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SHOOTER

M A G A Z I N E

Stronger Together: The Industry Unites



FEATURE

The Biggest ePetition
in NSW History

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State Title Reports



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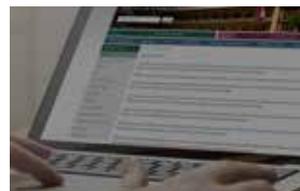
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We now have the largest number of signatures of any ePetition in NSW Parliament's history.



LANCE MILLER
PRESIDENT, SSAA NSW

President's Message



We have a lot of good news to present for this latest President report.

BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS.

We recently completed our second round of Branch Zoom meetings. This has proven to be a successful communications model with large turnouts each evening. The idea is to have five or six Branches per meeting with as many of each committee executive attending as possible.

With this model, we hope that the Branch Committees are fully engaged with your State Board and are part of the planning for our organisation's future. This will enable more information to filter back to the Branch members through the larger number of Committee members being engaged.

The format of the meeting is an update from myself, an update from our CEO, Jai, and a presentation from each Branch President on issues and successes for their Branch. Board members also sit in and contribute. We receive valuable feedback as well as keeping our Branches informed. The meetings most recently completed took place over eight evenings and some went as late as 10pm. I do apologise to the participants for the larger than normal agenda with two big topics, the Company Limited by Guarantee Constitution Q&A, and the Criminal Use Bill program, being on the agenda. In future we will try to keep to a 90 minute meeting.

SYDNEY RANGE DEVELOPMENT

Around two years ago the SSAA NSW Board noted in meeting minutes, the need to seek additional range infrastructure for SSAA members in the Sydney basin. The type of range and potential locations for a new range were recently discussed with the Sydney Branch Committee. It has become clear that it is almost impossible for any Branch to buy land and build a

new range that is able to meet the planning and legal requirements of a modern range. In an environment as expensive as Greater Sydney, this is more pronounced, despite having a large membership.

It is necessary for a lot of important elements to align for new range developments. Significant funds, local planning requirements, NSW Firearms Registry requirements and a local community that is not opposed to the development are simple top line issues to recognise, but each of these is extremely complex and the required "pass mark" is incredibly high.

Expanding population growth puts pressure on existing ranges and new open-air ranges are being pushed further from population centres.

Only when we pool State and Branch resources together can we hope to achieve new ranges. Existing ranges that have operational licences are valuable and need to be protected and maintained for future use.

FIREARMS REGISTRY CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

For several years now, SSAA NSW has been advocating for a ministerial level Firearms Consultative Committee. The aim of this advocacy was for SSAA NSW to assist positively with the review of legislation and more importantly, to provide input with regards to proposed regulations.

This type of committee was the first proposal in a list of recommendations formed as a response to the Criminal Use Bill. It is important to provide input to proposed legislation to avoid any unintended negative consequences that may arise without industry and specialist input. Attempting to change legislation after it is enacted is a very difficult process, so early input is paramount.

We are very pleased that this committee has now been



formed and will be chaired by an Assistant Commissioner of Police in the firearms space. SSAA NSW are included on this committee and the first meeting is being held in April. Non-Shooters and those opposed to shooting will be included on this committee, which ensures that all parties interested in private firearms ownership are represented.

This will create an opportunity to demystify beliefs and promote our safety, training and legal compliance, while strengthening our call for evidence-based and red-tape-excluded firearms legislation.

We believe that with SSAA NSW input, legislation can target criminal use while promoting the public safety and training that we already champion.

NEW CONSTITUTION FOR CLG UNDERWAY WITH ADDITIONAL MEMBER DRIVEN CHANGES

As we have identified with our efforts to modify legislation – it is better to advocate for removal of unintended consequences prior to legislation being enacted, rather than attempting to change it after enactment. This is what we consider should occur with our new Constitution.

Our last Constitution engaged members with regional meetings and several redrafts, after a draft was produced. This was effective and fair, but what extra can be achieved by consultation before the first draft?

We have to adopt a new Constitution. The Department of Fair Trading have directed that we convert to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) rather than be an Incorporated Association. To this end we held a Constitution round table meeting some time ago for Branch Committees that had already expressed a need for change.

Since then, we have held two Branch leadership zoom meetings that have included Constitution change on the agenda, where many questions were put to the attendees for input and direction. This feedback was invaluable to help inform the first draft of the CLG Constitution, with preparations now under way.

OPPOSITION TO THE FIREARMS AND WEAPONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CRIMINAL USE) BILL

I am really impressed with our membership and the positive support that you have provided for our important campaign against the negative consequences of this proposed Bill. The first draft of the Bill would negatively impact all lawful firearms owners, farmers and ordinary citizens.

This campaign spanned 18 months of effort. For sustained commitment over this time, a long-term strategy was developed.

We commenced by sending a memo to our membership advising of the proposed Bill and seeking member input. This was very successful with over 120 members opening their evening email, downloading and reading the proposed Bill and then writing back to us by 8am the next morning.

Clearly, the proposed Bill had significant negative consequences that were quickly identified by our members. Those early 120 submissions qualified our members' disappointment in the Bill and set the path for our campaign against the negative impacts of the Bill. Many more submissions were received from members over the following weeks.



**Robert Borsak MLC, Ph
for Orange), Lance Mill
launch of the ePetition.**



Philip Donato MP (Member for ...)
and Jai Rowell at the ...

We then met with SFF who had already taken steps to ensure that an Upper House Inquiry was to be established and chaired by The Hon. Robert Borsak. A strategic action timeline was developed.

SSAA NSW submitted our paper to the Upper House Inquiry. Many of the issues raised in our earlier members' submissions were consolidated and included in the submission.

Members of Parliament were contacted, as we sought their understanding of the Bill. It was presented as a firearms Bill and as such we found some misinterpretation.

Ramifications of the Bill included:

- Increased police powers to search without probable cause and to make a person's right to silence into a chargeable offence, encroaching on civil liberties.
- The introduction of the precursor, which may criminalise legal firearms owners for owning certain tools. This also had significant impact on the farming community because of the tools they require to repair and maintain their essential equipment.
- The failure to identify the legal firearms owner in the Bill. Importers, dealers and gunsmiths were identified, but when it came to identification of legal firearms owners we were effectively excluded from those protections which left legal firearms owners on the same level as criminals. This is, of course, counter-productive, given that targeting criminals was the purported reason for drafting the Bill.

While SSAA NSW is in favour of significant penalties for the criminal use of firearms, the Bill has unrealistic penalties around the precursors, in comparison to current penalties for actual criminal use.

Based on feedback received, we wrote to all MPs explaining our position and seeking further dialogue with those interested. Many MPs from various parties responded, which was very positive and helps our position.

In December, we were invited to present to the Parliamentary Inquiry and answer questions from Members of Parliament who made the Inquiry. At that time, we presented our position on the Bill which started at the preferred position of withdrawal of the Bill and the minimum position of the following:

- The establishment of a Ministerial Industry Advisory Council, as an ongoing initiative to provide a dialogue between government and industry stakeholders, regarding issues including this Bill. This Council has since been formed and we have secured a place on it, which is an appointment for two years.
- The opportunity to establish protections for legal firearms owners within the Bill, by ensuring legal firearms owners are differentiated from criminals and are written into the Bill (as per the minimum standard provided by South Australia legislation).
- The same civil rights as all New South Wales citizens currently have, be provided to legal firearms owners.
- The basic lawful rights of legal firearms owners be supported by the appointment of a firearms Commissioner.



EPETITION

We had always planned to raise our ePetition immediately after Australia Day.

We were already in a strong position, however, there was concern around the fact that the ePetition required 20,000 signatures for it to be debated on the floor of Parliament and to date this only had been achieved on less than a handful of occasions in the history of ePetitions.

Additionally, if we did not reach a large percentage of that number, insufficient signatures could be perceived as a lack of cohesion and being politically weak.

This was ultimately a simple decision. If we want to ensure that legal firearms owners have input to effective, evidence-based legislation whilst ensuring criminal use of firearms are also managed by effective legislation, then we have to take ownership of our advocacy and trust in the engagement of our members.

The rapid overnight response of 120 members responding to our first memo gave further confidence, and that early support translated into a huge response with 6,900 members signing the ePetition over the first full day it went live on the Parliament's website, further proving that this was an issue that legal firearms owners felt strongly about.

The rest is now history.

We believe that this was the fastest ePetition to reach 20,000 and we now have the largest number of signatures of any ePetition in NSW Parliament's history, with the ePetition closing at over 28,400 signatures.

The Parliamentary website crashed twice in the first week of our campaign due to the number of Members signing the ePetition in a short space of time. A spectacular outcome that proves legal firearms owners will work together and our advocacy is strong.

Further to our membership responding so positively, relationships with SFF, Peak Bodies and allied industry organisations have been positively enhanced thanks to their support and engagement.

We are encouraged by the responses received to date across the political divide and we look forward to updating you of further successes of the campaign, including ensuring legal firearms owners are not criminalised.

Thank you to all legal firearms owners, especially our members who drove the signatures for the success of the ePetition. Your support guaranteed that the Bill would be debated in Parliament.

Putting my name to that ePetition required a thoughtful moment but, the Board, the management and myself are gratified and proud of your engagement and support.

The campaign was called "STRONGER TOGETHER" and the proof is the result.

Thank you,

Lance



**Lance Miller and Jai Rowell with Stephanie Cook MP,
(Member for Cootamundra and Parliamentary Secretary
to the Deputy Premier).**



SSAA NSW has seen a strong increase in membership with membership growth beyond 5%. For an extended period, our numbers stagnated, but we have now seen two years in a row of increased membership growth taking our numbers to 59,000.



JAI ROWELL
CEO, SSAA NSW

Jai's Journal



G'day Members,

Welcome to another edition of the NSW Shooter Magazine!

It certainly has been a very busy and successful time for SSAA NSW. Your Board and staff have been working extremely hard.

It is fantastic to see that since my last report, our sport has resumed and is as close as possible to normal as can be expected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we had to take hard decisions early last year, it is clear that they have paid off. I am enjoying travelling to various ranges and events seeing people once again enjoying the sport we all love.

The biggest contributing factor to restarting our sport and recreation was our members, Branches and Affiliate Clubs all working together to implement our COVID-19 Safety Plan as well as following health guidelines.

STRONGER TOGETHER

There is a common theme of unity throughout SSAA NSW that underpins all of our successes. We coined this as the slogan, "Stronger Together," with our recent advocacy campaign on the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill. From working internally as a team within the Association to working externally with other stakeholders including other Peak Associations, industry and community partners has ensured even greater success. Focusing on what unites us all and the shooting sports has certainly made our advocacy stronger.

SSAA NSW ADVOCACY

The report from SSAA NSW President Lance Miller has outlined our advocacy campaign in relation to

the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill and the successful ePetition that was launched.

We take this opportunity to thank all our 59,000 fantastic SSAA NSW members across all our great Branches who stood with us every step of the way. Also, a big thank you to all the various Peak Associations, Clubs, industry groups and community groups, including SIFA and the NSW Dealers Association, who partnered with us to grow the ePetition. External organisations like NSW Farmers also joined with us to publicly express concern over the bill.

Together, we have achieved the fastest growing and largest ever ePetition in NSW history. While the ePetition and subsequent Parliamentary debate were the main goal of this process, the greatest and most important outcome from the campaign has been the shooting community, demonstrating that more can be achieved when we work together.

Thank you to the Hon. Robert Borsak MLC who chaired the Upper House Inquiry whose committee made a number of positive recommendations to amend the bill. SSAA NSW was proud to present at the Inquiry and outline sensible amendments that should be included. We are pleased that those suggestions have been incorporated into the report. Thank you also to Philip Donato, Member for Orange, for receiving the ePetition and tabling it at Parliament on our behalf.

SSAA NSW has spent the last couple of months meeting with many members of Parliament from all sides of the political spectrum. Our team recently spent a full two days at NSW Parliament meeting with the Deputy Leaders of the political parties, ministers, shadow ministers, cross benchers, Parliamentary secretaries and



other back benchers. These meetings we believe has helped garner support of all legal firearms owners to ensure that they are not criminalised by the passage of the Bill in its current form.

Representatives from SSAA NSW also appeared in Parliament for the ePetition debate. This is the another positive step before it proceeds to the floor of Parliament for a vote. We look forward to keeping you updated.

For further information on how SSAA NSW, our 59,000 members and partnering organisations directly contributed to the largest ePetition in the history of NSW Parliament, please read the article on [page 18](#).

PROCESSING TIMES AT THE NSW FIREARMS REGISTRY

SSAA NSW has been advocating strongly for additional resources for the NSW Firearms Registry to improve processing times. We thank you for sharing your stories and giving us real life examples for SSAA NSW to investigate.

Whilst NSW Firearms Registry are implementing technology solutions to improve response times, it is clear that due to additional workloads that they need further support from the Government.

SSAA NSW is pleased to report success in our advocacy in this space and welcomes the recent announcement by the Government that additional resources are being allocated to assist with clearing the areas where there are backlogs. This is good news and another practical example of how SSAA NSW advocates to assist members and all legal firearms owners.

We expect that there will be a transition period for the implementation of these additional resources, but we welcome the commitment to improve processing times.

SSAA NSW HEAD OFFICE MOVE

Over the coming months, SSAA NSW will make the move out of St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre to a new location. Once the particulars are finalised, we will advise all members of the details. In the meantime, it is business as usual, and we are always here to help.

This move will ensure that SSAA NSW:

- continues to modernise as a forward-facing organisation, as we engage with Government and other key stakeholders;
- maintains focus on continually improving services to members;
- utilises a purpose-built office to improve on productivity;
- capitalises on the opportunity to purchase an asset (which will see a return on investment), as opposed to leasing, without spending significant additional funds; and
- provides the opportunity for St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre to make good use of the existing space for new and exciting facilities.

The move will assist in the future-proofing of your Association and we thank the Branches for their overwhelming support and advice during our recent Zoom meetings, where Branch representatives contributed to making the decision to move.

FINANCES AND AGM

When I took over as the CEO with the new Board, a major focus was spending funds wisely and ensuring that every possible dollar was put back into member services.

SSAA NSW auditors have just completed the 2020 financial statements and I am pleased to report that despite COVID-19 taking a big hit to our normal operations, we have continued our trend on turning our finances around. SSAA NSW will post a small surplus. This is after spending money on ranges right across NSW.



Lance Miller and John Barilaro MP, D

Lance Miller and John Barilaro MP, Member for Auburn, Police and Counter Terrorism Minister for Sport and





Rowell with The Hon. Deputy Premier.

There is more to be done in this space and SSAA NSW looks forward to continuing to work with Branches, Clubs and members to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of our Association.

COVID-19 prevented the AGM proceeding in 2020 and all Associations in NSW were granted an extension by the Department of Fair Trading to hold them in 2021. After consultation with our Branches as to the best way to proceed, SSAA NSW will go ahead with the AGM later this year, in a regional location, ensuring it can continue regardless of any potential restrictions.

RANGE DEVELOPMENT

Range Development remains strong with progress on existing projects like Dubbo, which we expect to be built by the end of the year, whilst upgrades are occurring at other ranges.

SSAA NSW was pleased to be able to help the Batemans Bay Branch with \$110,000 in funding to assist in necessary work, which is required by the local council after the range was burnt down during the bush fires.

As President Lance has indicated, work has commenced in investigating new range opportunities in the Sydney basin to cater for our membership. Residential encroachment to existing ranges is a challenge we must address now, to ensure the continued and future access to our sport. This work is vital and we extend a thank you to Sydney Branch who are part of the consultation process in this area.

Other regions and Branches are also at various stages of identifying new range opportunities and we are working with many Branches on this important task. We are also working with Branches who are at risk of losing their range to nearby development. As an Association with a large community of Branches, we must focus on this challenge together. Accessing finances to meet every need will be challenging but, we all must tighten our belts, review our financial structure and look at practical ways to ensure we have ranges for the next generations of sporting shooters.

DISCIPLINES AND HUNTING

Competition shooting amongst our disciplines effectively ceased during 2020 during COVID-19. SSAA NSW has been working hard with our Discipline Chairs at a State and National level and are very excited that State and National Titles are starting to be announced for 2021. I would encourage you to access the SSAA NSW website events page and Facebook page to find out which titles have already been posted. We would love to see you at one or more of these important events.

A big thank you to our Discipline Chairs who volunteer their time in running the individual disciplines and of course to the Branches who host the titles. So much work goes into these activities and we are very grateful to our volunteers in this space.

If you are new to shooting or would like to try a different shooting discipline, our Discipline Chairs are available to point you in the right direction and assist you.

In the hunting space, we continue to advocate for more hunting opportunities across the state and we have been pleased to work with the Department of Primary Industries during COVID-19 to reopen hunting. SSAA NSW is also working with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to potentially expand the Supplementary Pest Control Program for 2021 and beyond. We look forward to making some announcements in this space in the near future.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

SSAA NSW has seen a strong increase in membership with membership growth

Rowell with Lynda Voltz, Shadow Minister for Terrorism, and Shadow and Recreation.





beyond 5%. For an extended period, our numbers stagnated, but we have now seen two years in a row of increased membership growth taking our numbers to 59,000.

Even more exciting is seeing that membership increases are occurring across nearly all age brackets particularly in the 18-50 age range. Our President Lance, our Board and myself have advocated strongly for more women in our sport and again we are now seeing record numbers of women becoming members of SSAA NSW and participating in our sport.

This is a great result, but we cannot rest on our recent success. As our membership increases, so does our voice which is being heard by key stakeholders and at all levels of Government. With this comes positive change, but there is more to do. We really need you, our members, to encourage your wife, husband, family and/or friends to try shooting and become a member. As I always say, if we all join just one member in the next month we would be a community of over 100,000 and be able to achieve even more. Remember, we are "Stronger Together."

DON'T LOSE YOUR FIREARMS LICENCE - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND ATTENDANCES

As you are aware SSAA NSW worked with the NSW Firearms Registry and others to ensure legal firearm owners would not be punished for their inability to complete all mandatory attendances during COVID-19. Please remember that the extended reporting period finishes in March next year and if you have taken a break from shooting during the pandemic, the March 2022 deadline will soon be upon us, so now is the time to start planning for your next shoot.

NSW Firearms have indicated that compliance in this space is getting stronger and anyone who does not complete their required number of shoots, may lose their licence. This also goes for members who let their membership lapse with their Peak Association. Although SSAA NSW allows a three month grace period to renew membership without penalty, this is not the case for meeting the requirements of your firearms licence in NSW. If your membership was the only genuine reason you had to hold a licence, the moment your membership lapses, you are in breach of your licence conditions and your licence may be revoked.

As the NSW Firearms Registry is implementing new technology, the information they capture will soon be in real time. SSAA NSW members, as legal firearm owners, comply with the law and are very good in this regard already. It is, however, important to note the changes that are coming across the entire shooting sports for all Associations.

Today is good time to check that your licence is current and if not, renew. It is also a good time to consider how many shooting attendances you have remaining and plan to attend your local range during the course of the year to meet your

requirements before the end of March 2022.

SSAA NSW advocates strongly with authorities in this space but, equally, we must all comply with the law.

Outside of this report, there is much more positive activity occurring at SSAA NSW. In between editions of this magazine, I encourage you to like the SSAA NSW Facebook page and if you have not provided or updated your email address with us, please do so at <https://membership.ssaa.org.au/forms/change> so you can receive email updates from your Association.

I take this opportunity to thank our hard-working Board members and staff who have gone above and beyond to ensure all legal firearms owners are protected and that our sport and Association is future-proofed. This team, coupled with all our volunteers and 59,000 members have made my first two years in the role as your CEO enjoyable and I am honoured to work with you all.

A big congratulations to our State President Lance Miller who, as you know, was elected unopposed by all the states to become our National President late last year. If you read his reports in the National magazine you will see how hard he is working right across the country on so many different issues, which is complimenting the work we are doing here in NSW.

Now that restrictions are easing, I encourage you to go out to a range, undertake a hunting activity, try a new discipline and most importantly, as one of our Members recently reminded me, have fun.

After not being able to shoot for a long time due to the pandemic, I must admit I have been very eager to get back out there and enjoy our sport. I have been trying different disciplines and as a result have made some new friends. Shortly, I will be taking a mate to undergo a caping course and have had the odd moment to introduce some new members to the sport also.

Our sport is all-inclusive and the best thing about it is our passionate community!

I will conclude in the similar manner as I started, we are achieving so many positive things both internally within SSAA NSW and externally as a united sector. We are truly "Stronger Together".

As always, I look forward to seeing you at the range and/or out in the field!

Jai



Service Pistol State Titles

Glen Innes Branch



In February 2020, prior to the COVID-19 impact on ranges and competitions, the Glen Innes branch hosted the NSW Combined Services Pistol State Titles on the NSW Northern Tablelands.

The weekend was a great success, with shooters traveling from far and wide, ensuring all matches across different pistol classes were keenly contested.

Adam Marshall, NSW State Member for the Northern Tablelands, and Agriculture Minister, also visited the titles in support of the branch.

The grant that funded the installation of a new amenities block at the Emmaville Range was made possible with the Minister's help and our members have benefited significantly from his contribution. With the addition of shower facilities in particular, the new amenities block provides overnight camping visitors greater comfort at shoots.

With pandemic restrictions now easing, the club will again be able to host the 2021 titles, on the weekend of 28-30 May 2021 (with the Friday being a practice day).

Glen Innes Branch Chairman, Evan Brown, says competitors at this year's titles will be especially appreciated by our wider community, as we are only now beginning to recover from the drought and bush fires of 2019/2020.



Anthony Gatti, (Combined Services State Chairman) did a great job of co-ordinating the 2020 pistol state titles, and the Glen Innes Branch is proud to be working with him and his team to make the 2021 event just as successful.

NSW State Service Pistol Top Gun shooter from 2020 was Trevor Rock, here receiving his medal from SSAA Glen Innes President, Evan Brown.





Junior shooter Brendan Rock from Queensland, showed at the 2020 he had 'nothing to prove', by taking home a swag of medals.

Shooting in one of the prone or seated classes.



Service pistol as part of the Combined Services Discipline, also includes the challenge of shooting rimfire training rifles.

Pistols were fully scrutineered at the 2020 titles. If you are visiting Glen Innes to shoot in 2021, make sure your pistols meet spec, especially trigger pull requirements.



FEATURE

Stronger Together: The Biggest ePetition in NSW History

**Firearms and Weapons Legislation
(Criminal Use) Bill 2020**

EMMA TAVIANI, SSAA NSW MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



LES

GO

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

LIVE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

BILLS

COMMITTEES

HANSARD & HOUSE PAPERS

RESEARCH PAPERS

VISIT

Legislative Assembly

petition

to confirm you are a resident of New South Wales and enter your title, first name and last name. Once you click 'submit' you will be re-directed to the Legislative Assembly's 'ePetitions open for signature' page

The negative consequences of the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020 (the Bill). Members of the Legislative Assembly, this petition of New South Wales citizens, calls on the New South Wales Government to consider the negative consequences of the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020 (the Bill).

It is not sufficient to 'take part' in the unauthorised manufacture of a firearm or firearm part merely by being in possession of a 'firearm precursor' as defined by the Bill, have many other legitimate uses, including essential safety practices.

For example, many farmers, sports shooters and hunters, as well as businesses, volunteer and training organisations, all have a legitimate need to possess a firearm precursor to repair and maintain essential equipment.

The Bill must make it clear that licenced firearms owners can make minor modifications to registered firearms and possess ordinary firearms (as permitted by law), without being guilty of a criminal offence.

The Bill must also define the rights under common law, including the presumption of innocence and the right to silence. The Bill must also define the stated objectives of the Bill are met; ie targeting criminal activity only.





In early February, we launched an online petition (“ePetition”) opposing the negative consequences of the Firearms and Weapons Legislation (Criminal Use) Bill 2020.

This proposed Bill is unacceptable in its current form and provides police with additional discretionary powers for search and seizure of firearms and firearm parts without due cause.

The Bill also attempts to remove basic legal rights under common law, including the presumption of innocence and the right to silence and directly effects the following groups:

FARMERS

Farmers will be criminalised for possessing the tools deemed “firearms precursors,” in order to repair and maintain their essential equipment.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops, businesses, volunteer associations and training organisations will be criminalised for using tools that the Bill is considering a “firearm precursor”.

HUNTERS

Ethical hunters and conservationists will be criminalised for using “precursors” (spare parts and tools) to repair and maintain a safe and efficient firearm in the field.

SPORTS SHOOTERS

Sports Shooters competing at all levels (including the Olympics) will also be criminalised for the equipment they require for modifications.

ePetition Campaign: Stronger Together

In initiating the ePetition campaign, SSAA NSW established the following goals:

- Encourage all SSAA NSW members and the wider NSW public to sign the ePetition.
- Gain 20,000 signatures within 12 weeks.
- Unite the shooting community.
- Ensure Government does not proceed with the Bill in proposed form.

The support of our members was extremely important to the success of the ePetition, as we needed 20,000 signatures for this issue to be debated on the floor of Parliament. In just 13 days, however, our ePetition garnered more than 25,000 signatures! As of 28 March, the ePetition had grown to be the largest ePetition in NSW history.

SSAA NSW collaborated with various industry bodies to achieve this result.

Our statistics showed a direct correlation between signatures and members who clicked on the ePetition link in our email campaigns:

- By the end of the ePetition launch day (Day 1), we had 6,200 signatures and a corresponding 5,841 email clicks.
- By the end of Day 2, we had an additional 4,000 signatures and a corresponding 5,614 email clicks.
- The increase in email clicks and signatures on the ePetition corresponded with



**The Largest ePetition
in NSW history.**



**SSAA NSW
membership
contributed to over
97% of signatures on
the ePetition.**

each other throughout each day where an email campaign was sent to our membership.

- Between Day 1 and Day 4, there were over 14,364 clicks on the ePetition link in our email campaigns, as compared to just under 14,000 signatures.

Day 5 featured a focused SMS campaign. A small batch of our membership base were sent text messages with links to the ePetition. The monumental traffic from members clicking on the link to sign the ePetition from this text message crashed the Parliament website.

Day 7 featured a second, focused SMS campaign. The remainder of the contact list was sent a text message at 10.43am. The traffic from this text message being directed to the ePetition once again crashed the Parliament website. Yet another example of how supportive and strong the SSAA NSW shooting community can be.

To mitigate the impact of the Parliament website crash, the entire contact list were sent an additional text message in several batches spread out over three hours (reducing the incoming traffic build-up to the Parliament site and avoiding another crash). This approach was successful and we received a significant influx of signatures on the ePetition.

In the first four days of our campaign, our ePetition social media posts received over 454 Facebook shares from the SSAA NSW page with another 500 shares from other pages. This support was crucial in order to spread awareness of the Bill to other NSW residents who were not part of our membership.

The most significant contributor to the ePetition as a whole were the email campaigns sent to our membership. This clearly shows that our membership are engaged and care deeply about how this Bill would impact legal firearms owners.

We can say with certainty that the greatest success of this campaign was watching the shooting community come together as a powerful, united front to protect our sport.

Congratulations to the members of SSAA NSW and the other participating associations, key stakeholders and industry groups who went beyond all expectations to ensure that the concerns of legal firearms owners would be heard in Parliament.



Attendances Extension

Reminder to members

There is currently a 12-month extension to the attendances reporting period for 2020-2021 (now 2020-2022), allowing for one year's participation across two years, while the COVID-19 health orders remain in place.

EXEMPTIONS/EXTENSIONS CONFIRMED BY FAR IN MAY 2020

In early March 2020, SSAA NSW advocated on behalf of all members in anticipation of escalating issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. SSAA NSW responded quickly to ensure that our members were not negatively impacted, as a result of not being able to meet their attendance requirements due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In April 2020, we wrote to members with regards to the Firearms Amendment (COVID-19) Regulation 2020. This amendment provides for a 12-month extension to the attendances reporting period for longarms.

SSAA NSW continued to work with Firearms Registry to clarify the details regarding the 12-month extension, as the amendment did not extend to the 2019-2020 reporting period:

“The Firearms Registry is aware that clubs define their compliance periods based on the calendar or financial year, from the date the club was approved by the Firearms Registry or by some other means. This means that some clubs may have missed out on the coverage afforded by the Firearms COVID Regulation to protect club members from being non-compliant due to range closures or health orders.”

SSAA NSW advocacy work produced a successful result and we reported in May 2020 that members who were unable to complete their mandatory longarm attendances within the 2019-2020 reporting period, due to COVID-19 restrictions are exempt.

Firearms Registry have also clarified the following:

“The Firearms Registry does not propose to revoke licences held by people who find themselves in this situation. This applies to any licence holder whose compliance period ended in March or in April before the 15th and was unable to fulfill their participation requirements due to self-isolation, quarantine or range closure. Licence holders in this situation do not need to notify the Firearms Registry on this matter.”

We appreciate the assistance of Firearms Registry in their communications and cooperation with SSAA NSW and the NSW shooting community on this issue.

Achieving this result required many meetings with the Firearms Registry, who also sought legal advice.

As your Peak Association, we will continue to advocate for our members and provide an effective and credible voice on behalf of all law-abiding firearms owners.



MUDGEE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Coming Soon: Combined Services State Titles

The NSW Combined Services State Titles
will be held from 17-19 September 2021.

Hosted by: SSAA NSW Mudgee and
District Branch Inc at the Windamere
Regional Shooting Complex.

**THE TITLES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SSAA CSD RULEBOOK
NO. 4, 2017.**

Friday 17th September - Range and camping ground set-up 8.00AM til 12.00PM Rifle
Scrutineering 12.30pm. Briefing at 1.00pm. Competition begins 1.20pm.

Standard Rifle - Classes A, B, C. Supplementary events only: 60 Rounds

Event 1: Match 14 Three Range Event. (shot 300m/200m/100m). Open & Junior.

Event 2: Match 05 Rapid Fire C. 100m. Open & Junior.

Event 3: Match 13 Action M. 100m. Open & Junior.

CSD NSW State AGM after Rifle matches: 6.00 pm sharp on Range 1.

SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER, RIFLE EVENTS, RANGE 2:

RIFLE SCRUTINEERING 8.00AM. BRIEFING AT 8.40AM. COMPETITION BEGINS 9.00AM.

MATCHES TO BE HOSTED CONCURRENTLY ACROSS TWO RANGES, WITH SQUADED DETAILS.

Standard Rifle - Classes A, B, C: 60 Rounds

Event 4: Match 10. Deliberate 300m. Graded & Junior.

Event 5: Match 01 3P Core Event (Shot 300m, 200m, 100m). Graded & Junior.

Event 6: Match 04 Rapid Fire B 100m. Open & Junior.

SATURDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, TRAINING AND CADET RIFLE EVENTS, RANGE 1:

Training & Cadet Rifles: 30 Rounds per class

Event 7: Match 20: 3P Core Event for .22 Training Rifles (100m, 75m, 50m) Graded / Junior.

Event 8: Match 20 :3P Core Event for .310 Cadet Rifles (100m, 75m, 50m) Graded / Junior.

SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER, ACCURISED AND MODIFIED RIFLE EVENTS, RANGE 2:

Modified / Accurised Rifle - Class H: 60 Rounds

Event 9: Match 10. Deliberate 300m. Open & Junior

Event 10: Match 01 3P Core Event (Shot 300m, 200m, 100m). Open & Junior

Event 11: Match 04 Rapid Fire B 100m. Open & Junior.





SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, RIFLE EVENTS, RANGE 2:

Rifle Scrutineering 8.30am. Briefing at 9.15am. Competition begins 9.30am.

Event 12: Match 16: Long Range Event A - 12 Rounds per class F1 Class 300 Mtrs on the Core Target, F2 300 Mtrs on the Mini Core Target T/J 300 Mtrs on the T4 Target. Open event.

**MEDALS FOR ALL RIFLE EVENTS, TOP GUN AND TOP GUN JUNIOR.
TOP GUN EVENT BASED ON THE COMBINED SCORES OF STANDARD RIFLE
EVENTS 4, 5, 6.**

CONDUCT OF MATCHES:

In order to comply with the SSAA NSW COVID-19 Protocols / SSAA Mudgee Branch COVID-19 Management Plan, the Titles will be conducted with details. Accordingly, competitors will be squadded into details, and on the Saturday, events will be conducted concurrently on Ranges 1 and 2, so as to expedite the conduct of events, and minimize the numbers of competitors on each range at any one time. Competitors will complete the series of events on each range, and then each group will swap over at a designated time, so as to compete in their next Rifle category and course of fire. In the event of inclement weather, or an "Act of God" which causes the conduct of Titles to be halted, results will be determined from those competitors who have completed the relevant matches.

Organisers reserve the right to alter the order or number of events held in line with organisational requirements.

NOMINATION FEES:

All Rifle Events \$75, Individual events \$25, Juniors half price. Nominations to be received by Monday, 6th September, 2021. Competitors can nominate online via www.nswcsd.com.au





Safe Storage Inspections

MITCH NEWBERY, SSAA NSW POLICY & RANGES MANAGER





NSW POLICE CONTINUES TO CONDUCT STATEWIDE SAFE STORAGE AND FIREARM INSPECTIONS.

All firearms holders in NSW can expect to get a call from their local police asking to arrange a suitable time for a safe storage inspection. The inspection will cover firearm and ammunition safe storage compliance and that all firearms are accounted for.

Remember, you are not being individually targeted by a request for inspection. Always be polite and courteous when making the initial arrangement for inspection and during the inspection itself.

SAFE STORAGE COMPLIANCE

Different categories of licence require different levels of safe storage. The most common being Categories A and B at Level 1. Category C, D and H require Level 2 and Category G Collector requires Level 9. Further details on safe storage and other compliance requirements can be found on the NSW Police Firearms Registry website: https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/firearms

PREPARATION FOR INSPECTION.

It is very important that you use your time wisely and be prepared by ensuring that all is in order before the inspection occurs. The following checklist may assist you:

The Safe: Make a point of checking that all is in order with your safe storage –

1. Construction and lock up of safe.
 - Is it compliant for the category of firearm secured within?
2. Anchor points/ bolts securing safe to building.
 - Ensure that it is secured to the building as required.
 - If your safe is over 150kg and it is not secured to the building can you prove its weight?
3. Are your firearms stored inside a residential building?
 - If not, is it in a shed/building of a solid nature?
 - If not, can that building be easily and clearly seen from the residence? If not, that location will not comply.
 - Are there any tools which could be used to break into the safe (eg. an angle grinder) accessible or near where the safe is located? If so, then remove from the area or secure them in a locked cabinet.
4. Access to firearms.
 - Make sure that only licensed persons – family or otherwise have access to the firearms.
 - An unlicensed person who can easily gain access to a key to your firearm safe may result in your licence being revoked and your firearms confiscated.

Firearms: Make a point of checking that all is order with your firearms –

5. Stocktake of firearms.
 - Do you have all firearms registered to you on the premises?
 - Do you have firearms stored at a different address?
 - If a firearm is registered as stored at your residential address, it needs to be there at inspection time.
 - If you have firearms stored at a different address, have you previously advised Firearms Registry of this?
6. Rego papers
 - Police conducting the inspection will have a list of serial and registration numbers with them.
 - Rego papers can make things a lot easier, however, in resolving unclear serial numbers or make/model confusion.
7. Safe contents
 - Is there anything in your safe that should not be there?
 - Of course, it is expected that only lawfully registered firearms are stored in your safe.
 - If, however, you share safe storage with another person, advise the police of this

Where a safe storage inspection is unannounced, you do have the opportunity to request that arrangements be made for a more suitable time.



- at the time of appointment.
- If storing firearms for a mate, has the Firearms Registry been advised of the storage address?

Ammunition: Make a point of checking that all is in order with your ammunition storage

8. How do you store your ammunition?
 - Locked compartment inside firearms safe?
 - Locked container or cabinet separate from firearms?
 - Always ensure that ammunition is stored securely. A loose round of ammunition on the workbench or elsewhere could spell disaster.

GENUINE REASON

The question of genuine reason will be raised. Remember, if your membership of SSAA or any other club/association is your genuine reason for a firearms licence, that membership must remain current and valid. If it expires, so too does your genuine reason. SSAA membership covers Target, Hunting and Collecting.

Remember to remain polite and courteous when being questioned on your activities relating to firearm types and genuine reason. Be firm in your answers, always citing your continuing compliance with all requirements.

As keen shooters, we have a variety of firearms for a variety of reasons and we use each firearm as circumstance requires (eg. different competitions and certain types of hunting situations). It is important that you relay these reasons, if you are asked to clarify why you have so many firearms/why you need a certain calibre.

EVENT NUMBER

A COPS Event Number should be issued after inspection, once the police in attendance have filed their report of the inspection on the COPS data base. It is important that you receive this number as it is evidence that you have passed inspection. It is a requirement that this number is supplied along with any PTA for a handgun.

If you have not received the Event Number within a couple of days, chase it up.

When it comes your turn for inspection you will now have a better idea of what to expect. Do not leave your preparation to the last minute!

We advise all members to remain proactive in ensuring compliance with all aspects of NSW firearms law.

If your membership of SSAA or any other club/association is your genuine reason for a firearms licence, that membership must remain current and valid.





ROD MADELEY

NSW State Score Championships

SSAA Coffs Harbour branch held the NSW State Score Championships from 6-9 March 2021, with 122 shooters competing over the four days.

Some outstanding scores were shot. Local junior and Bishop Druitt student, Alex McMillan, won the Gold medal in the HB Centrefire event scoring 250.22 at 100yds and 250.12 at 200yds. Alex beat shooters who are in the Benchrest Hall of Fame and shooters who have represented Australia overseas!

In the Rimfire LB Glenn Seaman from West Wyalong broke two Australian records the first being 250.3 at 100yds the Grand Agg. This, combined with 250.14 at 50m broke a second record. Amazing when you consider only a 6x scope is allowed!

In the HB Rimfire, local shooters Steve Morton (250.21) came in second and Bill Buchanan (250.19) took third place. In his first major shoot, Bernie Axford came in equal fourth. Finally, Paul Sullivan shot an almost perfect score in the HB Rimfire 50m with a 250.24 and Kevin Birse, 250.24 in the 100yds HB Centrefire. 72,250 patches and 7,500 were awarded during the weekend which indicates the standard of competition. Consensus was that everyone enjoyed the whole weekend and the rain managed to hold off to only fall at night.

Congratulations to all who won medals and patches and all those who competed!



Local junior and student, Alex McMillan, won the Gold medal in the HB Centrefire event.





and Bishop DrUITT
McMillan.

LB Rimfire

50M:

1. Glenn Seaman 250.14 (new record).
2. David Jenkins 250.13.
3. Bill Simmons 250.12.
4. Neil Digweed 250.10.
5. Janette Mitchell 250.9.

100 YDS:

1. Glenn Seaman 250.3.
2. Keith Smith 249.5.
3. Paul Sullivan 248.4.
4. David Jenkins 248.3.
5. Bill Simmons 247.2.

GRAND AGG:

1. Glenn Seaman 500.17 (new record).
2. David Jenkins 498.16.
3. Keith Smith 498.15.
4. Paul Sullivan 497.19.
5. Bill Simmons 497.14.

HB Rimfire

50M:

1. Paul Sullivan 250.24.
2. Steve Morton 250.21.
3. Bill Buchanan 250.19.
4. Kim Cosstick 250.18.
5. Bernie Axford 250.18 (on countback).

100 YDS:

1. Simon Schultz 250.3.
2. Janette Mitchell 249.7.
3. Bernie Simmons 249.6.
4. Neil Digweed 249.4.
5. Robin Cox 249.2.

GRAND AGG:

1. Simon Schultz 499.22.
2. Bernie Simmons 499.20.
3. Janette Mitchell 499.17.
4. Paul Sullivan 498.30.
5. Kim Cosstick 498.25.

LB Centrefire

100 YDS:

1. Peter Duncan 250.20.
2. Barry Nicholls 250.19.
3. Bill Jupp 250.17.
4. John Garland 250.17.
5. Paul Sullivan 250.16.

200 YDS:

1. Peter Duncan 250.6.
2. Bill Jupp 249.9.
3. Ean Parsons 248.10.
4. Kevin Birse 248.6.
5. Local shooter Gary Hunt 248.3.

GRAND AGG:

1. Peter Duncan 500.26.
2. Bill Jupp 499.26.
3. Ean Parsons 498.25.
4. Gary Hunt 498.18.
5. Paul Sullivan 497.23.

HB Centrefire

100 YDS:

1. Kevin Birse 250.24.
2. Rodney Richardson 250.23.
3. Alex McMillan (Jnr) 250.22.
4. Paul Sullivan 250.21.
5. Mitch Calcutt 250.20.

200 YDS:

1. Ean Parsons 250.12 (on countback).
2. Alex McMillan (Jnr) 250.12.
3. Rodney Richardson 250.9.
4. Paul Sullivan 250.8.
5. Bill Jupp 250.6.

GRAND AGG:

1. Alex McMillan (Jnr) 500.34.
2. Rodney Richardson 500.32.
3. Paul Sullivan 500.29.
4. Ean Parsons 500.27.
5. Bill Jupp 500.21.

2-gun

RIMFIRE:

1. Paul Sullivan 995.49.
2. Bill Simmons 994.34.
3. David Jenkins 993.35.
4. Robin Cox 992.32.
5. John Patzwald 992.32.

CENTREFIRE:

1. Bill Jupp 999.47.
2. Ean Parsons 998.52.
3. Paul Sullivan 997.52.
4. Local shooter Gary Hunt 997.39.
5. Kevin Birse 996.55.

4-gun

1. Paul Sullivan 1992.101.
2. Bill Jupp 1985.82.
3. Kevin Birse 1982.79.
4. Ean Parsons 1980.84.
5. Greg Schneider 1980.62.





Check out your upcoming local events and competitions

West Wyalong Branch

Following the COVID-19 NSW lockdown period earlier this year, SSAA NSW branches and affiliate clubs have gradually reopened and incorporated new pandemic procedures and guidelines for the safety of all members, volunteers and staff. The safety of members, volunteers and staff is our number 1 priority.

Ken Peterson of West Wyalong branch recounted a Family Day in late 2019, where a family of 7 attended the range and participated in shooting activities (after completing P650 forms). After the event, the parents of the junior participants both expressed the views that the shoot was well run and conducted extremely safely. The range officers (direct instructors) also agreed that everything went well.

While they hope to host more family days in the future, West Wyalong branch is one of many branches who have felt the poor attendance impacts of COVID-19. Secretary, Helen Culbert, states "Overall it's difficult to get people to attend the range these days; unfortunately current members are a bit complacent with the extension to the COVID-19 timelines."

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage our members to revisit their local range and re-establish their sports shooting practice. Many competitions have resumed and ranges have implemented individually tailored COVID-19 safety plans so that all may safely attend and participate in their sport.

Keep an eye on what's coming up next by visiting the SSAA NSW website events page or the events section of our Facebook page.

Volunteer Spotlight

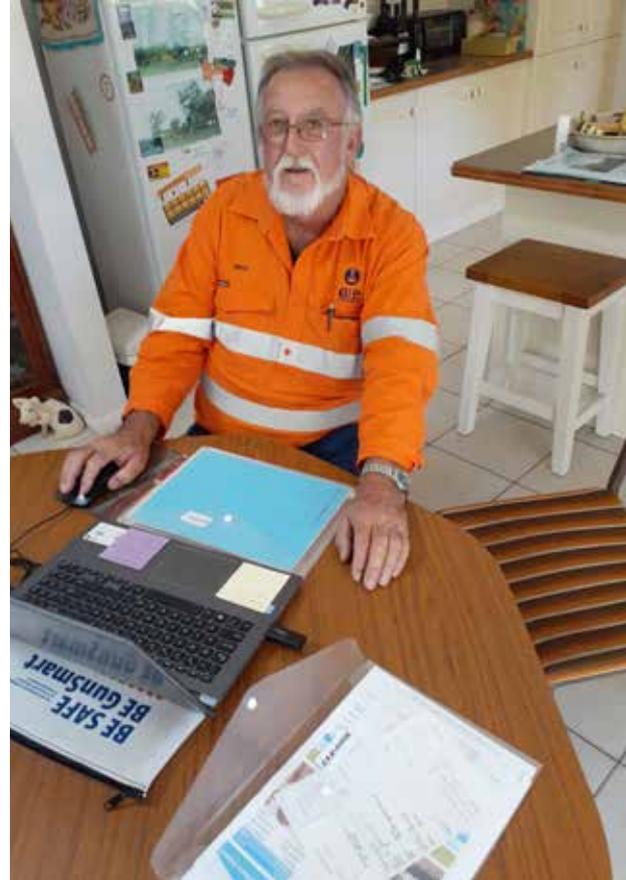
SSAA NSW and the shooting sports are built upon the hard work and dedication of generous and passionate volunteers who consistently give back to their community

Meet Bruce Hawkins, a relatively new club member who has taken up the task of Branch Treasurer.

Bruce has had a variety of experiences from country store operator, earthmoving contractor and now crane work advisor/organiser.

Bruce has taken to precision shooting (both rimfire and centrefire fields) with very competitive results in both areas.

Bruce's ability to accept new challenges will put him in good stead for his new position in our Branch.



Bruce Hawkins

JOHN HALLETT, NARRABRI BRANCH

Discipline Chairs

The discipline chair positions have recently been updated. Please refer to the list below for the name and contact details of your respective discipline chairs.

DISCIPLINE	CHAIR NAME	CONTACT NUMBER
BENCH	Darren Parsons	0439 420 635
BIG GAME	Ben Doherty	0409 831 258
COLONIAL ACTION	Bob Conran	0419 423 161
COMBINED SERVICES	Anthony Gatti	0427 634 543
FIELD RIFLE & 3P	N/A	N/A
LEVEL ACTION	Don Chesworth	0418 881 078
MUZZLELOADING	Shayne Barnsley	0418 302 062
HANDGUN METALLIC SILHOUETTE	Brian Marsden	0409 663 441
PISTOL (Target Pistol, Action Match & Practical Pistol)	Graham Roberts	0429 839 622
RIFLE METALLIC SILHOUETTE	Tim Barry	0419 405 696
SHOTGUN	Greg Allen	0409 444 955
SINGLE ACTION	Matt Barwick	0418 468 721
DISCIPLINES COORDINATOR	Warren Brown	0428 623 161



NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

The NSW public land hunting program has gone mobile!



In October 2020, an exciting enhancement was made to the NSW public land hunting program with the Game Licensing Unit's new Hunt NSW mobile application (app).

Available to download now for both Apple and Android devices, Hunt NSW is a free app that provides R-licensed hunters with a way to easily access their written permission and hunting maps from one convenient location on their mobile device.

One of the most popular features of Hunt NSW is the ability to access the new mobile-friendly online licence holder services portal to complete tasks such as booking a hunt, amending or cancelling a written permission and lots more, all without leaving the app.

The 'Written Permissions' menu within the app contains links to view a current written permission, complete a harvest return and access the DPI hunting maps for a booked hunt.

R-licence holders can say goodbye to having to carry a separate GPS device and loading new maps for each hunt, as the Hunt NSW app automatically downloads the current hunting maps, as well as any updates to these maps, when connected to a network.

Licensed hunters can also access the hunting maps when network access is unavailable by downloading the offline map packs available in low, medium or high resolution.





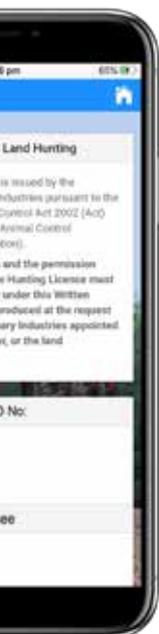
Another exciting feature of the Hunt NSW app is the ability to view maps in 'Hunt Mode'. When 'Hunt Mode' is turned on, licence holders viewing a hunting map can:

- track your movement during your hunt
- make note of specific locations by dropping pins
- record your harvest during your hunt, as well as upload photos
- receive alerts when you have entered a hunting exclusion area.

It's important that all licensed hunters keep up to date with the latest hunting rules and regulations. There are a number of reference resources within the app, including the rules for hunting on public land and species identification guides to ensure all hunting is conducted in a safe and sustainable manner.

Hunt NSW is also another tool for legal hunters and the DPI Game Licensing Unit to shut the gate on illegal hunting, making it quick and easy to submit an illegal hunting report form with the types of information that will assist investigations.

R-Licence holders can download the Hunt NSW app for free from the AppStore for Apple devices or Google Play for Android devices. A handy user guide is also available on the DPI website to help new users get started and take advantage of all the features of the Hunt NSW app: <https://bit.ly/2OHgccl>.





Q&A WITH STEPHEN MAINSTONE

Ask Stephen



Q. I have applied to renew my licence but haven't received a reply back from the Firearms Registry and my licence is due to expire soon. Am I still covered by the previous licence?

A: Yes, you are. Clause 19 of the Firearms Regulation 2017 provides that if a person's application for a subsequent licence or permit is made before the person's current licence or permit expires but has not been dealt with by the Registry before its expiry, the authority conferred by the current licence or permit continues until such time as the person is notified of the issue of, or refusal of, the subsequent licence or permit.

The Clause also provides that if an applicant fails to collect the subsequent licence or permit within 60 days of being notified of its issue, the subsequent licence or permit is taken to have been surrendered and the authority conferred by the current licence or permit ceases to have effect.

So, you are covered until the licence renewal is granted but readers need to make sure they continue to monitor the progress of their application so they collect the licence within the time frame once it has been issued.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ARTICLE IS GENERAL IN NATURE AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED LEGAL ADVICE.

Should you require legal advice relevant to a particular matter concerning you, it is always advisable to contact a lawyer. Mainstone Lawyers are able to provide legal advice regarding all firearms and other Police related matters.

Contact our office on (02) 9531 0322, Email info@mainstonelawyers.com.au or on our website MAINSTONELAWYERS.COM.AU



ALI MULLA, SSAAIB

SSAA Insurance

Managing the Risk of Machinery in your Rural Workplace or Hobby Farm



Due to the ever-changing landscape of insurance and the insurance markets, Safe work Australia has named the agricultural sector one of seven priority areas dealing with workplace health and safety.

There are several ways to protect yourself and your assets. On average, more than 40 agricultural workers die each year, with about 80% of those occurring on farms and rural properties. Furthermore, six out of 10 fatalities are involved in plants, machinery and vehicles.

Farm vehicles such as quad bikes cause the most fatalities on farms and rural properties. They have killed more than 280 people in the past two decades.

The causes included:

- carrying heavier loads than the design allows;
- driver speed/negligence/recklessness/lack of training;
- poor maintenance;
- uneven terrain;
- not wearing personal protective clothing like helmets; and
- allowing minors to drive adult-sized quad bikes.

Last October, the new Australian Safety Standards came into force for new and imported quad bikes and from October this year, these new rules will apply.

All new and second-hand, imported, utility quad bikes should have minimum stability levels and an operator protection device (like roll-over protection). These changes came about due to a 2019 matter where a farmer was ordered to pay \$400,000 in compensation to someone injured on their farm, while riding the farmer's quad bike.

You can protect yourself and your rural workplace against a range of risks with a customised insurance package for your farm business or hobby farm. Adding farm machinery cover to your package means you're covered for tractors and other equipment that you lease or own for use in farming. Also consider farm motor insurance, which is a comprehensive cover for your own vehicle, as well as liability for damage to others vehicles and property.

If you would like a review on your farm business or hobby farm insurance, please feel free to call me directly on 0455 777 685.



Proud to be SSAA



SSAA

OZtrail
AUSTRALIAN MADE
Outdoor Gear



Lever Action Rifle State Titles

COONABARABRAN BRANCH





The weekend of the 1st and 2nd of May 2021 saw the skies clear and the breeze very light, to make for great conditions under which to shoot the NSW Lever Action Rifle State Titles.

The mood was most cordial, the dinner at the Golden Sea Dragon Saturday evening much enjoyed. Some juniors, along with older members, had some fun running the targets out with volunteer Luke Mitchell's side-by-side truck.

Preparations started on Friday 30th April, while one of our Full-Bore shooter friends was hard at work on an air-seeder in a paddock to our rear, in readiness for the rain predicted on the following Tuesday. Concurrently, half of the field were at practice in preparation for the full-on competition of the weekend.

DAY 1

Two new local shooters, Alan Norton and Stephen Coe, were added to the field facing the targets on Saturday morning in the 50 rounds Open Lever Action Rifle match. Both Stephen and Alan performed creditably in this match, their very first for a full course of fire, having fired only sufficient shots to be graded two weeks earlier.

Because courses of fire vary, the masters of yore set up two targets as grading targets, compulsory for any match. These are the same 50 metre targets the pistol clubs use, shot from any field position at 100 metres and off-hand at 50 metres. There are also national medals issued, based on the total scores of these two targets and NSW State medals based on the buffalo head target at 100 metres and the feral cat at 50 metres.

These local shooters were talked into shooting as a C grader can do well in such a competition. This proved to be the case as both Alan and Stephen, who both own lever actions and have done a bit of 'paddock' shooting, found themselves in the C grade placings, first and second, respectively. Alan was also a winner of his first national medal award, a bronze. This was the only national or state medal awarded for the weekend.

Overall results were:

1. first, Steve Hurley (Albany, WA);
2. second, Craig Knox (Northern Rivers); and
3. third, Don Chesworth (Northern Rivers).

Within the Open match is a Traditional Rifle category for basically equipped lever actions, Jim Buckley (Silverdale) won this event with Kerry Guinea (Townsville) runner up.



Martin Williams (Open A Grade Gold and Classic B Grade Gold) and Craig Knox (Open AA grade Gold, Classic A Grade silver).



**Traditional rifle shooters:
Jim Buckley (gold), Kerry
Guinea (silver).**



DAY 2

The Sunday is always a challenge, the Classic Rifle match, where the sights are limited to a vee rear sight and a post fore sight.

For new shooters, and some old, this one is often too much of an ask as it is so easy to lose one's way. One reason for this is there is not much target area to see any shots that have fallen off-target in order to make a correction. Much like shooting at a pig in the field and missing, wondering "where did that shot go?"

Steve Hurley, the defending title holder from Mudgee, where the last State Title event (2019) was held in one place. Steve was again invincible. The Classic Calibre results were:

1. first, Steve Hurley;
2. second, Kevin Barrington (Coonabarabran); and
3. third, Don Chesworth.

The State Title overall result for the two match totals known as the 'Two Gun' was:

1. first Steve Hurley (a clean sweep of gold and the NSW Shield for Steve);
2. second, Kevin Barrington (fourth place in the Open match); and
3. third Don Chesworth.

The Two Gun Ladies was won by Liz Ellis (Perth) and the Two Gun Junior by Connor Ellis (Perth). The Two Gun Veterans was won by Kevin Barrington and Seniors by Don Chesworth, both winning their respective age categories in both matches.

The Title event was supported by major barrel manufacturer, Total Solutions Engineering in Everton Hills, Brisbane and gun stores:

- Murtech Munitions at Coonamble,
- Austin Bourke's Bastille Gun store at Dubbo; and
- Cowboy Guns and Gear at Cowra.

The support of these companies was greatly appreciated for significant prizes in kind.



**Kevin Barrington
SSAA NSW Lever Action Rifle State
Title Convenor**



SSAA protects tradies.

"SSAA Insurance looks after all our insurance. Trevor catches up with me on site and keeps the insurance jargon out if it."

Jason King
King Design & Construction

Trevor Jenkin
SSAAGiB National Manager

Before you renew your Trade Insurance policy, talk to SSAA General Insurance Brokers for an obligation FREE quote.

We can arrange all types of personal and business insurance for you with coverage obtained from Australia's leading insurance companies. Add up how much you spend each year on all your premiums – It's BIG money, so talk to us about an obligation FREE quote.

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- We provide obligation FREE quotes
- We understand your business and your insurance needs
- We make sure everything is correctly covered
- We will give you professional advice
- We will manage your claims, taking care of all the details
- A proportion of commissions paid to the Brokerage flow back to the SSAA
- The Brokerage is a SSAA member advantage and is there to help you

Before you renew any insurance policy get an obligation FREE quote from the SSAA General Insurance Brokerage - they work for you.

All General Insurances



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WALNUT STOCK
TITANIUM CERAKOTE BARREL®



POLYMER STOCK
TITANIUM CERAKOTE BARREL®



POLYMER STOCK
ARMOR BLACK CERAKOTE BARREL®

TOUGH
ACCURATE
RELIABLE



The CrossOver won't let you down.

LITHGOW ARMS BATTLE PROVEN SINCE 1912

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