

# ***Fusillade***

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Approval No. 421-607-80Y

Newsletter of the Ballarat Arms &  
Militaria Collectors Society Inc.

Issue 189: September - October 2023



## **Committee**

President - Andrew Day - H 5334 4124

VP - David Morrison - 0417594965

Outgoing Sec - Nick Smith - H 5342 4433

Sec Elect- Graeme Standen - 0419566490

Treasurer - Esther Becker - 0417379798

John Doodt - 0417521285

Graeme Davenport - 0438049880

Dave Wright - B 5338 4377

John Becker - 0422502707

The Society has formal meetings on the last Wednesday of the month, except December, January and February.

Special meetings are held in November and February, refer later newsletter.

**VENUE- Sebastopol RSL**, Corner of Beverin St and Birdwood Ave.  
July meeting - Doors open at **7.00pm**. Meeting starts at **7.30pm**.

**NOTE: New meeting start time of 7.30pm (formerly 8.00pm).**

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

**Membership inquiries (03) 5342 4433 or Email (below)**

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**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 Organisation** (Hunting and Target) under the 1996 Victorian Firearms Act

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*"Fusillade"* is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Society

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Next newsletter closing date is **5th November 2023**

*Opinions within these pages are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Society .*

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### **Society Meeting Details**

**VENUE - Sebastopol RSL, see above**

**September 27 - General Meeting & Film "Deadline Gallipoli - The First Casualty of War is the Truth" 100 mins running time**

**October 25 - General Meeting & speaker Ian Simpkin "Ballarat Stories From the Shrine"**

**October 29 - (Sunday) Visit to Ranger Barracks Military Museum, Ring Rd, Alfredton at 10.00 am**

# President's Despatch

Welcome Members,

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of August our AGM was held at the Sebastopol RSL. As a result of the elections held on the night we have a new Secretary elect, Graeme Standen. Thanks Graeme for taking this position on. With the change in Secretary, the Society sees a significant "changing of the guard". With over 3 decades of service to the Society the majority being in the Secretary's chair, Nick has shown dedication of the highest level. On behalf of the members, I thank Nick for his commitment and passion for all these years. I would also like to thank the outgoing Committee for all their assistance throughout the year and I look forward to working with the new Committee.

Recent claims have come to light where a Victorian parliamentary inquiry into recreational native bird hunting will recommend the complete banning of duck hunting in Victoria from 2024. Strong opposition has been voiced as previously reported by numerous building industry unions. Claims that this will bring us into line with the majority of the other states in the country are far from correct. Currently as stated on the GMA website 4 of the 7 states still allow duck hunting. This, if my math is correct leaves 3 states where duck hunting is banned. Far from "the majority". It is recommended that hunters make contact with their sitting member of parliament and express their views. Every voice however small helps.

With just over a month till our Arms & Militaria fair at the Ballarat showgrounds, I encourage members to put the dates in their diaries. To be held over the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October we will require support from members in the setup of tables, bumping in of dealers, operating the fair, bumping out of the dealers and packing up. Please make the effort to support your fair. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

As has now become a habit I watched the Rock Island Auction House's auction held in August. One of the standout lots was an exhibition quality, master engraved, gold and silver inlaid Smith & Wesson Model 53 United States bicentennial double action revolver, gifted to Elvis Presley. Not only being a work of art in its own right, this revolver has substantial documentation to prove its pedigree making it even more desirable. Predicted to go for \$60k to \$90k, it eventually sold for over \$199 000.

With auctions in mind, Australian Arms Auctions will hold a 2 day auction on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of September. Always worth a look with an excellent range of firearms, edged weapons and militaria.

A usual our monthly meeting will be at the Sebastopol RSL on the last Wednesday of the month, this being 27<sup>th</sup> of September. Please make an effort to attend as this is where the business of the Society is conducted. Remember, the Society is for the members and the members make the Society. I hope to see many of you there.

Yours in Collecting,

*Andrew Day*

## **Editorial**

I must also offer warm congratulations to Nick Smith on his outstanding service and commitment to the Society for over 30 years as Secretary and President, and look forward to working with Graeme Standen in the future. Nick will continue on as the main point of contact and show organiser until our Arms and Militaria fair has concluded before Graeme takes up the full Secretary role. Nick will then become a general committee member. There may be changes to email contact details, stay tuned.

I am told that we now have slightly over 200 tables booked for our show and it looks like it will be another successful event. As Andrew mentioned, we need as many members as possible to help with set-up on Friday from about 12 noon (and earlier if you can make it) and pack-up on Sunday afternoon. The more people that help, the quicker we get it done.

I and a few other members attended the Golden City Collector's Militaria and Collectables Show in Bendigo on the 26th and 27th August. This was a great show and really well attended - it was quite crowded when I was there on Saturday morning. The Multisports complex was a fantastic venue, I just wish Ballarat had something similar available.

Recent events within the National Shooting Council have been interesting to say the least, with 2 directors resigning. There has been very little information forthcoming since then and it is hoped that the NSC can continue to hold Licencing Departments and Governments to account over some bad decisions. Stay tuned to this one.

It is proposed to have a Society visit to the Ranger Barracks Military Museum in Ring Road, on Sunday 29th October at 9.30am. All members welcome, parking available.

*Graeme*



## ***NEW VENUE (Again)***

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th OCTOBER 2023

# **EUREKA ARMS AND MILITARIA FAIR 2023**

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

*Hunting & Shooting supplies and clothing,*

*Collectable ammo, Security Equipment,*

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*Memorabilia and much more.*

**Saturday 9 till 4.30.**

**Sunday 9 till 3.30.**

**Entry cost - Adults - \$10**

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**Pensioner/Seniors - \$8**

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# History of the Barlow Knife (A Brief Overview 1670-2022)

By Kevin Coleman

## Part 2

According to some sources the Barlow knife was the most produced knife pattern over the last 100 years or so, compared to any other style of pocketknife. Whilst the original knives, as stated, were very basic, over recent years they have become better finished with 440 Stainless Steel blades (compared to carbon steel), which are highly polished, and the scale materials have become more varied and better finished.

As with most of the Barlow story, exact dates have been debated, as is the case with the introduction of the Granddaddy Barlow or Daddy Barlow. It seems from what I can ascertain the Granddaddy Barlow was first produced c1900. This pattern is 5 inches closed with a 4-inch clip point blade. The scale material varies between the different manufacturers.

Shown below are three modern examples of the original two blade pattern Barlow, c1960 to the present, together with the Granddaddy Barlow or Daddy Barlow, single blade as it is often referred to.



The above plate, photos top to bottom.

The first is a two-blade pattern which is the same as the original basic design except the scales are Saw Cut Delrin compared to bone or wood. This knife dates to c1960 and is the same as the author's everyday carry. The Barlow trademark is on the bolster.

The second example is by American firm Rough Rider. It has stag horn scales and 440 Stainless Steel blades which are highly polished. The Rough Rider trademark is on the scales which can vary depending on the date of the knife.

The third Barlow is also by Rough Rider, again with 440 Stainless Steel and polished blades with this knife having composite scales. This example has their horseshoe trademark on the bolster.

Granddaddy Barlow by Rough Rider, again a modern variant of the pattern introduced c 1900. This example has their two different style trademarks, one on the tang the other on the bolster. The scales are ram horn.



### **How to tell an original from the new Barlow's**

As the Barlow knives have been around for some 330 years and with the many manufacturers using the Barlow trademark or style, telling the old from the new is one of the challenges facing a collector.

#### **Centre pin**

Again, I have read various reviews on how to tell an early Barlow knife. I always advise collectors to do their own research, and this is no different. According to some sources one of the main points to look at is the location of the centre pin.

#### **Original Barlow**

The centre pin can help tell you if the knife is an old model, commemorative knife or simply a replica. The old Barlow's have the centre pin in the *middle* of the scale and are *steel* not brass. However, I am not sure this holds true in all cases.

If you have a close look at the "Original Barlow's" above, the centre pins are NOT in the centre, whereas the centre pin on the c1935 Taylor's Eye Witness is in the Centre. The Barlow shown above by John Russell has a Centre pin in the centre.

The plate below shows two Barlow's, the top example by Taylor's Eye Witness and the bottom by I\*XL. (Wolstenholme).

Reviewing a Southern & Richardson Ltd leaflet of 1935 printed for a Sydney based importer or retailer, the example by Taylor Eye Witness, would date this Barlow knife to c1930s. The next example marked I\*XL also dates to c1930 based on an I\*XL catalogue of the 1930s.





This photo is reproduced courtesy of Lawrie Wilson, author of the CASK (Collectable Antique Sheffield knives) Web page.



This example is a Barlow knife by Southern and Richardson with white bone scales dating to 1935. The steel pin is in the centre.

As stated, there appears to be some variations where the centre pin is located on old Barlow's. If you also look at the example of the Furness knife and the I\*XL knife above the pins are steel, but the Centre pin is not in the centre of the scales. The old saying, there are exceptions to every rule.

### **Barlow replicas**

The centre pin is not in the middle of the scale, usually closer to the bolser and made of *brass*.





This Barlow is the author's every day carry knife c1960s with Delrin scales.

As a footnote, Delrin started to be used around early 1960. Hence this is another way of assessing the age of Barlow knives.

### **Commemorative Barlow's**

These knives are generally made to the same specifications as the original. The only way to tell them apart from an original is by the wear and tear and patina.

### **General comments**

Some of the other factors to look for are: Are the blades made of Carbon Steel or Stainless Steel? The more modern Barlow's are stainless steel which are very highly polished.

The scale material with the modern Barlow's vary from saw cut Delrin to Stag Horn and a composite material whereas the originals seem to be mainly bone, horn or wooden.

Tang and bolster markings are also important, and this is where collectors need to do their research to get a handle on the various markings of the period.

Finally, whilst stating the obvious look at the patina of the knife and any old catalogues to try and verify the age of the knife.

### **Author's Notes**

As a collector I have been searching for an original Barlow (1700s) for some years without success. *Whilst only by word of mouth*, I have heard from several sources in America that *originals (English)* are hard to come by since the Barlow knives were well used and very often rather than throw them out, the parts were used for other purposes. Given that many early colonists were farmers, trappers and the like, the reason given for their apparent rarity may have some merit.

I have endeavoured to use reliable references to write this brief overview on the Barlow Knives. There has been so much misinformation written about the Barlow's including incorrect names, titles, and dates.

Therefore, I must close with the term E & OE.

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank friends Lawrie Wilson, author of CASK (Collectable Antique Sheffield Knives) Web page, Paul Stamp and Martin Cook both collectors and authors in the UK for assisting me by providing reliable sources of information on the history of the Barlow knife and photos of Barlow knives from their collections. This article has been republished, with some amendments, courtesy of the Heritage Arms Society in South Australia.

## **Bibliography**

- Internet download -Revolutionary War Journal Colonial Pocket & Folding pocket-knives- History of the Barlow Knife.
- Sheffield Independent Newspapers, 1840 ,1864,1865,1879 and 1886.
- Smiths Key Catalogue dated 1816.
- Levine's Guide to Knives and their Value 5<sup>TH</sup> edition.
- Southern & Richardson Ltd leaflet from 1935.
- The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain 1884.
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain 1876.
- Tweedale Directories of Sheffield Cutlers 1740-2013.
- Wostenholm I\*XL catalogue c1930.

The Barlow knives are from the author's collection unless otherwise stated.

## **Upcoming Events 2023:**

See [www.ballaratarms.com.au/newsandevents](http://www.ballaratarms.com.au/newsandevents) for further details, auction flyer links and websites.

### **9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September: Australian Arms Auctions #60**

The Auction 60 catalogue will be available late August, in print to subscribers & loaded onto Donington Auctions Website. A “catalogue online” advice will be sent to you when its available to view online.

Roland Martyn (61) 0428 54 33 77

Cheryl Martyn - Admin: (61) 03 9848 791

Website: [www.australianarmsauctions.com](http://www.australianarmsauctions.com)

Email: [admin@australianarmsauctions.com](mailto:admin@australianarmsauctions.com)

### **14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> October: Eureka Arms & Militaria Fair, Ballarat**

Old Ballarat Showgrounds, cnr Howitt St and Creswick Rd, Ballarat.

For details and table bookings, contact Nick Smith on (03) 5342 4433 or email:

[baamcs@activ8.net.au](mailto:baamcs@activ8.net.au)

## **Front Cover Illustration**

Ballarat’s beautiful Arch of Victory monument at the start of The Avenue of Honour (which identifies and commemorates all Ballarat and district soldiers who served in World War 1). And below, as it was in the 1930s with the captured German Howitzer trophy guns alongside. One gun was rudimentarily “restored” by the City of Ballarat and donated to the Ballarat RSL where it sits at Midlands Golf Course. The other gun languishes sadly in parts at the Council Depot in Ring Road.

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