

Fusillade

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Newsletter of the Ballarat Arms &
Militaria Collectors Society Inc.
Issue 181 May – June 2022



We're Back! NEW VENUE

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July 2022, BALLARAT

Eureka Arms and Militaria Fair

200+ trading tables. *Antique and modern arms,
Medals, Knives, Swords, Badges, Uniforms,*

Hunting & Shooting supplies and clothing,

Collectable ammo, Security Equipment,

Accessories and Optics, Books, Bayonets,

Memorabilia and much more.

Saturday 9am to 4.30 / Sunday 9 to 3.00

Entry cost - Adults - \$10

Family (2 A + kids) - \$15

Pensioner/Seniors - \$8

Free entry to :-

Accompanied Children under 16 and,

Adults wearing a full Military Uniform

**COVID restrictions, applicable
at the time of the Fair, will apply**

BALLARAT EQUESTRIAN CENTRE, ROSE HILL RD, MT ROWAN

VIA BALLARAT BYPASS, A300 CRESWICK EXIT + 2KMS

www.ballaratarms.com.au (03) 5342 4433



Committee

President - Andrew Day - H 5334 4124
VP - Graeme Standen- text 0419 566 490
Secretary - Nick Smith - H 5342 4433
Treasurer - Esther Becker 0417379798
Lindsay Hill

John Doodt - H 0417521285
Graeme Davenport - H -5334 1360
Dave Wright - B 5338 4377
David Morrison - H 5348 4124
Mark Broemmer

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
New VENUE- Sebastopol RSL, Corner Beverin St and Birdwood Ave.

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

PO Box 1210 BAKERY HILL 3354.

Ph (03) 5342 4433 Evenings are the best time for contact

E-mail - baamcs@activ8.net.au

Website – www.ballaratarms.com.au

Next newsletter closing date is **5th July 2022** **Might be held till after the Fair**

Opinions within these pages are not necessarily also those of the Editor,

...unless written by the Editor (and even then...)

Society Meeting Details

May 25th Monthly meet. Cash fees to be paid. Show and tell

June 29th Monthly meeting. Last call for fees. Show and tell

Members are reminded if they change ANY of their address details, storage address , contact

home /mobile 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, email addresses and, phone numbers up to date, with the Society. Thank you.

LRD - Call 1300 651 645 - Mon-Wed-Frid, 10am-2pm

GPO Box 2807AA, Melbourne 3001

Note LRD email change. <lrld@police.vic.gov.au>

PRESIDENT'S DESPATCH

Welcome Members,

In a firearms industry first the Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia has unveiled a jobs vacant page dedicated to the advertising of purely firearms industry related job vacancies. This can be found on their website. This groundbreaking initiative already has a number of leading companies utilising the platform. For anyone looking for a job in the industry or has a vacancy to fill, the address is www.jobs.sifa.net.au/

Japanese encephalitis virus, a rare but potentially serious infection of the brain has been detected in pigs in Victoria and New South Wales. This virus can be transmitted to humans through the bite of a mosquito that has previously bitten an infected animal. It is strongly recommended by the Victorian Health Department to take precautions such as applying mosquito repellent containing Picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin. Those who live or intend to hunt on the Victoria, NSW border need to take care.

As I previously made reference to there is both State and Federal elections this year. Please take the time to research your votes and make them count. There are a number of independent candidates that are sympathetic to firearms owners, be sure to support them. How to vote information can be found on the National Shooting Council website.

Rock Island Auction Company in the United States has their Premier Auction this month. Arguably the largest firearms auction house in the Western world, they showcase some of the most breathtaking pieces ever seen. This month's auction showcases such treasures as J Edgar Hoover's Colt Single Action Army, a pair of Remington New Model Army Percussion Revolvers presented to Ulysses S Grant

and a Colt Model 1851 Navy Percussion Revolver that belonged to Wild Bill Hickok. With an array of many other documented rifles, pistols and edged weapons the auction is well worth a look if only for interest sake. With some previous pieces reaching over the \$1M mark, this auction is way too rich for my blood.

Members are reminded that our general meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at the Scout Hall in Hummfray St. A big thank you goes to all the members who make the effort to attend however the numbers of attendees is low. I urge all members make the effort to attend as often as commitments allow. Our next meeting will be on the 25th of May, I hope to see many of you there.

Yours in collecting,

Andrew Day

EDITORIAL

Those sharp eyed amongst our membership, will have noticed this year's Fair flyer on the cover page of this edition. BAAMCS runs this show, which may be news to the newer members.

This will be the first Victorian Gun Show for two years. The next will be Bendigo in August and after that, Shepparton, in March 2023

We expect a larger number of customers (irrespective of the weather) to attend.

We currently have way over 200 tables booked, by Dealers and, for displays. That breaks all records since the inception of our Fair 30 odd years ago. 'Tis indeed, an ill wind that blows no good. The Fair is at the new venue, so, expect change.

I bring this event to your collective notice, not only for you to distribute the flyers that you will get in with your NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS (*hint, pay now*), but to help with setup and break down.

Also it serves to encourage members to come along and, bring friends and family. In the case of friends, they might offer to share the cost of fuel, which is currently at a rubbish price.

We just held last year's (August 2021) AGM, in March. We have a committee including a newbie and an recycled "oldy". This committee will serve till the August 2022, AGM, at which time Nominations will be called for in a formal manner and, those so caught, will serve till August 2023.

On the subject of memberships...We are currently enjoying an all time high in numbers of new members.

I do hope this isn't just "*something to do whilst COVID is on*" but in fact resurgence of curiosity in the interest of collecting arms and militaria.

Whatever the reason/s might be, Membership cards are now printed for the 2022/2023 financial year. Some 50 members have already paid.

Thanks Guys and Gals. It makes the job of the Treasurer a little less stressful as, she will soon be receiving payments, from Dealers, for the fair.

Cost for renewal remains at **\$30**, which is one of the cheapest in the State.

Payment should be by electronic transfer, cash at a meeting, cash over the counter at a CommBank outlet, cheque (Remember those) or postal order (Speaking of historic items...)

Banking details are on the membership page's on the website ...

ballaratarms.com.au/member's pages

For those who cannot remember...

BSB 063 507

Account number 1025 7521

ALL memberships must be paid by June 30th. Late fee applies.

First and final notice.

Still waiting for articles for the newsletters. I'd do it myself, but I'm currently too busy putting a Fair together. What's your excuse??

Yours
Ed(itor)

United Kingdom (1934-60)

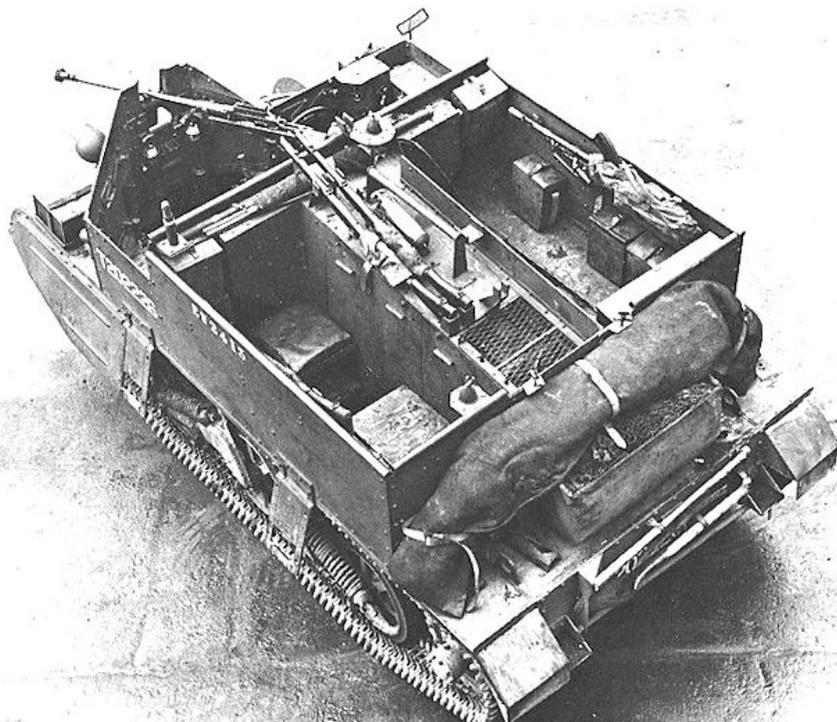
Tankette – ~113,000 built

Origins: The Carden-Lloyd Mk.VI tankette

The early Carden-Lloyd tankettes from 1933 were the very basis for the Universal Carrier. Originally, these machines were invented by Major Giffard LeQuesne Martel, who developed a prototype privately, for potential requests from the Royal Army Corp. He was a military engineer and a daring tank strategist.

After his demonstration to the War Office, the Carden Lloyd Tractors Ltd. company was requested to study practical production. They introduced a slightly enlarged vehicle for two men. Success with the prototype guaranteed their first order, with Vickers-Armstrong's business network as a backup for exports.

The last production version was the Mk.VI, of which up to 450 were built in all, from 1927 to 1935. The Mk.VI was the blueprint for the Universal Carrier. A hundred or more of Mk.VI tankettes were sold abroad.



The Universal Carrier was very adaptable and was used for a multitude of different tasks during WW2

Production: The Mk.I of 1934

The Mk.VIs in service with the British army were scouts, transports, machine-gun carriers, artillery carriers, mortar carriers and smoke projector carriers. Later on, experience showed that a single model was preferable to six or more, and a larger one was conceived by Vickers and approved in 1935 for mass production as the "Medium Machine Gun Carrier", "Bren Gun Carrier", "Scout Carrier", and "Cavalry Carrier".

Compared to the previous Carden-Loyd Mk.VI tankettes, they were enlarged, with the crew now at the front, driver and machine-gunner, and a large open gallery with a rounded end for all kind of loads. Up to five infantrymen or a gun crew could be deployed quickly. The suspension was a mix of the standard Vickers type and Horts-mann springs. Production was assumed by Aveling and Porter, Bedford Vehicles (British Ford), Morris, the Sentinel Wagon Works, and Thornycroft. But the real production of the definitive standard "Universal Carrier" and first deliveries (Mk.II) came in 1940, just in time for the campaign of France.

Evolution: The Mk.II

The Mk.II tankettes were the production version of the many "Carriers" which were built from 1935 to 1940. This standard version had a square gallery and was versa-

tile enough to accommodate all kind of military payloads easily.

They were always equipped with a towing device. The Mk.II was the most heavily produced, from 1940 to 1945, in Great Britain, in the Commonwealth and Canada under various licenses. Their speed and agility, but most of all, tremendous versatility, became legendary, despite their lack of armor and weaponry.

Infantry battalions were given 10 to 33 of these from 1940 to 1943 and motorized artillery battalions were entirely equipped with these vehicles, each carrying an ordinance antitank QF 6pdr (2.24 in/57 mm) gun.

The American T16

This was an American-built version, derived from those manufactured by Ford-motor Canada. They were sent to Great Britain and the Commonwealth under Lend-Lease. Up to 16,000 units were built with local modifications and improvements, starting in 1943. Many were re-armed with a heavy Browning cal.50 (12.7 mm) machine-guns. Most of them were used by the Canadians as artillery tractors in Europe. After the war, surviving units were sold to Switzerland and the Low Countries.



Universal carriers were armed with a number of different weapons including Mortars, Bren Guns and 0.55 inch Boys Anti-tank rifles

Other variants

The main variants were a tank-hunter equipped with a Boys 13.9 mm (0.55 in) rifle, replacing the original Bren gun, which was often relocated to an anti-air mount

There was a heavy machine gun version equipped with the .303 (7.7 mm) Vickers machine-gun, also replacing the forward Bren gun.

There was also a flame-thrower version, where a pipe exhaust replaced the Bren, called the **Wasp**, and carrying the “Ronson Flamethrower, Transportable, No 2”. The Canadian-built ones were named Wasp Mk.IIC.

A gun version was developed especially for the Homeguards, armed with a Smith 8pdr mounted in a large sponson at the front.

A prototype of the strange “Praying Mantis” was also built and tested in 1943. This very low-profile vehicle was designed to fire from above walls or hedgerows.

The Commonwealth variants

Australia built, under license, no less than 5600 LP1 and LP2 versions, es-

entially some slightly modified Mk.I and Mk.II. The LP2 was also produced in limited numbers (520 units) by New Zealand. An antitank version, the Carrier, Tank Attack 2-pdr (40 mm/1.58 in) was produced (200 units), and a mortar-version, with the 3-in (76.2 mm) mortar.

The QF 2 pdr (40 mm/1.58 in) was fast and efficient, but its mounting required the displacement of the engine to the front. Most of them were used for training. The 400 mortar versions were sent as military aid to the Nationalist Chinese.

In Wehrmacht service

A few of them were captured in Norway, but most of the Mk.Is, later used by the Wehrmacht, were captured at Dunkirk in June 1940. Other various models were captured in Crete and during Rommel's offensives in North Africa. German versions were dubbed "Fahrgestell Bren".

There were many derivatives, but most were rearmed with an MG 34 or 42 instead of the Bren gun, in a standardization effort. Some antitank Boys rifle versions, called Fahrgestell Bren 731 (e), saw extensive service in the Afrikakorps, but later received, in Sicily and Italy, more efficient antitank armaments, like the 3.7 cm (1.47 in) Pak (sometimes the hull was covered with spare wooden protections), or Panzerschreck and Panzerfaust (mostly in 1944).

Another version, seen around airfields and gun positions was largely used by the end of 1944, the Fahrgestell Bren 731(e) Flak 38, with a 20 mm (0.79 in) QF anti aircraft mount.

Exports

The versatile and cheap Bren Carrier benefited from such a large production that many Allied countries were equipped with it. Exiled country armies were often equipped with it, like the Belgian, Dutch, Danish, Polish, Czechoslovakian, Norwegian, Greek and the French free forces. They received large amounts of Bren Carriers for various duties.

Before the USA provided enough vehicle to make a surplus (1943), the Bren Carrier was seen everywhere, under all flags. This dependable machine had another advantage. Being so light and relatively small, it could be carried like a Jeep in gliders. Many were used by commandos and paratroopers.

After the war

Around 81,700 vehicles were built during the war in all. 31,300 were produced after the armistice. The concept was very successful, in Great Britain, but also in many other countries like the Swiss Confederation, Netherlands (mostly modernized T16s), but also Belgium.



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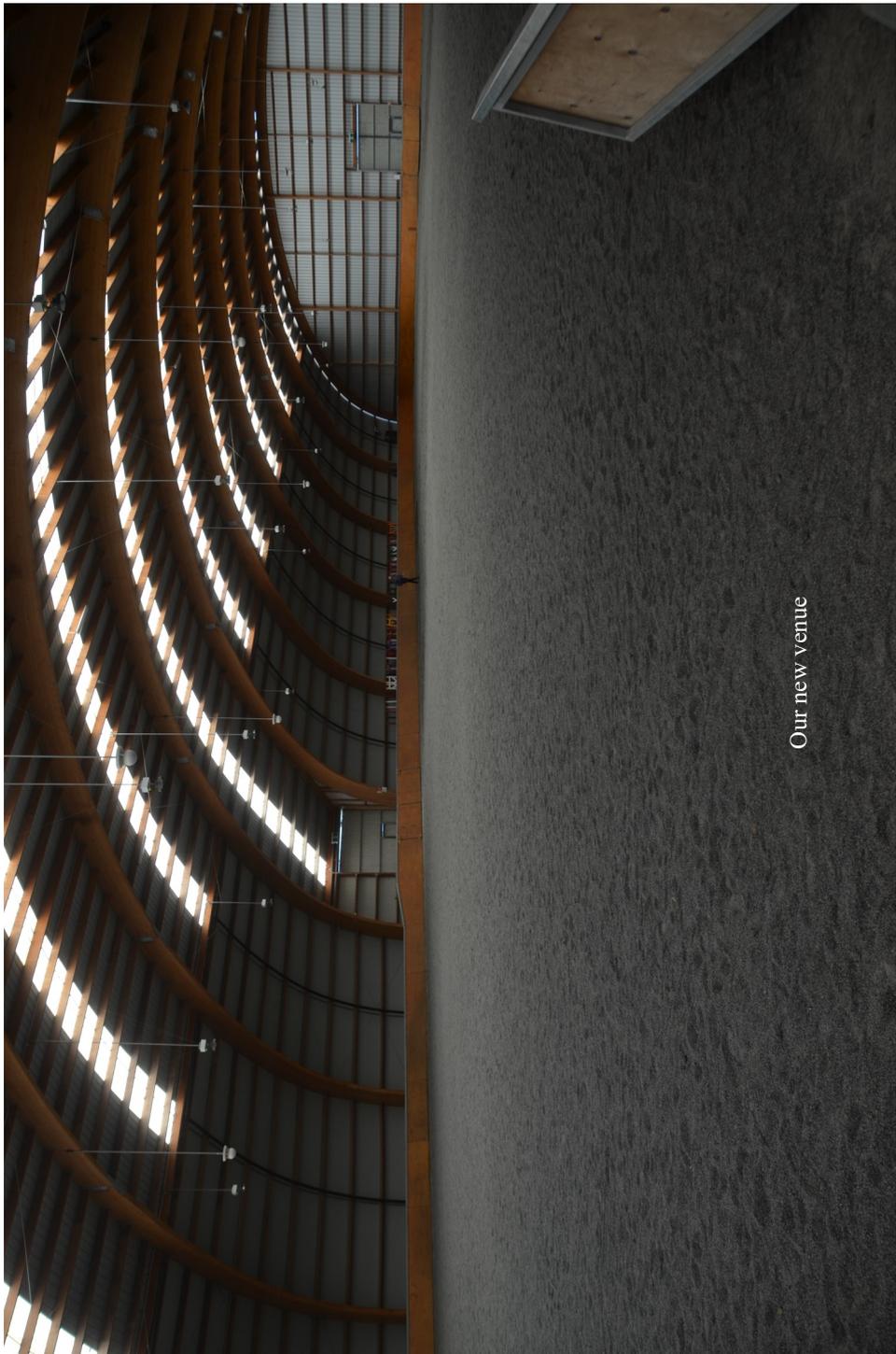
Adults wearing a full Military Uniform

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VIA BALLARAT BYPASS, A300 CRESWICK EXIT + 2KMS

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Our new venue

There was an Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotchman all sitting having a break on a building site.

The Englishman says “If my wife put Cheese on my sandwiches again I am going to kill myself”

The Irishman says “If my wife put's egg on my sandwiches again I will kill myself”

The Scotchman say's “If I find marmite on my sandwich again I will kill myself”.

So sure enough, the next day all three open up their lunch boxes and find the sandwiches are all full of cheese, egg and Marmite yet again, so they all go off to different parts of the site and kill themselves.

Later in the week all three men are being buried and the Englishman’s wife says “If he didn't want cheese on his sandwich's heshould have told me and this wouldn't have happened.” Then the Scotchman'swife comes away with the same statement concerning the Marmite sandwiches. Then the Irishman's wife pipes up “I can't understand this. He makes his own sandwiches”



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

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 Humfray 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

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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

Everything outdoors. New "online only" site. **Has a Firearms category.**
Is a Local Ballarat site www.everythingoutdoors.com.au ph 0497 656 999

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
2022 Eureka Arms & Militaria Fair Flyer
Organised by BAAMCS

ALWAYS send documents to LRD via **EXPRESS 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....

Mail can still take a while to be delivered. 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.