



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Handgun Politics

The events of October still hang over us and we continue to argue the lack of logic in the proposed handgun control measures. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see details of the substance of the new Handgun Control Act. The only issue on which the Shooting Associations can praise the Government is the return of the powers to the clubs, which were removed in 1996. Had those powers been in place in October last year then I would not be writing about this today.

The issue is quite clearly political. The response by Government has been political. The Prime Minister is running Firearms policy on the basis of personal dislike (hatred) of firearms. A statement he has made on a number of occasions. His comments that any changes to hand gun legislation will not impact on legitimate sporting shooters is a farce. The Commonwealth Government does not decide the law in each State. So remember that there is a State side to this political issue.

The Commonwealth Government can change the Customs Regulations at a moment's notice and they have twice. On the 31st December last year they banned the importation of pistols which did not meet the criteria that had been decided at the COAG meeting. Recently, when they were told that they had severely impacted on the attendance, in Australia, at National and International competitions of International competitors, those customs regulations were again changed. Why do I feel that later it will become a case of don't blame the Commonwealth for State imposed laws?

The State Government, through the Premier Mr. Bracks, immediately after the last election went out of its way to make the restrictions on handguns tighter than even the Prime Minister wanted. You have to wonder why. Both the Prime Minister and Mr. Bracks have agreed that a percentage of all legal guns in the community will be withdrawn. They have come up with a figure arbitrarily and will impose it in the same way. That figure is now set in concrete and if it impacts on 'legitimate sporting shooters', so be it. Neither of them is happy to pay the appropriate valuation but they have to since they are compulsorily acquiring property.

As for the logic of barrel length criteria and calibre restrictions, you really have to wonder where the logic lies. The Commonwealth Government created a Sporting Shooters Advisory Council which came up with a number of recommendations in concert with the Justice Dept. and Minister Ellison. All the recommendations were ignored by

the Prime Minister because his arbitrary figure was not met by those recommendations (not enough guns would be made illegal).

The Prime Minister will rely on the impending (or already active) war on Iraq to blunt the political fall out of the handgun issue. The Premier of Victoria on the other hand will rely on his Parliamentary Dictatorship to protect him and his Ministers from electoral consequences (remember Labor can lose lots of seats before it faces defeat). There is, and probably will continue to be, a lot of retribution politics over the next few months. Government Ministers will be too busy to meet with us and we may be told to shut up or face worse.

I could shut up but I recently had a lesson in integrity from a man whose last days on this earth bore out his principle of, be true to yourself, and as death came for him he was steadfast in his principles. My father was a peace maker but he could not abide the hypocrisy of politics. I have tried to be a

peacemaker with the politicians and bitten my tongue on many occasions but I have to say it as it is.

Once again I challenge both the Prime Minister and the Premier of Victoria to give a cost benefit analysis of the new Federal and State restrictions which are going to be placed on the competitive pistol shooters of Australia and Victoria.

Internal Affairs

Some of you will already be aware of the real threat to the existence of the Springvale Shooting Range complex. A future edition of *The Victorian Shooter* will detail this issue.

I would like to take the opportunity here to publicly thank Peter O'Brien for his determination and strategic thinking in leading the Board's response to this threat. However this turns out we will have a shooting range at Springvale due to the efforts of this committed and enthusiastic Board member.

Infrastructure

As a result of the new handgun laws and regulations many pistol clubs will be forced to build on their competitive infrastructure. Greg Moon, the Board member for Sports Liaison, will be responsible for the coordination of State wide competition and in those disciplines which we will be allowed to compete in. As soon as we are aware of the disciplines and calibres permitted he will make that information available to all SSAA(Vic.) pistol clubs and help them with the development of the infrastructure to handle the competitions.

I will shortly initiate discussions with Victorian Amateur



PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

Pistol Association (VAPA) in an effort to create a mutually acceptable cross competitive calendar where all our members can participate and therefore increase the opportunities for attendance at competition (a requirement under the new Act).

Internal Politics

You will see in this issue of *The Victorian Shooter* the first notice for the Annual General Meeting of the Company.

Please give some thought to nominating for one of the positions which will be up for election this year. Competition is healthy and new aspirants for the Board of the Company should be encouraged.

Until next time when I may have more cheerful news, safe shooting.

Sebastian Ziccone
President.
SSAA (Vic). ■

OFFICE MANAGER/SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



A tax deduction for donating to the Shooting Sports?

Warnambool Branch have taken the initiative with the new donation program that we have set up in conjunction with the Australian Sports Foundation. Warnambool will be running a campaign to raise enough money so that the SSAA (Vic) can purchase two automatic clay target throwing traps to be used

at the Branch. This is only one example of how this program can benefit the Branches around the State. I am currently speaking to the Sporting Shooters Pistol Club who are looking into the prospect of raising money for specific safety equipment. If any other Branches or Clubs out there are interested in getting a local project going simply give me a call and we can discuss the best way forward. I would urge members reading this article to encourage their Branch or Club representatives to get involved, this type of project must be driven by the members as it benefits the members.

An official donation form appears in this edition of *The Victorian Shooter*.

Access For All Abilities "Shooting For All" Project

We are in the process of organising interviews for our new project officer who will be starting with us in April. This pilot project will provide a chance for members of all abilities in the community surrounding the Springvale and Mildura ranges to be introduced to the sport of shooting. Clubs will be asked to provide assistance to the project officer in developing resources that will hopefully be used around the State in years to come. The next *Victorian Shooter* will provide a lot more information and the first progress report of the project. Stay tuned.....

Funding Success!!!

Yes we have been successful in obtaining yet another grant. This time it is via the Women in Sport Leadership Grants, a grant that aims to improve the profile of women in the shooting sports. The SSAA (Vic)'s Secretary, Judith Kent, will be attending a number of corporate governance workshops over the next 9 months and will be developing a manual for clubs and branches to utilise in the future so that they can gain an understanding of the laws and obligations that the SSAA (Vic) is under.

State Conference

It was great to see a good turn out for the State Conference with some Branches appearing that I have not met before. The State Conference was preceded this time with a meeting to discuss the new legislation that is being proposed for handguns in Victoria. Hopefully groups will now realise that there is going to be a great need to increase the competitive structure in which we operate. Also, the standard of administration is going to have to improve significantly if we are to meet the requirements that are to be imposed upon us. This will see some significant changes to clubs and branches in the next 12 months and we will need to work very hard to hold on to those members who feel that it is all just too hard to own a handgun!

Country Action Grants

We have been advised that we have received funding for submissions put in last year under the Country Action Grants Scheme. A junior introductory program will be run at Mildura this year. This is great news for the Branch at Mildura. The Access for All Abilities program is also being run at the Branch. These two initiatives will hopefully have lasting effects, not only at Mildura, but also for other branches around the State.

Vic Talent Funding

We have again been successful in getting funding, this time for a VicTalent grant that will help to support one of our female shooters to achieve her full potential in competition. Chelsea Dahlenburg has been awarded a grant to assist in the costs it takes to become a high level shooter. Let's hope that this award helps us to foster another great talent that we can one day see standing on the international stage.

Congratulations to all involved.

Mike Billing
Office Manager/Sports Administrator
SSAA (Vic). ■

If you have any questions on information provided here please contact Mike at the State Office on (03) 9590 0177 email: mbilling@ssaavic.com.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003 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 27th July 2003
At the Springvale Range,
710 Dandenong Road, Springvale.

Nominations are hereby called for the positions of:

- Senior Vice President
- Junior Vice President (This position is currently vacant on the State Executive Council. This term will be for a duration of 2 years. The position will be up for election at the 2005 AGM).
- Treasurer
- Range Development Convenor
- Sports Liaison

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 9th May 2003. The Postal Ballot will open on Monday 2nd June 2003 and will close at 5.00pm on Friday 18th July 2003. The results of the postal ballot will be announced at the 2003 Annual General Meeting.

All nominations and Motions are to be posted or hand delivered no later than 5.00pm, Friday 9th May 2003 to:

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

STATE CONFERENCE - 2 March 2003

Secretary's Report

The purpose of the State Conference is to share with the Branches the developments, ideas, and issues that face us all as members of the SSAA(Vic). It is my job to see that we, the Executive, are carrying out our duties in a professional manner that complies with all legal requirements.

Having been in the position as Secretary for the past six months many things have happened and I wish to mention some of them in this report.

David Barton

As some of you may be aware that David Barton tendered his resignation 4 weeks ago and as of Friday 28 February 2003 David departed the SSAA (Vic). David had found himself a job in one of the State Political Parties, which I believe he has always wanted to do, and we thank him for the contribution he has given to the SSAA (Vic) over the past few years. We also wish him well in his future endeavours.

SSAA (Vic) Branches and Sub-Clubs

It has been very disappointing that some Branches and Sub-Clubs have not complied with my request to forward copies of their financial statements to the State Office. I do urge you to act on this request immediately. It is the Executive's responsibility to see that the Branches and Sub-Clubs are complying by law to submit the finances of all SSAA (Vic) sub groups. Branches will not be eligible to

receive capitation payments if they do not submit their financial statements on a quarterly basis. Sub-Clubs of SSAA (Vic) will not be eligible for any funding assistance if they do not comply with the requirements for submitting financial statements each quarter (e.g. teams' subsidies for travel etc).

The Executive does not want to interfere with the finances of Branches or Sub-Clubs, we are here to help you carry on with your business in the interests of your members. It is simply a legal requirement that all financial reports of the company are held at the head office of the



Judith Kent (Secretary) & Sebastian Ziccone (President) at the State Conference.

STATE CONFERENCE - 2 March 2003 (Cont.)

company. The information received is strictly confidential and will not be viewed by the general members.

It is also anticipated that every Executive member will be visiting 2 Branches a year. The aim here is to give members in the various Branches the opportunity to meet regularly with a member of the Executive. Branches may wish to organise a group forum, or perhaps a social get together where individuals can talk with the Executive member. The Executive member will then write a report and discuss the issues you may have for consideration at the next Executive meeting. Action will be taken if required.

Women in the Sport

As you may be aware the Association has a Women's Sub-Committee and we meet once a month. The Mission is "To introduce Women to the Sport of Shooting in a Safe and Efficient Manner". I would ask you all to try to encourage more women into the sport and if you have any women who would like to contribute to our Sub-Committee, please advise them to contact me through the State Office.

Corporate Governance

One of my missions when elected on to the Board of the SSAA (Vic) was to lift the Association's profile. In doing this I have observed some of the procedures, methods and policies of the SSAA (Vic). One issue I felt was needed to be put in place that would lift the profile was Corporate Governance. As you may or may not be aware, the law is rapidly changing in the Corporate World and we as a Company must comply with the changes being made under the Corporations/Companies Act. With the assistance of Mike Billing, our Sport Administrator/Office Manager, we are seeking an organisation that will advise

us on putting procedures in place that will help us to adapt to these new changes. These procedures will result in benefits that will flow through to our Branches and membership. I am confident you will notice some change within the Association in a few months.

Having said that, Mike has also helped me in being successful in receiving a grant from the Department of Sport & Recreation. This will give me the opportunity of attending courses on Corporate Governance and the role of Company Secretaries. At the end of these courses I am expected to put a kit together for the Branches and Sub-Clubs. This kit will provide guidance for committee members when standing for a position.



Delegates at the State Conference

Insurance

We will be conducting an audit over the next couple of months for insurance purposes. All Branches and sub-clubs will need to submit an asset register to the State Office of any buildings or equipment that they own. These will need to be collated centrally so that our insurance coverage can be updated. If groups do not partake in this process their assets will not be covered under the SSAA (Vic) insurance policy. More information will be distributed to groups shortly.

I would welcome any feedback from the members on any matter they feel might be pertinent. After all, we are here to protect your rights to own your firearms and your rights as a member of this Association.

My thanks to the Executive who have supported me during the past six months and to Mike, Helen and Mel for doing a great job in the State Office. I would also mention that we welcome Arthur Rawlinson on to the Executive as the Junior Vice President. Arthur has a lot of experience in shotgun and the two of us will be able to work together in this area.

Judith Kent
SSAA (Vic)
Secretary ■

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 June edition of
The Victorian Shooter is Monday 12th May.**

HANDGUNS IN VICTORIA

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE POSSESSION OF HANDGUNS IN VICTORIA.

As a result of the tragic events at Monash University in October 2002 it was immediately announced by the Federal government that the possession and use of legally owned handguns within Australia would be reviewed.

Up until the date of writing there has been a meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), two meetings of the Australasian Police Ministers Council (APMC) and various meeting involving staff from the various firearms registries of each State or Territory. These meetings were all called to further regulate the handgun sports and reduce the number of legally owned handguns in the community.

In order to advise COAG a Commonwealth Sporting Shooters Advisory Council was formed, however from the outset it appears that all decisions coming from COAG have been made devoid of any input from this body.

Within Victoria the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria was formed to represent various shooting organisations (not just the handgun bodies) during representations to Government on this and other future issues. It is widely accepted amongst the shooting organisations that an attack on the handgun sports is far from the thin end of the wedge, and that if the handgun shooting sports, which were already heavily regulated, were the subject of further restrictions then this did not bode well for the long arm sports.

Over the preceding months members of the CFCV, including representatives from the SSAA and the Victorian Amateur Pistol Association (VAPA), have met with the Premier of Victoria, The Police Minister, Government advisers and representatives from the Department of Justice.

At these meetings we have provided information and data to support the case of legitimate sporting shooters who compete in handgun competition.

From the outset it became obvious that the thrust of the proposed amendments would be to limit barrel lengths and magazine capacity in order to reduce the number of handguns available to the sporting community. These proposals subsequently included restriction on calibres above .38 and many other restrictions that will seriously impact upon the ability of individuals to lawfully own handguns within Victoria.

When the proposed legislation (currently in the form of the Firearms Trafficking and Handgun Control Bill) becomes law the only lawful reason for possessing a *general category handgun* is to prepare for and take part in *approved handgun shooting matches*.

What is a general category handgun? This is the new description for the handguns we can lawfully possess. To fit the description of a general-purpose handgun the handgun must have a barrel length in excess of 100mm if a revolver and 120mm if a semi-automatic. The calibre must not exceed .38 and the magazine capacity of semi-autos must not exceed 10 rounds.

From the current information to hand, barrel length will be measured by inserting a rod to the breech face of a semi auto, or to the back of the forcing cone on revolvers. To the uninitiated 100mm is just short of 4" and 120mm is close enough to 4 3/4".

What does this mean in real terms? The CZ-75 and Glock 17, both 'full size' 9mm semi-autos, will miss out by about 2mm and become illegal handguns. This is always assuming that replacement 10 round magazines are available to replace the current issue standard magazines of 15 and 17 rounds respectively, (for both these firearms they are).



Approved handgun shooting matches are disciplines/events that will be decided by the Federal Government to be 'acceptable'. At the moment it is believed that these events will be:

- Single Action Shooting (*approved for calibres up to .45*)
- Metallic Silhouette (*approved for calibres up to .45*)
- IPSC
- NRA Action Match
- ISSF
- Police and Services
- Blackpowder.

In the Victorian Bill there is provision for the Chief Commissioner to authorise the possession, carriage and use of handguns with barrel lengths less than 100mm or 120mm, or similarly calibres in excess of .45 or more than .38 but less than .45. Upon application, the Chief Commissioner must have regard to a number of issues in making this call. These issues include:

- Whether or not the handgun is required for participation in a prescribed class of approved handgun target shooting matches.
- The experience of the applicant in the use of handguns for target shooting
- Whether the club to which the applicant belongs is adapted to enable ammunition that may be used in a firearm of the calibre applied for to be used appropriately and safely
- Whether or not the handgun is appropriate for possession, carriage or used for target shooting.
- The general size, appearance and other characteristics of the handgun.
- Any other relevant matter.

Given these provisions the big question is the level of discretion the Chief Commissioner is permitted to exercise in this matter. Direction as to this will come from Government at both a Federal and State level.

In any case if the Chief Commissioner does chose to exercise discretion, the handgun must not be used in a handgun target shooting match that is not of a class of handgun target shooting match that is prescribed as suitable for the calibre of handgun. **Penalty 240 penalty units or 4 years.** (Not a bad penalty for using your single action .45 revolver in an action match).

In order to maintain your handgun licence (not just retain pistols), the holder must compete in 6 competitive approved handgun shooting matches and 4 approved handgun target shooting matches that take place on at least 10 separate days.

HANDGUNS IN VICTORIA (Cont.)

This is if you possess, carry or use one class of handgun in each calendar year, i.e. .38 revolver only or .38 semi-automatic only. Note this refers to class of handgun and not individual handguns.

In the circumstances you possess, use or carry more than one class of handgun in each calendar year, the holder must compete in at least 4 competitive approved handgun target shooting matches on at least 4 separate days for that class of handgun.

Additionally these attendances must be part of at least 6 competitive approved handgun target shooting matches and at least 4 approved handgun target shooting matches that take place on at least 10 separate days.

From inquiries it appears that a competitive approved handgun target shooting match is a calendered match/competition. An approved handgun target shooting match is a calendered 'practice' match that is not actually a competitive event.

It is interesting to note that 'compete' includes participation in a match as a competition judge or Range Officer.

Similar attendance requirements apply to junior licences.

In the circumstances that the holder of a general handgun licence does not comply with the participation requirements the individual will be served with a notice to surrender any handgun and ammunition referred to in the notice.

At the time of service the handgun and ammunition will be seized, or, if the notice is served, the handgun and ammunition must be surrendered to police within 7 days. Ownership of the handgun and ammunition remains with the person who has surrendered the handgun and ammunition.

New members of Pistol Clubs must apply for a permit to carry or use handguns during a probationary period. Similarly, any individual wishing to try out the sport of pistol shooting must obtain a permit to carry or use general category handguns for temporary use for handgun target shooting instruction. This permit will be for a maximum of 7 days and will specify a class of handguns and a specific target shooting range. No more than 3 such permits will be issued to any individual.

In relation to attendances all pistol clubs must keep records of:

- Time and places of the matches
- Details of any handgun used by each person participating in the match
- Name and handgun licence number of each person participating in the match.

These records must be kept at premises approved by the Chief Commissioner and be available to be produced or inspected by a member of the Police force at any reasonable time.

Within 3 months of the end of each calendar year the club must submit a report to the Chief Commissioner setting out:

- A list of all approved handgun target shooting matches conducted during the year.
- The names of all members of the club during any time of the year.

If the club is the only club to which the individual is affiliated or if the club is nominated as the individual's principal club, details must be available of:

- Each approved handgun target shooting match that the

member competed in and details of the handgun used by that member at each such match.

- Each approved handgun target shooting match conducted by any other approved handgun target shooting club that the member competed in and details of each handgun used by that member at each such match.

Information has been circulating to the effect that storage requirements for firearms will be amended to require a monitored system where there are more than 5 firearms stored on the premises. Close inspection of the bill reveals that this provision applies to collectors' firearms only and does not impact upon the holders of general category handgun licences.

Whilst this is a brief overview of the situation as it stands at this date there are many more areas of minute detail which have been amended or are to be implemented. As the ramifications and effects of these changes become known further information will be disseminated.

The SSAA will endeavour to work closely with the Licensing Services Branch throughout the process of implementation of the amendments to the firearms act. This will be done in an effort to ensure that practical approaches are put in place to resolve the many issues that will arise in the future.

Greg Moon
Discipline Chairman
SSAA ■

**TRIGGERS
 BAR & BISTRO
 Springvale Range**

**Open Sat 10.00 for late breakfast/lunch
 Mon, Tues & Thurs 6pm - 9.00pm**
 (bar is open 6.30 pm these nights)

**Brand New Menu
 with specials each night**

**Yummy freshly crumbed calamari,
 schnitzels etc**

Misty can cater for functions on site
 including anniversaries, 21st's,
 engagements, weddings and dancing.
 Specialising in birthday/occasion cakes.
 To book for any night of the week
 ring Misty on 0401 557 118.

Bar facilities and hall bookings
 contact **Mary 03 9580 2166**
 or **Helen at State Office 9590 0177**
 No BYO facilities



A TAX DEDUCTION FOR DONATING TO THE SHOOTING SPORTS???

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Vic) Ltd have registered three projects with the Australian Sports Foundation to enable members, companies and other individuals to donate to the sport they love and at the same time be eligible for a TAX DEDUCTION.

What is the ASF?

The ASF was established by the Federal Government in 1986 to assist Australian sport through the generation of funds from the corporate sector and the community at large. The ASF assists non-profit sporting organisations and others to raise money for sport related projects. The ASF is a non-profit public company limited by guarantee and is listed in the *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*. The ASF is also listed in Division 30, section 30-90 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* which enables donations to the ASF to be eligible tax deductions. The ASF is unique in that donors are able to nominate a preferred beneficiary for their gift. The SSAA (Vic) Ltd has three projects registered with the ASF which have been approved, these are Range Upgrade - #203155, Equipment Purchase - #203156 and Sport Development - #203157.

Are donations tax deductible and how do I donate?

Donations to the ASF are tax deductible. Making a donation is easy. The ASF provides receipts for all donations over \$2 to substantiate taxation claims. You need to make your donation out to the ASF on the official donation form and you may nominate any or all of the projects that the SSAA (Vic) has registered with them. You can split your total donation between each if you wish or just nominate one project. These appear on the official donation form and this form must be signed. Remember if paying by cheque make this out to the Australian Sports Foundation Ltd. Donations must be made unconditionally to the ASF.

How much of the donation does the ASF take?

NONE! A bank charge of 2% is levied for credit card donations only.

What is the SSAA (Vic)'s Sport Development Project registered with the ASF?

There are a number of areas that the SSAA (Vic) want to use monies for in developing the shooting sports. A significant focus is on junior shooting, with two \$1000 scholarships to be granted each year to a junior boy and junior girl. A junior coaching camp is planned for junior shooters from around the State giving them access to high level coaches and competition with other juniors. Additionally the SSAA (Vic) would like to increase the level of coaching accreditation, particularly in rural areas, and plans to run at least one Level 1 Coaching Course per year with the costs for 20 coaches covered by the Association.

What is the SSAA (Vic)'s Equipment Purchase Project registered with the ASF?

The equipment purchase project aims to increase the availability of a number of necessary pieces of equipment to increase the ability of groups to operate around the State. This includes the purchase of .22 rifles and air pistols for junior and other programs, clay target throwing traps to improve shot gun facilities, shooting benches to enable people with disabilities and older adults to shoot in comfort, shooting posts to allow a number of disciplines to be shot at our ranges, hearing protection and safety goggles. These equipment purchases will be going to areas throughout the State with an emphasis on rural areas.

What is the SSAA (Vic)'s Range Upgrade Project registered with the ASF?

The range upgrade project is for improving the facilities at the Springvale Range to make it the most accessible range for people with disabilities and allowing them to shoot all disciplines at the range. It also incorporates the enclosure and soundproofing of the pistol ranges at Springvale. This project is a quite extensive one that will be completed in a number of phases unless a grant from the State Government, which is currently being considered, is approved in 2003.

Important Note:

We need your help to develop the shooting sports and any donation that you are able to make is most appreciated. These projects will be open for a 5 year period and we hope to raise over \$200,000 through donations from people who have an interest in seeing the shooting sports developed. There is a particular emphasis on junior sport in our projects, as this is the future of our sport. Donations can be made by individuals or by a company. Further information on the projects will be available on our website and the progress of these projects will be regularly updated in the Vic Shooter, Australian Shooter and the website.

P.S. – We encourage you to make a donation using the form provided.



For any further information on the projects above please contact Mike Billing at the State Office on (03) 9590 0177 or take a look at our website at www.ssaavic.com.au



Please return this form to :
 Sporting Shooters Association of
 Australia (VIC)
 91A Kingsway
 GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150

Sporting Shooters
Association of Australia
(VIC)
Donation Form

Personal Details		Please print clearly so we can issue correct details on your receipt	
Title			
First Name			
Last Name			
Business Name			
Mailing Address			
Town/Suburb	State	Post Code	
Phone ()	Fax ()	Mobile	

Donation Please find enclosed my donation of
 • \$20 • \$50 • \$100 • \$250 • \$500 • \$1000 • Other \$ _____

I would like my gift to benefit (you may tick more than one project. You can spread your total donation across as many projects as you wish):

	Project	Amount
•	Range Upgrade - #203155	\$
•	Equipment Purchase - #203156	\$
•	Sport Development - #203157	\$
	TOTAL DONATION	\$

Payment Details Please indicate your payment details by ticking the appropriate box
 • Cheque • Cash • Visa • Bankcard • Amex • MasterCard • Diners

*Please make cheques payable to **Australian Sports Foundation Ltd**

Card Holder _____

Card Number [] _____ Expiry ____/____
 [AMEX CODE]

Australian Sports Foundation

The Australian Sports Foundation Ltd. (ASF) was established by the Federal Government to assist organisations to raise funds through public & corporate donations for the development of sport in Australia. Pursuant to the ASF's listing in the Income Tax Assessment Act (1997) (div 30, S 30-90), donations of \$2 or more to the Foundation are tax deductible. Donors must contribute unconditionally to the ASF to claim a tax deduction. The ASF's structure makes it possible for you to indicate an approved project as the preferred beneficiary of your gift. The SSAA (VIC) – Range Upgrade 203155, Equipment Purchase 203156 & Sport Development 203157 are approved projects.

ACN 008 613 858 Leverrier Crescent Bruce, ACT 2617, P O Box 176 Belconnen ACT 2616
 Tel (02) 6214 7868 Fax (02) 6214 7865 e-mail ; info@asf.org.au Web www.asf.org.au

Donor Signature

I would like my gift to benefit Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (VIC) – either the Range Upgrade, Equipment Purchase, Sport Development project or any combination of these, however I understand that my donation is made unconditionally to the Australian Sports Foundation Ltd. If I am donating to the Sport Development project, I additionally state that to the best of my knowledge, I and my associates and relatives will not benefit in any material way from the donation made to the Australian Sports Foundation Ltd. *

Signature _____ Date / / (You must sign this form for your donation to be accepted)

*Under taxation law, a tax deductible gift requires a donor to transfer money voluntarily without the donor or an associate of the donor receiving or being entitled to receive in return, any material advantage or compensation (apart from tax savings). The ASF requires donors to sign a declaration that the donor or an associate will not benefit in any material way from the donation and that the donation is made unconditionally. This enables donations to be eligible for tax deductibility.

+The definition of associate is very broad, but includes: relatives, companies in which you or associates have control, partners in a partnership and spouses of those partners, beneficiaries with an interest in a trust (or beneficiaries capable of benefiting under a trust); related trusts; and associates of any of the above. More specifically, a relative of a person (under Division 995 - Definitions of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997) means: the person's spouse; or the parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendent or adopted child of that person, or that person's spouse; or the spouse of a person referred to in the point above. NB: The definition of an associate is not exhaustive, and is a guide only. Refer section 78A of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 for the complete definition of associate.

DUCK SEASON DUDDING

Everyone would by now be aware that the Minister for Sustainability and Environment has announced that because of the prevailing conditions there is to be no open season for waterfowl in Victoria in 2003. What some may not be aware of is that the advice on which he made the decision was seriously flawed.

The Minister was not aware of the issues involved in waterfowl management and therefore had to rely on the advice of his department. Unfortunately this advice was not based on reliable evidence and was in fact contradicted by other evidence presented to but not accepted by his department.

As previously reported a meeting was held in 2002 with officers from the Game Management Unit (GMU). At this meeting the GMU officers completely reversed their previously agreed position and pressed the meeting to recommend that there should not be an open season in 2003.

The basis for this request was GMU's claim that the November Waterfowl Survey showed that too large a proportion of ducks were using the Victorian coastal wetlands as drought refuges. It was also claimed that the survey showed that there had been no recruitment for most duck species. In order to further advance their case GMU presented historical data and predictions for Australian rainfall that were interpreted to show that the drought was unlikely to break before the normal duck season opening date.

The above claims were persistently advanced despite the basis for them running counter too much of the available evidence. Independent surveys of a large number of wetlands, that were not included in the November Waterfowl Survey, showed that there were larger numbers of ducks more widely distributed than found by that survey. The independent surveys also suggested that waterfowl recruitment was much larger than indicated by the November Survey. Australian ducks, being supreme opportunists, were making use of every suitable body of water in the state, including farm dams,

ornamental lakes and even backyard pools, many having broods of ducklings on them.

The weather predictions also suggested that the drought would break in northern Australia producing a near normal seasonal pattern, which would draw ducks away from Victoria prior to any duck season. This has in fact occurred, with flooding in some areas likely to attract large numbers of ducks into Queensland and northern NSW.

Not only did the GMU officers ignore the information presented but the decision of that meeting and a later decision of the Hunting Advisory Council. Despite all of that they still recommended to Minister that there should be no duck season.

There is nothing that can be done about 2003 except to practice for 2004. However it would have long-term benefits if people were to write to the Minister, pointing out the poor quality of advice he received and requesting that game management issues be removed from the hands of ideologically compromised bureaucrats and given to a user-managed "Game Management Council". Do not abuse the Minister remember that he acted on the advice of people who failed him as much as they failed us.

Phil Brown
Conservation & Pest Management ■



Phil Brown - SSAA (Vic) Conservation and Pest Management



Plenty of woodies - but no duck season!

TAX OFFICE INCENTIVES FOR LAND CONSERVATION

Land holders interested in managing and conserving their land will now be entitled to tax incentives when entering into voluntary conservation agreements with government agencies.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, says the change extends already existing tax incentives and provides financial benefits to landowners who help conserve Australia's environment through entering perpetual conservation covenants.

A conservation covenant is a voluntary agreement entered into between a landowner and an authorised body, such as the Trust for Nature, which sets out actions to manage and conserve native vegetation. Previously, tax incentives were not available for conservation covenants entered into with state or local government agencies.

Dr Kemp says the incentive was designed to encourage a significantly larger number of people to enter into conservation covenants.

He says conservation covenants are becoming increasingly popular with over 2,000 covenants covering nearly 1 million hectares of land already entered into or currently in the process of negotiation. The government says the change will apply to covenants entered into on or after 1 July 2002.

This extends tax incentives to people entering conservation covenants with government agencies, such as state departments of parks and wildlife, where they had previously only applied if entered into with deductible gift recipients.

It allows people to claim an income tax deduction for any decrease in land value as a result of entering into a qualifying conservation covenant provided the landowner receives no payment for entering into it.

Capital gains tax provisions continue to apply as if it was a sale or gift of land.

Qualifying conservation covenants must be approved by, or through a program approved by, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

A conservation covenant is registered on a property's land title, formalising the commitment by landholders to put in place conservation activities such as fencing off rare plants, seed collecting and tree planting.

Lina Caneva

(Source - www.probonoaustralia.com.au)

If you would like a copy of the Fact Sheet on Conservation Covenant Concessions just send us an e-mail to probono@probonoaustralia.com.au ■

QUALIFIED COACHES - THE FUTURE OF OUR SPORT



Qualified Coaches are important because:

- They professionalise your training.
- They lift the image of shooting as a sport.
- They provide knowledgeable advice to correct problems.
- They standardise training and emphasise fundamentals.
 - They know how to teach.
- They anchor your club's training programs.
 - They are committed to training.
- They will help your discipline flourish in the future.



More successful shooters means:

- more enjoyment
- more satisfaction
- more commitment.

How do you get them?

- Talk to your members about enrolling in a coaching course- it only needs one to get the ball rolling.
 - Make recruitment and training a priority.
- Contact me for information on the next Level 1 Coaching Course.

Allen Bingham

0395802166

0418383746

allenbingham1@optusnet.com.au

The Level 1 course is interesting, comprehensive and structured to improve your knowledge of shooting and coaching.

Standards must rise if we are to lift the image of shooting.

Make it happen - in your club!

LETTER

LETTER

A NEW APPROACH IS NEEDED.

Our right to own firearms for whatever purpose is under attack, and we are losing the battle. The agenda is to remove all firearms from private owners, be they rifle, shotgun or pistol target shooters, hunters, competitors, collectors, farmers or re-enactmenters. Make no mistake, no type of firearm will be excluded, and even black powder firearms will be included. It all started with Labor's John Cain introducing registration of firearms, which led to confiscation by Howard and Beasley.

The pistol shooters thought they were 'safe', as some politicians promised them. But that promise was based on the 'divide and rule' concept, so efficiently developed by Julius Caesar some 2000 years ago, nothing new here. The various Australian shooting organisations were divided by political machinations of the worst kind, through promises and lies and the slice by slice strategy of the anti-gunners.

No matter that the Government's own statistical information shows that firearm confiscation from licensed and registered owners does NOT result in lower crime statistics. On the contrary in both Australia and the UK it has been clearly shown that firearm crime actually went up after partial and total firearm bans. Completely the opposite of what they said would happen!

We, the Australian firearm owners, have followed a policy of appeasement thinking, "If we are nice to the

politicians we will be left alone and no further confiscations will take place, we must keep them as friends." This line of thought is a serious mistake! Politicians are NOT our friends, they have sold us out and will do so again and again. We must take a different stand, and hit them where it will hurt them, on election day.

Most Australian firearm owners will say, but we can't make a difference, we have no strength in numbers. While I do not have the exact figures, but let me give you some food for thought! Question 1: Who has the highest numbers, Democrats voters or firearm owners? Question 2: Who has the highest numbers, Greens voters or firearm owners? The answer for both questions is the same, firearm owners! In fact there are way more firearm owners than Democrats and Greens voters put together! And we don't have power?

We need to do two things come the next election day, State or Federal. We must be willing to organise ourselves in selected (usually marginal) seats, to vote against the sitting member and to hand out How To Vote cards for selected candidates. The time to pussyfoot and be nice to politicians is over, we must become pro-active and assertive, look at what the Greens, Democrats, women groups and last but not least, anti-gun groups have achieved. Let's do it!

Karel Zegers

Marong ■

LSB WEBSITE

The Victoria Police Licensing Services Branch (LSB) has recently launched a new website for easy firearm identification. The site can be found at www.police.vic.gov.au/weaponsid. The site is a veritable treasure trove of information and will assist firearm owners to identify their firearms, and provides a range of other information in relation to firearm dealers, lost and stolen firearms and additional topics.

This is a state of the art system that has been developed using the enormous wealth of knowledge accumulated by Bob Schwarz of the LSB and it is a credit to him and the Branch. The website is the envy of all other states and has even been used internationally by other policing agencies.

The downside to the LSB story though is that due to ongoing funding shortages, whilst the wait on a Permit To Acquire is about seven days turn-around (which is great), the wait on new licence applications has again blown out to about 2-3 months. If you are not happy about this, contact your local State Member of Parliament or the Police Minister, Andre Haermeyer, directly at andre.haermeyer@parliament.vic.gov.au. ■

THE VICTORIAN SHOOTER DISTRIBUTION

The Victorian Shooter is published bi-monthly. It appears on the SSAA (Vic) website www.ssavic.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.

WEB ADDRESS:

www.ssaavic.com.au

To view *The Victorian Shooter* and important updates from State Office, various shooting disciplines, clubs and sub clubs of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Vic) online. The SSAA (Vic) website contains all the latest news, and provides a valuable source of information for the membership.

Disclaimer

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

BRANCH AND CLUB NEWS

KIDS ARE SHOOTERS TOO

And they are good, in many cases much better than their coaches.

The Youth Training Scheme (YTS) is off and running in 2003 for the 9th year and already young shooters have bagged a swag of National awards in field Rifle and silhouette. With a National postal shoot just finished we expect more good scores in the near future. Youthful enthusiasm combined with intense coaching, all wrapped up in a safe social setting have characterised the YTS since its beginnings.

Not only have several hundred new shooters been safely introduced to the sport and all its diversity but we now boast 10 Level 1 qualified shooting coaches who regularly attend Springvale range on the first Sunday of the month and pass on their skills in a systematic and friendly way. Each new coaching course sees more of our involved parents and helpers improving their skill and knowledge and putting time back into the sport they love. Their success ensures the future of the sport and their reward is the juniors' delight as their scores improve.

We welcome all juniors from 12-21. Those who wish to try the sport and get an appreciation of the discipline and techniques involved, from casual field shooters who wish to improve their accuracy right up to talented dedicated young sportspeople with international ambitions. All receive the same attention and are encouraged to improve at their own rate and to the level they desire.

If you know a junior who wants to get into shooting get them to contact Mary on 95802166 or by e-mail at marybingham1@optusnet.com.au for an information kit.

Country Kids...You're Missing Out

The city kids are shooting postal shoots, interstate comps

and local comps. So why aren't you? They get to travel to Queensland and ACT with the Youth Training Scheme to shoot competitions and make new friends.

I know some of you shoot shotgun comps but some families shoot .22 bolt with scopes - that's all you need. Learn to shoot sitting post, standing post, rapid fire and offhand and you can enter heaps of comps and have a go at getting on teams such as field Rifle, 3P or 4P and silhouette.

Most of the senior members at your club could teach you this and help you start your own club. The Springvale group will send you all their stuff so you can get some ideas. There are special training days for mums and dads to become registered coaches and help you even more.

It's time to start pushing your own Branch. Write to your nearest SSAA branch and ask about junior training. Have a list of names of your friends who would go with you OR just shoot the postal comps with the olds and send your targets to us at Springvale. We will fix them up and send them in. We could put you on our mailing list and keep you up to date with the comps as they come up. All the comps are listed each month in the back of the Australian Shooter.

There are individual badges and patches to win as you start getting higher scores, not competitions, just against yourself. You know you only have to have 3 shooters to be a match or you can be just one junior amongst all the adults and your target counts.

You can ring me, but check with the folks 'cos it'll be a long distance call and ask me what can be done. Mary Bingham, Secretary/Mum, SSAA Youth Training Scheme 03 9580 2166 or email marybingham1@optusnet.com.au

Mary & Allen Bingham
Youth Training Scheme
Springvale Branch ■



Junior Shooters in action

SHEPPARTON BRANCH

Congratulations: Our 'MRC' president, Bob Richards has been selected to represent Australia in the Anzac Day Shoot against New Zealand.

Range/Safety Officer's course: Any members who would like to help the club by undertaking the Range/Safety Officer's course please contact SRO Alan Nichols - 5821 3220 or Geoff Wilson - 5821 9015.

General meeting dates: 3rd Tuesday of each month. 7.30pm MRC & 8.15 SSAA General meeting. Enquiries: Ian Midford 5825 1438.

New members: Most welcome to join us and make use of the range and new clubrooms. Existing members please note that you do not have to shoot competition in order to use the range - please make full use of our facilities.

Members please note:

MILITARY PISTOL & RIFLE - 1st Saturday & 3rd Sunday each month

Pistol range open at 10.30am & Rifle range open at 12 noon

SHOTGUN - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturday each month

SILHOUETTE - 2nd Sunday each month

LEVER ACTION - 4th Sunday ODD months

3 POSITIONAL RABBIT SHOOT - 4th Sunday EVEN months

CALENDAR - 2003

Special Shoots - Shotgun

Saturday 26/4/03 Skeet practise
Saturday 17/5/03 Sporting clays comp 50 target
Saturday 28/6/03 Skeet practise
Saturday 19/7/03 Sporting clays Champ 50 target
Saturday 16/8/03 Sporting clays comp 50 target
Saturday 27/9/03 Skeet practise
Saturday 18/10/03 OCTOBLAST .410 & Black powder 50 target
Saturday 25/10/03 Skeet practise
Saturday 22/11/03 Skeet practise
Saturday 20/12/03 Christmas FLUSH 50 target

Special Shoots - Military Rifle

Saturday 5/4/03 Bayonet shoot
Saturday 7/6/03 Rapid "A"
Sunday 21/9/03 .303 shoot
Saturday 1/11/03 El Alamein shoot

Special Shoots - General

4th Sunday in April, June, August - 4 Position Postal shoot
4th Sunday in August - Open Lever Action
Sunday 31/8/03 Whitebox shoot
Sunday 30/11/03 Christmas shoot

Contact numbers:

Shepparton Range Ph. 03 5829 2735
Military Rifle & pistol Dick Maag - Ph. 5831 4945
Silhouette Col Saxton - Ph. 5822 1445
Shotgun Peter Finn - Ph. 5821 8804
3 Positional/Field Rifle Rob Richards - Ph. 5795 3164
Lever Action Geoff Wilson - Ph. 5821 9015 ■

VICTORIAN MUZZLE LOADING CLUB

Updates:

1. The VMLC has a new web site at www.users.bigpond.net.au/vmlc/

2. The next General Meeting will be held at SSAA Springvale on the 12th March 2003 at 8:00pm, all members and interested parties are welcome to attend.

3. The next Shoot will be held at SSAA Eagle Park Range on the 15th March 2003, all interested parties are welcome to attend. The programme for the day is as follows:

Class 3 (Any) Muzzle Loading Rifle Championship

Pistol Class 3 (Open): 25m Precision, 50m Precision.

Muzzle Loader Rifle: Flint Lock 50m Offhand.

Muzzle Loader Rifle Class 3 (Open): 50m Bench Rest, 100m Bench Rest, 200m Bench Rest.

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. ■

WODONGA BRANCH NEWS

PO Box 501 Wodonga VIC 3689

Range Works

The current phase of 300 metre range development is nearing completion. A few minor earthworks remain, together with painting the rebuilt covered firing point. We have installed 10 new concrete benches while retaining some existing benches. Lift out panels and gates now exclude stock. These panels are custom fitted to their openings so please don't mix them up. Always refit them before leaving the range or be prepared to shoot prone in roo poo.

Black Powder Rendezvous

The annual black powder rendezvous will be held 12 & 13 April 2003. A similar program to previous years promises another great event not to be missed. Competitive black powder shooting with rifles, pistols and shotguns. There will also be a cannon event, knife and 'hawk throws (ladies always do well here?). trade blankets and much good company.

Colonial Action Match Postal Competition 2003

Two stages of the Colonial Action Postal Match for 2003 will be offered on each 3rd Sunday at 1.00 pm following Lever Action which starts at 11.00 am. We plan to re-run the stages to cater for those who missed the first presentation. Using rifles, pistols and shotguns of a type that may have been seen in Australia between 1850 and 1901. Black powder or nitro. The aim is to shoot as fast and accurately as you can at a range of targets which may include A3 sized card, steel plates or foam filled containers for the shotguns. Ranges from 10 yards to 40 yards. We can help with equipment and supplies for those without to try, so why not have a go? You'll probably enjoy it. It is also most entertaining to watch. Does it sound too easy? There is no such thing as a target that cannot be missed.

SSAA Pistol Training Manual

The SSAA Training publication titled "Basic Training Program in Target Pistol for New Shooters" is available for \$5 from John Harwood. The booklet contains information on safety, use, holsters, fundamentals of target shooting, exercises, shooting positions, range safety and a summary of most popular competitions. It is just the thing for a new shooter starting out and also an experienced shooter as a reminder of the basics. It is the best \$5 that most target pistol shooters will ever spend.

Victorian Colonial Action State Championship

The Victorian Colonial Action State Championship will be presented at the West Wodonga range complex late in

October. Entries will close 31 August. More information next issue or contact Ian Guthrie.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Wodonga Branch AGM is scheduled for Sunday 1st June 2003 at the range commencing 1.00 pm. Notices of Motion will be accepted from eligible members until 11th May 2003. Nominations for election to the Branch Executive will be accepted until 11th May 2003. Proxies will be accepted until 28th May 2003. Forms will be available at the range from 20th April or from the Secretary.

Item for Tender

The Branch has surplus to its requirements a ride-on mower with an incomplete. Briggs & Stratton 8.5 hp vertical shaft engine. Not running. Offers invited in an envelope marked "Tender" to the above address before 5 April 2003.

Wodonga Range Fees

Your annual range pass remains good value at a cost of \$25 (from 1st Jan). You can shoot at the range as many times as you want until 30th June 2003. 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 protection and hearing protection is compulsory for all people on the firing line. Fashion sunglasses are not acceptable. A blind shooter is not a good shooter. Loan equipment is available from the R/O.

Standing Range Calendar

Each Saturday 1.30 pm Pistol Shooting on 25 and 50 metre ranges.

1st Sunday - No shooting on the 200 & 300 metre ranges. (Nor on the preceding Saturday)

2nd Sunday - 11.00am Benchrest, Metallic Silhouette, Field Rifle, 3P and any other rifle events required by members..

3rd Sunday - 11.00am Lever Action, 1.00 pm Colonial Action.

4th Sunday - 11.00am Black Powder Pistol, 1.00pm Black Powder longarms.

5th Sunday - 11.00am General shooting practice

We also enjoy general shooting practice each Wednesday between 10.00am and 6.00pm and on Saturdays between 10.00am and 6.00pm by arrangement with a Range Officer.

Contact us:

President - Mick Pressnell (02) 6025 6691

Vice Pres. - Rob Edgar (02) 6024 7561

Secretary - Ian Guthrie (02) 6024 4530

email: Ian.Guthrie@bigpond.com ■

WORKING GUNDOGS

The Working Gundogs two-day retrieving trial was held on the weekend of 22 & 23 February at Wallace near Ballarat. A great turnout of competitors set the scene for a weekend of conviviality and competition.

The Working Gundog Association's retrieving trials aim to duplicate as near as possible natural hunting scenarios. A rabbit run, a duck run and a quail run were all set out in innovative and challenging formats. Hills, scrub, levy banks and water were all utilized to test the dogs and their handlers. The quality and degree of difficulty of some of these runs is astonishing, and dogs that can handle them successfully are able to translate what they have learnt in WGAA's training days and trials to the real thing.

Results

Sat 22 Feb - 1st Paul Brincat (GSP), 2nd Troy Hutchison (Wire Haired Pointer), 3rd Bob Carey (English Springer Spaniel)

Sun 23 Feb - 1st Paul Brincat (GSP), 2nd Sal Briganti (GSP), 3rd Chris Collins (Lab)

Spaniel Field Trial Dates

31 May & 1 June - Novice Trial Ondra Pheasants (South Australia Branch)

9 July - Novice Spaniel Trial (South Australia Branch)

9 Aug & 10 Aug - Open Trial Victoria Park Range (South Australia Branch)

30 August - Spaniel Field Trial (Victorian Branch)

For information about WGAA's spaniel trials contact Robert Wood 9306 9564

Pointer & Setter Field Trial Dates - Victorian Branch

25 April - Judge Dick Hawkey

24 May - Judge Lance Bailey-Hill

25 May - Judge John Kersley

14 & 15 June - Judges to be announced

28 June - National Championship

29 June - John Nash Memorial trial

For information about WGAA's pointer and setter trials contact Dick Hawkey on 9394 1136

Training Days

WGAA runs a very successful training programme for gundogs at Melton on the third Sunday of every month. All gundogs and levels of ability welcome. Contact Graham Hayes on 9743 7402.

National Discipline sub committee meeting

The NDSC meeting for Working Gundogs will be held on Friday June 28th, 2003. (Venue to be announced). Any items for discussion should be in the hands of the National Discipline Chairman, Barry Oliver (oliver@siggah.com) ph/fax 9598 3035, by Thursday 17th April, 2003. ■

DEERSTALKERS CLUB

The Deerstalkers Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except January) at the SSAA Springvale range, meetings start at 8.00pm. All are welcome to attend, guest speakers cover a wide range of hunting/camping and "general bush" topics.

Hunter Training

Yes folks, it's on again - the oldest hunter training program in the State. Learn how to hunt legally, ethically and in harmony with the environment. The dates for this year are 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June and 24th July. Program starts at 7.30 pm at the Springvale Range.

Contact Sieggie Moeller on 9801 4585 to reserve your spot.

David G. Brown ■



Hunters!

**NATIONAL!
CLOSED TO
HUNTERS**



**you're in
their sights.**

**Help the fight; join the SSAA (Vic) now
and protect your rights -
if YOU don't, WHO WILL?**

Want to find out more about the SSAA (Vic)? Take a look at our web site www.ssaavic.com.au for membership forms, member benefits and for more information on a **tax deductible donations** scheme for the SSAA (Vic).

For further information contact the SSAA (Vic) State Office on (03) 9590 0177 or e-mail state_office@ssaavic.com.au