

Welcome to the seventh edition of our newsletter. There's a fair bit of bureaucratic stuff in it this month, but all very important for the club's future. It's also important that everyone understands that we are operating under extremely strict guidelines laid down by the EPA.

Stakeholder Meeting

On Thursday the 7th of November, Anton Motha, Brian Reid, Phil Smith & Col Crittenden represented our club at a meeting with Marcus Goonan (Manager-Infrastructure, Planning & Delivery RCOW) and Councillor Harvey Benton (RCOW), Dr Steven Whiting and Ian Kluckow (Golder Environmental Consultants). The meeting was convened to discuss the new Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and the restoration of club facilities and functions lost since the EPA Pollution Abatement Notice was issued in 2016.

The loss of Down The Line on Ground 1 and the loss of all Skeet activities took up much of the meeting. Other topics, such as ongoing management of The Paddock, drainage, removal of contaminated soil stockpiles and administration matters, were also included in the agenda.

As Project Managers, the Rural City of Wangaratta now has a more detailed understanding of the physical layout of the Skeet and DTL disciplines and the RCOW representatives have been briefed on the club's firm intention to have these activities restored. It is anticipated that Council will respond in due course to the matters raised and we look forward to an acceptable outcome for all parties.

ZZ Competition

The club hosted a ZZ Shoot on Saturday the 14th of September. The organisers, Shane, Garb & Dicko from Albury, had been looking around for a venue and, fortunately for all concerned, a conversation with Anton Motha got the ball rolling. Twenty five shooters took part in the event, many travelling up from Melbourne and some even further. Entry costs were certainly high compared to DTL and Sporting Clays, but the cash prizes were sensational. Overall winner was Daniel Demasi, a very talented young man who missed only one target all day.

Garb reckons that the runners (who set the traps, pick up & reassemble the reusable targets) at ZZ shoots can make or break an event. In his opinion, the runners at the Wang event were top notch.

From our club's point of view, the day went very well and introduced another exciting clay target discipline to the area and attracted shooters who might not normally visit our grounds.

Canteen Manager

Anita Klima is standing down as canteen manager, due to her work commitments. Luckily for all of us, she has found a replacement. Alan Collins will take over the job, starting at November's DTL. Alan has experience in the catering industry, currently running the canteen at Bruck. He says that he is looking forward to getting to know the shooters and learning about the club's activities. Anita has certainly set the bar high for Alan. Especially with her bacon & egg rolls.

Rhys McGauran Eligible for Selection in SCA National Team

Congratulations to SCA Wangaratta member Rhys McGauran. He is listed on Sporting Clays Australia's recently announced list of shooters eligible for selection to represent SCA & Australia at the 42nd World FITASC Sporting Championships to be held in the USA.

Junior Coaching and Competition

Forward-thinking committeeman Keith Willett organised a junior coaching session and informal competition on Saturday the 12th of October. A group of eight youngsters with varying levels of experience attended the event. Ernie Williams, ever watchful from his command post in the clubrooms, was particularly impressed by not only the shooting, but also the way the kids conducted themselves.

Keith Willett, a schoolteacher by trade, is following in the footsteps of another local schoolteacher, Chas Whitla, who, in the early 1960s started instructing gun safety at the Wang Tech School and went on to run regular schoolboy competitions here at our club. In more recent times, the late 1990s, Bruce Henshall and his father Tom ran Saturday morning schoolboy comps and occasionally had as many as 20 attendees.

Let's hope that Keith Willett's effort bears fruit and that we continue to see regular junior activities at the club.

Bob Foster Back in Action

It was great to see Bob foster back at the club after his recent accident. Bob appears to be recovering well and he came to spectate at the September DTL competition. He then came out for a practice round in late October and shot quite well. Bob went home seemingly happy in the knowledge that he's still got the knack.

Practice Times

During daylight saving months, practice sessions will be extended to 6:30pm. DTL practice is available every Wednesday from 1:30 pm and on Saturdays from 1.30 pm, except for the third Saturday of each month, when we conduct our DTL competitions. Sporting Clays practice is available every Wednesday from 1:30 pm and competitions are held on the second Sunday of each month. If there are no shooters present and the grounds are not being used, the equipment may be packed up earlier than the listed practice times.

EPA Update

Following on from a new EMP to be produced shortly, an auditor verified Clean Up Plan will be finalised by the 30th of January, 2020. It is anticipated that by mid-2020, the current environmental issue will have been satisfactorily addressed, subject to ongoing compliance with an EMP for the premises.

Ask Not What Your Gun Club Can Do For You, ... etc etc

Good old JFK knew how to motivate a crowd. We need him to whip up some volunteers to help out at the club. If you have an hour or two to spare, there's always something to do at competitions and practice days.

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