



# Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association

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

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

November 2015

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **December 2015:**

**6th** Branch Meeting. Petone  
Theme: Army, Letters– F & G  
**13th** Picnic Shoot. Kaitoke

### **January 2016:**

No Branch meeting this month

### **February 2016:**

**7th** Branch Meeting. Petone  
Theme: Air Force. Letters– H & I

### **March 2016:**

**6th** Branch Meeting. Petone  
Theme: A G M. Buy sell & swap

### **April 2016**

**3rd** Branch Meeting. Petone  
Theme: Letters J & K

### **The year as I see it**

Our monthly meetings are always well attended, with a wide array of items exhibited. We often have some very unusual items placed on tables, and we thank the owners for bringing these items along. In the earlier part of the year we took a trip to the Waiorou Military museum and viewed the barns that hold a large selection of vehicles, covering everything from motorbikes to very large heavy recovery trucks. These tours are always well worth the day's visit.

Once again, our club auction was a booming success, and we had a selection of visitors from Australia, that prove we certainly have quality world class collectables here that are available for sale.

Steve has promised more for next year.

I guess I have struggled with finding time to do as

much as I have done in the past, due to the demands of a young family. Several committee members have picked up the slack and have run with it, I thank these people.

In recent times, we have all seen and heard about the T.V. presenter, that managed to obtain a firearm by filling out an internet mail order form, but using bogus license details. We urge all our members to be certain of all internet firearm transactions that they are involved with. Police have a new form that must be completed by both parties in a firearms transaction. If you are uncertain, have a talk to your local arms officer.

Over the year your committee has worked hard to bring you what we all want. I note that the new themes idea has certainly brought out some world class displays, and has proven a success. People are asking for more items in the newsletter, how about putting an article together on your latest purchase, or your favorite item. We would all love to learn a wee bit more.

I believe our interests are well and alive, however, we are all slowly showing the signs of age, and it would be great to see a few more people joining up as members.

The December meeting will be the last for this year, we wish you all a safe and merry time over the Christmas holiday. Our next club meeting will be at the PWMC on February 7th

Alwyn

## US Trip – Part II

Moline is part of Quad Cities on the banks of the Mississippi in Illinois and is home to the John Deere Pavilion featuring some of their latest and greatest earthmoving and farming machinery and a visit to this was a most interesting experience, however the adjacent Rock Island in the Mississippi river is the site of the US Arsenal where armaments are manufactured to this day. The Island is a Government Armoury facility and a notice said “Home of US Army Logistics” and it was necessary to prove identity at a border type checkpoint to be permitted to enter. At the height of the protest movement in America during the Vietnam War bunkers were built at both ends of Rock Island and armed soldiers stood guard 24hrs a day to restrict entry and protect the plant.

The Island has an outdoor display of WW2 vintage heavy guns and tracked equipment but there was no sign of equipment currently being produced. We read that there were 6000 civilian employees working at the plant and another 700 Military personnel. Although we couldn't see the workshops a video screening at the museum showed some aspects of their work. The Island had two large military cemeteries one dating back to the Civil War period both of which were well maintained with precise alignment of crosses and manicured lawns and the Island is also was home to the Arsenal Museum for which I had high hopes might be something special. However in that regard I was somewhat disappointed, they certainly had a most extensive display of small arms and I was told there were 1200 guns on two main display walls alone but in reality there were far too many firearms for the available space. Although each gun was numbered, with the exception of a few at the front and in other display cases there were no descriptions displayed and it was necessary to refer to books on desks in front of the glass to identify any specific item. All in all it was a very slow way for a visitor with limited time to make a quick identification of any particular item. The firearms were mainly relatively modern and it appeared to me that they probably had an example of almost every small arm ever made in USA including the very rare Pedersen device converting a Model 1903 Springfield bolt action rifle into an autoloading rifle. This device was a secret WW1 project intended to be an answer to the German development of the submachine gun but they had very limited use or appeal and almost all of the 65000 made were recalled and destroyed at the end of the war.

As an aside Rock Island was a point where the Mississippi river was dammed and had a lock that was part of

the river transport system that dated back to the mid 1800's. This dam and lock system was one of 29 locks between St Louis and Minneapolis/St Paul, which opens the river to shipping from St Paul to the Gulf of Mexico. At the Mississippi River Visitor Centre on Rock Island we saw a barge being pushed by a tug approaching and were in time to see a large section of the obstructing double decker road and rail bridge swing around ninety degrees to clear the lock for the tug. The bridge had rail traffic on the top section with vehicular traffic below and we were told the reason for this configuration was that smoke and noise from the old steam trains frightened the horses when trains ran beneath the horse drawn vehicles but they could cope with the noise from above without the smoke. Within a matter of minutes the barge was pushed into the lock, the gate behind closed and water let in to raise the level about 12ft then the forward gates were opened and the flotilla sailed off. We were told that the locks were operated 24hrs a day and no charge was made to users. Interestingly a barge we saw go through that had a single large item on board marked Made In Japan by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation Japan consisting of a stator for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Generator Replacement Project with the weight of 460,000kgs stencilled on the side of the covers. The barges were mainly of a standard size where they can be lashed 3 wide and up to five long to fill the locks. The oil carrier barges hold 1750 tons so obviously while this is an old system it is still being put to very good use. An information sheet from the Visitors Centre stated that the locks can accommodate a 15 barge tow, which is the equivalent load of 1050 semi trailers that would stretch for 14 miles or 2.2 rail trains of 240 cars that would stretch for 2.52 miles. The main bulk cargo moved up river is petroleum products from the oil fields of Texas and Louisiana and grains such as corn, wheat and oats etc are the principal products sent down stream.

When you see the huge numbers of cars and trucks on the motorways and numerous long rail trains with large wagons rolling by, quite apart from the barges and hundreds of bridges and over passes as well as massive fields of corn and other crops you soon begin to realise what a small place New Zealand really is. I thought of the Commander in Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet in 1941 Yamamoto Isoroku, the originator of the plan to attack Pearl Harbour who had spent time in USA as a student at Harvard then as a naval attaché in Washington. Although a controversial figure he was reputed to have advised the Japanese War Cabinet against attacking America as he said it was a sleeping giant. My thoughts were that it's now far from sleeping and certainly is a giant.

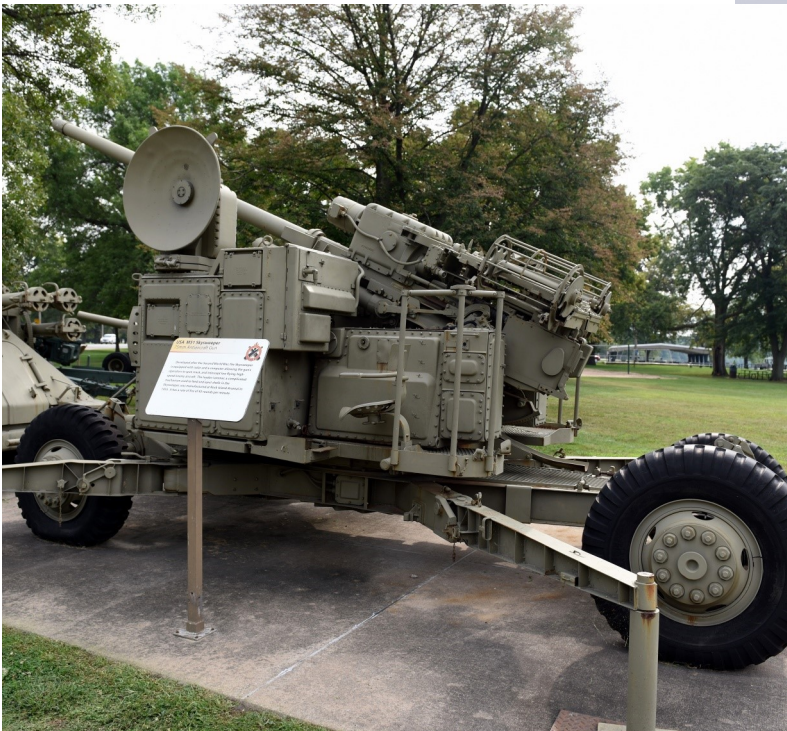


With much recent publicity about shootings and the inadequacy of gun control in America I noted that an outdoor sports shop I visited near Louisville had huge displays of guns of all types for sale. In one large glass topped counter with shelves beneath there were hundreds of automatic pistols, most were black finish and not sporting arms. Two young guys being served were handling and dithering over several models of powerful automatic pistols before they could decide which ones to buy and I couldn't help but think, fine until they got into an argument with someone. A further section of the shop had semi auto rifles that looked very Military to me and in another section there were shotguns for Africa. I don't know what the purchase eligibility requirements were but there were lots of guns for sale. We also read that America has shootings every day and this apparently averages out at one every 16 minutes, however we saw no evidence of the public carrying firearms although we later learned there was a shooting in one town we had visited the day after we left. All I can say is don't complain about NZ we have a pretty good system here.

Rex









## TARANAKI GUN SHOW 2015

Hi All,

The show weekend really is a blur for me but here is a wrap up on the weekend for you all!

The Taranaki Gun Show is done and dusted for 2015, the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November had us all together at the Plymouth International Hotel for yet another spectacular weekend of buying, selling, trading and socialising. As always the gun show is a good opportunity to catch up with our collecting community "family". We had fantastic support from exhibitors with more displays than I have ever seen before at one of our shows, we had our usual strong contingent from Central branch who have always been staunch Taranaki Gun Show supporters filling seven display tables. Ruahine members also came in support of our show taking five tables between them. Three Wellington members were displaying also. Our Taranaki guys made a great effort with their numerous displays. The quality of both the items on display and the presentation of the displays is absolutely first class. I was involved with judging the displays and it was a very hard call to make when faced with picking each category's "best" display as they were all superb! New Zealand Volunteer period items including shooting trophy's and helmet plates, Arms and accoutrements from the musket wars and land wars. Early sporting arms both percussion and flintlock. A cabinet display of great war items was museum quality and the Model 1900 Swedish Hotchkiss machine gun displayed (one of only thirty produced) is an item that would be seldom found anywhere around the globe. A great corner set up depicting a soldier warming himself by the fire was an innovative display for the humble .303. Hand crafted reproduction Vickers and .30cal Browning machine guns and an extremely interesting .50 rifle, the epitome of a "Big Boys Toy"!

Dealers and vendors came from far and wide, many of whom reported good sales over the weekend, some of these guys have been Taranaki regulars for 23 plus years, again your support is much appreciated. The flow of public through the door was steady all day Saturday and even though lesser numbers came in Sunday it was still steady. There were some great buys to be had and the odd gem make its way through the door.

Saturday evening had us together for refreshments, presentations and our micky mouse auction. We provided show exhibitors and stall holders with a sweet treat in the form of "Taranaki Gun Show 2015" pots of clover honey (Thanks Gavin)

Permitting was taken care of by Dave Pike who did a great job filling in as Arms officer due to Vaughan being unavailable, he also received a welcome insight into what we collectors are all about and was well impressed with the show and its many offerings.

I would like to thank all those who took the time to put together displays or pack up their surplus items and dealing stock and come along for the weekend of trading or selling, you and your participation is what makes our Taranaki Gun Show a great weekend, it is always a pleasure to share in your company over the weekend. Thank you to the local membership for your assistance with getting our signage out, putting out our posters, setting up the show, packing in or breaking down the displays and our overnight security. Thanks Zac for all the last minute running around and administration assistance. And thank you to Adrienne for your time and patience in dealing with ME behind the scenes, helping get the gun show work done whilst manning the door for two long days while keeping the kids fed, watered and entertained. The show is our annual opportunity to showcase to the public collectors and collecting in a positive light, our chance to demonstrate safe and responsible ownership of firearms. We gained some reasonable coverage via a Taranaki Daily News article posted on the Daily News Facebook page and also the Stuff Website (this will get a huge amount of coverage).

Central, Ruahine and Wellington branch's your support was much appreciated and as always I hope we can welcome you all back again for our 2016-gun show.

Presentations were as follows

Best Military Display "The Army Cup" Colin Arnold, Sniper Rifles  
Best British Military "Corkin Memorial Trophy" Blair Horter, Musket Wars display  
Best Non Military Ken Judd, Flintlock Fowling piece  
Best Non Firearms "Benett Cup" Fred Horton, Trench Art  
Best Individual Display "Scott Trophy" Greame Champion, Model 1900 Hotchkiss MG  
Best Visitors Display Tony Matthews, land Wars Arms and Accoutrements  
Best Overall Display Greame Polkinghorn WW1 Display  
Best Taranaki Display "Foy Memorial Cup" Vaughan and Shannon Gould, Daryl Cave .303 display  
People's Choice "Crowe Memorial Trophy" Ryan Shaw and Peter Garrett Vietnam Display

Thanks again to all, if it wasn't for your support and participation we wouldn't have a gun show and you are what makes our show great.

Andrew Edgcombe

Taranaki Gun Show Convenor



## Items at the Christmas lunch.

N.Z. saw back bayonets, 3 different models



Colt pistols, An array of different models.



N.Z. volunteer helmet plates



6 more Colt revolvers, various models

Soviet bloc holsters, a lovely selection of 12 different styles.



Royal visit, Wellington 1927 some nice articles.







Collection of respirators and gas masks, various models.

.45acp, a selection of pistols and a Thompson M.G



## 2015 Award Winners

Steve—lifetime membership, Frank—Displays , Pat—contributions to the branch





## CLUB AMMO FOR SALE

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

## Bayonet DVD's

A new batch has been produced and will be at the next meeting. Please see Steve



No4 sniper rifle .303 cal

45/70 rifle built on a Martini action.

French foreign legion badges and collectables.

### President

Alwyn Ph (04) 528 8190  
alwyndavies@xtra.co.nz

### Vice President

Pat P (04) 9708811

### Auction Convener

Steve Ph (04) 934 2756  
Fax (04) 934 2966  
info@nzaaaawgtn.org.nz

### Secretary

Margaret  
(04) 237 5471  
secretary@nzaaaawgtn.org.nz

### Treasurer

James

### Editor

James 02102501675

### Committee

Terry  
Vic C. (04) 566 9739  
Dave C (04) 971 8345  
Glenn M (04) 5869454

## The Theme for



## December will be New Zealand Army

The letter of the month still applies and these are F & G. Some ideas are Factory, French, Flintlock, Forging, Flack, Gauges, Gilt, Grease, Grips, German, Government