

From Your Secretary

My apologies for the late delivery of this newsletter; for the past two months I have been living in my camper van with my computer in store, having sold my old home before my new home was vacant. Please note that my new phone number is 09 436 4065, SSANZ mailing address (PO Box 275, Whangarei 0140) and email ssanzsec@gmail.com Please contact me if you have any membership queries.



Northland Branch are preparing for the fifteenth annual Hunting, Shooting and Fishing Show on Saturday 20 June at Forum North Rust Avenue, Whangarei. Open to the public from 1000 to 1600, entry is only \$2.50. We hope you will be able to attend.

Phil Cregeen, Secretary

A message from the President

Hello all fellow shooters, collectors and those involved with firearms. The duck hunting season is nearly upon us again as is the roar for those into deer stalking, so it's time to think carefully about the responsibility of owning and handling firearms safely and legally.

Recently in Northland we have all been shocked and saddened by a tragic accident to one of our longstanding and respected shooters who, possibly forgot about the situation presented, was tragically killed while unloading a weapon off his 'ute after a day at the range. One small oversight can result in death. There are often no second chances so please be careful and obey the rules it's better to be careful today than sorry tomorrow.

Our sport is still under attack from various quarters, as you will see in the other articles. I urge all members to talk to their mates and encourage them to join SSANZ .The more members we have the more voice we have, its that simple. The cost of a couple of beers is cheap insurance to be able to have your say in countering the anti-gun lobby or political pressures being pushed upon law abiding gun ownership.

Safe hunting and enjoy the freedoms that exist in this country today but don't take it for granted Please help preserve what we have by supporting the organizations that argue for your legal firearm ownership and are trying to safeguard existing rights

Allan Delaney, National President

Whangarei District Council Plan Change on Noise & Vibration

SSANZ was greatly encouraged to see that many shooters joined us in making submissions on proposed changes to severely restrict the operating times and noise levels of shooting ranges in the district. Over 50 % of all submissions were from shooters objecting to the new restrictions. A further round of the submissions has provided opportunity for more shooters to add their support to the objections already made. We now await opportunity to make oral submissions to the Council. *Due to start on 15 June.*

US Green Tip Ammo ban

Some readers may have heard of a proposed ban in the USA of a type of 5.56mm round known a 'Green tip' or M855A1 EPR. The objective of creating the 'Green Tip' round was to create an environmentally-friendly small arms training round after the US Army had been required to remove lead from their bullets to reduce lead accumulation at stateside training ranges. The lead slug is replaced by a copper alloy slug in a reverse-drawn jacket, with a hardened steel penetrator extending beyond the jacket, reducing lead contamination to the environment. The alloy core means the round fits the definition of armour piercing in USA Federal regulations, but for a long time has been considered exempt from this definition and is popular for sporting purposes.

This issue appears to have come about because of the availability of 'pistol-sized' AR-15 type weapons that could conceivably fire these rounds and the perceived threat to police officers. True armor-piercing **handgun** ammunition has quite rightly been banned in the USA since 1986 as a way to protect police officers under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act.

While it is quite reasonable for the US government to seek to ban certain categories of ammunition that have [body] armour piercing capability for the safety of its officers, it does cause problems for shooters at large. Any ammo ban makes gun owners suspicious of where it will lead, particularly when the round concerned is in the most popular caliber used in one of the most popular types of firearm today (the AR15), a rifle that has drawn the close attention of anti-gun lobbyists. Secondly, the threat of any ammo ban leads to panic buying of all types of ammo in the US, which means supplies dry up causing shortages in NZ which is at the far end of the supply chain.

In the USA there are concerns about the way this proposed ban is being handled. There appears to be a very short consultation period, which the NRA is trying to extend. When the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency recently published their latest Regulations they 'mistakenly' omitted the still current legal exemption for this round. This has led to accusations that they appear to be going ahead with the ban without proper public consultation.

Canadian PM backs the legal and recreational use of firearms.

When asked about new firearms legislation at an event in Saskatoon, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said there are too many restrictions on gun ownership, which he added is important for the livelihoods of rural people, recreation and personal safety.

"My wife's from a rural area and obviously gun ownership wasn't just for the farm, but was for a certain level of security when you're a ways away from immediate police assistance," he said during a question-and-answer session with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

"(Guns are) something people use for recreation and the vast majority do so safely," he added.

Harper also alluded to some of the government's crime policies.

"We've brought in tough penalties for the criminal misuse of firearms," he said. "And I'm always amazed at our opponents who demand that we bring in ... restrictions on law-abiding owners, but actually oppose us bringing in any penalties for people who actually commit crime using guns."

Harper told an audience of fishers and hunters last October that he was concerned the Canadian federal bureaucracy was "effectively trying to put the long gun registry back in through the back door."

SSANZ can only applaud the comments made by the Canadian PM who recognizes that firearms have an important place in the rural community and that citizens have a right to protect themselves when law enforcement agencies are not immediately available.

KUMEU Militaria Show

SSANZ congratulate Danny and Clayton, the organizers of the second Kumeu Militaria Show for producing another great event for the Auckland region at the end of March. SSANZ had the pleasure of participating and recruiting new members, but most importantly this type of show provides opportunity for firearm owners to engage with the general public in a positive way and show them that we are responsible people, with a genuine interest in our hobby.

Don't become a target, wear hi viz clothing when hunting

Observe the 7 basic rules of firearms safety