monday, and once again a good team turned out to process the parcels with a good amount being on the courier on Monday afternoon.

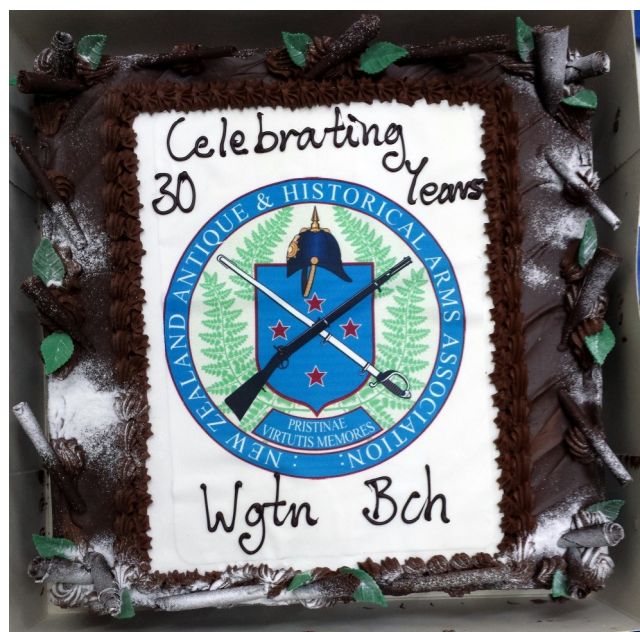
As usual, we have a core of keen helpers for all the duties, and a huge thanks to all those that have helped make this event a success, however we could always use more helpers. Many of our more senior members do struggle with the lifting and walking. It would be great to see a few younger people step up and help a bit more.

Alywn

## General Orders from the President

Once again, our team worked well and had the tables set out with all the items by 3:00pm pm on the Friday. A good amount of keen buyers turned out for the viewing on Friday evening, and checked out their potential purchases.

Saturday morning arrived quickly, and Todd was



## Ian Rasmussen

We were all saddened to learn that Ian passed away just 3 days after we had seen him only two weeks ago at our auction. Ian had not enjoyed the best of health but none of us ever thought this would be the last time we would see him. Robin and I along with a good dozen of our Branch members attended his funeral which was also represented by numerous other Antique Arms members from other branches including some from Auckland, Dannevirke, Hawera and Hunterville. Ian had a large family and as expected it was a big funeral which was also televised for a son of his who lives in Luxembourg and was unable to attend but this could also be viewed on line through the web.

Ian was a long standing member and wonderful supporter of our Branch with a vast knowledge of militaria and his specialist subject of bayonets. It was pleasing to note that Steve had been requested to speak and he delivered an excellent eulogy on his own personal and our branch association with Ian over a long period of time.

Ian casket was decorated with two impressive bayonets and his egg boxes.

Rest in Peace Ian.

A little story I heard at the funeral from one of our members went along these lines;

This fellow was talking to Ian at our last auction and said he was after a particular bayonet for some old banger he owned and asked if Ian had one he wanted to sell. Ian replied that he thought he possibly had a spare and would look it out and bring it down to the next meeting where they might be able to come to some

agreement. So bugger that is now the end of that.

But that was not all, our man said he had a similar conversation many years ago with Darryl Hicks when he declared an interest in a particularly rare New Zealand medal that Darryl owned. As it wasn't the time or place to do business it was agreed that Darryl would bring the medal to the next meeting and they would see if an agreement could be reached. However before the next branch meeting took place Darryl died so that was the end of that.

My only advice is that if this fellow wants to buy something of yours don't agree to take it to the next meeting to finalise the deal as you may not make it yourself.

Rex





## JULY DISPLAYS

Carbine and Caps- P53 Royal Artillery Carbine MK Tower 1857 and Percussion Caps

WWI Zeppelins, Bombs and searchlight all made of China

Swiss Bayonets – 3 various models plus scabbards

Commonwealth 7.62 SC Rifles with Rifle Grenades and blank firing devices

2 Colt Pistols of different vintages. 1851 Colt Navy .36 Cal 6 shot percussion made in 1855 plus Colt .32 Model M made in 1907

Calibre sub calibre .297-230 Morris Tubes in cavalry carbine and Martini Henry with 1902 pkt of ammo

Colt Peace Maker Pistols, British Models, 4 Colt 1873 Single Action Revolvers with Oiler, tools and British Bore Gauge

Belgique and Boch Maps War and tourist copies

Colt Cattleman Clone .357, Coonan .357 Mag, Desert Eagle 44 Mag / .50 AE. Drum Magazine in .44 and .22

Double Barrel, Brno 12g and Brno 12g /.22 Savage HP, Colt .357 and Lawman MKIII

American Civil War, Check date 1920 and Civil War Medal to Joseph Wargham authorised for Navy in 1908

German Officers Daggers – Army, Navy, Air force, plus Motor Corps Dagger and Walther Pistols

Colt Pistols, Colt Pocket Model 1849, Colt 1862 Conversion .38 Cal, Colt Semi Auto 1908, Colt Woodsman, Colt Sidehammer, Colt Semi Auto 1903

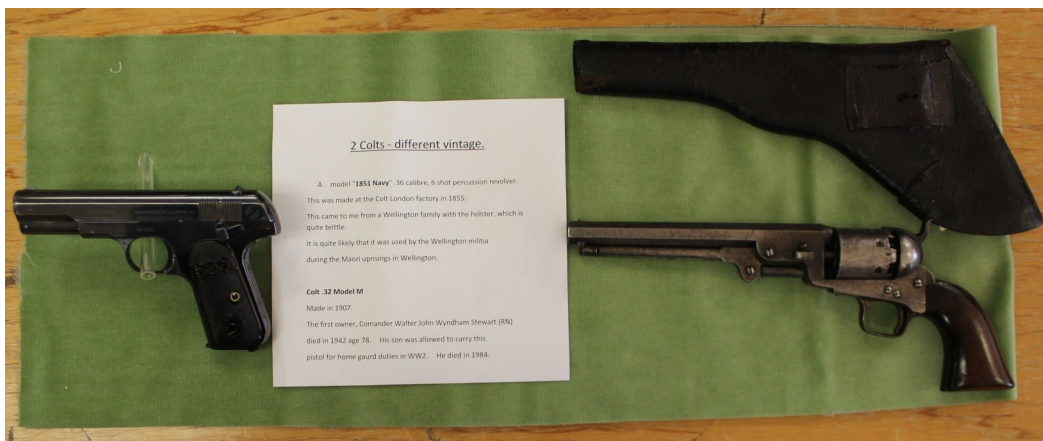
Colt Single Auction Army Frontier .44 Cam Made in 1892

.303 Ross Rifle with target Sights and Bayonet. American Civil War



Smiths Carbine and English Civil War Canon Ball

Smith & Wesson and Winchester, commemorative item 125 an Pistol, watches and knives









## It Happened This Month in 1871.

Juan Bideno had probably the shortest career as a gun-fighter on record. Shortly after joining on as a trail hand with a herd being driven from Texas to the Kansas Rail-head at Abilene he got into an dispute with the trail boss Billy Cohron. A shootout took place at the crossing of Cottonwood River. Kansas on July 5th where Cohron received mortal wounds. Bideno fled south and was located two days later dining in a cafe in Bluff Creek. Kansas by a posse which included Cohron's brother John, Jim Rodgers, Hugh Anderson and the legendary John Wesley Hardin which spelt " Big Trouble " for Juan. Hardin entered the cafe while the others surrounded the area. On being approached by Hardin, Bideno went for his gun and Hardin promptly shot him

through the head at close range. So ended the brief run of shootouts for Bideno and another notch in the gun of J W Harin.

By Des Perado





## Pohnpei Island

Taking on the role of secretary has meant I have become more aware that not only do we have members around New Zealand but all round the world. One of these members has reminded me to write something from a trip I did several years ago. Steve Radonich currently living in Guam is one of our more distance members (when you read this Steve a big hello from the club in New Zealand)

The trip I did was for my work to a place called Pohnpei; an island in the upper northern Pacific. Travel there is a story itself part of which I went via Guam. Unfortunately the timing of the transfer at Guam didn't allow me to catch up with Steve at the time.

Anyway when I heard I was going to Pohnpei the first thought was where is it? Well Pohnpei State is one of the four states in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) which area located between the Philippines and Hawaii. Pohnpei Island is the largest, highest, most populous, and most developed single island in the FSM. It contains a wealth of biodiversity. It is also one of the wettest places on earth with annual recorded rainfall exceeding 300 inches (7,600 mm) each year in certain mountainous locations (when it rained it certainly rained)

During WWII the island was occupied by the Japanese with a garrison strength of some 8000 Army and Naval personnel. However the island was bypassed by the US Navy during the island-hopping amphibious campaigns of 1943–1945. On several occasions it was shelled, including by the battleships USS *Massachusetts* and USS *Iowa*, as well as air attacks launched from USS *Cowpens*. There are several sites on the island from WWII including some large naval guns however time and the fact that some of the areas are difficult to get to, limited where I could go. One of the locals took me to nearest local military areas known as the “tank farm”

During WWII the Japanese Garrison had some 20 tanks; mainly Type 97 and type 95 light tanks. About 15 of these tanks remain on the island owned by the family who own the Adams Brothers Corporation. In the 1990's ten of the tanks were lined up on a property owned by the company along with remains of US Dodge weapon carriers and other US military equipment. All the items have been in the open for quite a number of years and in the case of some of US vehicles little remains. Although the area is cleared every now and then, on my visit it had become overgrown.

While having a good look around I was fortunate to meet one of the company mechanics who told me there were several other tanks in better condition stored at the company work shops including one fully restored in running condition (a type 95). This resulted in an interesting afternoon looking at the other tanks and a range of items that were also stored at the work shops ranging from a small field gun to a Japanese flame thrower. One of the items was a rather large and rusty Japanese artillery shell which no one

seemed to know whether it had been deactivated.

Apparently my host had restored the running tank; combining the best parts of two vehicles with other items including a gear box from a Nissan car. He had a wealth of knowledge of a lot of the Northern Pacific Island war sites having worked throughout the area for quite a number of years. At the time of my visit there were no plans to restore any of the other tanks but at least the ones in better condition had been moved under cover should a decision be made to in the future.

Terry











**Auction 2014—30 years Cake**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**16th and 17th August—** Tauranga gunshow

**13th September -** Half Yearly General Meeting

### **CLUB AMMO FOR SALE**

There is still a couple of boxes of Winchester .22 ammo for sale.

A box contains 555 rounds @ \$38.00.

Bring \$\$\$, no credit given

### **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.

**Letters this month are E and F  
But in Memory of Ian please  
consider bring along a Bayonet  
Instead**

Some ideas are: English, French, Enfield, Falcon Extractor, Factory, Export, Folding, Flint, Frontier

Remember the letters are just a guide and you are welcome to bring anything along from your collection.

Venue is Petone Working Mens Club @ 1:00pm First Sunday of the month. We look forward to seeing you there.