



E-news February 2025

President's Message

With the start of the year, we have hit the ground running with our new slick website launched and the first printed copy of *The Report* magazine mailed to members and guns shops across Australia.

If you haven't had a look at the new [website](#) I'd encourage you to do so, as it now hosts the latest news as well as club contact details, shooting competition events, discipline information and of course firearms licensing and hunting portals. We will also be running competitions just for Queensland members, so visit regularly to see what prizes are up for grabs. In February and March, we have a [Thrive riflescope](#) on offer worth about \$850.

Also on the website is your Association's media representative Tim Bannister's interview with ABC Queensland radio on firearm laws of the land. He talked about the Australia Institute's biased report on firearms ownership. Being a Green's-backed organisation, it was of no surprise that it continues to spread misinformation and sensationalist propaganda, but we are only too happy to set the records straight with the media.

More surprising and a little disappointing was the media launch of Queensland Police Service's Operation Whiskey Firestorm, supposedly aimed mainly at ensuring registered firearms are safely secured. Even its name is offensive, sounding like a battle launch rather than an educational program with 'safety first, secure always' as its official motto. The video footage provided to the media for their 90-second news stories showed drug dealers with homemade firearms being arrested and thrown into paddy wagons, hardly the relevant material when talking about licensed shooters and registered firearms.

Despite this misstep with the police's media blurring the lines between legal and illegal firearm use, we have been reassured by the operations spokesman Detective Superintendent George Marchesini that the police wish to work with us and the shooting community in a positive and educational way to ensure proper firearms storage and reinforce key responsibilities of firearm ownership. We have no issues with an educational campaign to promote firearms security; in fact, it was us who started the 'Secure Your Gun, Secure Your Sport' campaign more than 20 years ago. But we do expect our members and the greater licensed firearms community to be treated with the respect they deserve and a recognition that being a 'fit and proper person' means we are among the most trustworthy and reliable in the state. You can read more about our dealings with the Australian Institute and the Queensland Police in the next issue of *The Report* magazine.

Hellen Gill

SSAA Queensland President

SSAA Queensland revives international handgun competition



L to R: Mathew Jackson, Shane McEwan, Robert (Bob) Perry and Lester Peel.

After years of absence from international shooting competitions, SSAA Queensland was invited by Pistol New Zealand to attend the New Zealand Action Match Championships in October of 2024 in Whangarei. SSAA Queensland’s Vice President (Central Developments) Shane McEwan lead the ambassador team of Mathew Jackson, Bob Perry, and Lester Peel.

The team’s attendance at the Championships has revived Australia’s international handgun competition shooting and was a great opportunity for SSAA Queensland to open doors, re-establish important international shooting relationships and take control of its shooting destiny.

Sporting shooters are well aware of the complications that can occur when travelling with firearms, especially overseas; however, Shane said that Border Force, Qantas and New Zealand Police, in this instance, were “brilliant”, ensuring the process was straightforward and without issue for the team. “Once we knew where

we needed to start, all three agencies made the trip so easy,” he said.

The event drew 38 competitors and even though trophies were not the main objective, the Queensland team represented Australia well. Mathew Jackson finished second overall in High Master using a semi-automatic .38 Super Open Class handgun. Shane also claimed a silver using a semi-auto .38 Super Open Class with a red-dot sight. And Lester continued the second-place trend in Sharp Shooter using a .38 Super Metallic Open Sight.

New Zealand’s Yuki Mambu was the overall champion, scoring 1916 and an impressive 162 Xs. The camaraderie among the competitors was infectious, with Yuki accepting his win wearing a SSAA Queensland-gifted cap.

Shane said the event was a huge success and it has encouraged him to pursue hosting future international Action Match shoots here in Queensland.

Handgun restrictions in Australia are different to New Zealand. Australians have calibre restrictions up to .45 and magazine capacities of 10; whereas New Zealand handgun shooters have no calibre restrictions and are allowed magazines of 20. In the past, this difference has caused some obstacles for New Zealand handgun shooters wanting to compete in Australia, but hopefully it can be negotiated to further foster shooting relationships. 🎯



A handful of SSAA Queensland and Pistol New Zealand shooters assemble post championships. Overall champion New Zealand's Yuki Mimbu is kneeling in front, proudly wearing his SSAA Queensland hat.

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Out with the old, in with the new - SSAA Queensland's new-look website

Have you visited SSAA Queensland's new website? The professionally redesigned site is now easier to navigate and has a fresh, modern look. Through the site, you can join Australia's largest shooting Association, renew your Queensland membership and change your personal details online. This latter feature is only offered by SSAA Queensland. No other shooting organisation makes managing your membership so easy. You'll also find Branch contacts, Discipline details, firearms licensing information, details on Deporte Mutual Liability and firearms protection as well as free access to our new publication, *The Report*.



With the latest news to keep you informed, ssaaqld.org.au should be your one-stop 'shop' as a SSAA Queensland member. 

Advertorial

Queensland Arms Fair – March 2025

Are you a collector, enthusiast, or simply curious about firearms, antiques, and military history? The **Queensland Arms, Collectables & Militaria Fair** is the place to be this March!

Whether you're searching for rare finds or want to chat with experts, this event promises to be an exciting experience for all.

Mark your calendars:

- **When:** Saturday, March 22nd, 2025: 9am – 3pm | Sunday, March 23rd, 2025: 9am – 1pm
- **Where:** Beenleigh Distillery Road Market, 124 Distillery Road, Eagleby, QLD 4207
- **Admission:** Just \$10! Free for under 16s.

This two-day event is a must-see, with more than 200 tables showcasing a vast range of items for both seasoned collectors and newcomers alike. You'll find new, used, and antique firearms, military memorabilia, and collectables from every era. From modern sporting and military




firearms to vintage bayonets, swords, knives, and reloading equipment, there's something for everyone.

If you're looking for that special, hard-to-find piece, you won't be disappointed! Rare parts and accessories, deactivated collector firearms, and expert advice on modern sporting items will all be available. For fans of edged weapons, you can browse a collection of swords, bayonets, and knives, each with its own unique story to tell.

Also on display:

- Books, medals, clothing, badges and other memorabilia
- Militaria including uniforms, helmets, holsters and webbing
- Collectables including tins, signs and memorabilia
- Specialty Ammunition: One dealer will offer an impressive range of over 150 calibres – perfect for shooters and collectors alike.

Bring your family, friends, and fellow enthusiasts for a weekend of discovery and inspiration. Don't miss your chance to attend this incredible fair and meet other collectors from all over Queensland.

For more information, visit www.queenslandarmsfair.com or contact Paul Brush at 0412 562 252 or paul@apwoz.com.au. 

First print issue of *The Report* – a new magazine for the Australian shooter

The printers were churning overtime last month when the first ever pages of *The Report* magazine charged out of the Heidelberg M600's rollers.

Almost eight tons of biodegradable and recyclable paper were required to compile the Australian Shooters Alliance's (ASA) publication that was sent in February to SSAA Queensland members and firearm stores across Australia.

Co-Managing Editors Tim Bannister and Jennifer Martens, along with Advertising and Business Development Manager Karoline Wasiak, worked overtime to put the magazine together, pulling in favours from specialist writers and the firearms industry to offer a unique and very Queensland-looking offering.

"The feedback from the industry has been remarkable," Karoline said. "And print is still 'King' when it comes to readership. These days we get so many emails with attachments, many of them spam that just get lost in the system and never get read. A physical hardcopy magazine demands attention, and we shooters we are a passionate lot, and we keep the magazines for future reference."





The print run is so large that a \$10 million German printing press, of which there are only a handful in the country, was required to publish the first issue of *The Report*. 🎯

Competition

WIN A THRIVE HD

First Focal Plane (FFP) Illuminated riflescope!

ZeroTech has kindly donated the **THRIVE HD First Focal Plane (FFP) Illuminated riflescope** to *The Report*. For your chance to win, enter your details on the website: zerotech.com.au/promotions or scan the qr code.

4-16X44MM LR HUNTER ILLUMINATED

The THRIVE HD First Focal Plane (FFP) has been developed for shooters and hunters who are looking for a 'do it all' riflescope. Equally at home on the range as it is in the field, the THRIVE HD FFP will unlock a new level of precision in your rifle without sacrificing fast target acquisition on low magnification.

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Competition closes 31 March 2025.

*Click the graphic to go directly to the entry page or use the QR code.