

# CLAY TARGET

Looking back -

**NATIONAL TRAP HIGH GUN WINNERS 2012 - 2019**



**John Sleightholm - 2012**



**Darryn Nicholls - 2013,14**



**Glen Castellaro - 2015,17**



**Patrick Guida - 2016**



**Tom Turner - 2018**



**Phil Grainger - 2019**



**History of the South Australian Gun Club  
BADGE COLLECTING - THE EARLY DAYS**

Official Journal of the AUSTRALIAN CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION INC. - July 2020 Vol. 73 No. 7

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# CLAY TARGET

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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Designed and typeset by Ironbark Graphics, 22 Hubble Street, Maryborough, Vic 3465

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ISSN: 1321-3903

## VOLUME No. 73 ISSUE No. 7 JULY 2020



*National Trap High Gun winners for the years 2012–2019.*

*2012 John Sleightholm*

*2013, 2014 Darryn Nicholls*

*2015, 2017 Glen Castellaro*

*2016 Patrick Guida*

*2018 Tom Turner*

*2019 Phil Grainger*

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**Closing date for advertising and editorial in Clay Target August 2020 is JULY 5. Scheduled publication date is Thursday July 16**



# ACTA REPORT

**Mal Dyson – President    Paul Gilbert – CEO**



*Well, it's been another crazy month in the Association Office. Covid-19 has been almost the exclusive and most time consuming item of business over recent weeks, and, while slowly becoming less confusing and appearing to be largely under control here in Australia, the disease has certainly become no less serious, contagious or challenging. News reports continue to remind us that the disease is still rampant and out of control in many parts of the world, and it is only due to the brave actions and decisions of Governments and Australian citizens that our country is seeing some respite from its ravages. Thanks therefore need to be expressed to all of you who have complied with social distancing restrictions over the last 2 months and refrained from participating in many of the activities that you enjoy so much, one of which has been your beloved sporting pursuits. Please find a report on the following items that have been front of attention over recent weeks:*

## **World Down the Line**

*We can now confirm the dates for the postponed 2020 ICTSF World DTL. The dates for this event have now been ratified by the ICTSF member countries and will be held at the Bywell Shooting Grounds, England, on 10, 11 and 12 June 2021. There will be supporting events held from 6 June. More information will be available on the ICTSF website in the near future. Of course, conduct of this is still subject to the Covid-19/International travel restrictions being removed in the months leading up to this event.*

## **New Member Club Incentive Program**

*It is very pleasing to report that there were 11 clubs in total that exceeded their 2019 membership numbers by 20% and were eligible for the incentive payment. Well done to those clubs and congratulations on achieving the goal!*

*There were also several clubs that reached the 20% increase but, unfortunately, didn't qualify for the incentive due to their figures including 2019 ACTA registered members that had transferred from another Club to theirs due to closures or personal reasons.*

## **National Events**

*There have been some inquires in regards to this*

*year's postponed National Events.*

*Firstly, at this point of time, we are in discussions with Wagga Wagga Gun Club in regard to the National Sporting event. This event, scheduled for late August, may well need to be postponed to a later date or cancelled altogether.*

*In relation to the staging of the National Trap Event, scheduled to follow on the NSW Trap Carnival, this will be discussed at an Executive level in late June or early July. Some of the issues that will need to be addressed include:*

*"Will the State Borders be opened by this time to allow interstate competitors to attend"?*

*"How many competitors will be allowed to attend the event"?*

*"What catering, camping and ground restrictions and Covid-19 compliant conditions will be applied to holding this type of event"?*

*These conditions for discussion will also apply to the National Skeet Event scheduled for early November and we will inform perspective shooters as soon as possible.*

*We thank everyone for their cooperation and understanding during these challenging times.*

## **Covid-19**

*Club activity has recommenced at least with some clubs and, over the last few weeks, in all States. We are excited to see some activity, even though still seriously restricted in some States where mass gathering limits still stand at 20. The ACTA formulated the Covid-19 Guidelines to Clubs back at the start of May and this has been used extensively by clubs to formulate protocols and deliver a safe space for our members.*

*Our Covid-19 club reactivation process and approval procedure also came about in response to input from other sporting organisations (i.e.: ASC) and our insurers. Without wishing to completely rehash the advice to clubs, there appeared to have been some misinformation being circulated about cancelled club insurances and, for whatever reason, others refusing to advise formal compliance with Covid-19*

legislation and safety protocols. It was therefore necessary to clarify our position.

1. Firstly, we/our State Associations needed to advise clubs to cease activity towards the end of March when the Prime Minister first legislated and banned all mass gatherings, including all sport, and placed the country into lock-down.
2. The insurance of all affiliated clubs, members and activities is entrenched in the wording of the policy that stipulates that the insurance cover is valid only for authorised and approved events/competitions/activities/travel associated with the Association. Because we sent out formal directive that said "don't shoot", we then needed to mandate when you could be approved to "restart shooting".
3. When we discussed the best method of restarting activity with other Associations and our insurer, their advice was that the ACTA needs to obtain from all clubs formal notification that they will take personal responsibility to confirm compliance with their required State Covid-19 legal obligations, hence this step being advised and required. This is because any unlawful activity automatically voids insurance, which is clearly stated in the policy. (i.e.: this would absolutely include unlawful mass gatherings). Please note that any maintenance work during lock-down, (just as long as participants were complying with Covid-19 restrictions), was never un-insured!
4. The method we have adopted protects the Association and its Directors by now requiring formal advice from each club that they will comply with their State's Covid-19 prevention strategy. In doing so, the onus for compliance, once formally advised by the club to us, rests with the club.
5. This method has been instituted as the ACTA cannot physically travel around the country to ensure that each individual club is complying with their State's Covid-19-safety legislation. The best we can do is advise you of your State or Territory regulations, then when you provide formal advice back to us that you will comply, we trust in your advice and approve your club to resume activity under these conditions.
6. IF any club chooses not to advise us that they will comply, or refuse to agree to meet the Covid-19 requirements as spelled out in your State's or Territory's legislation, we simply cannot and will not approve that club's activity.
7. Just advising us that your club is returning to

shooting is not sufficient. Unless you advise us in writing that you will comply, we cannot approve the resumption of your club.

I hope this clarifies our position and reasons for implementing this process. Please continue to comply with and support your State Government's legislation as it is ultimately there to protect everyone's health and wellbeing. While we may see some relaxation of restrictions, any future outbreak could see a retraction, so let's all just stay as rational and supportive as we can towards each other as we navigate through these Covid-19 constraints.

### **Members Firearms (Personal Property) Insurance Policy**

Over the last 6 months, we have been experiencing some very serious challenges with regard to this item. This particular policy has always lapsed at the end of November while the rest of our insurances lapsed at the end of December. At the start of 2020, our insurers sent us our renewal tax invoices and this was minus our Firearms Insurance premium. On questioning the insurer, they advised me that, while still covered in the interim, their underwriter was reviewing the policy and would offer an update and new tax invoice as soon as this was available.

On 6 March, we finally received a tax invoice that covered a 6-month period at the current premium, (from 1 December to 31 May), within an email advising us that:

- Marsh (our Insurer) had decided that the \$10 upgrade that we had previously been offered and were still advertising to our members for the higher \$25,000 claim limit upgrade had been withdrawn by them due to the administrative burden associated with them having to administer this component,
- the premium for this segment of insurance was going to increase threefold on the renewal date of 1 June 2020 (regardless of a comparatively low claims history), and
- components of the insurance were also going to be tightened.

At this point, I advised the insurer that, as we had already collected membership fees for 2020 and, as the Covid-19 pandemic had also seriously impacted our financial situation, the premium hike was not affordable. We also advised that we hoped not to have to increase membership fees next year, (which a premium increase would require), so they would

Continued next page

need to attempt to negotiate a better price with the underwriter; the only other option being for us to lapse the policy.

On 7 May, I received a follow-up email from our insurer advising that their best efforts had identified another underwriter who could offer a similar scope of Firearms Insurance cover to that currently being offered for only a 100% increase in the premium! While this is not entirely satisfactory, we have, at least, on 27 May, been able to negotiate a 7 month interim coverage period that covers you all until 31 December 2020, and which will provide us with some breathing space for further negotiation or to source another insurer.

That said, please be advised what the updated **Member's Property (Firearms) Insurance now provides:**

**Scope of Cover:**

- Policy covering members firearms and/or associated equipment whilst in transit, stored in a locked vehicle in accordance with State Law and/or building and damaged or destroyed whilst in use in Australia or New Zealand and overseas for 21 days during the policy period.
- Limit of Indemnity: \$12,000 any one claim
- Excess: \$50 each and every claim.

**Exclusions:**

Cover is not provided for:

- Theft where equipment was not stored in an approved gun safe as required by State and Territory Authority, other than when the equipment is in use or away from the Insured's premises.
- Where the Insured or any person or entity to whom the equipment has been entrusted fails to comply with any law relating to either storage, use or handling of the equipment.
- Notwithstanding anything in the Policy Wording or schedule to the contrary it is agreed and declared that this policy does not cover any loss or damage to unaccompanied customers goods, whether in the course of or awaiting transit, during loading or unloading, or being held in storage.
- Where the Damage has resulted from maintenance of the gun.
- You not following the instructions of the manufacturer including but not limited to Damage caused by using reloaded ammunition.

Please note that there will be no offers to individuals to increase their limits on an ad-hoc basis for an additional premium.

One other unforeseen discovery that was identified along this journey is the issue of gun ownership. The insurer has provided the following advice:

Junior Members, being minors as determined by State Firearms legislation, can't legally own a firearm or have a firearm registered in their own name. To make a claim you have to show ownership/ registration of the firearm. Junior members, therefore, can't be insured or make a claim under the Member's Property policy. As a consequence, this may limit the family to \$12,000 total if the guns are registered in a parent's name AND that parent is also a member of the Association. Furthermore, if the parent is not an ACTA member, it goes without saying that it is not possible to provide any Firearms Insurance in that scenario. Cover, however, does extend to members of the immediate family using the equipment.

This information supersedes all prior advice and the new policy is now posted on the website.

**Constitution Sub-Committee**

The Constitution Sub-Committee was finally convened again on 4/6/20 after a period of inactivity. Please forgive this delay as there have been a number of urgent other matters that have diverted us from this priority over recent months. We now feel that we are in a position to refocus on this important issue and move things forward between now and September, during which time much of the contentious content of the Constitution will be fleshed out and presented to members for feedback and consensus. Given the lack of time between the meeting and this report, we will provide a comprehensive update of our progress on this item next month.

In closing, again, thank you to all of you who have exercised great patience, perseverance and restraint during this difficult period in all our lives. We do hope that things will become "more normal" again in future months, however, sense that the "new normal" may not be exactly as it was before! Please be kind to your club administrators and support them as they help you by working their way forward during the transition back to our ultimate ambition: full competitive sport.

*Stay Safe and Healthy,  
Mal and Paul*

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### DTL CONTINENTAL



**\$7,975** RRP

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

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- Height: 78 cm
- Weight: 83 kg
- 3 Motors: Available in 240v
- Magazine: 300 tgts
- Control System: Manual release push button or voice release (phono-pull)
- Compatible with Canterbury Voice Release Systems

### DTL



**\$7,480** RRP

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

- Oscillation: Horizontal
- Height: 78 cm
- Weight: 80 kg
- 2 Motors: Available in 240v
- Magazine: 300 tgts
- Control System: Manual release push button or voice release (phono-pull)
- Compatible with Canterbury Voice Release Systems

For more details, contact:  
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# HISTORY OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GUN CLUB

Our club has been in existence for a very long time and no historical record exists. It was therefore considered by long serving Club Patron Paul F. Lawson and I that it would be beneficial to prepare such a record to be retained in the club archives and available for all interested personnel to view now and long into the future.

Accordingly Paul prepared the history of the early days and this is greatly appreciated as not many persons of that era are still with us.

To complete the story I have prepared the history from the commencement of the Undo Road, Bolivar (Waterloo Corner) facility.

Rather than just concentrate on the physical infrastructure development and history I concluded that the real history belongs to and is about the members. Therefore it was decided to record all significant contributions of our members both competitively and administratively at Club, State, National and International level. This has proved to be an enormous undertaking and has taken several hundred hours to research. These 26 pages are not included in this report.

Four primary sources to collate such information were utilised, members past and present, club records, State Association (SACTA) records and National Association (ACTA) records.

There proved to be a few difficulties with these sources.

1. There are very few members left with knowledge of the early Bolivar years.
2. As is often the case with long term archives, many of the early club records no longer exist. The oldest records held in club archives are a Membership Book commencing in (and continuous from) the year 1962, and original Minutes of Meetings commencing (and again continuous from) September 1972.
3. Similarly no State Association records of substance exist before approximately 1993.
4. This leaves National records and the decision by the ACTA to digitise all available editions of "Clay Target News" (CTSN) and make them accessible on their website has been an absolute godsend. Full marks to the ACTA for their foresight.

Further difficulties were encountered that prevent the recording to be complete. SAGC officials in the early days did not report details of Committee changes nor results of many shoots to the CTSN and similarly a large number of State Carnival results were not registered in the CTSN. Since 1979 (first Carnival) particularly the period late 2007 to 2014, out of a possible 23 State Carnivals only 8 were recorded and several of these were by way of reports submitted by non SACTA officials. Whilst some appear on the SACTA website it is likely some may be irrecoverable. The State Secretary kindly provided some missing results, but many are still unknown or only part complete.

SAGC Minutes of Meetings from September 1972 until the AGM of 30 March 1978 (inclusive) were extremely vague and sparse of detail, especially names of new members, expenditure approvals and recording of outcomes of a host of important issues. This increased the difficulty of historical reporting. A similar but even worse scenario applies to minutes from the period January 1988 until May 1990. Remaining minutes are generally very accurate and complete.

## Constitution

The South Australian Gun Club was constituted in 1885. The Inaugural Committee of Management was President G. Howell Esq., Vice-Presidents L. Grant Esq. and T.H. Bruce Esq., Honorary Treasurer T.G. Brown Esq., Honorary Secretary P.C. Schlumberger Esq. Committee E. Howes Esq., S. Osborne Esq., K. Thomson Esq., R.S. Low Esq., F.V. Beyer Esq., W. Rounsevell Esq., J.B. Scott Esq., R. Robertson Esq., E.A. Thornton Esq.

The first Constitution and Rules was printed by Sands and McDougall in 1886.

It is interesting to note that the initial 1885 annual subscription was two guineas. This makes the current fifty dollars seem pretty cheap by comparison.

*John R.Hamer*

## ***Part 1 – THE EARLY YEARS***

### **Cheltenham To Bolivar**

*Narrated February 27, 2016*

This history relates to the two trap shooting clubs in the Adelaide district, both were called South Australian Gun Club, but there is some confusion that I will try to overcome. The first South Australian Gun Club shot live pigeons exclusively at Cheltenham from the late 1885 until 1914, my first knowledge of that was 1911, and it closed its books somewhere about 1937 or 1938. There was another club which started in 1935 known as the Metropolitan Gun Club. It could not use the South Australian Gun Club title because there was already one in existence. We shot under the Metropolitan Gun Club title until the original South Australian Gun Club closed its books for lack of support. They were only getting a few shooters at each event mainly because of the high cost.

When my Father started the Metropolitan Gun Club he kept the cost down to an absolute minimum. This club received a tremendous following. We shot at Enfield in two different places and when the original South Australian Gun Club that had been shooting at Cheltenham and then at Blacks Road Gilles Plains closed their books and transferred their assets to a like organisation, I believe it was the Metropolitan Gun Club that received those assets.

That is a very brief resume of the two clubs. The Metropolitan Gun Club changed its name to the South Australian Gun Club when that title was available. So in fact there have only been two clubs, the original South Australian Gun Club and the Metropolitan Gun Club that changed its name to become the second South Australian Gun Club.

In 1911 my Father, P.H. Lawson came down from Wirrabara, a small town in the mid north of South Australia, to shoot in the Pigeon Shooting Championship of South Australia. He won the event. He came down again in 1912 and won the event again. On both those occasions the Rymill brothers who were members of the South Australian Gun Club took him under their wing. They are important in this story because they drove and owned the hydroplane "Tortoise" which held the Griffiths Cup for South Australia for quite a few years. Ernest Rymill was quite a mechanic and engineer and he designed and built two clay target machines that were installed at Blacks Road Gilles Plains. Why there? Because in 1913 I have no knowledge but I do know that the Lawson family were packing up their gear and moving from their farm to Adelaide, the reason being my Grandfather was seriously ill, and also it is just possible that the Cheltenham grounds were no longer available because of the thoughts of World War 1.

In 1914 the South Australian Gun Club that had now moved to Blacks Road Gilles Plains conducted the South Australian Pigeon Shooting Championships which my Father won. The trophy from this event is in the State Library and the two trophies from 1911 and 1912 are in the possession of my daughter.

The South Australian Gun Club, the first one, was now located at Gilles Plains and I will try to give you something of its history. The Secretary was a little fellow about the size of a jockey who owned the jewellery shop in Rundle street Adelaide on the North side about two thirds the way from Pulteney Street to East Terrace and he smoked cigars. I went into that shop several times with my Father and when he came out you could still smell cigars. Some of the members of that club were the Rymill brothers, Ernest and Arthur, the Mortlocks, brothers Ransom and Johnny, Ken Sawers, who was the station owner at Caltowie and shot under that name, Baulderstone, Bill Pearson who made sweets for a living and did very well, a big German chappy by the name of Mueller but was always known as Miller, Doctor A.S. Randall, Dental Surgeon on North Terrace, Alf Gilbert who ran a 2 large Studebakers hire car business and there were several others whose names I cannot remember. That club in its early days was made up of financial people. Betting was the life blood of that club, illegal yes, but nobody seemed to worry about that and it was when betting then became very controlled that the club gradually fizzled out.

An ordinary 3 bird sweep cost 1 Pound nomination and the birds were averaging 2 Shillings each. The Basic Wage in those days was about 3 Pounds a week so it is obvious that the people shooting there were not on the Basic Wage.

A live pigeon layout consisted of a concrete path leading out towards the five so-called traps where the birds were housed and then released on the call of the shooter "Pull". The minimum range, which is the distance from the closest of the concrete paths to those traps was 23 yards and it went back to, I am not sure if it was 34 or 35 yards. Just to the left of the 35 yard mark was the puller's house, a little galvanised iron structure about. The puller sat in there with his feet in a hole in the ground and had the 5 cords which came back above ground from each of the traps and at the 23 yard mark they passed through a little iron frame arrangement so that these cords came back in parallel lines to the Puller.

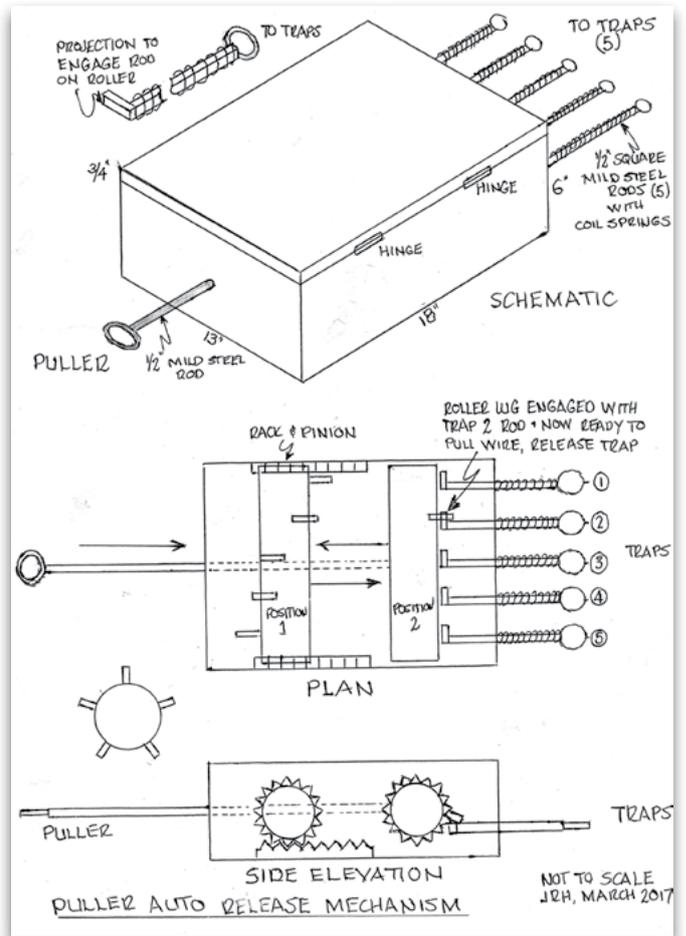
It was unofficially known that the shooter could sometimes influence the puller to let him know which trap was going to be released. As he was standing or getting ready to stand on the mark he would look down and the puller would give that cord

*Continued next page*



Typical live pigeon ground

just a little bit of a nudge so that the Shooter would know where the bird was coming from. Quite an advantage! There was a circular fence 2 feet high and from memory it would be about 35 yards in diameter centred on the traps. The fence came back almost to the clubhouse and went around almost to the other side of the clubhouse. The idea was to shoot the bird and drop it within that circle. Betting was only on the first barrel. If the first barrel was missed and the second barrel secured a hit it was a lost bird. The birds were approximately averaging 2 shillings each. The shooter purchased a series of tokens. These tokens were ½ inch steel washers which had been painted red. When the shooter went out to shoot he dropped them down a 2 inch piece of downpipe which went down into a little glass fronted box at the bottom of the pullers house. When the token hit the bottom the puller would know that the shooter was eligible to shoot. At the end of the day's programme unused tokens could be sold back to the Secretary.



The Puller's automatic release mechanism

Later, and this is a little out of context, the puller had installed in front of him an automatic puller so that he did not know which trap was going to be released. That box was about 2 feet long x 10 inches wide x 6 inches deep. It had 5 square steel rods around about ½ inch square going back into the box and in the box was a steel drum about 3 inches in diameter and it

had ½ inch steel bars inserted into that steel drum so that when the puller pushed the lever forward the drum would spin and then he would pull it back until he felt resistance and that was the one the trap was going to be released from.

The Gilles Plains clubhouse was quite a large galvanised iron building, open fronted, with about 3 sets of seating as tiers and yes they did get quite a few onlookers. At the eastern end of that building was a store room and all the gear was stored in this between shoots. I think people in the area were far more honest than they are today.

When the first South Australian



Gilles Plains shooters

Continued on page 10



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*The Secretary's box at Gilles Plains.  
L-R: Paul H. Lawson Hon Sec, Paul F. Lawson and  
Jim Hamilton President*

Gun Club closed its books the Metropolitan Gun Club took over and changed its name to South Australian Gun Club. I am of the opinion that would have been a direct transfer of the property without any cash, and that club, the second South Australian Gun Club shot there until 1955. Jim Hamilton was the President and the property was not very large but it was not necessary to be very large because there were no houses anywhere near it. However I believe it was the Housing Trust that decided to buy some land there and build some houses. I do not know what went wrong for no building occurred there for a long time however on the club grounds later an open air drive-in theatre was established.



*Paul Lawson and Jack Woodrow who assumed control of clay target shooting when live birds were banned*

The club grounds were then sold to an unknown body and Jim Hamilton was the person who looked after these matters. The club had to relocate and I believe it was my father who scouted around and found some property at Bolivar. A much bigger place and it would have cost more than the land at Gilles



*Paul H. Lawson, founding father of second SAGC*

Plains. I do not know how much he put into this purchase but it must have quite a bit because there was a little bit of disruption in the Lawson household.

I should back peddle here a little bit. My father had been Secretary since the inception of the Metropolitan Gun Club in 1935. However in around about 1953/54 his health deteriorated and although he was still Secretary I happened to be doing the work with Roy Bishop as the Treasurer. In 1955 I was invited to America and would be away for 15 months and my father retired and Eric Vivian took over the books. When I came back from the States the club had well established itself at the Bolivar location. There was even a clubhouse and I know in 1956 I was handed the job of Father Christmas and I did that for over 35 years. So once again I have got ahead of myself.

How did the Metropolitan Gun Club start? My father had become acquainted with quite a few younger shooters and I will name some of them; Alexander brothers Jack and Ron and Reg Folland and they of course had friends. They were keen shooters and the idea of a club shooting very economically was very encouraging, so we started off this club and where could we shoot? A retired farmer by the name of Alf Oakley lived in Barker Road Prospect and owned property at Enfield. This property on the Main North Road was just below and north of the motel that is there now (ex Hoffman). We shot on his property just inside the fence on the main road every Saturday. Father and I had to get out early and erect the little 2 foot high fence and mark the ground for the distance for shooting and we shot there for quite some time. It was a lot of work because it had to be prepared before the shoot and then cleaned up afterwards.

Someone decided they would have to build roads in that area and they surveyed the land. We found

*Continued on page 12*



The Browning competition family of shotguns are known for their sturdiness, efficiency, elegance and impeccable features. No matter if you are just starting out in clay target shooting or are a seasoned professional, Browning has a model with the features you need for your chosen discipline.



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B525 TRAP



**BROWNING**

that we were not shooting on Oakley's property; we were shooting on a private council road. His property was either left or right, I cannot recall which, but we were not on his property. Reg Folland whose parents owned land directly east of where we were shooting invited us to shoot there so we just had to move our activities up a little bit but that helped because we did not have to clean up or move the fence each time we shot. We had been shooting there for some time and decided to have an official opening. My father had been buying the birds at 6 pence and selling them at the same price and quite a few of the pigeons were purchased from Farmers Union poultry auctions in Morphett Street, Adelaide. The auctioneer was named Whittle and he was also the Mayor of Prospect and was therefore the ideal person to open the shoot. He shot at the first bird released; a black and white pigeon which he downed and I mounted that for him as a keepsake. A little later on the Geisler's, furriers and tanners from Brompton, decided to give a trophy, the first trophy, and they determined they would make that trophy something that would go on for a long time. They stipulated it had to be won twice in succession by the same shooter, Well, with all luck, I happened to be the lucky one and I still have that trophy which was won at Enfield in January 1936.

*Paul F. Lawson MBE*

## Summary of History

South Australian Gun Club (the first) shot live pigeons exclusively at Cheltenham from around 1885 until 1914 and then relocated to Blacks Road Gilles Plains where they continued to shoot live pigeons until they closed their books in 1937 or 1938.

The Metropolitan Gun Club was formed in 1935 and shot live pigeons at 2 adjacent locations near Main North Road Enfield until 1937 or 1938 when they changed their name to South Australian Gun Club (the second) and relocated to the Blacks Road Gilles Plains site where they continued to shoot live pigeons and clay targets simultaneously until live pigeon shooting ceased (in an unknown year) until 1955 when they relocated to the present site at Undo Road Bolivar (Waterloo Corner) and commenced shooting in 1956.

The Australian Clay Pigeon Trap Shooting Association (ACPTSA), now the Australian Clay Target Association (ACTA) was formed in 1946. The South Australian Gun Club Inc was the first South Australian Club to affiliate with this body in 1951. Secretary was P.H. Lawson.

Around this time many National magazines refer to the "Adelaide Gun Club" on numerous occasions. Extensive investigations have revealed no such club ever existed and all references were in fact meant

to be the South Australian Gun Club. It is assumed the reference related to the geographic location of the club in Adelaide. Similarly the Alexandra Gun Club is referred to at times as the Milang Gun Club.

## **Part 2 – HISTORY OF THE BOLIVAR SITE**

"Adelaide" Gun Club (SAGC) purchased 30 acres at Bolivar in 1955 and began construction of the new facilities from scratch. By the end of 1955 one clay target trap had been installed with one under construction

10/56 CTSN reported, "Adelaide" Gun Club ground coming along very well, one trap installed, and one under construction. Foundations poured for clubhouse, Besser brick 60' x 14'

On 28/10/56, the "Grand opening shoot was held at Bolivar under ideal weather conditions. The shoot was well attended and it was pleasing to see so many visitors, although our own club members won all events. 2 Traps (now #2 & #3) were in operation for the first time today and the long programme was carried out most successfully. The ladies in the canteen provided an excellent lunch and afternoon tea and I would like to thank them for their very fine effort. To wind up a most successful day, a B-B-Q was provided at the conclusion of the meeting. Secretary"

From the commencement of shooting activities at Bolivar the club conducted an annual children's Christmas party in conjunction with the Christmas B-B-Q Tea with free gifts and refreshments provided to all members' children under the age of 12 years. A great number of children and grandchildren enjoyed this special occasion over many years until it was discontinued in 1993 as very few eligible children remained. (Any doubters of our sport as aging should take note of these circumstances). The various wives of incumbent President's arranged the provision of all presents and current long serving Club Patron Paul F. Lawson assumed the role of Father Christmas for over 35 years until cessation. Father Christmas enjoyed multiple methods of transport in this time including Arnott original biscuit delivery truck, ride on lawn mower, helicopter, Model "T" Ford, utes and various other vehicles, etc and the kids got a big thrill out of his modes of transport. Thanks to Paul and the wives for a sterling job.

On 17 October 1958 members of the Coburg Gun Club (now Metropolitan Clay Target Club), led by President Harry Belmore, travelled to Adelaide on The Overland train to participate in the inaugural interclub Teams shoot. This was an Australian first.

*Continued on page 14*

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*SAGC Committee at inaugural shoot*



*Eagerly awaiting the arrival of Santa  
Below: So many presents to deliver*



*Above: Santa arriving in style  
Below: Santa has their attention*



The first match held on 19 October comprised 50 targets shot off 18 yards and was won by our club with a score of 238/250 to Coburg's 223/250. SAGC team members were R. Mules, K. Mules, D. Fleetwood, J. Taylor and P.H. Lawson. In later years the match was extended to include Skeet, Tower and Double Barrel Trap.

This interclub team match continued, shooting at each club on alternate years, until 2000 when the Metropolitan Club advised our club that they were discontinuing the event.

After much discussion the event was reinstated in 2004 at SAGC and continued until 2007. The 2008 shoot was abandoned for lack of interest and this was a rather sad and inglorious end to a long standing tradition that enabled a great number of SAGC and Coburg/Metropolitan shooters and accompanying persons to thoroughly enjoy for both the competitive shooting and especially the socialising.

1964 saw the arrival of the new Sporting Arms automatic shotgun designed by club stalwart Fred Grey.

### **National Trap Championships 1964**

The club hosted the first National Trap Championships to be held in South Australia from 5-10 March 1964. Four DAMO electric traps were in operation. Reported in the May 1964 CTSN, "The series was an outstanding success. Many distinguished visitors attended including a party of some 12 New Zealand shooters. Weather throughout was excellent, little fault could be found with the conditions. The South Australian Gun Club officials vigorously co-operated with the ACTA officials, and a great measure of the success of the first essay of the National Championships in South Australia is undoubtedly due to the work of the SAGC Committee. One of the biggest and best shoots ever sponsored by the ACTA. The shooting was well organised and the shoot staff under the expert marshalling of Harry Cox, performed magnificently. It would not seem to be unreasonable to individualise when extending thanks and appreciation and mention the sterling work and efficient organising of the South Australian Gun Club led by its able shoot committee, comprising Bob Mules (President), Lew Truman, Rollo Treloar, Cal Hollow and Stan Ridge (Secretary). Special thanks is extended to those mentioned. To all who assigned in any work, the ACTA wishes to express most grateful appreciation and thanks".

236 nominated for the National Double Barrel title with an additional 56 in the intermediate title.

A grass fire in the property across the road caused some consternation for a short period.

On the 18th September 1966 Ray Kimber established a Double Barrel Trap long break record of 359 consecutive targets, beating his cousin Des in a fiercely contested shoot-off. His record stands to this day.

The club entered into a lease agreement with the Southern Go-Kart Club around 1967 for use of part of its southern land to be used for Go-Kart racing. This proved a most astute arrangement as apart from income generated for our club both sports are noisy and complement each other. This was demonstrated in 2016 with the proposal to construct the "Northern Connector" road/rail complex using part of our land. (See report later in this tale). The Salisbury Council has always strongly supported the arrangements. The lease has been continuous (with updates etc) until the present day and concludes on 31st December 2024. The relationship has always been excellent except for a brief period in the mid 1980's when the then SGKC President caused major difficulties for both parties. He subsequently disappeared off the scene as guest of Her Majesty at Yatala on Fraud charges and the harmonious relationship recommenced.

### **National Trap Championships 1968**

The club again hosted the National Trap Championships in 1968 and they were reported as very successful. 233 entrants competed in the Double Barrel. It was recorded that the grounds of the South Australian Gun Club were a credit to President Bob Mules and his untiring Committee.

Reported in the May 68 CTSN: "Bob Mules and a few others stayed at the South Australian Gun Club on Wednesday night after the National shoot, and had things fairly well cleaned up by midday the next day. During the cleaning up operations a rather funny incident occurred. Bob picked up about 500 disposable paper cups and placed them in a 44-gallon drum, which had been burning earlier, but had gone out. Bob placed some petrol in the drum and initiated it from a crack in the bottom, when the whole thing started to growl and went off with a rather loud 'whoof', shooting the 500 cups into the air, spreading them around a wider area from where we had picked them up. Poor old Bob did not know whether to laugh or cry and whilst sitting on a stool looking at the mess it was said 'well Bob, that was a good pattern', and this helped him see the funny side of life."

2/2/69 First Skeet Shoot @ SAGC, Club. 10 Shooters shared Handicap, O/A Winner Club Singles R.C. Mules 24/25.

18/6/72, Second Skeet layout operational for first time. Fred Grey sets new SA Break record 74/74.

*Continued next page*



*Bob Mules, taking first Skeet shot 1969*

### National Trap Championships 1973

The club hosted the National Trap Championships for the third time in 1973 from 9th to 13th March.

May 1973 CTSN reported, "Total attendance was a record and imposed a challenge to the grounds and management personnel. With us for the whole of the programme were some 36 USA and 37 NZ shooters. We shot over a seven trap layout fitted with six Winchester White Flyer Traps plus a spare, which had to be used for replacement parts. In addition was a Winchester Continental Trap to practice ISU type shooting for such a gathering from all over Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and USA to experience. Superimposed on two of these layouts (grounds 4 and 5) were two Skeet layouts each separated by a solid brick wall some nine feet high. Skeet Traps were DAMO but considered to now be "Mules" – DAMO because of conversions.

The scoreboard had been extended by the club (with assistance from I.M.I Australia which was much appreciated) to accommodate some 600 shooter names. This was used to capacity over the first two days of the programme when two events were conducted simultaneously, i.e. Skeet plus Double Rise on day one, thence Skeet plus the Grand Handicap on day 2.

The South Australian Gun Club received warm appreciation from the entire attendance for the excellent conditions of the shooting grounds and parking areas – we were on couch grass lawn wherever we went. The club had installed a coin-in-the-slot telephone for shooters' general use. The septic toilets were strained to the limit and would require extensions for future projected national shoots.

Caterers on the grounds provided full and take-away meals and morning/afternoon tea from a mar-

quee. The bar area was an especially equipped large mobile caravan complete with its own awning plus a number of tables and chairs with sun umbrellas. It was noted, however, that this area closely bordered the side of trap one, and, as such, the bar had to be closed on one occasion because of noise interference to the nearby competing shooters.

Shooters were facing due south, with winds varying from light to strong throughout the programme, visibility was excellent as the grounds give a flat vista for a mile ahead. Most of the shooting was in bright sunlight in temperatures of 22 deg. to 34 deg. Celsius, with rain during two nights and during the ANZ Championship on day five. ACTA Secretary and the two Shoot Marshals used walkie-talkie radios throughout the six days and their constant link greatly assisted the shoot continuity.

A special word of thanks to SAGC President Mr Bob Mules and his untiring staff for the preparation of the club grounds.

Interesting to see Mr Elgin Gates, a world respected and famous American Trap shooter won the National Double rise Championship with a score of 50/52. This put to bed the myth that "Yanks" can't handle "Aussie" targets.

Record numbers of entrants were received (previous record in brackets) Skeet 171 (131 Brisbane), Double Rise 274 (?), Handicap 366 (286 Griffith), Double Barrel 394 (340 Brisbane), Single Barrel 334 (303 Brisbane), Aust/NZ Trap 301 (?), Champions Of Champions 244 (?).

*Continued on page 18*

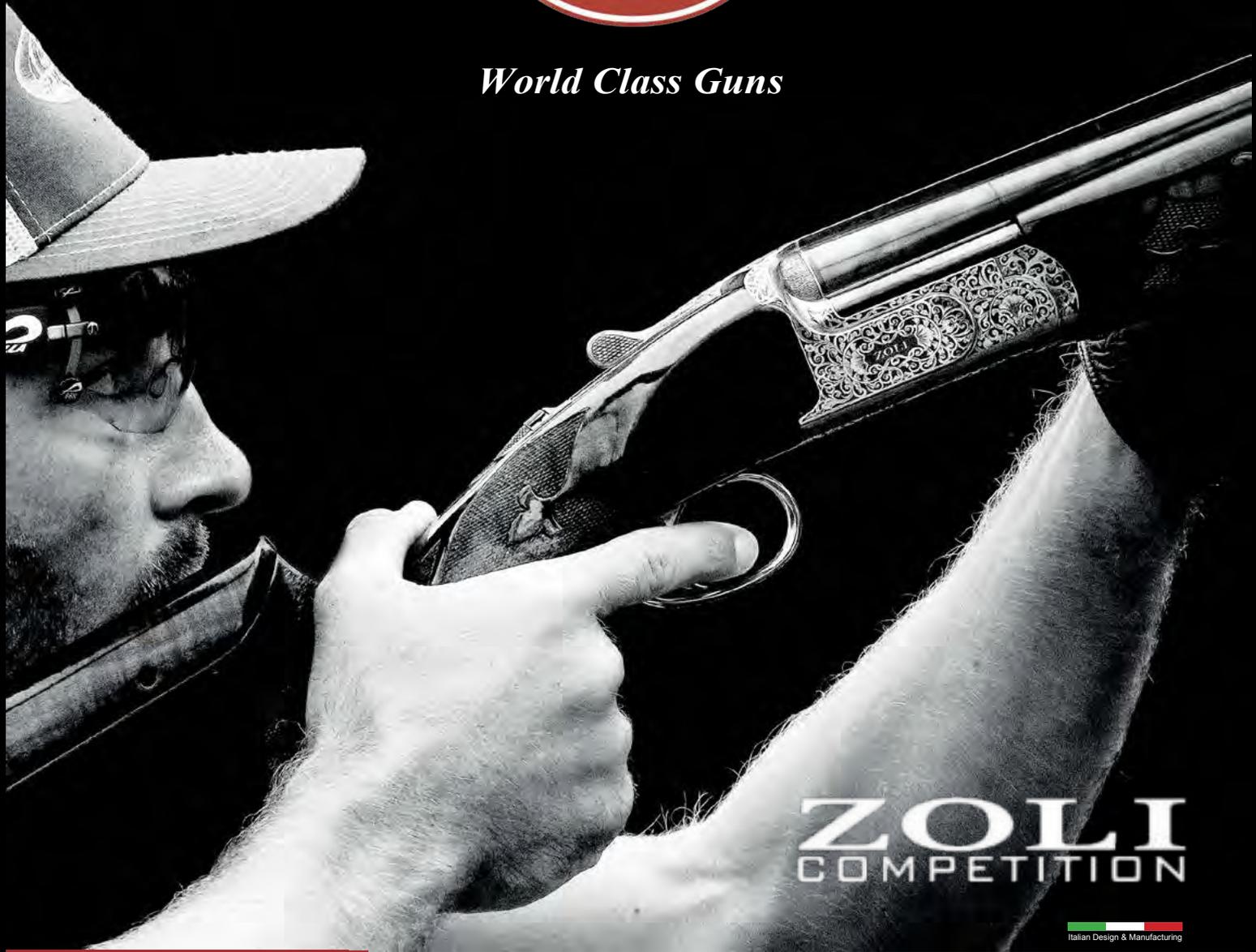


*SAGC Taipan Shield Team 1974.*

*Back, L-R: Yvonne Stocking, Lorell Wilson, Diana Aquilina  
Seated, L-R: Sue Bow, Elva Churches*



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4/3/73 R.C.Mules established a new State Skeet record 89/89.

The Tower facility was installed in late 1973 on the DTL #5/Skeet#2 layout.

### Land Acquisition

In mid 1974 the purchase of a 4.00 acre portion of western neighbour's land was finalised. It included a bore with an annual water allocation of 11,366 kilolitres. This land provided the required shot fall safety zone for installation of number 7 DTL Trap.

Vale P.H.Lawson 1/3/76. Founder of the South Australian Gun Club (the second) and first Secretary. He participated for 63 years in competitive shooting and was well known to many game bird and clay target shooters, a much respected man of excellent repute.

Upgraded rewiring of club facilities by Prescott Electric to 3-Phase specification was completed in 1976.

August 1976 Sid Churches fires first shot on official opening of third Skeet Field. Winchester White Flyer



*Above & below: Sid & Elva Churches opening Skeet Field 3 August 1976 over their donated Winchester Auto Traps, the first in SA*



Traps (still in use) kindly donated by Sid and Elva Churches of Taipan Projectiles.

The clubhouse was extended and modernised in 1977.

### National Trap Championships 1978

The club again hosted the National Trap Championships in 1978 with 501 entrants in the Double Barrel. The Event was opened by the Hon. T.Casey SA Minister for Tourism and Sport and was considered very successful.

April CTSN reported, "At the time of writing, your Secretary is commuting between the South Australian Gun Club, the venue for the '78 Nationals and a temporary editorial desk at an Adelaide motel. The standard of excellence of presentation of the SA Gun club grounds has to be seen to be believed. In spite of the prolonged dry spell, the grass is well watered and lush green, which provides a perfect back drop for the colourful trade displays in 'side show alley'.

The attendance is already swelling with over 150 nominations for the Pre-National Skeet match. The club committee assisted by a number of enthusiasts from neighbouring clubs, has been very active and has presented the venue in the best possible way. A feature of the club's preparations is the ladies toilets which would not be out of place in one of Australia's top hotels. The importance of this facility must not be overlooked as our sport must become steadily stronger as we provide greater comforts for our women and children. Great effort Crow Eaters!

Here the sermon ends, it is back to work at what, for the next ten days at least is the GREATEST GUN CLUB IN AUSTRALIA.

Good shooting, Noel J. Southey".

May 1978 CTSN reported, "It was a good Nationals Series, shot in appalling heat and humidity – it brought out the best in trapshooting ability in this country. There were some new faces in the winning circle together with the old. Most importantly however is that there was something there for all shotgunners, be they the top shots, the B and C graders, the older participants of this great sport or the youngsters".

Sunday March 23 1980, Grand opening of Olympic Trench. Hon Peter Arnold, SA Minister for Water Resources and Land fired the first shot. Also in attendance was the SA Premier Hon. D.O.Tonkin MP. Thanks extended to all persons who helped construct the layout with special mention to Gunther Drewing, Construction Supervisor. Many others contributed to this project and their assistance is much appreciated.

Club record attendance 105 shooters at Eley Classic August 30, 1981

*Continued on page 20*

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Holts Gun Shop	Colac	VIC	New Norfolk Gunshop	New Norfolk	TAS	Horsley Park Gunshop	Horsley Park	NSW
Howard & Schuback Sports	Sale	VIC	Southern Range Sports	Kingston	TAS	Riverina Hunting & Fishing	Griffith	NSW
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State Premier D. O. Tonkin, visits Trench opening May 1980

At the 1982 AGM club subscriptions were raised from \$5 to \$10, the first increase in 10 years (absolutely astonishing).

### National Trap Championships 1983

The National Trap Championships were hosted for the fifth and final time in 1983 opened by the Hon Jack Slater Minister for Sport and Recreation. Seven Traps were in use and 414 entrants competed in the Double Barrel a disappointingly low number not helped by the depressed economic situation and the weather.

Several notable incidents occurred. Torrential rain occurred during most of the carnival creating a quagmire that was quickly resolved by the application of many tons of dolomite.

One evening after the day's events had concluded Club President John Byrnes, wife Sue, Brian Thomas, myself and a couple of others were enjoying a bit of relaxation in Brian's caravan at the Eastern car park when John exclaimed he had heard a couple of what very much sounded like gunshots nearby. We all raced past the clubhouse to the Western carpark to be confronted by our neighbour walking toward us with smoking .303 in hand. He had seen a suspicious car pull up outside the trade area and two persons hop the fence. One was halfway through the high window on the ATCO hired building. Needless to say they beat a very rapid retreat and sped off into the darkness never to be seen again. Most effective, but not now recommended, security system!

The Carnival barely broke even financially. This was primarily caused by Winchester withdrawing all their sponsorship at the last minute. The Organizing Committee then had to purchase very expensive additional trophies that upset the budget dramatically. However all was not lost. Winchester put \$1,500 sponsorship into the Pre-Nations run by the club and this resulted in the most profitable club shoot of

all time. Thanks to Winchester for their generous gesture.

A huge amount of infrastructure improvements were made prior to these Nationals primarily driven by President Byrnes and a willing band of club members.

Reported in CTSN, "The grounds of the South Australian Gun Club were presented in fine shape by President John Byrnes and his hardworking Committee and despite the rain early in the week, were well maintained right through. Thanks to all for an enjoyable

Nationals".

All 7 DTL and 2 Skeet White Flyer traps were completely overhauled in 1984.

Air-conditioning was installed in the clubrooms in 1985.

In the late eighties the club introduced the Anniversary dinner, held on the Saturday evening of the two-day Anniversary Shoot. This was initially conducted in the clubrooms with professional catering supplemented by members providing salads, sweets etc.

#### The 1991 Anniversary Dinner Menu

SOUP - Pea & Ham or Chicken vegetable

ENTREE - Prawn Cocktail or Baked Schnapper

MAIN - Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding or  
Roast Turkey & Yorkshire Pudding or Chicken  
Basil (in Tomato & Basil Sauce) or Mixed  
Vegetables, Baby Potatoes & Gravy

DESSERT - Carnival Ice-cream or Fruit Salad  
& Ice-cream

COFFEE

CHEESE PLATTER

Cost per Head \$12.50 - What a bargain!

Committee acted as waiters. A special Anniversary cake and pastries were prepared by pastry chef then President Terry Kenyon. Ray Mack organized money raising games such as "Horse racing", "Crown and Anchor" etc and these proved enormously popular. The entire package was thoroughly enjoyed by the many attendees. The downside was the need to clean

Continued on page 22

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up the mess in time for the shooting activities on the next morning. A small band of helpers worked well into the early morning to accomplish this. This format continued for several years until the "pros" infiltrated the event around 1997 and cleaned out the "Crown & Anchor" bank.

The event changed format in 1998 and was held at the Brahma Lodge Hotel for the next three years and then was discontinued in favour of a free Saturday night B-B-Q for three years and then reinstated at the Whitehorse Inn Hotel for four years. Dwindling numbers and lack of support resulted in it being terminated in 2008 – quite a pity.

In February 1986 a noise complaint was lodged by the partner of our southern neighbour with the relevant authorities after a night shoot continued past 11:30 pm due to a trap breakdown. This complaint never realized any action by these authorities but the club decided it would be a good policy to introduce a voluntary 10:00 pm curfew.

At about this time the acquisition of new auto DTL traps commenced with the supply of a "Kromson" unit from Sergio Zuffo in Sydney

In late 1986 the then Secretary/Treasurer inspected the go-kart track and was alarmed to find a considerable amount of #7 shot on the northern loop. He could not understand this as ballistic charts indicated it could not travel this far from the various shooting stations. He further investigated and found that the fence between the go kart track and our club had been erected in the wrong position, the NW corner was correct but the NE corner was about a huge 55 metres too far North. Further investigations determined this was caused by the Fence between the Southern neighbour being in the wrong place with an equal displacement. He instigated an official survey of the club property in September 1991 that confirmed this situation. About one half of the neighbour's trotting training track was on SAGC land. Following very difficult negotiations and numerous legal threats the encroachment was duly rectified with the assistance of Club Patron Kelvyn Prescott. New fences were constructed in 1992 and the Northern go kart track loop removed.

This was to prove vitally important, as in future years SAPOL introduced mandatory Range Guidelines including shot fall safety zones and had the encroachment not been rectified all of the DTL layouts would have been closed down.

In late 1986 Suburban Taxi entered into a 2 year trial period of a temporary transmitter/receiver antenna to reach into previous radio black spots up the many gullies along the foothills. This proved very successful and a permanent tower was erected soon after and has become a permanent annual rental

proposition generating extra income for the club.

Well known clay buster Bill Iles established the current club Trench (Olympic Trap) record of 135 consecutive targets.

After 7-1/2 years in the position the Secretary/Treasurer resigned in June 1987 on medical advice. At that time approximately \$16,000 was in the Bank and the club was totally debt free. Against the very strong advice of the outgoing Secretary/Treasurer the then President assumed this role!

A period of frenzied expenditure on traps and other infrastructure followed. The club became the State distributor for Olympic Targets and Scorpio cart-ridges and reloading components in this period, a move that should have generated additional income and profitability.

### **Troubled Times**

The 1988 AGM was attended by a record 65 club members and the President/Secretary/Treasurer announced a good financial result. The previous Secretary/Treasurer, who was certainly qualified to interpret the financial statements, asked three separate questions relating to apparent large anomalies in the figures. He did not receive any satisfactory responses. No person had been mentioned in these questions that were all directed to numbers in the financial statements. It also became clear that the mood of the meeting was hostile towards these questions and as a consequence he did not ask the many other prepared questions. If he had it is now apparent that the future financial disaster uncovered would probably not have been as extensive.

"Popularity does not always translate to administrative and financial competence and honesty!"

A new President was elected and the former was elected to the Secretary/Treasurer position.

In 1989 telephone calls were going around about the committee not being fully informed of the club business and not getting satisfactory answers to questions. There was a suggestion of a "closed" group. The President resigned later in September on medical grounds and Dave Renney was appointed to complete the term. Other committee resigned in early 1990.

The financial statements presented to the 1990 AGM were not approved by the Auditor who found many anomalies and qualified his report. All attempts to have the accountant and the auditor attend this AGM and subsequent committee meetings to explain same were unsuccessful.

This AGM elected Dave Renney as President, Pam Coleman as Treasurer and Terry Kenyon as Secretary.

*Continued on page 24*



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\*Please Note : Clay Target Championship fees are additional and not included in the Holiday Package prices.

Much time was spent by the incoming Committee to sort out the books that included discussions with Corporate Affairs Investigation Section, legal advisers etc. To cut a long story short it was eventually determined that the club had an outstanding debt of approximately \$90,000, most of which was owed to Sergio Zuffo of Olympic Targets/Scorpio Cartridges, which had not been brought to the attention of the previous committee or the AGM.

Three significant outcomes then emerged; 1. On legal advice it was decided prosecution could not be guaranteed to be successful (and perhaps incurring further significant fees) as insufficient records had been maintained, 2. After many approaches by the President and the Treasurer and with the assistance of Charles Abela, Mr. Zuffo agreed to allow the club to trade out of its debt and 3. The Secretary tendered his resignation.

A period of intense restructuring of the accounts and savings to repay this debt followed. This was driven by strong leadership of the President, efficiency and thoroughness of a very capable Treasurer and the full support of the incoming committee.

A comprehensive report was presented to an Extraordinary General Meeting in October 1990.

The Committee meeting of 14 December 1990 reported the debt was \$56,000, a significant reduction.

The 1991 AGM approved a complete new Constitution that had been very extensively revised to reflect current legislative requirements and the business of the club.

## Recovery

The committee meeting of 14 August 1992 reported the "core debt" has been wiped out. This had been a tremendous effort on the part of the committee and club members, but it must be realized that many necessary maintenance and improvement projects had to be deferred during the period. Unfortunately the Treasurer advised of pending unavailability at the 1993 AGM due to work loads. Her efforts had been quite outstanding and all current members should be appreciative of this.

In 1993 the club introduced a special metal badge to acknowledge 25 years of membership. A calibrated government meter was used to record noise readings around the full perimeter of the club during a competition shoot and these readings averaged 60-65 decibels (quite low). A CSIRO report into lead pollution was undertaken at State Shooting Park and the conclusions were that no current problems existed and it is unlikely that future problems would occur. The same scenario would apply to our grounds.

In 1994 it was apparent the Central Zone (CZ) Carnival had been poorly attended and a financial disaster for several years. Severe difficulty in finding administrators and host clubs was also being experienced. CZ contemplated discontinuing the event. Our club considered this to be undesirable and offered to host the Carnival completely free of charge, providing all administration and trappers etc. CZ only had to provide trophies, conduct presentations and pay for the targets used. CZ accepted this offer and the Carnival was scheduled for November 1995. It turned out to be very successful.

In December 1994 the committee approved shot size #7 as the maximum to be permitted on club grounds.

From 1995 the Kromson auto Skeet traps started to experience a lot of problems with broken targets and reliability. This eventually extended to the Kromson auto DTL traps. Despite the valiant efforts of our trap mechanic this continued to escalate for many years. The club reputation certainly suffered during this time and at times it was most embarrassing. S. Zuffo sold his business to a Company in Brisbane who transferred the clay making equipment and continued to produce Olympic clay targets. A proposed distributorship agreement collapsed but the club was able to continue as distributor.

## More Troubled Times for Firearm Owners/Users

Paul Ayres commenced a club newsletter that was to last for many years latterly as a quarterly production that was produced by John Hamer.

In mid year an atrocity occurred at Port Arthur Tasmania that is well known and documented. The consequences for the shooting world were enormous with the banning of self-loading centre fire rifles and self-loading and pump action shotguns as well as many subsequent changes to the SA Firearms Act and Regulations that created difficulties for clubs and all law abiding shooters.

Two major benefits also occurred. The ACTA was successful in lobbying for ACTA registered shooters to be able to retain and indeed acquire self-loading and pump action shotguns under certain circumstances, perhaps influenced by shotgun shooters winning two gold medals for Australia at the Atlanta Olympic Games (Australia fared very poorly overall at these Games). As is always the case when confronted with firearm related adversities, club membership took an enormous leap upwards primarily as a consequence of the shotgun retention rules and also the (unfounded) fear that all firearm owners/users were going to have to become members of recognized firearms clubs. Needless to say these numbers have steadily declined since, but for the past few years have been relatively stable.

On recommendation of the Secretary it was recognized by the club committee that security of shooting tenement was vitally important for the future of the club. This effectively meant ensuring control or approval of all lands that shot fell on consistent with shot fall safety zones. Purchase of the adjoining western property was an absolute must if and when the owner decided to sell. Accordingly an official valuation of \$85,000 for his property was obtained.

An Extraordinary General Meeting on 30th August approved amendments to the Constitution to accommodate joining fee and expanded subscription categories.

1997 saw the SA Government approve a scheme to supply reconstituted water from the nearby sewage treatment works. Unfortunately the cost was prohibitive and was further negated for the need to install large holding tanks and pumps as the water would only be available when the Government directed. The club unhesitatingly declined to participate.

A Grant was received from the SA Government that was used towards construction of a security fence between the club and go-kart properties.

Legendary clubman Fred Atkinson was nominated by the club for the ACTA Presidential Medal. This was subsequently approved by SACTA and the ACTA. The club and SACTA provided airfares and accommodation for both Fred and wife Joyce to attend the National Trap Championships in Perth in early 1998 for Fred to receive this great honour. Ray and Pat Mack chaperoned the happy couple in Perth. They both had a wonderfully fitting experience.

1998 saw the installation of a 400 target Ibis automatic trap in the Tower. The club was successful in receiving a Grant from the SA Government towards

the cost of this project. Local MP Trish White officially opened the new Trap.

Former World Champion Skeet shooter Adrian Cousens established a long break record of 303 consecutive targets over two days of the SA Skeet Carnival in May 1998. This record remains to this day.

In May the Secretary was working mid week on ground maintenance at the Eastern end of the facility when an enormous noise was heard coming from the direction of the clubhouse. Investigation revealed a massive portion of the clubhouse ceiling had collapsed creating an enormous mess. Thankfully this did not occur whilst the clubhouse was occupied as it is certain injuries would have resulted. The complete ceiling was subsequently replaced.

Another unusual incident occurred when a 20 foot container of clays that had been left on the detached trailer upended with two persons inside unloading clays. This occurred due to the shift in the centre of gravity as unloading occurred. Thankfully again no one was injured. However a large number of targets were broken. It was determined that the container should never have been left in this condition and was the fault of the carrier "TOLL" driver. Claims were made to TOLL for compensation who originally played hard ball, but after persevering they eventually came to the party.

The Sid Churches Memorial Skeet Championship shield was implemented for annual competition.

The 1999 AGM saw concerns raised about the aging and troublesome Kromson DTL traps.

Two Winchester auto Skeet traps were purchased from the Frankston CTC plus freight, one being severely damaged in transit (fell off the forklift). However it proved repairable with a lot of fancy welding. They were fully refurbished and installed in Skeet layout #1 in lieu of the very erratic and unreliable Kromson units that had been giving serious target problems for a very long time.

2000 saw the recognition of the need to implement formal shot fall Range Safety Templates. SAPOL eventually approved the Templates as proposed by the ACTA in March 2001. The DTL model was based on target angles of 35 degrees (this will prove significant later in this tale).

The neighbour's family advised they were anxious to relocate parents. This initiated protracted serious and difficult discussions for the purchase of his property.

SAPOL conducted the first ever Range Safety inspection that was approved with the limitations that shot size no larger than #9 be used for Skeet



*Fred Atkinson receiving ACTA Presidential Medal, Perth 1998*

*Continued next page*

and shot size no larger than #7 be used for all other disciplines.

The AGM gave the necessary approval to progress purchase of the neighbour property and to apply for a Bank loan as necessary. Adjacent boundary land owners all gave written approval for shot to fall on their property that formed part of the Range Safety Template.

The Secretary prepared the necessary application for funding assistance under the CRSFP. The office of M.Rann MP (Later Premier) considered the application by far the best they had ever seen. Subsequently advice was received that the application had been successful and a significant grant was approved. Difficult negotiations continued with the family that stalled to the point that two extensions for the Grant expenditure deadline were granted in 2002.

The original Certificate of Title for the club property needed to be recovered and this was successfully achieved by the Secretary after considerable investigations.

2001 was a busy year. Renewal of the Go-Kart lease required them to remove a Caveat that had been placed on the club title, the once very successful Anniversary dinner was discontinued in favour of a free B-B-Q on the Saturday night and a further two Winchester auto Skeet Traps were purchased for \$3,000 with assistance from A.Cousens and were refurbished. An Active Club Program Grant was approved toward the construction of the Eastern security fence. The earth mound was relocated south against the security fence by the go-kart club. This was to ensure the gates could not be opened and thus no personnel could stray onto the shooting range.

An interesting event occurred. Early on a Saturday morning the Secretary received a phone call that a police car had been despatched to the gun club to investigate a complaint received from someone at the go-kart club car park that shot was falling onto their marquee and "BURNING HOLES IN IT". Said police car duly arrived and two young female officers alighted and were greeted by the Secretary who assured them that if the people at the Go-Kart facility were complying with the terms of the lease that it was not possible and it certainly was impossible for the shot to burn holes in the marquee. They accepted this unquestionably confirming this was their opinion also and they then spent considerable time discussing clay target shooting which they found fascinating. It turned out the complainants were Victorian visitors who had the riot act read to them by SGKC officials for not complying with the formal procedures for such an incident.

## Land Acquisition

In September 2002 the contract for the purchase of

the neighbour property was at last finalized settlement occurring in November. The purchase price was much higher than originally envisaged (they had us over a barrel) but it did include the licence for an annual allocation of 11,000 kilolitres of water from the bore. An application for a loan of \$50,000 was approved by the club bank. The next few years concentrated on repayment of this loan that meant limited funding was available for other matters.

The 2003 Annual General Meeting saw a full committee elected. For years prior and future committee numbers were at times up to 6 positions short that reflected sadly on the interest in the club by many Members and increased workloads for the few faithful. SAPOL conducted a Range inspection, no problems were identified a compliance certificate was issued. Club stalwart and legend Fred Atkinson retired from shooting and club activities. He was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his contribution to club activities. Club member Kym Retsas enjoyed considerable success at the Skeet National Championships in Wagga Wagga.

A significant amount of money was spent on the House maintenance during 2003–04 prior to calling for expressions of interest to rent the house.

The 2004 AGM reported a poor year with a significant drop in practice and competition revenue that was undoubtedly related to the continuous problems with the Kromson Traps. A new clubhouse septic system was installed.

Member Bruce Baker implemented a thorough survey of Member requirements that resulted in a return of 43.3 percent. Another pair of Winchester Skeet Traps was purchased for \$3,300. A satisfactory Range Inspection occurred in November. It was revealed that the "House" had no complying septic system. This required remedy at a significant cost.

On 13th March 2005 Bruce Baker established the current Tower long break record of 132 consecutive targets. (Early records unavailable).

A formal hot weather policy was introduced in early 2006 and remains in place to this day. For some years night shoots had been poorly attended and difficult to conduct (Daylight Saving). A decision was taken to discontinue them in 2007.

2007 started with another setback for the club. The residence of the club treasurer had been broken into prior to Christmas with the loss of considerable items that included firearms and a motor vehicle. Unfortunately this traumatic event also included the loss of \$4,300 cash being club funds. Insurance was refused as the cash had not been banked for up to a month beforehand (Next banking day required). The State Skeet Carnival was



*SAGC Members receiving SACTA Life Membership 2004*

very successful with very few broken targets. SACTA approved our club to host the Carnival again in 2008. The Suburban Taxi Rental Agreement became due for renewal.

In January 2008 the Treasurer resigned from Committee to move interstate. She did not complete the Annual Bookwork in preparation for the AGM and significant anomalies were discovered among them the revelation that the Tenant had not paid for electricity for some time (SAGC paid) and he owed \$900. Similarly no rent had been paid and he owed a further \$1,170. None of these shortcomings had been reported to the Committee by the Treasurer, his mother. He was served notice to vacate the



*Bob Mules, inaugural inductee into "SACTA Hall of Fame" 2008*

premises in April. Recovery of this debt has been unsuccessful.

### **A Potentially Devastating Announcement**

In March the SA Government announced the Northern Connector Expressway/Railway project. The study area included a possible 100 metre strip of SAGC/SGKC lands in the proposed corridor. The final route would be announced by the end of 2008, construction to start within 4-5 years .and a

further 4-5 years to completion. The President met with compulsory acquisition specialist Bill Rudd who subsequently estimated a cost of \$2,500-\$4,000 to represent the club for compensation. He stated every effort would be made to retain SAGC/SGKC land. Implications for both clubs were massive.

Long serving club President Bob Mules passed away on 7th July 2008.

The Kromson DTL traps continued to be unreliable and a considerable quantity of spare parts was ordered from the Kromson factory to hopefully rectify Traps 1 to 4.

In February 2009 the Government advised the Northern Connector Route decision will be deferred until the end of March, but it was likely SAGC would remain on its property. In July a scaled map showing the corridor was received that indicated a 30 metre strip of land along the eastern boundary would be required. It was also announced at this time no Federal Government funding was available for the project. Such land loss would result in the loss of DTL #1, #2, Trench and Skeet #1. Legal advice was to sit on the matter for the present. In December we learnt the project had been placed in limbo. As is often the case with such Government infrastructure projects no further advice of any description was received until September 2011.

IN 2011 quotes were obtained to re-roof the clubhouse. Expenditure on Kromson spares resulted in no significant improvement in performance and the decision was taken to review Gemini and Canterbury DTL Traps and to purchase 2 successful units. Gemini Double Rise/Continental units were selected and 2 were purchased and installed in DTL #2 and #3 layouts in August at a cost of approximately \$20,000. Improved performance was immediate and spectacular.

*Continued next page*

2012 saw Olympic Targets cease production of traditional pitch based clay targets and replace with biodegradable ones. The SAGC distributorship was cancelled.

An Active Club Grant of was received to purchase a third Gemini DTL Trap that was installed in July.

The clubhouse roof was finally installed and thanks to the Scott and Baker members for their voluntary work, greatly appreciated.

SACTA approved SAGC to continue to host the State Skeet Carnival till 2013 inclusive. 3 sets of Canterbury DTL target release equipment were purchased from SACTA.

The property acquisition loan was fully paid off.

Late in the year SACTA advised the 2014 Skeet Carnival was to be held at State Shooting Park. A total of 5 Trap nationals, 20 SA Trap Carnivals and 30 SA Skeet Carnivals had been hosted by our club.

Ludwig Kohler, designer and manufacturer of Gemini Traps passed away. We were advised the business will continue as previous with spare parts guaranteed.

### **Annus Horribulus**

The 2014 AGM recommended a target preference survey be conducted. The Committee complied, with the results (as predicted) being inconclusive. Eventually White Flyer Orange Dome targets were selected for DTL events (considerably dearer than CTA biodegradable). This was very well received by all shooters.

The AGM resulted in a full committee and it was anticipated workloads would be lightened. Unfortunately this proved not to be the case as by far the most difficult, disruptive and hostile Committee year in the history of the club was experienced. (and there were some pretty quarrelsome years previously). Official Committee Meeting Minutes of this period are very interesting reading.

The SGKC requested a new 10/10 lease be prepared. The previous lease expired 3 years ago and they had been continuing tenancy on a year by year basis. Following considerable investigation by a Sub-Committee and consultation with other relevant bodies and personnel the Draft lease was approved by the Committee and signed on January 13. Rental was significantly increased to more realistically reflect the commercial value.

Concrete joining tracks were added to DTL #3 and #4 and Skeet #1 layouts.

The 2015 AGM resulted in a full and harmonious Committee.

In mid year then Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited SA and announced funding for the long lapsed

Northern Connector Project (not including railway). This was pretty much his last official action before being deposed.

A public information meeting attended by the President, Secretary and Treasurer revealed, to the absolute horror of all that approximately 70 metres of club land was required. This would result in neither the club nor the SGKC being able to continue operations. Representation at this meeting resulted in Northern Connector personnel acknowledging the project was at design stage and possible relocation of the corridor could occur. They agreed to meet with us to further discuss the issues. Club solicitor Bill Rudd advised to take no action at this time until a firm notice of acquisition was received.

A meeting was held at our clubhouse on Thursday 29 October attended by SAGC and Northern Connector personnel, The Secretary presented a very comprehensive overview of the requirements of clay target shooting, shot fall needs, club activities, relocation requirements etc. Shot fall maps were presented to their personnel. They appreciated this presentation as none of them had any knowledge at all. They also promised to give serious consideration to our (and SGKC) requirements and concerns and would advise further in the near future. The Chief Acquisition Officer remarked that SGKC relocation would not be considered.

### **Some Really Good News!**

Another meeting was held where a very large montage was spread out along several tables that showed in full detail the proposed corridor. To the absolute delight of SAGC personnel it was revealed the route had been significantly relocated to the East and it was confirmed no SAGC/SGKC land would be required for the road or future railway corridors. This was indeed a welcome advice.

In November a new Firearms Act was passed by Parliament but not enacted until 2017 after finalization of the Regulations. A study of the new Act revealed no direct concerns for our club; however many of the matters included in the old Act are included in the Regulations and many firearm users are most unhappy.

The Northern Connector decision was advised to Members at the AGM.

The likely impact on club activities is – possible loss or restriction of DTL #1 and Trench or Ball Trap. Another unknown is the impact of noise and this will need to be discussed with the government when the road opens (or if) the railway line is eventually approved for construction. All-in-all the best possible outcome for our club.

Subsequently 4 new Gemini Skeet Traps, clubhouse



Ray Kimber being inducted into the SACTA "Hall of Fame" 2016



Long serving Officials - Secretary John Hamer, Patron Paul Lawson MBE, President Dave Renney, Treasurer & canteen manager Jan Renney

led and major refurbishments commenced.

### Summary

It is impossible to acknowledge the contributions of many members at Bolivar, however truly outstanding service recognition has been given by five Members, Bob Mules President for 23 Years, Dave Renney President for 27 years and current, Jan Renney Treasurer for 17 years and current and John Hamer Secretary for 29 years and current (7½ years as Treasurer), and long standing Patron Paul Lawson who at the ripe old age of 101 years continues in this role, must be the oldest Patron in the land. These people also contributed (and continue to) much more in roles outside those mentioned.

Another important acknowledgment must be awarded to all those persons who have voluntarily given of their time to provide that most essential of services on competition shoot days to feed and water all the competitors and associated accompanying persons. The role played by the club canteen is a most im-

reverse cycle air-conditioning and a new Skeet shelter have been instal-

portant one. Again two persons who have made outstanding contributions, both wives of long-serving Presidents, are Shirley Mules and Jan Renney. The club thanks you both for a magnificent effort.

Clubs such as ours would not be able to survive without the voluntary assistance of many Members and friends. A special vote of appreciation is acknowledged to everyone who has assisted in any capacity whatsoever over the years since formation.

### What's Next?

During the 64 years at Bolivar many hundreds of thousands of clay targets and similar numbers of cartridges have been discharged over the grounds enabling many, hundreds of members and visitors a most enjoyable time participating in this fantastic sport, and this is what it is all about, having fun and enjoying oneself, no matter at what level of performance. There appears to be some chance that this may continue well into the future. One certainly hopes so.

These years have certainly thrown up some unexpected hurdles that have had to be overcome and no doubt this will continue into the future.

The corona virus has severely impacted on the club and members and the full extent is yet to be realized. The health and welfare of our members remains the top priority.

Re-energising of the long overdue grounds refurbishment commenced recently, will need to be accelerated.

John R. Hamer



Club ground



# Psychological Skills for Shooting

by Michael Kruger-Davis

## Emotional Control

In the age of COVID-19 emotional control has been tested to the limits. Being in lockdown has made people think that they are being punished. It must be remembered that we were stuck at home, but we were safe at home. And the rest of the community was also safe that we were at home. Not going to work, home schooling the kids, not being able to catch up with friends or family and not being able to play sport, exercise or shoot, had an impact on all of us.

When we shoot, play golf, darts or any sport for that matter we need to be able to control our emotions. To be a consistent performer, athletes need to be able to maintain emotional control throughout each match, remain focused and not let anger or frustration cost them the game or the match. For individual sports such as shooting or golf the cost of losing emotional control maybe losing the match or being unable to make the cut for the final. In team sports such as football, netball, hockey, etc the cost may be the same but the consequences of one player losing it, may mean that the whole team loses.

What do I mean by emotional control? Patrick Cohn from Peak Sports Network in the United States defines Emotional Control as staying even-tempered, level headed, or poised even when you are challenged by mishaps or adversity. For most of us, it is being able to cope with the things that go wrong when we are competing and our ability to bounce back. How many times have you seen a shooter miss a target only to go on and miss another and maybe even another. Getting angry at missing the target won't help you keep hitting the rest.

Emotional control is an interesting construct because when we are competing well we go into a type of cocoon or "the zone" where even our own thoughts have difficulty penetrating. Whilst in the zone we focus on the present and enjoy the process of competing; we let go of judgements about past performances and avoid thinking about the future or the product.

According to Cohn, many talented athletes who do

not know how to control their negative emotions fail to reach their potential because they get hot-headed, angry, or just crawl into their negative mental shell. These athletes usually perceive themselves as perfectionists in their outlook and are prone to emotional outbursts and making negative judgements about themselves as well as their performance.

Your ability to bounce back, resilience, is an important skill for any athlete, especially the shooter who wants to get into a state team or the McIntosh team. The ability to remain composed after missing a target or a point and focusing on the process so that no other targets are missed, is vital for team selection. To lose 'it' (emotional control) will only mean that you are likely to miss more and more targets.

Cohn believes that to maintain emotional control, you must do two tasks. Firstly you must have an accepting mindset before competing. This means having a positive pregame mindset. By this Cohn means you need to identify the strict expectations that will cause you to become upset when you do not achieve to your own expectations. Some expectations that can lead to feelings of frustration, according to Cohn, include:

- \* I must play perfectly to be successful today.
- \* I expect to perform perfectly today and if I don't, I am failing.
- \* I cannot make any mistakes if I want to win.
- \* To play my best, I must have an error-free performance.

If you carry these expectations into competition, you set yourself up feeling like you are failing, but in reality, you have left yourself no room for success. These expectations are irrational beliefs about yourself and the world you are competing in. It is an irrational belief to think you must be successful every day, that you must perform perfectly and cannot fail. That you cannot make errors and that you are only at your best when you do not make any mistakes,

Secondly, you must arm yourself with mental strategies to cope with errors or mishaps. You must develop strategies that help you let go of the emotions before the situation gets worse. Visualisation

strategies, such as the Black Box technique or breathing and relaxation strategies allow you to centre yourself are some techniques that will help.

One of the most important strategies is to practice emotional control next time you are in a local competition. This strategy should form part of your goal setting for the future. At your local club you should be setting goals to shoot this target; the one that will be released as you address the trap. If you miss your goal should then change to maintaining emotional control and focusing on hitting the remaining targets (one at a time). If you practice this skill at your local club level then it will become easier at zone, state or national championship level. The place to practice maintaining emotional control is at shoots and the bigger and more important the shoot the better.

The Nationals, for example, provides an idea vehicle for practicing emotional control. It must be remembered that everyone at the Nationals is striving to win a national title or be placed in a grade. To win you need to maintain emotional control, therefore if you go to the National or the state carnivals with the goal in mind that you will improve your emotional control then you might just maintain what you need to do and come out a winner. And

even if you don't win, what you gain from practicing emotional control skills will make you closer next time and will make you a better competitor at your next club shoot. It will also mean that you will be able to cope with those things in life that affect us dramatically like the COVID-19 pandemic. If we can maintain emotional control when shooting, we have the groundwork to maintain emotional control when confronted with relationship, financial, employment and even health problems.

Remember, “. . . it is not things in life that affect us, but how we think of them.”

*Reference:*

<http://www.peaksportsnetwork.com/>

Patrick J. Cohn, Ph.D.

I have put together all the articles that I have written for the CTSN on CD or USB as word files. These are available for \$25.00 (which includes GST and Postage). If you wish to purchase a copy please send cheque or money order to me at the address below.

Michael Kruger-Davis is a consulting Psychologist and a member of Downside Clay target Club and Wagga Field & Game. He uses SAGA ammunition provided by Hunts Shooting Supplies. Questions regarding psychological aspects of sport and shooting can be addressed to him at 144 Bassetts Rd, Gillenbah 2700 or on 0438437378 or via [mjkrugerdavis@gmail.com](mailto:mjkrugerdavis@gmail.com)

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# Insight on Sight

by Luke Higgins

## An Optometrist's Thoughts on Vision

You can't shoot what you can't see.

How are the targets looking to you? Are you seeing the targets as well as you possibly can?

If not – a visit to an optometrist may be a game changer for improved performance on the range.

There are probably no sports that have a greater reliance on, or lend themselves better to, the world of optics and vision than the target sports. A shooter's vision is one of their greatest assets.

Over the course of this series of articles we will discuss all aspects of vision, and examine what contributes to visual performance on the range. It is hoped that this will help the reader get a better understanding of their own vision and provide information on how they can maximise their vision performance and improve their scores on the board!

I wanted to include in this article a brief overview of vision, ocular anatomy, and the benefits of seeing your optometrist to ensure your optimum performance in your sport.

Firstly, what is an optometrist?

Optometry is an eye care profession that focuses on the detection and treatment of ocular pathology and vision disorders;

- Treatment of refractive error (spectacle and contact lenses)
- Treatment of eye focusing issues (accommodative and binocular vision disorders)
- Prescribing medications (topical) for the treatment of eye infections and other pathology
- Detection and management of ocular conditions – e.g. glaucoma, AMD, diabetic retinopathy etc.
- Neurological examinations
- Occupational assessments – driving standards etc.
- Referral to Ophthalmology specialist as required (surgery and specialist management)

A sports optometrist is an optometrist who has an interest and focus on the vision aspects of sport, and how the different components of vision contribute to performance.

During the course of an optometric consultation an optometrist will examine all the aspects of your

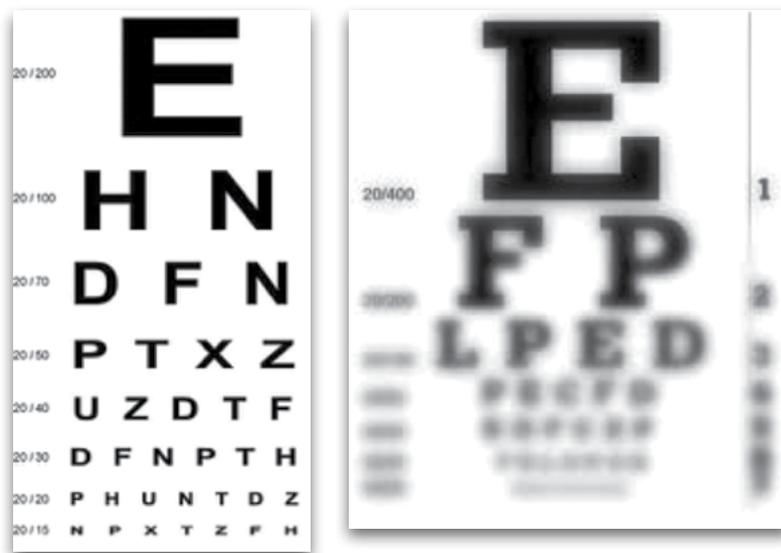
vision to rule out pathology and ensure optimum performance.

An overview of the components of vision is important for a sporting shooter as they rely on each component to varying levels. I would like to briefly run through the different components. Each one of these will be covered in more detail in other parts of this series.

It is interesting to consider what makes up vision, and broadly, vision can be divided into the following components;

- Visual acuity
- Contrast sensitivity
- Visual fields
- Binocular vision/Depth perception
- Eye Movements

Visual acuity is a measure of the spatial resolution of the visual system – or simply – what is the smallest target that you can correctly identify. Most people will be familiar with the concept of reading down the chart to the smallest line possible. This is also where the famous “20/20” line originates from. 20/20 is an imperial measurement of visual acuity, in Australia we use the metric notation of 6/6. Basically, what this stands for is that if a patient



Two VA charts – Left: standard chart. Right: blurry due to refractive error (requires spectacle correction)

can read the designated 6 metre [20 feet] line at 6 metres they are recorded as having 6/6 vision [20/20]. Unfortunately, this has become a common saying for perfect vision, when the reality is that 6/6 is really just 'good' vision – many patients I see will have vision better than 6/6. The aim of spectacles and contact lenses is to maximise a patient's visual acuity.

Contrast sensitivity is a measurement of how well an individual can distinguish a target against its background. This is a really important component of vision for the sporting shooter, as often targets are of varying contrast (shades of grey, or colours, with varying coloured backgrounds). Without good contrast sensitivity, a shooter will find it very difficult to distinguish the target from the background. There are many tests available for measuring contrast sensitivity. Lens tints can be used to enhance the contrast of a target against its background and this is often utilised by clay target shooters.

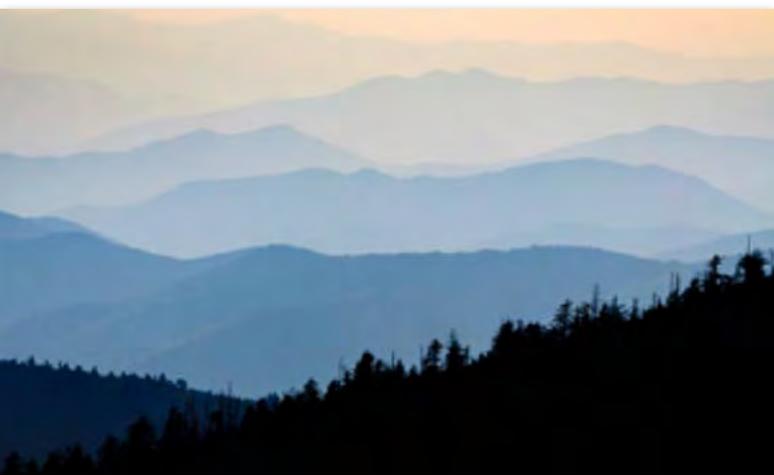


Photo of a row of mountains demonstrating a variance in contrast



Pelli-Robson Contrast Sensitivity Test

Visual fields are key for target acquisition. Both visual acuity and contrast sensitivity are measurements of central vision, though for many target sports where there is a moving target it will be your peripheral

(non-central) vision that detects the target and allows target tracking. Each eye has a certain field of vision

and in a healthy eye the range is usually: 120 degrees temporal, 70 degrees nasal, 70 degrees superior and 90 degrees inferior. The visual field has different levels of sensitivity across the field – more sensitive in the centre and getting less sensitive in the periphery. Good shooting technique will allow target acquisition in a more central part of the visual field which will lead to faster and more accurate target tracking.

Depth perception is the visual ability to perceive the world in three dimensions, coupled with the ability to gauge how far away an object is. Depth perception, size, and distance are ascertained through both monocular (one eye) and binocular (two eyes) cues. Binocular (two eyes) depth perception (stereopsis) is generally more accurate than Monocular depth perception (monocular cues). Though, if eyes are not working well together – poor focus, fatigue, or binocular vision disorder – binocular vision may be poor or even a hindrance.

The eye movements that are controlled by the eye muscles are also an important component of vision as the eye muscles allow acquiring and tracking of targets. The eye movements are controlled by six eye muscles. They are voluntary striated muscles (similar to your leg and arm muscles), and they are involved in muscle movements that are amongst the fastest and most sustained of any muscle group in the human body. As with most muscle groups they will benefit from stretching and warming up prior to activity such as target sports. Additionally if any of the six muscles around each eye are not working evenly and balanced with the other muscles then this can lead to binocular vision disorders which will impact depth perception and target tracking.

To get the most out of your vision on the range:

- Eye examination with an optometrist that understands sports vision/shooting sports
- Best corrected vision (best VA possible)
- Best contrast (use the right tints)
- Visual fields (good technique to maximise target acquisition in visual field)
- Binocular vision – warm up eye muscles, treat any binocular vision disorders
- If prescription spectacles or contact lenses are required then they need to be dispensed with a good understanding of the sport they are being used for to ensure that they are suitable and will have good performance outcomes.

Luke Higgins.  
Clay Target Shooter  
Clinical Optometrist – Luke Higgins Optometry  
University Lecturer – Flinders University  
[www.lukehigginsoptometry.com.au](http://www.lukehigginsoptometry.com.au)



# What's happening in the VCTA

Another month has gone by and, at last, we are able to get back to “the traps”. While at this stage it is for practice only, it is certainly better than sitting at home watching the front of the gun safe!

Reports coming back to the VCTA office tell of clubs being inundated with members wanting to blow the cobwebs out of their guns. It has been an interesting observation watching the different methods that clubs have employed to facilitate the ‘wants’ of their members while at the same time ensuring that they comply with the government’s rules and regulations.

No one wants to suffer the fines/penalties that could be invoked.

One of the many downsides of the current pandemic has been the significant reduction of income, not only for clubs but for the VCTA as well. Since the introduction of restrictions, a number of events have been cancelled, membership of ACTA is down (and therefore reduced income to VCTA) and the likelihood of significantly reduced income between now and the end of the year is a distinct possibility.

Added to this reduced money flow is the real scenario that the bills don’t stop!

And foremost of these is the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the State Ground at the Echuca Clay Target Club. For those who attend the State Carnival in previous years, the effort, time and care that goes in to maintaining the facility is of first-class standard.

In an effort to ensure that the State Ground can be presented at such a high level the VCTA has combined with the Echuca Clay Target Club – and with the help of Beretta Australia – and initiated a raffle with a total prize of 100 slabs of Trust shotshells.

VICTORIAN CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION & ECHUCA CLAY TARGET CLUB

## BERETTA TRUST AMMO RAFFLE

**MAJOR PRIZES**  
1st - 70 slabs (250) 12ga Trust Ammo  
2nd - 20 slabs (250) 12ga Trust Ammo  
3rd - 10 slabs (250) 12ga Trust Ammo

**DRAWN: SAT 29TH AUGUST 2020 AT 12 NOON.**  
350 tickets for sale at \$ 50 per ticket.

**BUY NOW**  
<http://raffle.vcta.com.au>

All funds raised go to the ongoing improvement of State Shooting Grounds of the Victorian Clay Target Association and the Echuca Clay Target Club.  
Vic. Permit No. 10183/22

BERETTA AUSTRALIA TRUST

The raffle is limited to 350 tickets with a ticket price of \$50!

There are prizes for first, second and third!

You’ll need to be in it to win it!

Tickets can be purchased online at:  
<http://raffle.vcta.com.au>

All proceeds from the raffle will be used for the upkeep and improvement of facilities at the Echuca State Ground range.

Hopefully, they’ll let us have a State Carnival this year and everyone can see how well the grounds are kept!

I hope everyone gets a chance to be back breakin’ a few clays very soon and I look forward to seeing everyone on a laneway in the very near future!

*Jeff Bell, VCTA State Secretary*



# Queensland News

## Brisbane Gun Club Moving Forward



Roadmap to easing restrictions. With club president Rocky Shi at the helm, the Brisbane Gun Club committee is a progressive and enthusiastic team that

has worked hard to keep their club on top, emphasising service to members and visitors

*Continued next page*

Although COVID-19 club closures were not optional, the upside is that so many Queensland clubs have used the time in lockdown productively by renovating, making improvements and doing all those jobs around the club that even the most efficient caretakers don't get time to do between shoots. The Brisbane Gun Club is no exception.

Queensland's largest club has undergone some significant changes in recent months that have ensured they will be well prepared when clubs re-open after 1st June under the government's Stage 2





and a friendly atmosphere as top priorities. Prior to the 2020 disruptions the Brisbane club was well on track to fill their calendar with events and activities to benefit their members and shooting guests. Experience never goes astray either and their hard-working discipline captains provide strong representation across the board in all clay target disciplines offered at the club. The Brisbane club also successfully added night competitions in DTL and trench, and even night coaching for juniors to their calendar for 2019 to broaden their range of events on offer.

Immediately prior to lockdown restrictions, the Brisbane Gun Club appointed a new club manager in February 2020, introducing Jacinta Shand as the one-lady welcoming committee for those attending the club. Jacinta immediately set about honing her skills in just about every department, from obtaining her forklift license, golf cart and mower supercar driving courses, and the full range of gardening and handy-girl duties. She has A grade skills in whipper-snipping, hedge trimming and painting,

but claims to be only B grade at edging, with a regrade just around the corner. Club closures have seen this diminutive but dynamic lady transfer the club into a manicured oasis.



*Jacinta Shand*

While the unfortunate postponement of the Queensland State Trap Carnival this year interrupted Jacinta's participation as a repeat representative of the South East Zone Ladies Trap team, she will now hopefully have plenty of opportunities





to practise. In case you were wondering she doesn't just unload the targets, she can hit them as well. I know Jacinta would also want us to give a nod to her family, husband Collin and kids Allana and Connor (aka Rowdy), who have been great supporters and invaluable offsideers in her new role.

Well done to the Brisbane Gun Club and their team for putting the enjoyment of members and visitors to their club first. When we can return to our advertised calendars, shooters will be welcome to experience first-hand what the club has to offer. Be sure to call in and have a shot when the doors re-open to the public.

*Debbie Young,  
QCTA State Secretary*

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### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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# Badge Collecting The Early Days

Written by Murray Gruar

Following on from the previous article I wanted to show some of the pinback badges from the bygone era. They originated in the late 1800's and were given out by companies like Peters, LC Smith, Dead Shot, UMC, White Flyer, Winchester and Remington and many others. They all used these little pins to promote their products as a cheap way of advertising as there wasn't any television in those days.

The major producer of these colourful little pins in the earliest times was Whitehead & Hoag, who had an enormous setup where they also produced lots of medals, watch fobs, trophies, gold, silver and bronze hanging medallions on ribbons and not just for shooting, but all types of sports and businesses used them to promote their wares. Whitehead & Hoag produced pinbacks and trophies from 1892 right up until 1959, when their company was bought out in 1953 by Bastian Brothers who continued to use their name until 1959. They had hundreds of staff from designers to graphic artists and a huge sales team that covered the cities and countryside, hunting up business. There were other companies who copied Whitehead & Hoag's ideas but none to the same scale as Whitehead & Hoag.

The Peters Cartridge company went to a lot of trouble to have the most graphic hunting designs.

As they didn't have the digital cameras and copiers we have today, artists were employed to draw up the beautiful hunting scenes and designs. Lots of these designs were also used on calendars, brochures, cartridge boxes and other literature to promote their products. Another company with really nice designs was Austin Powders with their famous hunting dog pinbacks.



L-R: Austin Powders pinback, Du Pont pinback, Du Pont pinback

Apart from their many beautiful bird and hunting dog pinbacks, Dupont, made many trophies (or fobs as they were called) for both club, state and international shooting competitions, mainly from sterling silver. They were attached to a black woven ribbon and hung from the top by a small chain to your jacket or a pocket watch. They also made gold long run trophies which you could add a bar to, labelled with your best scores of a straight run without a miss.

## Winchester pins and badges

Winchester and Western both had a large range of pinbacks, badges and medallions.

They rewarded their staff with gold pins for the service they had given to the Winchester company. The service pins came in multiples of 5 years.



Peters pinbacks



Above: Dupont long run fob  
 Above Centre: Dupont trophy fobs  
 Right: Winchester school shooting trophy

Above: 25 Year Service Medal



Above: Winchester Apprenticeship pins  
 Right: 25 Year dinner invitation



They also had a 25-year club for employees with 25 or more years service, for which they held an annual dinner. A special hanging badge on a ribbon was also given for 25 years service employees. They also gave their apprentices a special gold pin.

Winchester ran a hugely successful junior rifle club called the Winchester Junior Rifle Corps.

The Junior Rifle Corps ran from 1917 until mid-1925 when the program was handed over to the NRA as it got too big for Winchester to handle.

Winchester promoted the program as a way for young shooters to learn gun safety and handling, which it did, but it was also an enormous money spinner for Winchester as the young shooters grew up with Winchester running through their blood. They sold tens of thousands of firearms and ammunition. They also sold millions of dollars worth of shooting accessories and gun kits which consisted of a gun case, a 22 rifle, targets, ammunition, oil, membership badge, a WJRC belt

*Continued next page*



Winchester Service pins



Winchester Service pins

and special buckle and brochures all about the benefits of joining the club.

The club was for junior boys and girls up to the age of 18 years. The first person to join was actually a girl. At the height of the program there were more than 200,000 members in America, Australia, England, South Africa, and New Zealand alone. Scouting groups, schools, gun shops and even church youth groups were all running junior rifle clubs which held competitions both between themselves, against other clubs, state matches and national level matches.

On joining members were given a WJRC membership badge.

Members could also win proficiency medallions for accurate shooting.

They started with a Pro-Marksman, then progressed through stages to Marksmen, Sharpshooter, then

Expert Rifleman and Instructor for which there were medallions given out at each level.

As well as the medallions there were also a set of 5/8th inch pins to match the medallions so they could be worn on the member's uniform.

In 1919 Winchester also started a Junior Trapshooting club but due to the higher cost involved it was nowhere near as successful as the rifle club.

In 1919 a junior rifle club kit was available for \$12.95, where as a trapshooting kit was \$34.95.

The rifle targets were just paper targets, supplied free of charge by Winchester, but the trapshooting targets and ammunition were a lot more "costly, hence not many parents could afford to setup and outfit their child especially if they had more than one child. To my knowledge there were not any merit or club badges made for the trapshooting club.



L-R: WJRC pinback. Winchester Junior Rifle Corps belt & buckle. WJRC membership badge



L-R: Pro-Marksman & Marksmen pins. Expert Rifleman pin. Instructor pin



Winchester cartridge stick pins

As part of Winchester's advertising campaign, they gave away small enamel cartridge stick-pins in the shape of cartridges. There were 8 different pins and it is extremely hard to come by all 8 of them.

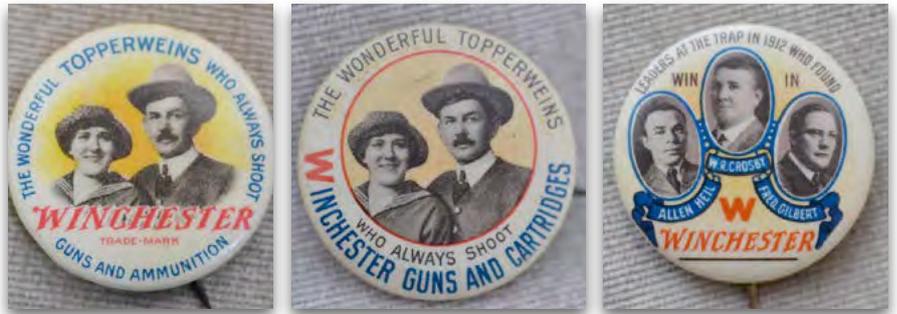
Winchester used the names of the best trapshooters to advertise their guns and ammunition so they gave away pinbacks with pictures of these shooters with the percentage scores they averaged over each year. They paid these shooters to use their ammunition and guns. They also

show cased these shooters on all different types of other advertising from envelopes, calendars, brochures, and letterheads.

### Winchester collectibles

As well as pins and badges, there are thousands of other Winchester collectibles and some

*Continued next page*





Winchester collectibles



Above: Winchester Store Sign  
 Left: Winchester Junior Rifle Corps clock

boards, carpet sweepers, toasters, kettles, ovens, fridges, clocks, lawn mowers, wheelbarrows, bicycles, all sorts of kitchens appliances and much more. All these items are unbelievably valuable today if you are lucky enough to find them in reasonable condition.

**Other badges**

Most of the hunting related companies all pro-

are worth a small fortune today. Winchester produced thousands of advertising brochures to promote their goods. Not just for shooting, as they sold every type of tool you can think of, plus household items, cutlery, scissors, irons and ironing



Some of the other company's collectibles



duced badges and pins to promote what they had for sale. The main ones were Du Pont, Hercules, Peters, Dead Shot, American Powder Co, Austin Powder Co, Ballistic Powder, Colt Firearms, Browning Brothers, Federal Cartridge Co, Hunter Arms Co, Laflin and Rand, Peters, Remington, Savage Arms, Sporting Life Magazine, United Metallic Cartridge Co, Stevens

Continued next page



Arms and so many more. They all produced advertising literature as well which is very collectible and much sort after.

For the last ten years or so I have found it particularly useful to keep records of

where and when I bought every item, the address or email address of the seller. It can come in handy if you are looking for other items of the same type. When I buy on eBay, I always ask the seller to send me their contact information with the item I have

bought, as eBay will not let you exchange contact details through their system. I have found that some sellers are willing to sell direct to me, that way I can avoid the eBay fees which sometimes gets out of hand. eBay charges a percentage of both the item value + freight. eBay also encourage sellers to ship through their shipping facility which is far to expensive. I have made many contacts through buying on eBay and then dealing with sellers direct on other occasions, that way you can tell the seller what you collect and they will look out for items that interest you. Lots of the old hunting related items come from the US or England where they have the bigger gun shows so it is the cheapest and best way for me to get my contacts to look out for items for me.

Another important thing to remember is to stick to collecting just a few different themes as there are too many varieties out there and you can get sucked into collecting too many different varieties which ends up costing a fortune.

Remember it is a hobby, so enjoy it, don't make it an obsession. I have made many great friendships with people I have still never met. I was intending to take a trip to the US next year but due to the coronavirus it looks like it may be the year after.

Murray Gruar

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## CAMPING ON THE NATIONAL GROUND

*Camping restrictions due to Covid-19 have now been relaxed and the ACTA is pleased to advise that sites are available, to our members, for reservation.*

*Conditions apply*

Powered and unpowered sites are available

Powered \$30, Unpowered \$20

To reserve a site phone the National Office on 02 6938 2121 between 10am and 3pm

### COMPETITION AND CONSUMER ACT

The attention of advertisers is drawn to the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 and the provisions in the Act which apply to advertising. It is not possible for the A.C.T.A. to ensure that advertisements which are published in this magazine comply in all respects with the Act and the responsibility must therefore be on the person, company or advertising agency submitting the advertisement for publication. The A.C.T.A. reserves the right to refuse any advertisement without stating the reason.



## COACHING NEWS

The National ACTA Coaching Committee has approved the production of six coaching videos for the use of coaches and will be available from the ACTA website.

The videos will be produced by Russell and Lauryn Mark at the National Shooting Ground and filming should commence later in June.

The content will be similar to the excellent range of coaching and general shooting videos produced by Russell and Lauryn on the Go Shooting youtube channel and complement the ACTA coaching fundamentals.

It is planned to introduce an ACTA youtube link to these videos allowing shooters to acquire the benefit of Russell's and Lauryn's expertise and further hoped to add to the collection over the years to give coaches and shooters a range of information to enhance the experience under Australian conditions.

The National State Coaching Directors Committee has been busy with the addition of State Coaching Directors from Tasmania and the Northern Territory. The Committee is now truly national with every State and Territory represented.

A review of all coaching material used by the States is presently taking place and a phone conference by the middle of June will see the adoption of a club and competition coaching package.

This package will include all the material that all States will be required to use in the presentation of any ACTA coaching accreditation or re-accreditation course.

When the National State Coaching Directors Committee has completed the review and adopted by the National ACTA Coaching Committee, a list of material, booklets and documents will be forwarded to each State Association and an article published in the Coaching Corner of Clay Target.

*David Coleman,  
Chairman*

*National State Coaching Directors Committee  
NSWCTA Coaching Director*

## Shoot Calendar

*Due to the Coronavirus situation Clubs have cancelled their programmed shoots for the foreseeable future. However this may change as the year progresses and it is advised that you contact State or Club Secretaries regarding scheduled shooting dates*

### 2020

June – CANCELLED	Central Victorian Grand Prix	Maryborough Gun Club Vic
June 27–28	Queensland State 5-Stand Carnival	Redcliffe City Clay Target Club Qld
July 10–12	Queensland State ISSF Carnival	Brisbane Gun Club Qld
August 29–30 (T.B.C.)	ACTA Sporting Nationals	National Ground, Wagga Wagga NSW
POSTPONED TO 2021	Commonwealth Carnival (DATE T.B.C.)	Echuca Clay Target Club Vic
September 17–20	Queensland State Skeet Carnival	Toowoomba Clay Target Club Qld
October 23–25	SA State ISSF	State Shooting Park Virginia SA
November 5–8 (T.B.C.)	VCTA State Trap Carnival	Echuca Clay Target Club Vic

# Cunnamulla and Covid-19

This incident is as related to me by an elderly Cunnamulla member in the early 80's but occurred some years earlier.

The ICIL Special No 6 Ounce and a Quarter was the cartridge of choice for handicap shooting in this part of Queensland. Its superiority over all others was reputed to be exceeded only by its recoil, noise and the effect it had on clay targets from any imaginable distance. With the soft Bronze Wing clay targets commonly used and many shooters having the very fully choked A5 Browning autos, the result was complete devastation of any target within sight and smoke filled skies.

Or so it is remembered.

When they became difficult to obtain, the Elderly lamented the loss of their irreplaceable cartridge, and to this day will not accept that any new shell will ever replace them.

Over the years the reputed distances got longer, the sun was obliterated by smoke and all other shells paled into insignificance. Nothing would ever replace the by now legendary ICIL Special No 6 Ounce and a Quarter, no shell would ever match, let alone supercede it.



*A full box with slip off lid of the legendary ICIL Special No 6 Ounce and a Quarter Shells*

The reputation grew and so did the stories with late night memories regularly swapped around gun club bars by the Elderly.

The Younger shooters viewed this with amusement, in their opinion the newer shells were clearly superior, had less recoil and noise and were more than capable of breaking clays at the maximum handicap distance of 27 yards. And so the plan was hatched.

After listening quietly for over an hour at the bar with the Elderly expounding the virtues of the ICIL Special No 6 Ounce and a Quarter the chosen representative of the Younger interrupted the Elderly with “That’s all bullshit, here’s two of them, I’ll bare my arse at 50 yards – that’s what I think of them”. The Elderly were suitably unimpressed with the belligerence of this young

puppy and so fuelled by aiming oil, took up the challenge immediately. A coat was quickly donned, and gun taken from the rack and out into the dim evening light they all proceeded followed by a very interested crowd of the Younger and Elderly. What the Elderly did not know was that the Younger had taken the shot from these two ICIL Special No 6 Ounce and a Quarter shells and replaced it with sand and the joke would be on them. But then the good nature of the Elderly affects the outcome.

Well, bent over, with pants dropped



*Individual shells with the slip over carton cover.*

*Photo courtesy of Roma Clay Target Club collection, by Luke Luckhoff*

and the Elderly viewing the Younger out at the fence line, the Elderly looks lovingly at the two ICIL Special No 6 Ounce and a Quarter shells and decides it's far too dangerous to shoot these heavy shells at the Younger so placing them in his coat pocket he gets two Winchester AA 300 (3 dram equivalent) No 7 Ounce and an Eighth shells from his other pocket and the rest is history . . .

The Matron at the Cunnamulla Hospital who oversaw the pellet removal process from the rear regions of a highly embarrassed and somewhat

sore belligerent young puppy was named at the time but I can't remember her name.

Now you may be wondering what this has to do with the title reference to Covid-19: Social distancing requirements for belligerent young puppies has now been extended to 180 metres to protect them from the well intentioned Elderly.

The facts may be blurred slightly from the original telling, my memory and poetic licence but feel free to add to this story if you have any knowledge of the incident.



## ACTA New Members

<i>M'ship</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>M'ship</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>M'ship</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Club</i>
109008	Bill	Evans	Atherton Tableland GC	69031	David	Frost	Maryborough & District GC	109025	Lara	Challinor	Shoalhaven CTC
109029	Christopher	Smith	Berrima CTC	108974	Dean	Thomas	Melbourne GC	109000	Matthew	Mann	Tamworth CTC
108977	Alan	Spong	Blackwater CTC	109033	Michael	Fennell	Melbourne GC	109001	Christopher	Mulligan	Tamworth CTC
109009	Rob	Hewton	Boyup Brook CTC	108988	Nathan	Mittica	Metropolitan CTC	88905	James	Fiumara	The Forest CTC
109010	Nic	Hewton	Boyup Brook CTC	108989	Robert	Gulaboski	Metropolitan CTC	108997	Garry	Nicholls	Kyneton GC
108976	Jenny	Compain	Brisbane GC	108990	Erhan	Karahan	Metropolitan CTC	109030	Stephanie	Braun	Toogoolawah CTC
109023	Julie	Noreth	Burnie CTC	108991	Orhan	Demirbas	Metropolitan CTC	108998	Michael	Constable	Top End GC
108973	Matthew	Dell	Cecil Park CTC	108994	Joe	Saittia	Metropolitan CTC	108999	Mark	Connell	Top End GC
108982	Michael	Lambino	Cecil Park CTC	108995	Andrew	Oliver	Metropolitan CTC	108978	Allan	Ellis	Tyagarah CTC
109021	Martin	Thorpe	Cecil Park CTC	108996	Luke	Zacharias	Metropolitan CTC	108981	Jackson	O'Brien	Werribee Victorian CTC
108975	Peter	Dagger	Darwin CTC	108997	William	Irvine	Mid North CTC	109003	Bernd	Hammerstein	West Australian GC
109004	Ronald	James	Darwin CTC	108972	Mark	Weston	Mildura CTC	109011	Stephen	Emmerson	West Australian GC
109005	Lachlan	Ruddell	Darwin CTC	108992	Lloyd	Finlay	Narrabri CTC	109012	Tony	Lewis	West Australian GC
109006	Adrian	Celotti	Darwin CTC	108993	Ashley	Finlay	Narrabri CTC	109013	Juan	Gutierrez Oti	West Australian GC
109017	Storm	Young	Darwin CTC	108979	Scott	Taylor	Newcastle-Lake Macquarie CTC	109014	Owen	Ross	West Australian GC
109024	Dean	Hutchinson	Far West GC	108980	Shane	Cording	Newcastle-Lake Macquarie CTC	109015	Blair	O'Shanessy	West Australian GC
108983	Angelo	Bruno	Frankston Australian CTC	109028	Nick	Harvey	Orange CTC	109016	Yvonne	Aquill	West Australian GC
109018	Brandon	Moore	Frankston Australian CTC	108986	Liselle	Bowles	Richmond River GC	108985	Steven	Lazarevic	West Coast CTC
109019	Riely	Moore	Frankston Australian CTC	108987	Josh	Bredhauer	Scrubby Creek Sports Club	109007	Peter	Hudson	Wonthaggi GC
109031	Lourens	Scheepers	Gold Coast CTC					109002	Robert	Dixon	Yarrowonga GC
109032	Lukas	Scheepers	Gold Coast CTC					109022	Raymond	Cakebread	Yarrowonga GC
108971	Warwick	Bromby	Korumburra GC					109020	Aaron	Nettheim	Yass CTC
108984	Doug	Ratcliff	Maryborough & District GC								

# From Our Archives

## NATIONAL COACHING DIRECTOR NOTES NEWTON THOMAS, 1980

Following on from the June edition of *Clay Target*, this month we publish articles written by Newton Thomas which were originally published as a series of four from February, March, April and May 1980 CTSN.

### FEBRUARY 1980

Set out below is the first of a series of articles on the method of instruction carried out by the Trap and Skeet instructors of the Advanced School of Marksmanship, at Fort Benning, Georgia, U.S.A.

Both the writer and Peter Quire, State Director of Coaching for South Australia, have attended courses at Fort Benning and it is from Peter Quire's report that most of the following material is derived.

*INTERNATIONAL TRAP CLINIC – TRENCH* (Skeet will be taken later). This clinic consisted of four days of lectures.

**Shooting Equipment:** This included discussions on clothing, shooting jackets, glasses, cap, gun and cartridges.

**Shoes:** Suggested wide platform with ripple soles, well fitting to give good purchase, thick socks to make shoes firm fitting.

**Trousers:** A comfortable, good fit.

**Shirt:** Cotton or some other non-slip material.

**Shooting Jacket:** Well fitting, but not restrictive, pockets of adequate capacity for fifty cartridges.

**Glasses:** Several different coloured lenses for different backgrounds. The Americans favour green tinted lenses on bright days and an amber tint for duller days, and when orange targets are used.

**Cap:** To shade the eyes and protect the head, care should be taken that the peak or brim is not too long.

**Ear Protection:** Most shooters use moulded ear-plugs which should be fitted every 12 months.

**Gun:** Usually personal preference, boring three-quarter and full choke, with a tendency to 32-inch barrels.

Nearly all guns are fitted with recoil reducers, at Benning they mainly use the Mercury type. Gun fit is stressed and the Fort Benning people have their own stock maker present to make stocks to fit and the best of recoil pads fitted.

**Ammunition:** This was an American brand of 3-1/4 drams.

**Shot:** This was No. 8 in the first barrel and nickel in the second. This is because nickel shot is thought to be harder, is not distorted so much in passing through the choke, and consequently maintains its velocity better.

### MARCH 1980

#### *PART 1 – RANGE SAFETY AND STANCE*

Range safety, plus rules and regulations of ISU trap are then gone through in detail as it is realised that both coaches and pupils should have a good general knowledge of both.

Basic fundamentals of trap are next on the agenda and instructors give a demonstration, shooting twenty-five targets a piece.

Foot position is stressed. Instructors feel that this is of great importance, on all tracks foot position is the same. The centre of the body faces the right hand top corner of the shooting pad, (this is reversed for left handers), with the feet apart, approximately shoulder width, with the knees fractionally bent. The gun muzzle is held below the top point edge of the trap trench so as the target can be picked up early.

#### *PART 2 – POSITIVE THINKING AND GOAL SETTING*

Positive thought is a must. Negative thinking becomes imprinted on the subconscious for example, worrying about a problem target creates doubts in the subconscious so that when this target is faced the subconscious expects to miss, this becomes a self fulfilling prophecy. To overcome this, the shooter is encouraged to practise mental rehearsal actually shooting the target in the imagination so creating positive thoughts.

If a problem target is missed more than three times in succession, that target should be left so avoiding negative imprinting.

Positive conversation is also encouraged. Self discipline develops mental control, the shooter practises making mental decisions and sticks to them. For instance he will decide to get up at 3 a.m. and does so, or he will decide to reduce his weight by 3 lb in a week and he will do so, this creates confidence in himself that his mind will and can control his thoughts and body.

As you will understand, this is only touching the surface of a vast topic.

Goal setting – It is most important that shooters set themselves achievable goals, with an ultimate goal and that this goal becomes the most important thing for them. Most shooters set themselves goals that are not big enough, that is making a team instead of aiming to win the ultimate medals. They let themselves have a mental let down after making the team, instead of continuing to strive for the ultimate score. An Olympic Gold Medal should be the aim of all competition shooting.

#### **APRIL 1980**

Training Program and Drugs and Alcohol

##### ***PART 3 – TRAINING PROGRAM***

(It must be understood that this is only a rough outline).

Training is split into two parts – skills and mental training.

Always practise with good competition. List goals on paper, then keep a diary of all shooting, including weather conditions, how shooter felt scores, and targets missed. The shooter must analyse his own performance and be completely honest and not make excuses for himself. Never train when not feeling well, as training is to instil confidence, and if a shooter is unwell, he may shoot badly and thus affect his confidence.

##### ***PART 4 – EFFECTS OF SMOKING AND DRUGS, INCLUDING ALCOHOL***

Smoking reduces the blood supply, reducing oxygen levels in the blood and so affecting eye sight and reaction times, because of the reduction in the supply of blood to the muscles and nerves.

All drugs affect the nervous system slowing reaction time, but the U.S. Army coaches stress that when training, their team members are encouraged to live a normal life. If they are used to having a beer or coffee with meals, this is to be continued, but not in excess.

If the shooter is used to going to bed at 11 p.m. then he does so. In other words, the shooter should

continue a normal lifestyle, any change takes time to be adapted to.

#### **MAY 1980**

The following is the fifth and final part of the report:

##### ***PART 5 – COACHING ON THE RANGE***

Trap: firstly on straight away targets, as these are the targets that the American coaches felt needed the greatest attention.

Angle: targets require a smooth swing and a good follow through normally after a fairly extensive practical training two days competition is held.

The skeet program is basically the same as the trap. Position and stance for skeet is with the body facing station eight with both knees slightly bent. Gun hold on address is well out from the trap-house and much emphasis is placed on keeping the gun moving. In practical training singles are shot first so that proficiency is achieved with these before attempting doubles.

This is also followed by two days competition.

Practice is 100 targets four times a week, and this is increased two months prior to a match to 150 targets four times a week.

The training period is normally spread out over 8 hours as in major competition a break of several hours is not unusual.

As 100 targets per day are the maximum that are shot in major competition, the shooters must practise on up to 150 per day to give them the necessary physical and mental endurance.

Physical training includes a daily 1/2 hour of stretching and body building exercises plus a two mile run. A lot of exercises are done using the shooter's gun as a weight.

Team members have a blood haemoglobin count, check about 3 months prior to an event and a remedial diet high in protein with added iron is given if necessary.

During competition blood sugar levels are kept high with high carbohydrate diets.

The members of the USA team who have won major medals in world competition make themselves available for question and answer sessions. They describe their feelings and thoughts in major competition and what they personally do to overcome these pressures. The answers they gave were many and varied as there were team members.

These top American shooters are extremely self motivated, self organised, confident people.



# Australian Clay Target Association Inc 2020 ANNUAL REGISTRATION & CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



To be handed to the Club Secretary with your Handicap Card

Membership Number <b>(compulsory)</b>		Shooters Licence Number	
Surname <b>(compulsory)</b>		Given Name <b>(compulsory)</b>	
Address <b>(compulsory)</b>			
Email <b>(compulsory)</b>		Post Code	
Telephone Number <b>(compulsory)</b>		Date of Birth <b>(compulsory)</b>	/ /

**My existing or last recorded shooting details are:**

Common Mark		Ball Trap Grade		Tower	
D.T.L Handicap		ISSF Trap Grade		Sporting Grade	
Skeet Grade		ISSF Skeet Grade			
Skeet Handicap		Double Trap			

I hereby apply for membership of the \_\_\_\_\_ Club

**Please tick one.** As a  continuing, or  new member, together with my application for A.C.T.A. registration for the year ending 31st December, 2020.  I have previously been a registered member with the A.C.T.A.

<b>Type of Membership: (Membership includes Insurance)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Membership		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> State/zone affiliations if applicable		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> A.C.T.A. Full Membership	\$120.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner (spouse) of a Full Member of common address	\$84.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran ( <b>Eligible to apply for Pension/65 years at 31/12/19</b> )	\$84.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Concession/Loyalty (30 continuous years adult membership)	\$84.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership ( <b>Under the age of 18 at 31/12/19</b> )	\$40.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> New Start Member (For one year only to shoot competitively at home club only)	\$84.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Member (Shoot targets ONLY and practice at any ACTA club)	\$60.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Levy (applies to All new members & <b>those who are rejoining after 5 years except Juniors</b> )	\$10.00	\$
Failure to provide all information will see your application declined and returned	<b>Total</b>	\$

The A.C.T.A. protects the privacy and security of information provided by you. By completing this form, you agree to the use of your personal information by A.C.T.A: to process your registration details; to disclose to Clubs affiliated with A.C.T.A. for regulated events; and for internal purposes and other opportunities presented from time to time.

I undertake to abide by the Rules and By laws of the above mentioned Club, my State Association and the Australian Clay Target Association and I advise that I conform with my state of residence Firearm Regulations and shall notify my club immediately upon non renewal, cancellation or suspension of my shooters licence.

Signature		Date	/ /
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**THIS ACCOUNT IS TO BE PROCESSED BY YOUR CLUB – THE FORM WHEN COMPLETED IS TO BE RETAINED BY THE CLUB**



# DISCOUNTED RATES

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