

CLAY TARGET



***Russell & Lauryn Mark
ACTA National Ground
Wagga Wagga***

Graham Michell – Part of Monarto History
ACTA COACHING NEWS
Mildura Clay Target Club – Redevelopment
BADGE COLLECTION – CLUB BADGES

INSIDE

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1250	7.5, 9	28gm
1290	7.5, 8	28gm
1350	7.5	24gm
1350	7.5, 8	28gm

CLAY TARGET

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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Russell and Lauryn Mark have recently produced a series of informative shooting videos which will be of immense benefit to those who are beginning clay target shooting.

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**Closing date for advertising and editorial
in Clay Target September 2020 is August 5.
Scheduled publication date
is Monday August 17**



ACTA REPORT

Mal Dyson – President Paul Gilbert – CEO



Well, to say it's been another crazy month would be an understatement! Only a month ago, we were contemplating the probability that our National Events would likely proceed, then a second wave of Covid-19 hit Victoria which literally turned Australia back on its head, (and provided us with a harsh reality check), resulting in more border closures at the start of July instead of the anticipated return to open borders. This resulted in the ACTA Executive Committee calling an urgent GoTo Meeting on 7 July and voting to cancel all ACTA National Events for the remainder of the year. This was a difficult decision to make, (given that our core mandate is to provide safe and enjoyable shooting opportunities for our members), but was unanimously supported by all Committee Members. Interested members will find an article in this edition explaining the Executive Committee's decision, however, the obvious concerns for the health and safety of members and the likelihood of inability to participate due to ever-changing restrictions were key factors.

Aside from this breaking news, there are a number of other updates to share with you. These include:

New ACTA Coaching Videos

Russell and Lauryn Mark have just completed a series of videos supporting our coaching panel and promoting the ACTA. These videos are extremely professionally prepared and will be an asset to our Association.

In particular, the video explaining the 'Introduction to Clay Target Shooting' is highly informative and will be a great benefit in introducing new members to our sport. The other videos, five in all, explain Determining Your Dominant Eye, Basic Shot Gun Terminology, Mounting Your Shotgun Correctly, Holding Points and Basic Shotgun Stance. These videos will be available to all Clubs

and Club Coaches through the ACTA YouTube Channel and will also be promoted through Social Media. Please click on this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzX_4XA8IvA to watch the first video in the series and don't forget to subscribe to the channel so you can receive the other 5 videos as they are posted in the next 10 weeks

We take this opportunity to thank Lauryn and Russell for their time and effort in travelling to Wagga to develop these informative and interesting videos to assist in promoting our sport and aiding our State and Club Coaches.

Trap and Skeet Surveys

As part of our due-diligence when attempting to determine the interest of shooters participating in a postponed Nationals event, the Association surveyed all of the 2020 March Trap Nominees and all of the 2019 Skeet participants to ascertain the likelihood of their involvement in, (at that time), such an event. For those interested in the survey results, they were as follows:

TRAP:

198 responses (from all 430 x 2020 March nominations)

37 No
161 Yes

5 of these Yes's became No's if we reduced prize money (this would occur)

12 of these Yes's became No's if not offering 1/2 price noms (this could not occur)

= 144 adjusted confirmed attendees from the survey group.

SKEET:

89 Responses (from all 170 x 2019 event participants)

12 No
77 Yes

2 of these Yes's became No's if we reduced prize money (this would occur)

2 of these Yes's became No's if not offering ½ price noms (this could not occur)

= 73 adjusted confirmed attendees from the survey group.

These levels of committed participation demonstrated that the events would likely be lowly subscribed and have been a hollow representation of the normal attendance numbers. The lack of participants also would have a major impact on the financial implications for the events. This is because, regardless of numbers nominating to participate, the costs are substantially fixed. These include things such as event staffing costs, trap mechanics, trappers, cash prizes, medals, sashes, badges, targets, cleaning, equipment hire, rubbish removal and event licencing fees. As advised above, the prize purses would also have been substantially reduced due to prizes being obtained from a set allowance of \$20 / nom, the less noms automatically therefore translating to less prize purse. With costs being disproportionately high to income, this also would automatically determine the prevention of any opportunity to offer reduced-price noms.

Insurance Meeting with Marsh

We had a productive meeting with Marsh Insurance via GoTo Meeting late in June where recent issues were discussed and better systems put in place in order to ensure that our future relationship is more functional and collaborative. This will include monthly meetings where we can be kept abreast of any potential revisions to policies and member entitlements moving forward. We thank Marsh for accepting our requirements in this regard.

In other news, we are currently attempting to re-boot activities in the Function Centre after a 4 month shut down. Current NSW Covid-19 Social Distancing restrictions are set at 1 person per 4m², which, in a venue of this size, equates with 230 attendees. Being one of the largest function venues in Wagga, we have already had

a few bookings in the last couple of weeks which is a positive thing! We are also re-assessing the automation of ACTA shoot program and handicapping systems and will hopefully have something more concrete to report in a future issue ... watch this space! Finally, our thanks goes to Aileen (our Media, Marketing and Facilities Coordinator), who has, as a Covid-19 project, worked hard on giving our Website a huge facelift! Great Job Aileen. This will hopefully be live by the end of the month so please go to the website then and take a look.

In closing, please be reminded that ALL local State and Territory Covid-19 restrictions are available on your State's Covid-19 Websites. For your information, these are found at:

ACT:

<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/what-you-can-do>

NSW:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>

NT:

https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/roadmap-new-normal/business#/events_and_gatherings

QLD:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/business-activity-undertaking-direction>

SA:

<https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/business-and-work/business-restrictions-and-closures>

TAS:

<https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/families-community/current-restrictions>

VIC:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updated-restrictions-1159pm-wednesday-8-july-covid-19>

WA:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

We wish our members in Melbourne and Victoria a speedy return to normalcy whenever this can safely be achieved. Thanks, again, for your continuing patience and kind assistance with this ongoing situation as we attempt to look forward to an eventual, more normal return to activity in our sport.



ACTA NEWS

Over the past 12 months, the Constitution Sub-Committee has convened on a number of occasions to work through the process of drafting a new constitution, which we aim to table at the 2021 ACTA Annual General Meeting.

The Constitution Sub-Committee consists of:

1. Malcolm Dyson (Chair)
2. Paul Gilbert (ACTA CEO);
3. Daniel Allam;
4. Lynne Curtis;
5. Colin Kneebone; and
6. Alan Styles

We have recommenced this process with some new faces, a clean slate and a renewed focus. Our aim is to table a constitution that you all are supportive of, one that we are confident will pass.

How do we do that?

We must aim to deliver a constitution that makes things easier . . . for everyone. We want to simplify the process (as best we can) and develop a constitution that allows all states, zones and clubs to maximise their profit. A document that will encourage our clubs to sign up as many new members as they can because if clubs are making money, we all benefit.

Together, we have identified two key areas that we must get right. If we are unable to gain your support in relation to *Governance and Membership Categories*, there is no doubt that this new Constitution will fail. So before we go to the expense of drafting the whole document, we have decided to put forward our proposals, directly to you in the CSTN over the coming months to allow you to provide some feedback to us. This is your opportunity to let us know if we have got it right, have got it completely wrong or if you have some input that we should consider prior to finalising these two key parts of the documentation.

Next month we are going to put forward our proposal on how the governance structure should change. The board composition, election procedure and voting requirement has been completely rewritten and we need your guidance on how you would prefer to vote for board members. We would also appreciate your feedback and after this part of the Constitution is published, you will be given a month to write to the sub-committee with your comments, thoughts on the voting process and to provide any other feedback. After your submissions have been received, we will convene to discuss further. If we feel that it has been well received, we will move forward and if not, we will revise our position and update you further.

When we are all satisfied that the Governance proposal is acceptable, we are also going to work through the same process in relation to the Membership Categories. This area of the constitution also requires a complete overhaul and we will propose several new memberships which your clubs can offer that aim to increase your membership base and maximise profitability.

Another area of the constitution that requires review, is our *Social Media Policy* and the *ACTA Disciplinary Procedure*. Almost all of you, do the right thing but we need to implement a Code of Conduct to better deal with those members who do not. The Code of Conduct will cover the key areas of bullying, discrimination and harassment. It will also set out several disciplinary procedures available to the ACTA. It will promote the necessary requirements of due process and natural justice and will also be made available to you well before the new constitution is tabled.

If we can gain your support in relation to our proposals for future Governance and the revised Membership Categories, we will then engage a law firm to draft the new constitution. Again, the draft will be made available on the ACTA website and there will be a final period for further submissions.

Our current constitution was adopted in 2004. We need to work together to update this document and better our sport. We want to do this with you, with your support and we encourage you to discuss any aspect of this new constitution with your Sub-Committee members. Make sure you follow the process and take the time to make your submissions.

Let's work together to achieve an outcome that benefits all of us.

Kind regards,
ACTA Constitution Sub-Committee



CANCELLATION OF ALL ACTA NATIONAL EVENTS FOR 2020

As many of you would already have heard by now, on 7 July, the Executive Committee voted to cancel all ACTA National Events for 2020. This decision was not made lightly and it was felt that the membership deserves the right to be advised of the justification of our decision. We fully appreciate that some of you will be fully supportive of this decision and others may be, understandably, disappointed, however, (as was advised in earlier communications), a final verdict needed to occur by mid-July in order to meet deadlines to timeframes in which administrative tasks must be performed in order to adequately deliver the events IF we had been able to proceed. This was especially the case for the Sporting Clays Nationals that were scheduled for late August, but it was also vital for Firearms Registry Licences to be re-applied for and obtained for both Trap and Skeet Nationals.

First and foremost, the decision was made with the health and safety of our participants in mind. The constantly changing situation with Covid-19, especially with the recent resurgence of this virus in Victoria, has forced more border closures in the last week, and it is obvious that we cannot predict the containment of this disease or the revisions to any State or Territory Health Department restrictions that may result from the unknown likelihood of changes in the number and spread of infections. The requirement to protect the health of members is even more paramount for us given that we have a large contingent of members who are more senior citizens, this demographic being identified as most susceptible to this disease.

The second factor in this decision was the fact that unless members from all States and Territories have the freedom to attend the competitions without border closures, the competition could not possibly be called or conducted as National Titles. Imagine National Titles with, for instance, Victorian and Western Australian shooters unable to attend! This could and would not be seen in any way as satisfactory or acceptable.

The final factor in the Executive Committee's decision not to proceed was due to the unfavourable timeline available to reschedule the events. Even on the proposed dates, there were conflicts with other ACTA State events as well as other Association events, requiring participants to have to choose between events. Additionally, there was a recognition that Covid-19 has impacted many people, both financially and, for others, eradicating recreation leave entitlements, thus impacting on their forced inability to participate. Some members of the farming community also suggested that spring time is harvest time, thus impacting their availability. The Executive Committee also felt that the member's financial contributions to the sport might be better diverted back to their local clubs; the ACTA choosing not to compete with our clubs for attendees at end-of-year/Pre-Christmas Shoots so as to help them to improve/recover their financial situations.

We wish to thank you for your kind understanding and acceptance of this decision, and we look forward to a far more normal situation in 2021 where we can hopefully be back to shooting as usual!

Early electronic releases on DTL layouts and the refusal rule

During the early 80's we first shot over an electronic release on a DTL layout at Murgon during a Western Zone Carnival whilst Gordon Watson was the Zone President.

They were brought down from Bundaberg by well-known Queensland shooter and gun dealer Rob Rehbien. He provided them for the club to use over the weekend and they were branded Phono-Flyte (or Flite). They worked pretty well and were a great step forward, but there were two obvious problems. Firstly, the refusal rule did not exist, and so referees were still able to call no target at their whim, often due to a perceived "Slow Pull". Secondly, they required a fair bit of operator input whilst in use, with the operator having to manually advance the set to each individual shooters microphone as required. So, the referee had to really concentrate. This is something that has been totally overcome by current voice release systems.

This incident is in relation to there being no refusal rule in place at the time.

The double barrel event is mid-stream and Gordon Watson and I are leaning on the fence at the back of a layout watching Gary Redmond, one of Queensland's all-time greats shoot the event.

The layout is being run using the early voice release system provided by Rob Rehbien and targets are being thrown on your call consistently.

The very fast Gary Redmond is up. Pull! – Whack, Whack and the target is missed. Gary quickly turns glaring at the young referee who then calls

"No Bird" Pull!!, again and unusually for Gary, Whack, Whack and the target is missed again. Gary turns glaring at the referee a second time who quickly calls "No Bird" again.

Zone President Gordon Watson, a sticker for fairness and not frightened of anybody has now seen quite enough and saying "It's a double barrel event and I'm bloody sure he's not getting 6 shots at it", goes out to the layout, explains the machine is throwing the targets on call and there will be no pressuring the referee to call "No Bird" and the target is lost.

This day was the first time I heard discussion of a rule where if you shoot at it, it's yours.

Gary in later years told me that he deeply regretted the way he and others intimidated younger referees to get an advantage. But at that time it was all part of the game. Now with the current voice release equipment being used you get the target reliably on your call and the acceptance or otherwise is in your hands, greatly relieving the pressure on referees – a great rule.



Gary with a Pre-Nats shared winner 1999

Below: Two of the very early voice release systems to be used in Australia. The TC 2 and the TC 8, both designed and built by Bob Kovac, a radio and television technician from Mildura



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SIFA



Extensive Redevelopment Mildura Clay Target Club



Above: All projects commenced with the area being cleared

Right: Wads, lead and old clays needed to be removed to prepare the surface



Funny how some random thoughts and ideas can take a life of their own. This is how our project started.

The Mildura Clay Target Club is located on the fringes of the City of Mildura. As with most other clubs, residential infringement created issues at the club. Apart from complaints about



The whole shot area was graded/levelled with a slope fall of 1.5m from around the trap houses to where the curtains were being installed some 80m away

the noise, we have a council road which backs onto our border to which we shoot towards. In fact, the fallout zone covers this road. That is why when layouts 3 and 4 are used, we have to close the road off by securing 2 gates at either

ends of our property. This is a condition under which we are able to shoot.

For some time we had looked and thought about how we could take this concern out of the equation. The concern had always been that should some pellets fall on some passerby's, either riding their bikes or driving their cars, the complaints to the council or to the local newspaper could create a PR nightmare for the club. This could force the club to move or even close down.

One of the other areas of concern, particularly in light of the issues faced by the EPA and Wangaratta Gun Club, was lead contamination. The property we reside on is leased from the Department of Environment Land & Water. Whilst we did employ the services of a company



Irrigation system installed for the planting of grass



From the shooting pad to the curtains, the grass will provide a continuous background of green right up to and including the curtains

contracted to reclaim our lead, and whilst this was being done at our grounds, Craig Mitchell a director of the company approached us with an idea to install a ShotStop curtain on our range and install a new ISSF layout among other

to reclaim lead, only 30 to 40% was collected as the rest of the lead fell into native vegetation areas. So this did expose the club to potential issues.

It was due to these factors that some 3 to 4 years ago a number of ideas was being tossed around by the committee. Probably the most popular was to bring in fill and create a mound of dirt which would collect the lead shot and reduce the noise associated with shooting. However the amount of dirt to provide for a mound of some 15 to 18 m in height and the area that would be required, together with requiring to use some of the native vegetation areas, made this option difficult to proceed with.

It was also at this time that the Commonwealth Games were coming up and a company was contracted to build a facility in Brisbane that would provide world-class/international shooting facility, which included a ShotStop curtain. This company was the same one that we had

facility upgrade ideas. Craig explained in detail how a system like the ShotStop curtain would not only solve our Environmental concerns with lead shot but it would also create an income for the club into the future making the Mildura Clay Target Club both environmentally and financially sustainable for many years to come. With one thing leading to another we had some discussions on the possibility of putting a project together to install a ShotStop curtain in Mildura.

The size of the project and the cost would require a substantial investment in infrastructure at the club. At \$1.85m, it was obvious that we would be requiring funding outside of the club.

As with most large projects, it is very difficult to attract any funding without adequate detail and proposed plans. Believing that this was the only way forward for the club to continue into the future, we decided to go with Craig's ideas for the grounds and put together a plan. Detailed

Continued next page



Preparation for new shooting pads on layout 2



The new shooting pads will incorporate DTL, O/T and U/T

plans, specifications and a number of inputs from local businesses in providing these plans, all came together over the next 6 to 8 months. A planning permit for the works was applied for which also included a number of other assessments that need to be completed prior to the planning permit being issued. This included aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental assessments. I can say that the amount of work and pure persistence by Craig Mitchell, managing director of Green Range, saw all of these being successfully completed and a planning permit was issued.

The next step, was the funding.

As with most opportunities that come and go, they say that timing is everything. Due to a number of political happenstances at the time, ready to go projects that met specific criteria, were being seen very favourably. It was due to this that we were able to secure funding from the Federal Government for \$1.3m. I might add that there was a fair bit of lobbying by members of the club that preceded the funding being awarded to the club.

Whilst the funding was short of our ideal project target, it was enough to install the curtain and upgrade some of the facilities.

The installation of the ShotStop curtain would allow the club to reclaim 100% of the lead shot. Apart from the environmental positive, the club would gain an extra source of revenue through the selling of the lead. Also, as part of EPA concerns with not just lead but PSA'a, the club made a decision that we would also put a procedure in place which would pick-up the wads twice a year. We have also switched to a 100% biodegradable clay target. With the combination of these, we could boast that we would be one of the most environmentally friendly gun clubs in Australia.

Also part of the project was to upgrade all 4 DTL traps to the new multi-combo Matteralli traps and the installation of a new state of the art hydraulically raised and lowered DTL/Balltrap and the installation of a new ISSF Olympic Trap layout that can also be used for Universal

Continued page 12



Preparation prior to the laying of reinforcement and concrete



Concrete curing before painting



Pouring and levelling of concrete



Painting and shaping up of the pads



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New Olympic trench being dug

Trench. Complete with 15 new traps. All 4 layouts other than the Olympic trench system has also been upgraded to a Canterbury Wireless system.

The installation of a new Olympic trench was to provide a facility, comparable to conditions that shooters would face shooting on the international scene. In fact we were looking to provide training facilities for these shooters as well as those who might be competing at the Commonwealth or Olympic Games. We saw this as a niche that would benefit our club and our members. Being in rural Australia, easily accessible from major cities and with great weather, would

*Continued page 16
Photographs continued page 14*



Preparation before pouring of concrete floor



The walls are reinforced with rods and concrete



Above: Concrete floor being poured

Below: Preparation for the building of the supporting walls



Above: Completed trench prior to the installation of the ceiling

Below: Installation of ceiling



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Left: View from the entrance into the Olympic trench
 Above: Final ceiling piece being placed into position
 Right: Ceiling installation completed
 Below: Olympic trench following final fittings and painting



Delivery of curtain post. The 2 pieces go together to provide one post

In total there were 17 posts and a number of support braces



RE RANGER performance eyewear has you covered. For over two decades Ranger has been producing precision eyewear for Clay shooters around the globe. Former Royal Air Force navigator Jan Waszkiewicz and machinist Stanley Zaleski both immigrated to America with a few bucks and a dream: to build the world's best sunglasses

In 1973, they opened the doors to their factory in a small town called Randolph, just outside of Boston, MA. With a background in engineering and some serious skills, they set out to build an eyewear company with their bare hands. They built the machines that craft the sunglasses, and built a product for the world's toughest critics: the US Department of Defence



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be an attraction for shooters to come to Mildura.

As part of this project and to ensure that the background matched, a new irrigation system was installed so that grass from the trap houses to the shot curtain could be established and

maintained. Keeping in line with EPA's guidelines to maintaining and managing vegetation on the grounds to minimise dust. With the shot curtain also being green this would provide a continuous field of vision that would provide the same background, regardless of which discipline shot



Preparation of foundation pads for the shot curtain



Installation of the first post with the support



34 holes were dug, 6m deep and reinforced



Fixing of support posts to the base



Pouring of concrete to fix the supporting pads



Completion of the back section of the shot curtain supports

or at what point shot at the target. As you can see from the photos the project has progressed quite well. The only issue we have faced is that due to Covid-19, the manufacture of the shot curtain panels themselves have been delayed. The company manufacturing these panels were directed to manufacturing safety equipment instead. The estimated time of arrival for the curtains is around September this year, but I



Formwork in concreting to finish off track 2



Concrete flooring for trap 2



Manufacture of trap to housing showing hydraulics enabling trap to be raised or lowered

suspect given what is happening in America this will be delayed.

This is only a slight delay and should come in when our weather becomes warmer, which will also facilitate better grass growing conditions.

In closing this article, I would like to add that I cannot take full credit for this project. The task has been huge and 3 groups of people in particular, need to be singled out and acknowledged. Firstly and foremost my vice president, Darren Argiro. He has been instrumental and the driving force in ensuring this project got through all the various stages and to where it is now. I also believe that the club owes a huge debt of gratitude to Craig Mitchell who has worked tirelessly at every stage of the projects development, in ensuring that we had a very successful outcome. He has been our go-to person and has made this happen. And lastly but not least, a huge thank you to a number of local businesses within our community who have stepped up to assist and help in whatever way they could, either through very sharp pricing, donations and support. Without this combined team effort, this project would not have succeeded to the level it has.

If you are in the Mallee and in need of some local businesses, be sure to support the following that have supported us during this project. BigFoot Civil, DWM Engineering, Pro Masonry Works, Mildura Plant Hire, Josh Allford Concreting, Coates Hire, Riordans Painting Services, Mildura Cranes & Access, Reece Plumbing, Bailey Electrical, KW Contracting, Sportzprint, Boral Concrete, Gregg & Sons Steel, Wrigford Fabrications, Intrend Design & Drafting, Inland Consulting, Green Range & ShotStop Aus.

Apologies if we have missed any.

*Les Kadziela,
President, Mildura Clay Target Club*



Trap 2 complete



COACHING NEWS

An exciting week for ACTA coaching with the completion of the Russell and Lauryn Mark coaching video series commissioned by the National ACTA Coaching Committee.

Over three full-on intensive days with the filming of around 800 scenes at the National Shooting Ground Wagga six videos have been completed.

Scenes using a Trap, Skeet and Sporting layout together with The Range Function Centre, the events office and the pattern board were all used to produce a full and thorough representation of the content required to complete the videos.

An unbelievable amount of preparation was done by Lauryn and Russell prior to the three days of filming with every topic fully scripted and detailed filming sequence and time required listed on their master plan.

As well as all the time required to film the scenes for the videos a huge amount of additional time was needed for editing to produce the finished product.

Everything was done at a furious pace with strict instructions to keep clear and allow Russell and Lauryn to complete their tight schedule.

Nothing was left to chance with Russell, even ordering excellent weather to complete the filming without interference.





The only outside assistance requested was a full squad of six DTL shooters complete with a scorer and referee to complete some scenes for the videos.

The mix of competitors to fill the squad included a junior boy and girl, a lady and a variety of male shooters showing the diversity within our sport.

The plan is to release the videos from around the middle of July with one released each week over a six-week period and available to coaches and members on the ACTA YouTube channel.

The list of videos are as follows

- 1 A basic range introduction/welcome to the ACTA
- 2 Determining your dominant eye
- 3 The basic shotgun stance
- 4 Mounting the shotgun correctly
- 5 Shotgun terminology explained
- 6 Hold points for DTL

We look forward to the roll-out of the video series.

The National ACTA Coaching Committee and the State Coaching Directors Committee would welcome comment and feedback on the initiative to engage Russell and Lauryn to pro-

duce the video series and whether we add to the library at some stage in the future. A list of the State Coaching Directors and ACTA Executive Members can be found on the ACTA home page.

All National and State Coaching Committee members would like to sincerely thank Russell and Lauryn Mark for the professional manner with which they undertook the task of completing the video series together with the amount of planning and preparation shown to complete quality videos that our coaches and members can use to enhance their performance over the years.

*David Coleman
Chairman, National Coaching Directors Committee
NSWCTA State Coaching Director*



PART OF MONARTO CLAY TARGET CLUB'S HISTORY – GRAHAM MICHELL

Contributed by: Ruth Michell

Requests have come from several authorities in administration for me to write on a given topic while this COVID-19 virus has put a hold on our sport; to incorporate one of Monarto's most widely-known sons, his rise within a sport that he only took on as a 40 year old, attaining heights not as a competitor but in administration, and the places it took him in his role as an administrator.

The Monarto Clay Target Club has been privileged to have had some outstanding workers over the past 39 years since it took over from its 'mother club' (the old Mannum Gun Club). With the proposed plans for a multi-disciplined shooting ground being planned on the government-owned land at Monarto, the old Mannum Gun Club looked forward to becoming part of it, and on March 18th 1980 Clubroom plans were submitted to a Monarto Shooting Complex meeting held at Hahndorf. Les Stone and Ivan Hein, recent members of the Mannum Gun Club, presented the submission to the meeting, and the birth of our Club had just begun. Mannum Gun Club committee and members then worked tirelessly over the next couple of years establishing the new grounds, complete with tree plantings, and on November 31st 1982 the new Club grounds were officially opened by Rhonda Minge, Mayor of Murray Bridge. Other dignitaries to speak on the day included David Wotton, Liberal MP and Senator McLaren.

Within a short period of time the club was re-named the Monarto Clay Target Club, members feeling that the club now deserved to be named after their new location at Monarto.

Club members continued to upgrade the facilities at the clay target range and by the end of 1985 could boast at having 4 DTL trap layouts (with 3 of them being fitted with automatic hopper fed traps), and one Skeet layout.

Into this hard-working group of clay target

shooters, for he had now become one of them, had come an interloper (for want of a better word), though he did attend the opening of the new grounds in 1982, and was so taken with the sport that he joined the Club on the day; it was Graham Michell.

Graham, a transport contractor, had been involved in a car accident roughly two years prior and was still suffering from a diagnosed mild case of depression. A friend (already a clay target shooter), invited him to the 'grand opening' of the new grounds and it turned out to be the tonic that brought him back to life.

There was no turning back for him and within two years he had quickly climbed the ladder jumping from C grade to B, then A and finally AA. He became a Club committee member and attained the role of President in 1985, a role not readily given as he had been told by certain close-knit, staid, Club members, that he needed to 'learn the ropes' before he could embark on such a position being so new to the sport (a comment that I now look back upon with some hilarity).

Graham was a man of vision! By February 1987



Yes, he could shoot clays! Past President with present President

he had lobbied hard for the two-day State DTL Carnival to be held at the Monarto Clay Target Club range, which had grown to having five DTL traps to cope with the expected numbers, and it was the first time that this event was held outside the Adelaide metropolitan area. Saturday saw 108 shooters taking to the tracks and the number grew to 123 on the Sunday. It turned out to be the largest attended clay target shoot in the State that year.

The Club was fortunate to hold a second State DTL Carnival a couple of years later when the competition began on the Friday with a night shoot, then continued on with 128 shooting on the Saturday, and 132 competing in the events on the Sunday.

Over the next couple of years his good judgement and practical abilities became evident and he went from being Club Delegate to Central Zone Delegate and eventually became State President, a position he was elected to in 1990. In that same year he was nominated as the State Delegate onto the Australian Clay Target Association's National Executive and once on this body his administrative qualities started to show.

Words taken from Graham's Obituary, that I wrote, and was read by SACTA Patron, Kelvyn Prescott, at his funeral in 2002: His mother once said, "You are a dreamer and that's all you'll ever be". How wrong she was.

Yes, he did dream – as he drove in his truck, he had time to visualise how he could help the sport that he loved. He achieved many things over the past 8 years in his role as Chairman of



Where Graham did most of his ACTA planning

the Shooting Committee, focusing his attentions on the Olympic disciplines. He managed to get a Junior Development Program up and running where the Juniors were encouraged to take up the Olympic discipline shooting and he also encouraged the girls/women to do the same. Training camps, National titles and eliminations then allowed those shooters to attend World Cups and the World Championships along with the Australian Open Team made up of men. He can also be credited with being the person responsible (after much pushing of all the Commonwealth countries) for the inclusion of women's events at the Commonwealth Games – the first time ever would have been at the Games being held in Manchester 2002. In his role as Australian Team Manager, Graham had the opportunity to accompany the shooters to both

Continued next page



1998 National Executive of ACTA



1995 Australian Clay Target ISU team at Oceania Championships in New Zealand



1996 ACTA Junior Team in Brunei

World Cups and World Championships all around the world and just some of the countries he visited were, Peru, Germany, Finland, Egypt, Italy, Cyprus, New Zealand, England, Brunei, Korea, India, Qatar, Malaysia, and Hungary.

Not only did he manage many of those overseas competitions, he also saw it as his role to inform the clay target shooters of Australia just what had occurred on those trips with both photographs

and detailed accounts, often containing amusing anecdotes, that were then printed in the CTSN. Feedback received from those reports showed that all too often the everyday DTL and Skeet competitors in the sport had thought the 'elite' shooters as being 'untouchable', Graham had a knack of bringing them back to earth, to a place where all shooters could aspire to be, and that representing their country overseas



1997 Handing over a Certificate of Appreciation to member of the Royal Family of Brunei



Natalia Rahman and Lauryn Ogilvie win Gold in Women's Skeet Pairs at Commonwealth Games in Bristol, England

was not beyond anyone's grasp. He entered all photographs taken on the trips into albums and these are held by the National Office in Wagga Wagga.

Graham lived and breathed for the ACTA, never shirking his responsibilities at Nationals, be they DTL, Skeet or ISSF (Olympic Disciplines), pitching in and doing his best, North, South, East or West.

Graham was the main force in getting Luca Scribani Rossi out to Australia from Italy, with help from Dino Oliviero who sponsored him, Dino was the SA State Secretary at the time. Luca, an Olympic Bronze Medalist in Skeet, took on the role of Coach with the Institute of Sport in Canberra, coaching those shooters on the Olympic Athlete Programme.

Graham was awarded an Australian Sports Medal, specially struck in the Year 2000, for his contribution to clay target shooting.

At the time of his death he was busily planning for the up-coming 2002 Commonwealth Games being held in England. For all his lobbying efforts in getting the Women's Olympic Disciplines into the Commonwealth Games he sadly did not get to see how they performed at Bisley.

Australia won Gold in the Women's Trap Pairs, (Diane Reeves & Nessa Jenkins), Bronze in Women's Double Trap Pairs (Susie Balogh & Susie Trindall), Gold in Women's Skeet Pairs (Lauryn Ogilvie & Natalia Rahman) and Gold and Silver in the Women's Individual Skeet (Lauryn Ogilvie – Gold, Natalia Rahman – Silver). He would have been so proud of their efforts. Australia's Men's team members had long been making a name for

themselves but the women/girls were now being given equal opportunity.

He was fortunate in being part of what I might boldly call, 'The Golden Era' of Australia's clay target shooting in Trap, Double Trap and Skeet, at Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Cups, World Championships and Oceania Games. What an astounding group of talented shooters he had under his wing, and with their team of helpers in the background (Coaches: Greg Chan, Luca Scribani Rossi, Claudia Kulla. Doctor: Sue Homolka. Masseur: Darrien Roach), they couldn't help but win medals.

In a letter I received from Bill Murray, ex High Performance Manager with the Australian Sports Commission and then living in Germany, Bill described Graham, upon hearing of his untimely death, as "Being a tireless worker for the sport and that he was unique amongst his contemporaries". From his point of view, "without Graham's driving force and support at crucial moments, the Australian Clay Target team successes in Sydney and Atlanta, and the many successes they enjoyed in between, would never have happened". High praise from a man with whom Graham had worked closely and looked up to.

In a moving ceremony on the 24th March 2003, I was presented, from the then ACTA National President, John Byrnes, the Australian Clay Target Association's Presidential Medal (posthumous), in recognition of Graham's contribution to the development of clay target shooting.

Having only been awarded 11 times through the

Continued next page



Receiving ACTA Presidential Medal (posthumously) from ACTA President John Byrnes

previous 20 years, and at no time during the last three of those years, I was honoured to accept the Presidential Medal on Graham's behalf. Dual medals were given that year; Glenn Woodhatch being the other recipient received his at the DTL Nationals. I had been invited to attend the DTL Nationals in Wagga Wagga as well, where this medal would have been presented to me, but I chose instead to receive it in front of my family and friends, at our home Club of Monarto, where Graham had been a member, committee person and past President.

He worked tirelessly for the ACTA and he crammed a lot into his 19 years involved with the sport of clay target shooting, 12 of them being on the ACTA's National Executive body.

Positions he had held over his 12-year period as Delegate to the ACTA from SACTA:

Tournament Director:

- State Titles in SA since 1990
- Oceania Championships, Adelaide 1991
- DTL Nationals, Adelaide 1993
- Olympic Discipline Nationals, Adelaide 1996
- Inaugural Australia Cup, Adelaide 1997
- Oceania Championships, Adelaide 1997
- Australia Cup, Canberra 1998
- Australia Cup, Sydney 1999
- Australia Cup, Sydney 2000
- 2 x Junior Development Camps, 2000
- Australia Cup, Sydney 2001

Team Manager:

- Clay Target Team, Oceania Championships, New Zealand 1995
- Clay Target Training Camp (45 people), Adelaide 1995
- Clay Target Training Camp (45 people), Brisbane 1996



Team Manager



1996 Official duties at OD Nationals in Adelaide. Craig Tilly won two titles

- Inaugural Australia Cup (45 people), Adelaide 1997
- Clay Target Team (7 people), World Cup, India 1997
- Junior Training Camp, European Junior Championships, Clay target, pistol, rifle, running target (26 people), Suhl, Germany 1997
- Clay Target Team (43 people), World Cup, Brisbane 1997
- Clay Target Team, Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships, Langkawi, Malaysia 1997
- Clay Target Junior Camp, Brunei 1997
- Clay Target Team, World Cup, Brunei 1998
- Clay Target Team, World Cup, Cyprus 1998
- Clay Target Team, Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships, New Zealand 1999
- Clay Target Team, Oceania Championships, Sydney 1999

Continued on page 26

THE SUMMIT

suhm-it / noun / the highest point of attainment or aspiration



“ Built as well as a shotgun that demands twice the price. It will last a lifetime. ”

– Phil Bourjaily,
Field & Stream Magazine



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1997 Graham and Lisa Smith check out a helicopter in the car park Suhl, Germany

Jnr. ISSF Clay Target Team, Olympic Discipline Nationals, NZ 1999
 Clay Target Team, World Cup, Lonato, Italy 1999
 Clay Target Team (including Juniors), World Championships, Finland 1999
 Junior ISSF Clay Target Team, Olympic Discipline Nationals, New Zealand 2000
 Clay Target Team, World Cup Final, Cyprus 2000
 Clay Target Team (including Juniors, 33 people), World Championships, Cairo, Egypt 2001
 Clay Target Team, World Cup Seoul, Korea, 2001
 Clay Target Team, Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championship, Bisley, England 2001
Referee:
 World Shotgun Championships, Perth 1991



1999 International Clay Target Junior Development Team at New Zealand Nationals



2000 Graham attending World Shooting Federation Congress in Budapest, Hungary with Nic Sullivan of ASA
 Below: 1998 Australian World Cup Team in Cairo, Egypt



July 1998 Vol. 51 No. 7
 Official Journal of the
 AUSTRALIAN CLAY
 TARGET ASSOCIATION INC.
 Print, Post & Internet: LP3149JRI 00364



2001 ISSF World Championships Cairo, Egypt



2001 A long story . . .
at the Pyramids, Cairo, Egypt



Graham Michell Perpetual Trophy



The Michell girls present Lauryn Ogilvie with the
Inaugural Perpetual Graham Michell Memorial trophy 2004

Juror:

- Oceania Championships, Adelaide 1991
- Olympic Discipline Nationals, Perth 1995
- European Junior Championships, Suhl, Germany 1997
- Oceania Championships, Adelaide 1997
- Jury of Appeal, Cyprus 1998

- Delegate, South Australian Clay Target Association to the Australian Clay Target Association 1990 till 2002
- Management Committee, Australian Clay Target Association, 1992 till 2002
- Delegate, Australian Clay Target Association to

- World Cup, Peru 1999
- Australian ISSF Nationals, 1996, 1998, 1999

Qualifications:

- Australian Level 1 Coach
- Australian ISSF Referee
- Australian Trap and Skeet Referee

- Australian Referee Examiner

- ISSF 'A' Grade Judge

Involvement with Australian Clay Target Association:

- President, South Australian Clay Target Association, 1990 till 2002



Graham's pall-bearers at his funeral. A fitting tribute from John Maxwell, Russell Mark, Greg Chan, David Cunningham, Michael Diamond and Adam Vella. The Australian Team members, both men/boys and women/girls, were like extended family after the years of involvement with them all

the Australian Shooting Association, 1993 till 2002

Vice-President, Australian Shooting Association, 2 years

Vice-President, South Australian Shooting Association, 1995 till 2002

Delegate (2nd), Australian Shooting Association to the Australian Commonwealth Games Association, 2 years

Delegate, Australian Shooting Association to the Commonwealth Shooting Federation, 1995 till 2002

Committee Member, Finance Committee, Australian Shooting Association, 1995 till 2002

Chairman, (International) Shooting Committee, Australian Clay Target Association, 1994 till 2002

Chairman, Championships Committee, Australian Clay Target Association, 12 months

Chairman, Rules Committee, Australian Clay Target Association, 2 years

Honorary Vice President, Oceania Region, Commonwealth Shooting Federation, 1998 till 2002

Member, Finance Committee, A.C.T.A., 2001 till 2002

Some of the many positions he was holding at the time of his death included:

State President

Management Committee – Australian Clay Target Association

Delegate to the Australian Shooting Association

Vice President of the Australian Shooting Association

Delegate to the Commonwealth Shooting Federation

Chairman, Shooting Committee – Australian Clay Target Association

Australian Level 1 Coach

Australian ISSF Referee

Australian Trap and Skeet Referee

Australian Referee Examiner

ISSF 'A' Grade Judge

*All facts above taken from Graham's 2002 resume.

The Monarto Clay Target Club continues to grow and expand, now under the guidance of President John Bretag. He too has the vision for bigger and better things for our Club, and with an excellent committee behind him, we may well achieve what we aim for.



What's happening in the VCTA

If you all heard a collective 'sigh of relief' come over the border it was when the Premier of Victoria said that all 'non-contact' sports could resume as of the 22nd June. And while there have been a few COVID setbacks – it hasn't really impacted the newly resumed competition and the enthusiasm is almost 'palpable'.

I recently went to the Frankston-Australia Clay Target Club to catch up with the State President. It was a gloomy, cloudy, overcast, rainy, cold and horrible sort of day but it was very encouraging to see nine full squads on the trap layouts and a couple more on the skeet. The club had gone to great lengths to ensure hygiene and social distancing protocols had been followed and everyone seemed happy and enthusiastic that competition had begun again.

Without a doubt, there will be plenty of challenges

thrust upon the sport; members and clubs alike, brought about by this pandemic, but I am sure that we will all pull together and work our way through these challenges with the advancement of the sport as everyone's priority.

At the time of writing this, it is only a short amount of time until the next State Executive meeting (lucky I like taking minutes!). There will be lots of challenges for the Executive to work through as they try and plan and organise for the resumption of competition activities. The second half of the year's calendar includes the State Carnival – the highlight of the competition year and it is hoped that we can continue to foster the competition numbers that have been in attendance in recent years.

It is also that time of year when clubs start putting their 2021 shoot calendars together and I'll take this opportunity to remind clubs of the importance of submitting these to the VCTA office for inclusion in the Shooting Program booklet.

It would be super remiss of me not to remind you about the VCTA-Echuca CTC joint raffle. Tickets are still on sale with about half of the tickets sold. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the continuing improvement, maintenance and upkeep of the State Grounds and we know that you would all want to support this worthwhile project. Tickets are \$50 and there are only 350 tickets for sale in total. As I have stated previously, we are most grateful for the ongoing support of Beretta Australia, not only for their sponsorship of this raffle, but also their ongoing support of clay target shooting in all facets of the sport.

Hopefully, by the time the next CTSN comes around, we might be back to some normality! We can only hope!

The Victorian Government has, since this story was written, placed Metropolitan Melbourne back in Level 3 Lockdown. This has had a significant impact on participation at Melbourne clubs. For more detailed information regarding this, please go to the VCTA – Victorian Clay Target Association Facebook page.

Jeff Bell, VCTA State Secretary



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&
ECHUCA CLAY TARGET CLUB
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Psychological Skills for Shooting

by Michael Kruger-Davis

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5 mobile chokes
Flush or extended

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Detachable and adjustable triggers
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Like many of my readers I troll through shooting magazines whenever I can. I subscribe to *Clay Shooting*, which is a UK magazine that looks at all aspects of clay target shooting. All the disciplines, guns, ammunition, clothing, ear and eye protection, gun maintenance and anything else that relates to shooting clays.

One feature of these magazines has been the gun reviews. Over the years I have read hundreds of reviews usually by Vic Harker or Mike Yardley. I particularly enjoy reading Michael Yardley's reviews because we have a lot in common. We are both psychologists, both coach and help shooters with mental skills and both use Kemen shotguns.

Just before the COVID

lockdown, I received a call for Michael Hunt from Hunts Shooting Supplies. He has just imported a Turkish under and over and asked if I would test drive the gun and prepare a review. Now I feel that I am in the same league as Mike Yardley. We had to wait until some of the social and physical distancing measures were eased, but in June we were able to get together and try the guns out. I asked my shooting mate, Michael Elmes to join us so that we had another opinion.

The Gun

The guns we tested were *Victory RT25 Super Deluxe Model* and the non-engraved *RT25 Standard Model*.

First Impression

Straight out of the hard case the gun looked like it had the goods.

The quality of the Turkish Walnut was excellent, obviously a high-grade piece of timber that was well featured. The factory fitted adjustable stock with a length of pull at 360mm. Given my own gun is 361 mm, it didn't feel out of place when I put it to my shoulder, especially with the amount of cast off, that had me looking straight down the barrel. The wood to metal fit was perfectly flush. The grip had a good feel and the palm swell placed your hand in the right position every time. It felt very comfortable with a radius that would suit most



head targets. We didn't pattern the guns, we just put them up to our shoulders and called pull.

From the outset we were breaking targets and breaking them hard. The guns felt natural and took no time or effort to feel at home with the guns. We shot gun up and gun down, and given these were both trap guns, they broke target effortlessly and continuously. The guns came to the

shooters. The fore end was comfortable in the hand: the checkering and the scalloped wood making the gun easy to control and handle. Left-handed stocks are available, at no extra charge. It was easy to swing and felt well balanced. The screw heads in the fore end were flat and the engraved model was delicately engraved which would make it stand out on any gun rack. The Standard model had plain screw heads but this would provide a blank canvas for anyone to individualise their gun by engraving their initials or some personal motif.

The barrels were 76cms (30 inch) but can be ordered in 32 inch. The barrels were well struck feeling straight and true. The bores measured at 18.6, which would mean recoil shouldn't be a big issue even with heavier shells. The manufacturer claims the barrels are chrome-lined monoblock designed and proofed at Gardone VT, Brescia. The barrels on the two guns we tried were flat. "The guns can be ordered with either 10mm or 20mm raised ribs. The barrels are locked to the action using the British style of double locking system, involving two lugs and a locking bolt. Strength and reliability is guaranteed. The barrels are fitted with factory interchangeable chokes. The round body style frame is forged from a single block of chrome-molybdenum steel. The RT25 features detachable triggers, with flat V springs. The gun even comes with a second set of triggers, which means the trigger set can be replaced in minutes if a spring breaks, very handy in big competitions. The RT25 Super Deluxe Model had finely hand engraved action.

Shooting impressions

Having the ground to ourselves we decided to put a range of clays in the air to see what the gun could do, (or what we could do with the gun).

We shot a range of targets from DTL type going away targets, skeet targets, quartering targets, crossers, battues, minis, midis, incomers and over-

shoulder well, precisely balanced they were easy to point and it felt like I was using my own gun. The trigger pulls were quick, crisp and responsive. In fact I had been using the gun for some time when Michael Elmes asked what I thought about the trigger pulls. Up until then, I hadn't thought about it, they just felt natural. Sometimes with off the shelf guns, and entry-level guns, pulling the triggers can be a real effort after using a premium gun such as a Perazzi, Kemen or high end Beretta, but this was effortless. As I said, it felt like my own gun. After we shot, while having coffee, we asked each other about the mounting, handling and recoil. Both guns were easy to shoot handle and swing. I wasn't affected by recoil and felt no discomfort on either my shoulder or cheek. I use a trap gun for all disciplines, so I wasn't worried about using a trap gun for sporting clays, for me it felt natural, but for those dedicated sporting shooters out there, it does come in a sporting version.

The RT25 is not an entry-level gun. It is a premium, quality made firearm. If I was in the market for a new gun, I would consider the Victory RT25. If I had a young son or daughter, I would think carefully about spending a little more money by buying one of these so they had a premium gun from the outset. Too many juniors are turned off shooting or never reach their potential because they use poor quality, harder to use guns in their early years of shooting. While not in the market at the moment, I did point out to Michael Hunt that I would have a grand daughter who would be shooting in several years time so the Victory RT 25 might be a serious consideration.

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. 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



Queensland News

Brisbane Gun Club Welcomes Ladies & Juniors

The management team at Brisbane Gun Club has recognised the preference for many female shooters starting out in our sport to have the opportunity to shoot together. Like many sports it is often important for those at similar skill levels to be able to compare notes about the numerous factors that can help or hinder your progress as you learn the ropes of clay target shooting.

The first Saturday morning of every month at Brisbane Gun Club will see a layout dedicated for the use of lady and junior shooters open from 9am to 11am. Shooters can practise together, take advantage of the resident coaches, try new equipment or techniques, or just come along and enjoy the morning. The session will allow ladies and juniors to improve in a relaxed environment if they wish to



Coach Laurie discussing technique

prepare for competition or to hone their skills. As a family friendly sport this is also a great opportunity for parents to shoot with kids, or for siblings and mates to have a shot together.



A squad of eager ladies and juniors at the coaching day



Allana awaits her turn



Taking aim



Rae and William Saheli

For the past few years Queensland Government sports funding has been available for activities or events aimed specifically at Women & Girls under their own category, as females are statistically not as well represented as males in sports participation. As we are aware, clay target shooting does not discriminate against the ladies of our sport with no physical reason why they cannot compete on a level playing field with the boys in every discipline. The calibre of the ladies selected in our current Olympic teams, Laetisha Scanlan and Penny Smith for trap, and Laura Coles for skeet, proves how far dedication can take you in this sport.

Many ladies and juniors also receive an abundance

of information and advice from well-meaning members keen to offer assistance when they first try their hand at clay target shooting. In the past we have found that there are times when these categories of shooters have been lost to our sport, perhaps because they have received counter-productive advice, have not improved or progressed through the grades, or possibly

have not achieved their personal goals. Dedicated sessions for ladies and juniors are an important opportunity to allow them to participate at their own pace. Experienced coaches and coaches of their own gender will also be available by arrangement at the monthly Saturday morning sessions.

Brisbane Gun Club would like to thank those who turned out at the club last weekend for the first July practise session, though at rather short notice, and most particularly coach Laurie Sceresini for his time and assistance to the squad members. The club will be hosting a Ladies and Juniors promotional day on Sunday 16th August for new and experienced shooters, so if you know someone who has always wanted to give clay target shooting a go, save the date as it will be an enjoyable experience. Please keep an eye on the club Facebook page for more information.

Shooter Profile

Emily Snelling was introduced to clay target shooting by her grandfather John Tait, and now three generations enjoy the sport together. Emily has worked hard and is hitting her stride on the layouts. We thought

Continued next page



Emily Snelling



Emily breaks her target



Emily taking aim

shooting in April 2019 when I was 13 years old and shot in my first official competition in January 2020 at 14 years of age. I love our sport because it doesn't discriminate and you get to shoot against other boys, girls, men and women.

shooters would enjoy learning more about her.

Name: Emily Snelling

Home club: Gold Coast Clay Target Club

Discipline: DTL/Trap

Grade: C5

Favourite gun: Franchi Phoenix 28" barrel

Favourite event: Like them all

Favourite grounds: Gold Coast/Richmond River, Lismore

Career highlights: Shooting a personal best of 22, my first shoot back after the Covid-19 break. Winning first place trophy on my first junior coaching day.

Goals: To shoot a 25/25, hopefully before my dad.

Other sports: Hockey, basketball

Other interests: Sewing, drawing

Tips or advice: Listen to your coach and practice as often as possible.

Other comments: I like to spend time with my family. I enjoy shooting in competition. I started

Emily

By Bill McCarthy

With a smile she mounted her shotgun
 It was nearly as big as she
 She is determined to shoot all her targets
 And that's just how it turns out to be
 Now she's only as big as a bunny
 But with a heart as big as a bus
 She's the pride of her coach and her father
 And Grandpa and grandma and us
 She then begins beating Adam
 Although he was trying his best
 But with bravery and determination
 She shows she is up to the test
 I've forgotten just what the score was
 I've forgotten now who really won
 But I'm sure it would have been Emily
 Cause you can't beat her resolve with a gun



Insight on Sight

by Luke Higgins

Refractive Error and Sports Shooting

For this article I wanted to discuss a common ocular condition that affects a large proportion of the population—refractive error. As sports shooters it is worth while having an understanding of this condition as it does have implications on your performance on the range.

As with previous articles, a brief summary of the eye overall is beneficial, to provide anatomical landmarks to work from, and then we can focus on the specifics of the condition.

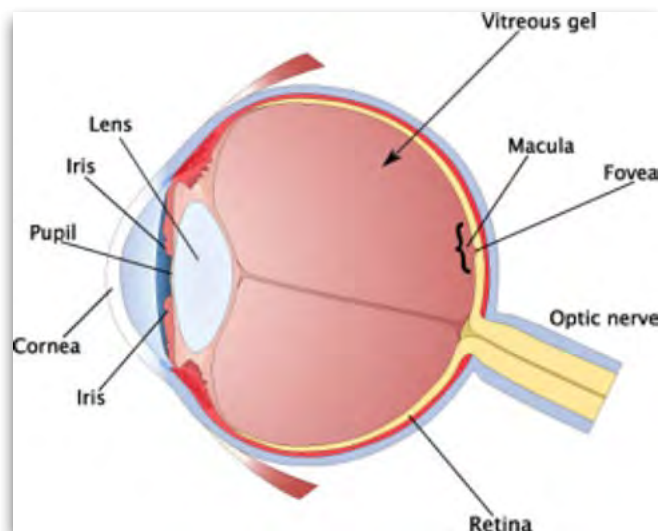


Figure 1: Cross section of the human eye

Figure 1 shows a cross section of the human eye. If we work from left to right across the figure.

At the front of the eye is the cornea—the clear transparent dome that covers the front of our eye. Behind the cornea is the iris—the coloured part of the eye that we see when we look at one another. In the centre of the iris we have the pupil—the black circle/aperture that allows light to pass through our iris.

Just behind the iris is the structure known as the lens. The lens is responsible for our near vision, and it is changes in the lens that cause our reading ability to drop off as we go throughout life. This change in the lens is what is medically defined as the condition ‘presbyopia’. The clinical implications of presbyopia are the reduction in the ability of the

lens to focus on near objects. This was discussed in a previous article, and if you wish to know more about this topic I would suggest reviewing the May edition of the Clay Target Shooting News.

Behind the lens is a jelly like substance called the Vitreous. The role of the Vitreous is to provide structure to the eye.

Lining the inside of the eye, depicted in yellow in Figure 1, is a structure known as the Retina. The retina is made up of millions of cells called photoreceptors that are responsible for detecting light. The photoreceptors detect light and then through biochemical processes, send electrical signals via nerve fibres to our brain to allow us to see.

In the centre of the retina at the back of our eye is a very sensitive part of our retina called our macula. The macula is responsible for our central vision, and allows us to see details such as reading print, the bead on your shotgun, or the clay target. The rest of the retina is responsible for our peripheral vision and is very useful in target acquisition and allowing our eyes to work together.

Now back to the topic of interest for this article—refractive error. An individual who has refractive error will see a blurry image [Figure 2]. Refractive

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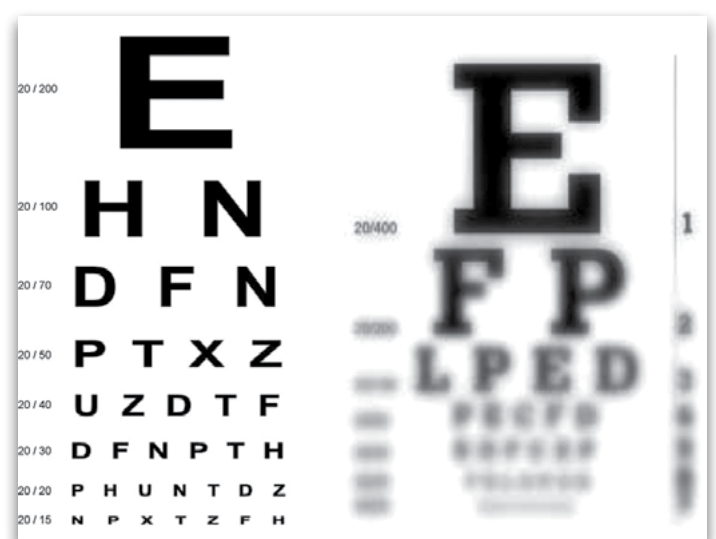


Figure 2: Two visual acuity charts—L: standard chart, R: blurry due to refractive error (requires spectacle correction)

error is caused by incorrect focus of light in relation to our retina. Refractive error is treated with the use of spectacles, contact lenses and laser refractive surgery. If you have visited your optometrist and they report you will benefit from spectacles for distance tasks such as watching TV or driving—you have refractive error.

For someone to have perfect vision, light reflected from a distant object, say a clay target, has to pass through the cornea, pupil, lens, vitreous, and be perfectly focused on the macula at the back of the eye. This is shown in Figure 3.

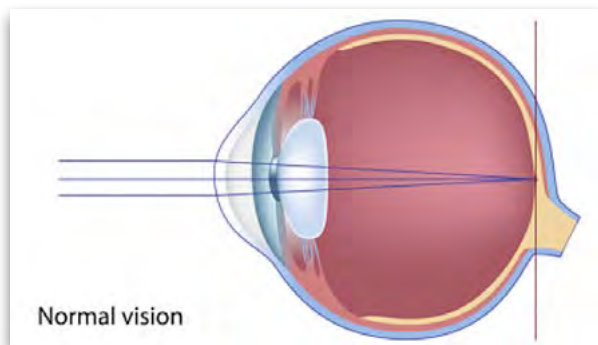


Figure 3: A diagram showing light perfectly focused on the retina

The focusing components of our eye are the cornea and lens. It is the combination of these two components of our eye, in conjunction with the length of the eye that allows light to be perfectly focused on the retina. The cornea and lens focus light by having a curved surface (much the same as spectacles). The more curved the cornea (or lens), the more optically powerful they become, allowing light to be focused in a shorter focal distance. Having a more curved or less curved cornea or lens, compared to normal, results in light not being focused accurately on the retina. When light is not focused on the retina, this is called refractive error.

Generally refractive error is divided into three main types; myopia (figure 4), hyperopia (figure 5), and astigmatism (figure 6).

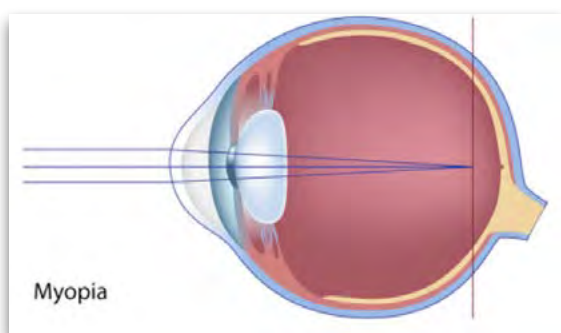


Figure 4: Myopia—light is focused in front of the retina leading to blurry distance vision

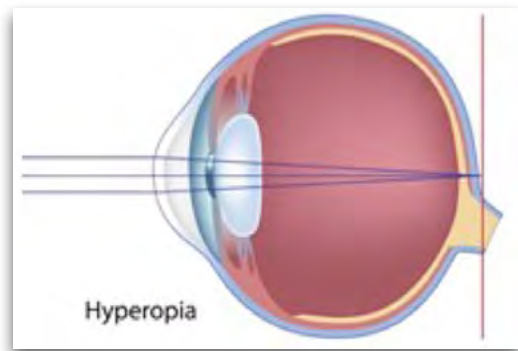


Figure 5: Hyperopia—light is focused behind the retina resulting blurry near vision, and later in life also blurry distance vision

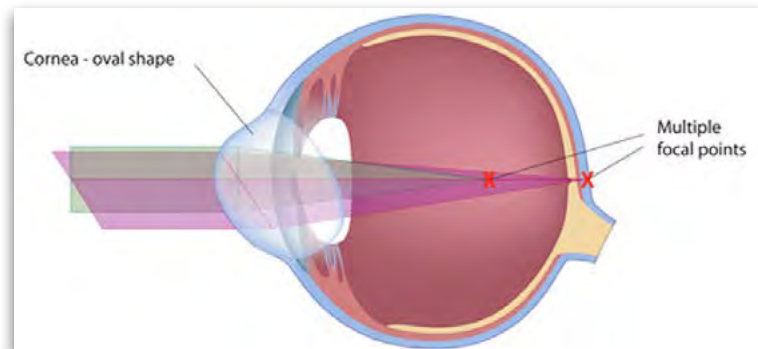


Figure 6: Astigmatism—light is focused to different points in different meridians. This leads to blurry distance and near vision

All three types of refractive error will impact your shooting. The level of impact will depend on the degree of refractive error. All three types of refractive error are easily treated with spectacles, contact lenses, or laser refractive surgery [figure 7].

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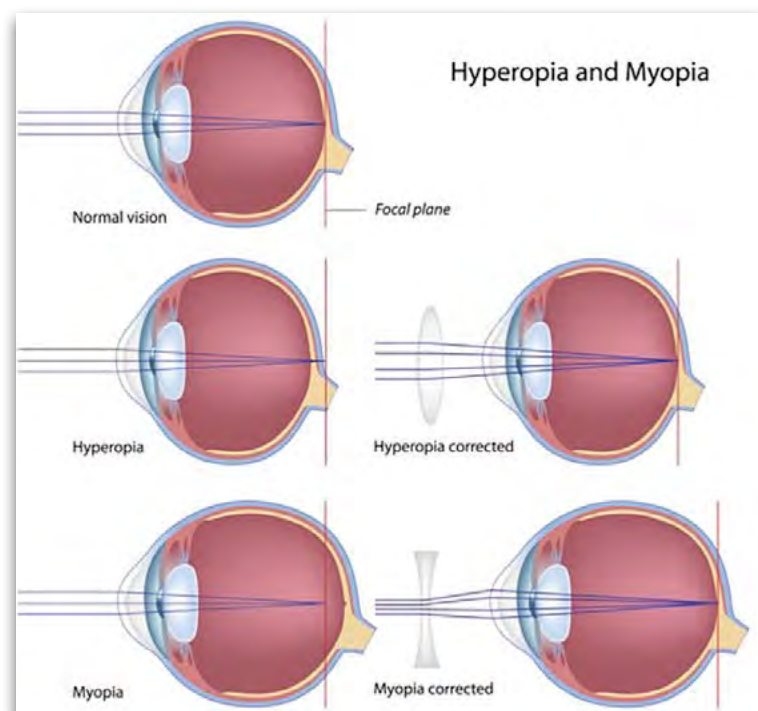


Figure 7: Correction of refractive error with corrective lenses (spectacles)



WARATAH NEWS

The NSW Clay Target Association Executive

Committee would like to report a few things this month's issue of the Waratah News.

We are all happy to be able to return to our sport and with a lot of clubs working towards re-introducing competition as restrictions ease, we remind clubs and members to be compliant and keep-up-to date with the latest restrictions and protocols. It's very important that we follow all directions that are being presented by the Government.

We are encouraging clubs to shoot no more than 5 per lane to maintain social distancing measures.

Our secretary has managed to secure a \$1000 grant for each NSW Registered Club from the Office of Sport NSW. Obviously, conditions will

Insight on Sight

Continued from page 36

Spectacles are the simplest and safest option, and with the large range of shooting spectacle options available, a solution can be found for pretty much anyone's shooting and vision needs. Contact lenses also offer a simple and safe option, and offer a wide field of view without any lens or frame obstructions.

Many shooters do not realise that they are not seeing the targets as clear as they potentially could, and this can lead to missed targets and inconsistent performance. Your vision is one of your greatest assets on the range, and uncorrected refractive error is a handicap. Refractive error is easy to treat by a skilled optometrist, and I would encourage the reader to take the time to visit their local optometrist for an eye examination to ensure you have your vision as clear as possible to see those targets on the range.

Luke Higgins.
Clay Target Shooter
Clinical Optometrist – Luke Higgins Optometry
University Lecturer – Flinders University
www.lukehigginsoptometry.com.au

apply to all applications, but we are confident that all our clubs will be able to take advantage of this generous assistance. **Please note: applications close on the 31st July 2020 for the grant.** For more information please contact the State Office for details, Email: nswcta1@bigpond.com Phone: (02) 6931 9980.

Our Executives are currently in negotiations with Cecil Park Clay Target Club regarding the 2020 NSW State Skeet Carnival. At this stage the proposed weekend for the carnival will be the 2nd weekend in October. As more information comes to hand, we will be sure to pass the details on to you.

The NSW State Trap Carnival will see a different program introduced this year;

Friday morning: we will commence the Champion of Champions and once this event is completed, we will continue with the Zone Teams Event.

Saturday morning: we will commence with the Double Rise then follow it up with the Double Barrel.

Sunday morning: we will continue with the Double Barrel shoot-off early, then step into the Handicap and once this is completed follow it up with the Single Barrel.

Monday morning: will be business as usual with the Points Score followed by the State Teams shoot.

We will also be shooting 5 a lane to assist with social distancing restrictions, this means that you will only need to think about 5 shooters in your squads.

There will be no gala dinner this year due to uncertainty, so we will need to slot the Opening Ceremony and the Hall of Fame inductions in and this is still being discussed.

We would like to congratulate all our members and clubs for all their effort they have put in to make the return with the restrictions and all the extra effort required to comply with the regulations, you're all doing a wonderful job!

\$5000 donation to Cloncurry Gun Club

The Cloncurry Gun Club is up and cooking with the help of the continued support of the Glencore Ernest Henry Mine, who donated \$5000 to the club to purchase a new Heatley Roaster.

This will assist the club when functions and shoots are held. The roaster has been gratefully received by the club and the volunteers in the kitchen. This will make catering for our visiting shooters and spectators so much easier in the future. The



Ernest Henry Mine manager Aaron Harrison and Cloncurry Gun Club President Jim Molloy with the Heatley Roaster supplied by Ernest Henry Mine Community Program Grant

Cloncurry Gun Club extends many thanks to Glencore Ernest Henry Mine for their ongoing support of the Club.



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NATIONAL HANDICAPPER

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Competition Results



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Lower North 14/06/2020

Cold & windy (14): 75T Ch/Ch: OA & AA: C Bentley 121/125, L Higgins 115/125; A: T Carlesso 109/125, M Pontifex 105/125; B: Barry Duncan 101/125, B Greenshields 99/125; C: M McEwan 91/125; 50T DB CS: OA & AA: C Bentley 127/127, L Higgins 126/127; A: G Carter 49/50, T Carlesso 48/50; B: Barry Duncan 50/55; C: M McEwan 37/50; OA HG: C Bentley 171/175.

Monarto 21/06/2020

Cold and overcast (31): 25T CONT: AA: B Sims 53/53, C

Bentley 52/53; A: R Dower 24/25, P Marmorale 23/26; B: B Greenshields 24/25, B Quinzi 23/25; C: E Gunby 25/28, D Nicholas 24/25; 40T CZ MIX CS: OA: R Dower 58/60; AA: L Higgins 80/84, C Bentley 78/84; A: R Dower 58/60, M Pontifex 54/60; B: R Umback 50/60, A Evgeniou 60/72; C: D Nicholas 46/60, A Souter 39/60; OA HG: R Dower 82/85.

Port Augusta 21/06/2020

Windy & Overcast 18 Degrees (16): 100T PS: AA: A Bury 295/300, S Baynes 290/300; A: I Watkins 277/300, T Evans

272/300; C: D Beare 248/300, M Meaney 245/300; OA: A Bury 295/300.

South Australian 14/06/2020

Overcast and cold (26): SKT CS: OA & A: S Pipicella 58/59, W Clarke 57/59; B: R Borzillo 53/55, A Bullard 44/50; C: R Leake 41/50, J Downing 36/50; VET: L Schubert 43/50; Ch/Ch Gr: AA: R Rossi 50/50, G Coppola 48/50; A: S Drawing 42/50, A Pace 60/75; B: B Quinzi 45/50, R Leake 43/50; C: J Maffia 33/50; VET: R Borzillo 65/75; PS Gr: AA: G Coppola 74/75, M Collumb 73/75; A: A Pace 71/75, P Marmorale 68/75; B: R Leake 62/75, B Quinzi 60/75; C: J Maffia 69/75; VET: R Borzillo 72/75; DB CS: OA & AA: M Collumb 33/33, J Cameron 30/31; A: P Marmorale 24/25, W Clarke 22/25; B: B Quinzi 32/33, R Leake 23/25; C: J Maffia 18/25; VET: R Leake 23/25; OA HG: R Borzillo 185/200.

South Australian 28/06/2020

Perfect (43): SKT HC: 1. R Dalese 82/87, 2. S Pipicella 83/86, 3. A

Kulikovsky 69/80; PS Gr: AA: M Collumb 74/75, W Daou 73/75; A: S Drawing 69/75, A Carlesso 68/75, B: B Quinzi 69/75, L Francis 65/78, C: A Kulikovsky 67/75, R Spinella 65/75; VET: P Marmorale 67/75; SB: AA: G Coppola 25/25, W Daou 37/38; A: P Marmorale 23/25, S Drawing 25/28; B: B Quinzi 20/25, L Francis 21/27; C: J Maffia 24/25, T Wilton 25/29; VET: R Borzillo 24/25; DB CS: OA & AA: M Collumb 53/53, W Daou 52/53; A: A Carlesso 49/50, A Pace 47/50; B: L Francis 46/50, B Quinzi 49/54; C: E Gunby 49/55, J Maffia 48/55; VET: D Lymn 48/50; OA HG: A Carlesso 185/200.

Southern Yorke Peninsula 28/06/2020

Perfect (11): 25T SKT HC: 1ST L Forza 48/48, 2ND T Johnson 47/48, 3RD L Schubert 29/30; 25T SKT: AA: L Schubert 24/25; B: S Bowley 18/25; C: T Johnson 23/25, A Forza 20/25; 25T SKT: AA: L Schubert 33/34; B: S Bowley 16/25; C: T Johnson 22/25, A Forza 21/25; OA HG: L Schubert 73/75.



South Australian Gun Club Inc 64th ANNIVERSARY SHOOT 22nd and 23rd August 2020

Saturday 9:00 am

- | | \$ |
|---|-------|
| 1. 50 tgt SAGC Skeet C/S
Sash OA, 1st & 2nd A,B,C & L/J/V | 24/21 |
| 2. 25 tgt Annivers. D/B Tower C/S
Sash OA, 1st & 2nd A,B,C & L/J/V | 15/12 |
| 3. 25 tgt Anniversary Handicap
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th | 15/12 |
| 4. 50 tgt SAGC D/Barrel C/S
Sash OA, 1st & 2nd AA,A,B,C & L/J/V | 24/21 |

Sunday 9:00 am

- | | \$ |
|--|-------|
| 5. 50 tgt Anniversary Skeet C/S
Sash OA, 1st & 2nd A,B,C & L/J/V | 24/21 |
| 6. 25 tgt Anniversary P/Score C/S
Sash OA, 1st & 2nd AA,A,B,C & L/J/V | 15/12 |
| 7. 25 tgt Anniversary S/Barrel C/S
Sash OA, 1st & 2nd AA,A,B,C & L/J/V | 15/12 |
| 8. 50 tgt Anniversary D/Barrel C/S
Sash OA, 1st & 2nd AA, A,B,C & L/J/V | 24/21 |

9. trophy presentation for both days

VALUE NOMS

(All Events Orange Dome Targets)

DTL JACKPOT EACH DAY

L/J/V reduced nominations on all events

L/J/V & Grade 2nd trophies require minimum 4 entries

**\$3,000+
Trophy Value**

OA High Gun on all events, 2 day DTL & 2 day Veteran High Gun, events 2,3,4,6,7,8

THE CLUB SINCERELY THANKS ALL SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Phil Barrett, Trevor Gurr, Vaughan Mathews, John & Sue Byrnes, Kelvyn Prescott, John Hamer, R & J James Pty Ltd, Ziggy Drawing, Horace Zerafa, Scott Master Plumbers, Roger Pace, Pace Lawyers, Robert Cook, Dave & Jan Renney

PRESIDENT: Dave Renney, (08) 8258 4624

SECRETARY: John Hamer, (08) 8353 2125



VICTORIA

Korumburra 27/06/2020

Cool & overcast (40): Old Angles 50 DB: AA: J Keane 75/75, B McCall 74/75; A: S Howlett 50/50, M Peck 90/91; B: J Russell 48/50, D Grujica 47/50; C: N Northover 43/50, G Boyd 42/50; Old Angles 50T

CONT DB: AA: G Boyd 51/51, J Keane 50/51; A: O Comelli 58/60, T Kupsch 57/60; B: A Kent 46/50, D Grujica 43/50; C: L Obery 39/52, G Boyd 38/52; Combined OA: J Keane 100/100.

25T Ball Trap: OPEN: A Vaccaro AA 25 Majura Park 68/75 68/75; AA: D Power AA 25 Majura Park 64/75 64/75, M Webster AA 21 Majura Park 60/75 60/75; A: D Turner A 58/75 58/75, A Cumberland A 20 53/75 53/75, K Cox Vet A 20 Majura Park 53/75 53/75; B: J Bennett B 59/75 59/75, G

Taylor B 15 Canberra 52/75 52/75; C: R Vaccaro Jnr C 43/75 43/75, S Bain Vet C 15 29/75 29/75; JNR: R Fleming AA 22 Goulburn 58/75 58/75, A Jarvis Lad A 19 Majura Park 39/75 39/75; VET: K Cox Vet A20 Majura Park 53/75 53/75, D Reed AA 25 Boorowa 49/75 49/75.



NEW SOUTH WALES

Majura Park 24/06/2020

Cold: 50T Night Owl DB Champion-ship Club Total Score OTG Score S/O Score: OPEN: D Power AA 25 Majura Park 49/50 49/50; AA: J Smith AA 25 Boorowa 48/50 48/50; A: D Tutalo A 19 Majura Park

57/59 48/50 9/9; B: B Frost VB 18 The Forest 37/50 37/50; C: C Bowyer C 15 Majura Park 43/50 43/50.

Majura Park 01/07/2020

Cool and calm (28): Club Medley Championship Round 7, 25T DTL DB, 25T 5 Stand,



NORTHERN TERRITORY

Darwin 28/06/2020

Hot windy (32): 100T PS: AA: R Hunter 297/300, G Harrington; A: 1st H Kennedy, 2nd J Deigan;

B/C: 1st S Harris, 2nd C Chin Quan; 100T ISSF: 1st D Michael, 2nd R Fish.



QUEENSLAND

See SEZ Trap Carnival ad next page

North East Zone/V.C.T.A. AUGUST 2020 PROGRAM

SUNDAY 2ND

Numurkah Shepparton

11:00am

50tgt Shorty Decker Mem.
D/B C/ship
25tgt Cont. D/B

SUNDAY 9TH

Euroa Time T.B.C

For program details, please refer to the Euroa Clay Target Club and VCTA North East Zone facebook pages for further details

Yarrawonga 11:00am

30tgt S/B
50tgt D/B C/ship

SUNDAY 16TH

Mansfield 10:30am

Mansfield vs. Woods Point Shield (event 3)
20tgt B/T C/D

50tgt D/B C/ship
20tgt H/Cap
High Gun events 1-3

FRIDAY 21ST

Cosgrove 7:00pm

NEZ Night Continental Carnival

25tgt NEZ Night Cont.

D/B C/ship, 4 gr, 1&2

25tgt NEZ Night Cont.

S/B C/ship, 4 gr, 1&2

25tgt NEZ Night Cont.

P/S C/ship, 4 gr, 1&2

O/A, L, J, V High Gun Sashes

SUNDAY 23RD

Colbinabbin Time T.B.C

For program details, please refer to the Colbinabbin Clay Target Club and VCTA North East Zone facebook pages for further details

FRIDAY 28TH

Mathoura 7:00pm

15tgt D/B C/D
20tgt S/B C/D
25tgt Night S/B C/ship,
OA, 2 gr

SATURDAY 29TH

St. James 11:00am

20pr NEZ D/D C/ship
30tgt President's H/Cap

SUNDAY 30TH

Colbinabbin

* Side x Side shoot cancelled *

Cosgrove 11:00am

25tgt Cont. D/B Gr C/D
25tgt NEZ Cont. S/B C/ship,
4 gr, 1&2
50tgt D/B C/ship, 4 gr, 1&2



South East Zone QCTA



TRAP CARNIVAL

Hosted by the

Gympie Clay Target Club

29th & 30th August 2020

Saturday 9.00am start

EVENT 1. 25 Tgt D/B Cash Divide \$15

1st & 2nd AA, A, B & C

EVENT 2. 25 Tgt SE Zone S/B \$25

Championship



Sash & Trophy O/A + 1st & 2nd each grade, L,J,V.

EVENT 3. 30 Tgt Medley \$25

10DB-10SB-10PS

Trophy O/A + 1st & 2nd each grade

EVENT 4. 25 Tgt SE Zone D/B \$25

Championship



Sash & Trophy O/A + 1st & 2nd each grade, L,JV.

Sunday 8.30am start

EVENT 5. 25 Tgt D/B Continental \$25

Trophy O/A + 1st & 2nd each grade

EVENT 6. 25 Tgt SE Zone Points \$25

Championship



Sash & Trophy O/A + 1st & 2nd each grade, L,J,V.

EVENT 7. 15 Pair SE Zone D/Rise \$25

Championship



Sash & Trophy O/A + 1st & 2nd each grade, L,J,V.

**HIGH GUNS - Overall, Grades,
Ladies, Juniors & Veterans**

Total Noms if shooting the whole program \$150

Ladies & Vets \$140, Juniors \$75

**South East Zone Teams selected on
events 2,4 & 6**

Camping available (powered sites \$10 per night)

Hot showers • Meals • Ammunition • Bar • Refreshments

Thank you to our generous sponsors.

Meadow's Shield Shot on Event 6 – 25 T Points Score

Covid 19 Distancing Rules Apply.

Practice on Friday 1 pm – 5 pm

President:
Kev Jarick
0404058533

Secretary:
Phil Keller
0408068280

**Meadow's Shield
Interclub Shoot
\$500 to Winning
Team**

ACTA STATE RULES SUPERVISORS

NATIONAL RULES SUPERVISOR

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Bendigo Academy of Sport Resumes Training



Do it this way – Gary

The students of the Clay Target Section of the Bendigo Academy of Sport resumed their training for 2020 on Sunday the 5th July. To say the day was cold for Bendigo would be a gross understatement.

The Clay Target Section of the Academy commenced in 2015 at the suggestion of then Latrobe University student Emma Cox. The Academy

approached Glenn Woodhatch with the idea and asked would he act as a consultant and assist in putting a suitable program together. The number of places available are limited and students are approached when they exhibit talent at their clubs or they have achieved at Zone School championships.

Since its inception we have been fortunate in



Troy and Morgan under the watchful eye of Gary



Dekoda Dean



Jake MacKenzie



Samantha Campbell

having top line coaches to mentor the students. Stephen Atkins, Jim Shepherd and Terry Boucher all readily volunteered their time and immediate results were evident. Glenn has been the sport consultant from the beginning and assisted with the coaching.

During the course the students receive lectures on Diet and Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Podiatry, Social Media, Public Speaking, Integrity in Sport and Injury Management. They also receive musculoskeletal screening and the clay target section visits an optician for eye tests.

From the beginning students have achieved suc-

cess at high levels. A number have gone on to win State, National and International titles. Among them, Laura Woolley, Sarah and Matisse Appleby, Jacob Motha, Ollie Boucher, Rieley Fitzgibbon, Cooper Reading and Kiara Dean.

Our students this year are Olivia and Cameron Ford, Dekoda Dean, Samantha Campbell, Morgan Carrol Keays, Connor O'Brien, Jake MacKenzie and Troy Anderson. All are presenting excellent results despite the impact of Corvid 19 restrictions.

On the resumption of training we were fortunate to have Victoria's State Coaching Coordinator Gary

Continued next page



Jake MacKenzie receiving pointers from Gary Hayden



Gary helping Samantha Campbell



Troy Anderson

Hayden in attendance and to have him conduct the days sessions. Gary has an enviable record in coaching and the Academy thanks him for giving of his time and imparting his expertise with our current class.



Connor O'Brien

The Academy is fortunate in that they have currently the VCTA, Outdoor Trading Company and the Bendigo Clay Target Club as sponsors.



Dekoda Dean

Our training sessions commence with a 25 target double barrel followed by 25 target single barrel and conclude with another 25 target double barrel. Throughout these sessions all students are observed and necessary advice/adjustment are made to improve their shooting skills. In other words – back to basics until you have mastered them.



Academy of Sport Bosses – Mark Perdon & Graham Gordon



First-class scorer – Peter Akkermans

Badge Collecting

GUN CLUB BADGES

Written by Murray Gruar

As I said in my first article, I started collecting badges when I started up shooting again after a long break due to work commitments. I started collecting badges from local clubs as I was interested in their history.

I have met many collectors over the years and they all collect for different reasons.

Most collect only from clubs they have visited or shot at, that's what I started doing until I found lots of badges from local clubs that don't exist anymore.

Some people just collect from their local area, some collect badges from their home state and others like me collect from all over Australia and the world. Whatever the reason I have found it is a fun pastime and I have met so many interesting people through collecting.

Some just collect our Nationals badges, some just collect cloth patches, others collect break badges from different clubs from all over the world, the Americans go crazy about shooting badges of all different types, I started collecting American club badges until I realised how many there are, now I just collect them from their late 1800's and very early 1900's as they are of a better quality and a lot more interesting (and expensive).



1905 Grand American attendance fob – back



1905 Grand American attendance fob – face

Ways to collect badges

Lots of people collect them for many years then move on to another hobby. If you are lucky enough to come across someone who has lost interest in the collection you might score a bargain lot of badges the easy way. Or you may also be lucky enough to find a



1914 Hercules Sterling trophy fob

collection from an estate where no-one in the family has any interest in them. They are usually a lot cheaper bought as a collection than buying them one at a time.

I have advertised on and off over many years through the shooter's news with varied success. When I am looking for

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Australia Club Patches. L-R: Azzurri WA, Melbourne Vic, Gold Coast Qld



ACTA Trap Nationals badges

Badge Collecting

Continued from page 45

a specific club badge I have even run an advert in the local paper from the area the club is or write or email someone from that area that might know where to come across one.

I even advertise on the back of my shooting jacket as well as having business cards made up. Lots of shooters see the advert on my jacket and tell me they have a certain badge at home but by the time they walk back to their car after shooting they have forgotten all about me, so if I give them a business card with my details they will find the card when packing their shooting gear which jogs their memory to send me the badge.

I always ask if they want payment for the badge and or postage to send the badge, that way they know I am passionate about what I do. I also ask for their email address so I can send a thank you message to them when the badge arrives and I send them a list of the badges I have and what I am after, so if they have a mate that might have something different they might be willing to part with it as well.

The shooters often tell me things about their club or clubs they have been to and things that have happened over their shooting lives. It's a great way to make friendships with people, sometimes you may not see them again for years but when you do, they usually remember you and ask how your collection is going.

I have been collecting Australian Gun club badges for many years now and I am lucky if I find more than a half a dozen new ones per year now, so as well as collecting Winchester and Du Pont memorabilia I have started collecting Victorian Rifle club badges. I have found it best to stick to specific themes as your collection becomes to broad and you can become overwhelmed with the amount of items out there, and also the cost factor can get out of hand. From what I have come across in the short time I have been collecting Victorian Rifle club badges it seems that there were nearly as many rifle clubs as gun clubs.

Another way of collecting is through online

auctions. I have bought most of my Winchester and Du Pont collection that way. I have also bought lots of Australian Gun club badges on-line from overseas sellers. I was chasing a 1985 Nationals badge from Perth to complete my second set and one came up on eBay from a chap in England who had attended the Nationals that year. You need to be very careful with auctions, set the highest value you are willing to pay and stick to it, otherwise you can get excited with the hype of the auction and pay too much. The advantage of on-line auctions is you don't have to do any travelling or running around, its all in front of you on the computer and you get to see such a variety of items. Also if you are patient you can watch other auctions and learn how other bidders work. I have bought lots of badges from the same sellers as I have built up a good relationship with them.



Victorian rifle club badges

I am going to put my collection of Australia Gun Club badges on permanent display at the ACTA memorabilia display in Wagga Wagga as soon as I get the display finished.

Anyone that might like to add any badges that I don't have would be most welcome.

Anyone wanting a list of the badges in the collection can email me for a list.

I am currently looking for badges from Robe – South Australia and Cadnite – Victoria

Murray Guuar
ACTA Shooter Number 17149
PO Box 331, Koroit, Victoria, Australia
E: murray-gruar@outlook.com
P: 0409 658 750

From Our Archives

NATIONAL COACHING DIRECTOR NOTES NEWTON THOMAS, 1980

This month we continue to publish articles written by Newton Thomas which were originally published in the CTSN in 1980 when he was the ACTA National Coaching Director.

This extract is from the June issue.



YOUR GUN

Too many shooters neglect the most important part of their equipment – THEIR GUN!

A gun, irrespective of what one pays for it, is only a machine. It should be serviced and maintained in a regular manner.

In my shooting career, which spanned many years, I had a total of two misfires – both in international matches and both due to ammunition fault. Every 18 months, and certainly no longer than two years, I had my guns taken down, the firing pins checked for both length and tension.

It will be found that, after years of work, both firing pins and hammer springs will shorten and consequently become inefficient. This is a gradual process and first makes itself apparent by an occasional misfire, which increase in number as time goes by, thus creating a real problem.

There is a great tendency to blame the cartridges when misfires occur. However, if you get misfires when you use several varieties of cartridges, you must look to your gun.

Once the firing pin starts to shorten or the hammer spring becomes critical to cartridges, which, although they may be correct as to manufacturing tolerances, are on the lower limit of sensitivity, it is then that the problem of misfires will start to rear its ugly head.

Trigger pulls also will alter with years of wear – some will wear light and others heavy, and some will vary, sometimes light sometimes heavy.

When my guns were checked the request to the gunsmith always was: “Check the firing pins for length, the hammer springs for length and tension, and the trigger or triggers for weight of pull”. (I always did – and still do – like a crisp 4.1b pull on the first barrel and 4.41b pull on the second). “Check the other working parts of the gun and lubricate the action.”

I have one gun in my possession that has fired over 750,000 shots. It has been fired by many hundreds of shooters throughout the world, and in that time has only had one minor problem – which did not stop it being used.

This gun was only given reasonable care and a lot of hard work, but always had regular service of the kind I have illustrated above. It was the gun that the two misfires occurred in, both proved to be ammunition fault.

This gun is still in perfect working order and is a good example of the point that I am trying to make.



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>
109049	Lucinda	Wright	Alice Springs CTC	109060	Drew	Millar	Eastern Gold-fields CTC	109108	Harley	Ash	Kerang CTC
109076	Doug	Waters	Alice Springs CTC	109109	Maxi-million	Colenso	Echuca CTC	109054	David	Tennant	Korumburra GC
109136	Kyle	Heidenrich	Atherton Tableland GC	109061	Graham	Wells	Esperance CTC	109037	Wessam	Elsaidy	Marconi CTC
109137	Peit	Baxter	Atherton Tableland GC	109066	Dale	Rees	Finley GC	109040	Zack	Kirkwood	Marconi CTC
109138	Scott	Harper	Atherton Tableland GC	109067	Michael	Mallia	Finley GC	109041	Ryan	McClellan	Marconi CTC
109139	Brad	Mensford	Atherton Tableland GC	79516	Austin	Giordano	Frankston Australian CTC	109042	Anthony	Miller	Marconi CTC
109140	Dennis	Chizzotti	Atherton Tableland GC	109084	Denny	Bertuletti	Frankston Australian CTC	109047	Stanley	Ferro	Marconi CTC
109123	Mark	Rawlings	Beaufort GC	109085	Harrison	Russell	Frankston Australian CTC	109048	Thomas	Ferro	Marconi CTC
109051	Michael	Easton	Bendigo CTC	109086	Alexander	Russell	Frankston Australian CTC	109130	Sean	Foster	Marconi CTC
64931	James	Scott	Berrima CTC	109087	Rebecca	Russell	Frankston Australian CTC	109132	Andrew	Robertson	Marconi CTC
109043	Trent	Telford	Berrima CTC	109114	Scott	Stone	Frankston Australian CTC	109133	Natalie	Husar	Marconi CTC
109068	Jack	Fuller	Berrima CTC	109118	Patrick	Malone	Frankston Australian CTC	109088	Danyelle	Hembling	Melbourne GC
109099	Timothy	Franklin	Berrima CTC	109119	Kieran	Walker	Frankston Australian CTC	109111	Deborah	Grinter	Melbourne GC
109129	Jesse	Gunning	Busselton CTC	109120	Max	Carmichael	Frankston Australian CTC	109112	Matthew	Borkowski	Melbourne GC
109052	David	Reeves	Caboolture CTC	109126	David	Carroll	Gold Coast CTC	109113	Benjamin	Hee	Melbourne GC
109053	Grant	Smith	Caboolture CTC	109127	Ian	Kalms	Gold Coast CTC	109121	Jack	Bartels	Melbourne GC
109083	Christoph	Kneubuhler	Caboolture CTC	109036	Wendy	Gunn-Duff	Hopetoun GC	109034	Darcy	Overall	Metropolitan CTC
109101	Thomas	Wockner	Caboolture CTC	109106	Zate	Batty	Illawarra CTC	109050	Pietro	Barilla	Metropolitan CTC
109124	Keith	Simpson	Caboolture CTC	109057	Nic	Jordan	International CTC	109075	Marijan	Cuitikjvic	Metropolitan CTC
109125	Rebecca	Klegg	Caboolture CTC	109058	Adam	Shaw	International CTC	109078	Jacob	Theodoridis	Metropolitan CTC
109131	Carter	Stephens	Callide Dawson CTC	109096	Graham	Rudloff	International CTC	109079	Antonio	Casauria	Metropolitan CTC
109069	Brendan	Harris	Canberra International CTC	109097	Michael	Day	International CTC	109080	Biagio	Nativo	Metropolitan CTC
109070	Phillip	Shaw	Canberra International CTC	109107	Hunter	Ash	Kerang CTC	109081	Behzad	Rahimi	Metropolitan CTC
109071	Tehlia	Vinton	Canberra International CTC					109082	Mario	Vangeli	Metropolitan CTC
109065	Abdullah	Mahmud	Cecil Park CTC					109102	Cooper	Treacy	Metropolitan CTC
109100	Aiden	Barracough	Cobar CTC					109103	Luke	Treacy	Metropolitan CTC
109104	Wayne	McAleenan	Cowra GC					109105	Nick	Toose	Nepean CTC
109056	Ruiha	Maskovich	Dysart GC					109122	David	Temple	Nepean CTC
77513	Seif	Wardani	Eastern Gold-fields CTC					109115	Chris	Simm	Numurkah Shepparton CTC
109059	Josh	Chapman	Eastern Gold-fields CTC					109074	John	Futia	Redcliffe City CTC
								109134	Jenelle	Benson	Richmond River GC

Continued next page

ACTA New Members

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M'ship	First Name	Surname	Club	M'ship	First Name	Surname	Club
109135	Matthew	Benson	Richmond River GC	109044	Sharon	Walker	Toogoolawah CTC
109063	Sandra	Brzoska	Sydney CTC	109045	Suzanne	Pointon	Toogoolawah CTC
109064	Martin	Brzoska	Sydney CTC	109116	Aidon	Wizzard	Toowoomba CTC
109046	Anthony	Browne	Tamworth CTC	109117	Mark	Watts	Toowoomba CTC
109055	Joel	Lillyman	Tamworth CTC	109038	Rohan	Mitchell	Top End GC
109077	Steven	Doepel	Tamworth CTC	109039	Justin	Murray	Top End GC
109128	Paul	Willows	Tasmanian GC	109062	Craig	McMahon	Warwick CTC
				109035	Jonathon	Pope	Werribee Victorian CTC
				109090	Brendon	Bayliss	West Australian GC
				109091	Sean	Robinson	West Australian GC
				109092	Ruyman	Padron Cabrera	West Australian GC
				109093	Jonathan	Marsh	West Australian GC
				109094	John	Roman	West Australian GC
				109095	Kieran	Benson Lidholm	West Australian GC
				109098	Gerod	Doney	West Australian GC
				109141	Michael	Adley	West Australian GC
				109089	Timothy	Kush	Wonthaggi GC
				109072	Connor	Dixon	Yarrowonga GC
				109073	Acacia	Dixon	Yarrowonga GC

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

CANCELLED	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

Break Badges

NAME	HOME CLUB	ACHIEVE	BREAK
Boyd,G	Korumburra	Nepean	Cont 50
Dutton,M	Goolma	Orange	Trap 100
Gee,S	Peel & Districts	Northam & Districts	Cont 50,75, 100
Hewitt,S	Korumburra	Frankston	Skt 20g 50
Karlsson,Z	Top End	Darwin	Trap 50
Quaranta,G	Western Australian	Northam & Districts	Cont 100

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.

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



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



To be handed to the Club Secretary with your Handicap Card

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

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.

Type of Membership: (Membership includes Insurance)		
<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 (Eligible to apply for Pension/65 years at 31/12/19)	\$84.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Concession/Loyalty (30 continuous years adult membership)	\$84.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership (Under the age of 18 at 31/12/19)	\$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 & those who are rejoining after 5 years except Juniors)	\$10.00	\$
Failure to provide all information will see your application declined and returned	Total	\$

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



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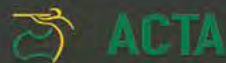
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