

# On Target

Volume 2-Issue 1

February 2007

*Special points of interest:*

- Chairman's Message
- Secretary's Message
- Shoot Dates
- Show me Yours
- Interesting
- New Arrival

### Range Update

In an effort to keep all members informed with what's going on at your club, I am pleased to be able to report that proceedings to attain the lease for our own range, whilst taking what seems to be a long time, are now advancing smoothly and going very well.

We are in constant communication with DIPNR and our discussions with the relevant DIPNR staff are showing promise and advancing well with only the final couple of "bridges" yet to be crossed.

I am quietly confident that we will soon be able to provide you all with a more exacting, detailed and positive report, so as the saying goes, "watch this space".

These are exciting times for all of us and we are looking forward to the future of PFA and its members, and we are excited to be part of it. With the very positive and forward progression of your club, now is the time to ask yourself, and the committee, what you can do to help.

**Derek BT**

## Welcome to all PFA Members to On Target

### Wanted

#### Hunting property

Not just any hunting property, but one where pigs this big are to be had. Also wanted, a bigger ute, much bigger, to cart the pigs around in.



### Strange People

*Reading a trade magazine the other day I came across a couple of gems I thought to share with you.*

When a squad car in Houston, USA, signaled a 35 year old man to pull over, he sped away, having heard in the news of the Houston Police Department's new "no chase policy" for minor traffic violations. The pursuing officers, unfortunately for the driver, were actually Harris County Sheriff's Deputies, who are actually free to chase.

*They all look the same to you and me*

Once again in Houston USA, a driver deliberately ran a red light in a "traffic-camera" intersection for the purpose of challenging the system in court, but two local Houston police officers personally witnessed the violation and wrote him a regular ticket for the infringement (this process overrides the camera's \$75 violation with a ticket of up to \$200.00)

*Whoops, a no show in court and \$125.00 extra for his trouble.*

**DBT**

### A new arrival

As your club grows and moves into the future with it's different and ever changing stages of development and growth, it was thought that it would be great to be able to "landmark/tag" PFA's history through, not only the written word and documentation kept in club files, but also a visual record, one that will show specific times, events and people in PFA's history in pictures.

With this in mind and with the thought that it would also be put to good use to produce images to be included in "On Target", the club newsletter, a brand new Pentax 6MP digital camera has been donated to the club.

This kind and generous donation was made by Ray Thompson, member No 2 and his younger (and much better looking) brother, Derek (Barratt) Thompson, member No 1.

The club, on behalf of it's members, thanks Ray and Derek for their generous donation and confirm that it will be "well used and used well" for all official (and some not so official), notable club events and projects.

So I sit and write and ponder, while the house is deaf and dumb,

Seeing visions "over yonder" of the war I know must come.

In the corner - not a vision - but a sign for coming days

Stand a box of ammunition and a rifle in green baize.

And in this, the living present, let the word go

through the land,  
Every tradesman, clerk and peasant should have these

two things at hand.

No - no ranting song is needed, and no meeting, flag or fuss -

In the future, still unheeded, shall the spirit come to us!

Without feathers, drum or riot on the day that is to be,

We shall march down, very quiet, to our stations by the sea.

While the bitter parties stifle every voice that warns of war,

Every man should own a rifle and have cartridges in store!

**HENRY LAWSON**

## “Show me yours”

You will have noticed that the Range Officer asks to see your shooters licence each time prior to shooting on the range, and each time you register for your shoot, well there is a very good reason for this, it's not just another thing that we have thought up to keep the range staff busy

In the new regulations that we now shoot under, or to be more accurate, the interpretation of these regulations, we have been given a directive to follow which says:

**“Club or range officials must not allow a person to undertake any activities involving the possession and use of a firearm unless they are satisfied that the person is the holder of a currently valid licence or permit”**

This they have ruled means that if you are not in possession of your licence at the time of shooting, you are deemed as being unlicensed and therefore not approved to shoot or handle a firearm.

The failure of your club (all clubs) to comply with this directive may or could result in a negative effect on the range approval where we shoot, in simple terms it means that the range approval could be revoked, not something that any of us would like to see happen, nor be the one responsible for it happening at all.

So when next asked to “show yours” before shooting, understand that it's just another thing that we must do and “show it” willingly and quickly.

Don't be caught out at the range without your licence, be sure and carry it with you always, and remember, No licence, No shoot.

### INTERESTING

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Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm.

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Amzanig huh?

### 2007 Shoot Dates to June

28 Jan, 25 Feb, 25 Mar, 29 April, 27 May, 24 June,

### 2nd Half 2007 tentative dates.

29 July, 26 Aug 30 Sept, 28 Oct, 25 Nov, 30 Dec

## Chairmans Message

## Every Vote Counts

One of the oddest sights in the world is to see an Ostrich hiding from its predators.

It thinks that by burying its head in the sand that the predator won't notice it – totally oblivious that the greater part of its body is standing there in plain sight, but without any way of seeing or protecting itself from approaching danger.

March 2007 New South Wales goes to the polls to decide on our government for the next few years. Amongst the million-odd voters are 150,000 licensed recreational Shooters in NSW. The big question is: will these Shooters act as a united front and vote to put a second representative into Macquarie St to protect their interests – or like the Ostrich think that by ‘keeping their heads down’ the anti-gunners will overlook them?

Unfortunately, just as lions are continually hungry, so the anti-gunners are determined to follow their agenda: to deprive you of your firearms, and thus your chosen sport. But hang on – didn't the report published recently in the British Journal of Criminology after a ten year study find that Australia's 1996 gun laws did NOT affect firearms deaths – that deaths by firearm were already steadily decreasing BEFORE the buy back – that over 90% of firearms used in crime are unregistered, the users unlicensed, therefore TOTALLY UNAFFECTED by the firearms regulations?

Yes! But as the old saying goes: “Why let the facts stand in the way of a good story.”

Just for a moment imagine what would have happened if the A\$500 million of your money, yes – yours, that funded the gun buy back had been used responsibly –

How many breast cancer early detection units could have been placed into public hospitals?

How many people with mental health disorders could be getting the professional care they deserve, rather than facing the risk of living on the street?

How many deserving young people would be studying to their full potential?

In the run up to the March election, these are some interesting questions to put to your local candidate. Better still, acquaint yourselves with the facts, the boring but irrefutable statistics, and start to lobby your friends and fellow Shooters to make an informed decision before they vote. Even better, you make a positive decision to be involved in the election process: donate your dollars, donate your time on polling day.

Shooters have no reason to bury their heads in the sand just because they choose their recreation with a firearm rather than a golf club. Remember, if we act like the Ostrich it's our sport we lose – and we have no-one to blame except ourselves.

To volunteer on polling day simply contact the Shooters Party / SSAA ‘Team 2007’ on 8889-0444 or fax your contact details to 9623-0286.

**John Pashley**

**On election day, vote for the political party of your own choosing in the lower house but make sure that you vote for the SHOOTERS PARTY in the upper house.**

DBT

On Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2006 at 10AM, your club, the Penninsular Firearm Academy Inc, held it's 2006 AGM at the Chequers Resort, between Mona Vale and Myoora Rds Terrey Hills. Attendance was good, with many interested members turning out for the annual meeting, all arriving well in advance of the meeting's commencement (well, most did). The meeting went very well, and ran quite smoothly, with no hitches or apparent problems. It was great to see so many smiling faces in the room, and members actively participating in the running of their club. They quite obviously enjoyed their time together, sharing in the information about their club and joining in on open discussions on a variety of different club related subjects, showing that a healthy interest in the club exists among the membership. The attending members, when provided with the reports were pleased with the results of the previous year's operation, also indicating that they are happy with the overall performance of the club and the healthy state that it's now in. The meeting was chaired by the PFA Chairman, John Pashley, who was ably assisted by the team on the executive committee. All reports were well accepted by the members, with reports received from the Committee. John Pashley, the Chairman reported on the state of the club and it's future, which is looking very strong and certainly very healthy, John spoke of the many attempts of your committee to have club records relating to our previous years of operations returned to the the club, but unfortunately, with little success. It would appear they, the records, have been either lost or there exists' a reluctance by some individuals to return them. Andrew King, the Treasurer spoke about the club's finances and its marked improvement over the previous year, it is looking very much like a return to the PFA of old. Mr. King informed the meeting of the financial results of the Club as at 31st October 2006. The Club has in excess of \$42,000 in the bank. This is twice what was in the bank at the same time last year. The main reasons for this were increased memberships and increased attendances at the Club shoots. The club is in a strong financial position, with membership growing daily and PFA is displaying a considerable improvement over the previous year. Acceptance of the Auditor's report was moved by Peter Stitz, seconded by Katrina Pejkoric, and carried unanimously. Bruce Crowe moved that Mr. Mortimer be reappointed as the Club's Auditor for the next financial year, seconded by Tony Garland and carried unanimously. Tony Mathews, the Registrar provided a verbal as well as a written report and a detailed outline on membership and our responsibilities as members of PFA. Tony keeps, as we must, extremely accurate records enabling us to report appropriately to the Firearms Registry. To date we have 437 financial members. This is a huge job, which Tony works long and very hard at and does very well, our thanks to Tony on a "hard job done well" from all members, on their behalf, thank you Tony.



### NEWS FLASH

*Recent news, just in from Ontario Canada is that well known, popular PFA member # 262 has had a very successful visit (hunt) and has substantially reduced the number of game birds in the area by a reasonable quantity. Nice bird on the left and it looks like it was taken by a "pump" and those decoys to the right look good enough to eat. Congratulations Howard on a most enviable trip, and thanks for the piccies.*

Derek Barratt-Thompson who has been given the task of working on securing the lease for our range, gave a long awaited for report on the status of our range and the lease, which was all good news and provided us all with great optimism for our future. Copies of the "range lease survey" were circulated for all to see, with a copy of the "official, and approved lease survey" on display as well. The range report was well accepted with the presentation receiving long applause from all in attendance. It generated a lot of interest and questions from the floor, both during and after the meeting.



There was a motion to amend the club's constitution, which, required some small but significant changes to modify the existing constitution to better reflect the PFA's use and its operation. This was worked on by Bruce Crowe, for many months fine tuning it to suit our needs, a job well done, Bruce. The motion was passed unanimously and copies will be made available on request from members. Election of your new 2006/2007 committee was held with the following members being elected to serve you on the committee of PFA for the upcoming year.

Chairman	John Pashley
Vice Chairman	Ray Thompson
Secretary	Tere Alexeeff
Treasurer	Andrew King
Committee	Derek Barratt-Thompson, Bruce Crowe, Van Maclean, Neale Guy, Steve Leslie, John Webeck

As there was no General business to be discussed a vote of thanks for the committee was taken from the floor. Range officers, headed up by Steve Lesley has had its numbers boosted by several members volunteering to participate in training and range duty, thanks everyone, that's what the club needs to remain strong and grow, active participation. Most of the members stayed back afterwards for a couple of low calorie/joule, low fat, organic, very healthy lemonades (or similar) and some cold brown liquid drinks, that were very, very nice, these were enjoyed by all during what was a nice social get together, very enjoyable and very civilised a lovely way to finish off the club business of the 2006 AGM, we hope to see you there next year.

**DBT**



# Secretary's Notes

## Secretary's Report – February 2007

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of On Target for 2007, which now has a new editor in Derek Barratt-Thompson.

Those of you who attended the AGM will have caught up on the news that your club is in a healthy financial position and that in the 12 months that your new committee was in place, we have come closer to signing the lease on our proposed range, than we have ever been before. Although this was a group effort, the bulk of the work has been handled by Derek Barratt-Thompson, and a hearty vote of thanks to him.

Now to more mundane issues. Sometime in February/March you will receive a letter from the Firearms Registry requesting you to nominate your reporting club for attendances.

Just to remind you – if you use club membership as your “genuine reason” for obtaining or renewing your licence, you are required to do the following attendances:-

Recreational hunting/vermin control	-	2 attendances
Target shooting	-	4 attendances
Multiple (both rec hunting + target)	-	6 attendances

These attendances do not have to be performed at the club that you belong to, but the club does need to be kept informed of your attendances.

Some of you belong to more than 1 club, and unless you diligently report to all your clubs your attendances, the law states that your club **must** report those members that have not complied with their attendance requirements. For this reason, the Firearms Registry is attempting to simplify the reporting process, both for the clubs and the registry.

The form will require you to write down all the clubs you belong to and then nominate one club to be your reporting club – whether for hunting, target or both. This will mean that once you have nominated your reporting club, the Firearms Registry will only pursue non attendance if you are reported to the Firearms Registry by your nominated reporting club.

If you have any problems or questions when you get the form, please come and see me at The Stockade, or ring me there during shop hours (9486 3221).

With our range so close, some of you have mentioned that you would like to shoot on a more regular basis. This will only be achieved with more club members becoming available for range duty and desk duty during the shoots. At present we only have 7 active range officers, and 4 of these also do duty on the desk at the range shoots. This means that these 7 people have to work at the range at nearly every shoot. This you will all agree is not a very fair situation.

With a membership list of over 400 members, we now call on those of you who can give some of your time to help with the running of the club shoots. The more range officers we have available, the less times we all have to attend the range to work, and also the more often we may be able to shoot. It also means that all the work is not

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being done by the same small group of people every month. So think about it, and put your name down for range officer duty. It's not difficult work – it can be fun, and then you are putting back something into your club.

Tere Alexeeff



*Above is a piccie showing a few of your fellow club members enjoying a chat and a social drink after our 2006 PFA AGM. All of those that stayed back for the “meet and greet” valued the opportunity to discuss what we all enjoy most, well the next best thing anyway.*

## Deer hunting workshop

Game Council NSW will host a four-day Deer Hunting Workshop at Bondi State forest, near Bombala, on the long weekend of June 8-11.

Following on from last year's very successful workshop, the aim is to educate hunters about how to hunt deer safely, legally and successfully in NSW. The workshop will focus on hunting sambar, fallow, red and hog deer. Presenters include Errol Mason, professional hunting guide and author of "Secrets of the Sambar"; John Dunn, hunting expert, author and experienced NSW sambar hunter; Clark McGhie, professional hunting guide, deer farmer, secretary and the driving force behind the RIDGE Group in Queensland; Major Bob Gough, bushcraft and survival, map and compass navigation.

Topics to be covered include: deer recognition and behaviour, deer ecology, behaviour and hunting techniques, hunting equipment, hunting with a gundogs, bows and blackpowder, trophy and meat preparation and Quality Deer Management principles. The four-day workshop fee is \$295 (plus GST) and includes accommodation and meals for the weekend and course notes.

For more information and enrolment contact Game Council NSW, ph: 02 6360 5100 or email

[info@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au) or

[www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

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