

**Very Light Magazine is a magazine of The Antique & Historical Arms Collectors
Guild of Victoria, Inc** **No 104 December 2019**

Articles Wanted for the New Look *Caps & Flints*

The next issue of *Caps & Flints* will be changing from the familiar A5 format to an A4 size journal and will be published in early 2020. The change in format will give the Editor a chance to better blend illustrations with the text. It will reduce the fragmentation of articles caused by the previous A5 format.

As members are no doubt aware, a journal cannot exist without content. We remind members that we need you, our members, to contribute articles on the interesting items you have in your collections. While we would prefer articles and accompanying images to be sent in digital form so that the Editor's job is simplified, we realise that some members may not be able to do that so. However, we will accept handwritten articles, which will be retyped. Please ensure images are clear and focussed.

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

Historic Arms Collectors Council of Australia AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the *Historic Arms Collectors Council of Australia (HACCA)* was held in Melbourne on the 12 of October. It was attended by delegates from most states.

HACCA was formed in 1998 as the peak body to represent arms collectors in dealings with the Federal government. It means annually to discuss matters in the various states and acts as the means by which the collecting organizations in each state can be made aware of legislative changes etc. around Australia.

Office bearers are elected annually and the office bearers for 2019 – 2020 are; President: Dr Malcolm McKay (Victoria), Secretary: Iain Pinkard (Tasmania) and Treasurer: Darryl Noe (Queensland).

Monday Night Display Themes for 2020

January 27: American arms all periods and types. (Noel Hall Award Night)

February 24: Talk: Barry Thomas will present *The Art of the Japanese Sword*. A supper will be provided.

The Golden Years of the Japanese sword are considered to be those of the Kamakura period, 1192 to 1336. Most collectors would have a general knowledge of what a Japanese sword is without realizing the length of its history and the connections of style over that time. It is not until one delves deeper into the history of Japanese swords that the true depth and scope of the subject reveals itself. Japanese swords have a history of over 1,000 years and though the basic shape and form of the sword remains recognizable over that time, within the form there are a great number of changes in the style and technology of making.

This talk, then, does not discuss the actual process of making a Japanese sword. The greater complexity of its history is opened up by presenting the different epochs of sword making. The work of modern sword smiths is discussed, followed by the late Edo period (19th century) sword smiths and those of the early Edo period (17th century). Though styles of warfare and political history to some extent determined the functional shape of swords, all sword smiths strived to emulate the works of the 13th – 14th century Golden Age of sword making. The linkages between later sword smith styles ca 1600 to modern times and the earlier 13th century inspirational master works is explained. Correct Japanese terminology is used in the talk to illustrate the depth of minute description of the Japanese sword's features.

The talk runs for about 50 minutes and also presents the stylistic elements of the blade through its shape and features.

Guild members not familiar with Japanese swords might like to watch the following YouTube video for insight into how a sword is made <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxwWf-MfZVk>. The video runs for 49 minutes.

March 30: Double barrel guns both longarms and pistols. (Noel Hall Award Night)

April 27: Edged Weapons. (Noel Hall Award Night)

May 25: Captain Cook Era. (Noel Hall Award Night)

June 29: Bushrangers, Convicts and Police. (Noel Hall Award Night)

July 27: Military rifles – all nations. (Noel Hall Award Night)

August 31: Annual General Meeting. A supper will be provided.

September 28: General displays – all items of interest.

October 26: General buy and sell (no firearms requiring licenses).

November 30: Target rifles and handguns. A supper will be provided.

Annual Membership Subscriptions 2019 -2020

Those members who still haven't paid their 2019 – 2020 membership fees are reminded that individual reminder letters have been sent. Please ensure that you remain a current member by paying your annual membership fee immediately.

Name Badges

Members are reminded that the Guild is taking orders for name badges for members. The cost is \$15.00. The badge is depicted below



If you want one and haven't ordered it please contact the Secretary by telephone on 9584 2907, or by email at – cupfire1@ozemail.com.au

Advertisements in *Very Light*

Members are reminded that they can place advertisements in *Very Light* if they have items for sale.

There isn't any charge but people offering registerable firearms are reminded that the transaction must be carried out through a licensed dealer. We suggest that for security purposes anyone wishing to advertise items for sale should keep their contact details brief such as just first name and land line or mobile number.

If you are seeking an item, then you may also run an advertisement free of charge. Again, we suggest for security that you restrict the contact detail to your name, landline or mobile number or an email address.

If you want to run an advertisement please contact the Secretary by telephone on 9584 2907, or by email at – cupfire1@ozemail.com.au

Request for Members' Email Addresses

The Guild is attempting to provide direct notification of the latest issues of *Very Light* and any other news that might be of interest to collectors. If you wish to make use of this facility, then please send us your email addresses.

It is quite simple to subscribe to this service just send your name and current membership number by email to info@armscollectorsguild.com. We will place your email address on our list, and you will get direct notification in your email.

This additional service will not replace the current system of posting the latest issues and news on the Guild's website nor the regular mail out of printed material to those without internet access. The Guild is also planning a major update of the website to bring it into line with current practice.

The Guild commenced this initiative to obtain members' email addresses some time ago, but response has been very limited which is disappointing. In fact, the number of people who still receive *Very Light* in hard copy exceeds those who receive it by email. In accordance with the Guild Committee's desire to extend the direct email of *Very Light* to our members, one of our committee members John Accardo will progressively contact by phone Guild members who haven't provided an email contact to ask if they would like to be included on the list.

Wanted to Buy

Rifle sling for a 577.450 Martini Henry.

Contact Gordon 0490 498 714.

Percussion whale harpoon gun.

Contact Michael on 0419 539 338

American Civil War Musket.

Springfield, Remington, Whitney or similar. Must have clear cartouche and be in good working order and condition. Contact Kevin McLauchlan, 9723 5586 or mobile 0418 398 164

For Sale

Rossi Mod.89C/F Revolver: 32 Long, 6 shot fluted cylinder, 2 Inch barrel, good bore, standard sights, barrel address & markings, clear markings, 85% orig. blue remains, drag marks in cylinders, good black rubber grips.

Contact John paljoey50@gmail.com Sale must be through a licenced dealer and a Cat.2 Collectors Licence is required.