

# THE NSW SHOOTER

December 2011



## South Coast Big Fly Champs

# ANZAC Range closed ... where to now?

### **SSAA NSW Christmas Shutdown**

The SSAA NSW Office will close from Thursday December 22nd and re-open again on Monday January 9th. On behalf of all the staff at SSAA NSW we would like to wish you and your family a very safe and merry Christmas and New Year period.



The official newsletter of the  
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.

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# ANZAC Range closed ... so where to from here?

Over the past months SSAA has been working toward a solution to the problem caused by the closure of the ANZAC Rifle Range at Malabar. Shooting Ranges within the Sydney basin, or more appropriately, the lack of suitable ranges within Sydney is a major concern for shooters and an issue that SSAA NSW is attempting to address.

The closure of ANZAC has brought this issue to the fore and following receipt of the Termination Notice from the Commonwealth Government in April, representatives of SSAA NSW in conjunction with members of the SSAA Sydney Branch Committee have been actively working toward a suitable solution.

At the time of writing, negotiations with the Commonwealth Government are continuing and a meeting is scheduled for next week with the Hon Gary Gray, Special Minister of State, whose portfolio includes the ANZAC Range. We continue to be extremely hopeful of a positive outcome to these negotiations.

During the past six months or so we have embarked upon a strategy, which has at times required modification due to various developments. To date, we have attempted to keep members informed of what has been happening, although as most of you will understand, during a major campaign such as this it is not a strategically wise move to broadcast our intentions far and wide. I understand the frustration felt by some members at the lack of detail disclosed to date, however, unfortunately this has been a necessary course of action, not only because of the possibility of sabotage by external parties, but as a result of a small group of members driven by their own personal agendas and a lack of consideration for the bigger picture and the SSAA NSW membership as a whole.

At this time, I'd like to take the opportunity to give members an update on some of the actions we've undertaken to date and clarify some important points:

- In May, SSAA NSW President Paul McNabb, myself and a number of Sydney Branch Committee members met with Robert Brown & Robert Borsak of the Shooters & Fishers Party to discuss the way forward following the receipt of the Termination Notice.
- It was agreed to engage a lobbyist who would be jointly funded by SSAA NSW & Sydney Branch to assist with the development and implementation of an appropriate campaign.
- An extensive letter was written to Minister Gary Gray outlining a number of important issues including the fact that there had been no consultation with users. The letter was co-signed by myself on behalf of SSAA NSW and Rob Carnell as President of Sydney Branch.
- In June, Rob Carnell and I, along with the lobbyist attended a meeting with Minister Gray in Canberra to discuss our concerns regarding the closure of the Range and highlight the predicament faced by SSAA NSW with regard to insurance coverage given the reason provided by the Commonwealth for closure was that of health and safety concerns.

**Diana Melham**  
**Executive Director**  
**SSAA (NSW) Inc.**



- At the meeting the Minister made it quite clear that the ANZAC Range would be closed and a request was made of the Minister to confirm if the Commonwealth Government would assure the safety of users for the remainder of the time until the date of closure.
- A letter was received from the Minister advising that the Commonwealth could not provide assurance as to whether or not the site was safe to use. Following advice from the SSAA lawyer and insurance underwriter, SSAA NSW Board made the decision to cease access to the range as a result of the duty of care owed to the Association and its members.
- In addition to our representations to the Minister, we have been liaising with the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DOFAD), who made it clear from the outset that the Department would only deal with SSAA NSW as the Licence holder.
- It is important to note, that the Licence has always been held by SSAA NSW and was never held by Sydney Branch. Under an agreement between both parties, SSAA Sydney Branch has operated the SSAA Range facility at ANZAC. Sydney Branch has paid the licence fees and in return has received all of the income generated from the Range.
- Other range users, including the pony club, were approached to join with SSAA to form a united group to make representations and increase awareness of the impact that the closure would have.
- SSAA NSW received a request to submit a proposal to the Commonwealth Government for alternative range sites. Given the Ministers continued reiteration that ANZAC would be closed and access to the Range would not be possible following remediation works, it was decided that SSAA should submit a proposal and negotiate for assistance with an alternative site.
- SSAA NSW requested input from Sydney Branch and it was agreed that Sydney Branch would work on a proposal for an indoor shooting facility in the eastern suburbs, whilst SSAA NSW would develop a proposal for a site located on land currently held by the Department of Defence at Holsworthy. Richard Drozdowski, SSAA NSW Range Development Fund Chairman and Junior Vice President, developed a detailed proposal for Holsworthy and Sydney Branch identified a number of potential sites and information on construction requirements for an indoor facility.

...Continued on page 6

# Big year and maybe a new range in 2012

**So much is happening with SSAA NSW.** At the time of writing we are waiting to hear whether the Federal Government will assist us with finding a new Range for Sydney. Di Melham, working closely with a small team, has submitted a detailed proposal and is continuing negotiations with the Government. The feedback from the Government so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

In April we received news that our licence at Malabar had been terminated. Although expected for years, it was a bitter disappointment to the small and loyal group of Malabar shooters. The eviction notice also included health and safety warnings which affected our insurance coverage. We hope to have more news from the Federal Government shortly.

Better news was the re-election of the Shooters and Fishers Party representative, Robert Brown, to the NSW Legislative Council. With our help he achieved a record vote, up almost 50%. I am in close contact with our two representatives and they are making a difference when it comes to the shooting sports. I believe that the MACOSC Grants are back because of their lobbying efforts and both MLC's, Robert Brown and Robert Borsak, are helping with our bid for a new Sydney range.

2011 also saw the refurbishment of the St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre which included a new exterior paint job, carpet and partial resurfacing of the car park. This is a world-class facility and I encourage members to make time for a shoot and to check out the excellent gun shop.

Our Head Office team is now complete with the addition of our new Media and Communications Officer, Tim Horan. The workload at Head Office is full-on but the team of Kim, Justine, Janette and others always make time for our Members. Robert Broderick joined the team last year as H&C Project Officer. Our H&C Program is taking a new and professional approach to the sport. After a short time away, George Hackney has now returned to Tilterweira as our Caretaker. I'm also happy to report that all of our accounts are now in order and much more transparent.

In October, the NSW Board visited Tilterweira for a two-day Board meeting. I can report our hunting property is in peak condition. Tilterweira is available for SSAA NSW

members, so please contact Robert at SSAA NSW Office to book your next hunting trip. I guarantee it will be an unforgettable experience. The hard-working team at Hay Branch are well on the way to completing the Hay Shooting Complex featuring rifle, shotgun & pistol shooting. Also, the new Macksville range will open soon. Huge rains this year stopped work on the access road but Dennis Rowe and the team are now onto it.

Branches began receiving additional funding throughout 2011 because of the initiative shown by the NSW Board. This year I have visited many Branches and I can report things are now running smoothly across the state. Remember, Head Office is there to help you with any Branch problems.

At the National level, it was great to see our own Diana Melham elected as National Secretary. The Board also elected a new Senior and Junior Vice President.

In 2012, we will host the Shot Expo on June 16th and 17th. Please book the dates into your diary as we want to exceed the record-breaking 9600 visitors in 2010.

I'd like to thank Executive Director Di Melham for the amazing job she does almost 24-7. Also, thanks to our wonderful team at St Marys – without a doubt, the best Head Office crew in Australia. Also, a big thank you to Ali Newbery and her staff, at the St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre.

Finally, I'd like to thank the hard-working, dedicated and unified members of the NSW Board. In particular, Richard Drozdowski, Mark Godwin and Lance Miller, who have spent a significant amount of their own time working on projects that will help the Association for years to come.

I would like to wish you and your family a very safe and merry Christmas.

**Paul McNabb**  
**President**  
**SSAA (NSW) Inc.**



Mark Godwin   Richard Drozdowski   Rob Austin   Lance Miller   Dave Billingham   Carlos Herreros   Craig Hopkins

# South Coast Big Fly Championships

**The weekend of the** 29th & 30th October saw the SSAA Batemans Bay run a registered 500m & 200m Fly Championship match. This is a Long Range Benchrest event. There were approximately 50 entries across the two days, with competitors travelling from as far afield as North QLD and Victoria as well as all over NSW.

This was a two day event and the competition was intense. I'd like to say a big thank you to all the local volunteers who gave up their weekend to help run the range, change targets, score, provide great food and generally make it possible for the event to run so well. The weather conditions were very good for the Saturday with only some light wind and a small amount of rain, with the wind increasing and making the Sunday more difficult.

There was a new 500m Heavy Gun total score Australian record set at 283.06 by Les Fraser (previously held at 266.06 by Stuart Elliott at Canberra).

There was also a new Light Gun total score Australian record set at 274.04 by Anthony Hall (previously held at 253.06 by Peter Van Meurs at Canberra).

There was also a new Heavy Gun best target record score set at 59.02 by Les Fraser (previously 56 by Garry Blewitt) and a new Heavy gun small group record set at around 1.562" by Les Fraser (previous record was 1.676").



The Placings for the event were:

## 500m Centrefire

Overall Best score – Les Fraser 283.06  
Best Placed Junior – Nethanel Farr 202.02

## Heavy Gun

1st Place – Les Fraser 283.06  
2nd Place – Dave Groves 264.06  
3rd Place – Mick Farr – 252.04

Small Group – Les Fraser 1.562" (39.7mm)  
Best Target – Les Fraser - 59.02

## Light Gun

1st Place - Anthony Hall – 274.04  
2nd Place – Michael Bell 269.03  
3rd Place – Rob Small – 256.02

Small Group - Anthony Hall 1.280" (32.5mm)  
Best Target – Anthony Hall - 58.2

## 200m Rimfire

1st Place – Anthony Hall – 203.01  
2nd Place Les Fraser – 188.02  
3rd Place Michael Farr 182.02

## Overall weekend 2 gun Winner

1st Place - Anthony Hall with a combined score of 477.5  
2nd Place – Les Fraser with a combined score of 471.08  
3rd Place – Michael Farr with a combined score of 434.06

## Anthony Hall



*Left to Right - Bryson Payne, Anthony Hall and Les Fraser*

## The NSW Shooter is published by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (NSW) Inc

**Disclaimer:** Please note that the views expressed are not necessarily those of SSAA (NSW) Inc.

**Attention:** Branch Secretaries/Publicity Officers  
Editorial deadline for the February 2012 issue of the *NSW Shooter* is Monday, 11th January 2012.

**Editor:** Tim Horan

**Graphic Designer:** Craig Rogers

Post all correspondence and contributions to:  
Newsletter, PO Box 1001 St Marys, NSW 1790 or  
email: [newsletter@nsw.ssaa.org.au](mailto:newsletter@nsw.ssaa.org.au)

**Cover:** Competitors at the South Coast Big Fly Champs.

## Ask Trevor

**Trevor Jenkin** is the National Manager for SSAA Insurance Brokerage. If you or your Branch have any insurance questions, please let us know by emailing [newsletter@nsw.ssaa.org.au](mailto:newsletter@nsw.ssaa.org.au)

### Can SSAA Insurance brokers arrange travel insurance for me?

SSAA Insurance Brokers now has a facility through Chartist Insurance which entitles all SSAA members to 20% discount on their travel insurance. To make it as easy as possible for the member everything is done on the internet. There is no phone calls necessary and no time delays in getting your certificates as proof of cover.

You can log on to <http://chartistravelinsurance.com.au/ssains> and enter your details, accept the terms and then pay for it all on line. Chartist offer cover for international, domestic, frequent travellers and travellers over 70 years of age. Some of the policy benefits are unlimited medical cover, unlimited cancellation cost, luggage covered up to \$38,000 and access to Travel Guard in an emergency. For the full policy wording and all benefits please refer to the above link.



## Range Attendances Reminder

**Members who are using** membership of SSAA to support their genuine reason(s) for holding a firearms licence are reminded that participation in their minimum number of activities for the 2011/12 reporting period should be completed by 31st March 2012.

Clause 96(1) of the Firearms Regulations details the activities that can be counted as an activity and members should ensure they fully complete the SSAA NSW Attendance Book whenever they attend a range and participate in a complying activity.

Members can participate in activities at any approved range; there is no stipulation that they must only attend certain ranges. This is particularly pertinent given the recent displacement of shooters from the ANZAC Range at Malabar. SSAA Sydney Branch & SSAA NSW are working towards having the SSAA NSW Mobile Air Rifle Ranges operating at the Penrith Gun Show in 2012. NSW Firearms Registry has confirmed that completing a shoot at the Mobile Range will count as a target shooting attendance.

Members who participate in a complying activity where a SSAA NSW Attendance Book is not available for signing are advised to keep a copy of their proof of attendance (receipt etc.) and forward a copy to the SSAA NSW Office to enable that attendance to be recorded.

Events such as working bees, committee meetings, AGMs and visits to guns shows (where there is no participation in a complying activity) do not comply. As such, SSAA NSW Attendance Books will not be available at events that do not meet the requirements of the Regulations.

As a service to our members, SSAA NSW will again send reminder notices to all members who have not yet completed the minimum number of activities in early 2012, to give you plenty of time to comply.

If you have any questions about attendances please don't hesitate to contact SSAA NSW on (02) **8889 0400**.

# SISC

Sydney International Shooting Centre

- Pro shop, kiosk and accommodation on-site
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- 172 firing lines with electronic targetry and scoring system
- Pistol: Air to .38 and Rifle: Air to .22
- Available to shooting clubs and associations, licenced shooters and the novice
- SISC monthly competitions are open to shooters that hold a current Target Firearms Licence (Category A for rifle and Category H for pistol)

**For more information call (02) 8782 0100**



Elizabeth Drive, Cecil Park NSW 2178 [www.shootingcentre.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shootingcentre.nsw.gov.au)  
email: [shootingcentre@communities.nsw.gov.au](mailto:shootingcentre@communities.nsw.gov.au)

## MCW LAWYERS

### General & Specialist Legal Services

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Contact SSAA member Ian Connor

Ph: 9589 6666 - Fax: 9589 6699

email: [iconnor@mcwlaw.com.au](mailto:iconnor@mcwlaw.com.au)



# Handgun Rendezvous 2011

**The Rendezvous as it is known** was held by St Marys Pistol Club at St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre over the weekend of the 14th – 16th October 2011.

The competition consisted of 15 events over the weekend with many of us being challenged at shooting different events including a memory shoot, falling plate, IPSC and a 50 metre pistol event (that was fun) and these were just some of the events that made the weekend so enjoyable. All you needed was one pistol over 200 rounds of ammo and a sense of humour.

The Pistol Discipline AGM was held at Saturday lunch and I'm happy to say that Graham Roberts and Alison Hughes were voted back in as Chairman and Secretary.

I can confidently say that everyone who participated in the competition had a great time and came away a winner. Thank you to Mitch Newbery and Steve Rutledge for event planning and RSOing and also to Simon Taranto and Andrew Poultney.

There were many winners, too many to mention, the Junior of the year and winner of the Stan Triggs Award was Sean Robertson (pictured above) from St Marys Pistol Club and overall winner with the highest score was Simon Taranto also from St Marys Pistol Club. So don't miss out next year folks. We will be hosting it again on the same weekend in October.

## Ali Newbery - Club Captain



## ANZAC Range closed ... *Continued from page 2*

- Letters requesting support were sent to SSAA National and each SSAA State Association.
- Following advice that petitions are not an effective method of advocating, it was agreed to target individual members in each of the Branches to make written and personal representations to their local MPs highlighting the issues resulting from the closure of ANZAC. It's pleasing to note that we have had a positive response to these requests and SSAA would like to thank those members that have taken the time to write to and meet with their local MPs.
- Throughout this period numerous meetings also took place to review and update the strategy with the lobbyist, myself, representatives of the Sydney Branch Committee, Robert Brown and Robert Borsak.
- Communication with Minister Gray's office and DOFAD has continued through numerous written, electronic, verbal and in person meetings. The lobbyist continues to advocate on behalf of SSAA and we are currently preparing for next week's meeting.

In closing, I would like to thank all those members that have assisted SSAA in our efforts to negotiate a suitable outcome to this issue and also for those many members throughout the State that, even though they may not be directly affected by the closure of ANZAC, have continued to show their support. I look forward to being able to further update members on the outcome of our negotiations in the future.

In the meantime, I would like to wish all of you and your families an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

**Diana Melham**  
Executive Director - SSAA (NSW) Inc.

## Discipline Chairmen

**Benchrest:** Dave Billingham 0418 478 160

**Big Game:** Robert Pretty 02 4787 7795

**Colonial Action:** Jeff Bultitude 02 6373 8481

**Field Rifle & 3P:** Julie Wilson 0414 526 620

**SASA:** Dennis Jackson 0418 674 531

**Pistol:** Graham Roberts 02 6372 4457

**Lever Action:** Don Chesworth 02 6628 3979

**Muzzleloading:** Ian Hanlon 02 6568 7050

**Rifle Silhouette:** Con Smith 02 9609 1216

**Combined Services:** Kerry Benson 02 4572 0421

**Shotgun:** Warren Brown 02 6962 3161

**Discipline Coordinator:**

Dave Billingham 0418 478 160

# Upcoming SSAA NSW Events

Check [www.ssaansw.org.au](http://www.ssaansw.org.au)  
for more upcoming events

## **2nd 5-STAND STATE SELECTION SHOOT 15th JANUARY, 2012 - 100 TARGETS**

Marjura Park GC, Canberra  
Contact - Matthew Webster 0418 219 046

## **SSAA MUDGEES host NSW COLONIAL ACTION TITLES 23rd, 24th & 25th March 2012**

Friday 23rd March from 1.00pm, long range rifle and muzzle loader matches including the "Quigley Down Under" long range shoot using cross sticks, the Stan Triggs Memorial Black Powder shoot also Bushranger clays.

Saturday 24th March: 10.00am start, 5 scenarios Colonial Action. A \$50 cash prize & SSAA gold medal will be awarded to the SSAA member wearing the most authentic Colonial outfit on the Saturday. The NSW Colonial Action Discipline AGM will be held at the conclusion of the Saturday events program; 6.30 pm BYO BBQ.

Sunday 25th March: 9.00am start. 3 scenarios Colonial Action 310 Martini Rifle may be used within some scenarios. Ammunition (minimum required): Rifle 70; pistol 55; shotgun 30; martini 15; ball & minne ball for muzzle loader competition. S SAA. Medals for 1st 2nd & 3rd in each category. Club certificates for side events.

Nomination Fee: Adult \$30; Family \$50; Juniors no charge. Free sausage sizzle at Sunday lunch.

Rustic camping will be available at the range from Thursday midday; cabins and campsites also available 3 km from the range at Cudgong Waters Caravan Park (bookings essential 02 63588462).

For more information phone: JEFF BULTITUDE - Colonial Action State Discipline Chair phone 02 63738481  
ROSS DAVIES - SSAA Mudgee Pistol Club ph. 0417436736  
email: Honorary Secretary:- [ssaan18pc@gmail.com](mailto:ssaan18pc@gmail.com)  
SSAA Mudgee Branch web site:  
[www.ssaamudgee.com.au](http://www.ssaamudgee.com.au)

## **St Marys Collector Meetings 2012**

Once again everyone thank you for your continuing support for the Collectors meeting we have at St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre. We had over 50 members turn up to this meeting with 18 of them shooting in our comp as well.

Thanks to Gerry Calder for his admin help, Graham Hockenhall for his expert cooking and Matt Cirson for RSOing.

Winner for 2011 was Frank Gasparini, 2nd Chris Courtenay, 3rd Stamati Ktenas.

All the best and keep on collecting – Richard.

### **Collectors 2012 Calendar**

**Saturday 4th February 1pm** – Centrefire Rifles and Pistols

**Sunday 6th May 1pm** – WW11 Military History

**Saturday 4th August 1pm** – Your Choice – Bring along your favourite piece for show and tell.

**Sunday 11th November 11am** – Remembrance Shoot, bring your trusty military rifle and min 20 rounds – BBQ lunch.

Please note: the meetings are open to any current SSAA member; you don't have to be a collector to attend. All juniors are welcome but must have adult supervision. You must show your current SSAA card on entry.

## **Annual General Meeting Notices**

### **SSAA WAGGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Wagga Wagga Branch inc. will be held on Tuesday March 6 2012 at the Australian Rules Club, Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga, commencing at 7:30 pm.

Current membership of this branch is a prerequisite of attendance. Your attendance will also count as a collecting club attendance.

Nominations for positions on the Executive and Committee must be in writing and received by the Secretary at least seven days prior to the AGM.

### **MOSS VALE SMALL BORE RIFLE AND CLAY TARGET CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice to all Moss Vale Small Bore Rifle & Clay Target Club Inc, Members.

The Moss Vale Small Bore Rifle & Clay Target Club will convene the 2012 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 8th February 2012 commencing at 7.00pm in the Board Room of the Moss Vale Services Club cnr Yarrowa St & Argyle St Moss Vale.

Further details are posted on the club notice boards.

# SSAA ST MARYS INDOOR SHOOTING CENTRE



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- Training courses for rifle and pistol licences
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- Home of St Marys Pistol Club
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30 Power St, St Marys