

# On Target

*Special points of interest:*

- Chairman's Message
- Manly Daily Discussions
- A Note from Tony

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

**PFA Contact Details**

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*There are two excellent theories for arguing with women. Neither one works.*

**Notes to remember.**

When you leave a telephone number for the club to contact you regarding a course attendance or some other reason. Please do not leave your home number if you are never home. Do not leave your mobile number if you switch it off. Do not leave your work number if you are not able to take calls during working hours. Do not ask us to leave a message if you haven't got a message bank. Leave an email address if that will be a more reliable way to contact you. I recently had to contact members regarding a course and had to ring 7 members an average of 6 times before I actually got to speak to them. Remember the positions of our club management are voluntary and are usually held by members who do have a life or at least a job that they need to get on with.

Speaking of which there is another matter that needs attention. When you visit the St. Ives range on our attendance days, the people who man the front desk are also voluntary and are there to help you enjoy your day. Please treat them with courtesy. If you have to wait in a queue even if it is just to pick up a range ticket and go, it is because some people were there before you. Wait for your turn and don't blame or complain to the desk attendant.

**Tony.**

**ITS SO IMPORTANT THE TRUTH BE TOLD.**

*(submitted by a local who obviously isn't totally "anti-gun", just not in my back yard, Ed) Manly Daily-Letters, 12th Mar 2009 "Not the place to be shooting rifles" (WHY? It's safe, no incidents and they've been there longer than this resident, Ed) "RE the future of the rifle range near Manly Lagoon, I am not a member of the Shooters Party. I don't even own a gun. I'm just a mother of three kids under 10 who, along with 50 other people, signed a petition stating that we don't like the idea of people shooting rifles within gunshot of our families. I was part of Clean Up Australia Day two years ago when 50 rounds of live ammunition were uncovered in the mud off the lagoon beside where the rifle range sits." (who did they belong to? the writer's inference was that they came from the rifle club, they could have been dropped by an un-licensed person not attached to the club, Ed) "It is hard to believe that anyone would support the existence of a rifle range in a built-up, residential area. A couple of nights a week our kids go to bed to the sound of guns firing and it's the last sound they hear as they fall asleep. Dick Persson's reason for leaving the rifle range where it is was because he couldn't be bothered finding a better place for it. Maybe commonsense will prevail and the new council can find a better place where people can shoot guns in more appropriate surroundings away from families." (Shooters are members of families, some of them are families shooting together, does this resident believe that shooters are something other than family members, aliens maybe?, Ed)*

**Name provided, but removed by the Ed**

**A response in the following day's MD**

"I can understand the concern that BB (MD, Mar 12th) has for the safety of her three young children, but she has nothing to fear from the nearby rifle range, as all rifle ranges

**Cont:**

have very strict safety standards. All ranges that I have attended over the years, as a high school cadet, national serviceman and CMF member and now as an SSAA member, have excellent long-term safety records."

**Name provided, but removed by the Ed**

**Another response in MD 19th Mar.**

**Why it's wrong to blame the gun club**

I would like to respond to the letter from BB ("Not the place to be shooting rifles", MD Mar 12th). I, with my late husband, were the ones who found the ammunitions as part of Clean Up Australia. It isn't right to indicate that this was connected with the gun club. None of the ammunition was the kind used by the gun club. It was most likely to be from a deceased estate, where it was not disposed of correctly. Many local people would not be aware of the gun club being there. But we must not think that we can drive sporting groups out of the area just because we don't like it. I, too, am not a member of the gun club or the Shooters party.

**Name provided, but removed by the Ed**

This goes a long way to illustrate how an untruth, be it told on purpose or an honest misquote, can damage our standing as shooters, if it is left un-corrected. Credit to the respondents to the original letter for setting the record straight, one on safety of shooting ranges and the other one for pointing out the untruth, which was inferring the ammo was from the club. We must all have a go at correcting untruths about us and righting wrongs done against the shooting family. **Ed.**

**Shoot Dates for PFA Inc in 2009**

Last Sunday of each Month,

**27th Sept, 1st Nov and 29th Nov.**

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

## CHAIRMANS MESSAGE -- AUGUST 2009

### We Do Live In Hope . . .

The European inhabitation of Australia resulted in the introduction of two animal species whose destructive impact upon the environment continues after more than 200 years.

European Gray Rabbits continue to ravage large areas of pastureland despite the use of myxamatosis and colesi virus. European Red Fox is rated as the greatest destroyer of native wildlife, driving several species into extinction and many more to the very brink.

I notice that Shooters and the shooting sports have been once again propelled into the media spotlight – albeit thru some very diverse circumstances – and all involving the introduced European Red Fox.

Firstly: The death of a number of Little Penguins in the Manly Cove area, apparently savaged to death by a fox or feral dog. Photographs taken with specialist night viewing devices appear to indicate the fox as the culprit. Trapping and baiting has proven unsuccessful, so licenced Shooters have been brought in for some very target specific pest eradication. They testify to the difficulty in nailing this wiley adversary, and will remain on task until this menace is removed.

Next: A recent documentary on ABC TV regarding the sighting of foxes in Tasmania, the only state to date supposedly free of infestation. Apparently a fox was sighted exiting the shipping container terminal in Launceston, having hitched a ride from the mainland on a vehicle ferry – and joining others of his species previously sighted inland. Here is where it gets interesting: a statement by one of the Tasmanian graziers that it is still possible to drive thru rural Tasmania at night and see lots of native wildlife; unlike the mainland, where all you see at night, if anything, is foxes. Again, the statement that licenced Shooters will need to be brought in to eliminate these foxes before they take serious hold.

Then: Another documentary on ABC TV regarding the perilous state of the wombat population in South Australia. Wombats are succumbing in large numbers to a mange transmitted by foxes. The mange, which is easily treatable if the wombats can be brought into protective custody, is slow and fatal if left untreated.

Finally: Reports from the Game Council and other shooting groups regarding the number of feral pests – namely foxes, pigs, dogs & cats – removed from State Forests since the introduction of the R Licence Hunting Scheme. This is counterbalanced by various bleating statements from the environmental lobby regarding the depredation that foxes are having on the survival of native wildlife. However, when the issue of allowing licenced Shooters into National Parks to assist in feral pest removal to help protect our decreasing wildlife, the cries become nearly human as the expediency of political policy overrides proven practical solutions.

It makes sense for every licenced Shooter to acquaint themselves with the facts regarding the real threat to our unique fauna, and what steps can and should be taken to protect them. Maybe, just maybe, we can get common sense to prevail.

**John Pashley.**

### TO HUNT AND RETURN....(Hopefully).

I have just finished reading an incredible paper called **To hunt and return developing safe hunting practice** By Joe Green Wellington New Zealand 2003.

#### Quote:-

This paper analyses the deaths of 33 deer hunters, shot by other deer hunters while hunting in the New Zealand bush. The shot is identified as the culminating event that is preceded by a number of contributing factors. Those factors are outlined and a range of protective behaviours listed. These are specific to deer hunting and, taken together with the New Zealand *Arms Code*, provide suggestions for minimizing the occurrence of these tragic incidents.

#### Joe Green: biographical note

Joe Green is an Inspector of Police with nearly 20 years service in a range of operational and administrative roles. He is currently the Manager for the Licensing and Vetting Service Centre, the section of Police responsible, among other things for the planning and implementation of the New Zealand arms control regime. A trained teacher before joining the Police, Joe has completed qualifications as a trainer and holds a BA Honours degree in Sociology. A bush craft instructor with the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Joe also convenes the Council's Risk Management Technical Advisory Committee.

#### Conclusion

This project has analysed 33 incidents resulting in the deaths of one deer hunter at the hand of another between 1979 and 2002. I have reviewed the literature relating to hunter safety including the principles of outdoor safety (risk) management, the number of deer hunters and deer shot and the hunting practice safety advice currently available in books about deer hunting. From an analysis of the shooting incidents I have identified those factors and behaviours that have come together in the culminating event – the firing of a shot that killed another hunter. I have argued that irrespective that all hunters are participants in the field, the responsibility for taking the shot remains with the shooter and cannot be transferred to another. Given the interplay of risk factors including the existence of firearms, rough and bush covered terrain, the need to behave somewhat like a deer, particularly during the roar and the excitement of the hunt, one Coroner concluded that 'it is a very distressing and sad thing that an accident such as this should have happened, but unfortunately in a pastime such as hunting they will from time to time happen even when all care is taken' (case 92COR0237). I have presented 20 protective factors and behaviours that, taken together with the *Arms Code* and competent bushcraft, camp-craft, navigation and first aid, 33 contribute to safe hunting practice, thereby minimizing the likelihood of such incidents occurring. – Unquote.

It is amazing that in New Zealand there are approximately 100,000 Licensed shooters hunting in an area about the size of Victoria and when one of them is accidentally shot it hardly makes page five of the newspapers and it happens on a regular basis. This study identifies a number of key contributing factors, of which, the lack of training, mentoring or membership of a hunting organization was identified as a very significant factor. Another detail that I find just as amazing is the distance for those shootings, where target identification was an issue, ranged from 9 to 90 metres, with the median being 34.7 metres and the mean 27 metres. 50% of these shootings took place over a distance of between 18 and 35 metres. I will be happy to email a pdf copy of this 41 page paper to any one that is interested.

Just send an email requesting a copy to

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