

# SHOOTING WEST

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (WA) Inc.

[www.ssaawa.org.au](http://www.ssaawa.org.au)



Information & enquiries: (08) 9497 7919  
Correspondence: GPO Box D154 Perth WA 6840  
Firearm support enquiries: (08) 9349 4275 Phone/Fax  
Firearm support mailing: PO Box 874 Balcatta WA 6914

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Editor: Michelle Bryant  
[public.relations@ssaawa.org.au](mailto:public.relations@ssaawa.org.au)

## From the Presidents desk...



As an Association we continue to lobby on your behalf. At the recent State AGM we had WA Police Minister Michelle Roberts attend & speak to the meeting. We had maintained a contact with her even when in opposition

She shows real compassion to the plight of the WA firearms community with our ongoing difficulties with the WA Firearms Act and is resolved to working with both SSAA and WAPOL to get some common sense.

Further to this there has been a series of meets surrounding the latest dealer provisions for security of handguns as well as a WAPOL determination that Licensed Firearms dealers cannot use Australia Post as a carriage service; as a result, 3 Firearms Dealers are now possibly facing charges and we have decided to underwrite the legal proceedings if needed.

What does this mean for you? Higher costs flowing on from dealers who simply cannot wear the costs and a shutdown of the firearms trade in most country and remote areas. Firearms under warranty cannot be sent back for example as freight companies are price gouging for the carriage of any sort of firearm or accessory.

We are working with the Police Minister as well as Rick Mazza SFFP, Bevan Steel WAFTA, Rod Drew from SIFA and some others to sort this latest mess out and early meets with the new Police Commissioner Wayne Dawson appear promising.

We may be up for a hell of a blue and it wasn't lost on me when I attended the funeral of Graham Pow who was one of the association's founding fathers. Along with a gathering of the first SSAA WA members, Graham took WAPOL to task and won to get a fair deal for shooters. A lot of folks at various clubs knew Graham well and we will all miss him and his wise council. RIP Graham.

Our Supreme Court Proceedings against administrators of the "No Recreational Hunting in WA" group has concluded and we are pleased with the result. See page 2 for details.

Finally, this is the last Shooting West for the year so on behalf of the SSAA (WA) State Executive I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

At the recent State Muzzleloading Championships Richard Gibson, our WA State Treasurer had the pleasure of presenting Leo Laden with this framed State Team Member Shirt as a memento and in appreciation and recognition of Leo's many years of commitment to the Shooting sports in WA.



Photo: Richard Gibson (WA Treasurer) & Leo Laden



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# No Recreational Hunting In WA vs. SSAA (WA) Inc

In 2014 the WA Government held a public enquiry into recreational hunting in WA. This inquiry had over 400 submissions and led to several campaigns being instituted against our pastime. In defense of our sport we hit back with our own campaign in The West Australian and Sunday Times newspapers, running our own series of full page ads "They're not trophies, they're pests!".

Around this time several anti-hunting, anti-firearms activist groups were formed. One particular group calling itself "No Recreational Hunting in WA" was extremely antagonistic and vocal in its opposition, eventually going too far in its campaign on social media.

After our inaugural Shot Expo a series of posts were published on the "No Recreational Hunting in WA" webpage on Facebook. These posts included images and handouts from the Expo which were captioned with false messages about our association, our State President and our sport.

Photos from State President Mr Bryant's personal Facebook page were also obtained and captioned with more malicious, defamatory messages.

These images were shared online by members of the NRHWA Facebook group, many anti-hunting and firearms groups, and on their own personal pages.

Finally enough was enough and, with the full and unwavering support of our membership, SSAA WA launched defamation proceedings in the WA Supreme Court against the administrators of this group.

That Court action has finally been concluded on agreed terms. All we can say is that it was settled on terms acceptable to all parties; we are happy with the result and the following apology to the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (WA) Inc and Mr Ron Bryant was issued.

It's fair to say we will not idly stand by and allow disparagement to occur without consequence. We believe this outcome has sent a strong message to those people that would defame an honest and legal Organisation and its State President in an attempt to denigrate a pastime enjoyed by many.

Michelle Bryant SSAA (WA) PR & Media Officer

## ***SSAA WA attends the Threatened Species Forum***

SSAA-WA Conservation & Wildlife Management Coordinator Marcus Bamford attended the recent Threatened Species Forum in Geraldton.

The forum is in its second year and is already developing an excellent reputation for bringing together scientists, policy makers, farmers and pest controllers as well the more traditional environmentalists.

A highlight of the forum was the address by the outgoing Threatened Species Commissioner who talked with tremendous enthusiasm and energy and recognised in particular the key roles that volunteers and indigenous groups play in helping to save threatened species such as WA's iconic Numbats, Black Flanked Wallabies and Carnaby Cockatoos.

A recurring theme of the forum and something

mentioned by a majority of the speakers was the devastation being caused by feral cats in particular.

Marcus noted that it was a pleasant surprise to see so many of the stakeholders recognise the damage these feral animals do - something shooters have always known - and how positive the attitude from the forum delegates was towards volunteer shooters being a key part of the solution.

The ABC were also in attendance at the forum and have agreed to run a series of positive stories on the role of the Farmer Assist program in helping with feral animal control so keep an ear out on the radio for those stories coming soon.

Marcus Bamford SSAA (WA) CWM Officer  
[conservation@ssaawa.org.au](mailto:conservation@ssaawa.org.au)

## **APOLOGY TO THE SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) INC AND TO MR RON BRYANT**

We acknowledge that in 2015 we published, or encouraged the publication of, seriously defamatory matter concerning the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (WA) Inc (SSAA) and its President, Mr Ron Bryant.

Those publications were made upon social media and in particular, upon Facebook platforms including a site designed as being for the “No Recreational Hunting WA Community”.

The utterly false and defamatory matter included pictures with accompanying text, as well as posts.

We apologise unreservedly to the SSAA and Mr Bryant for those false and damaging publications.

While the postings were made in the midst of a campaign concerning recreational hunting upon public lands, we accept that the defamatory publications completely crossed the line and involved scandalous and unjustified personal attacks of the most serious nature and which should never have been made.

We in particular regret and apologise for the use of images of Mr Bryant and the allegations about the effect of the SSAA upon children, contained in the publications.

We have undertaken not to publish any such matter concerning the SSAA or Mr Bryant in the future.

Supreme Court defamation proceedings in respect to the publications, brought the SSAA and Mr Bryant, have been settled on terms including this apology and the payment of an undisclosed sum to the SSAA and Mr Bryant.

**No Recreational Hunting WA**



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## Competition Results

Congratulations go to:

**RF:** 1st Phil M, 2nd Shaun S, 3rd Bruce H

**RF Junior:** 1st Ash C 2nd Zian R, 3rd Ethan R

**CF Open:** 1st Charles S, 2nd Otto R, 3rd Jan v N

**222/223 class:** 1st Jan v N, 2nd Ryan M, 3rd Wayne V

**CF Junior:** 1st Ash C, 2nd Kai D, 3rd Zietsman V

Veteran Terry Moore impressed with his performance in both rim fire and centrefire events

Thanks to all who made this possible through hard work and sacrifice, sponsors who donated materials and prizes, and to the shooters who attended (some from far away) - most of us are already looking forward to next year's event!

**Jan van Niekerk**



*Pictured: Phil Mansell presenting Junior PHR trophy to Ash Chapman*

## Field Rifle/3P State Championships

### 4 Gun Trophy

1st Matthew Boots

2nd David Malcman

3rd Veselko Talajic

## Upcoming Competitions

### Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters Club

#### Doug Barnes Perpetual Trophy (Benchrest)

*Saturday 4th November*

Contact

David Kerr    david@progressequipment.com.au

### West Coast Pistol & Revolver Club

#### WA State Practical Pistol Titles

*Saturday 4th November*

Contact:

Paul Barrett    wcpirc.secretary@gmail.com

Kim McClymans    wcpirc.president@gmail.com

### Quigley Down Under 2017

#### Rimfire 22 Lever Action Rifle Off Hand

1st Undertaker 2nd Pinto 3rd Remington

#### Pistol Calibre Lever Action Rifle Off Hand

1st JW Hardin 2nd Stewy 3rd Undertaker

#### Rifle Calibre Lever Action Rifle Off Hand

1st Stewy 2nd JW Hardin 3rd The Judge

#### The Stand - Single shot rifle

1st Greg (shot a clean match 25/25) 2nd Pinto 3rd Doolin

#### Quigley Bucket 805 yards - Single shot rifle

1st Durango 2nd Remington 3rd Stewy

#### The Buffalo 1000 yards - Single shot rifle

1st The Judge 2nd Durango 3rd Remington



#### Top Gun (Neville Reeves Memorial Shield)

Stewy

*Pictured: Top Gun Trophy presented by 'Undertaker' to Stewy*

The Newsletter is brought to you by:



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