

On Target

December 2023

Special points of interest:

- Range Maintenance
- Safe Inspection
- AGM Summary
- Range Volunteers
- Target Repairs

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, "Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!" The husband said, "Oh my God! What should I pack, mountain stuff or beach stuff?" "Doesn't matter," she said. "Just get out."

Range Officers (RO) needed to assist in the running of our shoot days. Have you some time to spare? Take the RO's course and assist at our shoots. Volunteer now, contact the club and nominate, become an RO. Many hands make light work, help out now.

Welcome to all PFA Members to "On Target"

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Let's put things in perspective, that small, hard to see, seemingly insignificant speck in the background of the photo is our not so insignificant **Secretary, Tere A**, caught out in the midday sun mowing the grass on our range with a "push" petrol mower. Admittedly we do now have several donated ride on mowers, but they still require operators and the time to use them. And there is plenty of other jobs needing volunteers to complete. The push mower is only needed for small work now and all the tools etc required for the jobs are supplied, so help us, volunteer now. **Do your bit and help out**



JOBS TO BE DONE AT PFA

1. Weed spraying on our National Park boundary,
2. Painting the side of the top carpark wall,
3. Whipper snipping and weeding of special areas,
4. Oiling of footbridge handrail,
5. Oiling of external window frames,
6. Painting of part of the internal ceiling of the clubhouse,
7. 100 star pickets to upgrade the existing electric fencing,
8. Painting of the bulkheads in the registration area,
9. Laying the pavers out in the lower access area,
10. Clearing the overgrown grass at the bases of the Trees,
11. Clean the sign at the entrance gate,
12. Increase the heights and change over the cages,
13. Clean the verandah of bird droppings,
14. Tidy up the area under the access bridge.

Final "ON Target" for the year so it's time to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from ours to yours. We hope you have an enjoyable and most of all a safe Christmas/New Year spent with family and loved ones. Enjoy this wonderful time of year, be safe and we're hoping you get lots of what you like most from your Santa. ED. DBT



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I recently received a call from the local Licencing Police to arrange a time to visit and inspect my safe keeping/storage arrangements for my firearms. He's to be in the area in two weeks, has quite a few inspections to do, and as I don't get up as early as I used to, we agreed to a time of 11.30am.

This gave me the opportunity to double check on my situation, (I'm sure they do it for this reason) to make sure all was well and as it should be, it was, so I waited. My "safe" was a steel ex work locker, it had three internal steel locking rods and fitted with additional locks (external). It had served me well with approximately 40 years of inspections passed BUT, alas, not this one, it FAILED.

All my guns were ticked off and OK but the cabinet no longer complied. The material wasn't thick enough (although steel), the hinge pins were external and my additional locks, also external, so I need a new safe, BUGGER.

Not as bad as I thought, the Sen Const said I could still keep my guns and also, he would expect that one to two weeks was needed to source the safe and instal it, he said they were quite flexible, just to give them a call when I was ready, phew that was a relief.

After doing my research, local gun-shop, Bunnings (yes, they have compliant gun-safes) and Mitre 10 (yup, them to) and Mr Google (of course) I decided on the one from Mitre 10, it had the room required plus it had an internal, separately locked, ammo compartment all at a reasonable price, which happened to be the cheapest one (not by much) at \$349.00.

I partnered up with my brother (who happens to have a large ute/truck, lucky me) to pick it up. All went well, Mitre 10 had it tagged as **sold**, ready and waiting for me and even helped load it on the ute, too easy, easier than I thought it was going to be. When we got home the guys were there doing my lawns and seeing the safe, asked if we wanted a hand to get it off, (young and strong), I of course said yes please, perfect, so they just took it off and put it down where I needed it to be, job done, well, almost.

The safe comes with 4 holes pre-drilled for mounting it but 2 are in the back and 2 are in the base, so I had to drill 2 additional 10mm holes in the back as it was to be fully wall mounted. It must be mounted to the wall and/or floor by four (4) 10mm x 90mm fixing bolts.

Removing the old safe was a big effort as I had mounted it to the wall with 4 dyna-bolts and had to undo them all first and then grind them off flush in preparation for the new safe.

We have to comply, I know but that old safe would NOT have been easy to gain access to or remove, it would have required a couple of guys and a very noisy angle grinder etc, to get it out, would've woken up the whole neighbourhood as well as the household. **Cont.**

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Two weeks passed, and a follow up visit from my new, best friends, the licencing police, who turned up on time and quickly checked the safe was compliant and the 4 bolts securing it to the wall were in place and secure. PASS. I received a ticket number by text ½ hour later so now we're all OK for another 5 yrs I guess.

Ah well, all over now and a happy-chappy, knowing that we are once again fully compliant.

Derek BT ED.

I Finally got round to helping out at the club recently, more specifically the refurbishing of our targets and frames.

I've had a few false starts of late, mainly for medical reasons, some surgery and then rehab/physio but all good now, seems better than before, so let's go.

I teed up a time/date to meet Tony at the range and start on a job that I had noticed had been on the "to-do" list for some time.

We have 40 spare target frames, which allow swap-overs while others are fixed/refurbished but we reach a time when the spares need to be fixed to allow these swaps to be made.

Until I arrived to help, Tony had been planning to cover this project himself as well as his many other jobs around the place solo.

Thursday arrived and after moving the "to be fixed frames" from storage under the stairs I could start work, we needed the flat floor so as to lay the frames down to press them nice and flat.

The job required the old "shot-out" black rubber centre squares to be cut and removed followed by the gluing in of the (precut by another member) new black centre squares, job done, well half of it.

I managed 20 frames on the first effort, once I got used to what needed to be done, they became easier and somewhat quicker.

I backed up a week or so later to finish them off, another 20 frames done, and in less time as I was used to what had to be done, far quicker.

After I was done Tony got the "magic glue" out and we got into patching all the holes, around and off the centre square, in the white, misses, big and small.

We have a couple more things to do but the first half of the job is now done and we're on our way to complete them with some "covering" and paint, all good, should be finished and hopefully ready before they are actually needed.

We're currently searching for some special fiber impregnated wallpaper type of material for the covering which is needed to complete them. We have some leads but still need it confirmed, the target manufacturers are also working on this search and we should have a win very soon, obviously cost is going to be a factor as this material is sourced overseas.

Derek BT ED.



The 2023 AGM quorum was achieved with time to spare, great to see the growing interest members have in their club. *(Following is an edited, very condensed, summary of the meeting. Derek BT ED)*



The meeting was officially opened at 10.05am and after apologies were given, we moved on to the confirmation of the minutes from the previous Nov 2022 AGM, moved, seconded and carried unanimously. Proceedings continued with the Chairman's Report for 2023 including some very important and interesting points. (report although previously submitted was read by Tony G at this time)

The completion of the earthworks for stormwater runoff and the distant paddock finally finished after three years. Re-vegetation now needing more planting. **Weed spraying and eradication is another important task as spring has arrived.**

Extra Shooting Days (more volunteers necessary before we can achieve this)

We have just received a very favourable Traffic Report from our traffic management consultant, and we are in the process of putting together the Flora and Fauna Report, our application to NBC is for: 5 days rimfire, 2 days centrefire, 1 Sunday per month, 1 evening for rimfire on a Wednesday.

Night Lighting. PFA confirmed that night-time use will not require any floodlighting that might create light spill beyond the confines of the shooting range itself. The NBC has indicated that our request subject to all NBC requirements, required for a DA being met, could be favourably received.

Target Repairs and Maintenance 25m, 50m, 100m. The drainage problem that we had in the past flooding the 100m targets, has now been rectified. The modified 100m targets, installed last September/October are working as expected and the sacrificial centre plates are lasting well, and haven't needed to replace any plates so far.

Derek Barrat-Thompson and I have been working on the old target faces which are being refurbished and will give us a backup of 20 target faces when required.

Range Staff R/O's and others

Range Staff are required for running the Shoot days, to be involved contact Tere by email and tell her you are available. If we don't get more volunteers, **we won't be able to handle the extra days.** (No range staff, no range time, very SIMPLE. Derek BT ED)

Working Bees and Maintenance Levy

Any member that wants to reduce or eliminate their maintenance Levy can do so by doing any of the listed Jobs. Or become a Range Officer and get Free shoots and a Maintenance Levy Exemption.

Electronics and Troubleshooting expertise.

Anyone that has Electronics expertise and or troubleshooting experience and would like to know how our target system operates, become one of the people that gets to fix things when they don't work. **Cont.**

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Competition shooting Organiser required.

A few members have indicated that they would like to see competition shooting at PFA. This will involve a Competition Manager. The club will support in any way someone who takes on this roll.

Clubhouse organiser required.

It's time members started to utilise our clubhouse more than just AGM's. Someone is needed to take on this roll and organise activities such as lectures and club member meetings or other activities as well as the Beekeepers and the Star Gazers. Again, this position is open to energetic volunteers. Motion that the Chaiman's report be accepted was moved and seconded and carried unanimously.

The Secretary's report was next with Tere A reading in part and presenting her report and emphasising some very relevant points to all in attendance. "Help is needed", Tere indicating that some jobs were in need now of a planned succession, Tere said (quite understandably) she is getting worn down by the work load and we need members to step up and take over some of the jobs and share in the workload. ("many hands make light work" ED)

As most of you know, our request for a modification to conditions had to be withdrawn as it appeared that a legal challenge could be lodged if we succeeded with it, as the changes being sought were too great to be pursued via a modification to our existing DA. Our friends at the NSAS (whom I fondly refer to as The Stargazers), offered us the services of one of their members, who is a retired Town Planner. His help has been invaluable. His role is to put together the Statement of Environmental Effects. So, after several meetings, and a re-draft of our Statement of Environmental Effects, we had a Pre-DA Lodgement Meeting with Council, as this is a new DA. We now have a completed traffic report which has been passed on to our Town Planner, and we are hopeful to have the Fauna report before the end of October, and have the DA lodged shortly thereafter. All going to plan, we should have our extra days approved early in the new year.

It is pleasing to see that our membership numbers are steady between 300 and 350 per year. There is every likelihood that numbers will increase once we have more days. With the anticipated increase in shooting opportunities, extra members are to be expected, which will bring more membership fees and revenue to the club. This will also put demand on the club to provide extra range staff which we will need or no extras will be possible. As you know, all the work that is done around the place is done on a volunteer basis, and most of the volunteers are getting older every year. Council required a revegetation report from a qualified horticulturist. The cost for this was over \$10K, for a report that was not something that we could use, as it relied on the club having staff to undertake the work that was required.

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After much discussion with Council, they have agreed to a planting schedule which will be able to be carried out by us. However, all this comes at a price. The cost of sleepers, fencing, tube stock for planting, and then hoping that the rain gods are kind, and keep the new plantings watered.

The North Shore Beekeepers Association are still using our facility for their training, even though the interest in their courses waned through this year. Our resident bees have been extremely generous this year, and we have had a very good supply of honey.

The Northern Sydney Astronomical Society who also use our facility for their star gazing once again, chose to have their Christmas party here. Following on from the success the previous year.

One of our members asked, if there were going to be any Collecting meetings. I replied, that yes, that was the aim, but we needed someone to co-ordinate these. Oh, I might be able to help with that, but alas, nothing happened. Now is the time for people to start thinking about a succession plan for when Tony and Tere are not around anymore.

Motion that the Secretary's report be accepted was moved and seconded and carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's report came next and while the financial side of the club is quite sound, careful management is always required.

Treasury Report for the 12 months ending 30 June 2023
The 2023 Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared by Peninsular Firearm Academy Incorporated and audited by our appointed auditor, Mrs Susan Guy, Chartered Accountant (CA) based in Lane Cove. The Special Purpose Financial Statements have been certified by the auditor as being a fair reflection of the financial position of the club for the year ending 30 June 2023. Financial Performance This year was the first full year not impacted by COVID related events and allowed the club to have 12 shooting days which generated \$22,549 which was \$10,712 more than in 2022. The number of financial members were around the same as last year which ranged between 300-350 during the year. The overall income was above last year mainly due to there being 12 shooting days compared to only 8 days in 2022. The expenditure was lower than in 2022, reductions were from not renewing the building and contents policy which saw premiums rise to levels that were financially crippling in the firearms market, reduction in postage costs by having members pick up their membership cards instead of posting them out, and a reduction in rent.

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These savings were offset by an increase in range development expenses which related to works being completed to extend the current shooting days by consultants which the club will see the benefit once approval has been given by the council.

The depreciation charge associated with the plant and equipment and the land and buildings for the year was in line with prior years. This charge is not cash related and is a way of depreciating the assets of the club which diminish in value over a period of time. The club's policy is to depreciate the plant and equipment over 8 years and the land and buildings over 25 years. The cash on hand balance which was lower than in 2022 mainly due to the target upgrade works that were completed during the year. This is a very healthy and solvent position that ensures the club can pay its debts as and when they fall due moving into the 2024 financial year. Overall, a pleasing outcome for the first full financial year post COVID and once approval has been obtained for the additional shooting days we should see a continued increase in the club's financial position for the 2024 financial year. Neil Langridge Treasurer 8 October 2023.

Motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted was moved and seconded and carried unanimously.

General business up next, a new member proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee for their hard work and efforts, applause from the members was unanimous, and as there was nothing further, the meeting moved onto the final business of the AGM, Membership fees, no change here so on with the election of the committee of management, Robert Brown took the floor to officiate and this all went smoothly as all positions vacated were duly filled with no need for votes etc. Several questions were taken from the floor during the course of the meeting and some discussions shared with all seemingly satisfied with answers provided and what was presented to the members in attendance. The meeting was closed at 11.03am, somewhat longer than last year's AGM but still short enough for most to stay back and share some cucumber sandwiches and lime cordial and a nice social time with all there.

Derek BT Editor.

Shoot Dates for PFA Inc. in 2023/2024.

Last Sunday of each Month.

***17th Dec, 28th Jan, 25th Feb, 24th March,
28th April, 26th May, 30th June, 28th July, 25th Aug,
29th Sept, 27th Oct, 24th Nov, Dec 15th.***

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

Shooting is scheduled to start at 10.00 am and finish on the day at 5.00pm .

To ensure "on-time" detail start times please arrive 15min to 20min prior to your scheduled start time.

PFA Contact Details

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