

VERY LIGHT

Very Light Magazine is a magazine of The Antique & Historical Arms Collectors Guild
of Victoria, Inc No 124 December 2021

2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Annual General Meetings

Election of Office Bearers and Increase in Annual Subscriptions

The long postponed 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Annual General Meetings of the Guild were held on Monday the 29th of November.

Following the presentation of reports from the President and Treasurer, the statements of accounts for the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Financial years were received and approved by the members attending.

The committee for the coming year 2021 – 2022 was elected and this is **President**, Eric Estlin, **Vice President**, Adrian Roads, **Secretary**, Dr Malcolm McKay, **Treasurer**, Kevin Saunders; **Editor**, Fred Bienvenu, **Committee Members**; Chris Cosopodiotis, Barry Thomas, John Accardo, David Henderson and David Pearce.

As announced in the previous issue of *Very Light* the matter of the Guild's finances were discussed.

The President Eric Estlin told the meeting that the Guild's financial position has been deteriorating over the passing years. We have experienced falling income and rising costs and our financial reports each year have made depressing reading. Should we proceed diminishing our wealth annually we will probably have a life of 12 more years before the Guild will become financially unviable with the complete dilution of the hard earned fighting fund. He mentioned that part of this was due to the necessary cost of creating a first rate website and producing two excellent journals twice a year, plus other costs continue to rise whilst our income stagnates. Membership numbers mark time with new member numbers almost offset by natural attrition.

Furthermore the concept of Paid Life Membership was conceived many years ago, when annual subscriptions were much lower. However members benefits have improved with costs increasing considerably. The President announced that the option of Paid Life Memberships will be reconsidered by the Committee, with the object of not offering it going forward.

After calculating the financial position the President told the meeting that the Committee has arrived at the suggested following increases.

Full and Family Membership to rise from \$75.00 PA to \$105.00

Pensioner Membership Fee to rise from \$55.00 PA to \$75.00 PA

Country Membership to rise from \$45.00 PA to \$75.00 PA

And that a one off levy be placed on Paid Life Members of \$30.00.

The new fees would come into effect from the renewal of memberships for the 2022 – 2023 financial year.

The motion was put and general discussion invited, with the request that any suggested changes to the quantum of subscriptions be supported by costings of those suggestions.

Discussion of the proposed motion touched upon seeking further means to address static membership by boosting advertising in online sites and in printed magazines and journals. This was referred back to the committee for discussion of the wording and costs.

Following the discussion the following motion was put -

“It is moved that the annual membership fees of the Antique & Historical Arms Collectors Guild of Victoria, Inc. be increased as follows –

Full and Family Membership is to rise from \$75.00 PA to \$105.00

Pensioner Membership Fee is to rise from \$55.00 PA to \$75.00 PA

Country Membership is to rise from \$45.00 PA to \$75.00 PA

There will be a one off levy on Paid Life Members of \$30.00.

The new membership fees will come into effect from the renewal of memberships for the 2022 – 2023 financial year”.

The motion was carried.

Monday Meetings 2022

The dates for the Guild Monday Meetings are **January 31, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29 (AGM), September 26, October 31 and November 28.**

The committee has decided to make all meetings a Buy and Sell night. We want members to bring along items for sale which can include exempt firearms i.e. pre-1900 genuine antiques like single shot percussion pistols, flintlocks etc. and other types of exempt firearms such as longarms taking obsolete ammunition.

At this time we anticipate that there will still be some COVID requirements in place in the early part of 2022. Accordingly we will quote the current conditions, with the proviso that these will probably be modified in coming months.

Members attending will be required to record their attendance in one of two ways -

1. The Guild has a QR Code which is displayed and members may record their presence by using their smartphones as they would if attending restaurants or other venues where the use of the QR Code is a condition of admission, or
2. Any members who do not have the smartphone facility to use a QR Code to record their attendance will have to do so by writing their name and contact details (name, email address or phone number) on the record sheets which will be placed on the table inside the doors to the Hall itself.
3. When in the Hall the social distancing rule is still to be observed and face masks must be worn.
4. All attendees must be double vaccinated. Proof of vaccination must be provided if asked.

Call for Expressions of Interest – Guild Antique Arms and Collectables Fair

Dear Members

I am taking the opportunity to bring you up to date with the concept of a Guild Fair I briefly mentioned at the AGM in November.

It is a number of years since I first raised the subject with your committee. For a variety of considerations the project was put on the backburner. However, my and the Committee's feeling, is that there will be enough enthusiasm for an Antiques Arms and Collectables Fair to go ahead.

The revised aim would be to put the activities of the Guild in front of the public. In doing so we would, hopefully, gain some new members. At the very least we should achieve some positive publicity while putting on an event of keen interest to our own members and hopefully, provide us with a regular modest income stream.

What the Committee must have, is an indication of the level of support we can expect from Guild members, without which nothing can materialize. Would you please respond by email - cupfire1@ozemail.com.au or telephone 9584 2907 to let us know whether you would commit to "renting" a table/s, and what type of items you would be selling.

Once in possession of indicative numbers, we can then source a suitable location and firm up a date. Accordingly, we will have to put a deadline for the receipt of your indications. Would you please respond by the 31st of January, 2022.

All further information & updates regarding this event will, of course, be in our *Very Light* newsletters, published bi-monthly on our website, or with direct contact with participants.

Best regards,

Eric W. Estlin
President

Caps & Flints

We are requesting articles for the February 2022 issue and subsequent issues. Authors are reminded to provide photos taken with adequate lighting and sharpness. While the Editor can help improve/redeem some images, he is not a miracle worker. A photo which is blurred by movement of the camera or subject is almost impossible to improve by sharpening the image using magical software. The use of an even, clean, texture-less and white/very light background is also essential.

Please forward articles, advertising or enquiries to the Editor *Caps & Flints* by email to cupfire1@ozemail.com.au or by mail to PO Box 2976, Cheltenham, 3192, or contact the Guild Secretary on (03) 9584 2907.

Advertising in Caps & Flints

Caps & Flints Journal No. 5 is expected to be ready for distribution in February 2022. If you would like to place an advert in that issue of the Journal, please read on.

To reserve a **size** and **position**, please indicate your preferences by contacting the Secretary. This will facilitate and aid the editor in formatting the journal.

Suitable **final versions** of your adverts should be submitted as a PDF or JPG format in the required size. The sizes and charges currently available are:

Full Page @ \$500

Half Page @ \$350

Third Page @ \$250

Quarter Page @ \$200

The prices and conditions are set by the Executive of the Guild.

Some Firearms Regulations Updates

Gel Blasters

Over the past 12 months or so the Secretary has received queries from members regarding Gel Blasters. The police consider that if these have the appearance of an operable firearm, purchase and possession is governed under the provisions of the *Control of Weapons Act*. The Guild is an approved organisation under that *Act* so if anyone is considering purchase of a Gel Blaster then a current Guild membership card is sufficient to meet the requirements.

Storage Requirements for A/B Licence Holders

Earlier this year changes were announced to the storage requirements for firearms held under A/B licences in which the wall thickness of the safe or container was increased to 1.6mm steel. L&RD have announced that the legislative amendments will come into force in August 2022. This is to enable people time to upgrade their storage to the new requirement.

Clearly this is a requirement for A/B licence holders only, however as holders of collectors licences are required to have storage conditions that far exceed that which applies to A/B Licence holders, L&RD advise that where the storage of long arms held on an A/B Licence exceeds that of the minimum requirement then that is sufficient under the regulations.

L&RD further advise that if approached they are happy to accommodate requests for inspection of licence holders storage facilities to advise if these adhere to the requirements of the regulations.

Finally there was a rumour circulating that L&RD had banned the storage of a firearms owner's other valuables such as jewellery, important papers etc. in the same storage facility as that of their licensed firearms. The *Firearms Act 1996* does not regulate if documents or other items can be stored in the firearms safe. However it is important to note that if documents, etc. are stored in a firearms safe then they can only be accessed by the licensed firearm holder with the exclusion of all others

Licence Renewals and PTAs

Members are requested to submit licence renewals, licence applications and Permits to Acquire requiring the signature of a Nominated Officer to the Guild at PO Box 2976 Cheltenham, 3192, or by email to cupfire1@ozemail.com.au

Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that we may forward them to the required destination. Mail costs are increasing, and we appreciate members' cooperation in this matter.

The Secretary can be contacted on (03) 9584 2907 or by email at cupfire1@ozemail.com.au

Member seeking two Victorian Volunteer marked items

Pattern 1856 Sergeants Model marked VV (Victorian Volunteers),

.577 cal. Hay Pattern rifle also marked VV.

Contact Bob Bates 0407 098 413 or batesbob@bigpond.net.au

Seeking Information regarding Japanese Made Martini Cadet Rifles

I am trying to find some information on a Japanese newsletter, *Dia Nippon* published in the late 60s or early 70s, Francotte rifles and swords made for the Melbourne military 1892 plus any other info on who received these consignments.

Contact Keith Crozier crozierkeith4@gmail.com

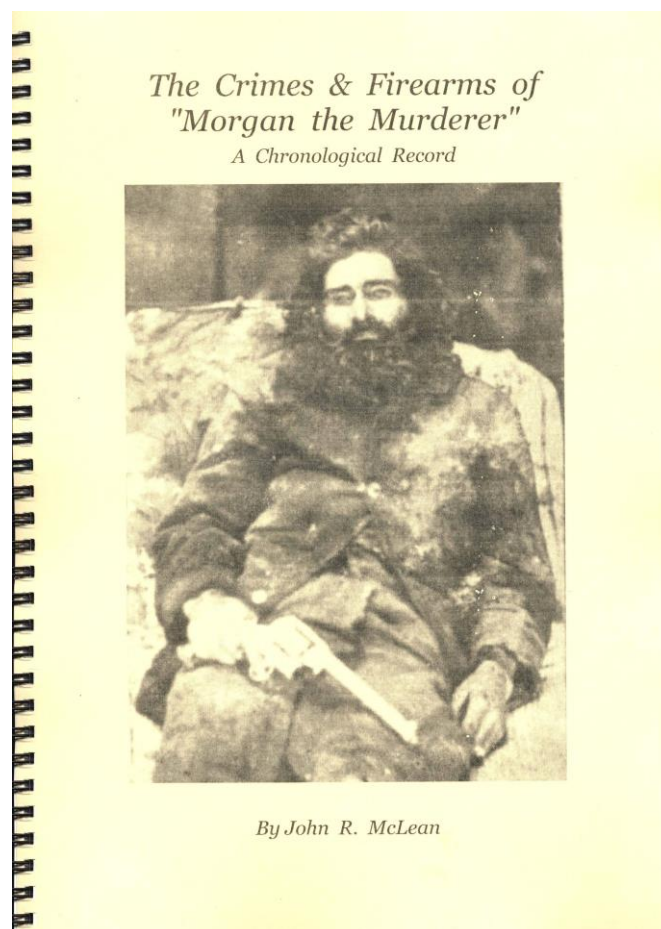
New Books

Alan Sterling JP ha, Commanding Officer, Werribee Half Battery living history group and Kevin Browning OAM have published a book on the restoration of the Werribee Gun, a model 1859 Armstrong 12 pounder breech loading field gun.

The book includes a comprehensive history of these guns in Australia together with technical and operational details and is a definitive reference on the subject.

It is profusely illustrated in colour and B/W with historical and contemporary images. Paperback, 62 pages. Price is \$20 plus \$6 post in Australia. To obtain a copy email werribeehalfbattery@gmail.com

John McLean has just published a new book on the bushranger Dan Morgan. This is a spiral bound compendium of contemporary newspaper reports and other documents relating to Morgan.



Produced & Published by the author. To purchase contact j.mclean@optusnet.com.au 0408 641 716, Price \$35.00 plus postage within Australia \$10.00

The Calisher & Terry in British and Colonial Military Service 1856 -1900

by Brian Knapp

Brian Knapp who is a well-known authority on small arms of the 18th & 19th Centuries has announced a new book.

The book is a comprehensive study of the Calisher & Terry rifle, illustrated with over 170 rifle images and 50 period photographs, most of which have never been published in book form before. With many cuttings from contemporary newspaper and magazine articles, the C&T story is not only about one of the most popular capping breech loading rifles and a famous Birmingham manufacturer but also a social snapshot of Victorian life in a provincial manufacturing city during the industrial revolution.

The book will be A4 size, hard back with over 200 pages. UK price to be £48 including P&P [sales price outside the UK £45 plus P&P]

Enquiries please contact

Barry Chisnall

web: www.britishcarbines.webador.co.uk

twitter: @britishcarbines

email smallarmsbooks@gmail.com

New Research Project on British Naval Swords and Cutlasses.

Cathey Brimage, Secretary of the *Heritage Arms Society of South Australia* has advised us of a new research project she and other collectors have embarked upon to catalogue every available example of British Naval Cutlass, Cutlass Bayonets, Naval Pioneer Swords, Naval Machetes, and Lead Cutters. Cathey and team are attempting to capture and record in chronological order official patterns, experimental, transitional, and official conversions and then provide an illustrated table as a guide for collectors.

At this early stage the project involves photographing, measuring, and weighing as many examples as possible, and if you would like to participate contact Cathey Brimage at heritage.arms.society@gmail.com to obtain details of the data required plus advice on the quality of photographs to be provided.

Wanted to buy

British Sea Service Pistols

* Pattern 1821

* Pattern 1824 (Similar to a New Land Pattern, but with a belt hook)

Please ring Eric 0410 558 067 to discuss.

Wanted to Sell

Bayonets for Sale

East India Company 'Type F' socket bayonet. **\$280**

P/1839 Sea Service socket bayonet with Lovell Catch. **\$220**

P/1888 knife bayonet, South Aust issue, in rare MkI Land Pattern Scabbard in excellent condition **\$630**

For photos email adrianroads1@gmail.com or call Adrian 0417 772 535

Books for Sale:

Small Arms of the Sea Services, Rankin. \$45

List of Changes in British War Materials, Volumes 1, 2 & 3, Skennerton. \$150

Swords for Sea Service Two Volumes / May and Annis \$450

Please ring Eric 0410 558 067 to discuss.

Members Displays

We strongly encourage our members to bring along a display of items from their collections. There will be no themes set, just bring along an item from your collection.

It is your club and it is up to you to engender value and interest in every Monday evening meeting.