

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria)

A fair go for responsible people.



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Letter to the editor: Rio Olympics a stand-out for shooters

Sports shooters across the country are eagerly awaiting the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. This year is particularly significant for shooters as it includes the youngest ever Olympic shooter, Aislin Jones, who qualified for the team at just 16 years old.

Aislin is a great idol for young girls and boys – she is responsible, well spoken, ambitious and passionate. She is also very skilled at clay target shooting, having competed against people more than 10 years her senior at world competitions.

The Rio Olympics shooting team is diverse, with six women and nine men of all ages competing. On the team is five-time Olympian Warren Potent, 54, who was the oldest Australian athlete selected for the Rio Olympics.

Shooting is one of very few sports that caters to everyone – men, women, young, elderly and people of all abilities. It is also one of the few sports that the whole family, including juniors aged 12, can participate in on the same day at the same venue.

Sports shooting provides a safe, fun and inclusive activity that gets young people outside and interacting with each other. Unlike many other competitive sports, men and women compete on an even playing field in sports shooting.

The other great aspect of shooting is the variety of disciplines. In the Rio Olympics team alone, there are pistol shooters, air pistol shooters, rifle shooters, air rifle shooters and shotgun shooters.

I encourage all Australians to tune in to the shooting events at the Rio Olympics to see what competitive sports shooting is all about. If you like what you see, feel free to come down to one of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria) shooting ranges in Melbourne or regional Victoria to discuss getting involved in the sport.

Anyone who participates in shooting at a SSAA Victoria range does so under the guidance of an accredited Range Officer. The Range Officer is trained to teach the public about the safe handling and use of firearms, and assist with technique. The Association also offers private tuition and group bookings – all with the support of our Range Officers.

It's those strict safety practices that ensure the shooting sports have a lower injury risk than cycling, motor sports, horse riding, and ball, water, ice and snow sports, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

So visit our website (ssaavic.com.au) or come down to the range and find out why so many Australians enjoy sports shooting.

Denis Moroney
President
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