

Parthian Shot

348th Edition

March-April 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Mark Reed

Leighton Rawlings

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Approved Collector Status as per Section 28 (2) 1996 Firearms Act.
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MISSION STATEMENT

To work in a responsible and constructive manner with Government and the Community to explore innovative ways to achieve the Association's Aims and Objectives

- To promote and encourage a responsible preservation of collections of historical and antique artefacts for future generations.
- To foster and promote a public awareness and importance to preserve our heritage and history for all times.
- To preserve and promote a responsible maintenance and collection of Australian military memorabilia in particular and associated items in general.
- To encourage responsible collectors to maintain and preserve historical and antique firearms.
- To explore innovative ways of assisting collectors in the maintenance of their interests for the future.

Meetings are held on the 2nd. Tuesday of each month at the Quarry Hill Community Hall, Hamlet St., Bendigo from 7.30 pm for 8pm start
New Members and Visitors welcome.

EXECUTIVE

President	Greg Penna	0427 400 930
Vice-President	Chris Jolme	0408 037 936
Secretary	John Stephens	0407 684 110
Assist. Secretary	Peter Vucinic	0418 509 023
Treasurer	Nathan Dunstone	0409 946 370
Membership Sec.	Richard Penna	0408 324 590
Newsletter Editor	Sue Rawlings	0407 436 311

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Article and photos of the Shepparton Expo in March

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Illegal firearms in the gun as Victoria cracks down.

The Oddity of KRIT Motors from Detroit whose logo was the swastika from 1909-1916 before the nazis existed!

Vicious dog owners a dangerous breed. (Article asks "We do our best to legally prevent guns being owned by people disposed toward violence. So why do we permit them to own savage animals?")

Sammy Davis Jr's guns from a Rock Island Auction in 2023 (These Hollywood guns, are still interesting post-auction)

Presidents Report April 2024

Hi Troops

Usually in my April report I start reminding and pushing our Annual Show projections into all in sundry to start getting ready and plan for it and this year is no different.

Correspondence seeking Expressions of interest will be sent out to traders and displayers from previous shows re their intention to participate in the 2024 Annual show, held on the weekend of 24th and 25th August 2024

Again, our regular Club Collectors Shoot is on 21 April for the dedicated shooters who want to attend. I must thank Mark Reed for regularly, being the Range Officer, as without his presence, there would be no shoot. Hopefully from December, I can be there to lighten his load.

May is our usual Twilight Black Powder Event to be held on the 19th May, BUT that weekend conflicts with a Major Event of another Association, setting up and holding its event at the Main Range, over two consecutive weekends, so we will only hold a normal general shoot at the smaller range for those members interested in shooting, and NO Night Shoot.



The recent AGM of the GCCA saw a movement of long-term regular faces of the committee representing your club. **Richard who has been Treasurer for 34 years, and Leighton as Secretary for 29 years,** along with Vic and Les who have been committee members for several years as well.

I must sincerely recognise and commend all of these past executive and committee members for their dedication and contribution to the Club in maintaining and making the GCCA the great and respected Club it is. On behalf of all the members, I thank you for your dedication, sacrifices and input to your Club. Well done and thank you!

The positive side of new committee members is the flow on effect of new blood, ideas, and energies. We are looking into new and exciting activity ideas and thoughts, to involve the club members and reviving contact with likeminded clubs, something that went by the wayside in recent years, especially during Covid. Watch this space.



The Club Constitution - a Subcommittee in place now and we will mull over all suggestions and new guidelines necessary to make it a strong and long-life constitution. For members who may have suggestions for inclusion, please pass them onto the Secretary.

Love you and leave you in collecting and please start thinking SHOW thingies!

Kind regards,
Gee Pee (Greg Penna)
President

Olympic Clay Shooting hopeful takes home gold at Bendigo TAFE Awards, by Georgina Sebar. 1/3/24. Bendigo Advertiser.



Kiara Dean has never second-guessed her desire to work in the [veterinary](#) industry - even while aiming for a spot in the Australian team for the Olympic Games later this year. Ms Dean's family home is known as 'the Menagerie' to locals, because of her habit of adopting any orphan animal she could get her hands on - kittens found in the local dairies, baby chickens needing to be hatched, parrots, a foal.

"I think I've given my dad a lot of grey hairs. But my mum is very much like me," she said. "I'd find a lamb that's an hour away that needs hand-raising, and my mum would load us up and we'd go over and pick him up and bring him home."

But alongside the desire to be a vet when she grew up, Ms Dean was rearing another big goal - qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympics in clay shooting. Even if an Olympic medal is not around her neck come year's end, Ms Dean has already earned one prized title - [Bendigo TAFE's 2024 Student of the Year](#).

Ms Dean had been studying a Bachelor of Veterinary and Wildlife Sciences for six months before COVID-19 put an end to the in-person laboratory classes she required. Not knowing when she would be able to return, she enrolled in Veterinary Nursing at Bendigo TAFE to fill in the time before she could go back. Eighteen months later, when she was given the opportunity to go back to her original degree, she decided to stay at Bendigo TAFE. "I was very invested in it, so I decided to keep sticking with it and got myself a job through that," Ms Dean said.

"It's something that I would love to go back and do (the original degree), but at this stage I'm really enjoying being a qualified vet nurse and working in the clinic." Ms Dean now works at Apiam Animal Health as a qualified vet nurse, but it hasn't curtailed her Olympic ambitions.

Olympic dreams and vet nursing a juggling act! "[Going to the Olympics has always been a dream of mine](#), since I was very, very young," she said. While completing her university degree, she won gold at the Junior World Championships, as well as a handful of silver and bronze medals in both team and individual events. "It's been a really big couple of years," she said.

"There were times when I was overseas for one or two months at a time and then I'd come back for a month and then jet back off again."

Ms Dean attributed much of her success at TAFE to the [support her teachers gave her](#), often working after hours so she could continue to compete.



Left: Kiara Dean practising her vet nursing skills.

Apiam has continued to support her [clay shooting career](#), allowing her to work full-time hours as a casual employee, so she can take time off whenever she is competing.

They have even sponsored her in the past to help with her overseas travel.

"Trying to manage a healthy workplace is something a lot of elite athletes struggle with," Ms Dean said.

"So, I'm really fortunate that I have a very supportive vet clinic."

And her menagerie?

"My family were always the ones that were looking after the animals while I was gone. I had them all trained up and ready to go from a young age."



History unveiled: One of the tables at the Shepparton Militaria and Collectables Expo.



Trading history: A box filled with Collectors items.

Collectors' paradise on show

The Northern Victorian Arms Collectors Guild hosted its annual Shepparton Militaria and Collectables Expo on Saturday, March 2, at the McIntosh Centre at Shepparton Showgrounds. The expo was an opportunity for people in the region to buy, swap and sell items related to their collecting and historical interests. News photographer Megan Fisher went along to capture some of the attendees and items up for grabs.



Head-turning finds: Some of the collectables at the expo were military uniform hats.



Collector's delight: Jim Neskovic was one of the sellers at the Militaria and Collectables Expo.



Budding historians: Dan Gordon selling military toys for children.



Trading tales: The expo had a good turnout at the weekend.



Timeless treasures: History enthusiasts came together for the Shepparton Militaria and Collectables Expo.



Curiosities and connections: People travelled long distances to attend the expo.



Swap, sell, collect: Ross Davis at the Shepparton Militaria and Collectables Expo.



History alive: Dookie's Sol Sutherland had a few tables at the Militaria and Collectables Expo.



Passion in focus: Leigh Dalziel at the Shepparton Militaria and Collectables Expo.

NO ESCAPING ECHO OF GHASTLY CRIME (Herald-Sun, 23 March 2024)



THE GESTAPO OFFICERS WHO CARRIED OUT HITLER'S ORDERS TO EXECUTE RECAPTURED ALLIED PRISONERS AFTER THEIR 'GREAT ESCAPE' WERE RUN TO GROUND THEMSELVES, BUT THE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCE STILL HAUNTS MELBOURNE'S CATANACH FAMILY, WRITES JUSTIN LEES

'My brother was commanded to shoot your son.'

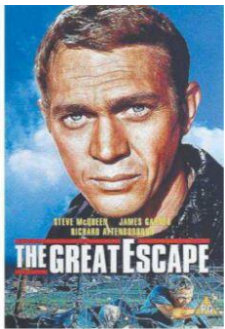
In the years after World War II, a letter arrived for the grieving mother of James Catanach, who had been one of Australia's most young promising airmen before he was shot down, imprisoned, and ultimately murdered by the Nazis.

The letter was from the sister of one of the Gestapo – Hitler's feared secret police – who had executed James and four fellow Australians, plus 45 other prisoners of war, in the aftermath of the legendary breakout known as the Great Escape, 80 years ago this weekend.

Its writer Elly Koester was begging forgiveness for her brother Hans Kaehler, in the hope it might help him avoid the noose having been found guilty at a war crimes trial for his role in the horror.

"My grandparents did not respond to that letter," says Amanda Catanach, James's great-niece. The family, owners of the famous Melbourne jewellery company Catanach's, were just too distraught – and understandably so.

For the murders were part of a ghastly and elaborate fabrication carried out on the personal orders of Adolf Hitler and senior Nazis, furious that such a daring mass escape had happened under their guards' noses at the Stalag Luft III camp for captured airmen.



The breakout – immortalised, in fictionalised form, by Hollywood classic The Great Escape – involved months of work digging secret tunnels, preparing escape kits, and plotting routes, before 76 men crawled under the wire on the night of March 24-25, 1944.

Nearly all were recaptured relatively quickly – just three made it to freedom.

Then Hitler demanded his murderous retribution, first insisting they all be slain before deciding 50 must die.

"It's just terrible, the collusion that went on to effect those orders," says historian Kristen Alexander, author of Kriegies: The Australian Airmen of Stalag Luft III.

First, she explains, "the men were ordered to be shot as an example," to warn off other potential escapees. The bodies were cremated, rather than returned to the compound near Sagan for honourable burial as was customary, though their ashes were sent back, "also as an example."

Meanwhile, Gestapo men agreed to lie that the prisoners were shot in the act of fleeing, rather than later in cold blood.

"They clasped hands and took their oaths that they would stick to this story," says Dr Alexander, of Kaehler and the group that killed James. "And this same conversation is being carried out (by Gestapo groups) across Germany."

In some cases, she adds, death certificates were faked to indicate the men died of "natural causes."

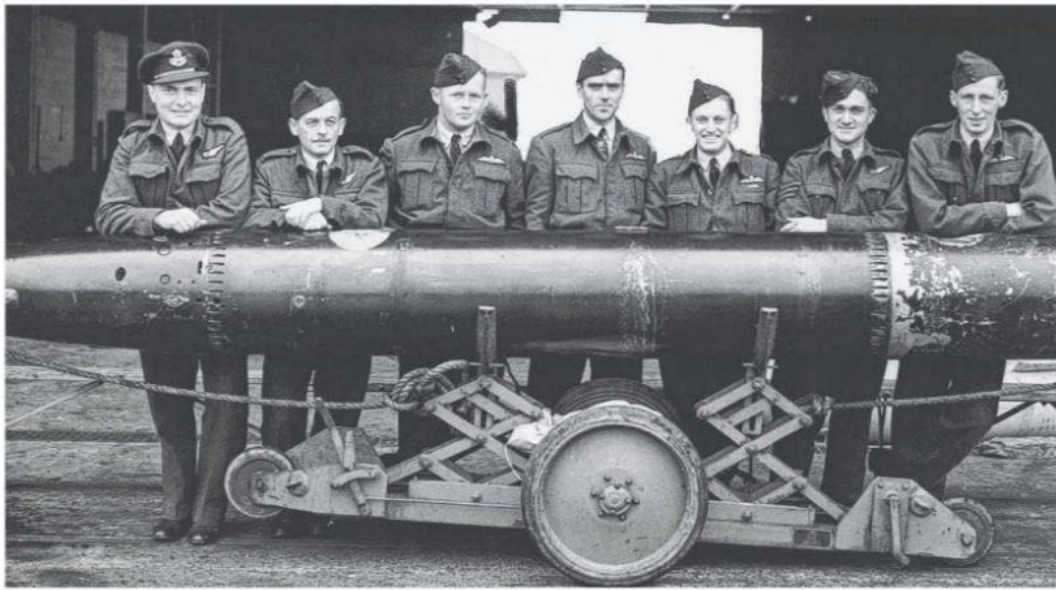
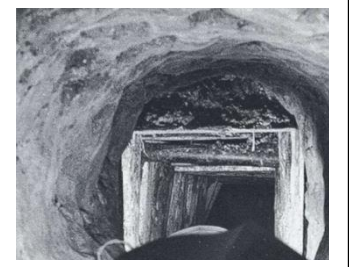
The truth was very different. By the time they were recaptured, the prisoners were already scattered across Germany in small teams. In most cases they were first taken to local holding facilities and questioned. Some

were later taken into Gestapo custody where they were again interrogated, photographed, and taken to secluded places of execution.

Dr Alexander says the airmen saw it as their duty to attempt to escape, not least because the manhunt would cause problems for a Germany already on the back foot in the war, and believes it is important that today we “honour their beliefs that the enterprise was worthwhile.”



German prisoner of war camp Stalag Luft III, where the Australian airmen were kept; (below) James Catanach (third from right), who flew Hampden bombers, used to launch torpedoes (picture: Australian War Memorial); The Great Escape movie was inspired by the POW airmen's story. Left, Amanda Catanach, James's great-niece.



However, few would have anticipated the horrific penalty. Being shot while running was a real risk, but once caught most would have “assumed they'd be sent back to, if not Stalag III, some other prisoner-of-war camp” for a spell in solitary, she says, based on what had happened to previous escapees.

In the case of 22-year-old James Catanach – a high-achieving Geelong Grammar student who had become the RAAF's youngest squadron leader, awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his exploits flying Hampden bombers – there is even a chance he may never have realised what was happening.



Along with three others he was caught at Flensburg while trying to reach Denmark by train.

They were piled into Gestapo cars where, according to trial testimony from Kaehler, James was making amiable conversation with his captors when the convoy halted in open country, ostensibly for everyone to stretch their legs before resuming the journey to Kiel Gestapo base.

It was then that he was shot, from behind.

“From the testimony, it doesn't seem as if Jimmy had any idea until the last moment and he may not even have had any idea at all, because he was shot in the back,” Dr Alexander says, adding a caveat that the Gestapo accounts should be taken “with a grain of salt.”

The testimony did Kaehler no good, nor did his sister's letter – nor the defence plea that following Hitler's orders was legal and there was no choice but to obey. Kaehler was hanged, along with 13 others, in early 1948.

The scars of the incident lingered long, for relatives of the fallen, for the escapees who were recaptured but lived. Many suffered “survivor’s guilt” because they were spared while others were chosen to die – and for the thousands more who suffered the trauma of being POWs.

There were 351 Australians held at Stalag Luft III, still more at other camps, among many thousands of Allied prisoners.

But for later generations, like the Catanach family, the shared inherited experience is not all bleak.

Ahead of going to the Australian War Memorial on Monday, where James will be the focus of commemoration at the Last Post ceremony, Amanda Catanach told how the family continued to piece together his story through contact with descendants of fellow prisoners from all over the world.

“It’s a constant story,” she says. “Through my lifetime, we’ve met some incredible people connected to Jimmy.

“For example, I got an email from a guy in Norway, saying that he had James’s watch.”

That man was the son of a Stalag prisoner to whom James had given the watch before fleeing, because it was engraved with the name “Catanach” and would have been a giveaway.

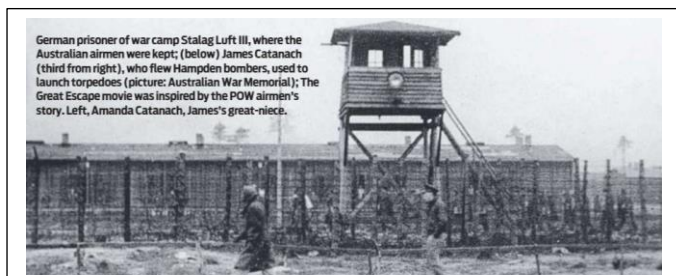
The families met, the watch was returned, and it is now in Melbourne’s Shrine of Remembrance.

Another revelation came when the family learnt a Canadian airman who was initially supposed to be in the tunnel agreed to swap with Jimmy, “who was terribly homesick and desperately wanted to get home to his fiancée here.”

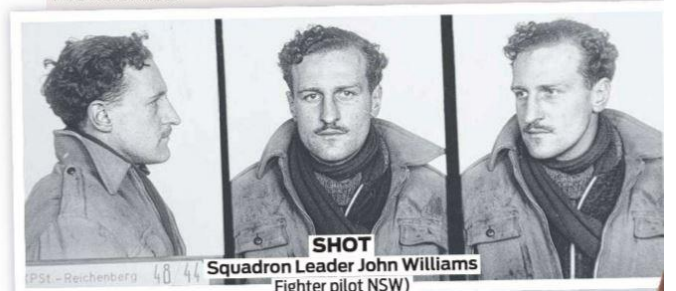
The family of that fiancée, Heather Ebbott, very recently gave the Catanachs an album of treasured photos and letters, adding yet more to what Ms Catanach calls “a story that keeps giving.”

Preparing for Monday’s Last Post, the Australian War Memorial director Matt Anderson said: “James’s story is a reminder that ordinary Australians are capable of extraordinary deeds. There are 103,000 unique stories on our roll of honour and many times when I hear their story at our Last Post Ceremony, I look at the family of the veteran. And, most often, my mind turns to those who are not there. Those who never came into being because the soldier, sailor or aviator never made it home.

“Like many servicemen James died so young that he did not have children. The family coming on Monday are not his children and grandchildren but his nephews and nieces and their children. So, what I imagine during these ceremonies are his direct descendants who are not there because they were never born. They are as lost to us as he was lost to Australia.” justin.lee@news.com.au



Six of the many Australians at Stalag Luft III took part in the Great Escape. Five were killed.



Illegal firearms in the gun as Victoria cracks down by Melissa Meehan. 4 March 2024.



Illegal weapons are in the sights of Victoria Police who want the community to help find them. (Joel Carrett/AAP PHOTOS)

Victoria Police removed more than 1500 illegal firearms from criminals in 2023, but there are believed to be another 2000 illegal guns out there.

Those illegal weapons are firmly in the sights of law enforcement bodies - but they say they need the help of community members who know where they are.

Police and Crime Stoppers on Monday launched the 'Say something before it's too late' campaign that urges the public to protect themselves and those around them by reporting what they know.

Data from the Crime Statistics Agency shows there were 5126 firearm-related incidents in Victoria in 2023. Crime Stoppers chief Stella Smith said people could report to them anonymously, with Crime Stoppers passing on more than 1800 firearm reports to police last year for further investigation.

"We know people have information they are willing to share," Ms Smith said on Monday.

"Illegal firearms mean dangerous shootings, thefts, and other violent acts that can put you and your family at risk ... now is the time to say something before it is too late."

Detective Superintendent Jason Kelly said police were taking strong action to target those with illegal firearms.

He said the introduction of the Illicit Firearms Squad in 2020 and the VIPER Taskforce in 2022 had enhanced Victoria Police's ability to combat illegal firearms-related offending.

"Every report you share with Crime Stoppers can make a difference. If you know or suspect someone is in possession of an illegal firearm, please report to Crime Stoppers Victoria today," Supt Kelly said.

Over the past 12 months, Crime Stoppers Victoria has processed more than 107,000 reports, averaging one new report every five minutes. *Australian Associated Press*

A man was hunting when a gust of wind blew, the gun fell over & discharged, shooting him in the genitals.

Several hours later, lying in a hospital bed, he was approached by his doctor.

"Well, sir, I have some good news & some bad news.

The good news is that you are going to be OK.

The damage was local to your groin, there was very little internal damage, & we were able to remove all of the buckshot."

"What's the bad news?" asked the hunter.

"The bad news is that there was some pretty extensive buckshot damage done to your willy which left quite a few holes in it. I'm going to have to refer you to my sister."

"Well, I guess that isn't too bad," the hunter replied.

"Is your sister a plastic surgeon?"

"Not exactly," answered the doctor.....

"She's a flute player in the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She's going to teach you where to put your fingers so you don't pee in your eye."

The following information was taken from a forum known as FEDORALOUNCE.

<https://www.thefederalounge.com/threads/the-oddy-of-krit-motors.72789/>

The Oddity of KRIT Motors

One of the little-known car manufacturers out of Detroit was KRIT or K-R-I-T motors. The main reason was that the company was only in existence for seven years—1909-1916. The company was never able to build up momentum because of the outbreak of World War I which interrupted the company's export business to Europe and Australia upon which the company was dependent and drove it out of business. The name of KRIT is believed to come from the company's chief financier, Kenneth Crittenden of Ford, and Regal. The company was originally located at the old C. H. Blomstrom Manufacturing Co. works at the corner of Wright and Lieb until 1911 when the company was purchased by Walter S. Russel of Russel Wheel and Foundry who moved the operation to the old R. M. Owen & Co. works who had relocated after becoming Owen Magnetic.



A KRIT bus in Belgium. You might notice the swastika and wonder what it is doing there in World War I before the Nazis even existed. That would be because KRIT's logo was, in fact, a swastika:

To be sure, the swastika was very popular in the US and Europe prior to the Nazis. The writings of Helena Blavatsky were very popular at that time, and she was the one who first brought the swastika out of Asia and into the Western consciousness. She called the symbol of the fifth root-race of humanity otherwise known as Aryan. The swastika is found as far back as 9000 years ago in India and is the oldest symbol known to us today. It was

originally a symbol of good fortune. The very word "swastika" or "suastika" simply means "talisman." The swastika appeared everywhere in America—from greeting cards to sports team jerseys. In fact, America had its own native swastika because it was an ancient symbol among many Indian tribes. The Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Tibetans, and others also used the symbol in Buddhism, and it is still very common to see statues of Buddha with a swastika on his chest.

Clara Bow makes fashion statement. She supposedly had quite a bent for Eastern religion and philosophy.



Those Few Decades When Americans Really, Really Loved the Swastika. [Yes, that's Clara Bow wearing a Nazi symbol. Let me explain.](#) BY [CAROLINE ELENOWITZ-HESS](#) JULY 15, 2023



When I first saw it, I assumed that it was a hoax. The photograph showed the girlish face of silent screen starlet Clara Bow, dressed in a coordinating blouse and hat, both emblazoned with a large, black, unmistakable swastika. Questions kept bubbling up. Was Old Hollywood icon Clara Bow a Nazi? Was the photo a fake, Bow the victim of Photoshop or some A.I.-generated fever dream? Or was there some other explanation for why this image existed?

It was easy to answer one of these questions: Yes, this photograph was real, and could be precisely dated, appearing on page 27 of the L.A. Times on April 13, 1928. "Ancient Cross Defies Jinx Day" proclaimed the headline, explaining that Bow was wearing the swastika symbol to ward off the bad luck of Friday the 13th. Not a hint, in the copy, of the associations between the swastika and antisemitic nationalist violence that was [already taking place](#) in Germany and

Austria. [Looking deeper, I found out](#) that the swastika was a popular symbol in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, across Europe and particularly in the United States, where its use was widespread and fashionable, first infused with a sense of vaguely whimsical “exoticism,” and then perfect for the developing Art Deco aesthetic because of its angular, modernist lines.

The symbol was, actually, ubiquitous. If you were a teenage girl in 1905 and you were looking to make a little extra money, you might sign up to sell subscriptions to the Ladies’ Home Journal, a popular women’s magazine. You would also be gratified to earn a special pin to show off your membership in what they called the “Girls’ Club”—a little gold swastika, featuring a diamond at the center, manufactured by Tiffany & Co. This would go nicely with your copy of the Girls’ Club newsletter, *The Swastika*. Perhaps you had a 1900 edition of a Rudyard Kipling publication like *The Jungle Book*, embossed with swastikas on the spine. Flipping through your Harper’s Bazaar or Good Housekeeping in the first decade of the 20th century, you might encounter advertisements or articles with illustrations of swastikas on jewelry, trim for towels, embellishments for pillows, table decorations for a “good-luck luncheon,” or crocheted coin purses. One ad for jewelry company Warren Mansfield included no fewer than five objects featuring swastikas, sometimes pairing the symbol with a four-leaf clover or teddy bear.

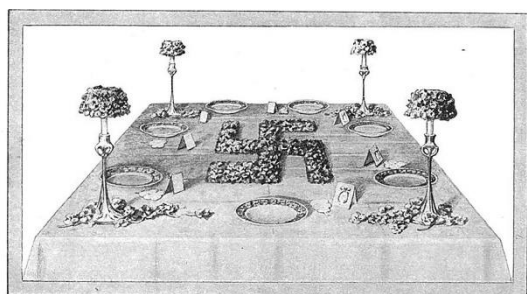


The header of the “Girls’ Club” column, featuring two of its signature swastika pins. Ladies’ Home Journal, April 1906

In the 1910s and 1920s, fashion designers too embraced the swastika. Actress Clara Bow was not the only one to wear swastika-themed outfits; fashion trade newspaper Women’s Wear Daily reported on sweaters, coats, and other ensembles featuring the symbol. The boxy fashions of the 1920s were especially suited to the use of the symbol, which was variably linked with Mexican, Chinese, and Peruvian origins.

These uses of the swastika in the United States were not without their own troubling associations. You do not need to go far to find the diversity of meanings and histories of the symbol. Examples of it appear in archaeological sites across Asia, the Americas, and Northern Europe. The swastika is a holy symbol in Buddhism, leading present-day priests such as Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki to argue for a [linguistic and conceptual separation](#) between the swastika and the *hakenkreuz*, or hooked cross, the term used for the swastika symbol in Germany during the Nazi era. Despite the swastika’s varied cultural sources, in the United States it was most often attributed to the Diné (Navajo) people, used as a sacred symbol in the ritual of sand painting. They, and other Native American communities, also began incorporating it into weaving, silver objects, and ceramics, many of which were sold to white consumers participating in what art historian Elizabeth Hutchinson has called “the Indian Craze,” a period starting in the 1890s in which objects made by Indigenous Americans were increasingly prized by white collectors. Much of the interest in Native American arts was centered on the preservation of cultures that appeared, to late-19th-century white

Americans, on the verge of extinction—which was especially perverse, given the role of the United States government in that extinction.



FOR A GOOD-LUCK LUNCHEON

At a “good-luck luncheon,” given for a bride-to-be, covers were laid for seven, a lucky number. The centerpiece was in the shape of a swastika (made by a tinsmith) and filled with purple and yellow pansies

—“Pansies for thoughts”—and the colors were those of the bride’s Alma Mater. The white menu-cards were in the shape of four-leaf clovers pasted on pansy-colored ribbon, and the favors were gilded wishbones with tiny white bows.

An article on table decorations suggested flower arrangements in a swastika pattern to symbolize good luck. Ladies’ Home Journal, January 1906

When New York fashion designers used the swastika in their designs, they participated in what we might today call cultural appropriation. This was no accident; in the ’20s, the American fashion industry was trying to define itself outside the influence of Paris, the city that had been established as the center

of fashionable inspiration since the 19th century. The New York fashion industry worked with museums

such as the American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art to understand what American design should look like. The swastika, given its association with Native American aesthetics and its easy adaptability, fit the bill exactly. For American designers of European descent, appropriating motifs with origins in Indigenous cultures from across North and South America—including the swastika—was a strategy to define themselves as independent from European design culture and to compete economically with European imports.

Meanwhile, in Europe, the swastika was gaining a reputation for other, more familiar, reasons. By the time Hitler joined the Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (the precursor to the Nazi party) in 1919, they were already using the symbol. His innovation—according to his own writings—was to combine the swastika with the red, black, and white of the flag created in 1871 by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck to represent a unified Germany.

In 1927 a journalist from *Town & Country* travelled to Austria to report on the conflict between nationalist antisemitic paramilitary forces and the Social Democratic Party. What came as a surprise to her was the response to a ring she was wearing, which featured a good-luck symbol fashionable back in the United States: a swastika. She wrote that a Viennese man begged her to take it off, explaining, “It is the sign of the ‘Hakenkreuzler’—of the Anti-Semites.”



Two friends posing for a studio photograph, circa 1910s. One wears a newly fashionable swastika belt. Collection of the author

After Hitler seized power in Germany in 1933, the swastika’s association with the Nazi Party became increasingly difficult to ignore. Another journalist—this time with the *New Yorker*—wrote about attending an anti-Hitler rally in New York City in 1933, where he, too, was stuck with an awkward accessory. He thought it prudent to conceal *his* swastika watch fob in his vest, realizing its uncomfortable implications. Accordingly, the number of mentions of swastika-themed objects in fashion and lifestyle magazines dropped off in the 1930s, while stories about Nazi Germany proliferated.

However, distaste for the swastika’s antisemitic connotations was not universal, and responses to the symbol revealed existing prejudices. One incident in 1936 made that clear. “Swastika Motif Receives Cold Reception,” read a small headline in *Women’s Wear Daily* in 1936. “Buttons crested with swastikas, shown by one couture house, stirred up some comment among an audience of New York buyers,” the editors wrote. “No sales of this particular model are reported.” Although no reason for this chilly response was given, it might be due to the fact that many important New York department stores were owned or founded by Jews, including B. Altman, Bloomingdale’s, Bergdorf Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Macy’s. Although the *Women’s Wear Daily* article left the designer of these buttons anonymous, *Vogue* also reported on a fashion show featuring swastika buttons, identifying the designer as Marcel Rochas, a well-known French couturier. Unlike *Women’s Wear Daily*, *Vogue* found the use of the swastika to be amusing, rather than disturbing.

This may be because *Vogue* did not see the swastika’s antisemitic connotations as inherently objectionable. Despite the patriotic turn that it would take when the United States entered the war, the approach of *Vogue* and other American lifestyle magazines to Hitler in the 1930s was neutral or even positive. An article in *Town & Country* in 1934 described the swastika-filled Nuremberg rally as “a vastly friendly affair.” In 1936, a few months after reviewing the Rochas collection, *Vogue* featured photographs of the home decor of Hitler, Mussolini, and British Prime Minister Anthony Eden. A swastika cushion featured prominently in Hitler’s dining room. Rather than addressing Hitler’s policies, this image, and the magazine’s entire editorial approach, served to emphasize the humanity and domesticity of both the dictator and the swastika symbol.

As late as 1937, *Good Housekeeping* recommended creating a swastika out of cashews as a clever cake decoration, but the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 meant that the swastika finally became synonymous with the Nazi Party for an American audience. At that point, even those with arguably a better claim to the

symbol rejected its troubling new meaning; in 1940, the Navajo, Papago, Hopi, and Apache all signed a proclamation renouncing the swastika symbol because it had been “desecrated recently by another nation of peoples.”

The consequences of interpreting these symbols correctly were not merely theoretical. When American pilot and Nazi sympathizer Laura Ingalls (a distant cousin of children’s author Laura Ingalls Wilder) was put on trial in 1942, her silver swastika bracelet was brought up as evidence of Ingalls’ Nazi leanings. Ingalls was a vocal supporter of the Third Reich and had been arrested by the FBI in 1941 for failure to register as an enemy agent. At trial, Ingalls argued that the bracelet “was not a Nazi swastika at all, but an Indian symbol of good luck.” Ingalls’ subsequent conviction did not rest on the evidence of her bracelet, but its role reveals that a politically neutral interpretation of the swastika had come to an end.

As for Clara Bow, there are no photographs showing her wearing a swastika after it came to be associated more with Nazism than good luck. She did visit Germany during her honeymoon in 1933 and Hitler—a fan—gave her an inscribed copy of *Mein Kampf* to remember him by.



In 1925 Coca-Cola made a lucky fob in the shape of a Swastika.

While detecting an old schoolhouse site in Central Kentucky, I (Scott Clark) found an object that I had researched before. I knew exactly what I had before I had even cleared off the dirt. This 1925 watch fob was issued by the Coca Cola company as a part of a promotion. Of course, the Swastika had not yet been adopted by the Nazi party, and still retained its “good luck” or “good fortune” meaning around the world.



The juxtaposition of the most American of brands with the Swastika is what makes this find one from the bucket list.



Sunday 14th April 2024
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Rifle Range Road, Wellsford

Buy and sell your surplus shooting equipment and supplies

Sausage Sizzle
Tea & Coffee

Pull up your boots and join us

Enquiries bendigopistolclub@gmail.com

HOUSE RENTAL NEEDED IN BENDIGO AREA

One of our long-term respected members has to vacate the house he is currently renting as the owner is selling it and has given him 3 months to find somewhere else.

Are there any members out there who have a rental house vacant or becoming vacant in the near future. If so, could you contact me with the details as both Leighton and I are happy to vouch for the reliability of the said member. He has steady employment and is totally reliable when it comes to taking care of the property where he lives.

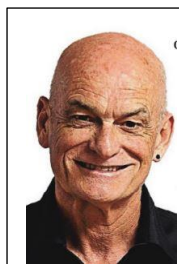
Sue Rawlings, Editor. 0407 436 311

Vicious dog owners a dangerous breed. Excerpts from an article by Garry Linnell in the Bendigo Advertiser, 9 March 2024. (Interesting reference below to the suggestion of vetting owners of dangerous dogs, the same as owners of firearms (dangerous weapons) are vetted!) Compared to owners of dogs regarded as low risk, those with high-risk dogs were nine times as likely to have committed a crime involving children and three times more likely to have committed domestic violence!

The inquiry may recommend tighter controls around dog breeds known to be dangerous. But hopefully it won't stop there. We do our best to legally prevent guns being owned by people disposed toward violence. So why do we permit them to own savage animals?



Other studies have also found strong links between ownership of vicious dogs and the antisocial tendencies of their owners. One, in the Journal of Forensic Sciences, revealed vicious dog owners engaged more often in criminal behaviour, boasted significantly higher personality traits involving “impulsive



To read Garry's entire article go to:

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sensation seeking” and tended to be more selfish, manipulative and careless.

Yet another found younger people with highly disagreeable personalities show a preference for owning aggressive dogs. Getting the picture?

Now place a powerful rottweiler (one of the most common dogs regarded as dangerous), or a staffy bulging with more brawn than a steroid-addicted weightlifter, in the care of an idiot whose pleasures border on the sadistic, whose self-esteem depends on notions of machismo and strength and who, pathetically but all too commonly, finds validation through owning a “tough” dog.

No background checks. No muzzling or leashing rules. No requirement to train a breed requiring careful and expert handling. It's a powerful mix with unlimited potential for carnage.

This much is certain. We worry too much about the perils posed by certain dangerous dogs, when the real threat lies with their owners.



Another instalment for the ‘Hollywood Guns for Sale’ series. What a tremendous collection of firearms it has been from a legendary line-up of Hollywood royalty in Rock Island Auction Company’s Premier Auction in Bedford, Texas last December! Fantastic guns attributed to a cowboy king, a two-time Oscar winner, a comedy great, a superstar of the small screen, and this month, a quick draw expert from the Rat Pack – Sammy Davis Jr!

SAMMY DAVIS JR.’S COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY

“Mr. Show Business” Sammy Davis Jr. was a multi-talented nightclub performer, actor, recording star -- and among the original members of Frank Sinatra’s “Rat Pack.” Born into a family of entertainers, he sang with his father on stage from an early age and learned tap dance from his mother. He enjoyed success on the Broadway stage, and appeared in a several films, including a number with Sinatra and company. His biggest singing hit was “The Candy Man” in 1972. He died in 1990 at the age of 64.

Davis was also a quick draw artist and reportedly trailed only Jerry Lewis as the fastest gun in Hollywood. Taught by stuntman and marksman Arvo Ojala, who was opposite Marshal Matt Dillion in the intro to “Gunsmoke,” Davis showed off his quick draw and twirling talents on television’s “Zane Gray Theatre,” “Lawman,” and “The Rifleman.” He also showed his moves on talk shows where poor quality clips are available on the internet.

Rock Island Auction had the privilege of selling another of Sammy Davis Jr.’s Colt Single Action Army revolvers, spectacularly engraved and gold inlaid by Master Engraver Joseph Condon, crossing the podium for \$19,550 at the September 2019 Premier Auction.

Davis’s Single Action Army includes a quick draw holster rig of black leather with “SAMMY” carved on the inside of the belt with engraved sterling silver buckles on the belt and holster. The revolver was modified by Ojala and the holster made by him as well. The gun and holster were returned to Ojala by Davis as a gesture of friendship.



This third generation nickel-plated Single Action Army of Sammy Davis Jr. is modified with a shortened front sight blade, narrowed hammer slightly turned to the right, a pair of smooth pearlite grips, and a lightened mainspring. As well as a holster with “SAMMY” carved on the inside.