

SSANZ News March/ April 2016

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SSANZ new website 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.

NZ Guns & Hunting Magazine

Many of you subscribe to NZ Guns and Hunting through our joint discounted subscription and will therefore read our bi-monthly newsletter there. Unfortunately due to the lead time for printing our news is already a month old, so we will bring you up to date here.

SSANZ Annual General Meeting

It is pleasing to report that we had a good attendance at the AGM and were able to complete all the necessary business, so thanks to those of you who made the effort. We welcome three new enthusiastic members on to the national committee: Rachael Dean, Alec Melville and Joshua Klaver, and farewell John Dahlin, John Lambly and Morrie Leathart, who we thank for their contribution to our cause.

It is a sad reflection on the shooting community that such a small number are willing to contribute a small sum of money (\$20) annually to organisations such as SSANZ and COLFO and an even smaller number who are willing to actively get involved and contribute their time and energy. It is with this in mind that a member at the AGM, recognising that many of us are getting on in years, suggested we issue a challenge to ALL members to each recruit a new member younger than themselves to join SSANZ.

There is no doubt we need many younger members if we as an organisation are to be a force to be reckoned with. And we also need such organisations such as ours to act as our watchdogs, to intercede on behalf of ALL firearm owners when the law makers dream up new restrictions on our chosen sport or pastime, and the law enforcers act outside their remit and seek to impose their own rules up on us.

SSANZ and Gun Shows

Gun Shows are a great opportunity to connect with shooting enthusiasts. So far this year we have attended Dargaville and Otorohanga guns shows and will be attending the Kumeu Militaria Show and organising the Whangarei Hunting & Militaria Show, handing out brochures and encouraging people to join. However it is not possible for committee members to travel to all gun shows around the country, so if you could help, by handing out our brochures at a gun show near you, with the organiser's permission of course, please get in touch.

Police investigation into illegal rifle purchase by TV 3 staff

Police have concluded their investigation into Heather Du Plessis Allan and other TV3 staff following their illegal mail order purchase of a .22 rifle from Gun City. 3 people have been issued with formal warnings, the police declining to prosecute, stating that they believed that there was no sinister purpose intended.

So no conviction for a fraudulent criminal act, when not for a sinister purpose. One has to wonder what constitutes a non sinister purpose; is this a new form of defence against prosecution under the Arms Act or Crimes Act? "Honest your honour I had no sinister purpose I just wanted the unlicensed rifle to shoot possums." Yeah right!

Police Firearms Review

Police have advised the firearms community that they, in co-operation with other government agencies, are undertaking a comprehensive review of the way they administer the Arms Act and related Regulations. You can read their first progress report on the SSANZ website.

Proposed changes appear to include: placing all Arms Officers under central control with standardised training which should lead to a more consistent service; greater use of web based application forms for licences and permits. These changes are to be applauded as they should lead to a more efficient service to the firearm public.

However it is not all good news: also proposed are possible changes to on line purchasing of firearms, cost recovery for import permits, licence fees, and endorsements for restricted firearms and air pistols. Other as yet unspecified changes to the Arms Act may be in the pipeline.

SSANZ Comment: We believe it is essential that the firearms community, both users and the gun trade, must be consulted at an early stage on all matters that may affect us.

It is important that you also raise your concerns with your local MP once the details of any changes to the Arms Act are known. Many people lobbying MPs will have an impact.

Police Officer shot himself in the foot, raises question on levels of training.

In mid December a Police Officer searching for a wanted killer tripped and discharged his rifle shooting himself in the foot, he was not a member of the AOS. Rule 3 of the firearms safety code states that a firearm should only be loaded when you are ready to shoot. Although this was a man hunt one assumes that the police were not going to shoot on sight, but aiming to arrest the offender, so it is difficult to understand why the officer's rifle should be loaded with the safety catch off.

Full details of the incident have not been made public at the time of writing, but it brings into question the level of firearms training that Police Officers receive and whether that is adequate for non firearm specialists. We have recently learned from Official sources that Police Officers get what amounts to one day on the range each year, with approximately 45 rounds fired from each of the Glock pistol and Bushmaster rifle together with another day on tactics.

SSANZ Comment: If all police officers are to be armed, as retired Police Association President Greg O' Conner demands then they will need a lot more training, if the public is to remain safe. And more ranges will need to be found to accommodate this training.

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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