

## Committee Of Management 2022

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## Content

### Page

- 1 Committee of Management
- 1 Shoot Calendar 2023
- 1 President's Report
- 2 Victoria Police – Licencing & Regulations Div. (LRD)
- 3 Dressing Down by the Vice President
- 4-7 Classifieds
- 8 Vale
- 8 Army & Navy 8 Bore by Peter J Smith
- 9-10 Correct Gun Stance by Donald McIntosh
- 10 Upcoming Firearms & Collectables Auction
- 11-12 Photos from the Marong Shoot

## Shoot Calendar 2023

**(Please note changes of dates)**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Melbourne Gun Club

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

Frankston Australia Clay Target Club

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Kilmore F&G

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Melbourne Gun Club - AGM

*Shoot Calendar Continued:*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Melbourne Gun Club – Vintage Cup

## President's Report

Please accept our sincere apologies for not having issued a News Letter since December 2022, but we did not have a great deal of worthwhile content in this regard, so once again, we are pleading with all of you to submit/provide us with at least something! All contributions will be gratefully accepted, photographs, shoots, anecdotes, etc etc.

So far this year we have conducted three shoots, the first being on the 19<sup>th</sup> February at the Melbourne Gun Club which attracted 67 nominations, the second being on the 16<sup>th</sup> April again at the Melbourne Gun Club which only attracted 32 nominations, this was very understandable as it was a miserable cold, wet and windy day. Our rifle shoot at Marong on the 29<sup>th</sup> April attracted 24 members on the benches and was supported by a display of some 20 or so of collectable and historic rifles/shotguns which will be offered in the forthcoming Australian Fine Arms and Collectables auction in August. The selection on display were generally by some of the best British makers. Thank you David Henderson in this regard.

You will be shortly receiving your annual subscription request for 2023/2024, and will note the it increased from the usual \$60 over the last 9 years to \$75 per individual and \$85 family. The increase was tabled at last year's Annual General Meeting and was unanimously supported and agreed to by all present.

Please note the revised shoot dates for the remainder of this year at Melbourne Gun Club which was requested by them to facilitate their shoot program.

Hammers Back and keep your powder dry!!

## Victoria Police

### Licensing and Regulations Division (LRD)

On 30 August 2022, several changes to firearm storage laws were introduced. Firearm owners must store their firearms in accordance with the updated minimum standards set out in Schedule 4 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

### Safekeeping of firearms when being transported in vehicles.

While the guidelines are aimed at minimising risk, licence holders should consider all factors that may contribute to firearms being transported in a manner that is not secure or in a way that presents a danger.

- In most circumstances firearms should be transported in the following manner: Firearms should be transported in a padded cover or hard case, unloaded and preferably rendered inoperable.
- While being transported, firearms and ammunition should be kept out of sight and stored in separate receptacles that are either secured to the inside of your vehicle or in a lockable component of your vehicle.
- Cartridge ammunition must be stored separately from firearms in a part of the vehicle not readily accessible by an unauthorised person – a lockable glove box would suffice provided the key to the glove box is kept securely by the holder of the firearm licence and cannot be accessed by persons unauthorised to possess ammunition or firearms.

Licence holders should exercise a common-sense approach to storage when transporting their firearms and be mindful of all of their obligations. Licence holders should also be mindful of considerations over and above legislation to ensure firearms are not lost or stolen.

### Storing firearms with another licence holder

- If the licence holder has access to the firearms, they must be the holder of the appropriate licence for the category of firearm/s being stored.
- The licence holder, where the firearms are to be stored, must continue to ensure that the storage facilities comply with legislation – for example, the addition of a firearm stored at a particular location may necessitate the fitting of an alarm system.

- If it is an ordinary storage address, the Licensing and Regulation Division must be advised of that storage address in writing.
- The firearm/s cannot be accessed by anyone who is not the holder of the applicable firearms licence.
- If you are the holder of a general category handgun licence and you propose to be absent from Victoria for a substantial period of time or you are temporarily incapacitated, you may arrange for another licence holder to apply for a permit to store your handguns.

### Offences

Victoria Police place great emphasis on firearm safekeeping.

If you fail to comply with storage requirements, you could be facing:

- 60 penalty units or 12 months imprisonment increasing up to 240 penalty units or four years' imprisonment depending on the category of firearm being carried and used.

### Notification to Victoria Police of storage addresses

You are required to let Victoria Police know of the physical storage location of each firearm in your possession.

The notification of a storage address is a part of the licence or permit to acquire application process. Licence holders can elect to store their firearms in a single location or multiple locations, provided that each storage location complies with the storage requirements set out in legislation.

Note: You must notify the Licensing and Regulation Division within 14 days should the ordinary storage address of a firearm change via a [change of details](#) form.

### Storage inspections

It is a condition of all firearm licences that the holder of the licence must allow a member of police to inspect their storage arrangements at any reasonable time.

When you obtain a firearm for the first time, or, when your storage address changes, [Divisional Firearm Officers](#) or local police will conduct an inspection of your storage facilities to ensure that you are complying with your storage obligations. Random inspections may be carried out from time to time, with or without notice.

When conducting an inspection, police will also inspect the quantity and type of firearms stored as this will determine the nature of the storage required. They will also verify the details of firearms stored at a location.

### Participation requirements for category C clay target shooters

Category C firearm licence holders whose licence has been issued for the reason of clay target shooting must meet the following conditions:

- compete in at least four clay target shooting competitions per calendar year
- competitions must be conducted by an approved clay target shooting club
- provide a record of participation from an approved clay target shooting club when applying for the renewal of a licence or at any time throughout the duration of a licence

Those who hold a Category C licence on behalf of a junior licence holder for the purpose of clay-target shooting are exempt from this condition.

**Firearm Licensing:** Processing times for new applications are 60-65 days.  
Processing times for renewal applications are 30 days.

**Permits, Transactions and Approvals:** Permit to Acquire processing timeframe is currently at 7 days.

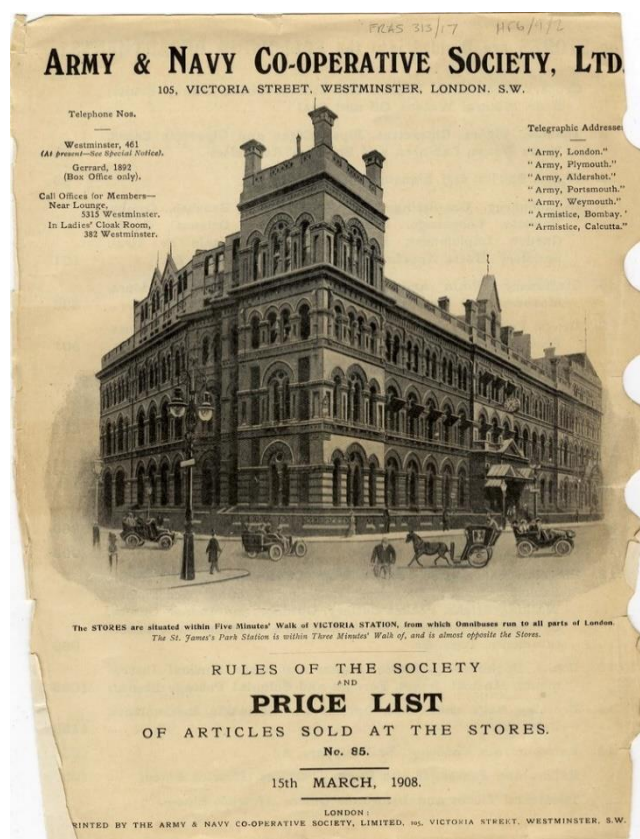
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact: [RSD-POLICY-PUBLICATIONSMGR@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:RSD-POLICY-PUBLICATIONSMGR@police.vic.gov.au)

## Dressing Down!

*By the Vice President*

The cornerstone for the Vintagers is of course a deep abiding interest in the preservation and appreciation of fine side by side wands from 18th and 19th centuries. Of equal importance although not as well promoted is an appreciation of the historical social setting, the accoutrements and customs that were an integral backdrop to the side-by-side gun and its use in the field. Therefore, the heyday of the shotgun in the classic Edwardian period also meant looks and of course this means fine clothing. Acknowledging this by-gone golden period today in the Vintagers importantly extends to our attire – and yes, so many

other non-Vintagers shooters do consistently remark how dashing it is to see a fine group of superbly turned out Vintagers. In this case looks are important! So, while it is too easy to just slip on your well worn Bob Allen mesh backed shooting jacket or find tying a tie and collar a bit of a rush – do think again and support many other Vintagers in upholding the dress traditions of this great Edwardian period. Brogues, plus fours/breeks, Tweed jackets, Shirt and a Vintager tie, deer stalker hats are all fine options (either singularly or as ensemble) and really do set off the day in the grand spirit. So next time you get ready for a Vintager shoot, just pause and consider if your red Eley 2 ½” shells can be complemented by some Burgundy sock garters or collar and tie. Enjoy!




**Classifieds**

**YARRA  
PEAKS**

yarra valley



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www.yarrapeaks.com.au



Yarra Peaks Wines have white and red wines

Please support OzGunSales, its owner is a member of the Vintagers

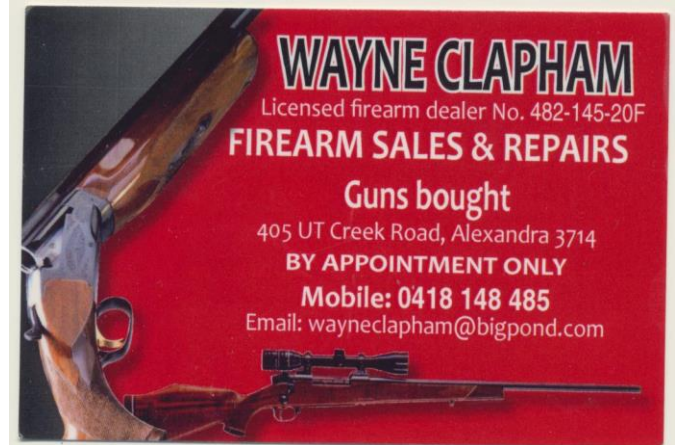
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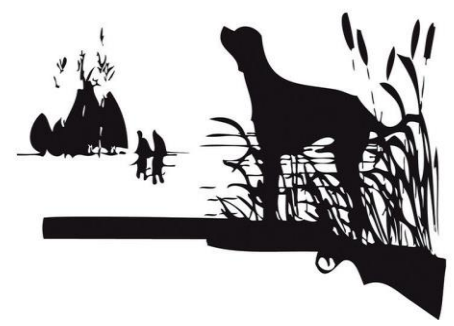
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Wayne Clapham is a Member and supporter of the Vintagers, please support Wayne



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### Looking for a Gunsmith

Looking for a Gunsmith who has extensive experience with Double guns and rifles, also has had extensive experience working with Century Arms (15 years), give Rolf a call

### Classifieds

and tell him Peter Smith referred you to him. He is very reasonable with pricing.



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## Classifieds

<p><b>Specialist in:</b> Custom Big Game Rifles General Shotgun Repairs English Rust Blueing Restorations</p> <p><b>Tel: (03) 9739 5744</b> <b>Mob: 0400 815 483</b></p>	<p>Rolf Bachnick Gunsmith</p> <p>15 years with Century Arms</p>
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### WANTED

I am looking for a copy of a book called "Men for all Seasons: The Hunters and Pioneers", by Anthony Dyer. Printed by Trophy Room Books in about 1996.

Also any Holland & Holland memorabilia cloth badges, lapel pins, old On Report in house magazines etc .

Please contact Steve Oliver. Ph: 0400 031 464

### Vintagers Ties for sale

The Vintagers ties are 100% pure silk.

**Colours:** Blue with gold hammers.

Yellow with black hammers

Navy, Burgundy and British Racing

Green with gold hammers.

**Cost:** \$50 each

(Check the colours on the website

[www.vintagers.org.au](http://www.vintagers.org.au))





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- Gunmaker histories.

### Disclaimer

The articles, opinions and sometimes unusual views expressed in Hammers Back are not necessarily those of the Editor, or the Vintagers (Order of Edwardian Gunners) Inc., and are not to be taken seriously.

**Classifieds****Vintagers cloth patches for sale**

\$5 each

**Please support the industry  
who support the Vintagers****Charles Boswell Damascus Barrel**

About 10-12 years ago, offered for sale through RF Scott's in Ballarat were the following:

Charles Boswell Damascus barrelled side-plated boxlock 12 gauge shotgun, cased in an oak and leather case; embossed on the case was the name "W. Weatherley";

Henry Atkin Damascus barrelled boxlock game gun, cased in an oak and leather case, embossed on the case were the initials "H.P.M."

Both were at the time in excellent condition.

I was recently talking with a descendant of those guns' original owners, who would dearly like to re-acquire them for the family.

If you are able to help, please get in touch with me and I will put you in touch with the descendent.

Robert Geddes

0419 863 651

Rjwg78@gmail.com

The Woolshed Australia logo features the text "the woolshed" in a lowercase, serif font, with a small house icon above the letter 'd'. Below this, the word "AUSTRALIA" is written in a bold, uppercase, sans-serif font.

At the Woolshed Australia we stock Dubarry boots and traditional hunting tweeds along with a wide range of knitwear for men and women.

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www.thewoolshedaustralia.com @thewoolshedaustralia

## Vale

### Alexander (Bill) Eagle

It is with much sadness that Bill Eagle passed away after a very serious car accident in late evening of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Bill was a happy go lucky gentleman who used to laugh and joke with those people who knew him.

Bill also knew his guns after having worked in a gunshop for several years.

During Bill's shooting years in competition he was one of the best shots in the country, winning 4 National Titles in DTL and numerous State and Zone Trap, ball trap and tower titles. He was also a very handy skeet shot in the 1990s.

Bill joined the Vintagers on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2009 and loved the Vintagers events, the camaraderie and no pressure.

We will certainly miss his attendance at the Vintagers events.

Our hearts go out to Bill's wife and family.

Rest in Peace Bill.

## Army & Navy 8 Bore

By Peter J Smith

At the Australian Fine Arms Auction in December 2022 an 8 Bore gun aroused my interest. This gun was built by Army & Navy C.S.L. of 105 Victoria Street, London and has 34 inch steel barrels and is chambered for 8 bore 3¼" cartridges.

It was Birmingham Proofed between 1875 and 1887. Excellent bores, choked to .775" and purchased by Army & Navy from P Webley & Son of Birmingham who actually made it, and an inert but very strong system of locking breech.

The gun has a Jones under-lever and screw grip, with dolls head extension.

The Harvey "grip-catch" which is generally found on double shotguns and double rifles and favoured by Horsley of York and Rigby of London. It has three pin back action locks, rebounding hammers and spring strikers. A pistol grip plain walnut stock with 14¼" length of pull to a steel butt plate.

The stock has course checkering and the action is generally unengraved except for simple borders and scrolls.

As with all Army & Navy retail guns we are fortunate to be able to research the records which are held by the University of Glasgow. A copy of their records reveals that this gun, Serial No. 11356 came into stock from P Webley & Son on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1890 at a cost of £12 and subsequently sold on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1890 for £15-12-6 to a Captain Thomas Wyatt Hale who was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1864, Brighton, Sussex, UK and enlisted in the British Army in 1884. He rose through the ranks to a Brigadier General Director Ordnance Services 17<sup>th</sup> November 1917 and operations Italy.

During his career, Hale received the following awards:

- Order of Bath, 1918;
- Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, 33<sup>rd</sup> June 1916;
- Commander of the British Empire, 17<sup>th</sup> May 1919;
- Italian Order of St Maurice and St Lazarus, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1923;
- Mentioned in Despatches, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1915, 13<sup>th</sup> June 1916, 28<sup>th</sup> May 1918;
- Mentioned in Despatches for Gallantry in France over the period 26<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> September 1917;
- Awarded Queen's Sudan Silver Medal 1916 to 1919 and the Khedive's Sudan Medal vide Medal Roll;
- Awarded 1914 British Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal 1914 to 1919.

He married Annette Bailey on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1892 and had a daughter, Ellice Annette on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1893.

Brigadier Hale died on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1937 in Brighton, United Kingdom.

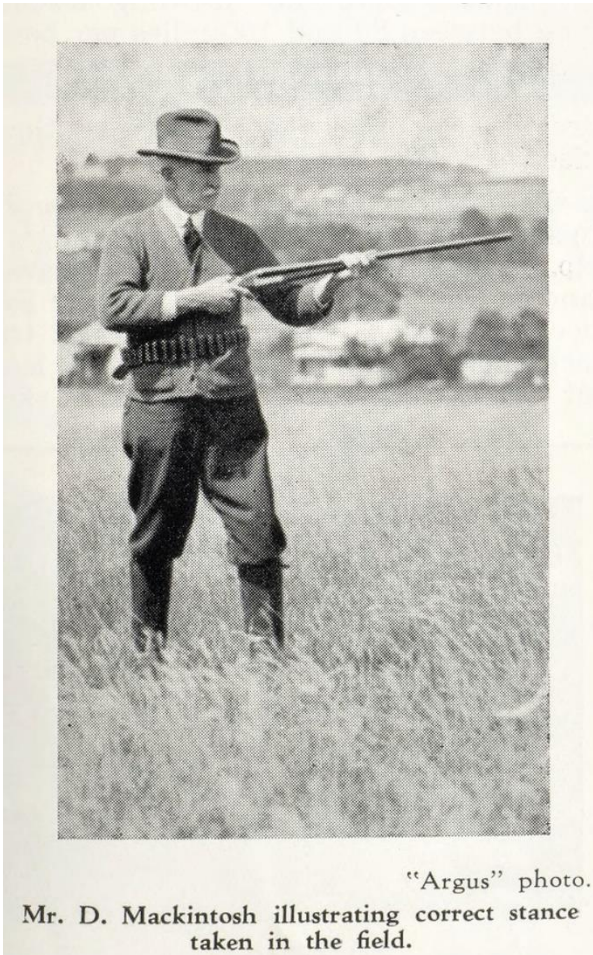
8 Bore guns were initially classed as Punt Guns in Victoria under the Game Act of 1925, and as such the Act forbids that the possession or use of same was illegal. Fortunately, the Game Act has been replaced by the Wild Life Act but sadly it is illegal to take the 8 Bore out for Duck harvesting where it belongs!

(Photo Page 10)



## Correct gun stance

By Donald Mackintosh



What is the correct gun stance is a question often asked and one that is seldom answered correctly. Some say all you want to do is to stand naturally. That is only half of the correct answer because none of us were born to hold a gun therefore a correct stance has to be cultivated by training one's self to the best method. The first principle to build on is how far you should have your feet apart. This varies according to your height and length of legs. I have found that a person's usual walking step is never far out for the correct distance. This rule stands for trap or field shooting. Once you have satisfied yourself as to the correct length of step then you should hold the gun in a proper manner keeping as nearly square as possible behind it. When you raise it to the shoulder if right-handed, the left hand should hold the gun around the barrels so

that the tip of the forend just fits into the palm of the hand, the right hand holding the half pistol grip so that the first joint of the right index finger can just reach around the front trigger. The thumb of the right hand should wrap over the grip thus holding it tightly. When the gun is raised to the shoulder both hands should lift the gun more or less in a horizontal line with the ground. This method of field shooting prevents over swinging with either the stock or barrels when raised rapidly to make a quick shot. It also greatly assists in placing the stock in its correct position on the shoulder. Once you have assured yourself of the stock being right, you then should know how your body must be in relation to your feet. When a 12 bore gun is discharged, especially if you are of light build, you receive a recoil which is likely to throw you off your balance, unless you have set yourself to receive it. With both feet solidly on the ground the left knee should be slightly bent and the weight of the body carried mostly by it. This you will find enables you to fire the first barrel and be immediately ready to fire the second if needed, without having to recover your balance after the discharge of the first. A heavily built person may not be so affected by recoil but even so he will benefit by this stance, in the case of swinging shots. These few lines are written for the right-handed shooter they apply equally to the left-handed but with the positions of the hands and feet changed to suit. Notwithstanding all of the above to guide you and a hundred pages more, you must bear in mind, that they have all to be put into practise - so to be good at anything where hand and eye and brain work accurately and quickly together, you must practise and to that end what is better than clay targets?

In Melbourne there are two clubs shooting clay birds. The Nobel Clay Birds club at West Footscray and the Victorian Clay Target club at Bentleigh. The former club commenced operations about 10 years ago when eight or nine sportsmen including "Calrossie" first had an afternoon's sport at the clays. The club was formed by Mr. J W Sutherland "Calrossie" elected the first president. The club has spacious rooms with all conveniences including a splendid dining room. The membership has grown beyond

100 and every month new members are being enrolled. The club intends installing another automatic machine which will enable 2 events to be run at the same time. The presidency of Nobel's club for the past three years has been very capably filled by Mr J.M. Wilson, better known to his fellow shooters as "Jock". Mr. Wilson has done much to encourage novice shooters and his good advice is readily accepted. He has given a novice cup for each month's competition and great keenness is shown during these events which are growing in popularity. D.M.

(Article written by Donald Mackintosh and published in *Dogs on the bench & in the field - The Kennel Control Council Annual* - January 1937)

### Upcoming Firearms & Collectables Auction.

Australian Fine Arms & Collectables next auction will be held on 19 August 2023 commencing at 10.00am AEST.

We will be auctioning approximately 700+ items, many of which will be of direct interest to our Vintagers' members, with a wide variety of both shotguns, rifles and handguns.

Often, Vintagers with a penchant for classic rifles are provided with limited offerings - but not this time!

A deceased estate in South Australia has provided us with a collection of single barrel rifles including 2 Holland & Hollands in .303 and .45 calibre. Other well-known makers include Gibbs, Bland, Westley Richards (3), Alex Henry (2), Alex Fraser, Webley and Henry Aitken. Calibres such as .451, .50, 45/70, .45, .36 and 300 Sherwood are amongst those to be presented for sale.

Another collection is providing a cased Harris Holland 500 BP Express - something every Vintager should own at least once in their lifetime!

The above are only part of a large number of rifles in both sporting and military calibres to be offered.

Also, from S.A. we have picked up a matched pair of high grade SLEs from William Evans. These will be offered along with quite a number of boxlock & hammer guns that would be ideal Vintager guns.

For Vintagers with a penchant for 'Western' firearms, we will be presenting a large number of longarms and handguns, including a private collection of over 90 American Civil War items. This collection has been put together over the past 40 plus years and most of it has never before been seen in Australia. Henry, Remington, Spencer, Springfield and Winchester rifles, along with Colts, Adams', Merwin & Hulberts and Pettengill handguns are among the offerings. A Le Mat revolver and a Volcanic lever action pistol are amongst this collection. Both of these pistols had production runs of less than 3,000 and are rarely (if ever seen in Australia).

Full catalogue and details available online & hardcopy from late July 2023.

Inspection prior to auction available by appointment.

For further details & appointments:

David Henderson 0488 480 836

Rhys Martin 0447 544 470

Email: [info@australianfinearms.com.au](mailto:info@australianfinearms.com.au)

Website: [www.australianfinearms.com.au](http://www.australianfinearms.com.au)



**Army and Navy 8 Bore**

(Refer page 8)

Photos from the Marong shoot

