



**NORTHERN VICTORIAN ARMS COLLECTORS GUILD INC.**

# More Majorum

June 2026

## GUILD NEWS

Scott J. is our new newsletter editor. Scott runs a full time business, but is going to endeavour to fit regular newsletter into his busy schedule. You can help Scott out by contributing items of interest. You can contact Scott at [newsletter@nvacg.org.au](mailto:newsletter@nvacg.org.au).

Annual subcriptions are now due for members whose card indicates their membership expires on 30th June 2026. If you are due, you would have by now received an email requesting payment. This year, late payments may result in a police compliance check, remember your licence and exemptions are only valid if you are a financial member.

Endorsing licence applications and PTA's. Please do not present blank documents for guild's nominated officers to sign. Fill out all your information first, otherwise, it is like signing a blank cheque, anyone could use it.

## A Photo on a Bookshelf

This year marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ANZAC Day, it has a special meaning in some people's heart and to me it's in an old framed sepia photo that sits on a dusty bookshelf I have in my possession. When I see the photograph, I think about two young men in it, who only a year before met for the first time by chance in the trenches of Gallipoli. Private William Law, 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion AIF and one Private Joseph Law of 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF would meet in the most remarkable way by holding the line against Johnny Turk at Wire Gully. They were to discover they were first cousins and had never met until now. Who were these people to me, William was my Great Grandfather and Joe was a long distant relation.

Back in Egypt after the withdrawal, they would have their photograph taken and sent back home to their families. William sent one photograph to his parents' home in Shepparton, Victoria. Joe would send his to his Parents to the coastal town of Yatte Yattah near Milton New South Wales. The boys' fathers had been brothers and had moved around looking for work around until they settle in different parts of Australia.

Although William and Joe would remain in their units, kept in contact until the horrific night of 29<sup>th</sup> July 1916. Where both battalions were positioned near Cemetery and orchard Corner on the northern outskirts of Pozieres. The Australians attacked the German Lines at 12.15am under intense enemy machine gun fire and heavy artillery barrage. The assault, which included the rest of 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian infantry division, became a costly failure resulting in approximately 3500 Australian casualties in a single night to the Division. Joe Law would be killed in action on this night and today still has no known grave, William was to receive a gunshot wound to the knee which would end his service on the Western Front. William returned to Australia in 1917 and pass away in 1956 to bone cancer.

The two families had kept in contact up to early 2000s but many had themselves passed on. The younger generation also moved on.



## Are you a Collector or a Custodian of Historical Arms and Militaria.

So we like collecting it in our nature to do so. We collect items because it is a human behaviour driven by mix of emotional, social needs, nostalgia, stress control and the trill of the hunt. As our collections grows so does our human development. Collecting provides a sense of order and structure often acting as a coping mechanism in chaotic times, it gives a sense of achievement and mastering that one main centre piece to one's collection. Whether you do it for social connection, investment, connection to the past while adding mental health benefits to your lifestyle it's a hobby we enjoy.

A collector of historical arms and militaria only becomes a custodian when they shift their focus from accumulating to preserving and documenting historical artifacts for the future. Most collectors at some stage become custodians especially over their favourite pieces. Being a custodian of historical arm and militaria is the art of balancing preservation, education, and ethical responsibility, treating items not merely possessions but as irreplaceable witnesses to history. A true custodian acts as a bridge between the past and the future, ensuring that the stories behind the weapons, medals and equipment are maintained, understood and passed on future generations of collectors, or should we say other custodians to enjoy.

**\*NOTE\* Prohibited weapon Governor in Council Exemption take effect 28 days after joining.  
You can apply for a Category 1 Collectors licence after 6 months of membership.  
Your membership start date will be the date of your application, even if wasn't process it immediately.**

### NEED YOUR COLLECTORS LICENSE APPLICATION OR RENEWAL ENDORSED BY THE GUILD?

There are three members authorised to endorse applications:

**John Mc** Mob: 0402 367 055 Email: [majormac@bigpond.com](mailto:majormac@bigpond.com)

**Graham R.** Mob: 0417 137 232 Email: [membership@nvacg.org.au](mailto:membership@nvacg.org.au)

**Ricky S.** Mob: 0400 567 353 Ricky can be found behind the counter at Trellis's Shepparton, but phone him first to make an appointment, and bring your current membership card.

**Next NVACG Meeting: - Friday, June 12th 2026 at SSAA Shotgun Club Rooms  
1170 Midland Hwy, Pine Lodge VIC - 8.00pm**

## Collecting Rising Sun Badges.

The Australian Rising Sun (RS) badge on the Hat, Khaki, Fur Felt has had its place on world stage on the since 1901. To date there has been seven variations of this badge and is currently going into its 8<sup>th</sup> variation, under King Charles III's reign.

The most sort after and highly prized RS are 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> variations, these date back to the end of the Boer War period. These are inscribed "Australia" and "Australian Commonwealth Horse" and are out of reach to most collectors at a starting price of \$2000 plus. (Picture 1)



The most collected RS are ones manufactured between 1904 to 1949. Which are known to collectors as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Variation, with many various Australian, UK, Middle East and Switzerland Manufacturers. The RS itself had inscribed "Australian Commonwealth Military Force".

The most prized in anyone's collection of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Variation would be a Tip Taft slider (Picture 2) from Birmingham. Some collectors call this the light horse RS, but this is a huge mistake in the collector's market. This is an English manufacturers standard process at the time to meet high demand, as most English badges had sliders for easier attachment particularly to the garrison cap, trench cap, service dress cap and the Wolseley pith helmet and were also easily detached for cleaning.

The Australian Army preferred the two lugs attachment than the slider. So most Australian manufactured badges have this fitting to them. Although some English manufacturers such as Firmin, Gaunt, Lambourne and Jennings did do lugs as well as most Scottish regiments and a few British cavalry regiments preferred the lugs as well. Stokes and son Melbourne, A J Parkes of Brisbane and Sheridan's of Western Australia are believed to be the only known WWI Australian manufacturers at this time.

The rarest of these RS would have to be the Swiss Jeweller manufactured badges for about 500 who evaded recapture after the collapse of Italy in 1943. The official number is unknown but there is one authentic Swiss manufactured RS currently in a private collection within Australia.

The most disputed RS are Theatre Made ones. Most of these were manufactured in either Egypt or Palestine (Israel) during both wars. These RS badges were sandcast and issued when RS were in short supply due to soldiers' trade of trading badges. Many new collectors first believe that K G Lukes of Melbourne was also a WWI RS manufacturer, although K G Luke did his apprenticeship at Stokes, he didn't open his own company until 1921. Where Luke would start manufacturing RS in 1934 after winning a small Government contract. By 1939 Stokes, Luke and Arendsen were the main manufacturing companies of RS as Australia's main military Headquarters was in Melbourne before moving to Brisbane in August 1942 to be in more control over the Southwest Pacific Area. Other Manufacturers were Amor, General Plastics, A. J. Parkes, G A Miller and Sheridan.



By 1949 The Australian Army went through a major reconstruction this included the redesigning of the RS. The Australian Army had dropped "Commonwealth" and the inscription would now read "Australian Military Forces" (Picture 3) it would still retain its Tudor (king's) Crown that it had done since 1902. This 4<sup>th</sup> variation would see one more war before being replaced in 1954 by 5<sup>th</sup> variation with a change of crown to St Edwards Crown (Queen's Crown) (Picture 4). Although this was approved and issued in 1954. It wasn't widely used until 1966 as the Army was using up old stocks of Tudor Crowns first. The 5<sup>th</sup> Variation RS would remain in service until 1972.



The 6<sup>th</sup> Variation was first designed in 1969 but wasn't fully approved until late 1972. This RS had been modified greatly the words "AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES" had been replaced with just word "AUSTRALIA" (Picture 5). The centre crown was replaced by the Federation Star with a smaller St Edward's (Queens) Crown in the centre of the Star. This RS, although there was but not widely used in its service as an actual RS badge. The 6<sup>th</sup> variation was seen more on recruitment posters and stationery. The 6<sup>th</sup> Variation RS this time would also a change in attachments going from Lugs to Clutch and pin backing until its phasing out 1991. Even the 5<sup>th</sup> Variation was still in use by some units as the Department of Supply was still using these older stocks.

In 1991 the 7<sup>th</sup> Variation (Picture 6) was entered into service, cancelling out 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Variations from service. The badge was first designed in 1988 for the Australian 200 years celebrations. Again, the wording was changed to "THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY".

The first issue of these were non-voided. The Australian Government and the Army believed had the look of moulded plastic, so a voided RS was manufactured which is currently still in service to this day.



The 8<sup>th</sup> variation was first approved in August of 2025. It now has the Tudor (Kings) crown in place due to King Charles III reign. (No Picture Available) This RS will take about a year to introduce into the Australian Army, and the Army is currently in the process of doing so.

## PARTS WANTED

Westley Richards "Monkeytail" gun parts namely lock and hammer etc. Also a complete firearm with good barrel and in good working order. contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email



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

Here you will find all the news and details for up 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

@ShepartonArmsExpo

