

On Target

December 2015

Special points of interest:

- 2015 AGM
- Range Update
- Inspection time
- Canada commonsense
- Email address please
- Shut the Gate

CHANGES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Canada is to pass Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act. Described as a Bill that will enhance safe and sensible firearms policies, the Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act is set to become law in Canada. **Energetic City** reports that the Bill will see safety training for potential first-time firearm owners (as in Australia), a streamlined licensing system and the removal of the requirement to carry a separate document when transporting firearms to activities such as target practice or a shooting range competition. Co-chair of the All-Party Outdoor caucus Bob Zimmer welcomed the passing of the Bill, saying it was "one step closer to bringing common sense to our firearms licensing regime". The Bill will now move to the Senate as part of the legislative process. (this should be implemented by the time you read this. ED)

Disclaimer: Please note that the items and views expressed are not necessarily those of PFA Inc.

Welcome to all PFA Members to "On Target"

Inspection Time

Just prior to Easter in April at about 6.15 in the evening I received a phone call from the local Licencing Police, Ooohps, whats up? I thought at first, but then when the conversation progressed it turned out to be a courtesy call to arrange for a time and date to visit me and carry out a safe inspection.

The first suggested time and date didn't suit me as I was to be up the coast and away from home for a few days at that time so we discussed some alternatives that suited both myself and the Police and agreed to a time approximately 1.5 weeks away, at 6.45pm on a Thursday evening.

Although I am fully compliant and take great care to store my firearms well within the requirements of the law, this appointment gave me plenty of time to be sure that everything was in fact OK, just to double check.

I also prepared somewhere clean and tidy for the Police to put their paperwork and also to place my guns while checking them, it doesn't hurt to be prepared.

I'd have my doubts about anyone who fails this inspection.

At about 6.40pm on the designated evening a nice shiny police car pulled up outside our home, two female police officers got out and along with their paperwork, walked up our front steps, I was waiting with the door open, so they didn't even get the chance ring the door bell. If any neighbours happened to notice their visit and ask (nosy buggers) they will be told that they were friends and just visiting while in the area, and that wouldn't be too far from the truth, they were certainly friendly and they were in the area.

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The inspection went well with the handguns being inspected first, not as many as some people, longarms next, a few more than my handguns, almost a collection, then a cursory once over of both the safes to ensure they complied, then finally a look at my firearms licence to make sure its current and valid, all OK. We all chatted for a while including the lady of the house, who I think was enjoying having some female company in the house, maybe their visit would have been shorter if she had been out, but it was nice to spend a little social time, however brief, with the police and it certainly wasn't an unpleasant experience, maybe it would have been different if there had been non-compliances. With all proceedings now successfully finalised, my better half saw the officers to the front door and wished them a pleasant evening while I remained back and returned all my guns to their respective safes and secured them, which is, I'm sure, what the police expected me to do. All in all, not stressful at all, in fact quite simple, straight forward and it took at most 20 minutes.

All over now for another five years.

We're getting better, well the majority of us are. We have recently made requests of all members to provide PFA with their **email and/or updated email addresses** and we have had a small but significant WIN, yes, much better. "The Registrar" has sent emails this year to members that have an address and the response has been great and much faster than snail mail. It is a faster way to get information to members and in turn back to the club/secretary/registrar and **saves club money** which is very important.
Tony Mathews, PFA Inc. Registrar

Message to all Members.

The hardworking Compliance Officers of DPI will be out and about over the holiday period, undertaking a range of



activities to target illegal hunting.

The Game Licensing Unit continues to work closely with the NSW Police Force and Forestry Corporation of NSW to address illegal hunting.

Don't forget, you can help Shut the Gate on Illegal Hunting by continuing to report illegal hunting when you see it.

Just call 1800 SHUT IT (1800 7488 48) or submit the illegal hunting report attached to your Written Permission.

Shoot Dates for PFA Inc. in 2016.

Last Sunday of each Month. (note May is changed)
**28th February, 27th March, 24th April, 22nd May
26th June, 31st July, 28th August, 25th September
30th October and 27th November.**

Check www.pfainc.org.au for any updates or changes.

Shooting is scheduled to start at 12,15pm with the last detail commencing at 3.30pm

NO SHOTS IN JANUARY AND DECEMBER

A Summary from the Editor on the PFA Inc. AGM

Date: 11th December 2015.

Venue: **The Belrose Bowling Club.**

A full complement of Committee (minus 2, 1 overseas and 1 working) were in attendance, with a comfortable quorum eventually achieved by members attending. The meeting initially got underway with a vote of confidence called for Tony and Tere to remain in their current positions with the club, a resounding unanimous vote returned them to the room, with one lady member presenting a beautiful bunch of flowers to Tere to hopefully brighten her day during the tiring times that Tony and Tere have been experiencing lately (*Women are so special and thoughtful, thanks to her, ED*)

Tony proceeded with the range development report and WOW, what a cracker it was, not enough room here for it all, but suffice to say it's in an advanced state and progressing well, at last, a huge thank you to Tony (& Tere) for his hard work, long hours and persistence in club matters, particularly the range.

Thanks Tony from us all.

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Cont. A motion from the floor was put forward, complementing and thanking Tony and Tere in their efforts for and on behalf of the club, it was seconded and a unanimous applause capped it off, well done.

It was discussed and agreed, unanimously that we would, at the next committee meeting (later this same day) seek to gain approval to appoint a bookkeeper for the club, the size of the club and the requirements are such that it can certainly be justified.

The Treasurer gave a brief and somewhat informal presentation of the financial state of the club, in short, all is well and we are currently well in the black.

John Wilcher (committee) spoke to the meeting emphasising the urgent need for us all to speak, email and/or write to our local member to voice our concerns over the current treatment of legally operating gun shops (& shooting in general) and he warned that we as individuals will be next if we don't band together and act now.

I agree, we need to speak/write to our local and Federal MP's regarding the Stockade fiasco, which is quite obviously a denial of justice, no right of reply or appeal, ridiculous situation. Tony and the Stockade is and has been for a long time, a supporter and contributor to the community and the shooting industry. WHY, what reasons, what recourse, what appeal????? Where are we living? One member from the floor brought it to everyone's attention that licence renewal notifications are not coming out in an always reliable manner, ALL member shooters must make themselves aware of when their licence is up for renewal and take care of it in plenty of time, if it expires, it is a difficult and time hungry process to renew it after expiry. All standing committee members had been re-nominated and subsequently at this meeting returned to office on a unanimous vote by those members in attendance.

A few members adjourned to the club proper to socialise and partake of a lemonade or two, unfortunately I had to rush out as I had an electrician coming to do some work at home. Weekend work is somehow cheaper especially if you know who's doing it.

I would like to wish you all a safe and very merry Christmas as well as a great new year, 2016.

Derek BT. Editor



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