

# VERY LIGHT

Very Light Magazine is a magazine of The Antique & Historical Arms Collectors Guild of Victoria, Inc

No 139 April 2024

## Revocation of the Tasmanian Section 4 Exemption for Antique Firearms

As reported in the last issue of *Very Light* the surprise announcement by the Tasmanian Government that the Section 4 exemption for antique firearms took all collectors by surprise. The action to have the exemption reinstated promptly by the government that was taken by collectors was somewhat complicated by the state election held in Tasmania on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March.

However both the main parties (Liberals and Labor) went to the election with a promise to reinstate the exemption after the very loud outcry by collectors. Of course there was opposition to this from the Greens who demonstrated once more their rather limited understanding of firearms and collectors. At present the situation is that the exemption is yet to be reinstated, but the Liberal Party have formed a minority government and we hope that with support from Labor on this matter the exemption will be reinstated via an amendment to the Tasmanian firearms legislation.

Of course much still hinges on the Tasmanian collectors reminding both parties of their election promises. We will follow this matter and provide any updates in future issues of *Very Light*.

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Once again we remind our Victorian members that genuine pre-1900 antiques such as flintlocks and their predecessors as well as single shot percussion pistols and all longarms that take obsolete ammunition are exempt from licensing and registration and that has been the case since 1985.

**BUT** this does not mean that they are exempt from the legislation regarding use of firearms, all it means is that they are firearms exempt from registration and licencing. They remain firearms under the *Act*.

This means that if you wish to shoot exempt antique firearms you must do so in accordance with the *Firearms Act* which means that the firearm must be registered to the appropriate pistol or longarm licence held by the shooter.

So be aware that in Victoria if you wish to shoot exempt firearms you must be appropriately licenced and those firearms must be registered to your licence. And any attempt to avoid the

appropriate licensing requirements by individuals mistakenly seeking to exploit imagined loopholes regarding use will only cause harm to our common interest.

### **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.

### **Monday Meetings 2024**

The date for the Guild Monday Meetings in 2024 are 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](mailto: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](mailto:cupfire1@ozemail.com.au)

## Books for Sale

*Australian Service Bayonets*, Ian Skennerton, Limited Edition no 1241 of 2000. Unmarked as new, **\$120.00**; *Australian Service Longarms* Ian Skennerton, Limited Edition no 1011 of 2000, the paper cover has a slight tear while the book itself as new. **\$75.00**, *The British Service Lee*, Ian Skennerton. De Luxe Edition no 146 of 300, unmarked, **\$155.00**.

Contact Terry 0429 008 950

## Information Wanted by John Corcoran

I would like to inform members that I am currently compiling information for a forthcoming work, titled *Notable Handguns in Australia*, documenting selected handguns from private collections in Australia.

Over years of ongoing contact with collectors of antique and semi-modern firearms, I have constantly been surprised by the quality and rarity of firearms to be found in Australian collections.

This was the reasoning behind the recent publication of *Classic Rifles in Australia*, when Fred Bienvenu and I decided that some of these fine pieces should be brought to the attention of local and overseas enthusiasts. We selected rifles with some, or all, of the following features – quality, condition, rarity, and provenance, and documented fifty-eight outstanding examples, dating from a wheel lock of 1645 to a Winchester Model 70 of 1948.

*Notable Handguns in Australia* will be produced in a similar format, and I would ask collectors of handguns to contact me if they believe that they have a piece that may warrant inclusion.

Owners of any firearm chosen for the book will not be identified.

I can be contacted on 03 575 22194 or [margandon@bigpond.com](mailto:margandon@bigpond.com)

Details of *Classic Rifles in Australia* can be accessed on [www.buffalocreekpress.com.au](http://www.buffalocreekpress.com.au)