

More Majorum

Special Edition 2020



Siffleet and his two fellow captives



8mm Nambu

Type 4 70 mm AT Rocket Launcher

Footnote in History

Type 100 submachine gun

M & Z Special Units & Sergeant Len Siffleet

Modellers Corner By "old Nick"

Something from your Collection

Wiesel 1 a modern Day tankette



Matilda IIs in New Guinea



Wiesel 1 ATM TOW



Matilda IIA Dozer

UP COMING EVENTS

All up coming events and club meeting have been cancel for the time being due to the CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) STAGE 3 RESTRICTIONS

N.V.A.C.G. Committee 2019/20

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Editor's Report

Hi all, hope you are safe and well under the current COVID-19 safety STAGE 3 RESTRICTIONS. Please follow these rules and keep well. Now down to business I am planning to put out some extra, but smaller newsletters for the membership. The main aim is to try to give NVAGC membership something to read, other than all the sad COVID-19 news on the TV or in the papers. The second aim is to try to keep members in touch with the guild and other members. But I will need your HELP with this by emailing the guild with small articles. Also pictures of items from your collections and a little write up about each item. So please help out if you can, as this may be the only bit of sunshine and contact some members will have with other members for some time to come. On ANZAC day please not only think of our service members, but also the health workers dealing with COVID-19 too

Wiesel 1 ATM TOW and Wiesel 1 MK 20 fire support



Wiesel 1 Armoured Weapons Carrier (AWC) is a German light air-transportable armoured fighting vehicle, more specifically a lightly armoured weapons carrier. It is quite similar to a historical scouting tankettes in size, form and function, and is the only true modern tankette in use in Western Europe.

Length 3.55m	Armour Protection against small arms only
Width 1.82m	Engine Audi 2.1L 5 cylinder in-line turbo-diesel 64 kilowatts (86 hp)
Height 1.82m	Range 200km (120 miles)
Mass 2.75t to 4.78t	Speed 70km (43 mph)
Crew 2 or 3	
Number built 343	

Variants in Service

Wiesel 1 Aufklärung: reconnaissance.
Wiesel 1 ATM TOW anti-tank vehicle fitted with TOW missiles.
Wiesel 1 MK20; fire support version with a Rheinmetall MK 20 Rh202 20mm auto-cannon.
Remotely controlled Wiesel 1 equipped with ground-scanning radar as part of the Route Clearance System



"FOR SALE"

**COLLECTABLES
&
MEMORABILIA
etc.**

**Contact Geoff
on 5821 9015
Or
email;
wilsigns1@gmail.
com**



**SOME OF YOU MAY
NOT KNOW BUT THE
N.V.A.C.G. HAS IT'S
OWN WEBSITE**

Here you will find all the news and details for coming guild events and information for prospective members.

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/>

You can find past & current newsletters here

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/news/>



We are also on Facebook
[@nvacgorg](https://www.facebook.com/nvacgorg)

One of our members is looking to buy several items, namely,

- (A). .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Yataghan Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.
- (B). .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Cutlass Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.
- (C). .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Elcho Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.

If you can help with any or all of these Bayonets contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email jobah450.577@bigpond.com

Footnotes from History; Siege of Toma was a bloodless action during the First World War on the island of New Pomerania (now New Britain) between 14–17 September 1914 as part of the occupation of German New Guinea by the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF). Australian forces had been dispatched to seize and destroy German wireless stations in the southwest Pacific because they were used by the German East Asian Cruiser Squadron of Vice-Admiral Maximilian von Spee which threatened merchant shipping in the region. New Zealand provided a similar force for the occupation of German Samoa. Ultimately the German colonial government was forced to surrender after being surrounded, ending the last significant resistance in the territory.

Prelude; The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) reached Rabaul on 11 September, finding the port free of German forces. Small parties of naval reservists landed at Kabakaul and Herbertshöhe on Neu-Pommern, south-east of Rabaul. These parties were reinforced firstly by sailors and later by infantry and proceeded inland to capture the radio station believed to be in operation at Bita Paka, 4.3 miles (6.9 km) to the south. The Australians were resisted by a mixed force of German reservists and Melanesian native police, who forced them to fight their way to the objective. By nightfall the radio station was reached, and it was found to have been abandoned, the mast dropped but its instruments and machinery intact. During the fighting at Bita Paka seven Australians were killed and five wounded, while the defenders lost one German NCO and about 30 Melanesians killed, and one German and ten Melanesians wounded. At nightfall on 12 September, the AN&MEF infantry battalion was landed at Rabaul. The following afternoon, a ceremony was carried out to signal the British occupation of New Britain despite the fact that the German governor had not surrendered the territory.

Siege; Meanwhile, after their defeat at Bita Paka on 11 September the remaining German forces retreated 19 miles (31 km) to Toma, believing they would have time to recuperate before the Australians arrived. Unknown to the Germans however, an advanced party of 200 Australians had followed them from Bita Paka and surrounded the town, proceeding to bombard it with a 12-pound field piece. The protected cruiser HMAS *Encounter* also arrived on the scene, and fired several shells at a ridge nearby. The German governor, Eduard Haber, knew his small force would eventually have to surrender but continued to hold out for several days hoping that the German East Asia Squadron would arrive to relieve them. Nevertheless, the show of Australian firepower was sufficient to start negotiations, forcing Haber to realise that his hopes were futile. The Germans subsequently made favourable terms with the Australians, surrendering the colony and ending the siege. Terms were signed on 17 September and all military resistance ceased, with the remaining

40 German soldiers and 110 natives surrendering on 21 September. Haber was allowed to return to Germany while German civilians could remain as long as they swore an oath of neutrality. Those who refused were transported to Australia from where they could freely travel back to Germany.

Aftermath; With the government's surrender, nearly all of German New Guinea came under Australian control. The majority of the Germans living there were interned and later deported. Only a few isolated bands of German forces continued to resist after the fall of Toma. By 1915, the only remaining German resistance in the colony besides the occasional merchant raider was Leutnant Hermann Detzner and his band of 20 native police who evaded capture in the interior of New Guinea for the entire war. Following the capture of German possessions in the region, the AN&MEF provided occupation forces for the duration of the war.



Commanders and leaders	
Edward Fowell Martin	EduardHaber
Strength	
Land: 200 infantry, 1 artillery piece	40 infantry, 110 policemen
Sea: 1 protected cruiser	
Casualties and losses	
none	150 captured



Type 4 70 mm AT Rocket Launcher was a Japanese rocket launcher used during the last year of World War II. It was to be used in the Japanese mainland in case of an invasion by the Allies. It is comparable to the German Panzerschreck and the American Bazooka. **History;** By 1944 the Americans were using M1 Bazooka anti- tank rocket launchers in the Pacific Theater against the Japanese. In response, the Japanese began development of the Type 4 Rocket Launcher. Unlike the US rocket that used fins to stabilize it in flight, the Japanese rocket had angled venturis in the base to spin the rocket for stability, in a similar manner to the 20 cm (8") HE rocket

Service history	
Used by	Imperial Japanese Army
Wars	World War II
Designed	1944
No. built	3,500
Variants	None
Mass	8 kg /17.64 lb
Length	1.5 m /4.92 ft
Caliber	74mm
Muzzle velocity	100 m/s

Development; The launcher was made in two parts that were joined in the middle, similar to the US 3.5" Rocket Launcher. It was designed to be fired by a soldier while prone. The weapon itself had a bipod similar to the one on the Type 99 LMG (Light Machine Gun). The gunner lay with his body at approximately a 45 degree angle to the bore on the left side while the loader was similarly positioned on the other side. The pistol grip and trigger mechanism were attached to the rear half of the launcher. A cable ran from the trigger to the rear of the launcher where the hammer was located. The hammer and firing pin was mounted on an arm. The arm was above the bore and out of the way of loading the rocket when it was in the cocked position. Pulling the trigger pulled the pin holding the arm in position and the arm swung around under spring pressure, striking the primer and igniting the rocket.

The 70mm rocket, like the 20 cm model, used a mortar fuze. There would be no set back when the rocket was fired to arm an artillery fuze. The Japanese mortar fuze for the 81mm and 90mm used a shear wire to make it bore safe. The wire went through the brass body and aluminum firing pin plunger. Upon impact the plunger was forced back, shearing the wire and freeing the plunger to strike the firing pin and detonate the round.



Type 4 70 mm AT Rocket Launcher, disassembled

Something from your Collection With each newsletter we would like to feature something special from a members collection, it doesn't have to be valuable or rare, just something you don't see every day. Members who would like to have an item featured can contact Brett Maag or Graham Rogers. If you can supply a digital photo and a short spiel it would be good if not, bring it along to a meeting and we will photograph it there and take notes.



Here we have a No4 Mk1(T). If you look at the middle pic below shows the markings on the left side of the action. M47C 1945, means it was made in the BSA Shirley, Birmingham, UK Factory. Just underneath the M47C is a "T" marking which has had two lines stamp across it. Which means it was selected to be turned into a No4 (T) Sniper Rifle, but unfortunately the two lines across the "T" states it was returned to general service. This happened to many No4 (T) in 1945, due to the end of world war two. The owner of this rifle acquired a reproduction scope and mounts for a No4 (T) to bring the rifle back up to what it was meant to be, if the war hadn't finish when it did. The owner also has two bayonets for his rifle, the top one is a No 9 Mk1 blade and the bottom one is a No4 Mk2 spike. The leather sling is also correct for a No4 (T) and is the type of slings used on US service rifles in WW2



To the right and below is a piece of trench art from WW2 of a sailing boat made out of a 25x163 mm Hotchkiss rimless case from the Japanese IJN (Imperial Japanese Navy) Type 96 25mm AT/AA.



Here we have so more items from one of our long standing members of the NVACG. Above is a Crimean war nurses candle lamp Can be carried by hand or can be hung on their belt, and also stood on a desk too. On the right we have from the Nepalese horde oil bottle for a Martini Hennery rifle.

Below we have a Bore Mirror for a Martini Hennery rifle item supplied by Geoff



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M & Z Special Units; With the outbreak of war in the Pacific, two multi-national combined forces commando units were formed as part of the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB), attached to its Special Operations Australia (SOA) branch. These units were M Special Unit (primarily a coastwatching unit) and the more famous Z Special Unit (also known as Z Force), and they were to be used by the Allies to conduct covert operations in the South West Pacific Area against the Japanese. These units were formed with volunteers from all branches of the military and from personnel from Australia, Britain, New Zealand, and the Netherlands-East Indies. M Special Unit was used primarily to provide intelligence on Japanese naval and troop movements around New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, with personnel being inserted along the coast behind enemy lines where they would observe enemy movements and report back to the AIB via radio. This was invisible, unglamorous work, but there were considerable dangers involved for those involved and a number of M Special Unit members were captured by the Japanese and executed. Z Special Unit's role was perhaps a little more glamorous and certainly since the war it has received a considerable amount of publicity. Members of the unit distinguished themselves in a number of daring clandestine raiding operations often using Australian built Folding kayaks (Folboats) to penetrate enemy areas. Some of these met with limited success or failed completely. During *Operation Jaywick*, members of the unit posed as an Asian fishing boat crew in order to infiltrate Singapore Harbour, where it successfully mined and destroyed seven Japanese ships, amounting to 35,000 tons, in September 1943. However, in 1944 the similar but larger *Operation Rimau*, which also targeted shipping at Singapore Harbour, resulted in the loss of all 23 personnel involved.

Sergeant Len Siffleet, a special operations soldier who became well-known for the manner of his death, was born at Gunnedah, New South Wales, on 14 January 1916. A keen sportsman, he became a good swimmer but also enjoyed less physical pursuits; he once outfitted the Gunnedah pipe band with highland hose that he had knitted.

In the late 1930s Siffleet moved to Sydney in search of work and was rejected by the police because of poor eyesight. Whatever defect marred his vision it was not sufficiently serious to prevent his being called up for the militia in August 1940. He served with a searchlight unit at Richmond Air Force Base but was released after three months and returned to civilian life. After his mother's death in 1941, he and his sister, Pearl, took responsibility for bringing up their two youngest brothers, a task made necessary by the itinerant nature of their father's work. In September 1941, Siffleet joined the AIF and was posted to the 1st Division Signals Company at Ingleburn. He twice went absent without leave, possibly to see the woman to whom he had become engaged, Clarice Lane.

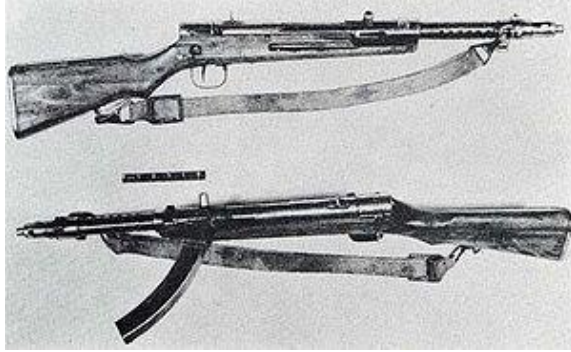
Siffleet went on to complete a specialist signals course at the Melbourne Technical College before volunteering in September 1942 for special duties, joining Z Special Unit. In October he went to the Z Experimental Station in Cairns where Special Operations Australia trained its operatives. While Siffleet was training, the Dutch section of the Inter-Allied Services Department was planning a mission to establish a coast-watching station in the hills above Hollandia in Dutch New Guinea, recently occupied by the Japanese. Siffleet became the operation's radio operator.

Siffleet was promoted to sergeant and transferred to M Special Unit in May 1943, but by then he and his party were trekking along New Guinea's mountainous spine en-route to the north coast. In mid-September the mission, along with members of another special operations team travelling with them to Aitape, were discovered by New Guinean natives. Surrounded by a group of more than 100 locals, Siffleet fired on the attackers, wounding one, and managed to break free. He was quickly caught and, along with his companions, was handed over to the Japanese. He was taken to Malol near Aitape where he was beaten, interrogated - apparently revealing little of importance - and then imprisoned for two weeks before being moved to Aitape.

Just after 3.00pm on 24 October 1943, after languishing in prison for several weeks, Siffleet and two fellow prisoners were marched to Aitape Beach. Kneeling before a crowd of Japanese and New Guinean onlookers and wearing blindfolds, the three prisoners were beheaded and buried. A photo of a Japanese civilian holding a sword over a haggard looking prisoner captured the last seconds of Siffleet's life. It was found by American troops in 1944. The photo continues to be misrepresented as other victims of Japanese executions but its subject was positively identified as Siffleet in 1945.



Date and unit at enlistment (ORs)	1940-08	Called up for the militia, serving with a searchlight unit at Richmond Air Force Base. He was released from service after three months.
Date and unit at enlistment (ORs)	1941-07	Joined the AIF and was posted to 1st Division signals section at Ingleburn.
Other	12 October 1942	Volunteered for special duties and joined Z Special Force after completing a specialist signals course.
Date promoted	05 May 1943	Promoted to sergeant.
Date captured	1943-09	Siffleet and two others were captured by locals and handed over to the Japanese. They were tortured and questioned for three days.
Date of death	24 October 1943	Siffleet and his two fellow captives were executed, by beheading, on Aitape Beach, New Guinea. Siffleet's executioner, Yasuno Chikao, was killed in April 1944 by American forces in Hollandia.



Type 100 submachine gun was a Japanese submachine gun used during World War II, and the only submachine gun produced by Japan in any quantity. It was made in two basic variants referred to by American and British observers as the Type 100/40 and the Type 100/44, the latter also known as the Type 100 (Simplified). A small number of the earlier version were converted into using folding stock, sometimes referred to by the Allies as the Type 100 Navy, which was made for parachutists.

Prototypes; Japan was surprisingly late in introducing the sub-machine gun to its armed forces. Although ~6,000 models of the SIG Bergmann 1920 (a licensed version of the German MP 18) and a few Solothurn S1-100s were purchased from Switzerland and Austria in the 1920s and 30s, and were used in the invasion of

In service	1942–1954
Used by	Empire of Japan
Wars	Second World War
Designer	Kijiro Nambu
Designed	1939
Produced	1942–1945
No. built	~8,500 ^[a]
Variants	Type 100/40 (with solid stock) Type 100/40 (with folding stock) Type 100/44 (with solid stock)
Mass	empty 4.2 kg (9 lb 4 oz) loaded 3.8 kg (8 lb 6 oz)
Length	900 mm (35.4 in)
Barrel length	230 mm (9 in)
Cartridge	8×22mm Nambu
Action	Blowback
Rate of fire	450 rounds per minute (1942) 800 rounds per minute (1944)
Muzzle velocity	335 m/s (1,099 ft/s)
Effective firing range	100–150 m (110–160 yd)
Feed system	30-round detachable curved box magazine

China in 1937, mass production of a native submachine gun didn't begin until 1944. While the European imports were used, Japanese development of submachine guns had stalled. After earlier prototypes designed and built by the Nambu Arms Manufacturing Company, the Experimental Model 1 submachine gun and Experimental Model 2 submachine gun, proved inadequate, new requirements were formulated in August 1937 by the Army. The new simpler design was based on the imported European "Bergmann Type" submachine guns, which had been used effectively in both Battles of Shanghai by Japanese marines. This led to the development of the Experimental Model 3 submachine gun in 1938. The earliest version was known as Model 3A, but after some changes Model 3B was introduced in April 1939. It received generally positive results in testing and it was recommended to produce a batch of 200 weapons for military tests with infantry, cavalry, and reserve units. Further requirements were made for increased accuracy and a way to mount the standard Type 30 bayonet. A portion of the weapons for cavalry units were mounted with a bipod and a sight up to 1,500 meters to assess its capabilities in comparison with the bulky Type 11 light machine gun.

Early Version; In November 1939 came the release of the Type 3C, which included a double-slot muzzle brake. After almost full completion of the testing cycle of this version, it was adopted by the Imperial Japanese Army in the summer of 1940, as the Type 100 Submachine gun (known in western literature as the "Type 100/40"). However, no major order was made for the new weapon, as the interest of the army had turned to the new 7.7mm Type 99 light machine gun. There was no need for a "submachine gun" in the Imperial Army tactics. Under a low-priority military contract, the Type 100 began to be deployed in August 1942, with numbers not exceeding 1,000 units, of which around 200 were converted to folding stock models for use by army paratroopers. These were converted (along with similar designs for Arisaka rifles) after trouble with weapons being dropped in bags separately from the paratroopers, such as in the Battle of Palembang, and were intended to be stored in a bag attached to the stomach of the jumper. The paratrooper version was referred to by the allies as the

"Type 100 Navy".

Limited numbers of the early Type 100 model were delivered to the Solomon Islands in late 1942 for military trials. A small batch was delivered to Guadalcanal, but the rest of the shipments were sunk before reaching their target. A few very early models, without the muzzle brake, but with a bipod and a sight up to 1,500 meters (the "cavalry variant" of the Model 3B), were captured by the British in the late stages of the Burma Campaign, brought in by Japanese reinforcements. Of the paratrooper variant, some were captured on Luzon during the Philippines Campaign.

Late Version; As the war continued, the demand for submachine guns increased greatly. In January 1944, under contract to the Army, larger scale production of the Type 100 started. In connection with the lower quality "substitute standard" variants of other Japanese weapons to increase speed and reduce cost of manufacture, a number of changes were made to simplify the Type 100. This led to the later 1944 model of the Type 100, know in the west as the "Type 100/44". The 1944 variant was slightly longer, with simple iron sights and a greatly simplified muzzle brake consisting of two ports drilled in the barrel. The large bayonet mounting bar were eliminated, with the bayonet to be fitted to the barrel instead; consequently, the muzzle protruded more from its perforated jacket. Corners were cut in production, leaving many Type 100s with roughly finished stocks with roughly welded metal. The resulting weapon demonstrated good reliability with low recoil and satisfactory accuracy for close-range work. Some 7,500 were made produced in total.

Later version Type 100s were used by special units of the Imperial Army and were encountered in the hands of paratrooper raiding units in the Philippines Campaign and in the Battle of Okinawa, notably used by the *Giretsu Kuteitai*. After the war, a limited number of the later version was supplied by the American administration to arm the Japanese police.



8mm Nambu was the official Japanese military pistol cartridge introduced in 1904 for the Nambu auto pistol. It was also used in the modified 1925 model and the odd-looking 1934 model. This was the official Japanese pistol cartridge in World War II, although other pistols and cartridges were used. It was used only by Japan.



Modellers Corner By "old Nick"

This issue "Tanks" for the memories featuring the; A12 Tank MkII Matilda 11A one of many in my collection.

Specifications:

Designed by United Kingdom British Mechanization Board in 1936 and built by Vulcan Foundries

Crew: 4, Commander, Gunner, Loader & Driver

Armament: 2 pounder (40mm) quick firing Gun, 7.92mm Besa coaxially machinegun and a .303 Bren Gun mounted on top for Anti-aircraft use.

Power Plant- Two AEC diesels, each water cooled 6 cylinders, 87bhp each. Later marks fitted with two Leyland Diesels.

Speed: 15 mph (24 km) on road. 9 mph (14 km) off road cross country

Range: 160 miles (257 km)

Weight: 26.5 tons

Armour: 20mm to 78mm (0.79 to 3.07 inch)

Users;

The old "Tilley" as it was known to its users who served in it all over the world, some of the countries defence forces who operated this Medium Infantry Support Tank were as follows:

Britain- used in France 1939-40, Middle East 1940-43.

India- used against the Japanese as a support Tank in Burma.

Russia- used as a lead lease tank against the Germans, which it was no match and out class.

Australia- used in the Pacific Area in New Guinea, Bougainville and Borneo 409 Matilda IIs transferred by Britain to Australian Army between 1942-44 and further 33 transferred from New Zealand to Australia in 1944. Used by Australian Citizen Military Forces (CMF) until about 1955.

Germany- used captured repaired tanks in the Middle East after the failed British "Battle-axe" campaign due to large numbers of Matildas were abandoned and left behind by the British forces after the battle.

Egypt- used the Matildas against Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

Australian Variations were;

A12 Infantry MkII Matilda IIA Dozer

A12 Infantry Tank MkII Matilda Frog Flame Thrower Tank (25 Built)

A12 Infantry Tank MkII Matilda IV Hedgehog only 6 were built, fitted a Hedgehog 7-chambered spigot mortar in an armoured box on the rear hull of tank. The system was fired electrically either individually or as a salvo of six. Each bomb weighed 65lbs (29kg) and contained 30 to 37lbs (14 to 17 kg of Torpex High explosives. Range was up to 440 yds (400m). the Hedgehog had trials at Southport Queensland in May 1945 and were pronounced a complete success, but the war ended before it was used operationally.

Good examples of this tough medium Tanks are at Bandiana and Puckapunyal Military Museums and one Model in my Collection Hah Hah!

There is a wealth of information on this tank, in military records, however on a more personal note My Father in Law, Norman Wilson who during his WWII served with the 3rd Armoured Regiment an Militia Tank Unit, they were equipped with the good old Matilda MkII Tank and served as a Driver/Gunner. The units area of operations for the 3rd Armoured Regiment was in Northern Australia around Townsville. Which after the Japanese Bombing of Darwin, then further south including Townsville. As a consequence was classified as a War Zone.

Following these events and the closeness of Japanese Forces in New Guinea and with immanent invasion was considered to be a strong possibility, resulting in the 3rd Armoured Regiment being part of our last line of defence. These units were on high alert at all times during this time of war, as they expected some pre-invasion landing by probing Japanese Units from off shore Subs or small ships. There was little live firing practice due to shortages of ammo and apart from their Tanks, weapons were old Vickers Machineguns, Lewis guns and Owen guns and the good old SMLE No1 MkIII .303 with Bayonet.



German captured Matilda Tanks
Above be recaptured back



Matilda Frog Flame Thrower Tank



Matilda IIA Dozer



Matilda IV Hedgehog

About Us.....

Our Meetings

The Guild meets at the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Shepparton Branch Shotgun Club Rooms.

These are located at the SSAA Shooting Range 1170 Midland Hwy, Shepparton East.

Just drive for 20 minutes or so from Shepparton along what we call Benalla Road, and there you will find the Range on the right hand side in a former quarry.

The site is well signed and is the Guilds "returning home" to what was Paul Gribben's other favourite club.

General Meetings are held here on the second Friday evening of each month

Meeting commence from 8.00 pm

Our Background

The Northern Victorian Arms Collectors Guild Inc. Had its origins in August 1967, under the guidance of the late Paul Gribben - still regarded as one of Australia's most advance firearms collectors.

His fondness for Manton shotguns (and lesser examples of gunsmith's and engravers art), was equalled only by his love of history and enthusiasm for sharing it with others.

Our Guild continues this tradition and caters for those interested in the preservation and restoration of all antique and historic arms, accessories, militaria, Australiana and other heritage items.

New Members are Most Welcome!



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