

E-GAZETTE MK II

New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Inc. # 90 July 2018

http://www.antiquearms.org.nz/

EDITORIAL

Change is in the wind!

There comes a time in all our lives when we have to say enough is enough, time to change direction or move on before we pass our sell by date. That time has come for me and as a consequence I have decided to give up the job as your editor at the end of this year. I will also be relinquishing my other volunteer roles in other organisations, such as SSANZ and COLFO.

If you have some computer skills and would like to consider taking on the Gazette or e-gazette please get in touch. It can be a rewarding job, and will bring you in contact with some interesting collections and knowledgeable people, there are also other benefits to compensate for your time and effort.

With the passing of their President John Osborne in February the New Zealand Society of Gunsmiths is currently facing a period of uncertainty until a new executive committee can be elected. Consequently the New Zealand Arms Register website (below) which is funded by the NZSG has been placed on hold until these matters are resolved. However it is hoped that this useful resource will continue in the future.

July also sees the end of the era of community based volunteer Firearm Safety Instructors guiding new applicants through the licence test. The MSC CEO has been on a tour of the country thanking the volunteers for their past service and handing out certificates, sadly he was not sufficiently in touch with his volunteers to know which ones had passed away. It will be interesting to see how the new online test administered by VTNZ and AA, with a practical handling assessment conducted by paid MSC instructors will shape up.

Best wishes, Phil

The e-Gazette Mk II is a monthly news-letter circulated free to members of the NZAHAA and their friends by e-mail only. It may be copied and forwarded to fellow collectors, we ask that any material used by others is acknowledge to this publication.

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Views expressed here are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the NZAHAA or its Branches.

All correspondence relating to the e-Gazette should be addressed to:

The Editor, Phil Cregeen at: oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

To unsubscribe e-mail the Editor.

All correspondence relating to NZAHAA membership should be addressed to the National Secretary:

PO Box 694, Rangiora 7440 e-mail: nzahaa.secretary@gmail.com

NZ Arms Register www.armsregister.com

A LEGACY OF JOHN OSBORNE 1941 - 2018

Here you can research the arms used by New Zealand Military and Police.

Back issues of the e-Gazette will be found in the Articles section.

Vickers machine gun in New Zealand Service by Phil Cregeen & John Osborne

Pattern: "Gun, Vickers .303 inch" or "Gun, Machine .303, Mark I", water cooled Medium Machine Gun;

Introduced in NZ Service: 1916, Withdrawn: 1973

Makers: Vickers Ltd, Erith and Crayford Works, UK in WW I; Colt, USA in WW I (30-06 calibre); SAF Lithgow,

Australia 1929 on; Vickers- Armstrong Crayford Works in WW II.

Calibre: .303", Bore: 6 groove RH twist 1 in 10", Barrel length: 28.4 in. OA Length: 43.0 in.

Weight: 33 Lb bare, 84 Lb with tripod,

Type of Action: Short recoil with muzzle gas boost-full auto; Cyclic rate: 500rpm; Magazine: 250 round fabric belt. Sights: Tangent aperture sight graduated to 2,900 yds. for Mk VII ammo and to 3,700 yds for Mk VIIIz ammo.







Right and left view of a 1942 Vickers Mk I on Mk IV tripod

Vickers Mk I in action WWI

Developed from the Maxim Machine Gun the Vickers MMG Mk I was introduced into British Service in November 1912 by LOC 16217. By inverting the Maxim lock the Vickers gun was made lighter and more reliable than its predecessor. At the start of WW I the British Army had only 109 Vickers MMGs. Early production was made at Vickers' Erith Works but by December 1916 Crayford Works was also producing the Vickers and by the end of WWI 75,242 guns had been produced. Note the smooth water jacket was introduced in 1918. As the air war developed the Vickers was modified to arm allied aircraft by converting to air cooling and synchronising the gun to fire through the propeller this became the MK I* and later variants. (See NZAR 187). Due to the static nature of the war in France in WW I the Vickers Gun was used primarily in the sustained fire and indirect fire rolls laying down barrages on enemy positions; with more mobile warfare in the Second World War direct fire was more common. In WW II an additional 11,828 guns were produced with much repair and refurbishment work carried out at RSAF Enfield with components also made by sub contractors. 7,071 US 30-06 calibre Vickers were supplied to Britain as Lend Lease in WWII and a 1,000 were converted to .303 at Enfield. In WWI the Vickers used the .303 Mk VII cordite round or MK VIIz (nitrocellulose powder) supplied initially by the US. In WW II Mk VIIIz ammunition giving a greater range (4,500 yds) was used exclusively for Vickers guns, with sights graduated to 3,700 yds, however due to differing barrel wear rates Mk 8 rounds could not be used in a gun that had previously used MK 7.

New Zealand Service

New Zealand Forces entered WW I with older Maxim MGs. Following the Gallipoli campaign the NZ Machine Gun Corps was formed in Egypt in early 1916 armed initially with Maxims augmented with and later replaced by Vickers from British stores. Three Companies each with 16 MGs were assigned one to each of the NZ Brigades making up the NZ Division, a fourth and fifth Company were formed in October 1916 and February 1917. These Companies saw action in France and Palestine. In the inter war period the NZ Army Rifle Association was established in 1923 and Machine Gun (Vickers & Lewis) shoots became a popular activity for both Territorials and Cadets.

In WWII the 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion 2NZEF was formed in late 1939, each Company with 12 guns (48 total) supplied from SAF Lithgow, Australia. They saw action in the Greek campaign in April 1941 going on to serve in Crete, the Western Desert and Italy, firing nearly 9 million rounds in the fighting in Italy. In the Pacific theatre the two NZ Infantry Brigades were each supported by a Vickers Machine Gun Company formed in 1943 and saw action on Guadalcanal, Mono, Vella Lavella and Nissan Islands. NZ Schedule of Small Arms, 31 March 1944, shows 877 Vickers guns on hand. It should be noted that Vickers guns were also mounted on many vehicles, such as Universal Carriers and also trucks used by the Long Range Desert Group, both for ground support and anti aircraft fire.

Post WWII saw a return to service competition shooting, the Vickers being deployed on wharves in 1951 during the waterfront strike, but not used. They remained in service until 1965 when they were replaced by the 7.62 mm GPMG, although some were reported being fired at Trentham Camp as late as 1973.

The Vickers featured below will be included in the Northland Branch auction 22 September



This gun was made by Vickers Ltd March 1915 at the Erith Factory (Eastern London). The gun would have been issued to NZ Forces in France during WW1 and returned to NZ after the War. The Enfield marked cloth and brass belt is also from the same period.







 $NZ^A/536$ /serial No L 686

Underside of lock marked N 10351 and 536





Cocking lever locator

Sights graduated to 2,900 yards.







Belt made at Enfield

Muzzle attachment, foresight & hose connection, drain plug

Acknowledgements: Rod Woods, N Taylor, J Osborne

References: The Grand Old Lady of No Man's land-the Vickers Machine Gun by D L Goldsmith

SSANZ News July August 2018

www.sportingshooters.nz SSANZ, PO Box 275, Whangarei 0140

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TSCAN

Firearms Prohibition Order Bill

A new Firearms Prohibition Order Bill has been published, which seeks to give Police new powers to prohibit gang members from possessing firearms, together with extended powers to search and seize without a warrant. The Bill also redefines the word "possession" to include firearms in the custody of another person. At the time of writing this Bill is yet to have its first reading.

Whatever your feelings about gang members being in possession of firearms and the human rights they do or do not deserve, this Bill will require close scrutiny and robust submissions at the Select Committee stage to ensure that it does not infringe the rights of law abiding citizens. It also requires safeguards to ensure that the powers granted to those in authority cannot be abused.

We all have a voice and should all use it.

A New Firearm Licence Testing Process

When the media announced the new process for firearm licence applicants, which comes into effect on 1 July, they seemed to be under the impression that it would make it harder for criminals to get guns. But that is not what it is about, the whole purpose of the licence testing programme is to make all shooters safety conscious and thereby prevent unintentional shooting incidents.

Under the old system new licence applicants studied the arms code and then attended a two hour lecture and test where volunteer instructors went the extra mile to ensure that everyone understood the basic safety rules, no matter whether they had reading or learning difficulties, which resulted in a high pass rate. Under the new system, applicants will learn the Arms Code at their computer and then sit a pass or fail test at an AA or VTNZ test centre. If they pass they can then go on to attend a practical safe handling assessment run by Mountain Safety Council contractors at just 48 main centres. If they fail the theory test then they will have to re-apply and sit the test again until they pass. Whether this form of online learning and testing will suit all applicants and result in more failures, or people giving up because it is all too much hassle only time will tell. As for the practical assessment, with planned classes of 20 the instructor will have just 6 minutes to assess the competence of each candidate.

SSANZ is concerned that the significantly reduced number of locations where training is provided will make it more difficult for people living in remote locations to gain a licence and online learning will also be harder for people with learning difficulties or lacking computer skill.

More information is now available on the Police Website:

http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms-and-safety/news-and-updates

Firearms in vehicles

It was reported in May that a firearm had been found leaning against a car in a hotel car park while the owner was inside celebrating duck opening season. On investigation police found a further 8 firearms in unlocked cars in the same car park. All were seized and the owners face the possibility that their firearm licence may be revoked.

This incident provides a timely reminder that we all have a responsibility to keep our firearms secure. Remember Rules 6 & 7 and take your firearms home and lock them away before socialising at the pub. If you are travelling with firearms in your vehicle, keep them out of sight, secure them to the vehicle with a lockable wire strop, remove the bolt and ammunition, and lock the vehicle. Don't leave the vehicle unattended, but if you must then keep it in sight and your absence as short as possible. Use your common sense!

Shame on them

In May it was reported that, perhaps frustrated by not scoring any ducks, some shooter(s) had been blasting road signs in Tararua District. Whether the person responsible for this wanton act of vandalism was a licensed firearm owner or not, it reflects badly on all shooters and it is totally unacceptable behaviour.

What value statistics

In April it was widely reported in the media that gun thefts from law abiding firearm owners had jumped by 35% since 2013 and the Police Association used this as a platform to once again call for the registration of all firearms.

What the media failed to mention was that in 2013 police changed their recording methods and improved reporting by staff resulted in a significant rise in recorded numbers. This fact was reported to the Law and Order Select Committee in March 2016 in the police submission but conveniently forgotten by those who should have known better. As so often seems to be the case in this day and age, the media will report any sensational "news" without first checking their facts. We are grateful to Kiwi Gun Blog for drawing the change in data collection to all concerned but few in the media were prepared to admit to the error.

Time to retire

Both Alan Webster and Phil Cregeen our Treasurer and Secretary respectively have decided that they have reached that stage in life when it is time for new younger minds to take up the gauntlet and administer this organisation. We ask you all to consider whether you have the passion to take on these roles and put your name forward for election at our next AGM in February. There is no doubt that we live in an ever changing world and the threats to the private ownership of firearms are not going away any time soon. It is therefore vital that the work of SSANZ continues into the future.











Images from the SSANZ Gun Show held in Whangarei 9 June

The bottom three images are of the "Best Display" awarded to Ricky G.

Images from Ruahine Branch Guns Show Held in Palmerston North 25 May courtesy of Tony Bruce















Tony had this to say:

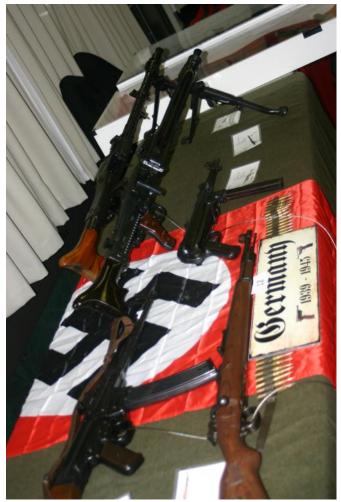
I attended the Ruahine Gun Show in Palmerston North on the 25th May. There was a lot of support from local collectors and other stall holders with some 30 odd tables to look at, ranging from a big soft-air display to black powder, colonial, WW1 and WW2 weapons and later. Displays were very impressive with many showing a lot of effort having gone into creating them.

Talking to a few of the stall holders and display table guys the event was very well supported and a lot of people came through. Definitely an event well worth while attending when it is on again next year.







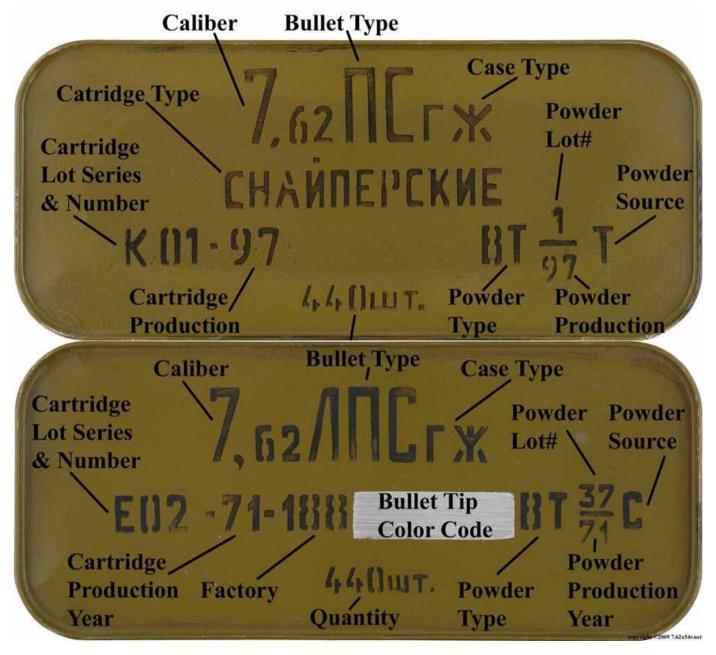






EASTERN BLOC AMMO CAN MARKINGS from Andrew Edgcombe

If you are into burning up Eastern Bloc ammunition and ever wondered what all the markings on the cans represented here is something you may give you an insight.



WANTED

A New Editor for the NZAHAA

Gazette and e-Gazette

Contact me for more information

oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

09 436 4065

Citadel Martini - British Guns Rebuilt in Cairo by Ian McCollum

In 1903, the British government shipped a load of spare/surplus Martini parts and tooling to Egypt, where it was set up in the Armoury at the Citadel in Cairo. While Egypt was technically a part of the Ottoman Empire at this time, British troops had entered the country in 1882 to protect the British interest in the Suez Canal and never left. Eventually in 1914 Britain would declare the country a formal protectorate, but until then they just did their best (pretty successfully) to exercise political power - in part by helping to supply Egyptian security forces with arms. In the Citadel, the Egyptians assembled Martini-Enfield rifles and carbines in .303 British calibre using British-made parts from a variety of sources. Some, like the one in this video, were acquired as guns sold out of service, as indicated by the double facing broad arrow marks on the barrel knox form. The British markings were (mostly) removed, and replaced by a simple mark on the right side of the receiver with a seat in crescent, the word "Citadel" and the date of the work - between 1903 and 1908. While these guns most all saw long and hard service lives and are in pretty rough shape today, they were all made of legitimate British factory-made parts, and were good guns when assembled. If they were reasonably cared for, they will continue to be good quality guns today...and even if not, they are a really interesting lost corner of history.

View lan's video here: http://www.forgottenweapons.com/citadel-martini-british-guns-rebuilt-in-cairo/

William Soper's Direct Action Breech Loader by Ian McCollum

William Soper of Reading, England designed this "Direct Action Breech Loader" and attempted to have it tested for British military adoption - but he was one day too late to have his rifle included in the tests and the Martini-Henry was ultimately adopted. The intent of Soper's system was to have the fastest possible rate of fire for a single-shot rifle, and what he came up with is quite interesting.

A single lever just above and behind the trigger (intended to be operated by the shooter's right thumb) operated all aspects of the action, pressing the lever down recocks the hammer, opens the breech, extracts, and ejects the empty case. All that need be done is to drop a new cartridge into the breech, and press the lever up to close the action. Soper had an assistant who was reportedly able to fire the rifle at a rate of 60 rounds/minute - very impressive for a gun designed in 1868!

Many thanks to the anonymous Dutch collector who provided me access to this rifle to bring to you!

View lan's video here: http://www.forgottenweapons.com/william-sopers-direct-action-breech-loader/

ANZAC Centenary Memorial in Adelaide

I spotted this while on holiday last week and thought it rather good. See also bottom of page 17.



2018 HYGM & Auction, held by Northland Branch

The Auction will be held in conjunction with the HYGM on Saturday September 22nd 2018

It will be held at the Ruakaka Recreation Centre, 9 Takutai Place, Ruakaka. Opposite Bream Bay College. The venue is approximately ½ hour South of Whangarei proper. Only 1 hr 30 min from Auckland CBD.

There will be viewing from 0800 to 0900 Saturday morning. There will be a \$10 registration fee on entrance. Only NZAHAA members may bid, any guests will have to have the inviting member bid on their behalf.

A full printed catalogue will be sent to all NZAHAA members prior to the auction.

Postal bids are accepted, and must be received no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday 19th September. Postal bids are to be sent to:

NZAHAA Northland OR Email: <u>nzahaa.northland@gmail.com</u>

Postal Bids Subject: Postal bid

PO Box 275 Whangarei 0140

The HYGM is to begin at 0900. The auction will commence at 0930 or immediately after the meeting, whichever is latest.

There will be a 5% commission on the hammer price for both buyer and vendor. Payment can be made by cash, online bank deposit, or cheque (by prior arrangement). EFTPOS will be available, you may need to arrange a higher daily limit with your bank. Credit card facilities will **not** be available.

An Arms Officer will be in attendance.

Insurance for all purchases is the responsibility of the buyer, keeping in mind that \$2000 is the limit *per package* sent via Courier.

Social Night

All members and families are invited to a barbecue on Friday afternoon at Barry Hopkins place in Ruakaka. The menu promises to be spectacular and tasty, therefore we need to know guest numbers two weeks beforehand for catering purposes. BYO drinks.

Flying in?

Please be advised that no Saturday flights arrive early enough to get to the auction on time. A Friday flight and a hotel booking is recommended.

Accomodation in Whangarei

Flames Hotel Discovery Settlers Hotel 0800 132 610 09 438 2699

In Ruakaka itself:

Ruakaka Beach Front Motel 09 432 7166 enquiries@breambaymotel.co.nz One Tree Point Motel 09 432 8116 www.otpmotel.co.nz

All enquiries and RSVP's to:

Paul Deeming 09 435 3232 nzahaa.northland@gmail.com



Northland Branch Auction Preview



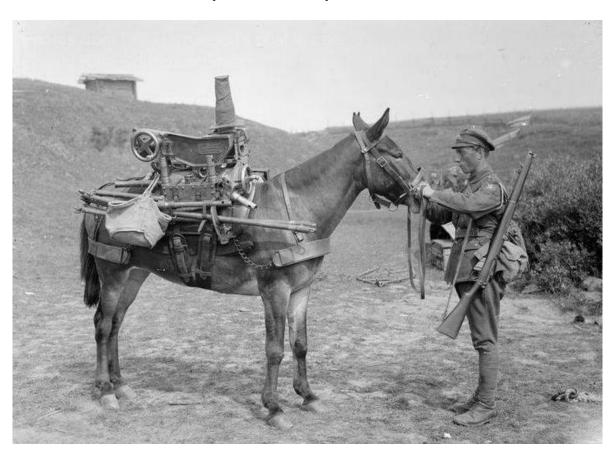


CAN YOU HELP answers to oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

Pat Glynn has still to identify this cannon



Tony Bruce would like to know if any one can identify the machine on the back of this mule

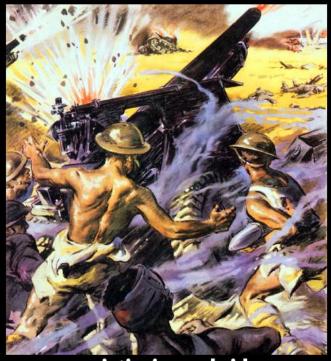


Help wanted to track down a pre loved rifle

My name is Des and I reside in Australia. Back in 1972 I lived and worked in NZ. In 1977 I sold a Sportco .22 bolt action repeater to a fellow that worked in a civilian role for the Police at their Headquarters in Auckland city. It was a model 63a and of course I do have the Serial No AD552.

My query is how would I go about finding that gun with a view to buying it back? I know you don't have Registration, so it may be difficult, if not impossible. Hoping you can be of help to someone on the other side of the ditch.

Regards Des. dessue2016@gmail.com











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 - ★ Parachutists and aircraft displays
 - ★ New Zealand Defence Force exhibits
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Follow us on www.facebook.com/ArmitisticeinCambridge to be kept up to date on what to see and do
10-11 November 2018, Mighty River Domain, Lake Karapiro
Entry: \$15 for adults; \$5 for 12 and under

www.armisticeincambridge.co.nz



This year we are endeavouring to have as many Artillery pieces as we can get. A limited amount of funding has been secured for this, which may be able to contribute to transport costs. If anybody is interested email Graham Pettigrew pettco@xtra.co.nz

FROM OUR READERS

Our unsung heroine

Hi Phil,

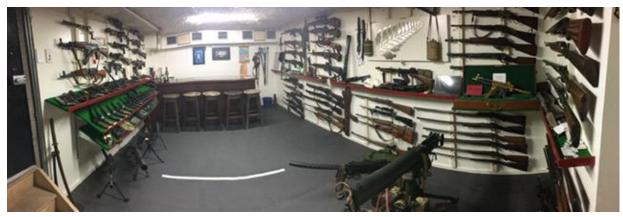
Sorry I have been so long in advising the June Gazette has been printed and delivered to Maxine today. Must say also that Maxine really does a Sterling job with the enveloping and mailing. Her home was awash with Antique Arms stuff today as apart from the Gazette she has our Wellington branch auction catalogue nearly ready to dispatch. She won't accept help apart from my minor effort of collecting the Gazette from the printer and delivering it to her home. I believe the printer delivered her the auction catalogues. She is certainly an outstanding lady and the job of mailing is not made any easier by NZ Post who require her to obtain their reusable boxes for placing the mail in which must be in post code order with boxes all labelled, she must have had 50 or 60 boxes there with our auction catalogues and must get more for the Gazette. At least NZ Post now delivers these and collects the lot when she is finished but meanwhile her lounge, dining room and hallway is piled high. In short we have an outstanding and invaluable helper.

Kind regards,

Rex

Maxine has been doing this voluntary work for the NZAHAA for many years, we all owe her a big vote of thanks. Ed.

Roger's Gun Room or as he terms it his Cigar Room







MYSTERY OBJECT (below right), answer please to oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

Last months (below left), no one came up with the correct answer. It is a type of blow pipe gun, but I find myself in a bit of a bind because I cant find the e-mail from the member who supplied the image and explanation. So if it was you please remind me, and I will include it next month.





New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Canterbury Branch Inc AUCTION OF FIREARMS & MILITARIA 2018



Saturday 15th September 2018 Balmarino/Nightmarch Rooms, Members Stand Riccarton Park, Christchurch

There will be an electronic catalogue available after the 23 July in the July/Aug E Gazette and branch website www.antiquearms.co.nz.

Items received after our catalogue date will be still be advertised on the branch website

There will be postal bidding available

There will be a buyer's premium only of 10% up to a maximum amount of \$100 per item.

There will be NO seller's premium.

BUY SELL OR SWAP List items free for two issues (* indicates final listing)

THESE LISTINGS MAY ALSO BE PUBLISHED IN NZ GUNS & HUNTING MAGAZINE Please advise if you do not want this, when placing your Ad.

WANTED: MP5K or MP5. Contact Tim 021 2676 862 or tmorahan7@me.com

WANTED: Reinforcement number badges to complete a full set 11,12,13,14,15,17,19,30,33.

Contact: Graham 09 411 7779 or 027 475 9246 grahambrimble@xtra.co.nz

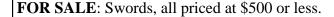
WANTED- information leading to the recovery of the following:

Approximately 60cal rifled muzzle loading flintlock. Entirely hand made, has a matai stock and aperture rear sight. Serial number SRK625.001 Stolen from Te Pahu about five years ago.

Contact Julian Price jpp375@gmail.com 027 439 5960

WANTED for restoration work 08/15 maxim stock, pistol grip, trigger bar. Bipod for 08/15 (even the loan of a bipod to copy), Long tom fore wood, complete. If you have anything please let me know

Andrew mg08nz@gmail.com



Pattern 1856 Pioneer sword, 22.25 in saw-back blade, brass hilt, No scabbard, GC

Pattern 1822 Infantry Officers sword, 32.5 in etched pipe back heavily pitted blade, brass hilt with damaged grips, leather scabbard, FC

Pattern 1821 light Cavalry troopers sword, 36 in blade heavily pitted, No Scabbard, FC

Pattern 1850 Land Transport Corps privates sword, 22.25 in blade WD, brass hilt, No scabbard, GC

Pattern 1856 Mk I Drummers sword, 19 in blade pitted, brass hilt, leather scabbard with brass locket & chape, marked RENOVATOR ALDERSHOT, QGC

Pattern 1908 Cavalry, 23.5 in curved blade, steel bowl, good grips, No scabbard, appears to be made up from odd parts, GC

Contact Phil oilyrag@xtra.co.nz











UP COMING EVENTS - If you have dates for events in 2019 please advise oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

2018

1 July Auckland Branch Gun Show, Alexander Park

7 & 8 July Wellington Branch Auction. Porirua

21 July Mainland Arms & Militaria Show, Christchurch

18 & 19 August Tauranga Arms & Militaria Show

26 & 27 August Militaria Auction, Paraparaumu

1 September Ruahine Branch Auction, Palmerston North

15 September Canterbury Branch Auction, Christchurch

22 September NZAHAA HYGM & Northland Branch Auction, Ruakaka ,Whangarei

3 & 4 November Taranaki Branch Gun Show, New Plymouth

10 & 11 November Armistice in Cambridge

2019

16 February Dargaville Gun Show.

23 &24 February Shot Expo, ASB show ground Auckland

8 & 9 March NZCCC AGM, Darfield

23 March Kumeu Militaria Show

15 June SSANZ Guns Show, Whangarei



NZ Antique Arms Association (Wellington Branch) Inc

Wellington Branch - 2018 Auction Dates: 7/8 July 2018

The Branch are really positive about this move and feel it will meet all our requirements and be a great location for our buyers. Travel information will be included in the catalogue however, as Porirua is a popular place for people to stay given the activities at the Te Rauparaha Arena, we have included Motel details on the back of the flyer that was distributed to all our catalogue mailing list so you can visit their websites and make your booking early to make sure you have somewhere to stay.

If you have not received our flyer and wish to receive a copy please contact the Branch Secretary: at:

<u>secretary@wellingtonantiquearms.org.nz</u>. We can add you to our mailing list if needed.

Tel: (04) 934 2756 Email: info@wellingtonantiquearms.org.nz



RUAHINE ANTIQUE ARMS INC

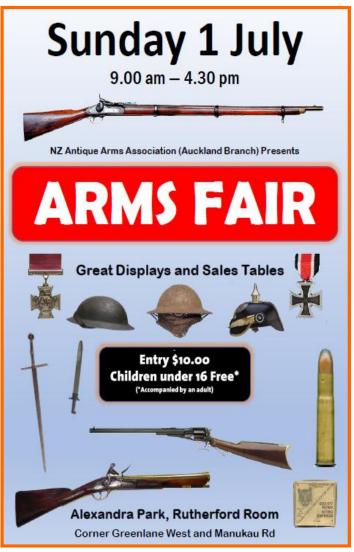
WE ARE TAKING QUALITY ITEMS, COLLECTIONS ETC FOR OUR

AUCTION
ON
1 September 2018

PICKUPS CAN BE ARRANGED AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

PLEASE PHONE TONY MATTHEWS On 06 374 9164 or 027 244 5186

OR EMAIL ruahineauction@hotmail.co.nz



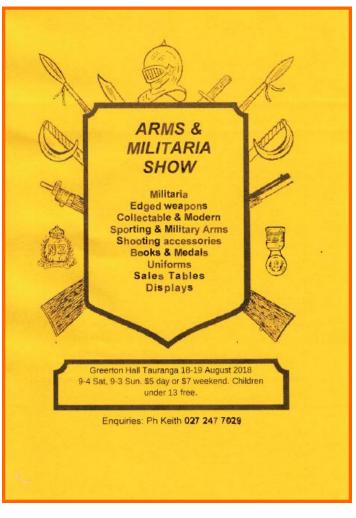


Discounted sales to Members of NZAHAA

Actual discount will depend upon the value of the sale.

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Danny - 021 336 207 & Clayton - 021 034 0605 or email us at - kumeumilitariashow@gmail.com





NZAHAA

NORTHLAND BRANCH

ARE PROUD TO OFFER

THE

JOHN OSBORNE COLLECTION FOR SALE BY AUCTION

ON

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2018

Following the

NZAHAA

Half Year General Meeting

At

Whangarei

Further details to be advised