

VERY LIGHT

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of Victoria, Inc No 137 December 2023

Encouraging Junior Members

At the 2022 -2023 Annual General Meeting a member raised the matter of encouraging under 18 year olds to join through some form of discounted junior membership.

Technically there is no reason why anyone under the age of 18 can't join the Guild, but there are impediments in the two Acts which govern weapons collecting - the *Firearms Act* and the *Control of Weapons Act*.

Unlike for junior shooters there is no such classification which allows supervised collecting. Put simply there is no such thing as a Junior Collectors Licence or Permit, whatever it might be called. The regulation is worse under the *Control of Weapons Act* because it forbids under 18 year olds from buying edged weapons or other weapons covered by the Act.

However the Guild does have a classification called the Family Membership which currently is used by several people (e.g. husband and wife, father and son etc.) as a means to save money.

Providing the involved parties have met the Guild's requirements for membership i.e. they have as individuals completed the separate processes in the application forms, then they are enrolled as individuals and thus meet the requirements of the various acts to establish their separate identities and appear as separate individuals in our records. That is important considering the regulatory requirements re waiting times etc. that apply for collectors licences. Usually however these are adults.

But any member wishing to enrol an underage person would have to be aware that while the child could be a member the adult would have to be a Guild member using the usual processes if they aren't already, and they then would have to then apply for the necessary licences if firearms were to be purchased and hold them in their name. Similarly purchase of edged weapons or other weapons would have to be done by them – not the child, because that is what the *CoW Act* requires. We have had one instance of this in the past and the then junior after turning 18 continued now as an adult with their own licences.

Those conditions notwithstanding we do encourage Guild members to bring their children to meetings if the child has an interest in antique and historical weapons.

Notice Regarding Security and Safety at Meetings

We note that while it is pleasing to see increasing attendance at the Monday night meetings there has been a slackening of necessary security measures by members presenting displays.

Accordingly the Committee has resolved that –

1. All registerable firearms displayed must have either cable ties locking their actions, or trigger locks, or be firmly affixed to the table by locked cables, and the display must be attended at all times. The Guild has some cables and locks and these can be supplied if requested.

2. In regard to ammunition the sale of ammunition by individual members who do not possess the necessary WorkSafe permit to sell cartridge ammunition is banned.

This does not apply to licensed dealers and members who hold the appropriate Ammunition Collectors Licence who may be presenting displays. Any members who can sell ammunition under these conditions are reminded that they need to physically confirm that the purchaser has the appropriate licence before a sale can be made.

The restrictions on ammunition display either for sale, or as part of a display e.g. is because we run the risk that someone may take a loose round and chamber it in a firearm in an unattended display. The results of that would be horrendous for the club.

We also run the risk of a spot check by a L&RD Officer. This has not happened in the past. However the future is uncertain we must assume a visit will only be looking for trouble.

Annual Membership Renewals 2023 -2024

Members are reminded that the annual membership renewals were sent out in May. If any member hasn't received theirs yet, please contact the Secretary by email at cupfire1@ozemail.com.au or by phone (03) 9584 2907.

National Firearms Amnesty Extended

National Firearms Amnesty The National Firearms Amnesty will continue into 2023/2024. In Victoria 2300 articles were surrendered in 2022/2023.

National Firearms Register

In February 2023 National Cabinet tasked the Attorney-General and Police Ministers with bringing options for a National Firearms Register back to National Cabinet by mid-2023. A public consultation paper was released nation-wide. 86 submissions were received from the public. ACIC led workshops with Commonwealth and state and territory jurisdictions and reached working level agreements on Register options. Stakeholders generally agreed that the biggest challenge to the success of a Register is timely and accurate data. Submissions from firearm users, industry and representative groups supported the community safety objectives

of the Register and the related verification service advocated for increased data security to protect firearm owners information. The Register is a high priority reform for all governments, with National Cabinet considering options for a preferred model.

Currently there are delays and the Attorney-General's Department has said that the matter is still currently being considered by at various levels within the federal, state and territorial governments.

Monday Meetings 2024

The date for the Guild Monday Meetings in 2024 are January 29, February 26, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29, August 26 (AGM), September 30, October 28 and November 25.

Attendance and Participation in Monday Night Meetings

The committee has made 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.

It would also be helpful if we could have some volunteers to help set up the hall before our normal start time of 7.00 PM.

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

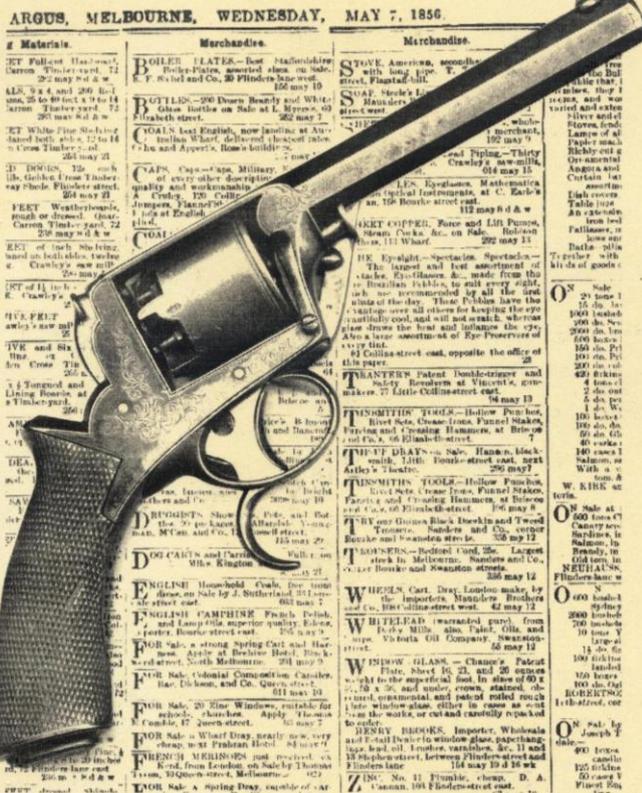
Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that we may forward them to the required destination. Mail costs are increasing, and we appreciate members' cooperation in this matter.

Alternatively members may scan and send by email the page that requires a Nominated Officer's signature and this will be signed and returned by email to the member.

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

New Book

H. & J. Vincent, Gunmakers Melbourne 1853-1863 Jersey Boys in Gold Rush Australia



John R. McLean

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Enquiries to :-

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