

# SSANZ News January/ February 2016



**SSANZ new website [www.sportingshooters.nz](http://www.sportingshooters.nz) is now live.** Here you can join SSANZ and pay your subs, read articles and past newsletters, buy and sell.

You can also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Sporting-Shooters-Association-of-New-Zealand-1500613573588729/timeline/>. Here you can read about the issues that concern us as they occur. If you follow Facebook please “ Like” and “Share” our posts, your constructive “Comments “ are welcome.

## **SSANZ Annual General Meeting Date Change**

SSANZ AGM will be held at **2.00 pm on Saturday 20 February 2016**, Forum North, Rust Avenue, Whangarei. All members who are able are requested to attend.

## **Anti Gun Media Campaign**

Over the past couple of months there has been a concerted anti gun campaign in both the press and TV, who is behind this is yet to be revealed. However our old friend Professor Kevin Clements of Dunedin University has been the frequent voice of the anti gun brigade always demanding the registration of all guns, despite the fact that it has never been shown to be an effective tool in crime prevention or detection. Frequently these media articles quote unsubstantiated figures to make their point and in one now well publicised event (TV 3 “Story”) even stooped to allegedly committing fraud and other crimes to prove their point.

One article claimed that all shooters were “cowboys” and that we were shooting each other and were a danger to the public at large. This type of media campaign seems designed to put the general public in fear of firearms and those who own them.

It has also been disappointing to see a Dunedin gun dealer aiding this anti gun campaign by making unsubstantiated claims about the private sale of firearms, presumably in the hope of generating more business for himself.

What we as a community can do, is always behave responsibly with our firearm, obey the 7 basic rules of firearm safety, and counter misrepresentation in the media by making complaint to the appropriate authority with reasoned arguments based on clear evidence.

Members of the SSANZ committee have lodged a number of complaints over recent Press and TV coverage on firearms issues.

## **New Mail Order Process**

When TV 3 Story programme allegedly committed fraud and other illegal acts to obtain a firearm by deception through mail order the NZ Police moved quickly to tighten up the procedure so that this could not happen in the future. Essentially mail order purchase forms are now to be verified by the Police as correct in all respects and then forwarded by them direct to the seller. Thanks to the NZ Society of Gunsmiths the relevant information may be found on the following website <http://www.armsregister.com/articles/legal.html>

SSANZ Comment: While we do not believe that there was ever a real problem with the mail order process as it previously existed, now confirmed by Police, we believe that the Police have done the correct thing in tightening up the process to assuage any public concern. While some prospective purchasers may find the new process less convenient, we feel sure that any “bugs” will soon be ironed out.

## Gun Registration

Every time he is asked to comment Professor Clements says in his opinion there are too many guns in NZ (estimated at 1.5 million) and we need to know where they all are, therefore they should all be registered.

All 230,000 Licensed firearm owners are judged to be "fit and proper" and are known to police and can be assumed to own several firearms. Does it really matter if a person legally owns 1, 5 or 100 guns, you can only effectively use one at a time.

What is not known is how many guns are held illegally by the rest of the population including those who hold them for criminal purposes. It is extremely doubtful whether this latter group would offer up their guns for registration, so a gun register would not assist police in solving crimes committed with illegally held or stolen guns. No criminal with any common sense would use a gun registered to himself that could be traced back.

Would it prevent guns being stolen? It is a requirement that any stolen firearm is reported to Police; any stolen gun can, in theory, be returned to its lawful owner, however recovery of stolen firearms appear to receive no higher priority with Police than any other stolen property. Registration of some 3 million motor vehicles does not prevent 30,000 annually being stolen, so why would guns be any different?

The disadvantages of a national gun register is that it would be costly, divert funds and Police time from their prime task and being computer based be subject to hacking by criminals who could then target gun owners.

As has been shown in the UK and Australia tougher gun laws only inconvenience the law abiding, they do not reduce gun crime and make for a safer community.

Many SSANZ members believes the solution to gun crime is a mandatory prison sentences for crimes against a person involving a firearm, such as armed robbery, and better mental health care to prevent random shooting incidents.

### Another Bad Idea Dropped

In the State of Maryland USA a 15 year old law requiring the fingerprinting of every hand gun sold, by collecting a sample fired case, has been abandoned after costing millions of dollars with no discernible useful results. This is another example of a costly failure by anti gun politicians who do not understand firearms.

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## REMINDER

Membership subscriptions for all members fall due on 1 January 2016  
NZ Guns & Hunting subscriptions will continue from your existing anniversary date.

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### Subscription renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members (\$ 1) \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Sub \$20, Family Member \$1, Sub plus NZG&H Magazine \$54)

Or Direct Credit to SSANZ Account 03-0179-0160150-00 use your name as reference

POST TO: SSANZ, PO Box 275, Whangarei, 0140