

Committee of Management

2021

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Proposed Shoot Calendar 2021/2022

Sunday 19th September 2021

Melbourne Gun Club – AGM

Sunday 21st November 2021

Melbourne Gun Club – Vintage Cup

Sunday 20th February 2022 (TBC)

Melbourne Gun Club

Sunday 17th April 2022 (TBC)

Melbourne Gun Club

Sunday 19th June 2022 (TBC)

Melbourne Gun Club

Sunday 7th August 2022 (TBC)

Frankston Australia Clay Target Club

Sunday 18th September 2022 (TBC)

Melbourne Gun Club - AGM

Sunday 20th November 2022 (BC)

Melbourne Gun Club – Vintage Cup.

President's Report

Sadly, there is very little to report about.

Our records show that we only managed to conduct 3 shoots for the year end to 30/06/2020, and with the lockdowns continuing for the year to 30/06/2021, only 2 shoots were conducted. We can only hope the virus will be contained and will allow us to possibly permit to conduct our 21 year anniversary shoot on Sunday the 19th of September incorporating our Annual General Meeting, and our Annual Vintage Cup Downunder in December.

A sincere vote of thanks to both Paul and Rod for making the time to pen up their articles which are in this newsletter. It is difficult to get articles for our newsletter; are there others out there who would like to express their literary skills or photographs for the December issue? All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged and you can use your pen name/alias should you prefer!

Keep your powder dry!

Holland and Holland

As some of you may know Holland and Holland have been taken over by Beretta. The following information is from Holland and Holland:

"Our retail premises on Bruton Street have now closed however we are delighted to announce that we will be moving to a dedicated gun room on the 3rd floor of 36 St James Street, opening in October 2021. From the 8th June, we will retail our guns from our prestigious Shooting Grounds in Northwood who have an extensive selection of firearms and accessories, with the added benefit of being able to try guns from our range of demonstrator models. Throughout the transition period we are also delighted to accept visitors to the factory in Kensal Green or offer individual visits to the customer's premises, by appointment. Our sales team can be contacted by both phone and email, and would be delighted to assist with any questions you may have."

Victoria Police

Licensing and Regulations Division (LRD)

National firearms amnesty commenced on the Thursday 1 July 2021. It is ongoing.

LRD phones unavailable

Due to operational requirements, the Licensing and Regulation (LRD) is not available until further notice.

All urgent enquires should be directed to LRD by email at: lrd@police.vic.gov.au

LRD publishes and regularly updates its licence application processing timeframes on their website, accessible via the following links:

Firearms: police.vic.gov.au/firearms-licensing

Firearm safety Course and Fingerprinting

COVID-19 continues to impact on both the delivery of the Firearm Safety Course as was the case last year in 2020 and also the closure of fingerprint branches, which has resulted in accumulating numbers of people wanting to access these services

Suspended and cancelled Licences

Enforcement activities up to the June 2021, we have had 1355 suspended licences and of those 873 became cancelled.

Staffing

Announced by the Chief Commissioner, there is a current freeze on the Victorian public servant at Victoria Police, which may have a potential impact on delivery of services moving forward.

Service Delivery Update

Assessment and Determination Unit - Firearm Licensing

- Processing times for new applications are around the 65-day mark; and
- Processing times for renewals are around 50-day mark for processing.
- Entity numbers for licences are running out, resulting in the need to increase the capacity of our licence numbers. Once licence number 999999 is used RSD cannot adopt a seven digit, therefore the first digit of a licence number will be replaced with an alpha letter, starting with the letter Z.

Condition 'N' on licence

Licence holders are asking why they have condition 'N' on their licence. Condition 'N' indicates that there are no special conditions. Additional communications may be added to the website to ensure clarity.

Assessment and Determination Unit – Permits, Transactions and Approvals

Permits to acquire (PTA's) were at 3 days for electronic and one day for manual processing. The Permit to Acquire (PTA) a Longarm Application has been converted from a PDF/hand-fill form to an eForm.

Permit to Acquire a Longarm (PTAL) Application

From Wednesday the **1st September**, a link to the PTAL eForm will be publicly accessible, with no login required.

- Users will access the eForm directly from our website, complete the application and submit it online.
- Once submitted, the application will be automatically emailed to LRD for processing.

Note: There will be a four-week transition period, in which the PDF/hand-fill form will also remain available. However, after that date the PDF/hand-fill version of the form will be retired from the Victoria Police Website.

This new process has no effect on applications lodged through the Online Dealers System (OLDS). Rather, this process aims to deliver an efficient and modernised solution for manual PTA applications.

Other than the way in which a PTA Longarm application is lodged, the rest of the process remains unchanged. As per current practice, there will be no upfront permit fees. The payment notice will continue to be issued with the PTA.

Whilst the form content remains largely the same, users will be asked to nominate how they would like their permit issued: sent to them by post or electronically to an authorised online firearms dealer.

Please note: A copy of the PTA will be uploaded on the Vintagers Website for members without computers/reception.

Website Address:

www.police.vic.gov.au

Email Address:

lrd@police.vic.gov.au

Licensing Mail Address:

Licensing and Regulation Division
GPO Box 2807, Melbourne, VIC, 3001.

Vintagers Dress Code

The Vintagers has had a dress policy from the beginning when the club was first incorporated. The requirement is smart dress at the Vintagers events and we intend to keep it that way as the Vintagers is a very unique club for ladies and gentlemen of all ages using side-by-side shotguns.

This policy has been regularly mentioned in our newsletters for the past few years and it is disappointing to see members still attending the events in denims, very short shorts and some camo as well as Boiler Suits. **These are not permitted.**

Thank you for your co-operation.



QR Code and Non Member Sign In

ALL members and visitors to the Melbourne Gun Club **MUST** check in by the QR Codes that are located on the premises. You may find them located at both entrances, the bar and the office. Please check in on your arrival to the club.

If you do not have a mobile phone you may ask someone to sign you in or sign the book at the bar. Victorian Government requires this procedure. Non-members must sign the MGC visitor's book prior to shooting.

All members must also sign the Vintagers book for insurance purposes

Engraving

Posted on [December 5, 2014](#) by [Jerry Johnson](#)



Banknote engraved pheasant in flight by Steve Lindsay

... custom engraved guns in hundreds of different styles, executed by truly skilled artists and artisans, combining creativity and genius to produce stunning artwork that blends with the gun's form and function, sophisticated and elegant metalwork by the indisputable masters of the trade

Engraving

For the most part, fancy engraving on a shotgun has never much appealed to me. Yes, this is a personal, biased, subjective opinion. You may be pleased, even enthralled, by the metal engraving on guns. The best of it is excellent beyond comprehension, but I find most of it to be appallingly bad.

Since my appreciation for artwork is a product of my simplistic roots and upbringing, I am put off rather than enticed by guns over-decorated with intricate swirls and floral patterns cut into every square inch of gunmetal on the action sides and floor plates, fences, chambers, trigger guard, tang, top lever, and even the forearm release bar. Some factory engraving strikes me as attractive and tasteful, the minimal metalwork on my Browning BSS sporter model shotgun, for example. But much of the engraving I see is absolutely awful, dreadful.

The rolled-on or machine-pressed “engraving” on the receiver covers of semi-automatic and pump shotguns is no doubt the worst. All of it is of poor quality, and some of it rivals the craftsmanship of serial numbers cut into Sherman tank turrets by hurried war plant workers using welding torches.

Firearms companies refer to this adornment as “impressed” or “embossed” engraving, and they apparently believe that it is better than a blank receiver side plate of unmarked and featureless blued steel. It is not better, it is worse, making the gun appear not classy and expensive but showy and cheap.

Even the better executed “embossed” engraving, cut with modern CNC equipment, is universally lacking in style and grace. Designs feature bird dogs that resemble tiny but muscular donkeys with ramrod tails haphazardly attached, waterfowl that appear to have been drawn by self-taught artists trying to replicate the physique of Donald Duck, pheasants that look like barnyard chickens in drag, and images of quail that one could mistake for the winged-foot-of-Mercury logo once used by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

Somehow, the simplest swirls and curls of the engraving on mass-produced guns seem singularly lacking in grace and creativity, designed as if wandering, asymmetrical curves were aesthetically pleasing and disjointed repetitions of a single uninspired pattern were the apex of artistry. For the shooting sports models, stamping the words *SKEET* or *TRAP* or *SPORTING CLAYS* onto the action or receiver adds even more appeal to the gun, apparently, and helps the shooter remember its purpose.

At the other end of the spectrum are the elaborate photo-illustrations etched onto high-end guns that are clearly not intended to be used in the field but mounted in specially constructed and lighted display cases in gun rooms that cost more than my house. I have no idea how this metalwork is done, but it appears to be a high-tech variant of the Italian bulino (fine dot) style of engraving that produces something akin to old tintype photographs.

I have seen the most extreme examples of this on Beretta shotguns that cost tens of thousands of dollars. The images are incredibly varied and bizarre, ranging from dolphins frolicking in frothy surf to bare-breasted Roman goddesses soaring in

convivial formations through cloudy skies. In vivid colors.

The illustrators who created these images are artisans of no mean talent, and the guns have a certain beauty, but I cannot relate the artwork to the object. Shotguns and naked goddesses? Well, we live in an increasingly surrealistic world.

Although these guns were probably never intended to be used, shooting one would be awkward, the Roman goddesses design, anyway. I imagine myself preparing to mount the gun to shooting position and noticing that my trigger finger is inadvertently caressing the exposed torso of a buxom woman – this would inevitably destroy my focus and concentration.

So I have little use for the low end and the high end of the gun engraving styles, methods, and techniques. But somewhere in the middle are custom engraved guns in hundreds of different styles, executed by truly skilled artists and artisans, combining creativity and genius to produce stunning artwork that blends with the gun’s form and function, sophisticated and elegant metalwork by the indisputable masters of the trade.

Although I am of the brevity-and-simplicity school of design, the best engraving work is breathtaking regardless of the style in which it is executed: rose and scroll, Arabesque, German blackleaf, Renaissance ornament, banknote, oak leaf, Belgian scroll, English scroll, German scroll, bouquet and scroll, Nimschke scroll and star, Celtic ornament, jagdszenen, Corombelle, ornate, vignette... I am sure there are at least a dozen others.

Much of the German stuff, stags leaping through tangles of oak leaves and grape vine, all deeply engraved, is not to my taste, but I admire its excellence. Some of the scroll in the English and Belgian styles is overdone, again to my eye, in the sense that there can be too much of a good thing. Many of the lavish floral patterns also fail to excite me.

But the best of the banknote style engraving, relief games scenes, modest large scroll engraving, and the lesser known McGraw scroll style – if these are well done and matched to the shape and contours of the gun, these are works of art that define the phrase “pride of ownership”.



Evans & Balfour Duck Season Window Display
ACCA circa 1930's

A sterling idea

In Victoria, as Vintagers, we are fortunate to have access to fine shotguns and rifles through various sources. If our gun cabinets look a little empty and our wallets a little fatter, we can always rely on our two excellent auction houses, Australian Fine Arms and Australian Arms Auctions. Both of these houses conduct frequent auctions with a large number of guns, rifles and shooting ephemera available to bid on. David Henderson, assisted by Rhys Martin, and Roly and Cheryl Martin are strong supporters of the Vintagers and there are plenty of first class guns normally available. We are fortunate also to have access to private dealers such as Wayne Clapham and Rob Lansell (both Vintager members) and also online websites such as ozgunsales.com together with some excellent retail gunshops.

Of the UK auction houses, Holts, Bonhams and Gavin Gardiner are the preeminent houses and

invariably carry some very impressive stock. Recently, Committee Member and Vintager stalwart, Clive Haug, embarked on a gunroom cleanup (some would unkindly say that this was not before time) and offered me a stack of old UK auction house catalogues.

As I settled in to flip through the Bonhams 8th August 1995 auction catalogue, I decided to list a dozen guns that, had money been no object, I would have purchased 26 years ago.

I started with Lot No. 966, a Dickson 12 bore round action ejector. Although it had replacement chopper lump barrels by McKay Brown, it appeared in good original condition with some refreshed checkering and in the maker's case. My first purchase has set me back 5,000 pounds. On to Lot No. 975, a Purdey 12 bore, again with replacement barrels by the maker, and engraved by Rene Delcour. I will have to admit that I am unfamiliar with the work of M Delcour, but the photograph and description says it all "action engraving depicting deep carved grotesque figures". I decided to pay 15,000 pounds only because this gun would seriously offend our esteemed President. I moved onto Lot No. 981, a classic 29 inch Woodward sidelock ejector with both the characteristic arcaded fences and a Prince of Wales grip. A steal at 4,000 pounds. No collection would be complete without a H&H. Lot No. 983, a Royal with two sets of barrels in the makers case could be had for 5,000 pounds.

Now was the time to get serious and purchase some pairs. Lot No. 988 was a pair of Churchill "Hercules" assisted opening boxlocks. Lovely scalloped edges and lavishly engraved for 2,500 pounds. Next Lot No. 989 was a classic pair of 28 bore hand detachable sidelock ejectors by Arrizabalaga, the "Purdey of Spain". They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and these H&H copies are a credit to the workmen of Eibar. Of course, there will always be some that fail to recognize the quality of the best Spanish guns and we must try and educate them. A bargain for 5,000 pounds. A magnificent pair of gently reconditioned Watson Brothers 12 bore sidelocks with arcaded fences and extra long stocks would set me back 7,500 pounds. My final purchase, Lot No.999 was a pair of Boss single trigger 12 bores previously owned by car driver and World Champion, Graham Hill. 20,000 pounds, thank you.

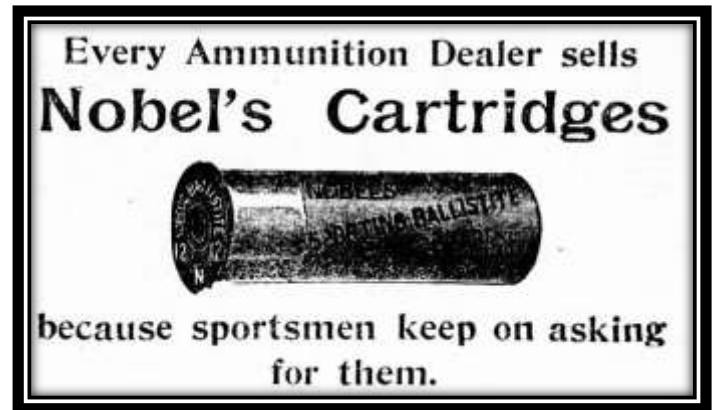
All up, my no expenses spared, time travel auction purchases totalled 54,000 pounds for 12 guns.

As I closed the catalogue, I noticed something on the inside cover. It was an advertisement for a "Try before you Buy" day on August 5th 1995 at West Wycombe Shooting Ground. For 30 pounds (plus VAT) Bonhams were offering prospective buyers the opportunity to shoot up to 12 Lots with 6 cartridges per gun from their upcoming auction. This revolutionary idea didn't last long as I have never heard of this opportunity being made available since. Had I been around the UK in August 1995 I could have shot 54,000 pounds worth of shotguns for 30 quid. Remarkable!

I think it is now time to introduce this concept to Australia. So I will throw out the challenge to our two auction houses. Let's have "Shoot before you Buy" days introduced by Messrs Henderson and Martin.

Over to you, gentlemen.

Paul Minogue



**Leader (Melbourne, Vic. : 1862 - 1918),
Saturday 30 August 1913, page 23**



**Eley Ad The Bulletin. Vol 33 1700
(12 Sep 1912)**

Classifieds

Looking for a Gunsmith

Looking for a Gunsmith who has extensive experience with Double guns and rifles, and had extensive experience working with Century Arms (15 years), give Rolf a call and tell him Peter Smith referred you to him. He is very reasonable with pricing.

Rolf is in the Lilydale area.

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Gundogs Portraits

Your much loved Gundog can be immortalized by having your favourite hunting moments... captured in a portrait, in a bush or swamp scene.

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SHIP OF VICTORIA**

Shooting brilliantly, and using a
**SIMSON £12/12/-
HAMMERLESS GUN**

W. Watt won outright at Seymour last Saturday. What a triumph over high-grade gun-costing. In some cases, three times as much.

This was a remarkable performance both on the part of the gun and the shooter, as Mr. Watt had only purchased his Simson the day previously.

**And the SIMSON scores again—
THE AUSTRALIAN PIGEON CUP**

Won by Tom Power (Tongaia), one of our most brilliant shooters. With the aid of his SIMSON he was successful in defeating allcomers on Saturday by shooting 15 birds straight.

The SIMSON is the best handling gun ever made, irrespective of price. It has perfect balance, and the barrels which have super chokes, are made of the world-famous Krupp Fluid Steel. This gun is specially designed to suit the Australian shooter, and for fit, finish, and balance is absolutely unequalled.

PLAIN MODEL £12/12/-
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HUBERTUS Cartridges, used by Mr. Watt in his Simson. The Cartridges with the Sinoid Priming, 23-lob case, loaded with 13oz. double chilled shot.
10/- per 100, 4/6 per box.

"The Cartridge of 1937"

EVANS AND BALFOUR
"The Gun Experts,"
289 Little Collins Street, MELB., C.I.

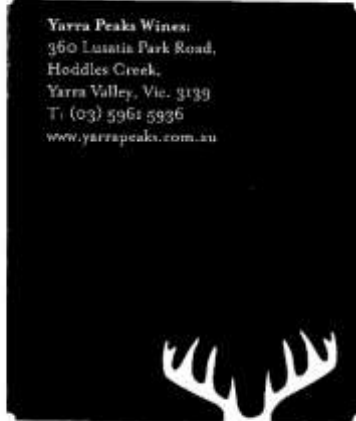
Referee NSW Thursday 9 December 1937

Classifieds

YARRA PEAKS

yarra valley

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



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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



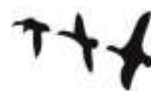
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Classifieds



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www.rolfhey.com



RolfHeyGunsmith



RolfHey

Classifieds

Vintagers cloth patches for sale

\$5 each



Vintagers Mugs for sale

Good for a coffee break!
\$10 each



Vintagers Silver Pins

The Silver pins can be used as a hat pin, tie pin or a lapel pin. They are made by one of our members.

Silver - \$35.00



**Please support the industry
who support the Vintagers**

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)




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- Gunmaker histories.

Classifieds



the woolshed
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please contact the
Secretary**

THE VINTAGER

T'was Brother (young), of West Mersea that
caught the shotgun craze,
He set aside his old BRNO that served him
many days,
"I'm off to join the Vintagers, fine folk of high
renown",
Inspired in Heaven, by Edward Seven, a head
adorned with Crown.

It's all very well to look the swell a
"sporting" gent to boot,
We ask the question "Young Brother" ours,
and that is, "Can you shoot?"
"See hear you lot, I'm good all round, my
shooting fame none grander,
From Willomavin, Carrum Downs, Yering to
Yackandandah "

He dressed himself in breeks and tweed, plus
accoutrements of leather,
Plus-fours with broguns, hose and flashes, fit
for any weather.
Resplendent thus he took the field with air of
lordly pride,
With Boswell gun of walnut fine and barrels
side by side.

"Battue, chandelle, springing teal and 'rabbit,
with loopers wide and crossed,
While shot at with aplomb it seemed, most
were deemed as "lost".
"Above, below.... behind... too slow" the
helpful "guns" proffered,
"Shooting's still my special gift" he cried, "I'm
not to be deterred".

All brothers now of West Mersea, embrace the
Vintage Code,
Locals warm to stirring tales within the bros
abode,
As a social/shooting institutionIt is a
marvellous success,
With members all distinguished by side-by-
sides and dress!

"Himself" With apologies to The "Banjo",
Mulga Bill and Young Brother.

*Ex-England cricketer Ian Botham
highlights the importance of shooting*

Provided by Daily Mail

Rural groups backed by former cricketer Lord
Botham have joined forces to highlight the
importance of shooting to the environment
and economy.

The nine organisations, including the
Countryside Alliance, the British Association
for Shooting and Conservation and the British
Game Alliance, will advocate for the 'crucially
important' role gamekeepers play in land
management.

The partnership, called Aim to Sustain, will
protect and promote 'the many wide-ranging
conservation, biodiversity and community
benefits that make the countryside the place
we love'.

Lord Botham a passionate shooter, said it
proves the 'haters' who have tried to ban the
sport have 'lost the battle'.

He told The Daily Telegraph: 'The haters of
shooting have made a strategic mistake in
thinking they could make the sector into fox-
hunting Mark II.

"With fox-hunting, the Marie Antoinette view
of the countryside won the day – the public
preferring to pretend that foxes don't
slaughter countless birds day and night.

'Game shooting is different. It pulls together
broad communities to bring in the harvest
from the skies.

'For some, shooting is just a hobby. However,
for thousands it is their livelihood – as
gamekeepers, hoteliers and taxi drivers.

Aim to Sustain is the first collective body for
the game industry, which is estimated to be
worth £2billion a year to the rural economy.

Tim Bonner, chief executive of the Countryside
Alliance, added: "By moving closer together
into a formal partnership we can achieve even
more and secure greater recognition of the
great benefits that come from game
management and shooting. This is a critical
step for game shooting at a critical time.

Aim to Sustain said it is 'dedicated to
protecting, preserving and promoting' the
'conservation, biodiversity and community
benefits that make the countryside the place
we love'.