

## WARA Museum Newsletter Number 1, June 2023

### From Swanbourne to Pinjar

The Museum Committee has been busy erecting new displays of historic photographs, trophies, shooting implements and other artefacts brought from Swanbourne to the new facility at Pinjar. Shooters who popped into the museum on the days we were open at last year's King's PM found a large display of photographs on the walls and numerous artefacts on tables and in the few cabinets we have. The next opening of the Museum will be 11 June and then at the Kings.

The Committee aims to have the Museum open on most Saturday afternoons and throughout the Kings PM but more display cabinets are needed to display and secure items before this happens.

### Rifle Shooting Around WA



Who has heard of the Babakin – Bilbarin, Davyhurst and Round Hill Rifle Clubs? Over 270 clubs were established in WA from 1900 to the present. While some were short lived, all of them contributed to our sport. A complete list is being prepared.

The WARA Museum aims to use photographs and artefacts to tell the story of rifle shooting throughout WA. This will be done by displaying photos and items donated by clubs and individuals. The following photos are of items on display.

*Figure 1 Goomalling Rifle Club John Cummings Memorial Shield. Winners included Wongan Hills, Pingelly, Goomalling, Kellerberrin and Northam.*



Figure 2 Leonora Rifle Club 1932



Champion Shooters are represented through their King's badges kindly donated by their families.

*Arthur Charles Turrell* was born in Leichhardt, NSW, in 1885 and died 1934. He was the chief engineer on the S.S. Kalinda and the S.S. Bambra. He saw service with the goldfield infantry regiment in 1904. He won the Kings prize in 1906 at Kalgoorlie and shot in the Commonwealth teams' event in Adelaide for WA in 1908. The Collection includes the Kings prize medal, the Hackett shield team medal for the Kalgoorlie Rifle Club in 1906 and the 1904/5 yearly aggregate medal for his club. Donated by M Turrell.

Figure 3 A C Turrell

*Oliver Rees*, a confectioner and baker, and an accomplished member of the St Arnaud Rifle Club in Victoria from 1900. He moved to WA and joined the Pingelly Rifle Club winning a gold medal in 1906. He opened a furniture store in 1910 but soon moved to Merredin opening a tea rooms in 1912. By 1937 he was living in Cottesloe and was a member of the East Perth Rifle Club.



Figure 4 Oliver Rees' medallion collection



Figure 5 Bert Dohle's shooting hat

WH (Bert) Dohle was a motor mechanic and welder who bought a garage in Bruce Rock in 1941. He enlisted for WW2 and upon release in 1946 returned to Bruce Rock and the rifle club. He was a consistently successful shooter who represented his club and the Central Wheatbelt District Rifle Association for many years. He was awarded a life membership for his contribution to the Bruce Rock Rifle Club in 1971.

The Museum has a range of shooting equipment on display. Once the new Police rules are known, we are hopeful that we can also get approval to display historic rifles from our collection.

#### Mues Original Rifle Back Sight

This item was used by Alf "Pop" Coleman of the Newdegate Rifle Club [Donated by Newdegate Rifle Club]



The 'Nose Knocker' Rear Sight  
 First made about 1907 by BSA. Intended to fit in place of the backsight portion of the long-range open sight. Used by EW Rose from Perth Rifle Club. Donated by D Samson

## WARA Museum now on Collections WA

The Museum Committee aims to provide a comprehensive display but not every item we have can be displayed. Therefore, the Committee aims to share as much of our collection as possible with members and the public on Collections WA. Collections WA is a free database provided by the WA Museum for clubs to use to record collections. We have only just started but already have a good selection of the collection available for viewing.

Here is the online address for Collections WA: <https://collectionswa.net.au/> Click on the “Organisations” menu and roll down to and click on “West Australian Rifle Association” to view the collection.



Figure 6 WARA Museum

### Tasks Ahead

The Committee is investigating ways to safely display a selection of historic rifles and is continuing to catalogue its collection. Cataloguing includes digitising photos – many are fading rapidly and far too many aren't labelled. The Committee is seeking help to identify photographs and objects. Please contact Peter if you can help.

#### **More cabinets are needed.**

By far the most urgent task ahead is to find or obtain funds for more lockable glass cabinets to properly display items  
**Can you help?** If so, please contact Peter Ridgway (Chair, Museum Committee) on [pridgway3@gmail.com](mailto:pridgway3@gmail.com)