

Committee of Management

2022

Patron: Russell Wilkin - London

President: Peter J Smith

V. President: Max Lee

Secretary: Judith Kent

Treasurer: Greg Menzies

Committee Members:

John Rowe

Clive Haug

Paul Minogue

Rod Fox

Email: secretary@vintagers.org.au

Mailing Address: The Secretary
PO Box 269
Carnegie Vic 3163
Australia

Website: www.vintagers.org.au

Content

Page

1	Committee of Management
1	Shoot Calendar 2022
1	President's Report
2-3	Victoria Police
3	Vintagers Dress Code
3	Social Setting!
3	Holland and Holland Gunmakers
3-4	H&H Steel Shot Update
4-5	Ladies in the field
6	Gun Clubs' Association of Victoria
6	The Shooters' – Note & Reference Book
7 - 11	Classifieds (incl. "Wanted")
12	The Shooters' – Note & Reference Book (Cont'd)

Proposed Shoot Calendar 2022

Sunday 10th April 2022

Melbourne Gun Club (PS: date change brought forward from 17th to 10th April)

Sunday 30th April 2022

Marong Rifle Club

Sunday 15th May 2022

Westernport Memorial Shoot for Mark Brenton

Sunday 19th June 2022

Melbourne Gun Club

Saturday 16th July 2022

Kilmore F&G

Sunday 14th August 2022

Frankston Australia Clay Target Club

Sunday 18th September 2022

Melbourne Gun Club - AGM

Sunday 20th November 2022

Melbourne Gun Club – Vintage Cup.

President's Report

Our maiden shoot for the new calendar year on 20 February at the Melbourne Gun Club attracted 56 entries. Max our enthusiastic hard-working Vice President, complimented the day by managing the chronograph and pattern board for those with a strong desire to see just how well (on paper) their double would perform. And as per usual, it never rains at the Club grounds!

We regret that we had to reschedule our next shoot from Sunday the 17th of April to Sunday the 10th April as we had regrettably overlooked the 17th being Easter Sunday, and the grounds would be closed.

We are in dire need of stories from our members for inclusion in our quarterly Club magazine, and any contribution will be gratefully acknowledged, as will any photographs. So please put your literary skills to the test, PLEASE!

The Australian Fine Arms and Collectables Auction held on the 26th of February featured a few lots of shotguns from the estate of the late Phil Taylor. Phil was one of the foundation members of the Vintagers and was occasionally seen with two guns at our shoots, which seem to have been amongst his favourites, a cased Charles Boswell SLE and a cased Westley Richards Hand Detachable Lock (beware of those who dare to refer to it as a "drop lock"). I was privileged to shoot both these on rare past occasions at both Frankston and Cranbourne grounds and the memories are etched in my mind.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next shoot!

Victoria Police

Licensing and Regulations Division (LRD) Update

Firearm Amnesty

National firearms amnesty commenced on the Thursday 1 July 2021. Up until February there have been 6,000 firearms handed in Australia wide and 800 in Victoria. The Amnesty is still ongoing.

Contacting LRD

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

Service Delivery Update

Please note: A copy of the PTA accessible on the Vintagers Website for members without computers/reception. However, if you cannot receive a copy please ask the Vintagers Secretary and a copy will be sent in the mail for you to complete then send to LRD.

Staffing

The Chief Commissioner announced that 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.

Firearm delivery is being impacted nationally, whereby FedEx want to stop transporting firearms.

Firearm Licensing – Service Delivery Update

Processing times for new applications are 57 days;

Processing times for renewals are 8 days.

Longarm permits to acquire are found online and have been since 1st September 2021

Condition 'N' has now been changed to condition 'NO' on the firearm licence. If there is a special condition it will read as 'YES' on the licence.

A review into lead time for renewal applications has been considered and extending the time by 4 weeks. This means that renewal applications will be sent out 12 weeks early instead of 8 weeks.

Please note: It is encouraged that members who receive their renewal forms, should complete them as soon as they receive the

notification to prevent any delays within LRD processing them.

Permits, Transactions and Approvals

Permit to Acquire processing time is currently at 7 days due to being short staffed.

E-Form for the longarm permit to acquire has been online since the 1st September 2021.

Upcoming changes to the portal to update security features.

The Pre-1900 Firearm Exemption form, change to a Calibre form and alteration to a Firearm form are all currently in development.

Compliance and Enforcement

Currently 481 cancelled licences and 536 suspended licences. And there are currently 30 firearm appeals before VCAT.

Firearms and Other Amendments Act 2021

Implementation of the Act will occur in August 2022.

Purpose built gun rooms that would exceed the requirements are likely to continue being approved, if they adhere to the schedules minimum requirements and have exclusive access. LRD would be happy to accommodate individual requests for storage inspections to ensure adherence with legislation.

Legislative amendments made a deliberate enforcement date as it enables people time to upgrade their storage to the minimum standard. It is important to note that amendments have only been made to the Schedule, which implements a minimum standard of storage. Provision 121 of the *Firearms Act 1996* still enables the Chief Commissioner of Police to approve storage of any other manner that exceeds the minimum requirements if they are satisfied it is as secure as the manner prescribed in the Schedule.

Please note that ammunition has not been mentioned in the change of Legislation. It must be stored in a separate reciprocal as has been since 1996.

Storage of documents in firearms safe

The *Firearms Act 1996* does not regulate if documents or other items can be stored in the firearms safe. It is important to note that if documents are stored in a firearm safe then they can only be accessed by the licensed firearm holder with the exclusion of all others.

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

There are a number of members who are continually avoiding our requirements to follow the dress code at the Vintagers events.

The Vintagers had had a dress code policy from the beginning when the club was first incorporated in 2000. The requirement is smart dress 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.** Camo hats are also not on our Agenda as with other Camo wear. Camo is not permitted at Melbourne Gun Club also.

It is very disappointing that some members are not taking notice of what the Vintagers is all about.

If you invite friends to come along, please advise them of our requirements.
Thank you for your co-operation.

Social Setting!

The cornerstone for the Vintagers is of course a deep abiding interest in the preservation and appreciation of fine side-by-side guns from the late 19th to early 20th century. 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-Vintager 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 may 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.

Holland and Holland Gunmakers

As you may or may not be aware Holland and Holland Bruton Street Gunroom is closed! February marked a full year since the acquisition by Beretta Holding.

The new London flagship Gunroom, now under the name 'Beretta', is in the same building as Beretta in London.

Holland and Holland (H&H) still have their Shooting Grounds and factory and they have been busy with development and improvements to the shooting grounds. H&H also have a gunroom at the shooting grounds.

H&H Steel Shot update (Saturday**19th February 2022 share)**

With the use of steel shot being increasingly seen as mandatory for game shooting in the UK, the skilled factory team at Holland & Holland have dedicated over four years of research and development to produce the perfect London Steel Shot Proof barrels, that are suitable for ALL non-toxic shot types. To achieve the highest levels of finish, balance and graceful profiles associated with their guns - Holland & Holland went right back to the origin of barrel making, looking at new steel variants for their Chopperlump barrel blanks. As a result, all new Holland & Holland Shotguns will be manufactured incorporating their new steel technology to have the ability to be fully Steel Shot Proofed from point of manufacture. Not only can Holland & Holland offer this on all of the best grade guns, but can still manufacture the barrels using skilled traditional methods employed by the craftsman in their London based factory All of the new Steel Shot Proof barrels can be manufactured to any chamber length, with either fixed or multi chokes and still retain

previous barrel profiles in design, manufactured to any chamber length, with either fixed or multi chokes and still retain previous barrel profiles in design, manufacture, weight, balance, profile and aesthetics.

Ladies in the field

There is a chapter in a book titled "Modern Sporting Gunnery" by Henry Sharp who published it in 1906. There is a chapter which was written by the Duchess of Bedford titled "Ladies in the Field". She was obviously a very accomplished game shooter as she is recorded in another book titled "Experts on Guns and Shooting" by G. T. Teasdale-Buckell, written in 1900.

The Duchess recorded "in the matter of dress I draw distinct line between a woman who shoots and one who goes out to watch other people shooting and to attend shooting luncheons. The latter can wear any becoming walking costume which fashions and her tailor may dictate; but having learnt what is the neatest and most appropriate for the sport, the former should disregard fashion as appropriately as her fellow sportsman". She goes on to say "it is impossible for a woman to do a long day walking in comfort, over the moors or the turnips, in a skirt which is longer than 8" below the knee. For those who can afford it a second skirt reaching to within 3" or 4" to the ankle, for use at covert shooting parties is less likely to excite comment amongst those who are more critical of shooting costume than of evening dress.

Gaiters should reach to the knee, to be fastened to a band of knickerbockers, and if the latter are made of the same material it adds to the neatness of the costume. As long as the cap matches the dress the shape is a matter of individual taste, but the yachting cap now used by motorists has, by general consent proved to be the best for wind and rain.

Boots should have light nails and perfectly straight, broad heels, and soles projecting slightly above the uppers, as in men's shooting boots.

Under the coats I recommend the flannel shirt which can be worn with or without the coat and if a small strap is worn around the waist a woman can carry her own coat without noticing it."

The Duchess also says "If possible, I think women should begin their shooting career by shooting rabbits with a single barrelled rifle. It is a safer weapon in the hands of a novice; than a gun; there is only one barrel and shots must be taken more deliberately. When proficient I recommend a 16 bore gun. A 16 bore gives the average woman a better chance to hold her own than with the 12 bore generally used by men".

The charge I have found most suitable for a 16 bore is 35 grains of amberlite and 1 ounce of no. 5 shot. My own gun weighs 5 ¾ pounds which is less than many 20 bores and reduction of the weight is obtained 28 inch length of barrels.

A woman should have a long probationary period of shooting by herself or with one other gun before she joins large shooting parties or if she has the true instinct of sport, I believe that a small mixed bag obtained by herself when carrying her own game and cartridges will always give her pleasure for the largest day's covert shooting where she may kill birds by hundreds."

"The etiquette of laws of sports being much the same for sports women as for men. It is dangerous and jealous shooting "neither the exclusive prerogative of sports women are the worst".

If a woman does not know whether she has fired a risky shot, and repented abjectly, I really do not know what I can say to make her. In cases where she is not hostess, her shooting invitations will probably diminish; and where she is hostess her guests will show a disinclination to return."

The book provides an interesting review of shooting 100 plus years ago with a particular emphasis on Westley Richards hand detachable lock guns of the day. The book records the serial number of 3 of the guns used being:

Westley Richards – 15117, 16417 and 16617 all three with hand detachable locks. For those few amongst us, who do not have an original copy of the 1906 book by Henry Sharp, Modern Sporting Gunnery, reprints can be obtained from Booktopia at www.booktopia.com.au that a small mixed bag obtained by herself when carrying her own game and cartridges will always give her pleasure for the largest day's covert shooting where she may kill birds by hundreds."

"The etiquette of laws of sports being much the same for sports women as for men. It is dangerous and jealous shooting "neither the exclusive prerogative of sports women are the worst".

If a woman does not know whether she has fired a risky shot, and repented abjectly, I really do not know what I can say to make her. In cases where she is not hostess, her shooting invitations will probably diminish, and where she is hostess her guests will show a disinclination to return."

The provides an interesting review of shooting 100 plus years ago with a particular emphasis on Westley Richards hand detachable lock guns of the day.

The book records the serial number of 3 of the guns used being:

Westley Richards – 15117, 16417 and 16617 all three with hand detachable locks.

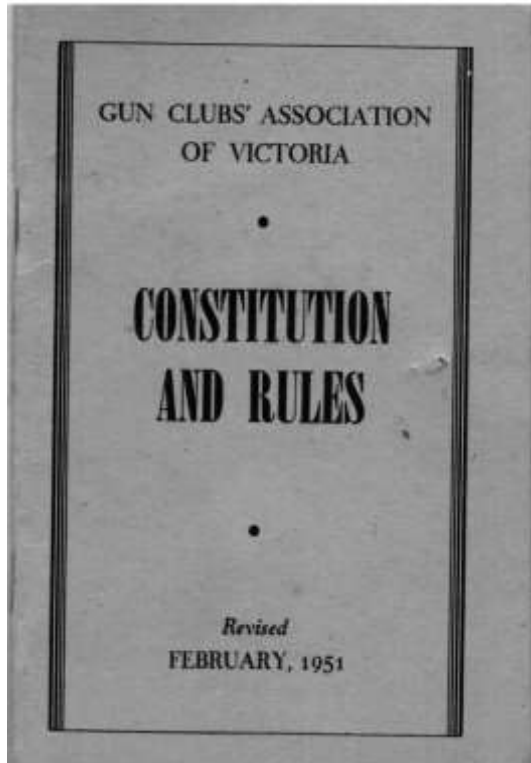
For those few amongst, who do not have an original copy of the 1906 book by Henry Sharp Modern Sporting Gunnery, reprints can be obtained from Boktopia at www.booktopia.com.au

A copy of the book is considered essential for a Westley Richards tragic!



Gun Clubs' Association of Victoria

February 1951



GUN CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Constitution and Rules

No person or persons is allowed to Copy, Print, Publish, Adopt or Shoot under these Rules and Regulations without the permission of the Gun Clubs' Association of Victoria.

1st February, 1951.

NAME

The Association shall be known as the Gun Clubs' Association of Victoria.

OBJECTS

To promote, control and manage all trap shooting within the State of Victoria.

To further the interests of field shooting and game preservation.

To protect the legitimate rights of shooting men in Victoria.

Protection against disqualified or defaulting shooters or bookmakers.

To do anything generally that will tend to improve the sport of shooting.

To reciprocate with other governing bodies in these matters.

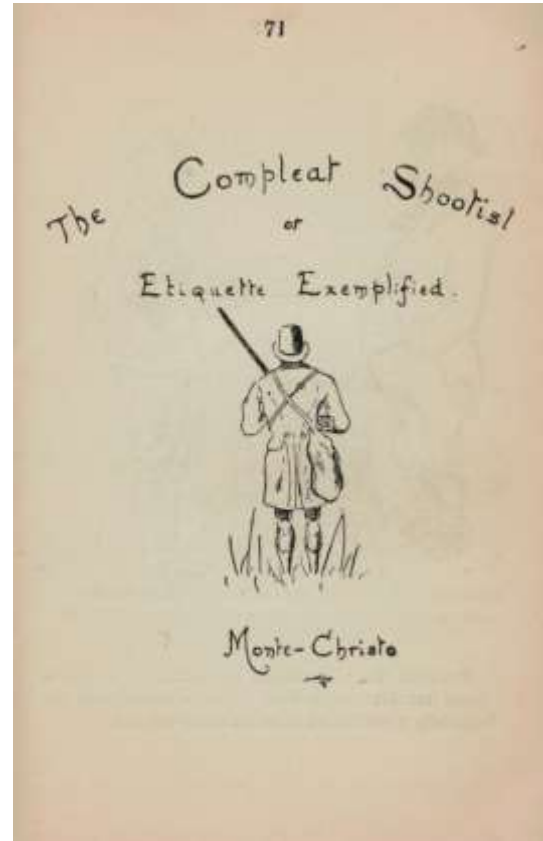
CONSTITUTION

The Association shall consist of Gun Clubs registered by it, now constituting the Association and other such clubs as shall from time to time be admitted therein under the Constitution and Rules of the Association, provided that no club shall be eligible for admission to the Association that has less than 10 members, including their officers and is governed by a properly constituted Committee, consisting of a President, Secretary, and at least four other members of Committee.

3

The Shooters' - Note & Reference Book

Illustrations by Monte-Christo - 1900-1901



(Continued on Page 12)

Classifieds

Looking for a Gunsmith

Looking for a Gunsmith who has extensive experience with Double guns and rifles, has 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.

Specialist in:

Custom Big Game Rifles
General Shotgun Repairs
English Rust Blueing
Restorations

Tel: (03) 9739 5744
Mob: 0400 815 483

Rolf Bachnick
Gunsmith

15 years with
Century Arms

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.

You owe it to yourself, and your best mate, to remember those times when photos have been long forgotten, faded, and eventually lost.

Please contact Ross T. Waghorn
0448 398 218
WILDLIFE ARTIST



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

WANTED

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

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

YARRA VALLEY HUNTING AND RECREATION



**ALL YOUR
HUNTING
NEEDS!**

The gateway to the Yarra Valley & Highland Country

Open
Monday to Saturday

(03) 9735 0936

4/9 Clarke Street, Lilydale

info@yarravalleyhunting.com.au

Firearm Sales and Repairs

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



WAYNE CLAPHAM
Licensed firearm dealer No. 482-145-20F
FIREARM SALES & REPAIRS
Guns bought
405 UT Creek Road, Alexandra 3714
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Mobile: 0418 148 485
Email: wayneclapham@bigpond.com

YARRA PEAKS

yarra valley



Yarra Peaks Wines:
360 Lusatia Park Road,
Hoddles Creek,
Yarra Valley, Vic. 3139
T: (03) 5961 5936
www.yarrapeaks.com.au



Yarra Peaks Wines have white and red wines

Looking to Buy or Sell New & Used Firearms?

With 200+ Registered Dealers Australia Wide

Visited by thousands of shooters a Day!

Over 50 Years of Firearms Industry Experience

1000's of Guns Listed + Guns Sold Every Day,

Why wouldn't you Advertise with Us!

ONLINE FIREARMS CLASSIFIEDS

Our Dealers have over 20,000 Firearms in stock!

OZGUNSALES
ONLINE FIREARMS SPECIALISTS.COM

Classifieds



- Licenced Dealer 62503 -

- Gun fitting
- Stock bending and alterations
- Stock refinishing
- Rib laying
- Action tightening
- Blacking
- Browning
- Blueing
- Sympathetic restorations
- Spring making
- Heat treatment
- Parts made
- Checkering & engraving
- General repairs and servicing
- Re- barreling
- Trigger repairs and setting
- All types of firearms
- Dealer services

Engineer & Gunsmith
2 Merriworth Road, Tea Tree, Tas 7017

P: 03 6268 1716

M: 0418 125 066

E: rolfhey@acmeengineering.com.au

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 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)




- New & vintage guncases;
- Repairs & fitouts;
- Suppliers of best-quality English-style accessories;
- Trade labels;
- Proof marks explained;
- Gunmaker histories.

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

Classifieds



the woolshed
AUSTRALIA

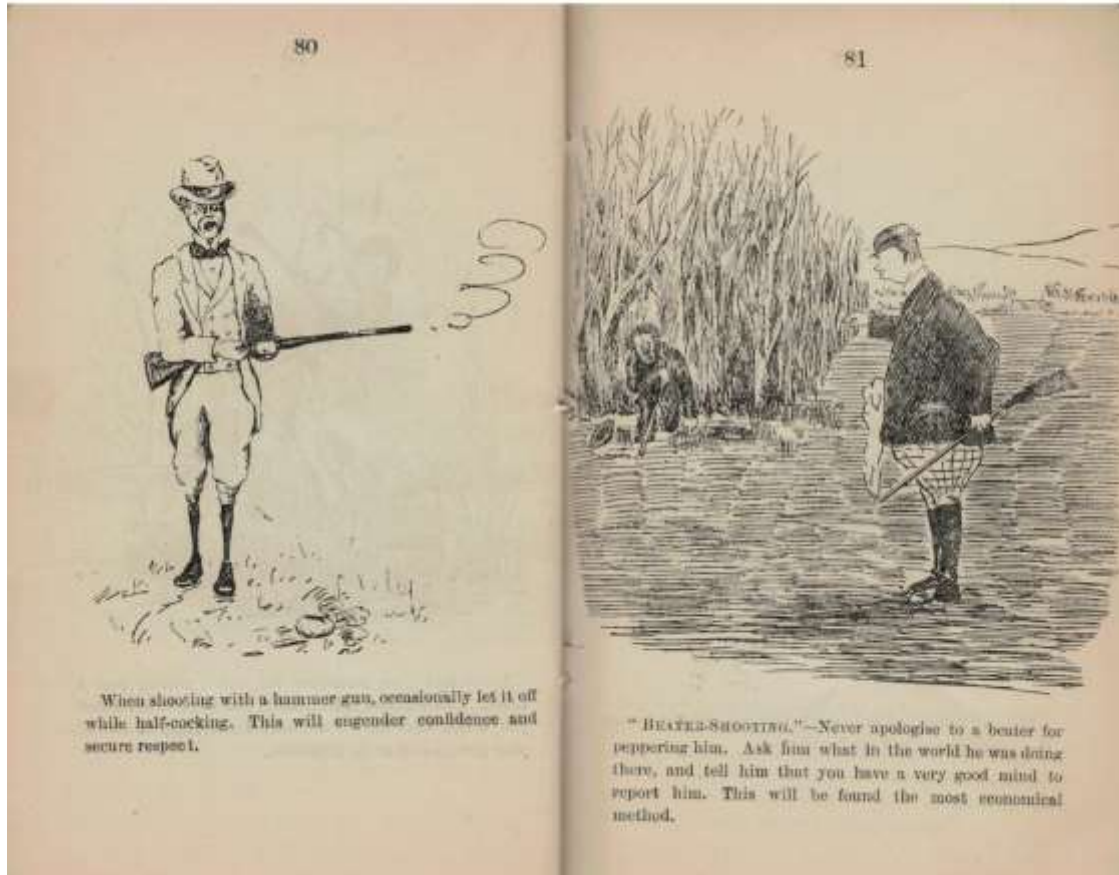
At the Woolshed Australia we stock Dubarry boots and traditional hunting tweeds along with a wide range of knitwear for men and women.

We are happy to take fittings and place special orders for your hunting and sporting tweeds.

Shop 2/14 Piper street, Kyneton ph: 0420 391 603
www.thewoolshedaustralia.com @thewoolshedaustralia

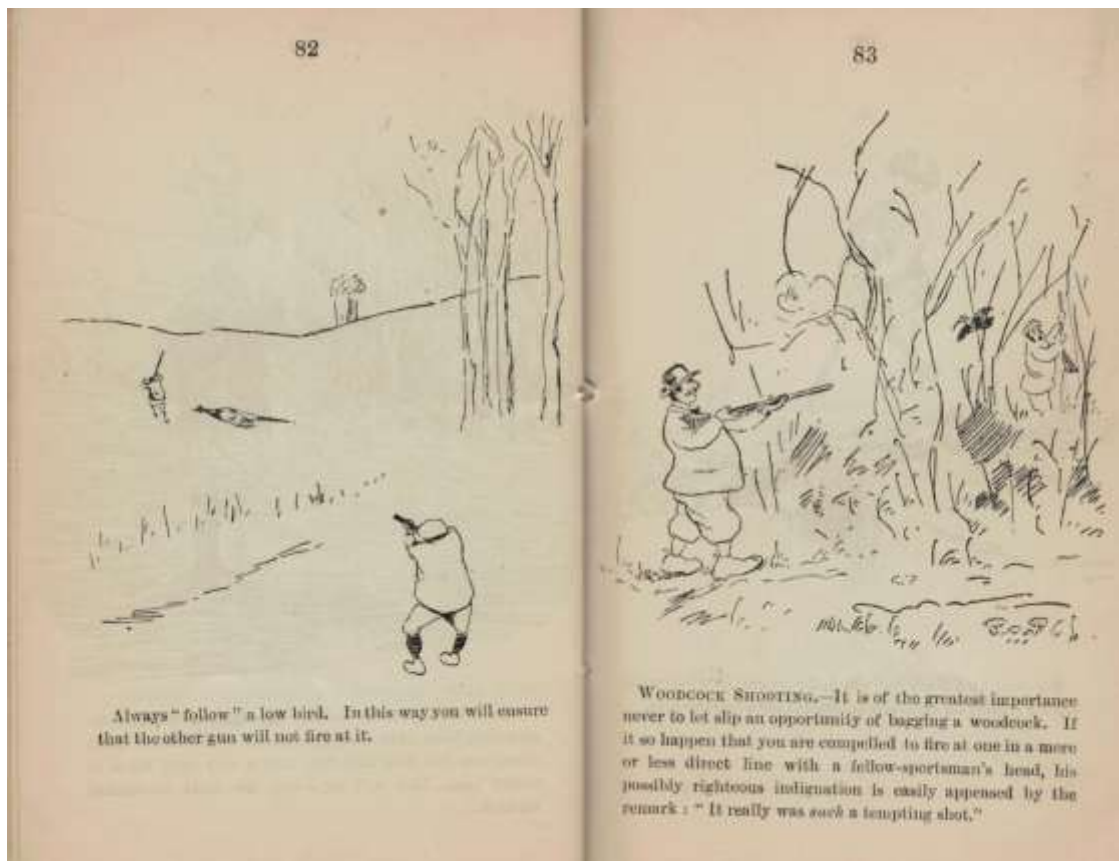
**If you wish to advertise
your business
in
Hammers Back
at no cost
please contact the
Secretary**

Illustrations by Monte-Christo – 1900-1901 (Cont'd)



When shooting with a hammer gun, occasionally let it off while half-cocking. This will engender confidence and secure respect.

"BEATER-SHOOTING."—Never apologise to a beater for peppering him. Ask him what in the world he was doing there, and tell him that you have a very good mind to report him. This will be found the most economical method.



Always "follow" a low bird. In this way you will ensure that the other gun will not fire at it.

WOODCOCK SHOOTING.—It is of the greatest importance never to let slip an opportunity of bagging a woodcock. If it so happen that you are compelled to fire at one in a more or less direct line with a fellow-sportsman's head, his possibly righteous indignation is easily assuaged by the remark: "It really was such a tempting shot."