

Our Second Edition

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter. The recent foul weather is the dominant story, but there is also some good news. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it informative.

Stormwater Inundation

The torrential rain of the 13th of December wreaked havoc throughout the region. Our club suffered extensive damage as a result of storm water runoff and our grounds were totally submerged. That meant, of course, that the DTL traps were all under water. The water reached about 30cm in depth at the clubhouse and shed. Consequently, the clubhouse floor was under water and equipment in the shed, including mobile traps and boxes of targets on pallets, suffered extensive water damage.

Our DTL Christmas shoot programmed for Saturday the 15th of December was cancelled. Instead, 22 club members turned out on that day to tackle the mammoth task of an initial clean up. The day's efforts focused on minimising damage inside the clubhouse and shed, getting water out of the trap houses and picking up the huge volume of debris spread by the water runoff. In the spirit of Dame Vera Lynn singing to the troops, the shenanigans of two club pups, Peggy Motha & Pippa Crittenden, kept our troops entertained.

In spite of the gloomy weather and the obvious concern for the club, there was a positive spirit throughout the day and a lot of good natured banter amongst the team. This sort of camaraderie and productive attitude is what got the club through its previous shut down and will once again carry the club into the future.

Stormwater Inundation - Follow Up

The committee and other club members were already hard at work as the rain was still falling. Now, in the aftermath, the real work begins. Anton, Brian & Linda are dealing with the insurance company, a process that will consume a lot of their time and energy. They spent Tuesday at the club with the insurance assessor, so the wheels are definitely in motion. The committee's stated focus is to minimise financial damage to the club and get it back up and operational in the absolute minimum time possible. Having said that, we all need to be realistic in our expectations. The support of all members, and those wonderful regulars from other clubs who visit us, is essential to a positive outcome.

Compak Sporting Clays

Our club is now affiliated with Sporting Clays Australia (SCA), the group responsible for the Compak style of clay target shooting. We conducted our first event under that organisation's umbrella on the 9th of December and it was a great day. In general, there is no physical difference in the conduct of our actual shooting events, but the administration and nomination process is somewhat more involved. Whilst some of the requirements in signing on for the day are certainly different to the old way, they are not that different to some other shooting sports events, such as SSAA rifle ranges, for example. Linda, our secretary, is, as always, working hard to streamline the process and it will certainly become smoother each time we hold such events.

More important than the trivialities of signing up, the actual event went well and we had significantly more shooters, many from organisations other than ACTA. As such, the club's decision to join SCA, in the hope of attracting more visitors to our club, was a good one.

Juniors Doing Well

Two of our club's juniors have done us proud over recent months. Tom Davey took out the Victorian State DB Championship for C Grade at Echuca in November, shooting his first 50 break in the process. Matthew Motha won C Grade in the 50 Target Point Score at the Numurkah/Shepparton club's Melbourne Cup shoot and came away with a shiny new .22 rifle for his efforts. Tom & Matthew were also both members of the North East Zone Junior Trap Team this year.

New Members

We've had 6 new members sign up to our club since November, including some juniors. That bodes well for the future.

Trap House Specifications

Anton & Col have been hard at work on Trap no.3 and it now complies with the ACTA specifications. The trap house itself was cut down to the appropriate height and the concrete pedestal inside the pit was lopped to get the trap lower. The levels were taken by a properly qualified person using laser equipment. The plan is to carry out the same process on Trap no.2 as soon as possible. The recent extreme weather will obviously disrupt that process, but the club is determined to get it done and have all of our equipment comply with the regulations.

EFT Now Available at Competitions

The electronic payment system is up and running. Competition fees can now be paid via EFT. Club membership fees can also be paid via EFT, as long as Anita or Linda are present. Practice sessions and the canteen will remain as cash only.

Grant Applications for Kitchen

Yahoo! Our grant application to upgrade the kitchen was successful. Given the recent water inundation, a crystal ball will be useful to predict when work might start. Nevertheless, the funds are available and we will get our new kitchen as soon as possible.

Grant Applications for Toilets

We are still waiting for news on the toilet grant application, which was due to be announced in November. We did receive advice from the relevant government department, stating that due to the unexpectedly large number of applications, the vetting period had been extended.

EPA Update

A new Clean-up Notice (CUN) is due to be issued by the EPA, which will, in turn, require an updated Clean-up Plan (CUP). The CUP will be written by Golder Environmental Consultants and will be subject to approval by an EPA appointed auditor. Further testing of wells will also to be done to clarify previous results.

We hope you've enjoyed our newsletter. We look forward to keeping you up to date with the latest developments at our club.

*Anton Motha
President, on behalf of the Committee
Wangaratta Clay Target Club*