

SHOOTING WEST

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (WA) Inc.

www.ssaawa.org.au



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Spring 2018
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From the President...

Shot expo is fast approaching and its looking like we are in for a big show. A lot goes into planning this event as well as support from the major exhibitors so make sure you show your support by attending and helping us showcase the sport we are all proud of.

Since last Shooting West it has continued to be busy with ongoing meets over the transport issues facing the industry. Some solutions are on the way but its still difficult for dealers to legitimately get gear in and out of the state. There may also be some positive common sense change coming as we have continued to meet at high levels discussing the law reform recommendations, cutting red tape and freeing up valuable police resources is high on the agenda, time will tell but we remain positive.

On a club note we have had some positives at National level with an appointment of a new Coaching and Competition Co-ordinator who will be helping us with accreditations for our existing and future coaches. Its a tremendous boost for the competitive shooting sports, given our member numbers, and a great asset to help develop junior shooters from within our membership. Senator Bridget Mackenzie who is the federal sports minister had some influence in this helpful decision.

The following is a shameless plug for your safety and for the SSAA store. Some of you may believe that because the prices of the products in the store are cheap then the product quality is likewise cheap. This is not true. I am the national director managing the SSAA store and I source quality product that is then offered to you at low cost as a member service. I am particularly excited to showcase the new SSAA shooting

glasses featured in this issue of Australian Shooter magazine.

Eyes n Ears is an adage that should not be forgotten and if you have ever blown a primer on a rifle that doesn't have a shroud covering the firing pin path you will know that eye protection should be a high priority. This is basic safety – if you haven't got shooting glasses already, do yourself a favour.

In May I was able to meet with team from Regional Mens Health Initiative and do the presentation of our \$20000 donation based on our bounties from the red card fox shoots.

Lastly I had immense pleasure in attending the Warrior Ambassador Awards and book launch produced by Regional Mens Health Initiative. We were honoured to be recognized for our contributions via the SSAA Red Card Community shoots.

The work these folks do is amazing and well worthy of our help. They will be attending the Shot Expo so stop in and say hello but also feel free to drop a donation on them so they can continue the ongoing work in Mens Health in regional, rural and remote communities throughout WA.



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SSAA SHOT Expo 13 & 14th October Claremont Showgrounds

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Australia's **BIGGEST** Shooting Sports, Hunting and Outdoors event, **SSAA SHOT Expo**, is returning to Claremont Showgrounds in Perth 13 & 14 October 2018... and it keeps getting **BIGGER!!**

In 2018, SSAA SHOT Expo will this time occupy the entire venue including all three buildings and outdoor areas, which means there will be even more exhibitors, activities, outdoor displays, food & much more!

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 120+ exhibits with the latest equipment, gear, accessories & services for the shooting sports, hunting & outdoor trades.
- Live Demos & Expert Talks
- SSAA Field to Fork Cooking & Game Processing Demos
- SSAA Working Gun dog demos
- SSAA Indoor Air-Rifle & Air-Pistol Ranges
- Archery Range
- Night Vision Tunnel to test the latest night vision & thermal optics
- Heaps of activities for the kids
- And much, much more to be announced!

To make the Expo run successfully we rely heavily on our volunteers. A big thank you to all those who volunteered last time, your time, effort and contribution were invaluable!

We need people in a few key areas:

Setting up and dismantling of the range area and the SSAA stand area on Friday and Monday

Promoting SSAA memberships and providing people with general information

Help in the disciplines area talking about your chosen sport

Range officers, instructors, people to help the public at the air rifle range and make their experience fun!

Please note: all volunteers in the range area will require a Working With Children Check Card as per current legislation.

All volunteers are provided with free entry to the Expo all weekend, a branded polo shirt, lunch and free parking.

You will find the Volunteer Registration form on our website or email our Volunteer Coordinator **Astrid Coleman** on dacol.dave@bigpond.com

Looking forward to seeing you there!

SSAA SHOT EXPO

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST SHOOTING SPORTS EVENT JUST KEEPS GETTING BIGGER!



SSAA 13 & 14 OCTOBER 2018
SHOT EXPO CLAREMONT SHOWGROUNDS, PERTH
www.shotexpo.com.au

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Establishment of Wanneroo Shooting Complex



On Sunday 28th May a ceremony was held to unveil a plaque commemorating the formation of the First WA SSAA branch. Invited guests included Hon. Rick Mazza MLC, Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts JP, SSAA

of State Forest for the purposes of building a rifle and pistol range. SSAA(WA) finally had its own home.

Unlike the Mullaloo site there were no natural butts so one would have to be built and still with no funds this was a major issue. A savior came by way of Cyril Maccarone who had a bulldozer and he cleared the range site and built a massive butt. It is unclear how his involvement eventuated but Cyril's work was a grand gesture as he gave his time for free only requiring a contribution towards the fuel costs.

Work on establishing the benchrest facilities proved to be a hard task for the dedicated few who gave up many weekends to lay a lengthy roofed concrete pad along with constructing and installing numerous solid benches. Finally, it was completed and the decision was made to have the range officially opened.

On 11 June 1972, 16 months after SSAA(WA)'s initial establishment a large crowd of over 200 comprising of invited dignitaries, SSAA's National President, firearm company representatives and dealers, friends, family & the general public all witnessed Senator Tom Drake-Brockman fire Jim Nicholas's .222 into a bottle of Champagne declaring the Wanneroo Pinjar Range officially open.

Immediately after the senator was invited to fire a group of 5 shots into a 100 yard target. What the Senator didn't know was as his ability was not known and to avoid him being embarrassed, Jim had previously put 5 shots into another target with a reasonable spacing.

This target was hidden near the official target with the view if his group looked a bit ragged or he had missed a few they would be swapped. But he surprised all as he shot a very respectable 5 shot group. His target was signed, framed and presented to him at his Perth office.

In recognition of his dedication and hard work, the road into Wanneroo Shooting Complex has been named Graham Pow Drive after our inaugural SSAA WA President Graham Pow, without whom, we wouldn't be in the position we are today. SSAA (WA) has also grown to become WA's largest shooting body with many more SSAA clubs and ranges established under its banner with thousands of WA shooters now competing in their chosen sport with many still using this range's facilities.



WA President Ron Bryant, the founding members, family and friends.

The initial range used by the former members of the WA Benchrest Rifle Club & from February 1971 by the inaugural members of SSAA (WA) was known as the Chidlow Rifle Range, which was under the control of the WA Rifle Association.

It was a concern that should it eventuate to not have access to a suitable range in the future this could have dire consequences in the fight to have SSAA(WA) officially recognised. Hence, whilst the priority action for official recognition continued, efforts to find a home were also undertaken. This culminated in late 1971 when the Conservator of Forests identified an area known as Mullaloo that could contain an area of land suitable for establishing a range.

This was an exciting breakthrough as existing sandhills also provided many natural butts, which would greatly reduce establishment costs. It didn't take long to find a suitable area with minimal vegetation & only one large dead tree that would require removal.

An SSAA(WA) Range sign was duly erected at the entry point and all was good so it was thought. Only after a couple of shoots, bad news came in the form of advice that the Government had now decided to rezone all this land for future residential use.

Consequently, the Wanneroo Shire advised work had to cease and they must immediately vacate the area.

The hunt was on again! Surprisingly quickly the Conservator of Forests and the Wanneroo Shire advised of a further parcel of land off Perry Road with the advice that the Government would look favourably towards issuing a lease in this area. This news proved to be a godsend as virtually at the same time the WA Rifle Association withdrew its support for any continued use of the Chidlow Range.

Graham Pow and Ray Edwards spent countless hours trekking various tracks looking for a suitable site that would meet immediate & future requirements.

Eventually, a portion was selected and in order to hasten the approval process and before anyone could change their minds, Graham decided to map it out using an army compass and again spent many hours pacing through virgin bush & mapped an area comprising of 8.9 hectares.

True to his word the Conservator of Forests subsequently signed a lease on 6 April 1972 granting tenure over a portion

Upcoming Competitions

September– December 2018

2018 SSAA (WA) Practical Hunting Rifle State Championships

Saturday 8th September 2018

Dave Brougham Ph 9577 2133 clas@iinet.net.au

2018 SSAA (WA) Shotgun Tower State Championships

Sunday 16th September 2018

Neil Cobb Ph 0404 040 357 neilcobb@bigpond.com

2018 SSAA (WA) Muzzle Loading State Championships

30th September– 1st October & Sunday 7th October 2018

Rick Denniston Ph 0409 680 171 dennistonr@iinet.au

2018 SSAA (WA) Practical Shooting State Championships

Saturday 3rd November 2018

Ian Pittick Ph 9725 7779 iwptittick@wn.com.au

2018 Doug Barnes H/B Benchrest Trophy

Sunday 18th November 2018

For more information on events please refer to our website
www.ssaawa.org.au

Competition Results

Congratulations to John Wyatt (*pictured right*) from the Jarrahdale Benchrest Club who broke 2 State records at the WA Benchrest Centrefire State Titles held on 3rd June.

They were 200 yd Aggregate 0.1939 and Grand Aggregate 0.1952.



At the Fly Shoot National Championships held at PRMSC West Australian Stuart Pethybridge (*pictured below*) broke 2 national records for smallest group .8485" and for highest scoring single target 60.02. Well done!



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Shooting West goes out to over 10,000 WA members with their Australian Shooter Magazine once every quarter.

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