

Fusillade

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Newsletter of the Ballarat Arms &
Militaria Collectors Society Inc.
Issue 167 - Oct-Nov 2019



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The Society has formal meetings on the last Wednesday of the month, except December, January and February . Special meets are held in November and February
VENUE-**Scout Hall, Humffray St South, south of Grant St.** Almost opposite Gladstone St. Doors open at **7.15pm**. Meeting starts at **8.00pm**.
Visitors and potential new members are always welcome. Mind where you park!
Membership inquiries (03) 5342 4433 or Email (below)

Our collecting interests include: - Military & Sporting Long-arms; Black powder Firearms; Collectable Handguns; All Edged Weapons & Knives; Ammunition and Ordnance; Badges; Medals; Uniforms; Maps; Books and Documents, General history. We are also an **Approved Shooting Organization** (Hunting and Target) under the 1996 Victorian Firearms Act

"Fusillade" is the bimonthly newsletter of the Society
Editor - Nick Smith

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Next newsletter closing date is **5th February 2020**

*Opinions within these pages are not necessarily also those of the Editor,
...unless written by the Editor (and even then....)*

Society Meeting Details

December 25th No meeting as there is a clash with other events
Speaker
Subject.

January 29th No meeting and I hope, no fires!

Members are reminded if they change ANY of their address details, storage address contact home number, they **MUST** advise LRD in writing, or Fax, within **7 days**.
Not to do so is an offence. Be warned.

Please keep your Postal, Residential and email addresses, and Phone numbers up to date, with the Society. Thank you.

LRD - Call 1300 651 645 - GPO Box 2807AA, Melbourne 3001
They don't take phone calls on a Wednesday. Call at 8.30am

PRESIDENT'S DESPATCH

Just over a week ago 20 of our members attended our annual Christmas dinner which was held at the Golf House Hotel. A great time was had by all with lots of tall stories around the tables.

Back in early October the SSAA Shot Show was held at the Melbourne Show grounds. With a venue packed full of gunny goodness, the entry line prior to opening stretched a good 150m plus. This shows that interest in the shooting sports is still strong in our state. In what only reinforces this, Winchester sold their first rifle 5 minutes into the show.

Notable high profile attendees included Senator Bridget McKenzie and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Laetisha Scanlan. Sen McKenzie proudly revealed that the shooting sports contributes \$2.4 billion to the Australian economy each year.

Trolling the internet as I do, I came across an interesting article about a gentleman in the United States who took on a black bear with a .45 cal pistol and survived the ordeal. The bear who was believed to be around 400 lbs charged after being disturbed at a rubbish bin. The man fired 6 rounds in total from his .45 handgun with all shots hitting the bear. The bear then ran off with only superficial injuries. The article claimed that bears can have a layer of fat up to 100mm under the skin meaning the .45 round would inflict not much more than a flesh wound, and likely scared the bear off more than anything. Scary stuff.

For those who love looking at old guns and let's face it, that's all of us, head on over to Rock Island Auctions at www.rockislandauktion.com. With their premier auction set for Dec 6 to Dec 8 the catalogue is utterly amazing. With items such as a Colt Paterson Model 1835 Carbine to a prototype Walther Model PP long slide semi-automatic pistol and almost everything in between there is something for everyone. While the chance of getting anything across the deep blue to our shores is slim, there is loads of research material and high res photos to be seen.

With Christmas just around the corner I wish members and their families all the best and a safe new year. Keep in mind our annual shoot at the Ballarat Pistol club on Feb 26th with a start time of 5:30 pm. I will see you all there.

Yours in collecting,

Andrew Day.

Uluru.....

Another victim of Climb-it Change

Editorial

I trust the membership will understand and embrace the thoughts in the document in the recent mail out.

As you will have realised by now, we are having theme nights. Not a new idea by any means and, at this stage, not particularly specific. It's a start, to encourage involvement and engagement with Society.

For February, the theme will be pre 1900 Edged Weapons including Daggers, So...dig out the steel wool and the RP7.

Just FYI... there will be three seats available, in a private vehicle, to go the Shepparton Arms Fair. Use the Contact Us form or contact the Society Sec. This event will be in February or March, don't know yet, so this is just a heads up.

That's it from me, except to wish all our membership and their families, a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year for 2020

Sincerely
Editor

Please refrain from telling bi-sexual jokes as, they can be taken either way.

A recent donation to the "Friends of the Anson, prompted Alan P to produce some photos of the work currently being under-taken on the um, under-carriage, seen below

No it is NOT a strange form of cod-piece, but rather a doped fabric covered wooden frame which protects the underside of the wheel compartment. The wheels did not fully retract on the 1930's Anson airframe. Item shown upside down.



And now, for those who already hanging out for a gun picture or two....

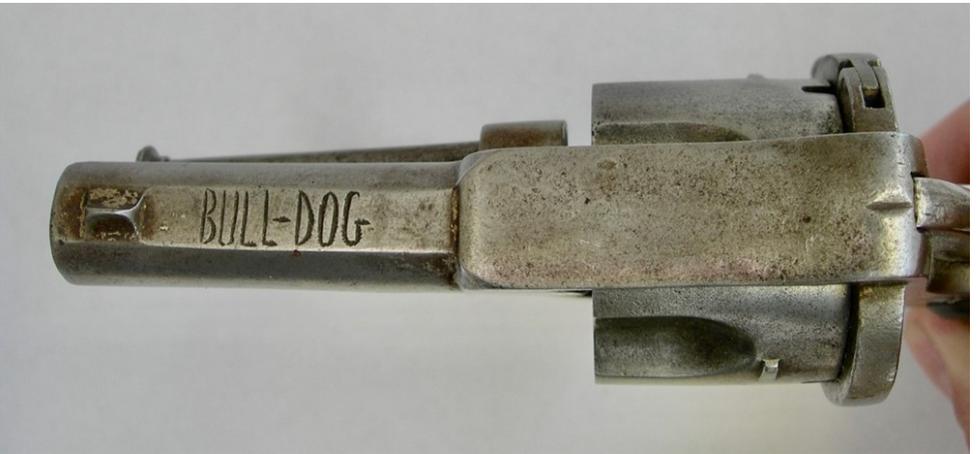
This is an unusual 12mm 5 shot Pinfire revolver. It has "BULLDOG" engraved on the barrel. The .32, .38 and .44 Bulldog centrefire revolvers were a cheap weapon in early 1900's.

This pinfire is the same shape and looks Belgian made but has no maker or proof marks. The only mark is the 45 on the trigger and front of the cylinder. Note it is a 5 shot revolver.

150mm long with a 64mm barrel length.
It looks cheap but is a very unusual style for a Pinfire revolver.

PFK







And for something really dainty... a couple of 2mm cal. Russian made, custom pinfires shown slightly more than full size

This is a very important short story will explain a lot about what is going on in the World today!

The king wanted to go fishing, and he asked the royal weather forecaster the forecast for the next few hours.

The palace meteorologist assured him that there was no chance of rain.

So the king and the queen went fishing. On the way he met a man with a fishing pole riding on a donkey, and he asked the man if the fish were biting.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, you should return to the palace! In just a short time I expect a huge rain storm."

The king replied: "I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard. He is an educated and experienced professional. Besides, I pay him very high wages. He gave me a very different forecast. I trust him."

So the king continued on his way.

However, in a short time a torrential rain fell from the sky. The King and Queen were totally soaked. Furious, the king returned to the palace and gave the order to fire the meteorologist.

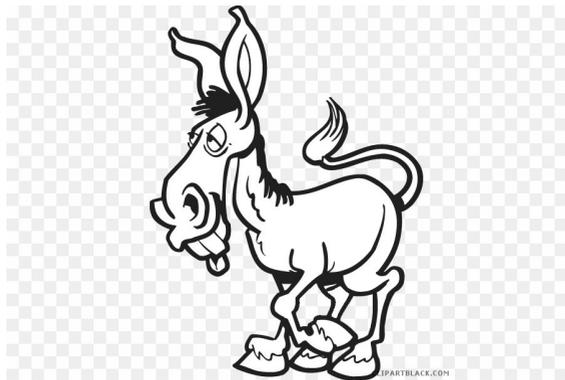
Then he summoned the fisherman and offered him the prestigious position of royal forecaster.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, I do not know anything about forecasting. I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see my donkey's ears drooping, it means with certainty that it will rain."

So the king hired the donkey

And so began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions of government.

The practice is unbroken to this day.



Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a HWP Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 kph.

Says he to himself: "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!"

So... he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies, two in the front seat and three in the back...wide eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can

also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly...Twenty-two kilometers an hour!", the old woman says a bit proudly.

The HWP Officer, trying to contain a chuckle, explains to her that 22 is the highway number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grins and thanks the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask...Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken, and they haven't made a peep this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Highway 189..."



Lethal beauty in the Wild West: Tiffany & Co's rare bejewelled show-guns



It may appear to be the height of bad taste: a collection of handguns clad in silver and studded with precious stones. But although these weapons, which were produced by Tiffany & Co in the late 19th Century, were able to deliver lethal force, they were never designed to be fired.

"So far as we know, the guns never killed anybody," says Pierre Terjanian, the head of the Arms and Armor department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, where a collection of seven such guns is kept.

Guns not blazing

Tiffany & Co had been producing decorative presentation swords that were awarded to American officers during the Civil War and Mexican-American War of 1846-8.

In the 1880s, the company moved into firearms, taking delivery of standard-issue Smith & Wesson handguns and transforming them into one-off works of art.

They were clad in silver, etched with intricate designs, and studded with precious jewels. Each weapon was unique; one was adorned with an

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in Europe," says Terjanian. "It was at the time of the closing of the frontier, and people were already thinking nostalgically about it. "Tiffany took Wild West symbolism and combined it with high-quality craftsmanship. It confirmed that Tiffany was an American firm with global ambitions, which could do things that nobody else could."

Uniquely beautiful objects

Among the techniques that the weapons showcased were advanced enameling -- two colors were blended together in a way that had never been seen before -- and the use of chemical etching, as opposed to straightforward engraving.

Tiffany & Co also produced a Winchester rifle, which was famously used in the conquest of the West. Although it was technically able to fire bullets, the thick silver cladding made it impossible to disassemble and clean, and the heavy ebony wood made it too heavy to use effectively. Despite the focus on display, several weapons were purchased by American businessmen, including Jason "Jay" Gould, the prominent railroad magnate. According to Terjanian, a particularly beautiful weapon -- which had a butt made of carved ivory -- was acquired by a well-known sharpshooter named John Wynans, who used it to demonstrate his skills. In all, about 50 guns were produced by Tiffany. The project was abruptly discontinued in 1911, when New York adopted gun control laws. "These are very important objects," says Terjanian. "They showed that objects may have a function, but their symbolic meaning can be greater. "They stood not for combat but for handiwork and the imagination. They surprised and impressed everybody, and acted as ambassadors for Tiffany & Co and for the United States.

I gave my wife her Christmas present a bit early...

I drove her out to a local farm orchard and let stand among the trees for 20 mins or so.

She was very disappointed overall...She had been hoping for a different sort of Apple watch.



All these ads are free, but the owners might like to upgrade sometime? Ballarat Arms.com.au /Contact Us

Research service for medal collectors. Very reasonable rates.
David Thewliss, PO Box 1440, SALE 3850 Ph/Fax (03) 5144 6845.

R.F.Scott & Co. 910 Howitt St, Wendouree. Sporting Guns, Rifles, Ammo, Gun Cases, Black powder & accessories. phone /fax (03) 5331 7111 bh.

H. REHFISCH & Co P/L Guns, Fishing, Archery, Gun safes, clothing, etc.
903 La Trobe St, Ballarat. 53313677

ANTIK, Purveyors of the old and unusual. Militaria and Old Wares shop.
At the roundabout and opposite the "Grape Hotel" 202 Grant St, cnr Humffray St South
(03) 53318268

Dave Wright Militaria and Collectables. Buying and selling Militaria. Sheppard St, Ballarat, Vic 3350. (*rear of Dan Murphy's bottle shop, between Mair and Curtis Sts*).
Ph 0353384377. Open Tues to Friday 9am to 5pm. Sat 9am to 1pm.
Email djwright@ncable.net.au. Web www.davewrightmilitaria.com.au

Rutherford Fine Leather Binding Hand bookbinding and repairs; Leatherwork;
Magazine collections hand sewn in hardcover volumes Peter Lewis 0402982500
www.rflb.com.au Email- booky@rflb.com.au

For all your Private gun and parts ads, try "Universal Used Guns.com.au"
www.universalsusedguns.com.au

Ozgunsales for all your online gun purchases and sales— www.ozgunsales.com

Fire Pumps TOHATSU (Japanese) Very high performance.
Contact Clive Keays Engineering, Beaufort **0418 309 550** for details

Any transfer of ownership of licensable firearms advertised in this newsletter, must be completed through a Licensed Gun Dealer. The 28 day cooling off period applies for a first purchase.

Front Cover Illustration

Traditional Annual greetings, with illustration

ALWAYS send documents to LRD via **REGISTERED or PRIORITY MAIL**
And **ALWAYS** make copies of those Documents for your files

Some members are still sending their details via "normal" mail and could be giving a thief a "shopping list." Just saying....

Registered Mail takes a week to get to Melbourne. Use Express Mail if unsure if your docs will arrive in time.
Yes I know this sucks, but I can't do anything about it.