

@n Target

Volume 4—Issue 2
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Special points of interest:

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STOP PRESS

UPDATE ON SAFE STORAGE CHECKS

Following **The Shooters Party** request for clarification on the upcoming police checks on safe firearms storage, we have had a reply from the Minister. His office has this afternoon, 25th Feb 2009, confirmed that when police begin the major campaign to check safe storage of firearms, they will be contacting licence holders to arrange a suitable time for the inspection. The checks will begin at the end of the three month firearms amnesty, which begins (began) on Sunday, March 1st 2009. Regards

Robert Brown

Wise words

"Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not"

Thomas Jefferson

Rookie Range Officers.

Some of our Range Officers in Training, have actually completed their training and will become fully fledged RCO's as soon as their credentials are processed. Congratulations to those who have passed the training. I will list those names and more in future notes.

Tony Garland

Welcome to all PFA Inc. Members to **"On Target"**



These are some of the conceptual drawings and plans for the PFA club house and PFA range that were on display at the PFA AGM in 2008. They were well received and drew many very positive comments and words of support. We have a good future to look forward to and with some work and solid commitment from all of us it won't be too far away, but we will all need to pitch in and help. DBT

NSW MACOSC Safe Shooting Grants

With the change in Ministers in both the Police and Sport and Recreation portfolios, SP are already working to ensure that the first round of the 2008-09 MACOSC grants are approved within a couple of weeks. **The funding is granted on a financial year basis.** There are nearly 40 clubs from around the State in line for funding of about \$540,000, to meet compliance requirements and safety upgrades for their ranges and clubs. SP would expect this would be the bulk of funding for this financial year, with only a small amount of money available for distribution early in 2009. This follows the \$450,000 in grants to more than 40 clubs for the 07-08 financial year. By any measure, the Shooters' Party has been very successful in convincing the Government to provide this ongoing funding to clubs. SP emphasises the former Treasurer, Michael Costa was a supporter of our campaign for extra funding for shooting clubs

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and we are sorry to see him leave the job. Club officials needing details on how to apply for MACOSC funding should contact the **Hon Robert L Brown MLC**.

PFA RANGE NOTES

We have engaged a Town Planner to negotiate the course necessary to satisfy the Warringah Shire Council that we have the necessary expertise and capability to satisfy any of the hurdles that we may encounter during our Development Application for the PFA Range construction. Any body that has any expertise in this area.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SPEAK UP!

Don't come up to me later and tell me that you knew someone that could have done it better and cheaper or you may find your comfort zone temporarily uncomfortable.

Tony Garland.

CHAIRMANS MESSAGE

Will Some Good Come Of It?

We have all been traumatised by the extent of the recent bushfires in Victoria – a testimony to politically motivated and totally ineffective forest management policies. Whilst the human toll has been horrific, the native and non-native animals have also suffered terribly. Thousands have been rescued for veterinary treatment, whilst untold thousands have perished without trace – perhaps signalling the end of some endangered species. Most unfortunate are those animals too badly burnt to be saved. Many Vets, Police Officers and local Wildlife Officials have been adversely affected in having to put these animals down. It is here that the shooting community has come to the rescue. Selected Shooters accompanying Wildlife Officials who identify those animals beyond help, which are then quickly and painlessly put down from a distance without further stress or trauma. “When animals are suffering we need to act quickly rather than have them slowly die over the next six to eight weeks, and that’s why the Shooters have proven so helpful.” Wildlife Victoria Officer Narelle Smith said. Of course, there have been the usual chorus of ill-informed who stated that Shooters were only assisting to ‘take advantage of the situation for their own ghoulish needs’. However, those involved in the rescue and care of these injured animals have seen and acknowledged the value of the Shooters involvement. A new understanding, maybe even a new spirit of co-operation – who knows, but I hope so. Bit sad that it takes such a disaster to get people to work together.

John Pashley, Chairman PFA Inc

From the Secretary

Once again it’s time to start thinking about your attendances for the current year. As you may recall, the reporting year for attendances this year, for the Club is 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009. That means you have just on six months left to comply with your attendance requirements for the current year. We have now made it easier to report the attendances that you have done elsewhere. The Club’s web site now has a reporting facility. All you have to do is go to the web site, www.pfainc.org.au, go to the reporting page, and send the information through. You do not need to report the attendances you have done through the Club at the monthly Club shoots at St. Ives Pistol Club. These are recorded automatically. Of course you can still report your attendances through the Club’s phone line, or by snail mail, or by filling out the form located at The Stockade.

With this newsletter you will find the Club’s Attendance Reporting Form. The number of attendances is indicated on the sticker on the form. This sticker shows your name, your membership number, the type of licence we have on record for you (ie hunting, target, collecting), and the number of attendances

PFA Shoot Dates in 2009, Last Sunday of each Month.

Shooting starts at 12,15pm with the last detail at 3.30pm. **26th April, 31st May, 28th June, 26th July, 30th Aug, 27th Sept, 25th Oct, 29th Nov NO SHOOT IN DECEMBER.**

we have on record for you. The number of attendances is current to the end of March 2009, including the Club’s Shoot held on 29 March at St. Ives Pistol Club. If you haven’t yet complied with your required number of attendances, please don’t leave it to the last minute to get your attendances up to date. The number of attendances required for the type of licence you hold are also detailed on the Attendance Form.

Tere Alexeff

The Greens, Politics and Gun Laws

The recent protests and "outrage" from Greens spokesperson Lee Rhiannon and her colleague, Coalition for Gun Control spokesperson Samantha Lee, over minor amendments to NSW gun laws are totally ingenuous and belie their real motivation which I suspect is their own internal politics related to the next election. It seems Samantha Lee, is perhaps following in the footsteps of Ms Rhiannon who, before she joined the Greens, joined the Coalition for Gun Control and used her position there as a platform from which to build her public profile before standing for Parliament. Will we see Samantha Lee's name on the Greens' ticket for the next state election, as a replacement for the long serving and well respected Ian Cohen, who doesn't seem to fit their now red-green agenda? I suspect we will. The facts are that the days when the Greens enjoyed the balance of power in the NSW Upper House are long gone and their cries of so called “cosy deals” between the Shooters Party and the Government smack of hypocrisy and sour grapes. The protests of these two political activists are totally ingenuous. If Rhiannon and Lee had taken the time to have an objective look at the recent changes to firearms legislation they'd have to agree that they are both moderate and sensible. But that doesn't suit their political agenda. Their most recent protests in relation to the change to AVO legislation can only be described as fear mongering. Yes, the change will allow shooters who have lost their licence due to an AVO to seek to have that AVO revoked. However the change also makes it clear that the courts can hear an application for the revocation of an AVO only if the Commissioner of Police, and any person who may have been protected by the AVO, are advised of the application so they can make representations to the court as to whether the application should or should not be granted. The court then has the power to reject the application, approve the application or even extend the original AVO. The Shooters Party amendments to the NSW firearms laws are moderate and sensible. Nevertheless the fact that the Greens opposed the amendments came as no surprise. They are political opportunists and have been targeting legitimate firearm owners for nearly twenty years. Shooters are not the only victims of extreme green zealots. One of their stalking horses, the National Parks Association, has now lodged a claim for more coastline to be locked up in Marine Parks, and to gain marine sanctuary status for 20 per cent of the NSW coastline from Tweed Heads to Cape Howe. If they succeed, it will mean mums and dads and kids who go fishing every Christmas holidays, will no longer be able to do so. They will be locked out of their favourite spots because of Green ideology. The Shooters Party is well aware of the Greens tactics and we'll be vigorously opposing this latest grab. **Roy Smith MIC The Shooters Party** *reprinted from the SSAA NSW Newsletter, Feb 09, with permission.*