

On Target

June 2021

Special points of interest:

- Reminder, Shoot Days
- Gun Law Wisdom
- Gun Safe Care
- Range Volunteers
- Centrefire 1st Day

Is This Right?

I heard that a rumour circulating in political circles recently is not true. The Liberal Employment Minister Michaelia Cash does not have a sister named Petty.

Range Officers (RO) needed to assist in the running of our shoot days. The more qualified RO's we have the fewer times ROs need to attend, simple. Have you some time to spare? Take up the RO's course and assist at our regular shoots, the more the merrier and the lighter the load. Volunteer now, contact the club and nominate, put your name down to become an RO.

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

Welcome to all PFA Members to "On Target"

A REMINDER TO ALL PFA MEMBERS AND VISITORS ON SHOOT DAYS. Please leave your firearms safely secured in your vehicle until you have completed the booking-in process and are preparing for your detail. Arrive 15min/20min prior to your booked shoot time to ensure on-time commencement of scheduled details. Make sure you have your current and valid shooters licence with you. Thank you all for complying and assisting in the safe smooth flow of our shooting day.

Gun laws in Australia: Shooters argue they are law abiding.

10th May 2021 Online news article. **Shooters want to be treated with respect, Peter Zabrdac says.** There's no doubt that good firearm controls should provide for public safety. The National Firearms Agreement has often been held up as the way of achieving that.

Unfortunately, the NFA was put together in a hurry, with the inevitable result that it created its own set of problems that have never been addressed. Some researchers used the 25th anniversary of the Port Arthur tragedy to put forward their views about the NFA, suggesting that the states have been watering down our gun laws. However, those researchers don't come from the shooting industry. They have never bothered to engage with it, which means their views are educated guesses, at best. They certainly can't claim to be informed.

After all, it would be reasonable to expect someone who claims to be an expert in aviation safety to have been a pilot or have some other relevant aviation background.

Firearms are no different, which is why it is important to listen to the views of those who come from the industry and treat the views of those who claim to be gun control experts with suspicion. Here's why their most recent claims are wrong.



Cont.

Cont.

The first is the criticism that not all states implement the 28-day cooling-off period for every firearm.

States provide it for the first firearm, but it doesn't make sense when a firearm owner already has a firearm.

Here's an example of why. In the lead-up to the 1998 Malaysia Commonwealth Games, an Australian shooter with a significant medal haul needed to urgently replace her firearm, which had stopped functioning, before heading off to compete.

If she had been made to wait 28 days to replace her firearm, she would have missed the Games.

Instead, she replaced her rifle, went to the Games, and came home with a medal. What a great result.

The second complaint is that juniors under 18 can obtain firearm licences. Half the Australian Shooting Squad that sends athletes to international events such as the Olympics took up shooting before they turned 18. High-profile shotgun champ Russell Mark became a national champion when he was 16. Sporting champions often start young: shooting is no different. Russell's story is just one in a long history of achievements by juniors in shooting.

It is important to point that junior licences only allow the junior to use firearms under supervision: they do not permit to own them.

That's something the researchers didn't mention.

Cont.



Cont.

The third claim has been the call to implement a national firearms registry. The federal government tried to do this in the mid-2000s but failed because the state registries have made a mess of the data they have. The idea was dropped because of the cost involved in trying to fix it up. That's something the researchers also forgot to mention.

The fourth claim that ammunition is available for restricted guns. Certain types of ammunition can be used in many different types of guns, in much the same way unleaded petrol can be used in cars that are legal to be on the road, and those that are not. There is no loophole here.

A far more serious problem with the NFA is with the states implementing what are known as "appearance" laws, which allow jurisdictional regulators to change the categories of guns based simply on whether they "look like" another gun.

This blurs the boundaries of what is or is not legal, which is frustrating the industry and creating uncertainty in what is or is not legal.

Interstate registries recently confirmed that appearance laws were based on an "assumption" — which is really poor public policy.

Yes, the NFA could be improved, but only if our governments listened to the right people – those who know the industry.

Shooters are like most other Australians in that they are law abiding and just want to be treated with respect.

PETER ZABRDAC IS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SHOOTING COUNCIL

A VERY SIGNIFICANT DAY. 28TH MARCH 2021

Sunday morning at 10am the first centrefire shot was made by a PFA club member at our first scheduled shoot of the day, YES, Centrefire (C/F) has now finally been approved and we saw a substantial number of members making use of the new approvals.



It was mentioned that thirteen C/F bookings had been made to shoot on the day, not sure if they were in the first detail or spread out over the day BUT there was a significant representation of C/F rifles on the bench at 10am, including a beautiful 1944 .303 that was in pristine condition, congratulations to Forest, what a job he has done with it bringing it back to life. A week or so later when I visited Forest I was shown the resulting groups that the .303 produced on the day and to say impressive would be an understatement, considering also "open sights" were used, fantastic groups. **Cont.**

Cont.

Good numbers of members started arriving early as was suggested so as to be on time for their scheduled/booked shoot, very encouraging to see so many smiling members, one thing that some may not have noticed was the number of Father/Son and Brother combinations amongst the group, interesting, good to see.

The booking desk was busy with Tere and Graeme working at a frantic but efficient pace to see that everyone was taken care of and in time for their shoot, all seemed to go well, like clockwork it could be said.

There was a table of "goodies" and shooting supplies setup adjacent to the booking in desk with gun cleaning products, eyewear/shooting glasses, some ear protection (muffs) and the must have club caps, all available to purchase on the day, not everything a shooter needs but some very useful items to take home along with the memory of that perfect "10".

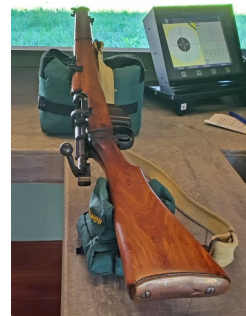
The carpark wasn't overcrowded, but just an obvious benefit of the booking system used by the club, no need to sit and wait, just book in and turn-up just before your time. *The gourmet BBQ was set up early and as*



usual, smelling a treat with some tempting morsels on the menu, some of us (all) like breakfast and as we had an early start the orders were flowing.

To arrive at this "special" day many long hours of persistent work, making multiple submissions, filling out paperwork and attending meetings, all made on our behalf by the Secretary, Tere A and Tony G was required and it all came to fruition, today.

There were also the acoustic/sound testing days, several long days (but enjoyable) at the range while acoustic tests were carried out over many hours on more than two occasions where Ray BT (C/F) and Derek BT (RF) fired off several hundred rounds each, ten rounds at a time, so the acoustic measurements/levels could be taken at different locations throughout the immediate area and surrounding suburbs. John W was the Duty/Range Officer on the day (a requirement of our approval for the tests) with Tony and Tere liaising with the testing authority throughout the whole process. Due to the need of many rounds to be fired consecutively the barrels got extremely hot, mainly the .308 which required some TLC between sessions to assist in the cooling down process, John W came up with a simple yet effective process that worked very well, a damp cloth/rag.



Working Bees / Maintenance Levy

As you know we are no longer setting aside special days for the working bees. However, if you wish to reduce the amount payable for the Maintenance Levy, due on or before 30/06 2021, you are welcome to come and help out with the continuing jobs to be completed. This can be done at a time to suit you. Just ask and Tony or Tere will meet you at the club for your personal working bee.

We have now appointed someone to carry out the bulk of the whipper snipping on a monthly basis, so that job is no longer required to be done. The first cut was done in time for our April Shoot, and what a difference to the look of the place. The following jobs still need to be completed, and most of them are ongoing maintenance which will be with us **forever**:-

Clean drains as required - ongoing

Clean signs on driveway

Collect dead weeds and place in green bins - ongoing

Construct compost bins

Cut thistles, castor oil plants, pampas grass spears, etc.

Empty cabinet @ SIPC - ute or trailer required

Grease outriggers on North side

Mowing of flat areas - ongoing

Oiling of external timber work (2nd coat)

Painting of besser block wall (staged)

Planting of tube stock (ongoing)

Spraying of weeds - all areas, - ongoing

Weeding by hand - cages (check if plants alive and mulch); garden beds; swamp - ongoing

Whipper snipping of internal range area - baffle tops, and sides - ongoing

Wire cages - cut up for future use

ODE TO THE SPELL CHECKER

Eye have a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight 4 it 2 say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew!



Vacancy (unpaid but rewarding position)

We need dedicated PFA members who are able to commit a small amount of their time to the club by becoming a Range Officer to assist in the continuing safe and smooth running of the range shoots. Training is provided by the club towards your qualification as a PFA RO and you will share with other like, minded and trained members in the efficient and safe running of our range. You will be added to a list of RO qualified members and be included in a RO roster for our shoots. Your commitment with sufficient RO's could be as little as one participation per year. The more that do it the less times we are rostered, **TOO EASY.**



While reading Letters to the Editor recently in the SSAA newsletter I came across something that really got my attention and if true, could be of interest and great value to us all. So here, for all to "believe it or not" or even give it a go, can't hurt, at least I don't think so. I have omitted names of the contributors for their privacy. ED, DBT

A TIP FOR YOUR GUN SAFE.

With reference to an Article Long-Term Storage Of Firearms (Shooter, October 2020).

I own a grandfather clock roughly 100 years old which is working perfectly to this day thanks to a wise clockmaker who shared the secret of long-term preservation of delicate working parts and timber.

In the bottom of the clock cabinet is placed a small tin or tray containing a folded rag wet with kerosene (I use the bottom of a plastic milk carton and folded handkerchief). Kerosene fumes keep the clock mechanism lubricated as well as deterring pests, bugs etc from entering the cabinet and also protects the timber from mould and mildew through reduced moisture levels.

This method could also be used in gun safes and cabinets as the fumes will protect metalwork from rust, keep trigger mechanisms lubricated and timber stocks free from mould and moisture.

Anon. via email

I wonder if it will work, I'm going to give it a try, nothing to lose and it can't hurt. DBT



Shoot Dates for PFA Inc. in 2021.

Last Sunday of each Month.

27th June, 25th July, 29th August, 26th September, 31st October, 28th November, 26th December.

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 (AEST) (6.00pm AEDT)

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

PFA Contact Details

PO Box 571 Terrey Hills NSW 2084

www.pfainc.org.au, Telephone, **0431581259**