

VERY LIGHT

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

No 155 October 2026

Guild Committee 2026 -2027

The committee for 2026 – 2027 was elected at the 2025 -2026 Annual General Meeting held on the 31st of August, they are –

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.

Membership Subscriptions 2026 - 2027

Members are reminded that the 2026 – 2027 membership renewals were sent out in May and that anyone who has not paid their subscriptions will have their memberships cancelled. Under both the *Firearms Act* and the *Control of Weapons Act* current membership of an approved collecting organization is a requirement.

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, October 26 and November 30.

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.

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

Some Displays from the September Meeting

Some Interesting Pistols



Unusually Large British Pattern 1796 Light Cavalry Sabre



Wanted

A member is seeking copies of *Caps & Flints* for September 1972, March 1973, March 1977, September 1988, December 1992

Anyone who has these please contact Chris Delaney chris.351c@gmail.com

For Sale

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

Small Arms of the East India Company 1600-1856, D F Harding. Volumes 1 & 2 in slipcover. Excellent Condition, \$695.

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

Contact: Eric 0410 558 067

New Book

BRITISH CAPPING BREECH-LOADING RIFLES & CARBINES

By
Brian C. Knapp

298 pages • 20 chapters • 600 colour illustrations • 113 line drawings

This new book by Brian Knapp is a completely revised, updated and combined edition of his previous two-volume work, *The Capping Breech Loader in British & Colonial Military Service*. Capping breech-loading firearms represent a fascinating but comparatively short-lived stage in the evolution of the rifle: the transition from the muzzle-loader to the self-contained, gas-tight metallic cartridge. Loaded at the breech but fired by the conventional percussion cap and nipple, these ingenious arms reached the height of their development between approximately 1850 and 1865.



Although manufactured in substantial numbers and adopted in various forms by most of the major powers, the capping breech-loader was ultimately a technological dead end. Its military career was relatively brief, overtaken by the rapid development of metallic-cartridge firearms. Nevertheless, these weapons offered genuine practical advantages and consequently enjoyed considerably greater longevity in colonial and civilian use.

THE WESTLEY RICHARDS "MONKEY TAIL"

Perhaps the most successful British capping breech-loader, it remained in production into the 1880s. Many of the Boer farmers who defeated the British force at Majuba in 1881 carried this supposedly obsolete arm.



This extensively revised work contains a wealth of new information and previously unpublished material. It examines not only the better-known systems—including Calisher & Terry, Greene, Leetch, Prince, Sharps, Westley Richards and Wilson—but also the circumstances that gave rise to their development and their use by the British military, throughout the Empire and in the civilian market.

Considerable attention is also devoted to numerous lesser-known and experimental systems, including those of Brand, Bayliss, Benjamin & Byrnes, Jenks, Gilby, Green Brothers, Captain Harrison, McKenzie & Wentworth, Palliser, Reeves and Treeby, together with many others. A dedicated chapter reproduces and examines contemporary newspaper reports and commentary, providing a fascinating insight into how many of these weapons were viewed at the time. The final chapter covers the relevant patent abridgements, including numerous obscure and little-known breech-loading systems.



A comprehensive, lavishly illustrated study of one of the most inventive—and often overlooked—periods in the development of the British breech-loading firearm.

THE STANDARD REFERENCE BOOK ON THE SUBJECT

British Capping Breech Loading Rifles and Carbines

By Brian Knapp

RRP is a\$125.00 plus postage \$22 – Contact **Bob** [0490491672](tel:0490491672) to order

Forthcoming Arms & Militaria Auction

Saturday the 10th October 2026

Military Lane present their next online live auction of classic arms and collectables.

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a wooden plank texture. At the top center is the Military Lane logo, which includes a sunburst emblem above the text "MILITARY LANE" and "Australia's Premier Arms Auction House". On the left side, there is a circular badge with a yellow-to-orange gradient, containing the text "LIVE ONLINE AUCTION" and "9am Saturday 10th October 2026". The central part of the image displays a collection of various firearms and militaria, including a large tripod-mounted machine gun, a submachine gun, several handguns, a revolver, a pump-action shotgun, and a long-barreled rifle. At the bottom, the text "Classic Arms & Collectables Auction" is written in a white serif font, followed by "- WITH OVER 700 LOTS -" in a smaller, yellow, all-caps sans-serif font.

The catalogue can be viewed online at www.militarylane.com.au