

THE JUNIOR SHOOTER

AN INTRODUCTION FOR JUNIOR SHOOTERS & HUNTERS

Issue 18



Proudly printed in Australia
An official publication of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia



Contents

- 2** Editorial
- 3** The 2016 National Junior Challenge - the future of shooting sports is in great hands
- 6** The 'This is Shooting' sisters - Kalinda and Talia Crouch
- 8** Choosing the right equipment - tips for juniors in the field
- 10** SSAA Mackay Junior Development Day a big hit
- 11** Animal magnetism has youngsters buzzing at SSAA Bowen
- 12** Jack and Grump's first deer adventure
- 13** Juniors-only competition
- 14** Wodonga shines for Inter School Shooting Competition
- 15** My 300kg deer
- 16** Sponsor a junior and save your sport

Editorial

Welcome to *The Junior Shooter 18*. Anthony Hall kicks off this issue with a wrap-up of the 2106 SSAA National Junior Challenge, which was held in New South Wales in July. By all accounts, this year's event looks to have been another very successful Challenge, with juniors from every state and territory participating. Congratulations to all those who took part!

Communications Officer Sam Talbot then speaks with Kalinda and Talia Crouch, two sisters from the SSAA Brisbane Branch who have become terrific ambassadors for the shooting sports. The sisters reflect on their involvement in the SSAA's 'This is Shooting' campaign, which was released earlier this

year, and discuss their varied interests, both on and off the range, as well as their plans for the future.

Keen hunter Joseph Nugent is up next and offers some tips about selecting the right firearm, scope and accessories when going into the field. Later on, Perry Magowan shares a story about the first deer hunting trip he took with his grandson Jack.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Junior Shooter*. Don't forget to enter our competition for your chance to win a Winchester t-shirt and as always, if you'd like to send us a letter or story for publication, write to SSAA National, PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061, email edit@ssaa.org.au or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ssaanational

Staff Editor Kaye Jenkins, Assistant Editor Dave Rose, Art Director Mike Barr, Production Coordinator Judy Ward, Graphic Designer Natalie Kuhlmann, Advertising Representative Karoline Minicozzi, Media Officer Kate Fantinel, Communications Officer Sam Talbot, Administration Debbie Wing.

Contributors Anthony Hall, Joseph Nugent, Perry Magowan, Geoff Porter, Caitlin Pearson.

Mail: PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061

Phone: 08 8272 7100

Fax: 08 8272 2945

Web: www.ssaa.org.au

Email: as@ssaa.org.au

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 2016.

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.

The 2016 National Junior Challenge

- the future of shooting sports is in great hands

10m Precision Air Rifle was added as a supplementary event.



by Anthony Hall

This year's SSAA National Junior Challenge was hosted at the SSAA Batemans Bay range in New South Wales from July 8 to 10 and attracted participants from every state and territory in Australia. Competitions included the three core events of Field Rifle, 3-Positional and Rifle Metallic Silhouette, as well as BR30 Rimfire Benchrest and 10m Precision Air Rifle as supplementary options. There were coaching clinics, a trivia and pizza night, plus the formal competition to make an action-packed three days.

Friday began with a very informative Field Rifle coaching session run by Batemans Bay local Steve Ison with demonstrations by two talented juniors, Jordan Robinson, from South Australia, and NSW's Shane Ison. This was followed by a BR30 Benchrest exhibition and coaching interlude covering bench technique and equipment as well as wind reading and using wind flags. Experienced local Ann Brummell and I conducted the session. >



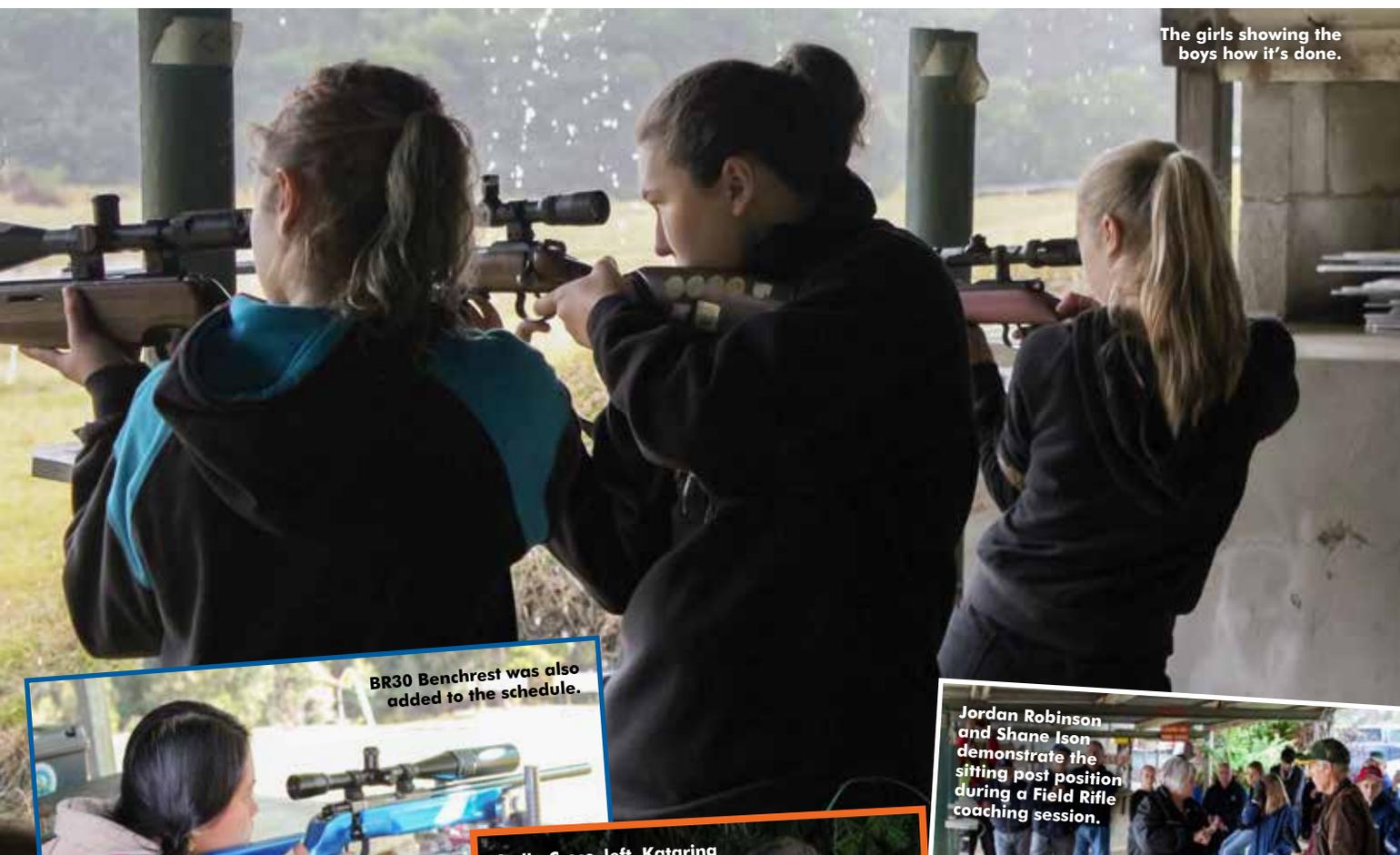
The Field Rifle competition highlighted some incredible young talent. It was wet and cold, adding to the degree of difficulty for the competitors, target crew and scorers, but this did little to deter the spirit of anticipation and the results across the field were excellent. The Under 15s event was won by Katarina Kowplos (SA) with a score of 384.06, while Keigan Williams (WA) and Laughlan Freeman (Tas) took second and third respectively. The Under 18s title was won by Elise Collier (Vic) with 380.02. In second place was Robinson and James Davenport (Vic) secured third.

Saturday's 3-Positional event kicked off just as the weather improved and created ideal conditions for the rest of the weekend. The Under 15s event was won by Kowplos with 559.08, Williams in second and Freeman third. The Under 18s was snared by Collier with 560.12,

while Robinson and Davenport landed second and third spot.

The BR30 Benchrest was also run on the Saturday with Batemans Bay locals Stella Cross coming first, Ryan Hall placing second and Clair Ison (NSW) taking out third for the Under 15s. The Under 18s event was won by Suthasinee Khanprasert (ACT) followed by Sarah Hall (NSW) in second place and Davenport third.

Saturday night saw everyone in the clubhouse with the fire roaring awaiting the presentations for the day's events. SSAA NSW Executive Director Diana Melham and SSAA Benchrest National Discipline Chairman Dave Billingham were there to award the winners of each event. The night was finished off with pizza and trivia where juniors, parents and volunteers all had a laugh and a great evening.



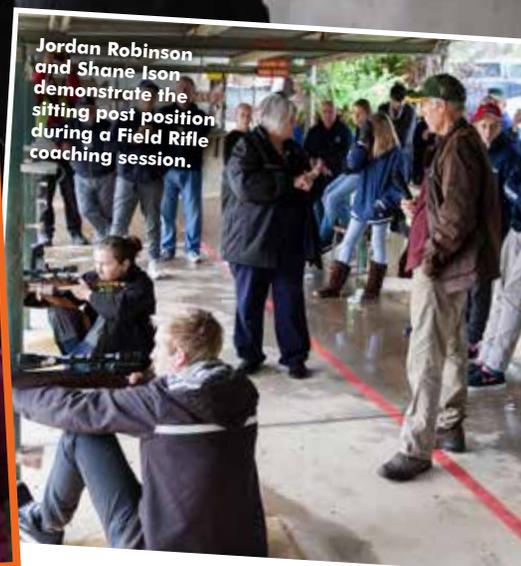
The girls showing the boys how it's done.



BR30 Benchrest was also added to the schedule.



Stella Cross, left, Katarina Kowplos and Jordan Robinson radiate the smiles of success.



Jordan Robinson and Shane Ison demonstrate the sitting post position during a Field Rifle coaching session.



The participants of this year's National Junior Challenge.

On Sunday the focus switched to the Rifle Metallic Silhouette event, run by Con Smith. The quality shooting continued with several competitors achieving personal bests, runs of 10 out of 10 and national awards. The Under 15s match was won by Kowplos with 56, followed by Williams and Freeman, who took second and third respectively. The Under 18s was won by Robinson with 49, while Davenport secured second place and Collier rounded out the top three.

The 10m Precision Air Rifle event was run all weekend with competitors practising and shooting their two official targets as time allowed between events. There were five competitors who shot two perfect targets each that were impossible to split for places. A decision was made to hold a shoot-off for the top places using the more difficult official target and shorter time limits.

Kowplos and Williams competed in Under 15s and Robinson, Kayleb O'Connor (ACT) and Davenport took part in the Under 18s. This provided an amazing spectator event with almost the entire field squeezing into the gallery

to watch. The atmosphere was electric as all eyes were on the talented competitors who shot near perfect targets in a fine display of shooting under pressure. Final results in the Under 15s were Kowplos in first place, Williams second and Freeman in third spot. The Under 18s was won by Robinson, with O'Connor taking second and Davenport third.

The national medals for the core events were awarded by SSAA National Secretary and Junior Coordinator Kaye McIntyre. The results for Under 15s were Kowplos gold, Williams silver and Freeman bronze. In Under 18s, Collier took gold, Robinson silver and Davenport bronze.

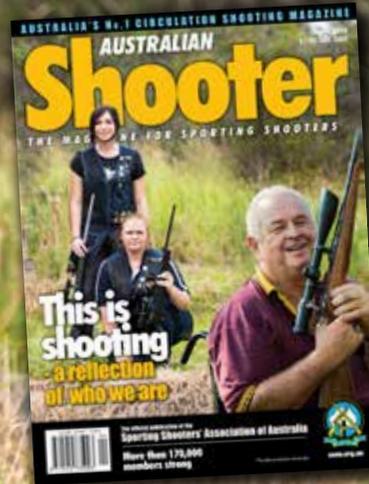
As well as a lot of talented juniors, the event will be remembered for the amazing atmosphere among the parents, volunteers, range officers, scorers, canteen staff and competitors. Everyone pitched in and made the occasion the success that it was. Friendships were made and families are already talking about where and when the 2017 National Junior Challenge will be held.

For full results from this year's Challenge, visit ssaa.org.au/juniorsports



Shooting from the sitting position.

The 'This is Shooting' sisters - Kalinda and Talia Crouch



by Communications Officer Sam Talbot

If the faces of Kalinda and Talia Crouch look familiar, it's probably because you've seen the SSAA's 'This is Shooting' campaign. The sisters from Queensland, who featured on the cover of the April *Australian Shooter* magazine and in the popular SSAA TV video also titled 'This is Shooting', speak at length about how much recreational shooting means to their family.

Father Chris, who also features in the video, says that the shooting sports keep his family together. Everyone in the Crouch family are shooters, but they also play a role at the SSAA Brisbane Branch, from Chris as a range officer to Kalinda and Talia running the store and canteen. The sisters show the behind-the-scenes of a shooting range and demonstrate what a lot of club shooters already know - that as well as safety and seriousness, it's also great fun.

"A few people have recognised us from the video," said Kalinda. SSAA Brisbane even has a few posters displayed

around the club of the girls from the campaign. In the 'This is Shooting' video, Talia said: "The first shot I ever took felt amazing, it felt good to get to do something I've felt passionate about". Older sister Kalinda, 18, gave some insight into what her 15-year-old sister meant by that. "I started shooting before Talia and every time Dad had his guns out, she was incredibly curious," said Kalinda. "Before she turned 11 and could legally start shooting, she would ask every time we went to the range if she could have a shot and when she was finally old enough, she was so excited." Talia now has her junior licence and is one of the first to have a shot when they visit the range.

After speaking to the sisters, it became clear that they were destined for the screen. Both have a strong artistic flair that they plan to pursue careers in. "I'm very interested in photography, art, flowers, and especially photography focusing on flowers," said Kalinda. "I like to draw and



A change of pace for Kalinda, this time firing cannons.



Kalinda shooting Air Rifle Field Target.



Talia shooting Air Rifle Field Target.



Kalinda, above, and Talia, left, while filming the SSAA's 'This is Shooting' campaign and video.



paint and just basically be as creative as possible.” Kalinda has been offered a position in graphic design at Griffith University, while Talia is interested in architecture and design as well as furniture design.

It’s great to see two young sisters thrive in a sport where the majority of participants are traditionally a bit older. Chris said the mix of people his daughters interact with has made them more sociable and ready to take on new challenges. “I think the biggest thing is how quickly they have matured. They talk to everyone and anyone at the club and it’s impressive for me to watch them mix with and be treated like adults at the range,” he said. Talia explained further the benefits of sports shooting. “Shooting has taught me responsibility for others’ safety and my own,” she said.

Despite their maturity, there is still plenty of friendly rivalry and fun between the sisters. In fact, Kalinda and

Talia both very confidently have claimed to be ‘the better shooter’. “I don’t think we will ever stop shooting together,” said Kalinda. “We’ll still be coming out to the range in 40 or 50 years when we are all wrinkled and shrivelled up.” Whether it’s partnering up for Rifle Metallic Silhouette shoots, or when it was so cold at the range that they both wear ‘onesies’ as they did during the 2014 State Titles, the sisters are inseparable.

The sisters don’t just compete against each other though, they have both achieved very impressive results in their age groups. Last year, Kalinda placed very highly at the Rifle Metallic Silhouette National Championships, while Talia was recently crowned a Junior Master in Queensland.

Kalinda and Talia Crouch are terrific ambassadors for the sport and have already given so much to shooting despite their relatively short careers.



Choosing the right equipment

- tips for juniors in the field

by Joseph Nugent

Nothing spoils a hunt more than not having appropriate and reliable gear on hand when you need it. At best it can simply be inconvenient, at worst life-threatening. When Dad and I hunt we make sure that we always carry the right equipment for the task we are undertaking: be it stalking deer, chasing pigs or wild dogs, or walking up hares.

The right rifle

It makes a lot of sense to match your rifle to the game you are hunting. I would never use my grandfather's Brno Model 1 .22 on a red deer hunt, nor would I try to take rabbits with Dad's .45-70. Fortunately, I have access to a variety of firearms. So when hunting rabbits or hares with Dad we can both carry a .22 rimfire. When we are after larger game we each carry a centrefire rifle.

My current rifle is a Tikka T3 in .223. Dad selected the calibre as he thought it would provide the best introduction to centrefire shooting. It was appropriate to our target game and with only very mild recoil, it suited my build and ensured that I did not develop a flinching habit as I started my hunting career.

I chose a Tikka centrefire rifle for three main reasons. Firstly, they are relatively light. This is important as when

stalking we will walk for between three and five hours at a time and having a light rifle supported by a comfortable sling can make these long and strenuous walks much easier.

Secondly, they are reliable rifles. I have been using this rifle for 18 months and in this time I have had no problems. My Tikka has never failed to eject a cartridge, failed to cycle the next round or misfired. It has maintained a consistent point of aim which allows me to comfortably place three shots into a 50-cent piece at 50m.

Finally, Tikka rifles are well priced; cheap but not nasty. Tikka rifles cost around \$1300, which is very good value when compared to a higher quality rifle such as a Sako, which will set you back about \$2500. Both of these rifles are made in the same factory and as stated, my Tikka has never failed me. As a result I believe that is as good as more expensive rifles like a Sako.

I have also chosen to use a 10-shot magazine because you never know when you will need a few extra rounds when hunting pests such as rabbits, foxes or feral cats. In many cases you will have to fire quickly as these targets will often be moving. Having those extra rounds makes it easier to remove these pests when the opportunities present. The larger capacity magazine means no fumbling to reload as you watch your quarry disappearing into the bush.

A reliable scope

A good reliable scope is a 'must have' to complement any hunting outfit. I use a Tasco 4-9x40 variable scope. It can be employed in a variety of environments from open grasslands to thick scrub, since it allows me to change the magnification quickly and quietly. Once again while not the most expensive scope on the market, it does a fine job and my Dad swears by them, having used the same world-class Tasco scope on his deer hunting rifle for 25 years with no failures or complaints.

My hunting belt

A hunting belt is another essential item to consider when preparing for a hunt. Given the nature of our pastime, some of the things every hunter should carry on their person include: a medical kit and a compression or snake bandage. These items should be at hand as you never know if you will have a fall, suffer a sting or worse be bitten by a snake. My kit also includes a whistle to use to attract Dad's attention if I have the need to do so.

The next essential items are snacks and a few litres of clean water. It is very important that you stay hydrated while hunting. Becoming dehydrated in a harsh environment such as the Australian bush can have a detrimental effect on your health. It can result in heat stroke, heat exhaustion and in extreme cases this can lead to death. Taking the time to stop have a drink and a snack regularly while hunting is essential. It preserves your mental and physical state and keeps you focused on the task at hand.

The final item that I am never without is a sharp knife. A knife is a very versatile tool in any survival or emergency situation. It is also important when hunting for meat or a trophy, as a razor-sharp knife is required to dress a meat animal or cleanly remove a trophy. Failing to bring a sharp knife will limit your options should you be in a situation where you need for any reason to cut or shape material.

Dressed for the hunt

Being dressed appropriately is another important aspect of the hunt. When Dad and I gear up it is with safety in mind. My preferred outfit includes a good pair of boots, usually

leather, thick jeans, a long-sleeve shirt and a blaze orange cap. I wear thick boots to protect my ankles from snake bites. I choose long pants and long-sleeved

shirts to protect my arms and legs from stings, scratches, cuts and sunburn.

Finally, I wear a blaze orange cap and when necessary an orange vest, to make my position obvious to neighbours and members of our hunting party. I wear blaze orange when we are hunting as

part of a larger group and it certainly ensures that I am visible.

Summary

My Dad has carefully managed my introduction to the world of firearms, hunting and shooting. As a result I like to think that I am becoming a safe and effective hunter. The foundation to success though, as with any hobby, lies in thorough preparation and having the right gear.

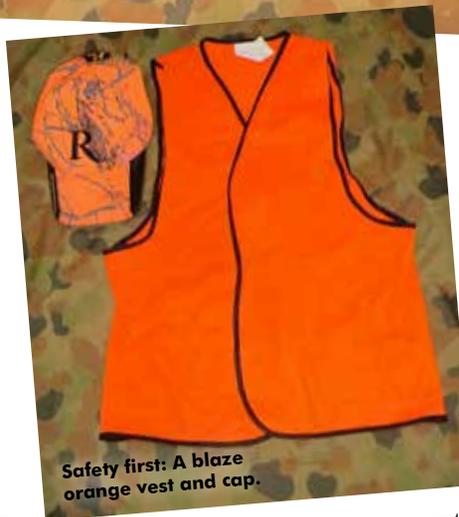
Taking the time to prepare will ensure that you have the best opportunity to bring your hunt to a safe and successful outcome.



Joseph Nugent's rifle set-up: a Tikka T3 .223-calibre rifle, Tasco 4-9 x40 variable scope, Lucky 13 10-round magazine and sling.



Joseph's hunting belt containing all of the essentials.



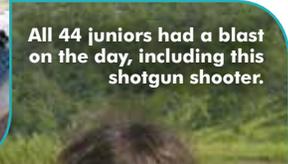
Safety first: A blaze orange vest and cap.



Pistol shooting was a hit with the juniors.



Every junior participant had one-on-one coaching and supervision.



All 44 juniors had a blast on the day, including this shotgun shooter.



The juniors were very fast learners.

SSAA Mackay Junior Development Day a big hit

by Communications Officer Sam Talbot

The SSAA Mackay Branch is doing its bit to make sure our sport gets passed on to the next generation. On May 1 this year, the club held a Junior Development Day and invited juniors from secondary schools in its area. “The idea was that the day would provide an introduction to a number of different shooting disciplines for young people who wanted to give them a try,” said Graham Blines, from SSAA Mackay. Graham notes that having a good relationship with schools is very useful for sending the invitations out.

“In our eyes the response we got was nothing less than extraordinary,” said Graham. Some 44 junior shooters showed up on the day, including nine female shooters, to try their hands at pistol, rifle and shotgun shooting. The club actually had to cap the numbers despite even more interest from juniors to ensure each of the visitors had a decent go at everything.

“What was even more satisfying was that late in the day before they went home, we had 12 parents (including eight mums) also sign in to the registers to have a shot,” said Graham. All four of SSAA Mackay ranges were flat out, being staffed by enthusiastic volunteers who enjoyed the day as much as the juniors.

SSAA Mackay President Bob Engwirda was also pleased with the event and said encouraging junior shooters is the

key for the future of the sport. “I’ve been a part of a club that had to close down because we didn’t have enough new members coming through,” he said. “Juniors are crucial for all sports and clubs. Our Junior Development Day was positive for everyone. Everyone had a fun and positive day while our safety standards were on show for everyone to see.”

At least one new family of two parents and two kids have become members of the club since the event. Bob believes the secret to continuing the sport is to maintain safety and inclusivity at all times. “The negativity sporting shooting attracts comes from people who don’t understand firearms. Once people come in and see what we do, and see that we’re not a bunch of ‘yahoos’, they are converted and that’s how you turn public opinion,” he said.

Following the success of the Junior Development Day, SSAA Mackay will be turning the event into an annual occurrence. “Our sport needs to be positive from the top down,” said Bob. “Males and females shooting against each other makes us a truly inclusive sport. If someone has a physical handicap, we can always work out a way for them to join in. There’s nothing stopping us from becoming bigger and recruiting our future members.”

For clubs who have been thinking about planning a junior shoot, it seems if you put it on, they will come.



Rogues' gallery: A batch of the animal-shaped targets used on the SSAA Bowen range, including red-eyed ground-dwelling drop bears, rabbits, low-level red-eyed devil bats, fox heads, feral cats, mutant redback spiders, a porky pig, a blue-eyed devil dog, a Pokémon and a goat head. Photo by Nadine O'Neill, *Bowen Independent*.

Animal magnetism

has youngsters buzzing at SSAA Bowen

by Assistant Editor Dave Rose

The SSAA Bowen Branch has found a novel means of attracting junior shooters to its range.

The club on the Whitsunday Coast in Queensland recently set up a gallery of novelty animal knockdown targets on its Roddy Hughes range and found that the idea went down a treat with the youngsters who attended and were able to use air rifles to take aim. Targets were positioned from 8m to 20m and contained measured fluorescent strike zones.

Quirky targets included low-level red-eyed devil bats, red-eyed ground-dwelling drop bears, mutant redback spiders and even a Pokémon lookalike. As a result, the club had a horde of excited youngsters who dashed to the scene to try their luck. The ripple effect was that the adult shooters had to forget their plans of organising their own competition for the weekend afternoon and hand over the precharged pneumatic (PCP) air rifles to let the juniors have a go.

SSAA Bowen Club Junior Shooters Discipline Captain Brian Schwarz, in tandem with Co-Junior Discipline Captain Gene Anderson, made the targets out of wood and painted on the figures with the help of a couple of his grandchildren so he was able to use their knowledge to produce the Pokémon variation. Others also assisted by drilling holes in the galvanised sheet used to minimise damage. It took a bit of work but he reckons he now has about 30 targets, which can all stand up to the rigours of being hit by the air rifles.

"The kids just love it," said Brian. "We couldn't carry on with the comp so we just let them use our air rifles...Two of them had not shot before but by the end they were knocking over targets."

The club has a healthy percentage of juniors among its members but faces problems in trying to make sure they stay. Brian feels one of the main hindrances to juniors' progress is the expense of buying firearms. He intends to try to put in for a grant for the club to buy a couple of PCPs for the kids to use. "If the club could have a couple of our own, that

would really bring the youngsters flocking in," he said. "I want to try to get some cash from someone, somewhere to help the kids, then their parents won't have to fork out so much money."

The age of the youngsters spans from 11 to 17 and Brian feels that it is the 11- to 13-year-olds who really benefit from the chance to learn.

SSAA Bowen Secretary Brendan Grant was also pleased at the reaction that the mock animal-shaped targets had stirred. "We had about five to eight kids at the start," he said. "Then we had a whole family arrive. They just wanted to see what it was all about."

He explained one of the routes by which youngsters first came to the club. "Where we are finding is a big growth area is among shooters between 30 and 50 years old who have been shooting all their lives and given it away but then come back to it," he said. "Then they want to get their sons and daughters involved to show them what shooting is all about; that it is a real sport, not a computer game...We have about 18 juniors who are really interested and nearly always turn up."

Though Brendan was happy with the influx of juniors, he also felt that the Bowen club faced difficulties fuelling their curiosity because of its idyllic geographical location. "Our club is situated near the beach so we have sailing to compete with which is a big draw," he said. "We are also fighting football for attention - rugby league and rugby union, plus hockey is popular around here with plenty of teams."

Despite the nearby distractions, the club is making good headway. "We have started sessions for juniors every Friday afternoon between 3pm and 5.30pm and sometimes on Thursdays as well," said Brendan. "We have to fit it in around Mum and Dad's time because someone has to be there to bring the kids along."

The Bowen club seems to have tapped into a rich vein of potential with its rigged-up animal targets. Now it aims to keep that momentum going.

Jack and Grump's first deer adventure

by Perry Magowan

When my grandson Jack was about five years old, he asked me, "Grump, do you only shoot boy deer so you can hang their horns on the wall, then you can hang hats on them?" It was a simple question so I gave a simple answer, "Yes, mate." When Jack turned 10, it was his mother who did the asking, "Dad, Jack was wondering if you would take him out this year when you go hunting?" I said I would see how things went.

About a week before the roar ended, I arranged a hunt for two days with a property owner up the west branch of the Brisbane River. That's when the fun started - Jack's grandmother and I took him to buy camo clothes and boots. He thought it was excellent.

It was not long before we were off and up to the hut where we would be staying for a couple of nights. We put the gear away in the hut and set up camp. "Well Jack, let's gather some firewood," I said. I grabbed the chainsaw and we went for a drive and collected enough wood for two nights.

Later, I set up a target about 25 yards from the hut, put a block of wood against a post and took out the .22LR. "Okay mate, it's time to learn how to shoot," I said. We discussed gun safety and then I told Jack to load the magazine, put in the bolt and point the gun in a safe direction. So away he went. All up he put through about 35 rounds on six or seven targets, and for a first-timer the groups were very good. Plus, he had a great time. After tea, we washed up, sat around a campfire and heated

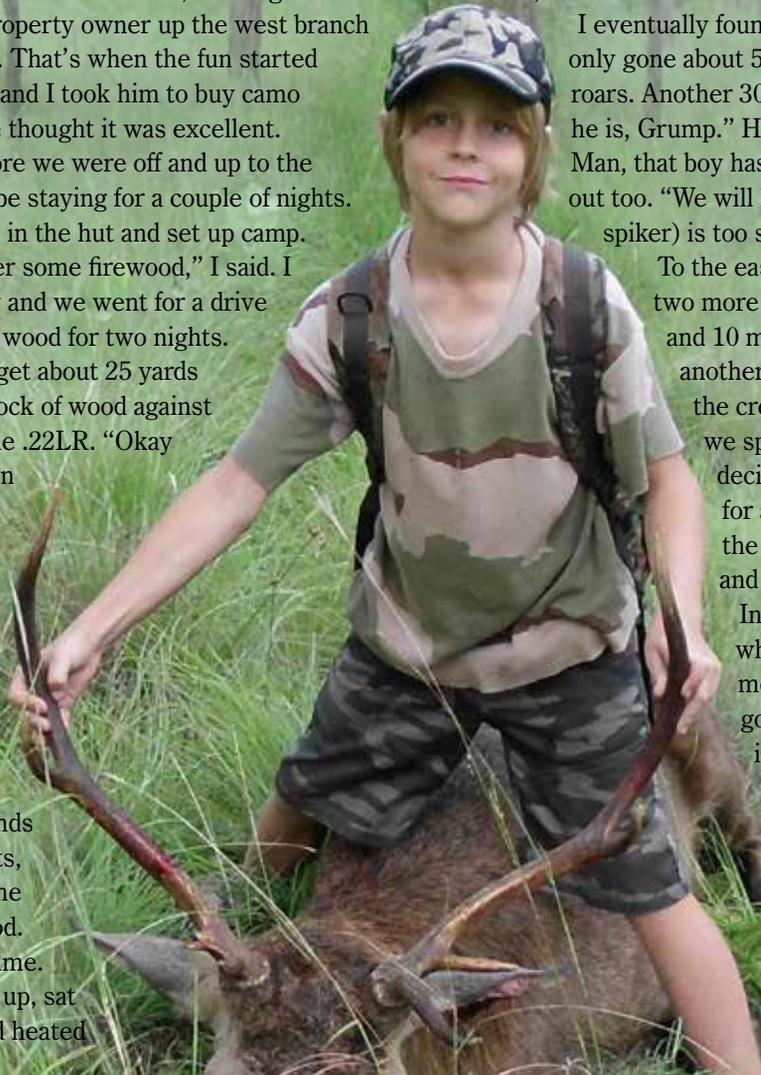
up marshmallows on long sticks. Yum! About three stags could be heard roaring that night.

The next morning, we moved away a bit later than we should have. However, we were just in time to see two hunters with what I would say was a 5x5 stag head in the back of their Toyota. They were leaving from where we were going to hunt. I could not help but think that should have been our beast. There was not much I could do about it, so we looked for another place to hunt.

I eventually found a spot and we set off. We had only gone about 500m before we started to hear roars. Another 300m more and Jack said, "There he is, Grump." He had found a spiker and a doe. Man, that boy has good eyes - on the first time out too. "We will leave them be," I said. "He (the spiker) is too small to take."

To the east beside the edge of the scrub two more stags could be heard roaring and 10 minutes later we were looking at another spiker. The big fella was across the creek in the thick scrub and while we spent some time calling for him, we decided he was not going to come out for any reason. So we headed back to the car and then to the hut for lunch and a camp for a couple of hours.

In the afternoon, we went back to where the hunters had been in the morning and made a plan. We would go up the gully with the wind blowing our scent ahead of us and then turn to the right near the end of the gully, climb that ridge, go over the top and walk back into the wind down the creek on the other side. "We will



Jack proudly displays the antlers from his grandfather's double-four red deer.



Jack on a rabbit cull after his introduction to hunting.



Jack puts in some target practice with the .22LR.

shoot a stag on the other side of the creek on the way back,” I told my grandson. Jack looked at me with eyes of disbelief.

We started up the gully in front of us and about halfway up the incline, Jack said, “Deer!” Then he quickly pointed to them. Three does and a double-three stag ran up beside the scrub edge 240m to our left and were gone. “Never mind, mate. We will get one over the other side,” I assured him.

Crossing the big ridge and starting downstream along the creek, things looked good but halfway down we had not seen or heard a thing. My little mate was becoming discouraged as we crossed the creek. “We will get one before we get 200m downstream from here,” I said. Well, wouldn’t you know it, just 150m further down the creek I saw a stag. I stopped, worked the action, shouldered the 7mm-08 rifle and took a shot. Bang! “Did you get him?” yelled Jack.

“Yes, mate,” I replied. Two does raced off. “I saw the two does, Grump, but I didn’t see the stag,” said Jack.

That day, Jack had spotted eight deer before me. Nine deer for the day, and I had only seen one before Jack did. But I also managed to take it. The stag was only a young one, a little double-four, but it was the first red deer Jack had seen taken. We cut up as much meat as we could carry and Jack lugged his antlers, of course. He was as pleased as punch with the day’s outcome. However, he had one reservation. “These deer stink, don’t they?” he said. I turned around and he had blood on his forehead and nose, as well as deer hairs on his nose. No wonder it stank! We arrived back at the hut well after dark. We had the fire going and ate tea then sat down around the flames and snacked on toasted marshmallows, listening to the stags roar. What a night.

Three weeks later, Gran and I took Jack’s mounted antlers over to his house and hung them on his bedroom wall. They look good, too. Jack can’t wait to come out with me on our next hunt. I am sure there will be another story to share.

Juniors-only competition

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

October Junior competition
SSAA National
PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061

or online at ssaa.org.au/win

Competition closes October 31, 2016

WIN a Winchester W t-shirt
(medium ladies size only)



Valued at
\$39.95

Kindly donated by Winchester Australia
www.winchesteraustralia.com.au



Wodonga shines for Inter School Shooting Competition

by Geoff Porter
photos by Caitlin Pearson

This year saw the ninth successful running of the annual Inter School Shooting Competition. Jointly hosted by SSAA Wodonga and Albury Wodonga Field and Game at the West Wodonga Shooting Complex in Victoria in June, the event provided juniors from local secondary schools a chance to compete in a variety of shooting disciplines. Having plenty of disciplines in the same event not only enhances competitiveness, but also enables students to experience different avenues of shooting as a sport, all while learning the safe handling of firearms.

Around 50 volunteers made themselves available to assist on the firing line of this year's event, while many more were behind the line for scorekeeping and catering. Each school also sent their own teachers and parents to help in the organising and supervision of students between stages.

Qualifying and practice days were held leading up to the event, with around 150 students taking to the range. Participating schools included Tallangatta Secondary School, Wodonga Senior Secondary School, Wodonga Middle Years College, Wodonga Catholic College, Beechworth Secondary College, Corowa Secondary, Victory Lutheran College Wodonga, Corryong Secondary and Scots School Albury. Of the 150 students entered, 95 made it to the final, which was held on June 15. The events held required the use of .22 rim-fire rifles and 12-gauge shotguns.



Students participated in eight stages, which included Running Rabbit (clay target shotgun), two Field Trap (shotgun) events, 50m Running Target (.22 rimfire), 50m Benchrest (.22 rimfire), Metallic Silhouette (.22 rimfire), Biathlon (.22 rimfire) and a Lithgow single-shot novelty event (.22 rimfire). The Biathlon was especially challenging, requiring competitors to shoot a course of five falling Biathlon

Overall Champions

Male

- 1 Daniel Richardson (Wodonga Catholic College)
- 2 Ben Hanley (Tallangatta Secondary)
- 3 Callum Palmer (Tallangatta Secondary)

Female

- 1 Merandah Wojowyez (Corowa Secondary)
- 2 Amity Marinteli (Victory Lutheran College)
- 3 Jorja Bogle (Tallangatta Secondary)

Top Rifle Shooter

Male

- 1 Ben Hanley (Tallangatta Secondary)
- 2 Justin Cawood (Tallangatta Secondary)
- 3 Daniel Richardson (Wodonga Catholic College)

Female

- 1 Merandah Wojowyez (Corowa Secondary)
- 2 Bianca Downing (Wodonga Senior Secondary)
- 3 Amity Maranteli (Victory Lutheran College)

Top Shotgun Shooter

Male

- 1 Daniel Richardson (Wodonga Catholic College)
- 2 Callum Palmer (Tallangatta Secondary)
- 3 Archie Browning (Scots School Albury)

Female

- 1 Merandah Wojowyez (Corowa Secondary)
- 2 Phoebe McCrabb (Scots School Albury)
- 3 Jorja Cullen (Victory Lutheran College)

targets using Biathlon target rifles then leave the firing line, run a short sprint course and then repeat the sequence.

This year saw a big step up with sponsorship, with Australia firearms and ammunition distributor Nioa kindly supplying all ammunition for the event. SSAA Wodonga and Albury Wodonga Field and Game greatly appreciate Nioa's willingness to support the event. Prime 7 News also provided media coverage with an excellent item on the local 6 o'clock news.

After wind and fog earlier in the morning, the weather cleared to reveal a sunny winter's day.



Tallangatta Secondary School students shoot rifles under the guidance of SSAA Wodonga and Albury Wodonga Field and Game organisers.

A Grade Championships

- 1 Tallangatta Secondary A1
- 2 Wodonga Catholic College A1
- 3 Corryong Secondary A1

B Grade Championships

- 1 Corryong Secondary B1
- 2 Victory Lutheran College Wodonga B1
- 3 Scots School Albury B1

Running Target

- 1 Tallangatta Secondary A1
- 2 Wodonga Senior Secondary College A1
- 3 Wodonga Middle Years College B2

Biathlon

- 1 Scots School Albury
- 2 Victory Lutheran College 1
- 3 Corryong Secondary



Scots School Albury won the Biathlon Teams event.

My 300kg deer



As a keen 16-year-old hunter, I thought readers may be interested in some photos of this massive deer, which weighed 300kg and measured 7 points on both sides. It is certainly the biggest deer that I have taken since I took up hunting.

I shot the deer at Barraba in NSW at about 11pm after spotlighting from the back of a ute. My friend's dad, Peter, had been driving around for about an hour when we spotted the deer. I loaded the .308, shot the animal in the neck and it dropped straight away. Peter skinned the deer, took the meat and then went along with the head/shoulders to a taxidermist to prepare a trophy.

Words don't explain the joy and excitement that I felt.

Andre, NSW



