



THE VICTORIAN SHOOTER

APRIL 2004

Official Newsletter of the SSAA (Vic)
Volume 6 Number 2

THE SSAA (VIC) \$5,000 BERETTA AUSTRALIA SHOPPING SPREE

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Imagine this - Winning **\$5,000** to go and spend at Beretta Australia on anything your heart desires. That's what buying a ticket in the SSAA (Vic) \$5,000 Beretta Shopping Spree will give you a chance at doing. Tickets will go on sale in June 2004.

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Why not take a look at some of the range of products available at the Beretta Australia Showroom in Melbourne below. They certainly sell more than just shotguns....



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ATTENTION CLUBS, BRANCHES AND AFFILIATED GROUPS

All groups can sell tickets on behalf of the SSAA (Vic) and they will be able to keep 50% of the profit. A great way to raise funds for your local projects and support the shooting sports in Victoria at the same time. For more information and to register your club or branch as being interested, please give Mike Billing a call on 9590 0177 or email him at mbilling@ssaavic.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since wishing you a prosperous and happy New Year much has happened within the Sporting Shooters. There has also been some considerable activity between the various authorities and ourselves over a number of issues.

New Headquarters for the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Vic.).

On Tuesday 9th March the SSAA(Vic.) signed a contract to purchase Unit 3, 26 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill. We were in the enviable position of growth that forced us to find bigger office space. It had always been intended to purchase property for this purpose. This property will give us room for the growth of our infrastructure. It will also give us a realizable asset that can be used for the purchase of land for a new shooting range on the eastern side of the metropolitan area. Settlement date is early May and we hope to have an official opening ceremony shortly thereafter. I would like to extend my thanks to Bob Cooper for his excellent work in finding this property. Bob has worked tirelessly over the past year searching for the right property at the right price.

Springvale is continuing to be developed and refurbished as much as money and our limited tenure will allow. In the near future you will see more change at Springvale and further development of facilities for all our members and the public.

Duck Season

You are now aware that we have an official duck season but with such restrictions that would deter many hunters from venturing out. The Game Management Unit of the Dept. of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) were reluctant to endorse a season at all and I thank the Minister, John Thwaites for his vision and support.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Victorian Shooter* you will read of some of the interaction between ourselves and the DSE. To say that relations were strained is an understatement. Since then we have had further meetings and it would appear that the DSE has had a directional change in its dealings with the major hunting organisations. There have been constructive discussions recently over the closure of relatively underused wetlands to provide refuges for ducks during the season. The DSE selection of the wetlands was sensitive to our needs and our input was well received by the Dept. We look forward to building on this level of cooperation.

Sadly the Enterprise Bargaining process has caught up with Duck Season and you will have heard of proposed bans by the CPSU (which includes some of the wildlife enforcement officers of the DSE). I was asked to comment by the Herald-Sun and the comment you read is the last phrase of my full statement which was... "The vast majority of hunters will take the legal bag and leave, but human nature being what it is some individuals will take advantage of the situation."

I have always been truthful in my dealings with the media and whenever the media has abused my integrity I have refused to further deal with the reporter. That is the case now. If that written statement has upset some members then I apologize but I will continue to abide by my own standards of integrity.

Firearms Laws

Well the new Firearms laws have been in place now for almost three months. There continue to be serious issues with the paper work required by the Licensing Services Branch (LSB). We are trying to resolve these matters with them. One

stumbling block is that the LSB appears to be making policy and interpreting that policy on the run.

You may remember from an earlier edition that the SSAA(Vic.) rejected an offer to participate in a powerless

Firearms Consultative Committee. Had an authoritative FCC been in place before or during the last twelve months there would have been a more efficient transition in the implementation of better written laws which might have had an effect on the core issues of criminal misuse of firearms. It is not too late for the Police Minister to put such a group to work.

We continue to pursue our goals via supporters within government and strive to expand and deepen our relationships with those supporters.

Internal Affairs

In the past few months there have been a number of opportunities to strengthen ties with the large number of branches the SSAA(Vic.) has across the State. The recent State Conference, held in Shepparton, saw a larger number of branches present and a greater contribution from them to the discussions. We had organized a two-day event with workshops on risk management and fundraising and the Shepparton branch put on a shoot and barbecue for all present. My thanks to Ian Mudford, Geoff Wilson, Geoff Morton and all the other helpers for their efforts.

That State conference resolved to hold the next in Bendigo in August. It will also be a two-day affair with workshops on topics that will be of interest to all.

The policy direction of the SSAA (Vic.) is developed and ratified at these meetings and there are opportunities for discussion and resolution of issues between state and branch. I hope that more branches take the opportunity to attend and have their say in the running of the Association.

The Near Future

The SSAA (Vic.) will continue to grow. We will need to develop a better way of doing things both for the sport competitors and field hunters. We will need to develop a better way of interacting with our communities and to strengthen the relationships within the communities we already have.

We will be looking for more land for ranges where they will do the most good. What that means is that we will buy land where there is the greatest benefit for the largest number of members. We will develop those facilities we currently control to comply with the law (local and state). We will make them more attractive to you the member and the broader shooting public.

The SSAA (Vic.) will continue to build on its relationships with the other shooting organizations and continue to be represented at the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria.

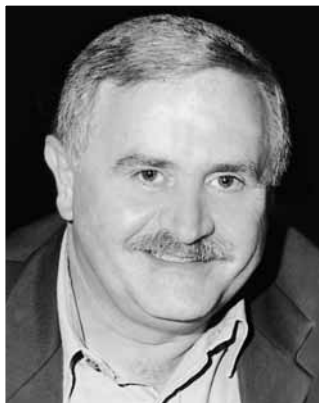
We will continue to encourage the government of the day (local, state and federal) that we are there as good corporate citizens and as a recreational outlet for the community at large. They should not fear us if they understand us and cooperate with us.

Whilst we may criticize and protest we are not the enemy. Our ideas and contribution to the debate are valid and have evolved from years of experience with firearms and legislation.

Until next time

Safe shooting

Sebastian Ziccone, President. ■



BERETTA SPONSORSHIP - HELPING DEVELOP JUNIOR SHOOTERS

The sponsorship agreement recently signed off by SSAA (Vic) and Beretta Australia has already taken positive steps towards securing the future of the sport in Victoria through the development of junior shooting.

Already the Beretta sponsorship has been used to support the "South West Schools Sporting Clays Championship" held in late 2003 with ammunition and a shotgun being awarded to some of the participating schools. Two vouchers of \$250 will be awarded at the "Beretta Junior Victorian State Rimfire Field Rifle Championships" to be held at Springvale (See the flyer in this edition for more information). Also proceeds from the "SSAA (Vic) Beretta Shopping Spree" will go towards developing shooting in Victoria.

The proceeds from ticket sales will be directed to two of the three projects that are currently available for members to donate to through the Australian Sports Foundation. The two projects that the funds will assist us develop are the Sports Development Project and the Equipment Purchase Project. A donation form is available in this edition if you are interested in making a donation now and this includes a description of the objectives of these two projects. If you want to wait to buy a ticket, not only it allow you to get a chance at some fantastic prizes, but will be, at the same time supporting the future of

the sport that you love!

Currently only 2% of the SSAA (Vic) membership is made up of juniors. This is a very worrying statistic and the SSAA (Vic) is determined to see that this improves. Coaching courses are being run around the State and the SSAA (Vic) needs you to get involved in helping to get junior development programs going in your local branch or club. So if you can't buy a ticket, why not get involved in making sure that young people are able to learn and enjoy the sport as you have.

SSAA (Vic) would like to once again thank Beretta Australia for their commitment to support the SSAA (Vic) over the next three years and with the support of SSAA members and their friends and families I'm sure we will see a marked growth in the number of junior shooters taking up the sport in Victoria.

Tickets will hopefully be on sale by June 2004. Stay tuned for further information. ■

A tax deduction for donating to the shooting sports?

If you would like an official donation form to donate to the Australian Sports Foundation you can download one from the website or call the State Office on 9590 0177.

EAGLE PARK - OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEMBERS' FACILITIES 15TH FEBRUARY 2004



Councillor Linda Ristevski and SSAA (Vic) Executive member, Bob Cooper, officially opening the new facilities at Eagle Park.

The opening of the new members' facilities at Eagle Park was officially performed by Councillor Linda Ristevski who holds the Recreation and Sport portfolio for the City of Geelong. Linda is a shooter herself and it was clear from her speech, and her enjoyment of the day, that she was not only honoured by the occasion but extremely pleased to see a premier shooting complex in her home town.

Following is the transcript of Linda's speech:

Invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. This is an exciting day for Eagle Park. Not only is it an opportunity for people to

view the facilities and take part in the sport of shooting, it's a celebration of how far the Little River Range has come since it was formed in the early 1950's.

Originally the Sporting Shooters Association held occasional picnic shoots on a property near the You Yangs. A short time later a range was established near Eagle Park's current site. This site was originally a gravel mine owned by Transwest and the Sporting Shooters Association enjoyed many years informal use of the site - the only payment required was a bottle of whisky at Christmas!

In the 1970's Transwest sold the site to Pivot, and the Sporting Shooters were asked to vacate the range. The problem was solved after the president of the Association made a plea to Sir Henry Bolte who was a director of Pivot.

Once its tenure was secure the Sporting Shooters Association began a substantial upgrade of the range. The present elevated firing range was built and facilities installed, such as toilets and the range office.

In the early 1990's pistol club facilities were built and a Pistol Shooters Association sub club was formed. This purpose built complex hosted the world police and fire games. In 1997 the Sporting shooters purchased the 280 acre site and has since carried out many more improvements, including the completion of the clubroom facilities. The complex was also renamed Eagle Park in honour of the eagles which are a regular site, soaring the air currents above the range.

From humble beginnings Eagle Park has grown to become one of the premier facilities of its type - Eagle Park will host the shotgun event for the 2004 Oceania Games in April this year.

On behalf of the City of Greater Geelong, and as a fellow shooter, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the work at Eagle Park and to invite people to take advantage of the facilities available here. ■

SSAA (Vic) Beretta Shopping Spree – Sponsors Wanted

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING THE
SSAA (VIC)'S MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR THIS YEAR?
NEED TO GET SOME EXPOSURE FOR YOUR
PRODUCTS OR SERVICES?

IF YOU OWN OR WORK IN A COMPANY THAT WOULD LIKE
TO DONATE A PRIZE TO THE SSAA (VIC) BERETTA SHOPPING
SPREE RAFFLE THEN PLEASE GIVE MIKE BILLING A CALL ON
9590 0177 OR EMAIL HIM AT mbilling@ssaavic.com.au

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE SSAA VICTORIA

At the February meeting of the State Executive council it was decided to establish a sub-committee of the State Executive under the supervision of Peter O'Brien, executive member and policy convenor, to carry out a review of the history of the SSAA Victoria from 1951 to 1971.

The task will be conducted under formal guidelines so as to produce an authoritative account of the Association and to publish the work in the form of a book to be sold to members and distributed to libraries and schools. Members who are trained in historical research will undertake the work. All of the protocols of such writings will be applied and we are seeking the assistance of the History Department of Monash University to assist us. They are keen to participate.

The project was bought about by recent contact with past members, some of whom were at the founding of the Association at its first meeting on the 30 August 1951. Research has commenced with a review of minutes going back to that time and already many interesting items have emerged. We now know that our first president was Colonel Connsett Carre-Riddell, a man with a distinguished military service record. One of the first ANZAC's, he landed at Gallipoli in the first boat to touch the beach. He was wounded at Gallipoli and was among the last to leave those fatal shores after setting mines and explosives to ensure that our men got away safely. He won the DSO, was wounded several more times, including on the Western Front, and was mentioned in dispatches twice. To be able to link the Association with a seminal moment in Australian History, especially the ANZAC story, is inspiring to all of us

Honorary life members include Sir Henry Bolte and Lionel Rose, the boxer. With such men among us we should be very proud of our Association and we should use this information to bolster our pride of membership and our achievements. The story is colorful with many an interesting item to explore and expand upon.

Mr. Bill Woolmore, a past president and acknowledged published historian, has agreed to assist and lead the research. We are confident that others who have an interest in the history of the Association will come on board and lend their skills and knowledge to the venture.

We are asking all those who have documents, memorabilia and especially photographs, to come forward with material and their stories to add to the vast store we already hold. Our intention is not

to relieve you of your property but merely to obtain copies that will be done at Association expense. Branches and sub-clubs who have such material are asked to contact the state office and pass on or supply us with a listing of what they have. The first part of the project can be confidently handled and members can be assured that those involved in the research have had no participatory role in events during the period envisaged from 1951 to 1971. We need to get the project under way as soon as possible, as the members of that time are growing old and their memories should be recorded. This will be done by the use of recording their stories on tape. Key items from the minutes will be used to prompt memory so that the project is kept on track. We will be asking members, especially those retired from full time work, to undertake research in the public library so as to access newspaper files covering the period. The sub-committee will issue guidelines for this work and we ask interested members to come forward and volunteer their services.

Archival material, especially documents in our records, is precious to the Association and all due care will be taken when consulting them. This will only be done under the supervision of the office staff or an executive member. There are several tons of this material and identifying key documents will take time and care. The method of research will be that applied to such projects by professional historical researchers. Fact from truth is what is called for here, and we know that the team will approach the task in that manner. We want this work to be professional and truthful and to reflect our history in a credible manner.

The period from 1971 to the present time will be reviewed as to the best method of approaching a difficult and time-consuming task. We are considering approaching a Ph.D. student at Monash and have it undertaken at that extended academic level with appropriate support.

You are aware that the Association is considering new premises for a corporate headquarters. When that is found we will use the foyer to display items and photographs of our founding members and the presidents till the present time.

These projects are designed to inspire our members to be proud of our Association. It has an honorable history and the story should be told for future generations.

Peter O'Brien
DIRECTOR, SSAA VIC. LTD. ■

SECURE YOUR GUN, SECURE YOUR SPORT

When investigating your options with respect to compliance with the new legislation requiring a back-to-base monitored security system, you will no doubt want the cheapest, most convenient option. However, there are many factors to consider when deciding who to deal with and what to install. Some "apparently" cheaper options may end up costing you a lot more.

When considering a quote, ensure that:

- You receive an **unlimited lifetime warranty** (including parts, labour and travel)
- There are no **hidden installation costs** (power, dialler, extra sensors, upgrading sensor types, difficult cabling, etc.)
- **Fees will not increase** during the term of the agreement
- **Running costs** are kept to a minimum (incl. power, telephone, batteries, etc.)
- **Service to repair or maintain** your system is provided promptly and at no extra cost
- You receive the advertised offer without any **expensive variations** (because you have a flat roof, a multi-storey building, a basement, an attic, a shed, etc.)
- You consider the possibility of payments during times of **financial hardship**
- The system can be **easily and economically relocated when you move**

- The system will be replaced if damaged by thieves, vandals, flood or fire - **even if not covered by your insurance**
 - The sensors are **suitably positioned and adjustable** (and pet-friendly if necessary)
 - Notification is automatically sent for **power failure and low batteries**
 - You can operate the system by **remote control**
 - **Panic buttons** are included
 - Monitoring is provided by a **Grade A1 certified Monitoring Centre** (with independent certification to verify that operators action at least 95% of alarms within 60 seconds)
 - **Mobile patrol response** is both efficient and economical.
- If you already have a security system, but need to arrange an upgrade or to set up a back-to-base monitoring arrangement, then you should ensure that:
- All components of your system are **fully tested** and adjusted for optimum performance
 - You receive a **warranty** on work performed by the technician
 - **Fees will not increase** during the term of the agreement
 - Monitoring is provided by a **Grade A1 certified Monitoring Centre** (with independent certification to verify that operators action at least 95% of alarms within 60 seconds)
 - **Mobile patrol response** is both efficient and economical. ■

STATE CONFERENCE

The SSAA (Vic) held its recent State Conference in Shepparton at the Parklake Motel over the weekend of the 28th and 29th February 2004. In what was seen as the most successful State Conference for many years, delegates were kept busy throughout the weekend with many activities undertaken.

Saturday saw the SSAA (Vic) employ the services of Justin Gillingham from VicSport to deliver two developmental workshops on Risk Management and Fundraising. These workshops were chosen to help assist clubs and branches around the State to embrace these two important areas. The morning session on risk management allowed small groups to break out and develop some parts of a risk management plan which was very effective. The State Office will be collating all of the risks identified by the small groups and provide these to all groups within the SSAA (Vic). These mock plans can be used to assist groups in developing their own local plans.



Delegates at the State Conference held in Shepparton

The fundraising session in the afternoon provided an update for groups on opportunities available for them to acquire funding from bodies such as their local Council, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Sport and Recreation Victoria and various philanthropic trusts and organizations. VicSport provided a copy of their latest funding resource that outlines much of the funding available in Victoria for sporting groups. The SSAA (Vic) has purchased 10 copies of this resource and groups that would like to get their hands on one can purchase these for \$10, or contact Mike Billing at the State Office who can help with most funding questions and issues. It was emphasized during the workshop that groups should be in contact and develop a relationship with their local Council as they are the biggest supporters of sport at grass roots level. If your group hasn't done this already, they should contact their local Council as soon as possible to discuss not only funding opportunities that the Council may offer, but also to bring the Council up to date on what they are doing at their facility.

The Warrnambool Branch has proven exactly how this contact has greatly improved one event that they are running, their Vintage Engine Display (not a shooting related event). After recently being advised that they should contact their Council they now have a great deal of Council assistance for this event. The Branch have been running the event for the past three years and donating the proceeds from the gate to the palliative care ward at the Warrnambool Hospital. This is only one example of a SSAA (Vic) group working well with their local government authority and we would encourage all groups to build up similar relationships.

Also at the fundraising workshop a brainstorming session was held to get ideas from the groups present as to how they go about raising funds for their facilities. The State Office will be sending this out to all groups which hopefully will provide new ideas for those groups struggling to make ends meet. A number

of ideas were put forward to help raise funds and some included ideas not related to shooting.

Further workshops will be conducted at upcoming State Conferences and the sharing of ideas from groups around the State will continue as this provides a very practical and beneficial service to each and every group that attends.

Once the workshops had been completed it was time for the delegates to then move out to the Shepparton Branch range and take part in something that we all enjoy...shooting! Delegates were treated to a 50 target flush which saw teams of two trying to hit all the clays that were being thrown about. The State Conference delegates were an eclectic group with beginners, old hands and the occasional expert trying to impress with the shotguns. After the flush the group moved over to the shotgun tower for a 20 target match which was just as much fun. Finally it was off to the shotgun clubhouse for a well put together BBQ, compliments of Soz's fine cooking skills. All in all it was a great day out and all delegates enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Sunday saw the start of the official State Conference at 10am with much to be discussed on the agenda. With around 45 members present it was by far the best turn out for some years. There were many issues discussed on the day with reports from various areas of the SSAA (Vic) delivered and the new Operational Guidelines for Branches and Sub Clubs discussed. The administration of the Conservation and Pest Management Scheme was also a hot topic with a sound resolution reached for this very important program to continue to work under. The new committee will have more than its fair share of work to undertake in the coming years.

Also of some interest to members will be the historical review of the SSAA (Vic) that was discussed. Peter O'Brien is heading up a team that will be writing the history of the SSAA (Vic), initially from 1951 to 1971. This project has already uncovered some very interesting facts that the SSAA (Vic) and its members can be proud of. More information on this will be put out in upcoming Vic Shooters. The SSAA (Vic) is making a special request to members, who may have historical material, to make this material available to the SSAA. (See Peter O'Brien's article in this edition of *The Victorian Shooter*). We are looking for people involved in the State Executive Council, Branch committees or club committees during this period who may be able to assist in the recording of the Association's history. If you know the whereabouts of papers, photos, or memories from this period, please contact us at the State Office on 9590 0177.

The format, venue and date for the next State Conference were also discussed with branches and sub clubs asked to provide input as to what they would like to see. The next State conference will be held on 21st and 22nd August in Bendigo and will follow a similar format. Hopefully we will see more of you there.

Mike Billing
Operations Manager ■



Justin Gillingham from VicSport (left) tries his luck at clay target shooting for the first time with Brian Cochane (right) providing some coaching tips.

THE SECRETARY'S ROLE WITHIN THE BRANCHES AND SUB-CLUBS

The Secretary is the primary administration officer of the committee and provides the links between the committee, members and outside the branch or sub-club.

- (a) The role of branch or sub-club Secretary is not a difficult task, nor does it need to be made any more demanding than the Secretary committee choose to make it. It does, however, require that the Secretary does things quickly and in an organised way.
- (b) The Secretary is the link between those involved in the branch or sub-club, those who want to join the branch or sub-club and the Company (SSAA (Vic)).
- (c) In order to make the Secretary's job manageable, efficient and satisfying, there are two key issues - developing a good routine and delegating.
- (d) Handling the Paper War - the secret is to do things as soon as they arrive. Whether the branch/sub-club is small or large the requirement would be to have a simple filing system. This single item will prove to be a salvation the lack of it will be the undoing.
- (e) A single drawer of a filing cabinet should be organised according to the following categories:
- SSAA Correspondence in and out
 - Members Correspondence
 - Minutes of Meetings
 - Membership Lists
 - Miscellaneous administration
- (f) Action Book - this can be a simple notebook. When someone telephones or writes simply record all relevant details and make a note of any required follow-up action.
- (g) Delegation - too many people see the Secretary as being the linchpin of the club, the person who makes everything happen. It is essential for the Secretary's own survival to delegate. This will make the position much easier in the long term and will also involve others in the management of the branch or club.
- (h) How to Delegate - for example, try appointing another committee member as minute Secretary.
- (i) The responsibilities of the Secretary within the branch or sub-club are:
- Deal with correspondence
 - Deal with telephone enquiries
 - Maintain files, keep records
 - Co-ordinate the presentation of reports (eg Annual Report)

- Convene meetings ie, arrange venue, circulate notice of meeting, prepare and circulate agenda, prepare and circulate the minutes of the previous meeting, organise the correspondence for the meeting, ensure the chairperson is briefed, ensure the office bearers are prepared
 - Communicate information between the State Office/allocated Executive and the members of the branch/sub-club
 - Keep and maintain membership records either electronically or manually.
- (j) Meetings - guidelines of holding meetings is referred to in the Draft Guidelines distributed last month to all branches & sub-clubs. The Secretary is responsible for calling Annual General Meetings as well as extraordinary general meetings as determined by the President.
- (k) Minutes -the responsibility of the Secretary. An original copy of all minutes must be forwarded to the State Office for the records, as they are the property of the SSAA (Vic). When the Minute book is completed the book must be forwarded to State Office for the records. All past minute books must be sent to State Office. Branches and sub-clubs should keep a copy for their records.
- (l) The Secretary will communicate with the allocated Executive via State Office in respect to committee minutes, requests for help and any other matter. The Secretary ensures that all reports, including minutes and financials, are sent to State Office in conjunction with the branch or sub-club Treasurer.
- (m) SSAA Venues - The Secretary is responsible for and must keep a register of all keys to the venues (club house, gates etc). The keys, when allocated to a member, must be signed in and out.
- (n) It is the duty of the Secretary, along with the other Officers of the branch or sub-club, to ensure that the members comply with the SSAA (Vic) functions.

The Secretary's responsibility is to carry out an induction with the newly elected Officers. An induction kit is necessary to assist the Officer with some background of the branch-sub-club when attending the first few meetings.

Should the Secretary require any further information please contact the State Office and/or the allocated Executive.

Judith Kent
State Secretary, SSAA (Vic) Ltd. ■

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Melway map 64 ref F4

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL?

Looking for a customer?

Need to get your name or product out there?

Remember, the SSAA (Vic) has 25,000 members. Why not place an ad in *The Victorian Shooter* and support the organisation that helps keep you shooting?

Firearm advertisements require the licence number of the vendor and the registration number of the firearm.

Private classified ads are published **free** of charge, for business advertising contact Mike Billing and discuss our cheap rates. Ph/fax **9590 0177**

email mbilling@ssaa.vic.com.au

NOTICE OF SSAA (VIC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004 AND POSTAL BALLOT DETAILS AND TIMELINE

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Vic)
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The AGM is to be held at 2pm
On Sunday 18th July 2004
At the Springvale Range,
710 Dandenong Road, Springvale.

Nominations are hereby called for the positions of:

- * President,
- * Firearms Safety Officer
- * Finance

Persons nominating must be eligible to vote, can only nominate for one position, and may include a recent photograph and a 200 word personal statement in support of their nomination. All nominations must be made on the SSAA (Vic)'s official form (Form A), which must be requested from the State Office (Ph: 9590 0177). All

candidates, proposers and seconders, must be adult members of the SSAA (Vic) of at least six months standing.

Motions to be put to the Annual General Meeting (via postal ballot) are also hereby called. All motions to be put must be accompanied by the name, address and membership number of the proposer and seconder who must both be over 18 years of age and be members of the SSAA (Vic) of at least 6 months standing. All motions to be put must include the full wording of the amendment or new inclusion (as applicable) and must ensure that the proposal complies with Corporations Law. An explanation of the amendment or proposal is also desirable.

Closing date for nominations and motions is 5.00pm Friday 7th May 2004. The Postal Ballot will open on Monday 7th June 2004 and will close at 5.00pm on Friday 9th July 2004. The results of the postal ballot will be announced at the 2004 Annual General Meeting.

All nominations and Motions are to be posted or hand delivered no later than 5.00pm, Friday 7th May 2004 to:

**The Returning Officer
F J Pirera & Associates
PO Box 81
North Melbourne 3051 ■**

A SHOOTING SHOW ON THE RADIO? A SHOOTING SHOW ON THE TELEVISION?

Yes it could be true!

The SSAA (Vic) have an opportunity to broadcast a radio program on Melbourne's new sports network SEN 1116AM on the last Saturday of the month from 7.50 am. The show will be broadcast for the first time on Saturday 27th March and again on Saturday 24th April from 7.50 am. So tune in to Melbourne's only shooting program and help support the sport you love. For this show to continue once a month the backing of corporate supporters will be essential. The SSAA (Vic) has committed to two shows but needs help to ensure that this is a regular event each month.

The SSAA (Vic) also has an opportunity to broadcast a television program on the community station Channel 31 that is broadcast predominantly to metropolitan Melbourne.

If successful this program could be used in other areas around the state and even the country. It is hoped this program will help to break down some of the perceptions of the sport and at the same time promote the fantastic achievements of shooters in Victoria. Planning is currently underway to source corporate partners for this exciting opportunity. So if you or someone you know may be interested please get them to contact us as indicated below.

Both of these opportunities will be contingent on the SSAA (Vic) securing corporate supporters for both of these media opportunities. If your company is interested in promoting itself to the wider community through our programs please contact Mike Billing on 03 9590 0177 or email mbilling@ssaavic.com.au ■

Vic Shooter Photo Competition

The SSAA (Vic) is constantly on the lookout for photographs that demonstrate the shooting sports. Photographs from the range, from that last great duck shoot or from a recent hunting trip, all of these and more can be used by your Association on its website, in *The Victorian Shooter*, for submission to *The Hunting Guide* or for general display purposes. We are after photographs that reflect positively on shooting in its many forms.

Do you have some great photographs that might be suitable? If so, enter your work in the **Vic Shooter Photo Competition**.

First prize: Digital Camera worth \$500.

Runner up: One year's free membership to the SSAA (Vic) and dinner for two at Bruno's Café.

Conditions:

- Photographs must be submitted in print form to the State Office (**do not send photos by email**)
- Photographs can be from any era
- Photographs may be in black and white or colour
- It is a condition of entry that the SSAA (Vic) may use any photograph submitted for promotional or display purposes

Closing date: All entries for the competition must be submitted to the State Office in print form by 5/11/04.

Winners will be announced in the December edition of *The Victorian Shooter*.

JUNIOR REPORT - MILDURA

During November and December 2003 the Mildura branch introduced ten juniors to shooting by conducting the Branch's first junior program.

The program was run with the assistance of funding received from the Country Action Grant Scheme through the Department of Victorian Communities.

A Level 1 NCAS Shooting specific coaching course was planned. The State Office helped by putting together a flyer which was mailed to all of our members. The response we had from the mailout was fantastic and about 30 people volunteered to help out with our programs and enrol in the coaching course. However, as sometimes happens with the best laid plans ... the day we chose was the day that the handgun buyback was in town and many of the people who volunteered to become coaches could not attend. We did however end up accrediting 8 new coaches at the branch which was still a great effort.



Mildura Junior medalists (l-r) Jarrod Crettenden, Justin Simmons, Hailey Adolph, Stephen Adams, Daniel Hunyadi, back Arron Kingleside, front Cameron Allford, Jamin Middleton

Flyers were distributed to the Air Cadets and the Irymple and Redcliffs cricket clubs with a positive response considering that again our timing was not perfect - we also clashed with the beginning of the new basketball and cricket seasons and school exams!

As each person registered they were sent a package that included a cover letter welcoming them, a firearms safety booklet, dates and times of the program and the types of shooting they would be introduced to. It was also mentioned in the letter that we would receive a visit from the State Coaching Director during the program.

As junior cricket was held on Sunday mornings and some clubs shot their competitions on Saturdays, we were able to be flexible and run the rifle introduction on Sunday afternoons and pistol on Saturday mornings.

The program commenced on Sunday October 25th at 1pm with ten juniors, Hailey Adolph (our only junior female), Justine Simmons, Cameron Allford, Jamin Middleton, Jarrod Crettenden, Stephen Adams, Daniel Hunyadi, Kane Bell, Thomas Britten and Arron Kingleside. We began with a safety talk and test run by our firearm licensing officers George and Rick. After passing this the juniors were then able to apply for their junior permit if they wished to. One parent actually sat in on the safety course so she could also learn and assist her son. A half hour break followed with drinks and finger food to enable coaches, parents and juniors to get to know each other a little.

Then it was time to head to the firing line and learn about .22 rim fire rifles. The firearm was explained to everyone - how to load, how to handle a gun safely and everyone was then given a 'hands on' with the firearm to 'get the feel' of it.

Each junior was then, under the supervision of a coach, taken through the steps of firing a rifle. Parents observed and were very impressed with the safety aspects and the fact that everyone enjoyed themselves. When it was time to go home the juniors wanted to stay. Now that was a good start!

On November 1st Allen Bingham, State Coaching Director, arrived and sat in on the safety talk (a brief safety talk was held at the beginning of each session). His presence caused some

excitement amongst the juniors - that someone with so much experience was on hand to help them.

It wasn't long before the competitive nature started to show - especially as Hailey was showing the boys up. Also, by now they were all becoming quite comfortable with their coaches and fellow juniors. As word got around that the junior program was successful we were able to coax some of our retired shooters back to the range to assist and share their expertise. The old and the new shooters together and the respect shown was wonderful. This was an unexpected benefit of this program because it did not only attract new junior shooters but also volunteers who I'm sure all branches need.



Jamin Middleton takes aim

We entered our juniors into the SSAA/Winchester competition and they took this very seriously. Photos were sent in to Winchester with their scores and some of these photos accompany this article.

All participants received medallions for both rifle and pistol shooting which they wore proudly.

As a result of the six week introduction program for juniors we are now preparing for the 2004 program which will have up to 60 participants. Forty of these students are female. The branch will be assisted with this program by retiring teacher Trevor Johns. Trevor has assisted students in clay target shooting in recent years at St Josephs College in Mildura.

The SSAA will be able to create junior competitions with other rural areas and we would like to plan a trip to Melbourne to shoot with the Youth Training Scheme at Springvale. We would also like to give an opportunity to send some juniors to the Victorian State Coaching Camp with a view to getting some up to Millmerrin in Queensland for the National junior coaching camp.

Thank you to all who assisted with this program. Our qualified coaches Barry and Kaylene Gregg, Rick Matthews, Shane Joy, George Wilkinson and Derek Pritchard and our others members to also helped with coaching of the juniors, Herb Thomas, Jim Spencer,



Justin Simmons competing in the SSAA/Winchester competition

Larry O'Bree, Mary Withington, Murray and Jake Zoch, Cathy Burnett, Don Hunt and Owen Adolph.

The program has been a great success and I hope other branches and clubs take up the opportunity to become more involved in junior and other programs through the SSAA (Vic).

We were really surprised by the amount of young people on our doorstep who were keen to join us for some shooting. By putting together a structured program with accredited coaches for the kids, and more importantly the parents who send them, we have seen a huge increase in participation. If only we had done it sooner.

The Mildura Branch would like to encourage other branches around the State to commit to this type of program. With assistance from the State Office there is every reason to expect that future junior programmes will be just as successful as the Mildura experience has been.

Julie Allan
Sports Development Officer ■

2004 VICTORIAN HUNTING GUIDE

Those people who have received their 2004 *Hunting Guide* may have noticed that it is somewhat reduced compared to its predecessors. The short explanation for this is that all the hunting organisations and trade sponsors withdrew their paid advertising. The cause of this unprecedented boycott was another show of arrogance and bad faith on the part of DSE.

Following the dismal production that was the 2003 *Hunting Guide* the Victorian hunting organisations approached DSE with a request for greater input to future hunting guides. This was initially agreed to and discussions were held to determine the best way for hunting organisations to contribute. Because much of the dissatisfaction with the 2003 *Hunting Guide* was levelled at the cover illustration, it was agreed that the hunting organisations would supply photographs for 2004. As an aside DSE informed us that two officers were specially tasked with photographing the rusty, bullet-riddled water level gauge that graced the 2003 *Hunting Guide* in order to "factually illustrate environmental conditions in Victoria."

For a brief period cordial discussions were maintained between DSE and the hunting organisations, to the point where it was suggested that the Minister be approached to endorse the 2004 *Hunting Guide*. This "truce" lasted until the first photographs were sent in to DSE for consideration. At this point it was discovered that hunting scenes showing actual quarry were out. The reason given was that the hunting guide is distributed to groups other than hunters and the realisation that human existence is at the expense of other creatures would cause grave psychological trauma in the sensitive.

After some heated exchanges the hunting organisations were informed that despite earlier undertakings DSE retained full censorship rights over the hunting guide, and any hunter input would be entirely at their discretion. Shortly thereafter a draft cover was circulated showing a retriever with a sandbag dummy in its mouth, to illustrate the "hunting experience". Further protests were lodged but DSE was not interested in listening.

I am not certain who initiated the process but in a cascading protest all the hunting organisations withdrew their advertisements from the hunting guide. This was accompanied, or followed, by the withdrawal of trade advertising, leaving DSE virtually without funding for the production or distribution of the 2004 *Hunting Guide*.

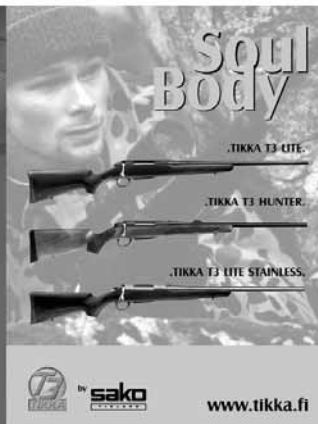
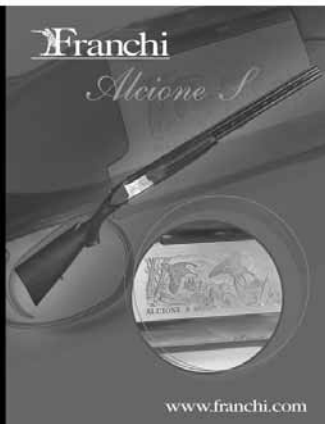
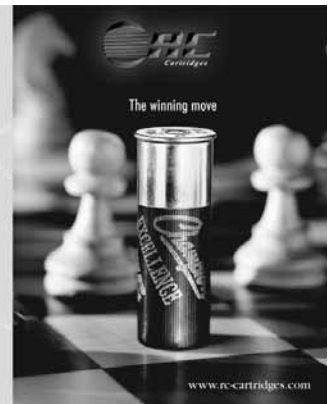
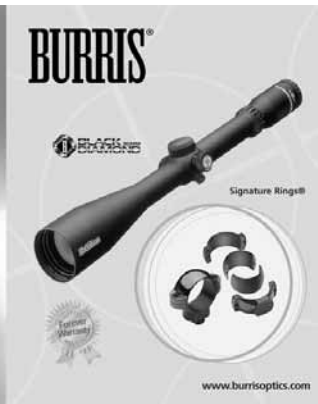
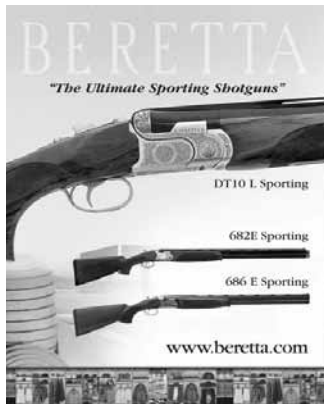
In a belated move to buy back financial support DSE changed the cover illustration but this was far too late.

It is unfortunate that DSE proved so intransigent, not least because it had been hoped to gain the Minister's endorsement of the hunting guide. If you believe that the hunting guide should be produced by hunters, not bureaucrats with hidden agendas, write to the Minister expressing your disappointment with the current situation and requesting the creation of a statutory game management council.

(Disclaimer: this article is one person's view of events that involved many people in many organisations and is therefore not necessarily completely objective. I did however hear first hand DSE's attitude to hunter input to the hunting guide and believe I have recounted it accurately.)

PHILIP BROWN

Conservation and Pest Management Convenor ■



BRANCH AND CLUB NEWS

JUNIORS - TASCO HELP OUT AGAIN

Once again longtime Youth Training Scheme sponsors TASCO have responded to our call and are donating a 6-24x telescopic sight as a prize for the 2004 Junior State Rimfire Field Rifle Championship to be held at the Springvale range on Sunday May 2nd. Kevin Johnson from TASCO was one of the interested people who talked YTS convener Tom Cerny into tacking on the job 10 years ago and TASCO have helped us out ever since those early days. Without the help and support of forward looking companies such as TASCO, introducing juniors to the sport at a reasonable cost would be impossible

To give all competition entrants the opportunity to win this great prize it will go to a junior randomly selected from the entry list. So juniors get on the phone, fax or email and contact the State Office for further details and entries. ■

KYNETON BRANCH - \$3000 REWARD OFFERED

The Kyneton Branch of the SSAA (Vic) has offered a \$3000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the perpetrators of acts of vandalism, destruction and theft from their rifle range in the Cobaw Forest at Ridge Road near Lancefield.

These offences were committed in the period between May and June 2003. One action has been witnessed during a late afternoon, near dark. We have received some very useful information but need more as we have had enough and want to show these people that we are serious.

Anyone who has been hiking, riding, hunting or camping in the Cobaw Forest during this period in time and has seen anything in relation to the above matters please contact me at the address below.

All information will be handled in the strictest confidence.

Karel Zegers

Jnr State Vice President SSAA (Vic)

kzegers@bendigo.net.au

Ph 035435 3216 ■

S.S.A.A (VIC) MILITARY RIFLE CLUB

(incorporating the S.S.A.A. Military Pistol Club and the S.S.A.A. Military Collector Club)

SSAA Vic

91a Kingsway

Glen Waverley

Vic 3150



What do we do?

The purpose of the Military Rifle Club is "To foster an interest in the collection and use of original military type firearms in original military calibres, and to promote and encourage organised target shooting with a view towards a better knowledge of the safe handling and proper care of military firearms".

We shoot and meet on a regular basis, and while to a degree we are historians, most of our members are regular shooters, using their favorite military firearms to shoot competitively and for enjoyment. Both rifles and pistols have categories for individual types, and members are graded according to ability. Medals for grade shooting are awarded monthly for both rifle and pistol. In addition to the regular graded events we have a range of specialty shoots relating to historical events (D Day) or types of rifle (carbine, Latin American, Mauser).

Where do we shoot?

Regular shoots are held at two separate venues.

1) S.S.A.A Eagle Park Range at Little River for both pistol and rifle (up to 500 metres).

1st Sunday of each month

2nd Sunday of each month

2) SSAA Springvale Complex (.22 rimfire rifles only, pistols - centrefire or rimfire)

Every Monday night

S.S.A.A Military Rifle Club Facilities

Our Club facilities at Eagle Park include a fully equipped clubhouse with wood heater and storage facility, and provide access to rifle, pistol and shotgun ranges.

BERETTA VICTORIAN JUNIOR STATE RIMFIRE FIELD RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Springvale Range 710 Dandenong Rd, Springvale

Entry fee \$20

Contact State Office for entry forms

COMPETITION BEGINS AT 10.00AM SUNDAY MAY 2ND 2004.

Range open for practice Saturday May 1st and 9am Sunday May 2nd.

**OPEN TO ALL SSAA JUNIORS
AMMUNITION DONATED**

PRIZES

1st overall male & female each receive \$250 voucher from Beretta

Participation prize drawn from all entries. Scope donated by Tasco

PERPETUAL SHIELD

Victorian State Champion Award for Springvale Range permanent display

This award is open to Victorian Shooters ONLY. (Miniature awarded to champion)

TROPHIES & MEDALS

Medals awarded to individual highest score overall

1st, 2nd & 3rd 15 and over

1st, 2nd & 3rd under 15

Trophies to individual highest score: Rapid Fire, Off Hand, Standing Post, Sitting Post

1st, 2nd & 3rd and over

1st, 2nd & 3rd under 15

Intermediate Competition 18-25 yrs

1st, 2nd & 3rd Trophies

All branches and interstate clubs are invited to encourage their juniors to attend.

For further information, entry forms & information on accommodation please contact

SSAA (Vic) State Office on (03)95900177 or email jallan@ssaavic.com.au

*Food and drinks will be available at the Springvale Range.

*Rules are per current SSAA Field Rifle Rule Book. Any modification of rules will be notified.

THE VICTORIAN SHOOTER DISTRIBUTION

The Victorian Shooter is published bi-monthly.

It appears on the SSAA (Vic) website www.ssaavic.com.au where it can be downloaded, or you can receive a hard copy by ringing the State Office on 9590 0188. Just one phone call is needed to receive all future editions - **do not ring every two months.**

Monthly Meetings

Regular monthly meetings are held at the Springvale facility on the 4th Thursday of each month. Medals and award presentations are made in addition to keeping our members abreast of the day to day running of the club. Every month we hold a 'show and tell' relating to guns, equipment, reloading, or special interest speakers.

Magazine

Our bi monthly newsletter, Parabellum, is published to keep members well informed of the club's activities, general items of history, firearms reviews, a calendar of events and a trading post.

Major Events

On the calendar throughout the year there are a number of major events,

State Titles	Held at Dookie Agricultural College
Tin Hat Shoot	Annual shoot held at Shepparton club
Melbourne/Mildura Shoot	Annual shoot off held at Mildura
National Colt Cup	Annual pistol shoot at Eagle Park range
ANZAC shoot	Held at the Upper Yarra club VRA versus S.S.A.A shoot
El Alamein	VRA/SSAA combined shoot at Upper Yarra

Pistol Events

In 2004 we will be running the following "approved handgun target shooting matches" for members.

Service Pistol (Restricted & Unrestricted)

Metallic Silhouette (up to .45 cal)

IPSC Matches

Black Powder Pistol ■

SSAA MILITARY RIFLE CLUB (VIC)

2004 STATE TITLES

April 16-18 2004, Dookie Agricultural College
Dookie Road, Dookie. Vic. 3647

Dookie Agricultural College is located just off the Midland Highway, roughly half way between Shepparton and Benalla. Comfortable dormitory accommodation is available at reasonable rates. All SSAA members eligible.

Friday 16th April -	Range open for practice (approx 1-2pm)
Dinner Friday night -	\$15.00 per head (to be confirmed)
Saturday 17th April -	500 Metre Deliberate (B Class rifles)
	500 Metre Sniper event (F&G Class)
	500 Metre Modified/Accurised Rifles (H Class)
	500 Metre Tactical Development Rifles (TCD Class)
	200 Metre Snap B (B Class only)
	100 Metre Rapid B (B Class only)
Sunday 18th April -	3P Core event 100, 200 & 300 metres (B Class only)
Nomination fee -	\$15.00
Daily Competition fee -	\$10.00 per day (\$5.00 for juniors)
Late Nomination fee -	\$ 10.00 (nominations received after 31 March, 2004)

Accommodation Contact – Bob Cooper (03) 9615 4809
Nomination/Competition entry – Jeff Pannan 0412 561243 ■

SHEPPARTON BRANCH

Calendar 2004

Military pistol & rifle (First Saturday & third Sunday each month)

Apr 3&18 May 1&16 June 5&20 July 3&18 Aug 7&15 Sep 4&19 Oct 3&17 Nov 6&21 Dec 4&19

Silhouette rifle (Second Sunday each month)

Apr 11 May 9 June 13 July 11 Aug 8 Sep 12 Oct 10 Nov 14 Dec 12

Pistol (Fourth Sunday each month, no rifles)

Apr 25 May 23 June 27 July 25 Aug 22 Sep 26 Oct 24 Nov 28

Special Events

Military Rifle:

Apr 3 Bayonet Shoot	July 18 Training Rifle Shoot
Apr 18 ANZAC Shoot	Aug 15 Rapid "B"
May 16 Mauser Shoot	Sep 4 .303 Shoot
June 20 Rapid "A"	Oct 17 El Alamein Shoot

General Shoots:

July 11 Open Lever Action	
Apr 11 Postal 4 Position Shoot	Aug 8 Postal 4 Position Shoot
May 9 Classic Lever Action	Aug 29 General Open Day
May 30 General Open Day	Oct 31 White Box Shoot
June 13 Postal 4 Position Shoot	Nov 28 Christmas Shoot

Shotgun

Apr 10	Practice	
Apr 24	50 Bird Simulated	Sponsored
May 8	Practice	
May 22	Sporting Clays	Sponsored
Jun 12	Practice	
Jun 26	50 Bird Simulated	Sponsored
Jul 10	Practice	
Jul 24	100 Bird English Doubles	Sponsored
Aug 14	Practice	
Aug 28	Sporting Clays	Sponsored
Sep 11	Practice	
Sep 25	50 Bird Simulated	Sponsored
Oct 2	Blue Ribbon Day	
	50 English Double	Sponsored
Oct 16	October Blast 12 Sporting	Sponsored
Nov 13	Practice	
Nov 27	50 Bird Simulated	Sponsored
Dec 11	300 Target Flush	Sponsored
Dec 18	Christmas Shoot	Sponsored

Working "B" Dates (First Sunday each month)

Apr 4 May 2 June 6 July 4 Aug 1 Sep 5 Nov 7 Dec 5

Meeting Dates (Third Tuesday each month)

Apr 20 May 18 June 15 July 20 Aug 17 Sep 21 Oct 19 Nov 16 Dec 21

Range starting times and contact numbers

Shotgun Practice shoots 12 noon. Sponsored shoots 10.00am.

Pistol Shoots 10.00am

Silhouette Rifle 11.00am

Military Pistol & Rifle 9.00am to 12 noon - Pistol. 12 noon to closing - Rifle

Pistol - Jeff Haigh 58 220 710

Silhouette Rifle - Col Saxton 58 221 445

Military Rifle - Dick Maag 58 314 945

Shotgun - Geoff Morton 58 219 064

General Info - Geoff Wilson 58 219 015

SSAA Range - 58 292 735 ■

NEW CLUB FORMATION

At the Special General Meeting of the members of the SSPC on 27th January 2004, a motion was put that the club re-affiliate with VAPA. That motion was defeated. Following the defeat it was resolved to undertake the formation of a new SSAA pistol club. The new club will be known as the Springvale Pistol Club and will be based at the Springvale range complex. It will provide access for SSAA shooters to the wider forms of organised official competition (ISSF, NRA, IHMSA, etc) through VAPA affiliation.

When the club has been formally constituted, the club constitution, classes of membership and fee structure will be published. Those interested in becoming a member will be invited to submit applications to join and the new members inducted. ALL shooters interested in the wider competition scene will be welcome.

The process of forming a new club has been started and we are looking for registrations of interest. You can register your interest in any of the following ways:

- sending your contact details to jpp@melbpc.org.au
- leaving the details (including email and phone contact details) at the Springvale Range front office
- handing them to me.

You will then be kept informed of the progress in the formation of the SPC.

John Payne ■

VICTORIAN MUZZLE LOADING CLUB

Updates:

- 1 The next General Meeting will be held at SSAA Springvale on the 17th March 2004 at 8:00pm, all members and interested parties are welcome to attend.
- 2 The next shoot will be held at SSAA Eagle Park on the 20th March 2004, all interested parties are welcome to attend.
- 3 The VMLC has received Interim Approval from LSB to become an Approved Handgun Club.

General Information:

The Victorian Muzzle Loading Club (VMLC (a SSAA sub-club)) meets for organised competitions on the third Saturday of every month (except May which is the fourth Saturday) at the SSAA Eagle Park Range located at Little River. Competitions are organised for all black powder original and reproduction firearms including cap & ball, cartridge and single shot pistols, muzzle loading longarms including flint lock, percussion, patched ball, minie-ball, slug projectile, smooth bore musket as well as cartridge rifle, and muzzle loading and cartridge shotgun. It is not a prerequisite to own all these types of black powder firearms; indeed some members have one or two firearms whilst others have sufficient to enter all class competitions. Nor is it mandatory to compete. You can simply come down and just have fun shooting your black powder firearms. Members with vast amounts of historical and practical shooting knowledge are always available to assist you with whatever aspect of black powder shooting that you may have.

January is set aside for practice, experimentation and general chit-chat. From February to October the competitions are run, with prize winners presented with cards as well as shields and trophies for the various

Championships such as Breech Loader, Class 1 (military muzzle loader), Class 2 (traditional patched ball), Class 3 (any other muzzle loader), Flint Lock Rifle, Muzzle Loading Shotgun and Pistol.

For the month of November many members camp at Woolatta for the two-day State Championship where lots of black powder and lead is expended during the day and at night everyone relaxes at the free BBQ exchanging black powder stories and generally having a good time. December is set aside for some traditional fun type competitions and team events.

General meetings are held at the SSAA Springvale Complex every third month. Attendance is not compulsory but all members are invited to attend. VMLC Membership also includes an entertaining and informed newsletter, The Ramrod, which is mailed to members every month. The Ramrod includes shooters' scores, club records, coming events and many more additional articles of interest to the black powder enthusiast.

Non members interested in black powder shooting are more than welcome to attend our shoots where they can experience first hand (and even have a few shots) this truly engrossing and satisfying sport.

For additional information visit the VMLC Web Site at www.users.bigpond.net.au/vmlc/ or contact the VMLC President, Jim Morraitis, on 03 9381 0099 BH. ■

EAST GIPPSLAND BRANCH

The East Gippsland Branch of the SSAA (Vic) is pleased to announce that four members have gained full accreditation as pest control shooters, and another three have almost completed their accreditation.



East Gippsland Pest Accreditation Course in action.

The club would like to thank Buchan VRA for the use of their range for both practice shoots and for the actual test shoot on January 18th. They would also like to thank Phill Brown who conducted both the written and practical tests. The written test involved safety, mapping and first aid and was held in the meeting room of the Bairnsdale Urban Fire Brigade.

Other East Gippsland members who would like to gain pest control accreditation should attend the club's monthly meetings (held in the Bairnsdale Fire Brigade meeting room on the first Tuesday of every month except January) or contact Jim Neville, Clive Hammet or SSAA headquarters. ■

WGAA TRAINING DAYS

By Bill Allen - WGAA Vic' Branch President.

For approximately five years now the Working Gundog Association of Australia (WGAA) have held regular training days for their members, centred mainly in the Melton region on the outskirts of Melbourne's West. WGAA Vic' train on the third Sunday of each month, with a number of training weekends being run at various locations around the state.



WGAA Retrieving Trial Dog of the Year - 'Shirley' (GSP), owned and handled by Paul Brincat

WGAA's resident Training Officer is Mr Graham Hayes, and a more dedicated 'dog man' I am yet to meet. Come rain, hail, or shine Graham is always at the Melton site in the early hours of the morning, before anyone else arrives, setting up the various exercises that the members and their dogs go through. Usually Graham will have already visited the sight on the previous day to examine the conditions

and choose the best areas to set up the 'runs'.

On the day Graham is usually pretty hard to pin down, as he constantly monitors the various exercises, & offers valuable advice about the finer points of gundog handling. You see, Graham is not just a talker, he is a Do-er. He practises what he preaches & he is no stranger to the winner's circle. His old Black Labrador 'Jeddah' is a Triple Champion. That is to say she has won Championship Titles in Retrieving Trials, Field Trials, & also in the Show ring. This is an extremely rare & testing feat for any gundog, but to really appreciate the enormity of Graham and Jeddah's success, we need to realise that all of this was achieved by the tender, young age of 2 years old. Graham has since won many countless Retrieving & Field Trials with a number of his beloved Labrador Retrievers.

But Graham is only one of the enormously experienced instructors WGAA Vic' have available to help people with the gundog problems. We have Wayne Phelps - a trialer with over 30 years experience in the sport, Robert Wood, one of the very best Spaniel trainer/handlers available in the country today and Byron Kendall - whom in the opinion of many, ranks within the top 3 gundog handlers in Australia. These are only 3 of the top flight people WGAA are fortunate to count within their ranks.

WGAA's training weekends are not just about training gundogs though. Although this is obviously the focus for those that attend, it is very much about bringing together like minded people to enjoy the social camaraderie that always seems to follow gundog groups. These weekends are so enjoyable that it seems we are never able to offer enough of them to keep our members satisfied.

2003 was a difficult year for us due to the poor bird seasons, but hopefully 2004 will prove better. With the lure of making up for lost hunting time after last year, many are already getting started with their warm up training. Me? Well I've got a nice shiny new litter of Epagneuls Bretons (Brittany Spaniels) to those that don't know em by the rightful French name) just waiting to get

10 TEN-RING PROJECTILES & COMPONENTS

HARD-CAST SWAGED ROUND BALL

- Round ball from .224 to .690
- Rifle .25-20 to .45-70 with or without gas check
- **.310 Cadet now available**
- Cowboy .32-20, .38-55, .38 RNFP, .44-40, .45LC
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 Product inquiries to products@tenring.com.au
 Dealer inquiries to sales@tenring.com.au
 or fax 03 5952 3521

FOR SALE

Portuguese Vergueiro Mauser mod 1904 rifle. 8x57 cal. with rod and sling. VG condition, all matching no's. J4262
 Registration no. 182187 **\$180**
 Matching numbered bayonet EC **\$75**
 Set Lee .38 special dies - new **\$50**
 5 bricks Winchester T22S ammo **\$30 per 500**
 1.5 bricks RWS short (green) ammo **\$60 per 500**
 Licence no. 403-909-40B

Contact Graham
Mobile 0408 114 159 Fax 9694 4421

.....
 As new ROSSINI ARTEMIS u/o shotgun. #36981
 As new condition, cased, full set of chokes and steel shot compatible. New price for this top quality gun is in excess of \$4000. Asking price \$3000. Lic No 58363841B.
Contact: 03 51521380

started meeting some new 4 legged friends & exploring the sights, sounds, & smells of the hunting world they have been born into.

Got a dog? Want to enjoy a bit more work with him? Need some help sorting him out a bit? Or maybe you just want to meet a few other dog people? Well, why not pop along to find out what WGAA are doing. You don't need to be a WGAA member to train with us (although be prepared for our try at converting you). Anyone is welcome to come along. Remember it's the third Sunday of each month at Melton, & our first session for 2004 starts on Sunday 25th January. For further information contact the WGAA Vic' Branch Training Officer, Graham Hayes, on (03)9743 7402.

Pointer & Setter Trial Dates 2004

April 25, May 29 & 30, June 26 & 27

For more information please contact Barry Oliver
Mob.0403380092 or email oliver@foxall.com.au ■

WODONGA BRANCH NEWS

2004 Blackpowder Rendezvous

The annual BPR is scheduled for 17/18 April. More than 20 thrilling events for rifles, smoothies, pistols, shotguns, cannons, horse shoes, knives and tomahawks. Something for children of all ages! We expect trade blankets with lots of "must-have" items. An opportunity to clean out that box under the bench.. Tall tales and true long into the night. More details from Match Director Mick Pressnell (02) 6025 6691 or his Assistant Doug Hitchens (02) 6025 8137. Don't miss visiting for a look. Blackpowder is addictive. It could change your life.

Metallic Silhouette

Interested in trying rimfire rifle metallic silhouette in 2004? Attend the range on each second Sunday of the month and join in the fun. The Transpower Rimfire Metallic Silhouette perpetual trophy will be presented to the winner of the annual aggregate in this match. Competition standard targets will be used, with technical advice and coaching provided by a current rimfire silhouette circuit shooter.

2004 Election of Officebearers

Our AGM is likely to be held late June. All positions on the Committee of Management will be vacated. If you have a positive vision, a passion for shooting sports and a willingness to work to advance the interests of our Association then we would like you to nominate. The "big things" we see immediately ahead of us include supporting juniors (12 -18 years) in our sport and involving the community at large. So, parents, how about coming on board to help?

Winchester Rimfire Challenge

You have read about it in the Australian Shooter magazine. Now come and try it for yourself. The competition runs until October. We have scheduled it for each second and fourth Sunday. At a dollar a target those monthly prizes from SSAA look inviting and the Winchester ammo works pretty well in most rifles.

Colonial Action Match

The 2004 postal shoot will be presented in 2 parts on 29 Feb and 30 May. It now includes scenarios for shotgun and rifle using smokeless or blackpowder. You can now be part of the fun without the "aggro" of holding a handgun licence. Firearms should look like those which might have been used in Australia between 1850 and 1901. Each entrant will receive a colour certificate of participation. Further info from Ian Guthrie.

Wednesday Shooters

An ever increasing number turn up on a Wednesday morning for a social shoot and informal discussion on a wide range of topics. If you're free on a Wednesday morning, this group will make you welcome. Our usual Wednesdays Range Officer, Col Gray, on 6021 7829 can provide more details.

Wodonga Albury Field & Game

Our partners in range ownership and range operation have invited Wodonga Branch members to join them on any of their practice days (second Saturday each month at 1.00pm). Modern day smokeless shooters, blackpowder cartridge and muzzleloaders all welcome. Cost is \$5.00 for 20 days. Please sign their visitor's book. Should be a lot of fun!

Wodonga Range Fees

Your range pass will only cost \$25 from 1st January 2004. You can shoot at the range as many times as you want until 30th June 2004. All other shooters must pay the Wodonga Branch range fees. Members \$8 per day, visitors \$10. Please help our duty Range Officers by purchasing an ARP. This way, they don't have to account for your cash. They are busy enough looking after you and your guests!

Wodonga Range Matters

Upon arriving at the range, leave your firearms securely locked in your vehicle and report to the Range Officer (R/O) who will guide you to sign the range attendance sheet and take your range fees. The R/O will instruct you when you may bring firearms from a vehicle to the firing line and when you may take firearms from the firing line back to a vehicle. The R/O always wears a distinctive badge and usually wears a brightly coloured vest or armband.

The use of correct eye and hearing protection is compulsory for all people on the firing line. Fashion sunglasses are not acceptable. Loan equipment is available from the Range Officer.

Remember, there is no shooting allowed on days of total fire ban as declared by the Victorian Country Fire Authority for their Region 24. Supervising Range Officers must ensure that fire fighting equipment is available on all shooting days during the declared fire danger season.

Standing Range Calendar 2004

1st Sunday — No shooting on 200 or 300 metre ranges

2nd Sunday — 11.00 am Rifle BR 30, 11.30 am Hunter Class Rimfire Benchrest, 1.00 pm Metallic Silhouette and Winchester Rimfire Challenge.

3rd Sunday — 11.00 am Lever Action, 11.30 am Blackpowder Pistol, 1.00 pm Blackpowder Longarms.

4th Sunday — 11.00 am Winchester Rimfire Challenge, 1.00 pm 300 yds Fly Shoot.

5th Sunday — 1.00 pm Colonial Action Match. Only 4 in 2004 so don't miss any!

Contact us: President - Robert Marks (02) 6024 1695,
Vice Pres. - Rob Edgar (02) 6024 7561
Secretary - Ian Guthrie (02) 6024 4530
email: Wodonga@ssaavic.com.au
PO Box 501 Wodonga VIC 3689 ■

LETTERS

In order to make *The Victorian Shooter* more interactive we now feature a Letters to the President section. Have your say by writing, faxing or emailing your comments to *The Victorian Shooter* at 91a Kingsway, Glen Waverley 3150, fax 9590 0188 or email mbilling@ssaa.vic.com.au

Attention all Secretaries/Publicity Officers

The Victorian Shooter is a publication specifically for Victorian SSAA members. As such it contains news and views that relate to the SSAA's many clubs and branches. Why not make use of *The Victorian Shooter* as a way of communicating with your own club members, as well as the wider SSAA community? Many clubs are doing this already, but there are still clubs across the State who are passing up on this **free offer**. Results, forthcoming events, profiles, great stories, photographs, historical details are all suitable material that will be published in the Club News section.

Material should be sent to:

The Victorian Shooter at the SSAA State Office,
91a Kingsway, Glen Waverley 3150.
Phone: 9590 0177 Fax: 9590 0188
Email: state_office@ssaavic.com.au

Editorial Deadline for the 2004 editions of *The Victorian Shooter* are:

**June edition - 7/5/04, August edition - 9/7/04,
October edition - 10/9/04, December edition 5/11/04.**

SLOGAN COMPETITION WINNERS



Anita Mackiewicz and Joe Rosicka receive their one year's free membership from Mike Billing, after enjoying their dinner for two at Bruno's Café. The new SSAA (Vic) car stickers will be available soon.

ALL SPORTS EXPO

23 April to 26 April

Royal Exhibition Buildings Melbourne

The SSAA (Vic) is looking for volunteers from clubs and branches to assist in promoting the sport of shooting to over 100,000 people throughout the 4 days of the All Sports Expo.

Contact Mike on 9590 0177 or
email mbilling@ssaavic.com.au

SSAA (VIC) EMAIL ALERTS

Keep in touch with the SSAA (Vic) through their email alert system by signing up via the website at www.ssaavic.com.au

This system allows you to keep up with the latest news and information regarding the Association in Victoria. We also need your help in lobbying politicians and public opinion and this system allows information to be disseminated to a wide audience very quickly. SSAA (Vic) email alerts also helps to keep you up to date between editions of *The Victorian Shooter*.

If you are a supporter of the SSAA then this is essential to keep your finger on the pulse and do your bit to promote and protect the shooting sports in Victoria.

Mike Billing
Operations Manager

ELECTRONIC VIC SHOOTER

The Victorian Shooter April edition is currently available on our website for downloading.

Simply go to the link below to go to our website and choose which edition of *The Victorian Shooter* you would like to view.

An archive of *The Victorian Shooter* back to March 2002 is available for viewing.

The Victorian Shooter is available at the following address where members can browse or download our pdf files:

<http://www.ssaavic.com.au/links.htm>



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DO YOU NEED TO BE ALARMED ?

The SSAA, firearm owners, the Department of Justice and many others are continuing to discuss the interpretation and compliance issues within the new Firearms (Trafficking and Handgun Control) Bill, that took effect on 1st January 2004. This legislation requires certain firearm owners to install a "monitored alarm system of a class approved by the Chief Commissioner" and even though negotiations are continuing, many firearm owners will need to upgrade their existing storage facilities.

Those needing to comply will require an alarm system connected to a back-to-base monitoring centre (mobile phone dialling will not be accepted), installed and maintained in accordance with Australian Standards (AS 2201 Intruder Alarms, part 1: Systems installed in client's premises).

Even though the current amnesty will prevent prosecution prior to 1st September 2004, members should investigate their options well in advance and request quotes so that they are not 'trampled in the rush' during the last few months. Security companies are currently vying for your business and their special offers will not be as attractive when the rush is on.

Although you will no doubt want the cheapest, most convenient option, there are many factors to consider when deciding who to deal with and what to install. Some "apparently" cheaper options may end up costing you a lot more. See "**Secure Your Gun, Secure Your Sport**" on page 4 of this issue of The Victorian Shooter for further details.

The SSAA (Vic) is also pleased to advise its members that they have arranged an "Alarm Special" with Watch24 Security Services for SSAA (Vic) members. ■

Alarm Special for SSAA (Vic) Members

Watch24's advanced technology **WIRE-FREE** security alarm system has been designed and manufactured in Australia and fully complies with the new legislation.

This **low-cost solution** includes back-to-base **Grade A1** monitoring and **single-button remote control**.

Please call **132 924** (local call Australia-wide **and mention that you are a S.S.A.A. member**) or **Michael Hain** on **0419 344 453** [email mhain@blaze.net.au] for further details, or to request:

- a **FREE no-obligation** security assessment,
- a **30 day FREE fully monitored trial** (without obligation),
- back-to-base Grade A1 monitoring (even for many existing alarm systems).



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Disclaimer

Please note that the views expressed in some articles and by some contributors are not necessarily those of the SSAA (Vic).

Editor Note

The Victorian Shooter is the bi-monthly magazine of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Vic). Editor: Barry Oliver