

# ***Fusillade***

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Newsletter of the Ballarat Arms &  
Militaria Collectors Society Inc.  
Issue 180 March –April 2022



## **Committee**

President -Andrew Day - H 5334 4124  
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John Doodt - H 0417521285  
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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  
VENUE-**Scout Hall, Humffray St South, south of Grant St.** Almost opposite Gladstone St. 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)**

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

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*"'Fusillade' is the bimonthly newsletter of the Society*  
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Next newsletter closing date is **5th May 2022**  
*Opinions within these pages are not necessarily also those of the Editor,  
...unless written by the Editor (and even then...)*

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## **Society Meeting Details**

**March 30th                      AGM. Show and tell**

**April 27th                      Monthly meeting. 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](mailto:lrld@police.vic.gov.au) >**

## PRESIDENT'S DESPATCH

Welcome Members,

Our first official event for 2022 was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. Our annual shoot at the Ballarat Pistol Club was well attended and everyone had a great time. Thanks go to the Ballarat Pistol Club for hosting us, the members who brought their own firearms for us to shoot and our resident MasterChef for feeding us all.

As has been reported in previous issues of Fusillade, there has been a significant amount of work done behind the scenes to secure a new venue for our Arms and Militaria Fair. Our Secretary has been relentless in his pursuit of a suitable venue and thanks to his efforts we have now secured a new home for our Fair. Located in Rosehill Rd Mt Rowan the Ballarat Equestrian Centre boasts an impressive 80 X 40 metre arena and ample parking. This site will be the future home of the new Ballarat Showgrounds and Events Centre which will be the venue for many exciting events including our own Fair. Table bookings for the Fair are currently open, see our website for more information.

In the world of auctions Australian Fine Arms held their latest auction on Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup>. A number of interesting lots went under the hammer, one in particular was a museum quality pair of flintlock single barrel pistols. Unfortunately a bit rich for my blood. There were some bargains to be had and some lots produced spirited and entertaining bidding. Lloyd's Auction's is currently offering

the collection of the late Rod Bellars. This phenomenal collection which represents a lifetime of collecting includes some of the rarest items of militaria ever to put up for auction. I'm just checking to see if the category M for mortar is on my licence.

Australian Arms Auctions will hold their April auction on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Although the catalogue is not out yet, no doubt there will be some great lots included.

This year politically promises to be a significant year. With a Federal election and a Vic state election, we the voters have a chance to make a change. National Shooting Council will have information on who to vote for to get the best benefit for firearms owners. Join their email list for all the updates. I'll be repeating this in each Presidents report until the elections, I can't stress how important this is.

The 30<sup>th</sup> of March is our AGM held over from last year. The agenda was posted in last edition of the Fusillade.

This is your Society please make every attempt to attend, I'll see you there.

Yours in collecting,

*Andrew Day*

## EDITORIAL

I have repeated a couple of pages from the last edition, to ensure, as much as I can, that members read them.

One is the notice of change to storage requirements in Victoria, that come into effect in August. The other is the impending AGM, held over from last year because of something called COVID 19. You might have seen a couple mentions about it in the media.

Anyway, the AGM is on and the agenda is repeated in this issue. We could do with a couple of new members on the committee. It's not a job that takes a lot of your time, in fact very little of that. It's just if something comes up, it's a good thing to be able to seek opinions other than those of the Pres, Myself and the Treasurer. This is done via email or phone, mostly, with an occasional meet somewhere if needed.

Our Fair is progressing nicely, with over 100 tables booked as at the of writing. A number of old faces, looking slightly older, have shown interest as well as some new participants.

If any member would like to book a table for a display, there is no cost to you. Call the Sec for details, but most info is on line, on our site.

Think about assisting in setting up and the break down of the fair. It's bloody big venue and many hands will be needed. The Fair raises money for the Society and keeps your fees down and our services up and running.

The Fair flyer is also online, but all the members will get a few, in with their new membership cards. Those will be available at the end of April. Cost of renewal is just \$30. Most pay via bank transfer, some pay at a meeting.

My point is, if you are in a position to distribute some Fair flyers, on behalf of the Society, we would be grateful. A quantity will be posted as required.

Only a few at a time can be put in a standard envelope. Contact the Sec, and he will arrange for the posting to you. It's those shops, in the smaller townships, that we need to get the info to.

A member has tried to get some fillers, for the newsletter to me, electronically, but for once I was defeated. So whatever does fill these pages, will most likely be via something called Google.

Yours  
Ed(itor)

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**Ten (10) Things I know about you.**

- 1) You are reading this.**
- 2) You are human.**
- 3) You can't say the letter "P" without separating your lips.**
- 4) You just attempted to do it.**
- 6) You are laughing at yourself.**
- 7) You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5.**
- 8) You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.**
- 9) You laugh at this because you are a fun loving person & everyone does it too.**
- 10) You are probably going to send this to see who else falls for it.**

**You have this because I didn't want to be alone in the idiot category.**

**Keep that brain working; try to figure this one out....**

**See if you can figure out what these seven words all have in common?**

- 1. Banana**
- 2. Dresser**
- 3. Grammar**
- 4. Potato**
- 5. Revive**
- 6. Uneven**
- 7. Assess**

**Give it another try....**

**Look at each word carefully. You'll kick yourself when you discover the Answer. This is so cool..... Answer:**

**In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.**

# **Notice of Annual General Meeting of BAAMCS 2022**

**This meeting will commence at 8.00pm sharp, 30th March at the Scout Hall, Humphrey St South.**

**No food or drink provided. No kitchen facilities provided. No need to wear masks. You must be double vaxed to attend and show proof, as per State Gov regs.**

## **Agender items**

**We may need a motion to proceed with less than a quorum, if not enough members attend.**

## **Previous President takes the Chair**

- 1/ Minutes of previous meeting read**
- 2/ Motion that they be accepted**
- 3/ Presidents report**
- 4/ Treasures report for 2019-21 distributed (and collected back after)**
- 5/ Treasurer to explain the report**
- 6/ Any further discussion re the report**
- 7/ Motion the report be accepted**
- 8/ List of those willing to be on Committee**
- 9/ Any additional nominations?**
- 10/ Motion to accept those persons to run the Society, though August 2023**
- 11/ Any other AGM business**
- 12 Close meeting.**

**Commence November General meeting.**

**Motion - previous minutes are irrelevant.**

**Correspondence (nil)**

**Treasure's report to date. (Nov 2021)**

**Any other business including any donations to be distributed. Motions to be in writing, 7 days before the AGM and to the Sec please.**

**Close meeting, commence show and tell, if there is/are any.**

**Close of meeting.**

**Nick Smith (Current Hon Sec BAAMCS)**



# **AGM**

**Annual General Meeting**

## **2022 Regs**

### **New firearm storage requirements for category A, B, C, D longarm and general category handguns**

Current and future firearm owners will need (where applicable) to ensure that their firearm storage complies with these changes. Many current firearm owners will already have storage which will meet the updated standards, particularly if they have a purpose built, commercially manufactured gun safe.

Firearm owners are encouraged to check their current storage against the new requirements and prepare to replace or upgrade their arrangements before 30 August 2022.

From 30 August 2022, the following requirements must be met to ensure compliance with the law:

- Firearms must be stored in a purpose-built steel storage receptacle
- The steel must be of a thickness of at least 1.6mm (which complies with Australian/New Zealand Standard 1594:2002).
- If the receptacle weighs less than 150 kilograms when it is empty, it must be bolted to the structure of the premises.
- The receptacle must be locked with a lock of sturdy construction when the firearm is stored in it.

#### What firearm owners must do

Firearm owners in Victoria must check their current storage arrangement against the new requirements. Their receptacle must be purpose built for firearm storage. This means that firearm storage must have been specifically built to keep firearms in.

People who are newly licensed or applying for a licence and plan to buy or acquire a firearm should consider the pending changes when setting up their storage arrangements.

We recommend that licence holders who need to upgrade their storage plan to do so as soon as possible as we are aware of the possibility of delays in shipments and availability of materials.

#### Materials

The new storage conditions mean that licence holders must not store firearms in receptacles built of hard wood. In addition, firearms must not be stored in receptacles built of steel that is less than 1.6mm in thickness.

#### Placement of firearm storage receptacles – category A or B longarm

This change brings the storage of category A and B longarm into line with the current requirements for category C, D, and general category handguns. This means that if the storage receptacle weighs less than 150kg (when empty) it must be bolted to the structure of the premises.

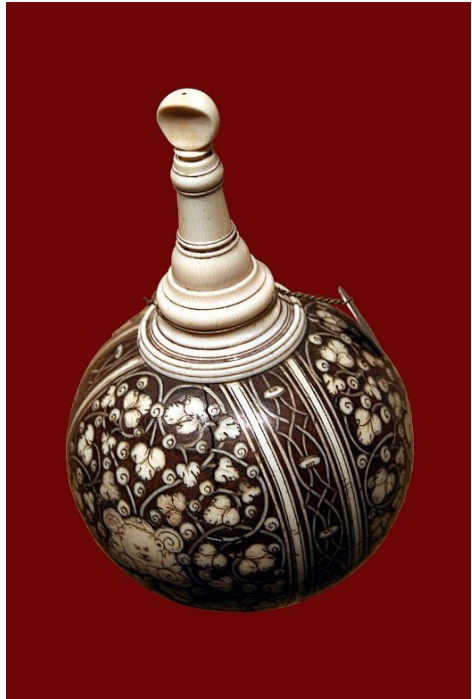
#### Locks for firearm receptacles

When firearms are stored in the receptacle it must be locked with a lock of sturdy construction. All references to locks in Schedule 4 of the Act will now use this language.

# The Powder flask



*German antler and steel flask.  
1570; the goddess Fortuna  
a hedgehog upon a globe*



*Priming flask, Germany (ca. 1600) c.  
stands on*

A powder flask is a small container for gunpowder, which was an essential part of shooting equipment with muzzle-loading guns, before pre-made paper cartridges became standard in the 19th century. They range from very elaborately decorated works of art to early forms of consumer packaging, and are widely collected. Many were standardized military issue, but the most decorative were generally used for sporting shooting

Although the term powder horn is sometimes used for any kind of powder flask, it is strictly a sub-category of flask made from a hollowed bovid horn. Powder flasks were made in a great variety of materials and shapes, though ferrous metals that were prone to give off sparks when hit were usually avoided. Stag antler, which could be carved or engraved, was an especially common material, but wood and copper were common, and in India, ivory. Apart from the horns, common shapes were the Y formed by the base of an antler (inverted), a usually flattened pear shape with a straight spout (poire-poudre or "powder pear" is a French term for these), a round flattened shape, and for larger flasks a triangle with concave rounded sides, which unlike the smaller flasks could be stood upright on a surface. Many designs (such as horn and antler types) have a wide sealed opening for filling, and a thin spout for dispensing. Various devices were used to load a precise amount of powder to dispense,

as it was important not to load too much or too little powder, or the powder was dispensed into a powder measure or "charger" (these survive much less often). As early as c. 1600 a German flask had a silver spout with a "telescopic valve, adjustable for different sizes of powder charges".

## Use

Although forms of pre-packed paper cartridges go back to the Middle Ages these were for several centuries made up by the shooter or a servant, rather than being mass-produced, requiring a container for the gunpowder, which came "loose". Unlike modern cartridges, these were not inserted into the gun themselves, but were rather a pre-measured amount of powder stored in a paper wrapper, sometimes with the ball



included as well. Loading the gun involved tearing open the package, emptying the powder into the muzzle and pan, inserting the ball with the paper doubling as wadding, and then ramming home the charge.

*French, c. 1590, antler and steel. The figure carries a gun and a flask on his belt*

This was somewhat faster and more acute measuring out a powder charge each time, especially in a combat situation. However, there was no large-scale manufacturing of these cartridges until the 19th century, and even then, the benefits mostly lay with military use; the added cost made them less popular with civilian shooters until the advent of the self-contained metallic cartridge and the breech-loader. While loading a muzzleloader, an important safety concern was that when reloading a muzzle-loading gun soon after a shot there might be small pieces of wadding burning in the muzzle, which would cause the new load of powder to ignite as a flash. So

long as no part of the loader faced the end of the barrel this was not likely to lead to serious injury, but if a spark reached the main supply in the powder flask a dangerous, even fatal, explosion was likely. General Sir James Pulteney, 7th Baronet, was one such victim; he died in 1811 from complications after losing an eye when a powder flask accidentally exploded in his face in Norfolk, Charles Kickham, prominent in the Irish Republican Brotherhood, grew up largely deaf and almost blind as the result of an explosion when he was 13, in about 1840.

Various precautions were taken in the design and use of powder flasks to prevent this from happening, and expensive examples from as early as the 16th century usually have springs to automatically close the dispensing spout (this is much less common with the cheaper horn type).

Modern manuals on muzzle-loading guns all say the flask should never be used to pour powder directly down the muzzle, to avoid dangerous overcharging and possible burst barrels, but from the English sporting press of the 18th and early 19th centuries, it is all too clear that this was then common practice, resulting in many accidents. Some YouTube videos demonstrating loading maintain the old traditions. Instead, the powder should be poured into an intermediate container known as a charger or powder measure.



Sometimes, the cap to the spout represented the measure, especially for priming flasks. Sometimes, the spout itself was the measure, with a sliding device to shut off the supply at the base, as well as a cap. This type became the norm in the mid-19th century.

High-quality guns would often have come with a matching flask, chargers, and other accessories. Many flasks have small rings for a cord, which was slung around the neck to carry them, especially before large pockets on hunting clothes arrived in Europe in the 18th century. Some examples have original elaborate cords with knots and tassels.

*German, 1630–1640, wood with engraved tortoiseshell*

Many types of early guns required two different forms of gunpowder (such as a flintlock with finer priming powder for the pan, and a coarser standard powder for the main charge), necessitating two containers, a main flask and a smaller "priming flask". During roughly the 18th century, paper cartridges became more and more popular, and a higher proportion of flasks made were the smaller priming variety. It appears that the British Army in the Peninsular War, despite regulations specifying the issue of powder horns and priming flasks, found the former inferior in action to cartridges, with the measuring spout prone to get detached and lost, and informally switched to cartridges during the war.

The powder flask was finally rendered obsolete by the spread of breech-loading guns and the innovations brought about by Hall, Sharps, Spencer, and the later development of self-contained cartridges that were developed and marketed successfully by Oliver Winchester, after which manufactured cartridges or bullets became standard. Powder flasks were also used for priming naval cannon; such a flask would be as large as, or even larger than, a main flask for a personal sidearm. The large, rectangular boxes from which the main muzzle charges for cannon were scooped are called powder boxes; these were used either when making up cartridges in advance, or loading loose powder when firing.



*British soldier's powder horn, 1775, engraved with a map of Boston, Massachusetts and "A Pox on rebels in ther crymes"*

## Decoration

Most of the vast numbers of flasks made in the gun-using parts of the world during the Early Modern period were probably relatively plain and functional, and have not been preserved. But those for the wealthy sportsman or soldier could have decoration of the highest quality, and many artisan-made horns have folk art engravings similar

to skrimshaw. They are collected at various levels; early hand-made examples of high quality are expensive and may be found in local or military museums and those for the decorative arts, while 19th century mass-produced examples in metal are a relatively cheap type of antique (though not always as old as claimed) and widely collected.



*French Ivory 18<sup>th</sup> cent*

## Western tradition

Germany, in antler and other materials, and India, in ivory and even jade, are the sources of especially richly decorated luxury flasks. A number of German flasks from the 16th and early 17th centuries are very richly carved with a wide variety of scenes, such as the emblematic figure illustrated. Antler was used for decorating a range of objects associated with hunting, from buttons to gunstocks, knife handles and saddles decorated all over with carved slices of antler. The uniforms of the guards of German princes might include elaborate flasks, often decorated with heraldic designs.



*German 16th century flask with dogs attacking a boar, wood mounted with silver, and spring*

By the 19th century, stamped metal flasks with a central design in low relief are more common, and standard types by particular manufacturers dominate the field, some produced by gun or powder manufacturers and carrying branding or advertising. The pear shape has become dominant for smaller flasks, which are presumably mostly kept in a pocket.

## Asia



*Mughal gem-encrusted jade flask, still with spring; 17th century*

Ivory Indian flasks of the Mughal and post-Mughal periods, regarded as priming flasks, have a fish-like shape reflecting the tip of a tusk, and are often carved with animals (typically attacking each other) in high relief, with the bodies of the animals in the round at the narrow tip. The bodies of hunter and prey are closely and often

illogically connected, forming what have been called "composite animal" forms, which have interested art historians.

The Indian tradition of ivory carving (which was probably objectionable to Hindu patrons) was rather late-starting apparently diffusing from a number of centres including a school of carving developed in the Portuguese colony of Goa from the 16th century onwards. The flasks, from the 17th to early 19th centuries, have echoes of much older works in the Animal style especially associated with ancient Scythia, and an intermediate tradition of objects, now lost, in perishable materials such as (in India) wood has been proposed. There are also obvious links with miniatures from Deccan painting. Collectors may use the Indo-Persian term *barut-dan* for flasks from these areas.

Edo period Japanese flasks (*kayaku-ire*) were made in the materials and styles that were already highly developed in Japan for the decoration of small personal objects including flasks, often using lacquered wood, which was a very suitable material.

*Extract from Wikipedia*



*From top to bottom... Graduated powder measure.*

*A Lacquered copper priming flask .*

*A "Violin" flask.*

*A flask with original chain for clothing attachment. It's amazing that has survived.*

The main reason many of these pressed metal flasks have survived to today, is damage. A flask that has a split, can't hold powder. A broken spring means you can't control the powder flow

In the case of the left-hand flask, the graduated nozzle has split and the cut off spring is missing. The spring on the right-hand flask is internal and protected.

*THE reference book on the subject of 18th cent metal flasks is ...*

***"The Powder Flask Book"**, by Ray Riling 1992*

*The book also references ephemera on the subject and visits horn flasks both old and modern*

**Something for seniors to do to keep those  
"aging" brain cells active!  
And for you younger ones, to get them growing!!**

- 1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?**
- 2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches (1.77m) tall and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?**
- 3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?**
- 4. How much dirt is there in a hole... that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?**
- 5. What word in the English Language... is always spelled incorrectly?**
- 6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?**
- 7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?**
- 8. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?**
- 9. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?**
- 10. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?**

Here are the Answers: *(No peeking!)*

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?

Answer: Johnny, of course.

2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches tall, and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?

Answer: Meat.

3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?

Answer: Mt. Everest.

4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?

Answer: There is no dirt in a hole.

5. What word in the English Language is always spelled incorrectly?

Answer: Incorrectly

6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?

Answer: Billy lives in the Southern Hemisphere.

7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?

Answer: You can't take pictures with a wooden leg. Use a camera.

8 If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?

Answer: You would be in 2nd. Well, you passed the person in second place, not first.

10. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?

Answer: Neither, the yolk of the egg is yellow [Duh]

11. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?

Answer: One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all become one big one.

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.

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**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  
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**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*).  
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**Everything outdoors.** New "online only" site. **Has a Firearms category.**  
Is a Local Ballarat site [www.everythingoutdoors.com.au](http://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**

Pair of Flintlock Pistols of Scottish Type  
Presented to Jeffrey, 1st Baron Amherst (1717–1797)

**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.