



HERITAGE ARMS SOCIETY Inc.

CONSOLIDATED BY-LAWS August, 2017

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1. CUT-OFF DATE OF ARMS ACCEPTABILITY

The Cut-Off Date of Arms Acceptability is those manufactured one hundred (100) years prior to the current year.

2. DISPLAY OF ORDNANCE AND AMMUNITION.

No live explosive ordnance or ammunition is to be tabled. Small arms ammunition can only be tabled if displayed in an appropriate sealed container.

3. PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Junior/Student/Concessional Membership is to be known as Provisional Membership.

An applicant will be entitled to Provisional Membership if the Committee is satisfied that:

- The applicant's particulars are consistent with the requirements of the Constitution and the SA Firearms Act 2015 and Regulations 2017. Character references may be waived.
- A Junior Member is a person under the age of eighteen (18) years.
- A Student Member is a person who is undertaking full time studies in a recognised educational facility.
- A Concessional Member is a person who supplies evidence of financial disadvantage, or the applicant resides more than 200 kilometres from the Adelaide Metropolitan area, or has acceptable reasons for being unable to attend meetings.

Provisional members must be over fourteen (14) years of age, have full voting rights, and the annual subscription is half that of Ordinary Membership. Attendance at meetings, and/or the joining fee may be waived.

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the third (3rd) Friday of each month commencing at 7.30 pm.

5. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES.

Heritage Arms Society Inc. (HAS) is a "Recognised Firearms Club" under the SA Firearms Act 2015. Loss of police endorsement would have serious consequences for all members. The obligations imposed on the society by the Act must be respected by all members.

To retain a Collectors Licence you must demonstrate "active membership" by attending at least four meetings per year and displaying items at meetings. As an alternative to attendance, a member may display at community events with Committee approval, publish articles in the Society newsletter or other journals, and recruit new members or similar activities that promote arms collecting.

If for any reason you cannot comply with this requirement, a twelve month exemption must be obtained by applying to the registrar of firearms, with a supporting letter from this association.

Members must be recognised as "fit and proper persons" to possess firearms and other weapons, that is: having a character that casts no doubt on their ability to act lawfully.

Members should be familiar with the Society's Constitution, the SA Firearms Act 2015 and Regulations 2017, and the Summary Offences Act and Regulations.

Members should note that bayonets and double edged blades must be catalogued to confirm collector status.

The society is obliged to notify the Registrar of Firearms if a member:

- does not renew membership
- does not meet the "active member" requirements
- a character deficiency becomes apparent
- is expelled from the society

Application for renewal of membership will be judged on these requirements.

The active promotion of arms collecting and the recruitment of new members is essential.

6. SAFETY RULES

A Safety Officer shall be appointed at every meeting. All arms are to be inspected by a member of the committee before being placed on display. Display items are not to be handled without the owner's permission. All arms, by their very nature, are potentially dangerous. Always treat them as such and be constantly aware of the necessity for safe handling.

The following safety rules must be adhered to:

6.1. Always check that a firearm is not loaded.

- 6.2. Always treat every firearm, antique or modern, as if it were loaded. Where practical keep the action open.
- 6.3. Never point any firearm at another person.
- 6.4. Do not “play” with firearms.
- 6.5. Do not shoulder or point a long arm or edged weapon without taking precautions with regard to people, furniture and light fittings.
- 6.6. Do not display loose ammunition with firearms. If ammunition is displayed with firearms, ensure that the ammunition is securely packaged or mounted.
- 6.7. Always treat the blade of every edged weapon with caution.

If any member notices any unsafe behaviour they should take action immediately.

7. ETHICS AND ETIQUETTE

7.1. The Ethics of Heritage

“We hold heritage in trust for the benefit of future generations”. The principal ethic in caring for heritage arms is absolute respect for the historic integrity and authenticity of the piece. Two responsibilities for members flow from this:

- Grandpa’s axe is not Grandpa’s axe if it has a replaced head and a new handle, or if it has been restored to “like new”.
- Future generations will not know the axe was Grandpa’s, or who Grandpa was, if its owner does not record its history.

7.2. The Ethics of Trading in Arms

Fair trading with fellow collectors and the general public is expected at all times. Misrepresentation by the vendor of an item’s value, rarity, condition, authenticity or provenance; withholding of information; withholding of parts of arms; or any other practice to gain unfair advantage is unacceptable.

7.3. The Etiquette of Inspecting and Handling Arms

Etiquette for collectors is little more than plain old fashioned good manners. By respecting our colleagues and their collections, we should find that respect reciprocated.

When inspecting a colleague’s collection, the following few simple rules should always be observed:

- 7.3.1. The property and beliefs of every fellow enthusiast should be treated with respect. Never assume you know more than the owner, and be gracious with their embellishment of the facts.
- 7.3.2. Ask, or wait to be invited to handle an arm. When permission is given, it is important that the arm be handled safely and professionally. Some collectors require gloves. Checking that it is not loaded should be instinctive. Ensure the arm does not make contact with furnishings, particularly light fittings. Removal and replacement of arms from cases, and from wall mountings, should be

done by the owner.

- 7.3.3. A firearm should be held by the wood of the grips or the stock; if you wish to balance or rotate it, rest it on the sleeve of your other arm. Fingertips on metal cause corrosion. Never touch inside the bore or cylinders. In the case of edged weapons, always hold them by the grip. Never touch the blade.
- 7.3.4. Never dry-fire a firearm.
- 7.3.5. Do not cock a firearm, operate an action or manipulate any moving part of an arm unless invited to do so. Old springs can break and are usually irreplaceable. Never snap an action closed. Relieve all springs gently.
- 7.3.6. Do not allow a leather scabbard to bend. Old leather is fragile, without the blade to support it, it may break.
- 7.3.7. Do not, without having rapport with the owner:
 - ask the price paid for an item
 - immediately ask if an arm is available for sale or trade
 - denigrate the arm's quality, condition or provenance

It is natural to be interested in the arm's history, and where it was obtained in general terms. Discreet questions will find out how much the owner knows, and wants to know.

7.4. The Ethics of Restoration and Conservation

- 7.4.1. Conservation should always maintain the originality and integrity of the arm. With respect to restoration, a range of opinions exist. The following is necessarily simplistic, but is a guide:
 - (a) 'Relic' arms should be kept as just that.
 - (b) Honest patina, wear, loss of finish, some corrosion and bruised or gouged woodwork are the "character" that make old arms old, and reflect their history. Preserve the "oldness".
 - (c) Practice restoration techniques on valueless arms.
 - (d) Over-restored" arms are common. It is not always pointed out to the owner, through politeness. Do not misunderstand that as acceptance.
 - (e) Never alter an original arm to fit a replacement part – always alter the part regardless of the extra effort.
 - (f) Do not swap around the accessories between casings.
- 7.4.2. It is important and highly recommended to preserve the documentary evidence associated with significant arms, so that such information does not die with the owner.
 - (a) Document any provenance that came with the arm, obtain Statutory Declarations or letters from previous owners.
 - (b) Maintain a catalogue of your collection identifying markings and inscriptions on the arm, published references and other information.

- (c) Note any accessories particular to that arm.
- (d) Ensure that your survivors/executor will be aware of the existence of the information.

8. THE ETHICS OF DISPLAYING ARMS

- 8.1 An arm poorly presented is, to the uninitiated, an “instrument for killing”. Presented in an educational way, using a “theme”, an arm is transformed to a key element in the path of history.
- 8.2 Provide captions, aimed at the novice, giving broad and interesting details, particularly in the use of such arms in the Australian experience. Include related artefacts’ in the display to develop a theme.
- 8.3 In discussion with the public, show a positive image of collecting, both the social (like membership of clubs, networking, displaying) and the intellectual aspects (like researching, publishing, and restoration). Emphasise the important place of arms in history, cultural traditions, technological development, precision engineering, artistry and design.

9. PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

- 9.1 Membership subscriptions are due by the last day of June annually.
- 9.2 In the case of a new member joining between January and March their subscription will be discounted by 50%, the joining fee remains unchanged.
- 9.3 In the case of a new member joining after March and before the end of June, they will pay the full subscription fee and joining fee; however that fee will cover them up to and including the end of June in the following year.

10. MEMBERSHIP FEES

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| 10.1 One Years’ Ordinary Member ship Fee | \$45 |
| 10.2 One Years’ Family Member ship Fee | \$65 |
| 10.3 One Year’s Concessional (Students, Junior and Interstate etc.) Member ship Fee | \$25 |
| 10.4 Application Fee | \$15 |

I hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the By-Laws of the Heritage Arms Society Incorporated which were adopted on the 17th day of August, 2018.



Catherine Anne Brimage
Public Officer
Dated this 17th August 2018.