

THE VICTORIAN

# SHOOTER

MAGAZINE



April 2015, Vol 17 No 2

Shot Expo  
2015

SEP  
Program

The official publication of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Vic)



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The Victorian Shooter is the bi-monthly magazine of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Vic). PO Box 607, Box Hill, Vic. 3128.

**Editor:** Barry Oliver

**Art/Graphic Designer:** Lee Ann and David

**Disclaimer:** Please note that the views expressed in some articles and by some contributors are not necessarily those of the SSAA (Vic).

**Editorial Deadline** for the June 2015 edition of The Vic Shooter is Friday 1st May 2015.

**Download the Vic Shooter:** The Victorian Shooter is available on our website for downloading. Visit [www.ssaavic.com.au](http://www.ssaavic.com.au) and choose which edition of The Victorian Shooter you would like to view. An archive of The Victorian Shooter back to January 2004 is available for viewing.

**E-mail Alerts:** Keep abreast of shooting matters, subscribe TODAY to the SSAA (Vic) E-mail Alerts. Simply email the State Office on [state\\_office@ssaavic.com.au](mailto:state_office@ssaavic.com.au) with your email address and you will be kept up to date with everything that is going on with your sport.

**Letters:** An opportunity is available for members to have their say in each edition of The Victorian Shooter. Have your say by writing, faxing or emailing your comments to: The Victorian Shooter at PO Box 607, Box Hill, Vic. 3128, F: 03 8892 2700 or E: [barryoliver@optusnet.com.au](mailto:barryoliver@optusnet.com.au).

**Front Cover Picture**  
**Duck Opening 2015**  
picture by Barry Oliver

# President's Report

In this issue I would like to address the problem of membership non-renewal. Approximately 12% of members fail to renew their membership each year. It is a problem for both us and those members who cite membership of the SSAA as 'genuine reason' for owning a firearm.

Whilst there may be legitimate reasons for some not to renew, it appears that others renew their membership only when the time comes to renew their firearms licence. It results in up to five years between SSAA renewals. The problem is the

statutory obligation to remain a member if you originally nominated membership as genuine reason for obtaining a firearms licence. It is a condition of having the licence.

Failure to renew can result in your licence being cancelled and the surrender of your firearms. If you know anybody who should, but hasn't renewed their membership, give them a friendly reminder of their obligations. It is in their own self-interest.

On a happier matter. The State Conference was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Our National President, Geoff Jones, was invited and addressed the conference. As I have found during my wanderings, our members have little or no idea of the function of the National arm of our Association. Geoff's address was a huge success and thoroughly appreciated by the audience.



## Easter and Anzac Day Range Closures

### Eagle Park Range:-

Closed on Good Friday (3rd April).

Closed on Anzac Day (Saturday 25th April).

### Springvale Range:-

Closed on Good Friday (3rd April).

Open Anzac Day from 1.00pm to 6.00pm.

# State Conference 2015



*Guest speaker, SSAA National President, Geoff Jones – Vic State conference.*



*Lee-Anne Romans from the State Office and Shaun Doyle, Springvale Range Manager at the 2015 State Conference.*

## WANT TO BE ON OUR MAILING LIST?

Simply email  
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Or find us on Facebook

## SSAA Vic AGM

### Notice of Annual General Meeting 2015 and Postal Ballot Details.

**Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Vic) (A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**ABN 88 005 020 422**

The AGM is to be held from 2pm, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Springvale Range, 714 Princess Highway, Springvale, 3171.

Nominations, to fill four Board vacancies, will open on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015. They must be received by no later than 5.00pm Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and should be directed to:

The Returning Officer, Mr. Frank Pirera  
Yarra Business Group  
Mailing Address:- PO Box 336  
North Melbourne 3051

Physical Address:- 1st Floor, 141 Capel Street,  
North Melbourne 3051

Persons nominating must be eligible to vote as defined by the SSAA (Vic) constitution and electoral by-laws. Nominations may include a recent photograph and a 200-word personal statement in support of their candidacy. All nominations must be made on the SSAA (Vic)'s official form (Form A), which must be requested from the State Office (Ph: 03 8892 2777). All candidates, proposers and seconders, must be adult members of the SSAA (Vic) of at least twelve months standing. The Postal Ballot will open on Monday 3rd August 2015 and will close at 5.00pm on Friday 4th September 2015. The results of the postal ballot will be announced at the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Financial accounts for the year ending April 2015 will be available on the SSAA (Vic) website prior to the meeting or upon written request.

By order of:-  
R. Farmer  
Company Secretary  
SSAA (Vic)



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Expo is on in Melbourne and Brisbane in 2015!

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Book online or pay on the day



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# Think Small But Do It Well

**Ross Williams offers some pointers for the beginners in our midst**



The air is sweet, bracing, cool. Below and beyond stretch the granite-studded hillsides and scrub-seamed gullies of this favourite place. On the slope around you, patches of frost still whiten the ground, slowly losing their battle with the early morning sun. In your hands, your rifle feels like an old friend, ready to do its work.

Then you see what you've been looking for. Its ears gave it away: a plump, thickly-furred rabbit in the midst of some tussocks. Moments ago, it was sampling the short green pick between those tussocks. Now it crouches, unmoving, relying on the tussock stems for cover. Its black eye, a spot of polished onyx in the sun, is watching you.

Swiftly, you reckon the range at sixty paces. That's good – thanks to a 70-metre zero, the rimfire's bullet will still be high at that range but only a little. No wind, so no hold-off needed.

You adopt a good sitting position to steady your aim. Crosshairs converge on the quarry's head, seeking a point between eye and ear but just below them. Your finger increases pressure on the trigger — a whiplash report, and the bullet slaps home.

Rabbits infest the southern two-thirds of the mainland as well as a few areas up north and parts of Tasmania. Though this vast area has many remote and isolated tracts, it also includes closely settled rural landscapes and puts the bunny within easy reach of major cities and towns. Small wonder that so many of us cut our hunting teeth on a small, furry animal called *Oryctolagus cuniculus*.

Such can be good. There is no better or cheaper way to build fundamental hunting skills than to tackle bunnies with an ordinary .22LR rimfire. Trouble is, one can just as easily learn the wrong things. Therefore some basics for beginners will not go astray.

Anyone can tramp around the countryside in the hope of stirring up some game, but that's unwise. The animals have the advantage because you nearly always signal your presence before you spot them ... assuming, of course, that you do manage to clap eyes on wild creatures doing their best to remain unseen. Those which sprint for cover have a good chance of escape unless they prop. In short, one needs a lot of luck and careless quarry in order to reap a good bag from this "walking in hope" charade. It ain't real hunting, folks.

Nor is that the only objection. The beginner loses opportunities to learn about detecting camouflaged animals and about stalking. Furthermore, he is often trapped into rushing his shots, so he has less chance to consolidate skills like using improvised rests, mounting the rifle correctly, using a sling, getting quickly into a good kneeling, sitting or prone position, attending to the sight picture, follow-through and calling each shot. Buck fever (nervous tension and the shakes) and flinching – yes, even with a rimfire – can become chronic problems. The vital habit of checking the background before firing the shot may never be acquired.

So the message is move a little, look a lot. Stop frequently to survey the surroundings, using binoculars if possible but without relying on them alone. These can be slung around the neck or tucked into one's shirt or jumper. Old high-powered types, being heavy and harder to hold steady, are more of a nuisance than an aid, whereas a modern compact pair in the 7x35 to 8x50 range will cover all our hunting needs.

A common error is looking for the whole animal. You will see more game if you search for the parts of their bodies which do not readily merge with their surroundings. In the case of rabbits, look for the upstanding ears, the round black eyes, the arching back line that clashes with the vertical lines of grass.

Look also for small movements – the swivelling of ears, a slight shuffle of hindquarters, flickering grass tops on a windless day – as well as the more obvious ones such as the rising of a rabbit into its upright, searching pose or the white flash of its scut.

But beware of harbouring fixed images of these things. For instance, if you expect to see two ears, will you notice only one?

In addition, change your viewing angle. If you've been standing, kneel and take another look. This is particularly helpful in scrubby country, for obvious reasons, but the mere change in eye level can help you to pick up a detail that you would otherwise have missed. Works for larger game as well.

Although a few rabbits will be abroad at any time of day, the peak period starts late in the afternoon and ends early in the morning. Hence the most productive rabbit hunting (as distinct from spotlighting) occurs in the three hours before sundown and the two hours after sunrise, roughly speaking.

Last point. Beginners will find that head shots become easier if a scoped rimfire rifle is zeroed at 50 to 55 metres and long shots are avoided. That, friends, is a fact. The reasons, regrettably, are too lengthy to include here.

© Copyright R. Williams, February 2015.



**High above the hunting ground, 80 pair show the value of patience and experience.**



# Shotgunning Education Program

In 2001 the Wildlife (Game) Regulations were altered to include the use of non-toxic shot for the hunting of ducks in Victoria. This change meant, for most of Victoria's duck hunters, that the use of lead shot was no longer available to hunt ducks and we had to find an alternative.

For hunters the only alternative available, in ready supply, and at a comparable cost, was steel. As we started to use steel shot it became obvious that steel performed differently to the lead shot we were used to and that we needed to relearn the 'ballistics' that applied to steel shot. What became apparent with steel shot was that the shot string was shorter and the spread of pellets was tighter than with lead shot. It meant that we had to adjust our lead to ensure that pellets struck the bird and resulted in a clean kill. If we didn't make these adjustments then wounding and the loss of our birds was a possibility. It could potentially lead to greater criticism of the sport.

To make the transition to steel shot a little easier the Game Management Authority, SSAA (Vic) and Field and Game joined forces to provide an education program to enable hunters to learn the differences with steel and improve their ability to take birds. A number of trainers attended courses conducted by Dr Tom Roster from the USA in 2008 and 2012. Dr Roster has extensive research and practical knowledge about the shooting of birds with steel shot in America, and was an ideal person to educate trainers who could relay this information to the duck hunters of Victoria.

In 2015 the culmination of all this training, work and expense saw the Shotgunning Education Program being launched to the game bird hunters of Victoria, with inaugural courses being conducted at the Field and Game range at Kilmore and at the SSAA range at Eagle Park. The course is designed to educate hunters to be more efficient and effective in the field and to provide instruction in three main areas of bird shooting. They are:-

**Skills Assessment-** Practical shooting at clay targets at various ranges to gauge the effective range at which a hunter is competent. It gives the hunter his or her distance at which they can efficiently shoot birds. It also reinforces the individual skill level and indicates where hunters need to practice to improve their skill to avoid wounding birds at too great a distance. The assessment is non-judgemental and whilst some light banter is typical, the exercise is meant to give hunters an appreciation of their ability and to provide coaching to address any shortcomings.



*Skills Assessment - Individual training for participants*

**Pattern Testing-** Another practical and worthwhile exercise where hunters test their shotguns and different chokes with various shot sizes and shot weights to find the best combination for their firearm. All too often we use cartridges because of the advertising or recommendations of other shooters as to the type of cartridge we should use. Unfortunately, these cartridges may not suit our individual shotgun or the type of hunting we are undertaking. Participants get to test a range of cartridges and discover the point of impact of their shotgun and the number of pellets that they can expect to hit the target at given distances.



*Pattern Testing - density of different shot shells*

**Distance Estimation-** This exercise tests our ability to estimate the distance of decoys and silhouettes set at various distances from the hunter. Hunters are also given some useful tips on recognising birds in and out of range. This exercise, coupled with the skills assessment exercise, reinforces the effective shooting range of hunters to take birds cleanly and reduce the wounding of birds on the wetlands.

At the conclusion of the training, hunters are invited to avail themselves of the facilities to either improve their target shooting or to pattern test their shotguns further. All materials are provided as part of the course fee and participants only need to bring their own shotgun, chokes and personal safety equipment to participate. I can recommend this course to

anyone wishing to start shooting ducks or if you are becoming frustrated with the performance of steel shot. As I indicated earlier, there are some fundamental differences between the performance of steel and lead, but once you make some minor changes to your approach the improvement in your take will be evident. For more information on the program please visit the Game Management Authority website at <http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/shotgunning-education>.

Until next time Safe Hunting

**David Croft**  
Program & Training Coordinator



**Distance Estimation training**

## **Eagle Park Range Manager**

As of April 1, Paul Schefferle (Eagle Park Range Manager) will be on annual leave until 10 November, 2015. Over this time, SSAA (Vic) has appointed Jamie Carney as Assistant Range Manager. Jamie has been a Range Officer at Eagle Park for a number of years and has been assisting Paul around the range over the past 12 months. Jamie will be supported in his role by Shaun Doyle (Springvale Range Manager) to ensure the continuity of services and range maintenance/updates in Paul's absence. We welcome Jamie to the staff of SSAA (Vic) and wish him all the best in his new role.

Jamie can be contacted on the range phone number (03 5283 1575) or via email – [eaglepark@ssaavic.com.au](mailto:eaglepark@ssaavic.com.au) Shaun can be contacted at the State Office (03 8892 2777) or by email on [srmanager@ssaavic.com.au](mailto:srmanager@ssaavic.com.au).

## **New email address for Eagle Park**

Eagle Park has recently had an IT upgrade, including a new email address. For all enquiries regarding the range please now email [eaglepark@ssaavic.com.au](mailto:eaglepark@ssaavic.com.au). The previous email will remain active for the next two months and will then be turned off.

## **GOT SOMETHING TO SELL?**

Looking for a customer? Need to get your name or product out there? Remember, the SSAA (Vic) has 34,000 members. Why not place an ad in Vic Shooter and support the organisation that helps keep you shooting?

Firearm advertisements require the licence number of the vendor and the serial number of the firearm. Private classified ads from members are published free of charge.

**For business advertising contact the State Office on (03) 8892 2777**

## **WANTED**

Militaria: WW1, WW2.

Also looking for AATTV and Vietnam items and especially veteran 'bring back items' from all periods.

All items considered, good prices paid for the right items. I will pay \$2000 for a WW1 tunic in good order.

Please call Geoff 0419528274



# Media Release

## Lion trophy import ban off-target

The announcement of a trade ban on the importation of African lion hunting trophies is missing the target and will cause collateral damage to conservation programs and quality of life in African rural communities.

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA National) is disappointed that Environment Minister Greg Hunt has made a decision that appears more to help his colleague Jason Wood MP appeal to left-leaning voters in the Dandenong Ranges, instead of supporting lion conservation supported by science and evidence-based research.

Managed and regulated game hunting in Africa is already recognised and supported by the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

"Regulated game hunting in Africa and unethical 'canned hunting' are two different things; one common and one not so common," said SSAA National Wildlife and Pest Management Project Officer Matt Godson.

"Unfortunately, Minister Hunt's new rules will have no effect on the ground in South Africa to prevent unethical canned hunting because their current regulations prevent these enterprises gaining the required permits to export trophies to Australia."

Mr Godson said these unethical enterprises normally only provide the opportunity for 'photo-trophies' and this will continue unless policy is developed to target these operations.

"SSAA National has volunteered to help discuss and develop policy that would target these operations, but it seems this issue is more about politics and emotion and not about evidence-based policy creation," he said.

"Unethical canned hunting, which is not as common in Africa as animal rights activists like people to believe, can only be tackled on the ground by the home country."

Mr Godson said these new rules will affect all game hunting enterprises in Africa, and evidence suggests that if policy is created which causes wildlife to lose its economic value to local African communities; it will open the door for poachers and exploitation that will devastate wildlife populations.

"Australia has a poor record for animal extinctions and it is worrying that we are developing policies that could have a negative impact on successful conservation programs that have brought back many African species from the brink of extinction."

### Contact

Matt Godson

SSAA National Wildlife and Pest Management Special Projects Officer

0448 887 079



# Scouting Around - Duck Season 2015

May I say to start, you have to put in the work. If you don't you won't reap the rewards of a good duck opening. Having said this let's have a look at what preliminary efforts that went into this year's opening. About four weeks before the opening myself and members of our party start to gather and share information with other hunters. It's incredible how much information begins floating around on the duck network in the weeks prior to the opening ... what swamps are holding birds, what spots are dry, who is going where and why, and so on and so forth. All this info is grist to the decision making mill and is stored away along with other decision making material.

Another good indicator is the weather. It goes without saying that ducks and water, especially fresh water, go together. So, what areas have had rain and what duck shooting opportunities can be found in those areas is another valuable bit of information. Of great benefit here is the booklet, Victorian State Game reserves a hunters' guide. This booklet in getting a little long in the tooth and it is worthwhile to double check on some of the information it provides, however, it is still a valuable guide. (Contact the Department of Environment and Primary Industry for purchasing a copy).

Armed with all of the above it's time to prepare the scouting trips. There are lots of phone conversations about who is going where on a scouting trip and what information they have heard. This sharing of information usually goes on for at least a month before opening day. I find that a good set of binoculars are a very useful tool for counting bird numbers and identifying species without disturbing them and we usually photograph the area for future reference. We also make sure the vehicle we use is more than capable of travelling the kilometres and handling any situation that presents. Carrying recovery gear is essential, even if it is not used, but we try to pick sites that do not have hazardous obstacles.

Remember not to take dogs on these trips as dogs are not allowed on State Game Reserves until 48 hours before and during duck season. Many of these reserves have fox bates laid and can be a disaster for our dogs. It goes without saying that no firearms are ever taken on scouting trips. It is also worth mentioning that blue green algae affected areas are potentially toxic and can be dangerous to humans and dogs, so best to avoid them at all costs.

I generally make two to three trips to look for birds, before making a decision about where we might go. The timing of these scouting trips can be very strategic because often the swamps may dry up in the weeks prior to the opening and birds will move.

This year Phil, Brian and I travelled over 700kms on our first scouting trip looking at various places of interest. We were able to camp away overnight which made it a little better for us to change plans at the last minute if necessary. We were prepared with good maps and locations of swamps, rivers and creeks that we thought may be possibilities. We camped in areas where we could observe the duck populations at dawn and dusk. We also check for camping spots and access to the water remembering it may be wet and access could be limited if we have a last minute downpour.

Do your homework before the opening and try to do more than one scouting trip. Scouting will help with your decision making. There is nothing worse than travelling to an area that your might have heard was going to be good or "had a thousand ducks" only to discover that it was misinformation.

This year has proved to be very challenging because of dry conditions in Victoria and rain occurrences in both northern New South Wales and Queensland have enticed lots of birds up north.

Finally, don't be in a rush to make a decision. This may be decided as late as the day before, always leave your options open.

**Gary Bristow**





# Duck Opening - 2015

## THE STUFF OF LEGEND – DUCK OPENING 2015

Another year, another duck opening. Every 365 days we pack our truck, admittedly a little too much, and head off for another weekend of surprises and shooting. Unpredictable from the start, due to a dry season, this time we barely knew where we were going the day we left!

However, we managed to get things organised and off we went to meet up with our group.

Travelling together to Kerang we were faced with another difficult decision, which lake to shoot on, Murphys or Meran? Previously solid plans liquefied and our original preference, Murphy's Lake, became less desirable with the news that there were shooters there as far as the eye could see! The decision was made to try Lake Meran. Typical of duck opening, Baz and I got bogged in sand. We quickly found help in our camp and soon Tim had his winch in action. Everyone did their part and eventually the truck was out. Of course, Tim wasn't going to let Baz forget he'd gotten bogged and accused him of 'forgetting to go into four-wheel drive'. Baz vehemently denied this of course but the good natured banter continued for most of the weekend.



*A visit from the friendly Game Officers.*

Tales of duck openings past flew around, the 'Big Blow' of Buloke in the late 70s, in which people's tents flew away, farmers pulled those bogged from the mud and camper vans blew over! The infamous 'wall of lead' theory, popular in the fifties and sixties, drew wry smiles from many of the older shooters.

Eventually everyone found their way to their tents or swags and slept in preparation for the morning. However, getting up proved to be harder than going to sleep and although everyone was up and about by a bit before five, the strong Italian coffee that went around proved very popular as did shelter from the biting wind. Finally everyone was ready, anticipation keeping us all moving as we wished each other luck, loaded the punts and boats, and moved off with excitement coursing through all of us.



*Good times had by all at Lake Meran.*

Anticipation allowed me to mostly ignore my numb hands and although we forgot our thermos, we didn't mind too much. After all, the hunt was the reason we were there and this was what united everyone at camp. Eventually 7:20 arrived and the shots began. And although we were optimistic at the beginning, shooting proved to be scarce and we only fired a few shots at birds. Doubt began to creep in and eventually we returned to camp, only two birds between us.

Most others had similar luck, with only a handful of ducks harvested by our camp.

Disappointed, but not defeated, we did our best to remain positive and during the afternoon several of the boys went to survey Murphys to see whether it would be worthwhile attempting to hunt there.



#### ***Returning from the morning's shoot.***

Although it seemed to have potential, when we arrived, there were few hunters left on the swamp and most of us didn't fire a shot. By the time we returned to camp back at Meran all of our party had come in from the morning's shoot and we were surprised that some of the boys had actually gone quite well, getting five or so birds.

The entire camp had an air of good nature about it, reiterating the point that duck opening is more than just another hunting trip. It's an opportunity to get together with friends, people who you may only see every twelve months, and just enjoy camping and talking together with stories shared and a good time had by all. Few other events offer such a sociable atmosphere, after all, at how many other events can you approach perfect strangers and ask about their hunt, celebrating success, or lamenting misfortune.

Stories are exchanged between groups and everyone is jovial. Duck opening is one of the main events on any hunter's calendar, a day that brings thousands together and reminds us all what hunting is really about.

**Loughie Foley** – 6 openings so far.



***Afternoon shoot on Lake Murphy.***

## **2015 Victorian Junior Rimfire Silhouette Championship**

At Eagle Park Range, Little River  
On  
Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Weigh in from 8.30am  
PRACTICE 9.00 AM  
SHOOTERS BRIEFING 10.15 AM

80 shot match. Comp starts 10.30am  
\$5.00 Nomination Fee

Trophies for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> for U/15 & U/18  
And overall winner

Any queries: Mark Butler 0409 135 740



# Range Officer Policy Update

The Board recently adopted the "SSAA (Vic) Range and Range Officer Training Policy". The purpose of the new policy is to set out the requirements and conditions that must be met to train, qualify and maintain SSAA (Vic) core-qualified Range Officer (RO) accreditation.

The objective of the policy is to ensure the safest possible operation of all live firing conducted on SSAA (Vic) ranges.

## Shooting Alone

Shooting alone is permissible under the following conditions: (a) the person must have a current SSAA (Vic) RO core qualification or equivalent. Recognition of qualification will be given to accredited RO organisations as contained in a schedule to the policy and (b) the RO must have an endorsement in writing from his/her parent club stating that it supports the RO shooting alone and/or is approved by the range manager.

Shooting maybe conducted on a SSAA (Vic) range by a non-SSAA (Vic) core-qualified RO under the following condition. Recognition will be given to non-SSAA (Vic) ROs who have a current RO qualification from an accredited RO organisation as specified in a schedule to the policy, currently IPSC, PPLA and SASS. The recognition / exemption will only apply when an RO is engaged in discipline-specific activities.

Any additional RO qualifications required by the many disciplines that operate within SSAA (Vic) are the responsibility of the branch or sub-club engaged in that discipline.

## The training and qualification procedure

The Operations Manager (OM) is responsible for managing the core training and qualification of SSAA (Vic) ROs. Only the training package and all related documents as approved by the OM can be used in the delivery of training.

There is to be an application process for the recruitment of RO course applicants, with the applicants needing to meet certain entry requirements as detailed in a schedule to the policy. They include, but are not limited to, having current firearm licence and relevant range experience.

There will be a competency-based accreditation program which includes a course of training and formal assessment of competency. The RO qualification will have an expiry date and will be revalidated every three years based on the RO meeting accreditation requirements. They will include attestation to having been actively conducting live fire activity on ranges on an on-going basis and being endorsed by the RO's parent club and/or the range manager or OM where the RO is not attached to a parent club.

## Maximum number of shooters to be supervised by a sole Range Officer.

The maximum number of shooters to be under the direct control of a single RO is 25 shooters and the maximum stint without a break of at least 30 minutes duration is to be no greater than 4 hours.

## Qualifications/Experience of Range Officer Training Instructors

RO training instructors may be appointed by the OM after completing the RO instructor training package. Applicants for RO training instructors must have a minimum of five years' experience conducting ranges and their application be endorsed by the Sub-Club or Branch.

## What does the new policy mean for current ROs?

There will be no requirement for current ROs to refresh or re-qualify, however current ROs will need to revalidate once this process has been implemented.

For further information or clarification about the new policy please contact State Office.

## Mike Spray



**Mike Spray at the recent State conference detailing the RO policy.**

## SWINGING TARGETS – EAGLE PARK RANGE

New specifications and criteria for the placement of swinging steel targets on the main public range at Eagle Park have been introduced. Their introduction is as a result of the incident in December 2014 where a shooter was hit by a projectile thought to be a ricochet off a steel target. The specifications are based on current industry standards.

Specifications for swinging targets for use on the Main Range at Eagle Park are as follows.

Swinging targets are to be placed at a minimum distance of 200m for centre-fire rifle and at 90 degrees to the firing line directly in front of the shooters bench.

Minimum thickness of 10mm for centre-fire targets and they must be constructed so as to absorb the energy of the projectile and deflect it towards the ground.

All targets must be flat steel plate without any pitting or distortion.

Target frames must be constructed of material that will not cause ricochet, be mounted vertically, or leaning forward not rearward and not be more than 1200mm in height and 600mm wide if placed under 300m.

Static targets at 500mts only and angled forward so as to deflect projectiles towards the ground.

Rim-fire targets are to be of commercial manufacture and placed no closer than 50m.

Air Rifle targets are to be of commercial manufacture and placed no closer than 25m.

Members/Shooters are to shoot only at their own targets or the public gongs at 300, 400 and 500m.

Shooters who shoot at other people's targets or at an angle across the Range are to be sent from the Range immediately.

The senior Range Officer on the day will have the final say in the approval of targets and frames.

Ian Cole 18/02/2015



# 2015/16

## Range Fees



### New Range fees as of May 1, 2015

Regrettably, due to increased cost pressures, the SSAA (Vic) Board has reluctantly had to increase the fees for members and non-members for the use of the **main/public ranges** at both Springvale and Eagle Park.

The new fees as of May 1, 2015 will be:

#### **Main/Public Range**

##### **SSAA Member\***   **Non-member**

<b>Adult</b>	\$20.00	\$35.00
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<b>Junior</b>	\$5.00	\$10.00
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Age: Min.12 — Under 18

<b>Pensioner</b>	\$10.00	\$20.00
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Only the following cards will be accepted:

SSAA Pensioner membership cards  
Pension Concession card issued by Centrelink  
Veteran Affairs Pension card

Seniors card and Health Care cards will not be accepted.,

<b>Family</b>	\$43.00	\$75.00
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Family: 2 Adults & 2 children — under 18

Range passes are available. Please enquire at the Range Office.

\*Range fees will be **unchanged for all sub-club members**  
that are using sub-club booked ranges.

**www.ssaavic.com.au**

# CPM Accreditation

Conservation Pest Management training and accreditation courses were suspended last year pending the review of the CPM program with Parks Victoria. The following recommendations relating to training and accreditation were made as a result of the review:

- . Introduce an application process for CPM operators with specific entry criteria.
- . Introduce a mentoring and coaching program for CPM operators and for supervisors and leaders.
- . Revise the training and accreditation package.
- . Develop a re-validation process for CPM operators.

## **What does the application process involve?**

Applicants will be required to complete a form, providing relevant information about existing skills and experience, favoured type of pest management and what specialist equipment and firearm types they own. Applications must be endorsed by the applicant's Branch or Sub-Club.

## **What is the coaching and mentoring program?**

Once an applicant has been accredited to participate in the CPM program they can receive further coaching and mentoring in the field from more experienced CPM operators on specific skills such as the use of night vision equipment or spot lights. The coaching and mentoring program will also cater for operators who wish to up-skill to leading and supervising projects.

## **What does the revised CPM training and accreditation package look like?**

The training and accreditation program (to be trialled) will consist of 3 short pre-course tutorials including (1) Using a GPS (2) CPM operators rules and responsibilities and (3) CPM equipment. There will then be a one day program consisting of short training modules on selecting a firearm, kill zones and shot placement, marksmanship, basic ballistics and emergency procedures. There will also be participant information hand-outs on mounting a scope and field shooting techniques. At the end of the training day participants will be required to complete a practical shooting assessment using a variety of shooting techniques at various shooting distances. A specific coaching and mentoring program will be developed for bird shooters.

## **What is the revalidation process?**

All current and new CPM accreditations will expire after a determined time period. Accreditations will then be revalidated and extended, or expire and not be renewed based on the circumstances. This decision will be made between the accredited operator, the CPM Manager and the operator's Branch or Sub-Club.

## **What does this mean for current CPM accredited operators?**

There will be no requirement for existing CPM operators to re-qualify under the revised training package. All existing operators will remain accredited. However all existing operator accreditations will be included in the revalidation process.

## **When will the revised training and accreditation package role out?**

We are intending to have the new accreditation package rolled out in July this year and there will be a schedule of at least two courses available to applicants after that. We will advise Branches and Sub-Clubs of the course dates once we have set the schedule.

## **The CPM Manager**

Due to the retirement of Colin Wood in December last year, Rhys Coote has been appointed CPM Manager. Rhys was employed by SSAA (Vic) in 2012 to coordinate CPM program. He now has a depth of knowledge about CPM and is well positioned to lead the program.

For any inquiry about CPM please contact Rhys at State Office: Email: [Rhys@ssaavic.com.au](mailto:Rhys@ssaavic.com.au) Phone: 8892 2777





100 YEARS  
OF ANZAC

## SSAA (Vic) Military Rifle Club 2015 ANZAC Day Memorial Shoot

Date: Saturday 25 April 2015

Venue: SSAA Eagle Park Range – Gifkins Rd, Little River  
Registration from 9.00 am, Remembrance ceremony at 10.00 am

Competition starts 10:30am **NB: Upon arrival proceed directly to the MRC clubhouse (come through the main entrance, turn left and drive down to the last building on the left) to register, pay and obtain your score sheet. Keep this with you, noting on it the Detail and Position you will be shooting in. Don't pay entry at the main office.**

### **ANZAC DAY EVENT - Course of fire:**

#### **FOR STANDARD ISSUE .303 CAL. SERVICE RIFLES**

300m -10 rounds in prone position,	Two minute duration
200m -5 rounds prone, 5 rounds sitting,	Three minutes duration
100m -10 rounds snap in standing position,	Five x five-second exposures

Shooters will be graded into A, B and C grades for .303 Service Rifle,  
All Master and Grand Master grade shooters included in A grade.

**Classic .303 target rifles and non .303 military rifles included in Open Grade.**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY EVENT**

Event 2. Bayonet Shoot: 10 rounds standing at 100m.  
Standard issue service rifle (any calibre) with appropriate bayonet.

### **MACHINE GUN DEMONSTRATION**

A demonstration of WW1 machine guns will take place after the competition.

**\$20 entry fee** includes BBQ lunch. ALL proceeds donated to LEGACY.  
Trophies awarded for overall winners by grade.  
Medallions awarded by grade for each event,

All welcome including interstate, country and VRA shooters.  
Enquiries to SSAA Victorian Military Rifle Club President Frank Griffio via email:  
[milrifle@yahoo.com.au](mailto:milrifle@yahoo.com.au)



Rev. 13 Feb 2015



## 2015 Victorian Single Action State and Territorial Championship

By JayBird

The Victorian State and Territorial Championships for Single Action Shooting were held at Bendigo over the March long weekend. 83 enthusiastic shooters participated over the three-day weekend. The weather conditions deemed perfect with cool mornings and mid 20-degree days.



Shooters Brief



Cowboy ready? Standby

Side events kicked off the weekend shoot. Shooter's brief at 1pm. Match Director Scottie Two Guns and the newly elected State Governor Tony Diablo welcomed all shooters. With the emphasis made "looking after the many new shooters", and safety discussed. The fun begun.

Twelve main stages were held over the 3 days. There were a variety of stages on offer; some were more challenging than others. Range officers, posse leaders and deputy's need to be commended for their dedication, and occasional assistance when a brain fade occurred. I for one.



Classic Cowgirl Dallas Roarke



New shooter 4xWrangler



Calypso

The 14 Top Women and Top 16 Men shoot off completed the weekend shoot. **John Slocum** and Tin Can Ali were crowd pleasers with fastest times. Senator Bridget McKenzie graced us with her presence for the conclusion of the weekend events and presentation time.

The final results were: **John Slocum** and Cheyenne Jack State Territorial winners. **John Slocum** and Mystic Meg Victorian State Title winners. Congratulations.



Top Shoot off Winners  
John Slocum & Tin Can Ali



Victorian State Titles Winners  
WA's Mystic Meg & John Slocum



Territorial Winners  
John Slocum and Cheyenne Jack



Do I need to say **John Slocum** again?

**John Slocum**, the wiry retired cowboy from Gippsland, nothing too slow about this shooter.



Tumbleweed Wagon, Mad Dog Pearse  
Scottie Two Guns, Buck Ryder and Calypso



Junior cowboys and cowgirl



Bandicoot Clean Match

Our Junior cowboys and cowgirl, have been spoilt again! Thank you to SSAA for continued sponsorship we were able to provide gift vouchers from "Cowboys Guns n Gear". Mad Dog Pearse honored the presentation "encouraging junior shooters in partnership with SSAA to enjoy the sport".

Bandicoot from WA was our lucky cowboy to have shot clean this weekend □ Well done. Commiserations to those cowboys who were almost clean, crying towels not available.

"We all want to win a gun" this year Stanwell Back coordinated the raffle for a Stoeger Coach gun which was raffled and won by Shaftshot. This prize was made possible by Beretta, Len Steel Armoury & Ammunition Service and The Bendigo Pistol Club. **All** sponsors for the weekend have been recognized and duly thanked.

Single Action Shooting by nature involves travel. I would like to acknowledge and thank all shooters for their attendance and contribution to a great weekend. To be passionate about shooting in any discipline is understandable. The socialization and unspoken camaraderie within Single Action Shooting is gold. If you would like to be part of Single Action Shooting please visit <http://sasa.ssaagld.org.au> to find your closest range, contact person and upcoming shoots.

The 2016 Victorian Single Action and State Territorial Championships will be held at Bendigo in March from the 12-14th, where we will do it all over again!

For full results, visit [www.ssaa.org.au/singleaction](http://www.ssaa.org.au/singleaction)



# Field Hunters Club

The Field Hunters Club has now been in operation for over 26 years and during this time has adapted and evolved to be a club that is now 237 members strong with a focus on 3 key areas;

**TO HELP FOSTER AND DEVELOP HUNTER ETHICS,  
HUNTER TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITY.  
TO FOSTER THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF GAME.**

**TO IMPROVE HUNTING FOR THE FUTURE.**

One of the many strengths of a Club such as ours is that it derives its membership from all walks of life, with a resultant diverse range of outlooks and ideas among its members. Over the years the club has provided a launching pad for many SSAA members to get into hunting in the field and to learn a variety of skills and knowledge from likeminded hunters.

Throughout the Club's history it has excelled in offering ongoing hunting related training to members with some of the recent training targeting;

- *First aid in the field*
- *Navigation and orienteering*
- *Firearm safety and handling*
- *4WD training days*
- *Target identification*
- *Field rifle position training.*



During monthly general meetings we have guest speakers talking about a diverse range of hunting related topics, and passing on skillsets that come from direct field experience. Another often overlooked function of the Club is that it offers members the chance to meet people who are also keen hunters in one of the few places where members can openly talk about their recent hunting experiences and plan upcoming hunts. This providing a platform for lifelong friendships with many of the founding members present at each and every meeting. Other membership benefits include free access to the club's extensive hunting DVD library, access to the club's Facebook site, a copy of the club's monthly newsletter, membership discounts at specified retail outlets, ducks on the rice hunts and access to the club's midyear raffle with this year's first prize valued at \$1,500 for a hunting related product of the winner's choice.

During 2014 members of the Club also went to NSW for pig and goat hunts on private property on 2 separate occasions. Such trips like this help form life long memories for attendees. The Club is looking to attend NSW this year using the NSW R Licence scheme for access to hunt game and feral animals on public land that has been declared open for hunting.



In recent times the Club has also created its own unique program working with land owners assisting in the removal of feral animals. This program is called the 'Field Hunters Club Feral Animal Control Program' and is open to all members. This programme provides access to a very large area within Victoria and only 2 hours from the club rooms located at the Springvale Range.

In the past 12 months over 130 members have attended the program, which normally runs once monthly over a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Recently the programme has also been held during the week with foxes, rabbits and feral cats dispatched at each and every event. The program is delivering terrific results, not only for land owners and their livestock, but also playing a major role in helping to protect many Australian native species.

It is estimated that each feral cat is killing up to four native animals per day and the total annual cost of foxes to Australia's environment and economy estimated to be \$227.5 million.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/10/16/4104720.htm>

[http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/537164/media\\_release\\_141208\\_foxes\\_declared\\_pest.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/537164/media_release_141208_foxes_declared_pest.pdf)

If you are thinking of getting back into hunting, or just starting out, and you want to have access to both training and great hunting opportunities not available to many people, then the Field Hunters Club is the right spot for you. So what are you waiting for, drop us an email asking for the Clubs welcome pack.

Contact

Phillip Mathieson

Field Hunters Club Secretary



Pics of recent events





## SSAA Arms & Militaria Collectors Club (Melbourne)

The ARMC is a club that caters for people who have an interest in older-type firearms and all associated memorabilia.

We have a group of very keen members who have an extensive knowledge of most firearms, books and cartridges. If you feel that you have the same hobbies then you must belong to a nominated collectors' club to obtain a collector's licence.

We are based at SSAA Springvale Range and meet on the first Thursday of each month at 8pm.

For further details contact the State Office 9am to 5pm on 03 8892 2777 or Robert Lemm, email amccvic@optusnet.com.au

## Eagle Park Management

### RANGE INFO FOR EAGLE PARK

Range open Friday to Monday at 9:00 Closes at 5:00. All persons entering the Range MUST SIGN IN at the office.

A clay thrower is provided for patrons to use at a cost of \$8.00 per token (27 clays). Bruno's Cafe open each day.

### RANGE RULES - RIFLE

The RANGE OFFICER has absolute control over the range at all times.

His instructions MUST be followed promptly. Any person found breaching the rules below WILL BE ORDERED from the range and reported, with possible follow-up from the department responsible.

1. On entering the range all persons must:-  
 a Report to the range office, pay range fees if required and have their details recorded. This includes visitors and non-shooters.  
 b Be advised which range to attend and on arriving at the firing line approach the RANGE OFFICER who is in charge.  
 c The Range Officer will then advise the shooter as to how and when you may bring your firearms on to the range. Until then all firearms must remain in your vehicle.
2. All firearms not in use must be unloaded with actions open, chambers flagged, magazines empty and removed if possible.

3. Shooters may fire only from the defined firing line in a down range direction at approximately 90 degrees to the firing line.
4. All firearms in use must be kept pointing down range in the direction of targets at all times.
5. Shooting is to be at your own approved targets only. No cans, bottles, rocks, other shooters targets, range fitting or wildlife may be fired at.
6. Once shooting has commenced for the day people will only be permitted forward of the firing line after the RANGE OFFICER has:-  
 a called "CEASE FIRE,- OPEN ALL ACTIONS,- REMOVE ALL MAGAZINES,- FLAG ALL CHAMBERS,- STAND BACK BEHIND THE FIRING LINE".  
 b inspected all firearms to verify the compliance with the rules.  
 c called "THERE WILL BE NO HANDLING OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION DURING THE CEASE FIRE". ALL CLEAR-PROCEED ONTO THE RANGE".
7. Targets must be changed as quickly as to avoid wasting time.
8. Firearms are only to be loaded after the RANGE OFFICER has called "ALL CLEAR YOU MAY COMMENCE FIRING".
9. Firearms being carried between a vehicle and the firing line must be unloaded with the action open and muzzle pointed up. Firearms must not be handled or carried during a cease fire under any circumstances.
10. Children must be under strict supervision and kept well clear of the firing line. Children under the age of 10 are not permitted forward of the firing line at any time.
11. All junior and unlicensed shooters must be under the direct supervision of an adult licensed shooter whilst using firearms.
12. Consumption of alcohol on the range is not permitted until after the close of all shooting for the day on all range property.

#### PLEASE

- Assist and co-operate with the Range Officer.
- Leave the range in a clean and tidy condition.
- Return any equipment used, borrowed or hired.
- Offer to help the Range Officer close down the range at the end of the day.

### WARNING

HEARING AND EYE PROTECTION MUST BE USED ON THE FIRING LINE WHILST FIRING IS IN PROGRESS. HEARING OR EYE DAMAGE SUFFERED BY SHOOTERS IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION.

Persons found on range property outside open hours without specific authorisation will be treated as trespassers.

**Ian Cole**  
**Secretary, Eagle Park Range Consultative Committee**

## Little River Raiders

Little River Raiders is a single action shooting club based at the SSAA Eagle Park Range, Little River. Single action shooting is a living history sport which uses the firearms of the American 'Old West'. Participants are required to adopt a persona typical of the era, and to dress accordingly, so a darned good sense of humour comes in handy for those who want to join in.

Club competitions are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. We shoot coach guns (side by side shotguns), pistols, lever and pump action rifles. Black powder – cartridge and percussion pistol – is also a recognised category of Single Action, and our black powder shooters add to the atmosphere with lots of smoke and noise to entertain all. Shooter categories are established so as to cater for all age groups, both sexes, and different skill mixes.

We also have long range rifle competitions where speed is not as important as accuracy. These events use single shot, lever and pump action rifles ranging from .22 to big bore buffalo rifles.

All matches are run under the rules of the Single Action Shooting Society. Our shooting stages (scenarios) are based on the 'Old West' – either incidents out of history, or our translation of classic Western movies or the old TV series. Visitors are welcome to come along to any of our competitions and if they like they may try their hand at single action shooting under instruction. The only thing you need is a desire to enjoy yourself and have (safe) fun with people dressed in cowboy gear, using period firearms or faithful replicas.

For further information please look us up on the web [www.littleriverraiders.com.au](http://www.littleriverraiders.com.au) or contact the Secretary Tiresome (aka Tony Mussert) 0427 053 540 or email [littleriverraiders@yahoo.com.au](mailto:littleriverraiders@yahoo.com.au)



## Little River Sporting Clays

Little River Sporting Clays is a sub club of SSAA based at Eagle Park, Gifkins Rd, Little River.

We aim to provide a wide variety of clay targets using our amazing terrain to provide shooters with a great experience. All levels of shooters are welcome with many seasoned hands available to provide direction and advice. We encourage our shooters to join our club and become involved in setting up the grounds. Please give us a call or send an email.

Our practice days are on the 2nd Sunday of each month running from 10am – 5pm. The cost is \$10 for 30 targets and you can shoot as many rounds as you wish. We are also able to set up particular practice targets for you wherever possible.

Our competition days are the 4th Sunday of each month with nominations opening at 9:30am and closing at 10:30am. The competition usually consists of 75 targets at a nomination cost of \$45, less for ladies, juniors and pensioners and sub juniors shoot for free. Our last competition day was August 24th with Simon Sammut winning overall with a great score of 71. We have prizes for each grade including vets, ladies, juniors and sub juniors.

We ran our first Vince Panetta memorial FITASC old style shoot on August 10th; it was a lovely day with Chris Brown the overall winner. Lots of fun was had with raffle prizes and wonderful food provided by the Panetta family – a great way to remember Vince.

**Practice Days** - 14th September, 12th October, 9th November

**Competition days** - 28th September, 26th October, 23rd November

### Contact Details

Eddie Magee phone 0412279828 email [e.jmagee@bigpond.net.au](mailto:e.jmagee@bigpond.net.au)

Vicky Winship email [vickywinship@bigpond.com](mailto:vickywinship@bigpond.com)



## Springvale Pistol Club

The Springvale Pistol Club (SPC) was formed on 17th June 2004 to provide:

- affiliation with the peak bodies in Victoria and Australia for National and International handgun competitions
- instruction, coaching and training for competition-oriented shooters
- a home base at the SSAA Springvale Range Complex.

The SPC has approximately 40 members, many of whom actively train for and shoot competitions at local, state and interstate events.

Shooting is a sport that does not present a barrier to anyone who wishes to get involved - neither age, physical ability nor gender are barriers to enjoying the sport of pistol shooting. It does require a high degree of self-discipline, attention to detail and willingness to learn if you are to progress to high levels of performance, but it is also a great pastime for those who have less time to practice.

The SSAA Springvale Range Complex has many facilities for the use of members. Those who wish to learn the disciplines of target shooting and how to shoot them well are welcome to join our growing membership. SPC shoots on Wednesday nights.

Email: [secretary@springvalepc.org](mailto:secretary@springvalepc.org) Web: [www.springvalepc.org](http://www.springvalepc.org)

## Sporting Shooters Pistol Club

The SSPC is a friendly and social handgun shooting club with over 400 members which runs primarily from the SSAA Springvale range.

Competitions and practices are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6pm until 8pm, Saturdays from 10am and Sundays from 12 noon. A variety of competitions are shot including ISSF style Sport Pistol, Centre Fire and Classic Pistol at 25 metres, 25 and 50 Metre Service Match, IPSC and Metallic Silhouette (at Eagle Park range). Our website contains a full calendar of competitions and range times.

### Introduction to Handguns course

New members are welcome and we run regular Introduction to Handguns courses which will teach you the basics of handgun safety and shooting fundamentals as well as provide an introduction to joining the club. The course consists of 30 minutes of theory followed by 60 minutes on the range firing a variety of club handguns. The course costs \$75 and includes range entry and ammunition. Bookings for the course are taken online at our website or at the front desk at Springvale range. Completing the introduction course is the first step in joining our club.

Club fees consist of a \$250 joining fee and thereafter a \$100 membership fee due at the end of April of each year. Range entry fees are separate and paid directly to the SSAA, however yearly range entry passes are available from our club.

For more information please see our website at [www.sspc.org.au](http://www.sspc.org.au)

Contact details:

[info@sspc.org.au](mailto:info@sspc.org.au)

Sebastian (Club Secretary): 0417 034 325



## Sporting Shooters Women's Group

For women who love to combine shooting and socialising!  
We meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at SSAA(Vic)  
Springvale Range at 7:00pm sharp.  
Multi Disciplines - Practise and Competition - 3P / Field Rifle / Practical  
Rifle / Sports Rifle / Stuff We Make Up As We Go.  
Shooter of the Month Awards / Shooter of the Year Award.  
Annual Membership Fee \$20 / Annual Target Levy \$50.  
Club Coach: Bill O'Connor Mob 0408 323 060  
2014 Calendar

Please Note the Women's Group meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of  
the month at SSAA(Vic) Springvale Range at 7pm .

The Women's Group is responsible for running the Bar on the 1st  
Thursday of the month.

June 12 10m Rimfire Open Sights / R5

June 26 10m Rimfire Open Sights / R5

July 10 Field Rifle - Rapid Fire 2x6 & Off Hand 2x5 Standing Post 2x5 &  
Sitting Post 2x5 / R5

July 24 Field Rifle / R5

August 14 3P - Prone 2x10, Off Hand 2x10 & Sitting 2x10 / R5

August 28 3P - Prone 2x10, Off Hand 2x10 & Sitting 2x10 / R5

September 11 10m Air Rifle Precision\* / Air

September 25 10m Air Rifle Precision\* / Air

October 9 Practical Rifle / 2 x20 shots / R4

October 23 Field Rifle\* / Rapid Fire 2x12 & Off Hand 2x10 Standing  
Post 2x10 & Sitting Post 2x10 /R5

November 13 Field Rifle\* / Rapid Fire 2x12 & Off Hand 2x10 Standing  
Post 2x10 & Sitting Post 2x10 /R5

November 27 Field Rifle\* / Rapid Fire 2x12 & Off Hand 2x10 Standing  
Post 2x10 & Sitting Post 2x10 /R5

December 11 Christmas Fun Shoot / Presentations / R5

December 6 OR 13? Christmas Party @ Venue to be advised

\*Targets eligible for entry into National Postal Competitions.

Need more information?

Club Secretary: Jenny: [dejen@jeheda.com](mailto:dejen@jeheda.com)

Club PR Officer: Zdenka: 0418 562 257

## SSAA-Victorian Muzzle Loading Club

Rekindle the Spirit of Black Powder Firearm Sporting Shooting with the  
VMLC.

Relive the excitement of bygone days by shooting Black Powder firearms,  
a truly engrossing and satisfying sport. Everyone is welcomed to attend  
the VMLC monthly competitions at the SSAA (Vic) Eagle Park Shooting  
Complex near Little River on the third Saturday of every month. Even if you  
don't own any Muzzle Loading or Black Powder firearms, knowledgeable  
and generous VMLC members are always eager to give you a few shots!  
Competitions are organised for all black powder original and reproduction  
firearms including cap & ball, cartridge and single shot handguns, muzzle  
loading long-arms including flint, percussion, patched ball, Minie-ball,  
slug projectile, smooth bore musket as well as cartridge rifle, and muzzle  
loading and cartridge shotgun.

From January to October competitions are held, with prize-winners  
presented with cards as well as trophies for the various Championships  
such as Breech Loading Rifle, Military Muzzle Loading Rifle, Traditional  
Muzzle Loading Rifle, Long Range Muzzle Loading Rifle, Flintlock Muzzle  
Loading Rifle, Muzzle Loading Shotgun, and Handgun.

For the month of November many members camp at Eagle Park for  
the two-day State Championships where lots of black powder and lead  
is expended during the day, and at night everyone relaxes at the free  
barbecue exchanging black powder stories and generally having a good  
time. December is set aside for some traditional competitions, such as  
cannon and novelty events.

VMLC Membership also includes an entertaining and informed newsletter,  
The Ramrod, which is sent to members every month. The Ramrod  
includes shooters' scores, VMLC record scores, coming events and  
additional articles of interest to the black powder enthusiast.

For additional information contact the VMLC President Jim Morraitis  
on 03 9401 1955 during business hours, visit the VMLC Web  
Site at [www.vmlc.com.au](http://www.vmlc.com.au) or FaceBook at [www.facebook.com/VictorianMuzzleLoadingClub](http://www.facebook.com/VictorianMuzzleLoadingClub) or Twitter search for vmlc3 or Pinterest  
search for victorian muzzle loading club

## Victorian Military Rifle Club

Dedicated to the safe competitive use of military firearms. Friendly and  
welcoming atmosphere. Competitions are held at the SSAA Little River  
Range on the first and second Sundays of the month. The first Sunday(9.00am start ) of the month events include the main event ,a 3 Position  
competition over 100m, 200m, 300m plus the Specialty Event which  
includes rapid fire and is different each month. A long range event at  
500m is held three times a year. The second Sunday (11.00am start )  
main event is the 3P Trainer Competition on a mini 3P target over  
50m,75,100m using military trainer rifles ( 22 and 310 calibers) The  
MRC State Titles are held in April at the Dookie Agricultural College .  
Club Rifles are available.

Other special away events are held in partnership with several VRA  
clubs and other Military Rifle Clubs. The club's General Meeting for all  
members is held at the SSAA Springvale Range on the fourth Thursday  
of the month at 8.00pm.New members, juniors and visitors are always  
welcome. Come along and support your club. Annual membership is  
\$35.00 for adults and \$12.50 for juniors (12yrs to 17yrs inclusive)  
Visit the website for further information – [www.vicmrc.com](http://www.vicmrc.com)  
Email –[milrifle@yahoo.com.au](mailto:milrifle@yahoo.com.au)  
Phone inquiries to Ian Garth 0408 568 083

# Working Gundogs

## Gundog Training

Gundog training has kicked off once again this year and we have already had two very well attended training days in February and March.

The club has an extensive range of training equipment which includes several electronic throwers, a 'backing' dog, retrieving dummies, stake-out chains and release traps.

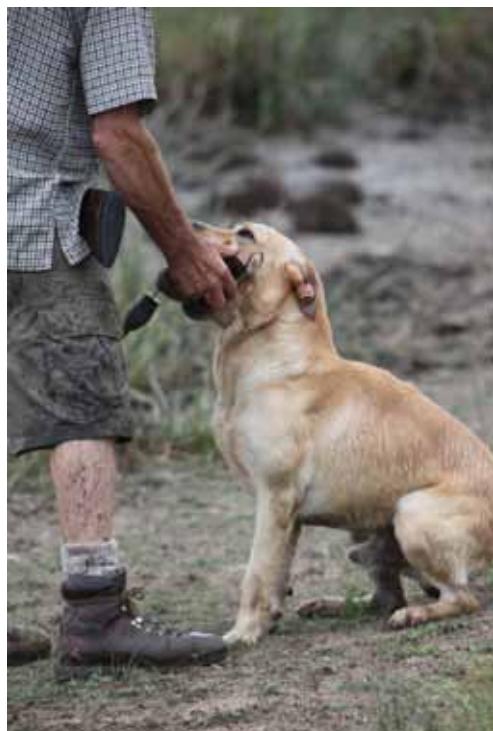
Our monthly training days are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. The next training day is 19<sup>th</sup> April, please note that we are trying a different location for this training day – contact Kevin for details.

We are presently looking for a permanent training venue as urbanisation has finally overtaken us at the Melton venue. If anyone has any ideas or contacts for a new training venue please contact the Training Officer, Kevin Phelps 0407 091 221. New members are always welcome.

## Duck Opening Water Practice day

30 handlers and their dogs participated in the 2015 Duck Opening Water Practice Day. This traditional WGAA event is always extremely successful and this year's event kept that tradition going.

The 3 runs available were designed to match real-life duck hunting scenarios. Handlers were able to give their dogs multiple runs and Wayne, Kevin and Shane were on hand to help with any problems. It was certainly encouraging to see so



A successful retrieve at the 'Duck Opening' Water Practice day.

many new comers. The wide variety of gundogs included GSP's pointers, labradors, brittanys, English springer spaniels, a long haired weimaraner and a curly coated retriever.

Luckily cloud cover kept the temperature down slightly for most of the day, and when the sun did come out about 2 o'clock the dogs needed no encouragement to hit the water.

Many thanks to the property owners and the caterers for their part in a very successful day.

## Retrieving trials – ANKC

Congratulations to the following WGAA members who were successful in recent ANKC retrieving trials: Nick Guida, Alex Jevric and Henry Foster.

## Duck Opening

Many of our members went to the opening of the Duck season. Duck Opening is a traditional weekend away with friends and family members that stretches back generations – see report elsewhere in magazine.

## Wilda Moving on

We would like to take this opportunity to inform everyone that Wilda Kerr, Communication and Administration, in the State Office, has resigned to take up an Administration role with a small company. We wish her well and thank her for her work.

Please direct any enquiries that you may have to the state\_office @ssaavic.com.au



# SSAA SHOT EXPO

GOLD SPONSORS



MEDIA PARTNERS



23rd & 24th May, 2015- MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS, Victoria



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[www.stevensonsworkwear.com.au](http://www.stevensonsworkwear.com.au)



# Help secure the future of hunting



**When you are enjoying Victoria's great hunting opportunities, be mindful that the future of hunting depends on how you conduct yourself as a hunter. Every hunter should be an ambassador for the recreation.**

As a responsible hunter, you should always:

## Respect animals

- Only take what you can use
- Make optimal use of harvested quarry (have a minimum/no waste approach)
- Shoot only when you can retrieve your quarry
- Shoot only when a humane result is possible
- Use the right equipment to effectively and humanely hunt animals
- Look after your hunting dogs

## Respect the environment

- Take all your litter (including empty cartridges) with you
- Bury or remove animal remains
- Stick to the tracks
- Keep campfires safe
- Leave your campsite clean
- Protect our wetlands and waterways (e.g. don't leave animal remains in or near waterways)
- Take part in efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitats

## Respect other hunters

- Be respectful and courteous if hunting or camping in the same area as other people
- Be safe and abide by the law so everyone is on a level playing field

## Respect the hunt

- Hunt safely and abide by the Firearms Safety Code
- Lead by example
- Always hunt within the law and report illegal behaviour
- Uphold the highest ethical standards
- Promote and praise good behaviour
- Know your skill limits and hunt accordingly
- Improve and maintain your skills through practice and/or joining a club

## Respect non-hunters

- Help others and be courteous
- Thoughtfully carry hunting equipment and harvested quarry (e.g. cover quarry during transit)
- Respect the opinions of non-hunters
- Only enter private property with permission
- Share the harvest with a non-hunter and promote the culinary/sustainability benefits of hunting

## Respect the laws

- Take time to know the laws and act within them at all times
- Work with Authorised Officers; they are there to help you and ensure safe, sustainable, humane and equitable hunting
- Don't tolerate illegal behaviour - report suspected offenders on 136 186.

For more information visit [www.depi.vic.gov.au/hunting](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/hunting)

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