

SHOOTING WEST

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (WA) Inc.

www.ssaawa.org.au



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From the President...

Transport issues continue to affect the industry and we have had continued meetings at many levels of government to try and resolve the issues along with WAFTA, SIFA and also Rick Mazza from SFP. Our current Act is a mess and the review by the LRC makes some fairly assertive recommendation in this regard as well as many other areas of the Act. It's being looked at closely with a view to some common sense changes that cut red tape and frees up valuable police resources.

From what we are told in our discussions with WAPOL there seems to be a trend of some folks failing to lock up their stuff in accordance with the regulations. If you're unsure have a look on the police website. One example was that in one house break-in the intruders found the safe keys in the fruit bowl on the kitchen counter, so try and be a bit smarter in where you hide the keys.

Save your pennies and sell your shares because the SSAA SHOT Expo is returning to Perth in October. Our 3rd Expo is shaping up to be bigger than ever with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the floor space sold already! We will have the hugely popular Shooting Range operating again and will be asking for members help, details will be sent out shortly.

We continue to grow as the State's premier shooting association and have welcomed several new clubs over the last few months and others are in the process



of coming on board. Our growth means we get heard when we talk, but it's important you help by getting fellow shooters to join to make our voice even stronger. Members make us strong.

I've had the pleasure of being able to do a bit of hunting for the red card shoots this year. I'm pleased to say that our bounty on foxes will make a great donation to the Regional Mens Health Initiative with well over 1000 shooters participating with nearly 4000 foxes taken out so far this season. Final tallies will be in very soon and I will let you know final numbers.

On a club front I've managed to attend a variety of shoots which has been great. The Discipline in Focus this issue is Long Range Precision; it's worth mentioning that we will be hosting the Long Range Precision National Championships here in WA for the first time at our Widji Bandi Club, details are on our website and Facebook.

Happy Shooting Ron

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Scopes for Beginners

Early days to now

by Brian Blake- Arctic Fox Optics

Rifle scopes have been used in one form or another since the middle of the 19th century. They offered a basic optic, not particularly reliable and with low magnification, but generally better than a lot of the iron sights available at the time. Since that time, scopes have transformed into the versatile and reliable instruments with which we are familiar today. Coated optics, large objective lenses, variable magnification, complex reticles and parallax adjustment are some of the many attributes of modern riflescopes found in gun stores today. As optics got progressively better, magnification became greater, creating problems of its own. Heat mirage, parallax and a huge reduction in field of view became factors to consider.

Inexperienced users of scopes found it hard to transition from open sights, with the reticle disappearing constantly into a black hole until they established a firm cheekweld to the stock, thereby maintaining the sighting eye in the correct place to achieve a solid sight picture. And that was just with low powered scopes of 4x and 6x magnification. When confronted with optics of greater magnification, the situation became worse, with critical eye relief and a small field of view adding to their woes.

Scopes of greater magnification are an acquired taste. They can be hard on the eyes, the target can be hard to find due to the small field of view, and eye relief, which is usually generous in lower powered scopes, can become a problem in high powered scopes, having a short eye relief with a narrow usable depth.

Most shooters, when asked, will state that the biggest advantage of a scope over open sights is the magnification. Though useful, this is not the biggest advantage of a scope. The biggest advantage is the placement of the target and the sights into the same focal plane. Let me explain. When you are looking at a target through open sights, you are trying to focus on three things, the target, the foresight and the rear sight. Looking through a scope, you see only the target with the crosshairs superimposed and, when properly adjusted, no matter where you place your eye, the crosshairs remain on the same point on the target.

Will you shoot smaller groups with a larger magnification scope? No, not necessarily. The eye automatically centres the reticle on the target. If the target is a circle, then the crosshairs can be placed on the centre of the target with very little error due to the eyes ability to pick up any error to a quite accurate degree.

These days, we find that people generally overscope,

meaning they buy scopes with vastly more magnification than is needed to accomplish the task at hand. The price is paid in weight, bulk, critical eye relief, and field of view. Just remember, you only have to see the animal's head, not its eyelashes!

Choose sensibly.

For more information on our products and retail outlets or browse our range of hunting equipment and rifle-scopes online. <http://www.arcticfoxoptics.com.au>



HAVE YOUR SAY!

AUDIT INTO FIREARMS CONTROLS

The Auditor Generals department are currently conducting an audit into Firearms Controls.

The objective of this audit is to determine how effectively WAPol licenses and regulates firearms and report to Parliament.

The lines of inquiry are:

- *Does the licensing of firearm owners, dealers and repairers reduce public risk?*
- *Are monitoring programs effective at detecting non-compliance?*
- *Does the Firearms Registry System reduce public risk?*

If you wish to have your voice heard all you need to do is go to the Office of the Auditor General website www.audit.wa.gov.au.

Under the heading *Work in Progress*, you will see current audits. Scroll down for the Firearms Controls Audit and click on link, it will open up a form to complete. It will take 5 minutes of your time to complete.

Discipline in Focus

Long Range Precision



Long Range Precision is a handgun, rifle and black powder rifle discipline that aims to refine and develop the accuracy of firearms, ammunition and equipment for shooting at extreme distances. The handgun events vary from rimfire to centrefire calibres and are shot up to 500m, while the rifle events cover .22LR to .50 BMG calibres and are shot up to 2000m. The core matches require the competitor to shoot five shots from a cold barrel, without the use of benches or windflags, as they would in a normal field situation.

Matches and firearms

The sport of Long Range Precision Shooting was introduced by the SSAA as a group of events aimed to refine and develop the use of a variety of firearms at extreme distances. There are events for handguns, rifles and black powder rifles.

The rifle events cover rifles chambered in everything from the .22 Long Rifle up to the massive .50 BMG calibre. These matches are shot over a number of different distances, with a maximum of 2000m. Likewise, the handgun events vary from rimfire to centrefire and can be shot out to 500m.

The core matches for Long Range Precision Shooting require the shooter to be able to deliver five shots from a cold barrel, as they would in a normal in-the-field situation. Also, it must be shot without the use of benches, windflags, etc. To be successful, the competitor will need to learn to read the wind and other conditions and understand their firearm and its ballistics completely.

Long Range Precision Shooting aims to develop and encourage long-range competition shooting; achieve extreme accuracy in firearms, ammunition, equipment and shooting methods; and promote experimentation to achieve these goals.

In July, the SSAA Long Range Precision National Championships will be held at Widji Bandi Sports Association, located on Ella Valla Station via Carnarvon. This is the first time the LRP Nationals have been held in WA.

For more information please contact Shane Alymore 0417 952 589 chairman@widjibandi.org or go to our website www.ssaawa.org.au



CLAS thanks Delegate

The recent WA CLAS State Championships saw the end of an era. Dave Brougham, our WA State Delegate, has stepped down and we welcome in new delegate Warren Goodfield, who was elected unanimously. During his time as WA delegate, Dave ran 7 State Championships and one National Championship, his tenacity and networking skills have put us firmly on the map as a fast growing discipline here in WA. Without Dave's energy and guidance over the last few years we would definitely not have the flourishing discipline we have today. The



time is right for Dave to pass the baton on and relax. The members of CLAS WA owe you a debt of thanks for your years of service and wish you well.

Upcoming Events July – November 2018

2018 SSAA (WA) Ray Edwards Memorial Match

21st—22nd July 2018

2018 SSAA Long Range Precision National Championships

28th– 29th July 2018

2018 SSAA (WA) Practical Shooting (Shotgun) State Championships

11th – 12th August 2018

2018 Quigley Down Under Wyalkatchem Single Action Shoot

18th August 2018

2018 SSAA Practical Shooting National Championships

18th– 19th August 2018

2018 SSAA (WA) State AGM

25th August 2018

2018 SSAA (WA) Practical Hunting Rifle State Championships

8th September 2018

2018 SSAA (WA) Shotgun Tower State Championships

16th September 2018

2018 SSAA (WA) Muzzleloading State Championships

30th Sept– 1st October 2018

2018 SSAA SHOT Expo

13th– 14th October 2018

For more information on events please refer to our website



CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

It is your responsibility to notify us and WAPol of any change of address. Please ensure your details are current. You can check your membership details are correct and up to date through our SSAA Membership Portal online.

Go to membership.ssaa.org.au/forms/change or email mem@ssaa.org.au

STATE DELEGATES CONFERENCE (AGM)



SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST
2018
9AM-5PM

To register contact:
secretary@ssaawa.org.au
No later than 4th August 2018

The Newsletter is brought to you by:

SSAAWA
Sporting Shooters Association of Western Australia

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