



ANZAC DAY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

Welcome again to you all I thought it was time to make the connection to members I know many of you will be used to me “Rabbiting on” and I thought after almost a month in our bubbles during this pandemic of COVID 19 with the reading material getting low and our list of lets take this opportunity to do the chores ! that have been on our list diminishing, I thought a few words of a different nature.

I can't wait to hear about everyone's at home antics, polishing the bottles and dusting the shelves rearranging the collections, researching the firms and companies your passionate about, the collectables shifted from shelf to shelf and room to room as the decorating has been finally completed etc.

Everywhere you turn the economy is the topic of conversation. There is no doubt about it times are tough for many folks. However even in these challenging conditions there are opportunities that still exist for those who collect, trade me even though finishing times were pushed out and Facebook embraced collectors to exhibit their collections and obviously trading behind the scenes albeit collection of these items may be sometime away yet.

I trust that everyone's bubbles are solid and that we can remember this Saturday with pride for those that have served and those who still wear the uniform. The RSA and the Defence Force have teamed up for the Stand at Dawn. All New Zealanders are being encouraged to stand in their driveways at 6am and the National event will be broad cast on Radio NZ National. We will not be able to stand at the Dawn service, but we will be able to stand at our gates and show that appreciation for those who should not be forgotten.

Remember those lost and harmed whilst serving, also remember those who have served and returned and for those who are presently serving in the Armed Forces



The RSA and the NZ Defence Forces have set up a special website to commemorate Anzac Day. The details are available at <https://medium.com/@nzdefenceforce/stand-at-dawn-anzac-day-2020-b5270082c0e6>



From our collection a Royal Doulton plate which fits the mood of this weekend

Whilst I was putting things together for my wee newsletter I came across this info (if not 100% factual still a great story).

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which The Last Post was played and did you ever wonder the story behind the song. It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But did you know the story behind the song ? Reportedly it all began in 1862 during the American Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw it was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. But out of respect for the father they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. The wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as The Last Post used at Military funerals was born.





Letter from the President

Kia Ora Members,

Yet again we find ourselves in an unprecedented situation with the inability to come together safely in groups. This restriction seems trivial when we see the international news and the stellar effort of our communities to ward off the devastation. There has been great leadership demonstrated throughout this pandemic here in NZ.

Today, as I write, it is ANZAC Day. 'Lest we Forget' our thoughts are with those of our whakapapa that fought for our freedom.

As a club we are currently in a holding pattern unable to meet physically. When it is safe, at the appropriate level to do so, we will return to our gatherings.

Meanwhile for those who are tech savvy there is our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179113295575516/>

A big call out to Lindsey Best who has been putting up great posts for the collecting community.

Thank you, Ann May, for contacting members to check on well-being. We hope you all stay well during this time.

I am sure in this down time members have re-ordered their collections and hoards! My collection room has never looked so tidy! Also, the weather has been favourable for us to take time in the garden. Vitamin D is important.

Finishing note, I am enjoying the Repair Shop program on Fridays! Good show!

Thank you, Helen, for the great work on the Newsletter's.

Until we meet again,

best regards

Craig Gurney

Curious items from Memory Lane some of which their function could be hard to guess

It is wrong to assume that the folks from the past were less inventive than you and I today. Their imagination was rich to create a variety of things, some of which were useful and others well quite strange.

Reminds you of a horn for wine doesn't it? -it's a car vase for flowers, the flowers not only served for interior decoration but also as means to perfume the vehicle



1.This miniature golf club served as pick however unlike modern plastic picks it was reusable. The peculiar tentacles at the end of it were used if the person wanted to pull an olive or cherry from the cocktail.



2.The youth of today may not have even seen rotary phones let alone the devices that were put on the end of pencils which made it easier for those who preferred to not dial the number with their fingers.

3. In addition to well-known accounting frames there were other devices for example this round mechanical calculator call Optima which was release around 1900 in Germany



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4 Before to invention of the household refrigerators and freezers there was a whole industry revolving around selling ice. It was harvested in winter collected from surfaces of lakes and stored in glaciers where it could be stored all year round and from there delivered to customers in the form of blocks. The hook was used to break off the ice and move its pieces without touching them with your hands.



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5. If you have already seen a Victorian spoon like this and thought it was a nice Jam spoon you were confused it was intended exclusively for ice cream

6. This device was made to help peel the shells off hard boiled eggs



Social Media Posts

Well there has been a hive of activity on these posts and it is been great to see so many collectors out there sharing information from the security of their bubble. One thing that did cross my mind would not our clubs be amazing if the same amount of energy and vigour were displayed in our clubs, but I guess that's wishful thinking.

We have so many groups connecting collectors from all over the world with our hobby or branches of it.

It has been through these posts that Warren and I have learned of the passing of some friends and fellow collectors in UK from COVID 19 and it's been a stark reminder of what is actually happening worldwide and that we have to date have largely missed due to our border lockdown and level 4 alert, whether we agree or not with the government.

The banter that is had through these media links has obviously kept collectors engaged and sharing and sometimes trading behind the scenes which must be a great thing to keep our hobby alive.

Memory Lane

I'm sure we have all had a memory lane moment over the last 4 weeks whilst dusting off our collections rearranging the photos or finally sorting out that bottom drawer if you have dusted off some interesting items or pictures please don't hesitate to send them through to Hugh the magazine editor for our next official Magazine

hughaston1944@gmail.com



Rob Packer, of Richmond, with his Farm Kill 1930s collection at the Antique and Collectables Show



Jill Galley, of Richmond, has been collecting mourning jewellery for about 20 years. A Victorian mourning brooch exhibited at the National and Collectables Show in Nelson. A locket and a bracelet, both made of human hair

BUBBLES AND BAROMETERS

Hugh Aston

Who would have thought on April 25, 2019 that the next ANZAC Day would be so vastly different from normal? No-one lived in a bubble back then and a world-wide pandemic was the stuff of science fiction. After 4 weeks of virtually total lockdown we are all eager to take the first faltering steps back to normality. However, it's most important to continue staying at home as much as possible and to maintain the 2 metres "social distancing" when out and about, plus regular and thorough hand washing with soap.

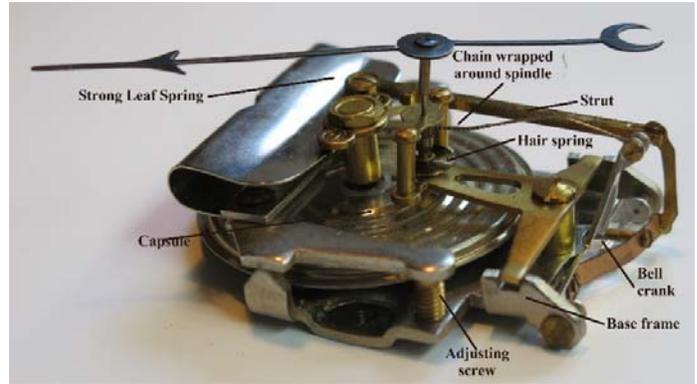
I have a lot of time for Clinical Psychologist Nigel Lata, who advises against setting unrealistic targets during lockdown and avoiding conflict in the home by "going with the flow".

"You don't need to come out of lockdown with a clean house, six new skills, perfectly cut fringe, and having lost 5kgs. You need to come out of lockdown without having infected or endangered anyone. That's it. That's your job."

There happened to be a couple of nice barometers in my workshop awaiting attention – ideal lockdown projects – but firstly, more about barometers... They seem to be gaining in popularity, especially with younger collectors and interior decorators/designers. In my view, they are a nice item to collect and almost up there with clocks! However, what are they actually used for? Essentially, they are a basic weather forecasting device, displaying changes in barometric pressure. When the pressure drops, expect bad weather; when it rises, you may be in for a fine spell. The barometer mechanism is designed to retain some residual friction, so to find whether there has been any change since you last checked your device, you gently tap on the glass and mentally note the change in needle position. Then you turn the "marker" needle to align with the indicator needle, ready for the next check.

Most household barometers are the “aneroid” type, from the Greek meaning “without liquid”. (How many have you seen described on Trade Me as “android”?) Prior to the invention of the “aneroid” type, most barometers used a column of liquid, either mercury or water – very inconvenient.

Referring to the picture of a typical aneroid barometer movement, it starts with the capsule which contains a vacuum, or at least it should do. If the capsule looks bloated and the needle is pointing downwards, then I’m sorry to say that your barometer has breathed its last. A healthy device will have small changes in the position of the “strong leaf spring” with pressure changes. These small changes are amplified via the “strut”, “bell crank” and “chain wrapped around spindle”. A small “hairspring” keeps the needle in the correct position. Some components are similar to those used in clocks and can often be repaired.



Barometers come in a variety of materials and styles. One of the more popular types at present is the “Banjo”, wall mounted type with carved oak frame, porcelain dial and mercury bulb thermometer.

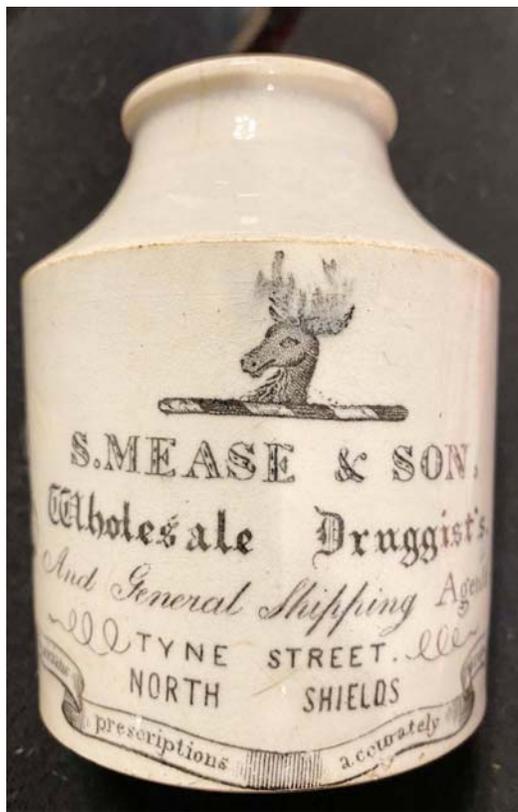
This particular one had a broken porcelain thermometer scale and main dial, but these have undergone “invisible” (well, almost) repairs. The brass presentation plaque is dated “9-10-25”.

The other barometer is also a wall mounted style with nice deep carving of the oak and a very attractive porcelain dial. The dial has the retailers mark, “Petersens Ltd Christchurch NZ”, as well as “Ellery’s Indications”, which puts it around the early 1900s. The bevelled edge glass has been broken and will be replaced as soon as I’m allowed to escape my “bubble”!!



Hugh Aston





Solomon Mease Mustard Pot

I acquired this pot from a friend in Melbourne, who dug it up in the famous City Road tip in 90's.

Curious to find out more about it especially how old it might be so going online and discovered the following

Solomon Mease was born in 1800 at Ayton near Stokerley Cleveland North East England, educated and studied as a Chemist & Druggist in Stokesley but found the town to quiet for his trade moved to North Shields

He ran his business for around 50 years and had a busy life taking a deep interest in North Shields, holding position in all civic offices, being twice elected Mayor of Tynemouth and acting as a borough magistrate.

He was in partnership from 1853 with son Robert Mease for a short period of time, but that partnership was dissolved on 18th May 1858

He died on 27th June 1871 and was interred in the Preston cemetery in Tynemouth

So, from this information the pot dates around 1853 -1858

In searching for this information a prominent UK collector advised me he has not sighted that version of pot before, making me wonder if they were Made for export to Goldfields of Australia, timing works for the age of the pot and the Victorian gold rush

Warren Roberts



To Craig and Hugh and Warren thanks for your contributions I am sure the members will enjoy your articles and again if anyone in the club needs assistance please don't hesitate to let me know or one of your great committee members know and we will do our best to assist.



Obviously due to the situation we are in and our ability to go to print during this pandemic the launch of the club book is on hold we will keep everyone well informed when we will be taking orders I know many have indicated that they wish to have a copy but we still need to confirm costings etc



If you are on the front line in any industry, please stay safe and thank you for your contribution

HAPPY ANZAC WEEKEND EVERYONE

Helen Cater