

# SSANZ News September & October 2015



**Please Note your subs due date after your name, if highlighted it is due now.**

In July SSANZ launched a new Blog <http://sportingshooters.blogspot.co.nz/>

Here you can read about the issues that concern us as they occur.

**Will you be a Regional Rep?** We are looking for members to act as regional reps to help promote SSANZ in your local area. If enough members (15) can form a group we can set up local branches. Currently Northland is the only region with its own Branch. If you can help please contact the Secretary, Tel. 09 436 4065.

## **MSC puts New Zealand Firearm Safety Training in Jeopardy**

SSANZ is extremely concerned at the way the senior executives of the Mountain Safety Council have jeopardised the integrity of the whole Firearms Safety Training programme in New Zealand.

As you know in order to gain a Firearm Licence applicants must attend a safety lecture and pass a written test before applying for a licence. This safety lecture and test is provided by volunteer instructors of the Mountain Safety Council. Over the past year the MSC executive has implemented a major reorganisation that has resulted in the closure of all its branches and the reallocation of its non firearm instructors to other organisations, however the Firearms programme was supposed to remain unchanged and carry on as normal.

In July the jobs of the Firearms Manager and Firearms Training Coordinator have been disestablished and the incumbents given notice, while the job description of the executive to replace them calls for no experience in firearms or hunting nor does it require a Firearm Licence.

Many instructors have been so disgusted by this latest turn of events that they are threatening to resign.

SSANZ urges the Commissioner of Police, who approves all Firearm Instructors under Regulation 14 of the Arms Act, to sack the MSC and appoint a new organisation to administrator the Firearms Safety Training Programme and test.

One has to wonder if the senior executives and board members of MSC have been replaced by anti gun fanatics.

## **New Shooting Facility for Taranaki**

In the last issue we reported the closure of the last remaining Fullbore range in Taranaki, it is therefore pleasing to report that 17 Taranaki clubs are getting behind an initiative of the New Plymouth NZDA to create a new shooting facility on council land in New Plymouth.

The inaugural meeting for the new range was held in mid July and a working committee of 6 chosen to set up the necessary infrastructure for the project, which will be known as the Taranaki Sporting Shooting Hub.

SSANZ congratulates the shooters of Taranaki for getting behind this proposed new Shooting Facility in New Plymouth, and also the New Plymouth Council for supporting this project. We will keep a close eye on this project and support it in whatever way we can.

## **Sika Show**

SSANZ will have a representative on the COLFO stand (M31) at this year's Sika Show in Taupo Event Centre on 26 & 27 September.

Please come and say hello.

## **Durban Likely to Dump Fullbore Shooting from 2022 Commonwealth Games**

In its bid to secure hosting for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Durban has left off Full Bore Shooting from the list of events on the grounds that they do not have suitable facilities. A final decision will be made at the Commonwealth Games Conference here in Auckland in September.

NZSF and NRANZ will be lobbying hard to have this long running event reinstated. SSANZ wishes them every success.

We know that international Full Bore matches have been held in South Africa in the past and since this is not a spectator sport you would think that a venue could be found somewhere in the country for it to be included. Come on Durban buck your ideas up.

## **Anti Gun Propaganda in the NZ Herald**

Under a heading of [UK cop's shocking Kiwi holiday photo - children holding guns](#) the NZ Herald again shows its anti gun stance.

A Scottish Police Officer on holiday in NZ in 2008 took a couple of photos of two young children holding guns and posted them on his Facebook page in 2010. This **OLD NEWS** is now causing a stir in the UK and being ramped up here in NZ by the Herald. While they can only guess at the ages of the children and only state that the guns "appear to be real" the Herald is sending the message that it is wrong for children to be interested or even hold a gun.

SSANZ says children are old enough to hold a gun when their parents think it is appropriate and of course as long as it is under the direct supervision of a Licence holder, as it was in this case.

As to what we post on our own Facebook, that is for ourselves to judge, not for the media or public to censure.

## **Health & Safety Reform Bill**

We learned recently that the Health & Safety reform Bill, which has gone through the Select Committee stage posed some serious concerns for shooters and hunters, because as originally worded it implied that landowners would be responsible and liable for the safety of any person on their land at any time. Which posed the question would they be willing to allow hunters or shooting ranges on their land in the future. The Bill also indicated that club volunteers who organise sporting events (shooting) would also be held liable.

We are therefore pleased to see that the Select Committee has recommended some changes: for example a farmer will only be responsible for farm buildings and their immediate vicinity and other areas of the farm where work is actually taking place. Further volunteers engaged in such things as sporting events will be exempt.

We hope these changes make it into the final Act.

## **SSANZ Congratulates Young Northland Pistol Shooter**

15 year old SSANZ member Samantha Skovlund of Whangarei Pistol Club has been selected to represent New Zealand in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event in this year Oceania Championships. The event takes place in Sydney between 26 November and 4 December and will include teams from NZ, Australia, Niue, Papa New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island and French Polynesia. Samantha currently ranks fifth in NZ in 10m Air Pistol and is ranked first in the junior category. Other SSANZ members in the team also from Whangarei Pistol Club include: Gerald Nobes, Stephanie Nobes, Thomas Nobes, Samantha Nobes, Lucy Philips and Sam Manderson.

SSANZ Northland Branch will be making a donation towards Samantha's travel costs and earlier this year assisted Lucy Philips in the purchase of a new competition air pistol.