

SPECIAL EDITION INSERT TO THE AUSTRALIAN SHOOTER

THE JUNIOR

Shooter

AN INTRODUCTION FOR JUNIOR SHOOTERS & HUNTERS



Contents

- 2 Editorial
- 3 Will Godward on the Olympics
- 5 The journey to success
- 6 Change your mindset and improve your shooting
- 7 Juniors-only competition
- 8 An early morning goat hunt
- 10 SSAA National Junior Challenge 2012
- 11 A boy's first African hunt
- 14 Letters and gallery
- 16 Sponsor a junior and save your sport

Staff Managing Editor Tim Bannister, Associate Editor Kaye Jenkins, Art Director Mike Barr, Production Coordinator Judy Ward, Graphic Designer Natalie Hill, Media Officer Rachael Andrews, Advertising Representative Karoline Minicozzi, Administration Debbie Wing and Alison Slodki.

Contributors Will Godward, Samuel Cadorin, Denis Roe.

PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061
Phone: 08 8272 7100
Internet: www.ssaa.org.au

Fax: 08 8272 2945
Email: as@ssaa.org.au

Editorial

Bob Green
SSAA National President



Welcome to the 10th issue of *The Junior Shooter*. When we first started this publication, we knew it was important to provide a voice for our junior members. But we couldn't have predicted how much of a success this publication would be and how many great stories and letters we would read and share with our young (and young-at-heart) readers.

The shooting sports and recreational hunting have always been important Australian pastimes. But with today's busy lifestyles, where recreation often comes second place to other responsibilities, it is perhaps more important than ever to be able to spend time at the range or in the field with our family and friends.

In this issue, Olympic Games shooter Will Godward talks about his international shooting successes and takes us back to where it all started - his local SSAA branch. It is here, Will says, that junior shooters can form new friendships, hone skills, develop goals and dreams, and of course, learn how to shoot, all in a safe and responsible environment.

We also have two hunting stories for you. The first is from Samuel Cadorin, who recounts his story of goat hunting with his father, while the second is from Denis Roe, who talks about he and his son's bushbuck and warthog adventure in South Africa.

Thank you to all contributors, readers and supporters of *The Junior Shooter* over the past five years. I hope you enjoy this issue, and we look forward to bringing you more interesting and informative stories in the coming years. ●

The Junior Shooter is owned and published by the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of this Association.

No text or photographs within this publication may be republished, either electronically or in print, without the express written permission of the SSAA. Copyright 2012.

Printed by Genii, Brookvale, NSW.

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc (SSAA Inc) is subject to the provisions of the National Privacy Act. We collect personal information from members of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia in the various states and territories. Should you want a copy of the SSAA Inc Privacy Statement or seek further information please write to PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061.

Will Godward on the Olympics

by Media Officer Rachael Andrews

Olympian and SSAA member Will Godward knows his success in the ranks of international shooting can be traced back to the day he started shooting in 1996 as a junior at the SSAA Moonta Branch in South Australia. It was here that the dream of competing in the Olympics began as he was taken under the wing of local shooters, and his passion for target shooting began to grow.

Now 28, Will had been chasing his Olympic dreams since his late teens and he finally had the ultimate goal realised when his selection into the 2012 Australian Shooting Team was announced in early June.

“When I first realised I wanted to try and reach the Olympics in my late teens, there was a whole attitude change,” he said. “For anyone, the Olympic dream is achievable; it’s just committing to the goal.”

“For me as a SSAA member, it’s through the other shooters that you learn and you build a love and appreciation for the sport because it starts off as a fun thing.

“Then you realise you want to take it further and you start having smaller goals like representing the state and the country before you begin to invest the time and the money to take it further. It’s a long road, but you can do it.”

Will said his first goal was to take out the title of SSAA National Champion in 3-Positional, Field Rifle and Air Rifle, which he achieved in 2008. It was then that things got really serious and he began aiming for international competitions. He secured a place on several SSAA overseas teams, and then, in 2010, Will was selected into the shooting squad to compete in the Commonwealth Games in India.

“After being selected to compete for my county, my greatest moment would have to be wearing the green and gold for my country,” he said. “I think when I got my first uniform, I just wore it around the house for a few days.”


Will’s efforts at the Commonwealth Games almost put him into finals contention in the individual 3 Position event, but he missed the top 10 by just two points and came fifth in the

pairs shoot with team-mate Ben Burge. From then on, it was all about the 2012 Olympics for Will, as he began the tough competition for quota places to compete in London. Things happened as he had hoped, however, with his scores steadily increasing at the right time, allowing him to secure the first quota place for Australia in shooting. It was then that he had to keep up the momentum to win the right to compete in this place over some lofty Australian competitors.

“Because I had filled the selection criteria we had to meet to be considered for the Olympic Team, I had a fair idea that I was in, but it still had to be ratified,” Will said.

“Once I got the news, it was a relief. I had been dreaming about this for a long time. In 1996, I saw Michael Diamond win gold and that was when I knew I wanted to be there. It’s something I’ve always wanted and I’ve had to put in the hard yards to get there.”

The ‘hard yards’ for Will have been efforts to make his life fit around his shooting, changing jobs to have more flexibility while also maintaining an income to keep up his training. He said the best training for him is to compete against the best shooters and that means travelling to Europe, which he says is the heart of shooting.



Many hours of preparation go into getting ready for competition. This includes actual shooting practice and ensuring all equipment meets a certain standard.

The Junior Shooter

“A trip there and back can be \$5000, but it’s worth it when you have the chance to be up against the competitors who are at the top of the game,” he said.

Having finally made it, Will attended the opening and closing ceremonies in London, competed in his event and took the opportunity to see some action from other sports. He placed 40th in the 10m Air Rifle event, starting strongly, but missing out on a high score with a disappointing finish as his concentration waned. Will said it was mental toughness that played a large part in shooting at such a high level and it was something he was continually working on, especially as he began aiming towards the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

“Over the past four years, I’ve seen things that have worked for me and things that haven’t,” he said. “I’ve had the experience now and it’s time to perform, so I need to be confident in my own skills.

“When I go out there, I know the target is the same size and my gun is the same, so any pressure that you feel is what you’re creating for yourself.”

There is no break for Will and his fellow Australian shooters aiming for 2016, with quota places starting to be allocated in two years’ time and World Cup events beginning in about 12 months’ time. Will said Olympics hopefuls shouldn’t be under any illusions about it being an easy process, but they should know that it is very rewarding.

“You don’t get to stop; you need to be ready for that, but I’ll be taking the experience from these Games and using it,” he said. “I’ve got a year left to be up there, ready to go again.”

“Technique-wise, I believe I have the skills; it’s just being mentally strong enough to do it.

“I need to work on rhythms, my confidence and on building my self-image internationally. Australia’s level of shooting is lower than some countries, but we

can all shoot international-level scores; it’s just that we all have to do it on the day. It’s all about who can perform on the day.

“At the Olympics, when you go to the line, you’re representing 22 million people through your sport. There’s a lot of pride, but you can’t let that worry you,” he said. “You have to remember you were selected because you are the best person for the job.”

In addition to working towards selection for the 2016 Olympic Games, Will is looking to help young SSAA members climb the ranks and to encourage young people to the sport. Since his return to Australia, he’s had several speaking engagements with schools and most recently, he held a training weekend with juniors at his home club at SSAA Moonta. He said he is passionate about helping shooters who are in the same position as he was 16 years ago, with dreams of going further with their shooting. ●

Attending the opening and closing ceremonies was a highlight of the Olympics for Will.



Mental training was valuable, as competitors were under great pressure on the line at the Olympics.



The Australian Olympic Team received a hero’s welcome with a ceremony when they landed in Sydney.

The journey to success

by Will Godward

The sport of shooting brings many enjoyments, from having a social atmosphere to learning new skills. One aspect that I'm sure all shooters crave is the competitive side. If it's winning your first club trophy or reaching your personal best, we all receive enjoyment from this. Is it all about winning, though? Dreaming about having a nice shiny trophy sitting on your mantelpiece is awesome, but it's not everything.

The journey on the road to victory is the most important part of being a winner. It's about how you approach your training, how you handle the ups and downs. If you were to ask any Olympic gold medallist, they would tell you it's a hard road to travel, but hard work brings many successes, and they would tell you it's so worth it.

Success takes lots of sacrifice and commitment to your sport. There will be many times when you will have to choose between a pleasure and your training and this can sometimes be a very hard choice. No matter your choice though, remember that one training session could be the key to winning your gold medal.

When you train, you must commit all physical and mental energy to the time allocated. Sometimes, you need to drive more than an hour to train or even travel to another state and you need to be mentally 'there' too, otherwise you're wasting your time. This session could mean the difference between winning and losing in your next competition. So don't waste time thinking about what you're having for dinner or what your friends could be doing. Think about your training session and goals you have.

At a young age in shooting, the more time you put into training, the easier it will be in your older age. After all, when you're young, like most things, your brain will learn faster. Take in as much information as you can and store it. Later in life, this becomes a valuable information bank.

Listen to your peers or coach. They have been there before you and have most likely tried everything you have. Talk to them and see what worked and what didn't. It will help you in reaching your goals faster.

To be a great shooter takes a lot of wisdom, and the average age for an international shooter is still the late 20s. The best way to learn and remember information is to keep a day-to-day diary. Write down all the information you can, from the ammunition you used, the wind speed and range details you encountered, the way you were and are feeling, what you ate and also how you slept. It will all help for the future and is something you can refer back to, to learn your most helpful patterns.

We all have goals to reach, whether it's beating your last score, winning your club trophy or winning an Olympic medal. Remember the goals in between and use them as a stepping stone. Always set another goal to replace the one you've reached. You will fire many thousands of shots in your life, so remember there is always another shot to come.

One of the most important things when taking up sports shooting is to have fun. Yes, it will be hard sometimes, but always keep a positive outlook on what has happened. Everyone can have an off day, that's why we call it 'sport'. The things you will learn and the people you will meet will help you for the rest of your life. Enjoy the journey. Depending on your commitment, it can be an amazing adventure. ●



In his early shooting days with the SSAA, Will was a keen 3-Positional and Field Rifle shooter.



Will began shooting with the SSAA Moonta Branch as a teenager and his fondness for the sport grew as his scores improved.

Change your mindset and improve your shooting

by Media Officer Rachael Andrews

There are three main areas of mental training junior shooters can develop to increase their scores, says a sports psychologist with almost 30 years' experience working with international-level athletes. Professor Peter Terry from the University of Southern Queensland, who has most recently worked with members of the 2012 Australian Shooting Team, has talked exclusively with *The Junior Shooter* to help young SSAA members achieve on the range.

"Every shooter knows that shooting is a psychological challenge, as well as a physical challenge," Peter said. "The problem is many people practise the skill of shooting and not the mental toughness that can make the difference in competition."

The first tip Peter has for junior shooters is to 'switch off' the unnecessary chatter in the brain when you're trying to shoot. This is when you can lose concentration and essentially talk yourself out of a good shot.

"You don't want to have a conversation with yourself; you want to be totally immersed in what you're doing," he said.

"For every problem, there is a solution, and with shooters, we're trying to get them to the point where there is no thought, just the action of shooting...When it comes to taking

the shot, thinking is something you're trying to avoid."

Peter advocates practising concentration skills when you're not shooting, so that you can put them into practice without effort. He said it's all about training yourself to have the right thought in your head and to exclude everything else. The 'conversations' that we tend to have with ourselves can be detrimental to our shooting and instead, we need to focus on the task at hand.

Next, you need to learn to relax, which isn't always easy when you're in the middle of a shoot, but Peter says it can make a world of difference. He said focusing on breathing is essential, as you've got to be able to slow down your

heart rate after each shot.

"Regulating your breathing so that you can remain calm, without being sabotaged by feeling that your body is out of control is really beneficial to your scores," he said.

When you've mastered the art of concentration without brain chatter and relaxing with controlled breathing, Peter

suggests you develop a routine that you perform between every shot. This routine will be different for every person and will probably be different for each shooting discipline because of the different time limits, but, by having a consistent approach, you will help yourself to focus.

Shooters such as Michael Diamond, left, have taken on Peter Terry's advice and use mental training in the lead-up to major events.



Peter Terry has worked with international-level shooters such as Clive Barton for many years to provide them with useful mental training.



There are four stages to a between-shot routine:

1. Reaction: Avoid reacting to a shot as if it were good or bad because that sets off emotional responses that are unhelpful. Try to treat each shot the same and show no reaction.

2. Recovery: After each shot, immediately try to lower your heart rate. Use your breathing skills until you feel relaxed and in control.

3. Analysis: If you feel the need, analyse your shot by considering what happened and whether you need to make a change. Often, shooters over-analyse what they are doing, so try to keep analysis to a minimum.

4. Ritual: Prepare for your next shot. Your ritual is a routine that works for you as an individual. It might involve a series of actions as simple as loading the rifle, assuming the position,

checking sight-picture and then taking the shot.

Peter says that positive self-talk is important between shots. Successful shooters take a 'small picture' approach to shooting. This means that each shot

is a separate action that is unrelated to the previous shot or the shots that will follow. As soon as you take a 'big picture' approach, you risk getting distracted. ●

Juniors-only competition

Only junior SSAA members are eligible to enter. One entry per member per competition. To enter, simply write your name, address and membership number on the back of an envelope and send it to:

November Junior competition
SSAA Media & Publications
PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061

or online at www.australianshooter.com.au

Winner randomly drawn December 10, 2012



WIN a SSAA shooting mat bag

Valued at \$119.95

Kindly donated by
SSAA Store
www.ssaa.org.au/store

An early morning goat hunt

by Samuel Cadorin

With a breeze blowing, my dad and I got up and out of our swags, put our boots on and hopped in the car at 6.30am. We drove to a dam on our property and got out of the car, then walked 100m to a cliff to the left of the dam where we had seen a great many goat droppings.

After only a moment, Dad heard two goats butting, then we saw a massive snow-white billy. I readied myself to take a shot, but the animal was just too quick and ran away out of sight. Fortunately, two other smaller billies trotted in

front of us and already being prepared, I shot at the bigger of the two and it dropped down to an instant kill. 'Woohoo!' I thought.

We slowly walked over to check that it was indeed dead (it was) and then collected the goat's body and put it on a flat rock for safe storage. Then we had a look around to see if the others had really gone or were just hanging around out of sight. We saw one cheeky billy looking at us from a rock to our left, but he ran off before we could ready the rifle.

By the time we returned to our downed goat, which was no more than five minutes away, we saw the mob that we had previously scared off on the other side of the valley about 800m away. To climb to it would take us about three hours, so we decided to return to the shot billy and take some photos with it.

We tried unsuccessfully to find an entry wound from the bullet. Dad, teasingly, suggested that maybe I just scared him to death. I certainly did not agree with this suggestion. We decided that we would take only the horns and get them polished up, as the goat was not really big enough to worry about a full head-mount. I asked Dad if we could take the skin too to make a rug or something similar and he decided that would be okay. Dad started to skin the goat, while I helped by holding and pulling different parts when he asked me. At one stage, he asked me to get the knife sharpener from the car, and I was able to have a go with that.

During the time we were skinning the goat, I kept watch on the mob of goats over the valley, giving Dad regular updates of what they were up to. He said he wasn't really interested in them, as he was concentrating on a different goat at the moment, but it was good to keep them in mind.

While we were doing this, we heard some rocks falling just down the valley. Dad kept trying to make me be quiet, so that if there was some other game, it might wander nearby. This didn't really work. Shortly after that, we located the bullet in our fallen goat. "See," I told Dad jokingly, "he didn't die of natural causes!"



Samuel Cadorin with his first ever billy-goat.

When the cape was removed, Dad cut off the head, so we could take it back for the horns. He said he was really happy with how good his knife worked; it was the first time he had really used it for a big job. We folded the head into the cape and I carried it back up the hill to the car and then we headed back to camp.

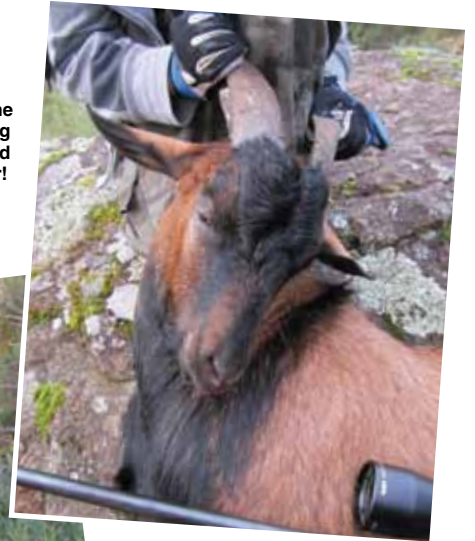
When we got to the campsite, we had two jobs: pack up the swags and tarps, and start a fire for toast and tea. I started with the swags, while Dad got the fire going. When the water was ready to go on, Dad started helping me with packing up the camp. Unfortunately, when the water was almost boiled, our teapot fell over and we had to start again. This was okay, except we didn't rinse the pot and when we poured our tea, it was full of dirt and sticks. Never mind, it was still sweet; and besides, it tasted better than the honey I licked off my goat-smelling hands when it dripped from my toast!

We finished packing up and then drove back to the house. I had been trying to call Mum on the radio to tell her the news, but there was no answer. When we got back, we found out why; Mum had been on the veranda cooking pancakes, eggs and ham on the barbecue. She was very excited for me and we all sat down to have a great breakfast.

We rang my nonno Mario to tell him about our goat hunt and ask what we should do with the skin and head. My nonno just happens to be a taxidermist, which is very convenient, and he suggested putting the skin into the fridge and the head in a cool-box until we could get it to him.

Later, Dad, my brother Nicholas and I went out to get some more ice and then dropped the goat skin and head off at Nonno's house. Nicholas and I stayed at Nonno's while he tidied up the skin and removed the bottom jaw. By then, it was the end of a long but great and very rewarding day. ●

Check out the goat's interesting skin coloring and headgear!



Samuel's dad, Greg Cadorin, field-dresses the goat and prepares to remove its skin and horns.



The skin was taken for later taxidermy work.



Samuel begins the carry-out.

SSAA National Junior Challenge 2012

More than 45 SSAA junior members competed for the honour of 2012 National Junior Champion at the SSAA Para Range in South Australia in early July. Unfortunately, the award could only go to one person and that was Western Australia's Jacinda Williams on a countback of scores. Tasmanian shooters Callun Glancy and Mitchell Stevens placed second and third respectively. Jacinda also won the 4-Gun Aggregate for the weekend and was the proud recipient of a rifle donated by the Adelaide Gun Shop.

The three-day SSAA National Junior Challenge comprised 10m Scoped Air Rifle Precision, Field Rifle Rimfire, 3-Positional Rimfire and Rifle Metallic Silhouette Rimfire competitions. Competitors from almost all states took part in the weekend, with large contingents travelling from the SSAA Springvale and Eagle Park Ranges in Victoria.

While Jacinda topped the honours in all events except Rifle Metallic Silhouette, competition was close, with South Australia's Jordan Rawlings and Victoria's Carla Shiel also hovering among the top five shooters in most events.

The weekend was also a learning experience for many juniors, with some trying new disciplines for the first time and others participating in their first ever competition at any level. Among the new shooters was a collection of South Australian Scouts from the Edinburgh Park Scout Group, who had just completed a firearms training course with their leaders at the SSAA Para Range.

Thank you to all members and volunteers who helped make this year's SSAA National Junior Challenge possible, and congratulations to all junior participants. We look forward to seeing you all for another large turnout next year!

For full results, visit www.ssaa.org.au/juniorsports ●

More than 45 SSAA junior shooters from around Australia competed in this year's SSAA National Junior Challenge held in South Australia during July.



A pair of SSAA Victoria junior members during the Rifle Metallic Silhouette Rimfire match.



Junior National Challenge Under 15 and Under 18 medal winners.

A boy's first African hunt

by Denis Roe

I grew up in South Africa and moved to Queensland almost two years ago. We are enjoying living in Australia, especially the people and the outdoor lifestyle. One of the first things I did after arriving in Australia was to join the SSAA, so we could continue hunting in our new country. Before emigrating here, we had a small farm on the eastern escarpment of South Africa, near the picturesque town of Tzaneen in the Limpopo Province, where bushpig and bushbuck abound, especially in the natural forests, which are common there.

My son Brendan had been hunting birds for a few years, and his shooting and hunting skills were excellent. About a year earlier, Brendan had expressed an interest in progressing to antelope and pig hunting, so we decided to try for an impala on a friend's farm nearby. For some reason, the impala were very skittish and we were unsuccessful in finding a nice ram that stood long enough for him to take a shot.

We were walking back to the farmstead when our guide, George, pointed at something ahead. We immediately went into a crouch position and George whispered that there was a warthog in the road ahead. I stayed behind and watched through my binoculars, while Brendan and George began their stalk. >



Brendan Roe's first warthog had 8.5" tusks and was taken using a 175-grain 7mm Mauser load at Magnab Safaris in Mookesti in South Africa.

The Junior Shooter



Brendan with his first antelope - a bushbuck taken with a 56-grain .222 Remington load on Christinasrust Farm in Duiwelskloof. The horns measured 13.25".

They had been stalking for about five minutes, when suddenly George picked up a rock and threw it at something on the ground - they had almost stood on a puff adder! This is one of the most venomous snakes in Africa, which, uniquely, will not move out of the way, but will rather try to remain dead still in the hope that it will not be seen. This strategy has resulted in many people standing on these snakes and getting bitten, with very painful consequences. Luckily, George had seen the snake in time and had chased it away. Unfortunately, the warthog had also run away in the process.

We carried on walking down the road and within a few minutes, spotted the warthog again, so we continued the stalk. The pig was a young boar and was foraging for roots about 120m away in the loose soil alongside the road. It took about 10 minutes to stalk to within about 80m and find a small acacia tree for Brendan to take a rest on. He aimed the Brno 7mm Mauser at the warthog's shoulder and squeezed the trigger. The shot bellowed in our ears and

the thud of the 175-grain bullet hitting flesh was audible to all. The warthog tore off into some thick acacia scrub and disappeared. We immediately found blood at the spot where the pig was standing when it was hit, and after following the blood trail for about 100m, we saw the fallen and now dead pig. Brendan was really excited at his first successful hunt. I too could hardly contain the pride I felt for him at that moment.

As the hunting season neared its end, we had still not been able to hunt an antelope, so we decided to look for a bushbuck ram for Brendan on my own property. We walked around the farm every weekend for about a month, but encountered nothing worth taking; a few bushbuck ewes and young rams were spotted, but we let them be.

One misty day while driving around the farm, we spotted a magnificent fully grown bushbuck ram with the most amazing dark brown and white coloring. The horns were not spectacular, but the animal was a beautiful specimen, suitable for a first hunt. The first time we spotted him, he saw

us at the same time and the magnificent animal disappeared into the dense thicket like a grey ghost. I knew we would find this animal again at more or less the same place, so we continued to look for him every time we were in that area. We saw him again fleetingly about two weeks later as he disappeared into the dense bush.

One Sunday morning, before dawn, at about 5.45am, we were out hunting again. By now, I had a feeling that Brendan was becoming quite despondent about the chances of finding an antelope something to hunt, but I assured him that we would keep looking until we found a nice bushbuck for him - hunters needed to be patient to be successful.

We drove up to the top of the farm, parked close to the area where we'd seen the bushbuck ram on previous occasions, and started to walk along the road. Every now and then, I had to remind Brendan to walk slowly and quietly, as his concentration waned periodically. The road was winding and followed the contours of the mountain, so one could only see about 60m ahead, at most.

At one stage, after about 30 minutes of walking, a Mauritius thorn plant hooked me just above the eye and I had to backtrack a pace or two to unhook it. I was so engrossed in this activity that I was surprised when Brendan whispered, "There's a bushbuck!" "Where?" I whispered back. "In the road ahead of us," he replied.

I slowly peered behind a branch hanging over the road, concealing my view of the animal, and there he was in all his splendour, standing broadside and looking in our direction, about 65m away. It was the same bushbuck we had seen before that we were looking for now! "Can I take him, Dad?" Brendan asked quietly. "Take him, son," I whispered. "On the shoulder - make sure of your shot."

I sat on the ground and he took a rest with the Anschutz .222. I prayed that he would have a good shot and that the end would be quick for the magnificent animal. I got quite a fright when the shot rang out, but was relieved to see the bushbuck fall where it had been standing. It kicked for about 15 seconds and then lay still. We let about two minutes pass before we approached the bushbuck, slowly and carefully, with rifles at the ready, but this proved unnecessary, as it was already dead.

Many hunters have been badly hurt or even killed by a wounded bushbuck, which will lie still until approached closely, only to jump up and gore the unsuspecting hunter. The shot had been a bit high and had hit the lower part of the spine above the shoulder, but a post-mortem showed that the upper parts of the lungs had also been destroyed.

We exchanged high-fives and enjoyed the adrenalin high and the camaraderie that always accompanies a successful hunt. After taking some photos, we loaded up the carcass and returned home, where Brendan ran excitedly into the house to tell his mother and sisters of his successful hunt.

On reflection, I was extremely proud of the way that Brendan had hunted and the way he had made the shots, which bagged him the warthog and the bushbuck. For the record, Brendan's bushbuck trophy measured 13.25", which is probably not the biggest trophy he will ever shoot, but it's decent enough. He will probably also remember this hunt for the rest of his life, just as I remember my own first hunt for antelope, an impala ram, in the Limpopo Valley with my father 35 years ago when I was a year older than Brendan. I am confident that Brendan's first hunting experiences have triggered a life-long interest in shooting and hunting. ●

The bushbuck fell where it had been standing in the road. Note the magnificent coloring of the animal.



Letters and gallery

A family of hunters

What a great idea, *The Junior Shooter*, to celebrate and acknowledge the next generation of hunters.

My sons, Austin, 14, and Patrick, 12, are very keen hunters. They have been around shooting all their lives. We used to rug them up as babies, earmuffs on, strap them into their car seats, and shoot ducks off the rice crops, night after night.

I thought you may find the included photo interesting, as well as a poem that Austin wrote for a school English assignment.

Petrina Robert, Tas

Long Shot by Austin Roberts

(T16 SSAA Waratah Firearms Club, Tasmania)

The sport of game hunting is misunderstood,
I would like to shed some light on the subject, if I could.

It requires calm, concentrated focus - but be alert and steady,
the opportunity comes anytime and you better be ready.

Rifle to shoulder, you line up the shot,
time stands still and adrenalin runs hot.

In the glow of the spotlight, as bright as the moon,
you see the muzzle flash and hear the 'Ka Boom!'

Wallaby falls to a head shot and that's the best,
cos it's instant death and the meat's not messed.

You skin it, gut it and people say 'Eeew!'
It's a small price to pay for Gran's wallaby stew.

So if you consider that hunting is bad,
just think of guys like me and my dad.

We are responsible, safe, licensed and calm.
We've never hurt anyone or triggered alarm.

It's funny how people will ridicule and spout
at a sport and skill they know nothing about.

So protesters of shooting, give it a rest.

Greenies are meanies, and hunting's the best!



Austin Roberts with his younger brother Patrick and the 337 rabbits they shot in one afternoon.

Dad and daughter hunting trip

My name is Glenn Harley. I am always pleased to see dads and sons getting out together on hunting trips. I have been blessed with three wonderful daughters. We have been on numerous hunting trips together as a family, but my eldest girl Amelia and I had the privilege of going out on our first hunt together on the May Day weekend this year.

On the first day we were there, we found many signs that pigs were in the area, but they eluded us until the last day. We were driving through a paddock, spotted the pig and it didn't realise we were there until it was too late for the pig. Amelia shot the pig, a sow, with a centrefire. Job well done, Amelia!

Glenn Harley, Qld

A keen member

My name is Coen and I am 11 years old. I am writing you this email to let you know how much I love *Australian Shooter* and *Australian Hunter*. My mum has been a member for a couple of years now and just recently sponsored me as a junior shooter! I spend days reading the magazines as soon as they come and love to read the articles and reviews from front to the back.

My mum has a nice Ruger Model 77 .22-calibre rifle that I am allowed to use often to help control the feral pests that are in our area and on our property. I have included some pictures of me with a heap of the pigeons that create problems around our house. I shot them with the .22, all head shots and all clean kills. I try to get the Indian myna birds, but they are pretty cluey and take off as soon I walk outside. It is terrible how the Indian myna birds are taking over and killing all our native species.

I live in Far North Queensland, north of Mareeba, so there are heaps of feral animals to hunt. We go hunting for feral pigs, feral cats, rabbits and wild dogs. I haven't yet, but hopefully soon we'll hunt wild deer as well.

One of the pictures is of me and our dog Cinder, who tracked a pig by herself, then I shot it with a centrefire. We didn't have a camera with us at the time, and by the time we got back next day, it had started to bloat. It still would have been a good 80kg boar!

I am going to get a nice .22 for my first gun, maybe a CZ with a Leupold scope. My mum says I am a really good shot too. There are a lot of other guns I would like, but I will have to wait and see.

What professions are there with guns? I know there are jobs at gunshops and as a gunsmith. But are there any other careers? What types of jobs are there in the military, maybe on a technical level? Any information would be appreciated! Thank you so much.

Coen Kennedy, Qld



Got a story?

Got a story, recipe or letter you'd like to share with your fellow junior shooters?

Then we'd love to hear about it!

We're always looking for stories from our junior members about their hunting adventures in the field, achievements on the range, tasty recipes for the home or camp kitchen, or their helpful tips or advice for other newcomers to the shooting sports.

If you're got something to share, don't keep it to yourself!

Email Associate Editor Kaye Jenkins on edit@ssaa.org.au, phone 08 8272 7100 or write to PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061.



SPONSOR A JUNIOR

AND

SAVE your sport

It's your choice - sign up a junior or our sport will vanish

SSAA National's 'Sign up a Junior' campaign was launched to help introduce youngsters to recreational shooting. Juniors are essential to the ongoing strength and vitality of the SSAA and we are seeking your support to protect and ensure the future of the shooting sports in Australia.

Simply fill in the form below with the junior's details and your details as the 'sponsoring member'. You can add more than one junior by photocopying the form and adding an extra \$21 per junior.

As an incentive to promote the campaign, all junior members who join or renew their membership between January 1 and December 31, 2012, will go into the draw to win \$500 worth of SSAA merchandise. Additionally, all adults who sponsor a junior member will go into the draw to win \$1000 worth of SSAA merchandise!



\$21 - includes 11 issues of the *Australian Shooter*

\$46 - includes 11 issues of the *Australian Shooter* and 4 issues of *Australian Hunter* magazine

Membership No.

Has the junior been a member before? Yes/No

Details of junior being signed up - (must be under 18)

Branch (if known) Sex (please circle) M / F
 First name Middle name Last name
 Home address P/C.....
 Date of birth OFFICE USE ONLY

Details of sponsoring member:

First name Middle name Last name
 Membership No.

Payment options

Enclosed is payment for the amount of \$.....

Cheque Money order MasterCard Visa

Card number

Expiry date Signature.....

Cheques payable to the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

- Fees are per year unless specified and include GST.

I also wish to donate
 \$..... to the SSAA

MAIL TO: MEMBERSHIP OFFICE,
 PO BOX 282, Plumpton, NSW 2761

SSAA Inc is subject to the provisions of the National Privacy Act. Should you want a copy of the SSAA Inc Privacy Statement or seek further information, please write to PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061.