

The regional contribution to *Platypus* this time comes from Northern Region, where Senior Constable Ray Bedford, urged on by his Commander Chief Superintendent 'Doc' Gillespie, has put together a few items to indicate that 'north of twenty-eight' is as interesting as the rest of the country.

# DEATH DEALING DEVICES

by Senior Constable Mike Butcher

AS a Firearms Instructor, one of the things that intrigues me is the way that weapons can be adapted and changed to suit circumstances. The term 'weapon' is intended to include various types of firearm and versions of the blade or knife. Over recent years, I have made a record of some of the more unusual items. Because they are recent, the examples mentioned should prove of interest to both the younger and more Senior members of the AFP.

Most of the unusual weaponry encountered within the Region has come from two sources, those presented to the Firearms Testing Officer for safety testing, and those seized by members in the normal course of duty.

## Dardick Pistol

Model 1500 of about .38 calibre and manufactured by the Dardick Corporation USA came to notice as a result of a legitimate application to import by a collector. The weapon portrays features that are quite revolutionary in handgun design. Outwardly it is a cross between a revolver and an automatic, but it is the ammunition itself called a 'Tround' instead of a 'Round' which makes it unusual.

The term 'Tround' is derived from the fact that each cartridge is triangular in cross-section in order to meet the criteria of magazine design. As a result of limited production and consequent scarcity, I am lead to believe that examples of the Dardick Pistol and individual Trounds are eagerly sought as collector's items.

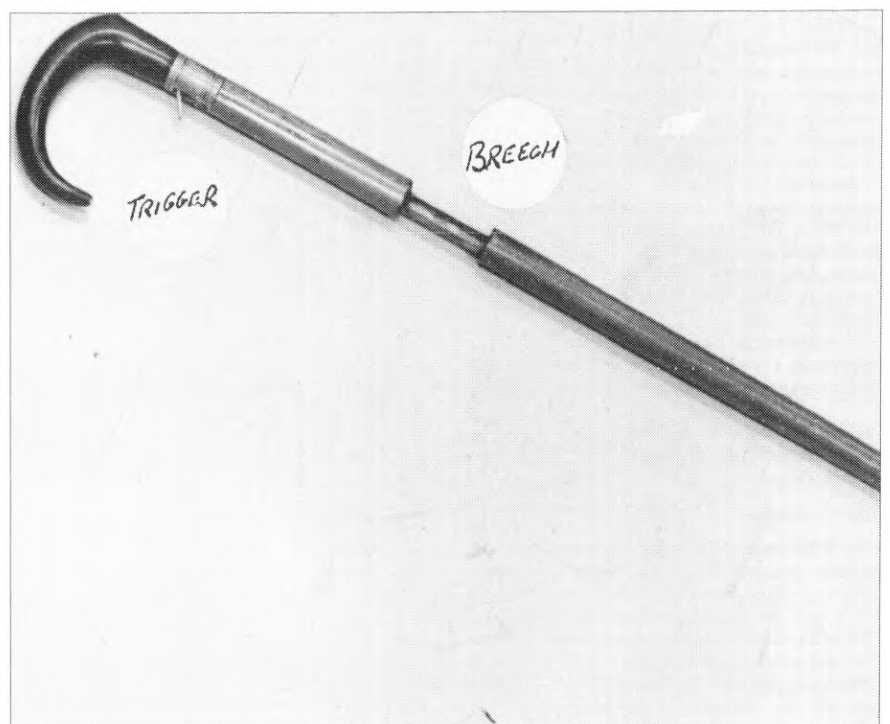
## Walking Stick Gun

The design is not really new and has possibly been around since the British colonial days. This example was confiscated at Brisbane International Airport from a passenger arriving from Eastern Europe. Characteristics include a concealable trigger, smooth-bore barrel of about 28 gauge (.410) shotgun and complete absence of an extractor. I will leave it to the imagination of the reader as to the effective range of the weapon when fired. However, I would suggest that the results would be quite devastating within a few metres.



Dardick Pistol.

## Walking Stick Gun.



### Belt Buckle Pistol

Manufactured by Freedom Arms USA came to light as a legitimate application to import. Apparently the gentleman concerned had grandiose plans to wear it on his belt in order to impress his friends. Needless to say, as a result of confiscation he will have to keep his trousers up by other means. The pistol itself, of .22 calibre and 25mm-long barrel is set into a large brass belt buckle. It can be made to eject from the buckle by the action of a spring when a concealed button is depressed.

The pistol is essentially a five-shot, single action mini-derringer. Recently, testing of this weapon by a well known firearms magazine in the USA resulted in five shot groups of about 32mm at 46-metres range. Draw your own conclusions as to the deployment of this weapon in the wrong hands.

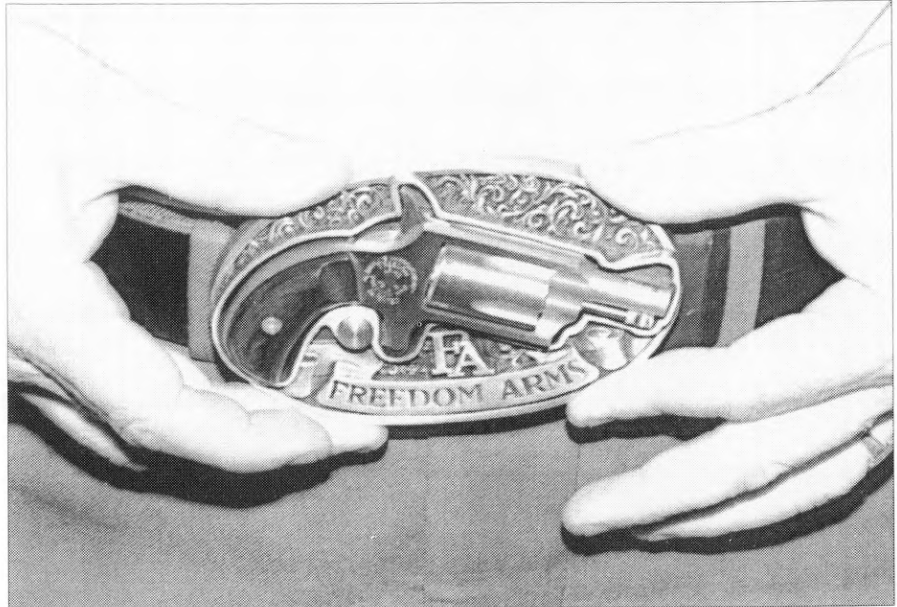
### Spring Ejected Knife

This is three weapons in one. The design itself is quite innovative and would seem to have particular appeal to the thug and hoodlum element. Overtly, the weapon is a black anodised aluminium rod about 46cm long. The front cover can be removed by the operator to reveal a stabbing blade of about 11cm. Now comes the surprise part for the victim, if distance separates him from the attacker. Upon depression of a catch by the operator, a very powerful spring ejects the blade like a dart. Balance is such that all the weight is in the front part and hence the blade does not tumble in flight. During tests, I found the blade penetrated about 35mm into an old telephone directory when fired across a small room. However, this weapon possesses a particularly dangerous feature for the operator. The complete absence of any safety catch would almost certainly ensure accidental discharge in the event of the weapon being carried upon the person. One wonders as to the number of thugs and hoodlums being permanently endowed with squeaky voices as a result of accidental discharge in their trouser pockets if this weapon were freely available.

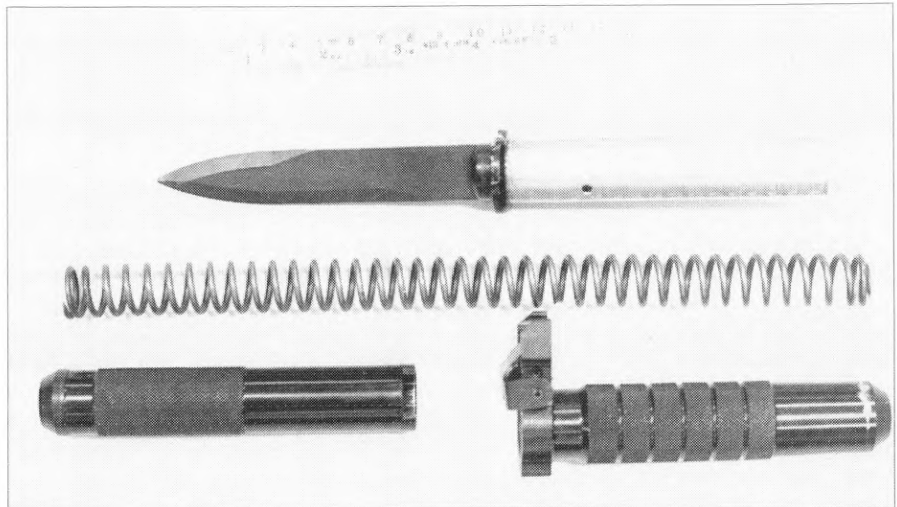
### Belt Buckle Knife

This came to notice as a result of confiscation. As the photographs indicate. It performs the function of a belt buckle, and upon detachment from the belt it becomes a short bladed knife. Again it would be naive to think that this weapon would not hold an attraction to criminals.

I am sure the above will provide food for thought amongst police officers in the field, and that members will not underestimate the fertility and ingenuity of the criminal mind.



*Belt Buckle Pistol.*



*Spring Ejected Knife.*

*Belt Buckle Knife.*

