

VERY LIGHT

Very Light Magazine is a magazine of The Antique & Historical Arms Collectors Guild
of Victoria, Inc No 125 February 2022

Attendance and Participation in Monday Night Meetings

For a number of years (COVID restrictions excluded) attendance and participation by members at the Guild's monthly Monday night meetings has been declining. This really is a great disappointment to those few people who put up their hands to be on the committee or take the time to participate in these club events.

The Guild is a club with around 800 members, something you would not believe if you were a regular and saw the paltry number of members that come to the meetings. We have got to the stage where we can predict who will be there and who will take the trouble to put on a display or bring along items for buy and sell.

We have tried offering prizes for displays and all that happened was that it was discontinued because it was always the same people mounting displays and winning prizes. We have made every night a buy and sell night and we have also extended that to selling exempt type items by members. None of this seems to make a dent in the general apathy of Guild members.

On January 31st we held the first Monday meeting of 2022. We had 10 members attend and 5 of those were committee members. There were two displays and two people offering items for sale. 10 participants out of nearly 800 members – that is absolutely awful. If you missed that meeting you missed two very interesting displays. One a nice pair of English flintlock pistols and the other was two early 17th century German wheellocks – pistols you rarely see outside of museum collections. What a chance to learn about firearms and one sadly missed by so many collectors.

Hall hire costs money: getting volunteers to set up tables is a battle and we still manage to do it but what happens in return for the cost and effort? We get sufficient attendees that might on a good night fill an old VW combi van.

Please do try to attend meetings and present displays.

Monday Meetings 2022

The dates for the Guild Monday Meetings are 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.

Increase in Annual Subscriptions

A reminder of the membership subscription increase approved at the AGM in November 2021.

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

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 *Caps & Flints*. 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

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.

Storage Requirements for A/B Licence Holders

In 2021 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.

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, *Dai 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 crozierkieth4@gmail.com

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.

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.