

Parthian Shot

265th Edition

June 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Phil Brown

Ted Spicer

Matt Carra

Phil Smith

Richard Arman

Tim Fitzgerald

Les Lewis

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John's Jokes

REMINDER!! ALL GCCA Annual Subs due by 30 June 2015

Calendar of Events



The Editor

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Website: www.collectorsbendigo.com.au

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

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	03 5444 0093
Vice-President	Chris Jolme	03 5474 2552
Firearms Officers:	Richard Penna, Chris Jolme, Larry Kinross Phil Brown & Matt Carra	
Hon. Secretary	Leighton Rawlings	03 5443 6315
Treasurer & Membership Sec.	Richard Penna	03 5443 3549
Newsletter Editor	Sue Rawlings	03 5443 6315

Presidents Report June 2015

Hi Troops,

Our annual show preparations are well on the way and we are now receiving bookings and enquiries, but we would still like to see members display their collections so that we can have a balanced show.

If you did not receive a show pack and would like to be a trader or displayer at our 2015 Show, please contact Richard Arman on richardarman@impulse.net.au or the Editor on lsrawlings@bigpond.com For members' interest, the 2015 Show dates will be Saturday and Sunday August 22rd and 23th. Please mark your calendars as we hope to see many of you attending and/or helping.



The next collectors shoot will be in July, so NO shoot in June unless it is a private one Gazetted in our minutes. The Ted Harvey Black Powder Shoot in May was a Super Great Day. John Bacon opened the day with a blast from his cannon and that set the theme for the day. Both he and Tony Wadsworth had a ball as it is usually the only time they can blast off their cannons. About 25 shooters were there with most members getting into the Black Powder Theme and filled the air with that familiar burnt powder smell. It really was a great day with everybody there experiencing Plenty Big Boom and Smoke.

I intend to submit to the LRD another Permit to carry and shoot firearms held in a collection, as it has come to my knowledge that quite a few members had NOT supplied me their Cat 1 or 2 license status, so were NOT included in our last list as I took the Cat 1 and 2 names from our data base list and if your up-to-date license status was not known to us, then your name was not submitted. Sometime ago Richard sent out a form to upgrade our database with current details and we were very disappointed with the LACK of responses as many details change frequently, phone numbers, license status, addresses, email addresses, etc. so if you have any changes to your membership details please send them via the Club P.O Box or email to pennagregory@gmail.com and I will note them and pass them on to our membership secretary.

Annual Subscriptions fall due at the end of June. Subscription reminders were sent last month. Firearms license holders and those members who collect prohibited or controlled weapons **must** renew their annual membership to retain their collector's Status. We as a recognised collecting club may be asked to report ALL and ANY members who either resign or are not financial. This I assure you will be done so we do not jeopardise our authorized club status.

The Parthian Shot club newsletter is available via email in colour. If you would prefer to receive it online and have it stored electronically for later retrieval, then please send your email address to newsletter mailing coordinator Karen at karen355@tpg.com.au By receiving it electronically, it also saves mailing and printing expenses, which the club has to pay for.

Again, Leave this with you, in collecting, Gee Pee (Greg Penna, President)



**The Nathalia Military Collection.
By Eddie Ford**



Left: Leighton Rawlings & Neville Leaf. Right: Eddie Ford outside Neville's door (note the sawn off shotgun door knocker!)



It all started when fellow club member Larry Kinross told me about a man in the town of Nathalia in Northern Victoria who had a collection of just about everything. Larry said you have just got to see it to believe it. Well it all happened when several car loads of members journeyed up to Nathalia to have a look.

It is close to the centre of town on a side street and we had a hint of what was to come when we saw a Stuart tank and a Bofor gun parked in the side yard in front of several buildings.



We met the owner of the collection Neville Leaf who took us in and proceeded to give us a rundown on what he had. First it was a WW2 Stuart tank which he had purchased over a period of time in various parts eventually enabling him to put together the tank as it now appeared in real life form. The Stuart had a radial engine which was also used in planes of that period. In the early part and prior to World War II no one had developed engines big enough to propel weighty tanks at any sort of speed, hence the use of plane engines. The radial engine as used in the tank was sitting in the garden close by.

Then members climbed over the Bofor gun trying their hand at the controls with some photos such as the one on the left, taken of this experience.

Next on the list we entered the engine shed which had a collection of everything from water taps on up to a cannon and to the big stationary engines. These engines, most over 100 years old, had been fully restored and were in working condition, totaling around a couple of dozen such as the Ballarat built Ronaldson Tippet and British built Blackstone with many others. Along the walls and benches were tools and parts too numerous to mention most of which had some connection with the engine collection.





The next on the list was a large new brick building with no windows, this housed the firearms and military collection. Once inside, the lights were turned on and what an amazing sight it was. There attached to the brick walls was a virtual evolution of military firearms, going back 200 years, with swords and bayonets with other military artifacts from uniforms to helmets, placed on benches surrounding walls and in between rifle's and any space still available.. In the centre of the building were cased shotguns set in velvet lined boxes.



The of the collection owner Neville Leaf spent two hours with us explaining each and every item and answering questions. The collection has taken close to 50 years and has some of the finest pieces of militaria you could ever wish to see. It was quite an experience for the members to see this collection which will rival anything in museums.





For those who couldn't make it, this features photographs that will give some idea of what was there. The club would like to sincerely thank Neville for his hospitality.





Editor's note: Eddie is far too modest to tell this part of the story. Neville Leaf when showing us through his engine room asked a question he has asked every visiting group expecting no-one to know the answer as had happened on every other occasion, however, when he said "Can anyone tell me what this object is for", without an ounce of hesitation, Eddie said "It is an oxygen tank out of a B17 Bomber". Neville was extremely surprised. What he didn't know was that Eddie knew this because

he had one himself! He had one which he had used as an Air Compressor Tank since the early 1960s. **Below is a photo of Lt. Bob Welty in a B-17 after the war in Pittsburgh. The photo was taken by his father.**



In May 2006, we asked Wally Blackwell, former B-17 pilot to comment on what he saw in this very clear photo of the cockpit of a war time configured B-17. Here are his comments: "Really special because it shows so much of the details you don't see in any restored B-17's. The yellow canisters are standard oxygen tanks. There were three on either side of the cockpit on the walls.

The pilot's side for him and the navigator. The other side for the co-pilot, engineer and bombardier. These systems were inter-connected. There were another six or so under the cockpit floor for the back half of the plane. There were a tank or two in the radio room. A few smaller for connecting walk around, one in the engineer turret and back in the radio room. One tank would last one individual for about 5 or 6 hours. It was the engineer's responsibility to keep the oxygen balanced.

The armour plate [on the back of the pilot's seats], really unique to see, was 1/2 inch thick or more. There was also some under the pilot's seats.

The square box at the bottom is the auto pilot and above that is the prop pitch controls. The white lever is to lock them into position when they are set. Above that the throttle quadrant, configured to let each engine to be controlled individually, but also in unison. The bottom split bar for engines 2 and 3. The top for 1 and 4 (like for taxiing) and grasping the middle bar, moves them all in unison, like for take-off. The red buttons are the 1 and 2 prop feathering, above that, altitude indicator, and above that the old needle and ball. Below the red buttons, it looks like the right foot control for the rudder and right brake.

The box on top of the dash was a distress call. If used like in a ditching, you picked up the cover over the switch on the left of the box. The cables up the middle of the windshield went up to radio equipment overhead on the bottom of the roof. A nice neat and tidy place to do business!"

Merwin Genung, former B-17 pilot wrote "that on the shelf on the back of the pilot's seat it looks like an Aviator's Kit Bag AN 6505-1 Property of the US government. We used it to carry our heavy jackets, etc. My wife has one in the garage". **Below is a photo of Lt. Bob Welty in the Waist Area of a Specially Equipped B-17**



In May 2006, Geoff Rice indicated that "I am sure that the aircraft is a B17-G, and that the equipment is part of the Radar dome installation, which was usually installed in the UK." We also asked Wally Blackwell, former B-17 pilot to comment on what he saw in this fuselage of a war time B-17. Here are his comments:

"Real quandary. Both Merwin Genung, former B-17 pilot (on his own) and I thought first, is this really a B-17? It looks bigger across than it should be. I found a picture in a Roger Freeman book of the waist area with the regular ball turret installed, we are now convinced it is a B-17, from the overhead cable slots and the rib spacing, etc. There is some unknown instrumentation in the ball turret hole. It could be some of the "mickey" type receiver equipment, going to the mickey operator in the radio room. The sun is shining through a huge hole in the fuselage where the gun window was. The black box, etc. on the left seems oriented like camera out the left gun window."

Modern day usage of the B17 Air Tanks (another reason Eddie recognized the mystery item in Neville's collection!)

Eddie's son Ryan, a second generation hot rodder, has been noticing the old **B17 Air Tanks** on the internet all polished up as they're made of stainless steel and used on early hot rods as fuel tanks. One for sale on eBay had the following description:



Apparently these were used as auxiliary breathing air supply for the B17 and B29 turret gunner during bombing missions during World War Two!

Just imagine what this tank has gone through, and how many airmen's lives it may have saved! Amazingly there are no dents, but I guess we're lucky there are no bullet holes! Apparently they were called shatterproof tanks because of the spiral banding.

I understand that these are a favourite for use as **a fuel tank on reproduction hot rods**, so this would be an ideal candidate for powering your Rat Rod or any other project that needs a touch of character. As can be seen in the pics, this tank definitely has been used, but not abused. It has many small scuffs, and dings to the banding, but the tank itself is perfectly round without a single dent.



Vintage details of this custom built Hot Rod include this paragraph "Look closely in the picture and you may also see the **B17 Bomber oxygen tank peeking up over the bed rails**, this is the storage tank for the rear air system, another cool old-school touch"

Not a use ever imagined by the Pilots and crews of the B17 Bombers flown during WWII!!!

Golden City Collectors Assoc. Inc. of Bendigo
June Committee Meeting held at the home of Richard & Frances Penna – 4th June 2015

Present: Greg Penna, Leighton Rawlings, Chris Jolme, Matt Carra, Les Lewis, Phil Brown, Richard Arman, Ted Spicer & Richard Penna.

Apologies: Sue Rawlings, Tim Fitzgerald & Phil Smith

It was moved that apologies are accepted by T Spicer, 2nd. M Carra Carried.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the 7 May 2015 Committee Meeting were read.

T Spicer moved that the minutes are accepted as a true record of that meeting. 2nd. M Carra. Carried.

Business Arising:

1. Tim Fitzgerald is still liaising with other groups re a WWI display at the Annual Show.
2. Free Show entry for members of other country collecting groups was discussed. It was decided that it will be at the discretion of the ticket sellers at the door if shown Club membership I.D.
3. Online advertising for the Annual show proving effective, especially the OZ Guns banner advert.
4. Ramp for easy access to Annual Show venue. Rick Thomson has this project under control.
5. A digital copy of the Annual Show flyer has been sent to Troy Craig to feature at the Show Venue.
6. Extra locks for the Shipping Container to have the same key as existing locks.

Correspondence In:

1. 30 Annual Subscriptions (Record kept by Treasurer and Secretary)
2. 13 Show Returns (Record kept by Treasurer, Show Manager & Secretary)
3. Bendigo Bank Statement No. 198 - Ladies Committee.
4. Newsletter – A.H.A.A. of South Australia – May 2015
5. Membership application from Wayne Sutherland, Launching Place.
6. Collectables Auction flyers for May 30 & 31 Blackburn Auction
7. A. & M. C. Ass of N.S.W. – May 2015 Newsletter
8. Email Notification of change of address of the L.R.D.
9. Circular re Beach house in Anglesea for Door Prize at Annual Show.

Correspondence Out:

1. Parthian Shot Newsletter for May 2015

Moved by L Lewis that 'Correspondence In' is accepted & 'Correspondence Out' endorsed. 2nd. C Jolme. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Richard Penna has been unwell so his report was deferred to the June General Meeting

Membership Report: Wayne Douglas Sutherland, Launching Place, Vic. & William Neville Lane, Wycheproof have both applied to join the GCCA. They were accepted at Committee level. To be taken to the members at the June General Meeting to be accepted at Club level.

General Business:



Situated in the quiet beachside town of Anglesea close to all facilities. Contact Rosemary 0412 166 577

- 1...Annual Show. A friend of the Editor has offered a weekend at her beach house in Anglesea as a "Lucky Door Prize" at this year's annual show. The Committee have accepted this offer. Security personnel could distribute the entry slips at the door as the public enter. This could also include a questionnaire as to where they found out about the Show.
- 2...The Black Powder Shoot in May was a great success (photos in this newsletter)
- 3...Show applications are coming in steadily. Not much response to the Sat. night meal. A show of interest will be taken on the Saturday morning of the Show and Pizzas and Cheesecakes, Pavlovas etc. will be ordered according to interest whether it be 10 people or 50 people.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.50 pm

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

1. All GCCA Annual Subs are due by the end of this month - June 2015
2. Traders need to send payment with their table bookings to secure a place at the 2015 GCCA Annual Show as we have a 'Waiting List'.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2 July | GCCA July Committee Meeting will be held at the home of Matt Carra |
| 14 July | GCCA July General Meeting to be held at the Quarry Hill Community Hall, Hamlet Street at 7.30pm. Theme: Antiques |
| 19 July | Collectors Shoot will be held at the Shelbourne Quarry Range at 11 am. |
| 22-23 August | Annual Arms & Collectables Show at the Bendigo Major League Multisports Complex, 1-3 Waterson Court, Bendigo. See flyer for full details |

Below is a brief look inside the **Anglesea Beach House** (a weekend at which is the Lucky Door Prize at our Annual Show). If **you wish to book** it in the meantime, the current off peak cost is **\$225 for a weekend**, \$75 per night mid-week or \$490 for 7 nights. I have stayed there and it's very comfortable with everything you need & close to great well priced eating places!

Anglesea Beach house for Short Term Rental – contact Rosemary 0412 166 577

The three-bedroom house has been newly furnished and is situated in the township area close to the shopping centre, Anglesea Hotel and river. A short walk along the river brings you to the Anglesea Surf Beach.

The kitchen has been equipped with all necessary items including microwave, fridge, stove, toaster, kettle etc... The open plan kitchen and living area provide a spacious environment for a relaxed holiday experience.

A television, VCR-DVD and a selection of videos and DVD's are available for use by guests.



To Book: Ring Rosemary on 0412 166 577 or contact me at lsrawlings@bigpond.com for a full detailed brochure

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Friends catching up in the ‘Afterlife’

SYLVIA: Hi Wanda!

WANDA: Hi Sylvia! How did you die?

SYLVIA: I froze to death.

WANDA: How horrible!

SYLVIA: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?

WANDA: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

SYLVIA: So, what happened?

WANDA: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking.

I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds.

I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

SYLVIA: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer – we'd both still be alive.

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All things Bogan...

Davo: Is there a problem, Officer? Officer: Yes sir you were speeding. Davo: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please? Davo: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one? Davo: Lost it 4 times for drunk driving.

Officer: I see... Can I see your vehicle registration papers please? Davo: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not? Davo: I stole this car. Officer: Stole it? Davo: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner. Officer: You what? Davo: His body parts are in plastic bags in the boot it you want to see.

The Officer looks at ol mate, slowly backs away to his car, and calls for back up. Within minutes 5 police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, claspig his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: Mate could you step out of your vehicle please! Davo steps out of his Commodore.

Davo: Is there a problem sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Davo: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the boot of your car.

Ol mate opens the boot, revealing nothing but an empty boot.

Officer 2: Is this your car? Davo: Yeah mate, here are the rego papers.

The first officer is stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a driving license.

Davo digs into his bumbag and pulls out his license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you ... one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Davo: Betcha the lying sod told you I was speeding too!



Golden City Collectors Association of Bendigo

32nd Annual Arms & Collectables Show

150 Trade and Display Tables
Collectables on Display & Special WWI Display

Well-known Victorian & Interstate
Firearms Dealers
ATM on site

On site catering all weekend



VENUE: Bendigo Major League Multisports Complex
1-3 Waterson Court, Bendigo

DATE: 22nd & 23rd AUGUST, 2015

Saturday 9am-5pm

Sunday 9am-3pm

Enquiries: Greg or Richard (03) 5443 5375 B/H
President (03) 5444 0093 A/H Mobile 0427 400 930

ENTRY COST

Family \$10, Single \$5, Concession \$4

