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*Volume 8 Issue 1 11th October 2005*

*PO Box 752 Ringwood 3134 Vic. Australia*

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Newsletter of the **Victorian Colonial Infantry Association Inc**



Incorporating Mt Alexander Rifles

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All Membership enquires, and, All contributions to the  
 Newsletter to be sent to:

**The Secretary**  
**Victorian Colonial Infantry Association Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 752 Ringwood 3134 Vic. Australia**

*Next Meeting*

*T.B.A.*

Website Address:

[http://  
home.vicnet.net.au/](http://home.vicnet.net.au/)

## *AIMS & OBJECTIVES*

1. To research the history of the Victorian Colonial Infantry Regiments with particular reference to the Volunteer Rifles in the period 1865 - 1895, and particularly the Mt Alexander Rifles Regiment.
2. To establish & maintain a living history group to recreate the Mt Alexander Rifles in the 1865 - 1895 period.
3. To research and preserve the skills and attributes of the 19th Century Rifleman.
4. To provide a resource to other historical organisations and the Community at large.

*Cover Picture:*  
 Tamminick Encampment 2005, looking up the gully from the  
 VCIA camp

## *THE EDITORIAL*

On behalf of all the members I would like to express our condolences to Geoff Gleadall on the passing away of his mother on the 30th September.

The last meeting was held on the 4th September 2005, this was the AGM, see report later on.

***Never Raise Your  
Hands To Your  
Kids – It Leaves  
Your Groin Unpro-  
tected.***

It was when I was sitting down to do this newsletter that I realised that none has been done since January, my apologies but the committee is running one short, so most of the extra work falls to yours truly.

We have been present at a number of events recently, Dinner at the Tivoli Club in lieu of Little River dinner, Flag day at Federation Square, Cape Otway and Tamminick.

Our next event is Separation Tree at the botanical Gardens on 12 November then Australia Day 2006 at the City Of Monash.

I have enclosed a membership renewal and account with this newsletter.

You will all need to fill out the renewal and return. If you possess a sword then you will need to sign the declaration that you are not a prohibited person. This is to ensure that we comply with the Prohibited Weapons Act. and that we keep our exempt group status with regards to the Act.

We have now acquired a covered trailer that we can use to transport our equipment to various functions, most helpful when weather is inclement and we want everything to stay dry, which also brings me to the point of storage of equipment. If anyone knows where some equipment could be stored long term, let me know as my garage is getting full.

In a deal with the National Archives, they are lending me the film records of the original Muser returns for the Volunteers. These are being copied, so that they can be indexed along with our list of Officers. Anyone with access to a computer who would like to assist in this project please contact me.

Finally we have had a response from Museum Victoria about a old 32 pdr cannon barrel that they had with a concrete filled breech that we offered to take off their hands and restore. This was decided so that we could re create the Hastings battery of the Victorian Rangers. As this was not forthcoming we need a cannon barrel , anyone know where there is one available.

Tom Corformat  
Secretary VCIA Inc.

## Tamminick 2005

.This year Tamminick 2005 was held over the weekend of 1/2 October 2005 at the NEML range 15 km outside Glenrowan.

Four of us travelled there in Geoff's landrover and arrived about 3pm on the Friday, where we proceeded to set up our encampment.

After this was done we followed our usual custom and headed to the Glenrowan pub for a counter meal. While the meal was up to their usual high standards, the service was a bit slow, probably due to about 18 of us from the camp descending on them.

After dinner we headed back to the camp for a bit of networking.

It was Friday night that Geoff received his call saying that his mother had passed away.

As was to be expected he and his family that were in attendance decided to head home Saturday morning, which posed its own problem as Ian & I had travelled up with him and his vehicle was the only one able to tow our trailer.

This was solved by him taking Nick Duff's car home and nick following Sunday afternoon with us and the trailer

Weather wise, the weekend was perfect, nice sunny days and temperate evenings.

Garry arrived about lunchtime on Saturday, so there were 3 of there, and since neither Garry or me are ardent adherents to drill we paraded with the Noralunga Rifles from SA.

Dinner Saturday night saw the return of the Marquee, but there were considerable grumblings about the quality of the meal, but it was good to be able to have everyone in one area and not be packed in like sardines. As it was there were 131 people who sat down for the meal.

At the debrief on Sunday, it was decided that to keep the cost down that we would forgo the dessert, and for each unit to provide something in this area.

Sunday morning saw the last few groups compete in the Phil Hill skirmish shoot, as there was not enough time on Saturday to complete it.

As I was one of the teams, along with a lad from Noralunga, I felt we were at a disadvantage as Sunday morning and loud noises usually do not bode well for me.

But that aside, we managed to come second.

*My mind is like a  
steel trap – rusty  
and illegal in all  
states.*

Saturday afternoon the local DFO was on the prowl with another of the local constabulary, however it was felt that apart from showing the flag, they were more interested in the cannon shoot. Apart from the absence of our President, and the sad necessity for this, it was one of the better weekends there, perfect weather and we actually came home with a gong.

Tom Corfmat

Attached is a Report from John Haskell of NEML re Tamminick 2005

Hi People,

Well, another Taminick has come and gone. (it didn't rain!) The marquee return was a success with all, as was the relaxed shooting program, it gave people time to socialise and swap information. The drill competition was well fought with first and third separated only by seven points. The Phill Hill shoot was changed this year to try and remove the differences between rifled arms and smoothbores, this has succeeded as the winners used brown besses. Next year it will be modified again to speed up the event as the 15 minute time limit was a tad too long. The scoring was calculated on time, targets addressed, technique of manoeuvring, and reporting what was seen during the course.

The dinner was a little disappointing as we used a new caterer this year and the meal was not suited for use in flat tin plates and was a little runny!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Although by the time the meal was served I was in no state to cast critique on the meal or anything else. Enough said, it will be fixed next year.

The Blue & Grey were nominated as the host unit next year and I believe they are in planning already. The inaugural Brown Memorial cannon shoot occurred with Nelson's Navy taking out the perpetual trophy, with a spectacular last shot that destroyed the target frames and eliminated everyone else.

The best Historic Camp was won by the Blue & Grey but the normal trophy did not turn up so a certificate was awarded in place of this.

Post Mortem.

We held a wrap up meeting on the Sunday morning to get ideas on how things went. Complaints were received about the quantity and quality of the meal served at the dine in night, NEML agreed with this and will revert to the three meat and veg roast. We will remove the right of the host unit to dictate the meal and stick with the proven. There were problems with people booking in for the dinner and not turning up, and the persons unit or NEML, were left to pay for the meal, next year we will revert to paying for the meal up front when you register.

Questions were asked where the perpetual cadet cup was, as it has not been awarded for several years. I have circulated a note earlier trying

to track this down, if you know of its whereabouts, please let me know as we would like it back to re-award in future.

I have had some feedback on the weekend, but would appreciate constructive suggestions you may have on the weekend.

The results of the events are listed below. Thanks again to everyone for making this a great encampment.

Cheers,

H

Application shoot: Reg Shaw 88  
Nic Grugris 85  
Dick Schwer 76

Brown Cannon Shoot 1st Nelsons Navy  
2nd Moira County  
3rd Rowan Artillery

Drill Comp 40th 167  
P&M 166  
95th 160.5

Phil Hill 1st David Green & Peter Hawkey  
2nd Tom Corfmat & Nic Grugric  
3rd Oscar Wilde & Bill Lincoln

Best Historical Encampment Blue & Grey

## **AGM 2005**

The AGM for 2005 was held on Sunday 4th September 2005 at Ringwood.

While it has been a relatively quiet year there have been a few things going on and these were discussed at the meeting.

Among items discussed were

- \* Helping out MUR with relation to history pre 1901 and with their museum
- \* Need to recruit more members
- \* Dinner at the Tivoli Club
- \* 2006 Genealogy Conference
- \* Index of Volunteers to be published by SLV.
- \* Attendance at gun show with SSAA
- \* Australia Day 2006 with Monash Council
- \* Military Tattoo 28 April 2006
- \* Web page upgrade

Fees will stay the same, \$30.00 per year. It is worthwhile noting that we have not had to change the fees for quite a number of years. This is due largely to the fact that we are able to raise funds from public appearances, thereby keeping costs to members down, and while we can keep the bank balance in the black then this situation can continue.

In order for this to continue we do need to see more people in uniform at these events..

All current Office Bearers were returned unopposed, but we still have the position of Vice President open.. So for those of you who would like to help with the running of the Association and take a bit of pressure of the committee, feel free to contact me about what is required..

Tom Corformat  
Secretary  
Victorian Colonial Infantry Association Inc.

## **CAPE OTWAY 2005**

Again this year we were invited to the Cape Otway light station over the weekend of 20/21 August 2005

We were supposed to kick off at 6am from Ringwood, however I will lay the blame for the late start squarely with Capt James who kept me awake for most of the Friday night.

We all travelled down with Geoff and arrived about 11am. As for last year we were working with the police group and doing a dramatic recreation of the sacking of the first light keeper.

Weather wise it was bad, the rain was intermittent all weekend and the wind was quite strong, to the extent that if you were on top of the lighthouse there was the real possibility of being blown off.

As usual we were put up in the lighthouse keepers cottage where we didn't have to worry about the weather, but inspection of the tent on Sunday morning revealed a large hole had been ripped in the front of our tent.

The meal on Saturday night was excellent, and this time we didn't get into strife with the telegraphists by making a lot of noise.

Sunday was a repeat of the Saturday , with the weather showing no sign of let up so about 3pm we packed up and headed home.

The numbers were down on last year, but I would attribute this to the lousy weather.

For the event last year, they took a few photos and put them on their website. These can be viewed at

<http://www.lighthouse.net.au/lights/VIC/Cape%20Otway/Telegraph%20Celebrates%20Restoration%20ps%201.jpg>

Tom Corformat

From: "Quick, Neville" <NQuick@museum.vic.gov.au>

To: <tcormat@iimetro.com.au>

Subject: re inquiry

Date: Friday, 7 October 2005 11:42 AM

Dear Tom,

I am sorry it has taken this long to respond to your request re the cannon at Abbotsford. Unfortunately Museum Victoria is not in a position to offer that cannon to you.

However there is a second larger unit in the yard at Abbotsford (a heavy Morser [Howitzer]) which we would be prepared to offer your group. I'm not sure if it fits within the range of material your group collects/utilises. Its a large and heavy (excess of 3 tonnes) unit. If you're interested we can arrange transport.

Feel free to contact me on 0417 384 795 to discuss further.

Again sorry I wasn't able to contact you earlier regarding your inquiry.

Thanks for your patience Tom,

Regards,

Neville.

This e-mail is solely for the named addressee and may be confidential. You should only read, disclose, transmit, copy, distribute, act in reliance on or commercialise the contents if you are authorised to do so. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, please notify [postmaster@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:postmaster@museum.vic.gov.au) by e-mail immediately, or notify the sender and then destroy any copy of this message. Views expressed in this e-mail are those of the individual sender, except where specifically stated to be those of an officer of Museum Victoria. Museum Victoria does not represent, warrant or guarantee that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free from errors, virus or interference.

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I think we will have to decline as it is not readily transportable and does not really fit in with our aims & objectives

Tom