

VERY LIGHT

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

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The Bondi Shooting and Changes to Firearms Laws

Following the terrorist attack in Bondi on the 14th of December the Federal and NSW governments reacted by quickly announced a tightening of firearms laws. The Federal Government convened a meeting of state leaders to begin a process in which all states would review their existing legislation.

Primarily the intentions were a review of the numbers of firearms held by individuals on A/B licences. It was also intended it would result in a buyback funded 50/50 by the Federal and State Governments to reduce these numbers. Pre-empting a review the NSW Government quickly passed legislation reducing the number of firearms that could be held on an A/B licence to four.

The concentration on A/B licenced firearms came as a result of the shooters having legally gained access to modern straight pull type bolt action longarms which are popular because they allow more rapid fire than conventional bolt action longarms. Unfortunately by that time they were already radicalized supporters of ISIS, a fact that was known to ASIO who, it appears, failed to alert the NSW police who allowed the shooter to be issued with the A/B licence. That is the rather unbelievable background to the event that has caused another official review of our national firearms laws which are already adequate.

Both the Federal and NSW Bills concentrated on firearms held on A/B licences. **Their provisions excluded firearms held on collectors licenses and H licenses.**

But as firearms legislation is the responsibility of the individual states, and as the Victorian government is conducting a review of ours, the situation in Victoria is still uncertain at present. The Victorian review is not due to be completed until early February and then will be presented to the parliament if there is a need for legislative amendments to the Firearms Act.

This is the link to that review and provides details on how to respond if you wish

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-firearms--rapid-review>

Accordingly at this stage the Guild cannot offer firm advice to our members. Needless to say if collectors are impacted we will fight this.

It is necessary however to express our dismay at the reaction to this tragedy by the Federal Government and also that of the NSW Government. We deplore that law abiding A/B licence holders may be forced to surrender to a buyback any firearms they possess above a potential legislated legal limit of four. Law abiding A/B licence holders were not responsible for this.

The people who committed the terrorist act at Bondi were already known to ASIO – this has been admitted. Not just known but known to have been in regular contact with ISIS. Surely once their involvement was known why wasn't the licence holder deemed a prohibited person immediately, and his firearms seized? Surely under these circumstances isn't ASIO as much to blame? Yet the people who will bear the brunt of the punishment will be hitherto law abiding gun owners.

The Guild will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds and take all necessary action to ameliorate any harmful impact on licensed collectors

The dates of the Monday Meetings in 2026

The dates for the Guild Monday Meetings in 2026 which are held at Eley Park Community Centre, Eley Rd, Blackburn South, commencing at 7.00 pm are, January 26, February 23, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, August 31 (**AGM**), September 28, October 26 and November 30.

Guild Meetings on Public Holidays

Sometimes the monthly Guild meeting which is always held on the last Monday of every month (except December) coincides with a public holiday. Most often, as with 2026, this occurs on the Australia Day holiday. In some years it may also coincide with the Anzac Day holiday. Also this sometimes occurs for the Easter Monday holiday. We remind members that when this happens our Monday meeting on the last Monday of the month still remains on that day even if it is a public holiday.

Guild Committee 2025 -2026

At the 2024 -2025 Annual General Meeting held on the 29th of September the committee for 2025 – 2026 was elected –

President: Eric Estlin, Vice President: Adrian Roads, Secretary: Dr Malcolm McKay, Treasurer: Kevin Saunders, Editor of Caps & Flints: Fred Bienvenu, Other Committeemen: Barry Thomas, Chris Cosopodiotis, David Pearce, David Henderson and John Accardo.

Notice re Licence Applications, Renewals and PTAs

Members **must** submit these for signature by a Nominated Officer in one of the following **three** ways

1. By post to the Guild at PO Box 2976 Cheltenham, 3192 with a stamped envelope addressed to either L&RD or for return to the member.
2. In a scanned PDF format by email to cupfire1@ozemail.com.au or
3. In the original .rtf (Rich Text Format) which is the file type used by dealers in their use of the online process created by L&RD by email to cupfire1@ozemail.com.au .

Of course members can always bring the forms to one of our monthly meetings for signature.

If there are any questions re this matter the Secretary can be contacted on (03) 9584 2907 or by email at cupfire1@ozemail.com.au

Attendance and Participation in Monday Night Meetings

ALL MONDAY MEETINGS ARE BUY AND SELL NIGHTS

Besides presenting displays we encourage 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.

We remind members that it would be helpful if we could have some volunteers to help set up the hall before our normal start time of 7.00 PM.

SALES OF LICENSABLE FIREARMS MUST BE THROUGH A LICENCED DEALER

Long Sea Service repro Belt Hook (Peter Dyson made) \$50.

Small Arms of the East India Company 1600-1856, D F Harding. 2 Volumes in slipcover. Excellent Condition, \$790.

Great British Gunmakers, W. Keith Neal and D H L Back. 2 Volumes 1540 - 1740 and 1740–1790. Very good condition, \$290.

Hartman's Dutch Gunmakers From the 15th to the 20th Century. As New \$80

Self-standing sword display stand, measures 1.69 metres tall by 69 cms wide. Accommodates 16 swords. \$200.00.

Contact: Eric 0410 558 067

Antique Firearms for Sale

Indian Torador Matchlock,.65 cal., c. 1750. Decorated and in good condition.

Snaphaunce parts c. 1750, barrel and buttstock. Scottish style with iron edges.

Isaac Hollis 14 gauge, single barrel percussion shotgun. Engraved metal parts and checkered stock.

Manton, London. 16 gauge single barrel shotgun, c. 1850. Browned barrel and engraved.

Gale & Hill, 12 gauge double barrel shotgun, engraved lock and browned barrel.

Blakemore & Sons, 16 gauge double barrel percussion shotgun, c.1850. Engraved parts and....blued barrel.

Turkish flintlock miquelet musket c, 1820. Damascus barrel, button trigger, silver barrel bands and inlays.

Powder flask, tin of assorted flints and a set of reference books.

Contact: Ian Stedman tasinnovators@gmail.com

WANTED TO BUY

British Ordnance percussion Sea Service Pistol – 6 inch barrel, .56” calibre, with belt hook and TOWER or ENFIELD lock dated 1855 or 1856.

Contact; Adrian Roads 0417 772 535 adrianroads1@gmail.com