



### President's Message

With the federal election behind us, we welcome the return of Bob Katter. He has been a strong supporter of us, the firearms community, and it is for that reason we again financially supported his campaign on your, our members', behalf. We farewell the Liberal's Ross Vasta, who lost his seat, and thank him for his proud enthusiasm of our sport and note that the Federal Sports Minister continues to be Queensland's Anika Wells, who will play a role in supporting Brisbane's 2032 Olympics preparation. While SSAA doesn't engage in any competitions that are held at the Olympics, we welcome any event that puts the shooting sports in the spotlight and any that may spark an interest in juniors taking up our recreation.

On our ranges, we saw a very successful Muzzleloading National Championship held at Townsville last month and Captains Mountain hosted the Benchrest National Championships. It's the first time it has been held at Captains Mountain and the event attracted the most competitors from across the country in more than a decade and a half. Well done to all the volunteers who made these competitions such as success, and I think it is true to say that the ranges and facilities we have built over the decades truly makes Queensland the state of choice to hold these events in Australia.

The reality of our sport is that by its nature of utilising firearms we have to engage with politicians and the police at all levels to ensure our sport is not adversely affected by poor legislation and treatment. In the past month alone, we have met with Weapons Branch multiple times, the new Police Minister Dan Purdie and the Federal Attorney-General's department. Topics have included Permit to Acquire examination, hunting (recreation) licences and the rebuilding of Queensland's firearms registration database and its one-day connection to the National Firearms Register. We have even questioned how firearm renewals are sent out to members; for instance, if a renewal is emailed to a member but it bounces back because their email address has changed, do the police find another way to alert the licence holder that they are soon due to renew their licence? Commonsense would say that they make every effort to ensure the licence holder is informed and compliant.

Commonsense, unfortunately, can be at times not that common, so we will continue to lobby on your behalf to push for that kind of commonsense at all levels of government.

Safe shooting.

**Hellen Gill**

SSAA Queensland President

# Floods causing more than a headache

By Tim Bannister

Record-breaking floods in Queensland have caused tens of thousands of dollars in damages to clubs, ranges and roads, knocked out or forced committees to reschedule shoots and competitions and now are giving rise to a rare tropical disease: melioidosis.



The floods eroded soil from the North Queensland ranges requiring expensive earth work remediation.

According to Queensland Health, as reported by News Corp Australia, more than 30 locals have died from the disease, with 221 cases to date so far this year. Torres and Cape, North West, Cairns and Hinterland and Townsville residents have been infected by these bacteria. It can enter the body through cuts or sores, drinking contaminated water or even by breathing it in during the wet season or flooding.

The disease is considered life threatening to those with long-term health problems or who drink alcohol heavily.



Townsville vice-president Mick Norris is used to being 'up to his neck in it', but this time he literally was, as the floods created a river and left a valley through part of the Hervey Range landscape flats.

The best way to protect yourself against the disease is to cover any cuts or wounds with waterproof dressings and to wash thoroughly after any exposure to soil or muddy water, particularly your hands. 🎯

# 50 years of Australian Muzzleloading

By Michael Nicholas

This year marks a monumental milestone — the 50th SSAA Muzzleloading National Championships, proudly spanning from 1976 to 2025.

The 2025 Nationals kicked off on Friday, 18 April 2025, with the thunderous firing of a



Twenty-five shooters from four states attended a hotly contested Muzzleloading National Championships in Townsville.

cannon, setting the stage for an exciting weekend.

Handgun and pistol matches quickly followed, where Michael Nicholas (SA) claimed victory in the Class 1 Revolver Aggregate with a score of 155.2. Shayne Barnsley

(NSW) took top honours in the Class 2 Pistol Aggregate with an impressive 178.1. Other standout performances included Frank Verdini (SA), who won the Firelock

Smoothbore Pistol event using a matchlock with a score of 89, and Michael Nicholas, scoring 86 in the 50m Class 3 Open Pistol Event. Des Prowse (QLD) showed his enduring prowess, winning both the Firelock Musket and Open Musket events with scores of 89 and 83, respectively.

Saturday's competitors lined up for the Class 1 Military Rifle, Class 2 Traditional Rifle, and the 50m Vetterli Matches. Michael Nicholas continued his winning form, securing the Class 1



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Rifle Aggregate with a score of 355.1, while Shayne Barnsley also won the Class 2 Traditional Rifle Aggregate with a score of 354.1. In the tightly contested MLAIC Vetterli Match (offhand 50m open rifle), Shayne Barnsley came out on top with a 96.3 using his Class 2 traditional rifle, followed closely by Anthony Wilson (QLD) at 95.2 and Michael Nicholas at 95.1.



Scores were close at this year's Muzzleloading Championships, requiring intense focus to come out on top.

Sunday brought more fierce competition, with the Class 3 Open Rifle, Black Powder Cartridge Rifle, and Firelock Rifle events. Humid conditions made for challenging shooting in the Firelock Aggregate, but Frank Verdini persevered to claim victory with a score of 236. Steve Nicholas (SA) was close behind with 231 and Gordon Gentle (QLD) celebrated his first national medal with a strong 219.

The Open Rifle Benchrest Matches saw an incredibly tight contest after the 100m Class 3 Bench event, with just a single point separating the top five shooters. Paul White (WA) led with 96.3, narrowly ahead of Steve Nicholas and Michael Nicholas, both on 95.3. Vlad



Potezney (SA) was on 95.2 and Anthony Wilson (QLD) on 95.1. As the competition moved to 200m, Paul White stretched his lead, winning the Class 3 Open Rifle Aggregate with a combined score of 191.3. Vlad Potezney placed second with 186.2, and Bruce Finlay (SA) rounded out the top three with 184.2. In the Black Powder Cartridge Rifle event, Shayne Barnsley shot a strong offhand score at 100m, taking first place in the aggregate with 616 points, ahead of Dan MacDonald (NSW) on 605 and Anthony Wilson on 564.1.

Monday featured the 300m Prone and Shotgun events. Mark Sobierajski (NSW) captured the 300m Prone title with a score of 79. In the Percussion Shotgun match, Shayne Barnsley smashed 20 clays to win, with Gordon Gentle (QLD) and Frank

Verdini following on 18 and 17 clays, respectively. In the Firelock Shotgun event, Frank Verdini came out on top with 14 clays, Anthony Wilson hit 12, and Ian Hanlon (NSW) hit 10.

In the Grand Aggregate — comprising a competitor's best Class 1 or 2 Pistol, best Class 1 or 2 Rifle, and best Shotgun score — Shayne Barnsley triumphed with a total of 732.2 points. Frank Verdini secured second, with 647.2, and Anthony Wilson (QLD) took third with 642.2.

In the ultimate challenge of endurance, the Super Grand Aggregate — adding together every event — Shayne Barnsley (NSW) achieved a strong total of 2950.11. Frank Verdini finished second with 2740.7, and Anthony Wilson came third with 2619.7. Frank Verdini was the only person to finish all 32 events this year.



As you can see, Muzzleloading makes for an exciting spectator event.

Overall, we had 25 shooters, from four states. Average number of events shot per person was 16. The largest event was Traditional Rifle 50m Class 2 with 17 shooters and the smallest was matchlock pistol with three shooters. No new national records were shot.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
SA	19	21	15
NSW	16	13	7
QLD	3	7	19
WA	3		

Congratulations to all for making this championship one to remember on a range with a spectacular backdrop. None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of the volunteers. A huge thank you to SSAA Townsville for hosting an outstanding event

— the branch's spirit and teamwork are truly remarkable. It's rare to see a branch where multiple disciplines come together to make the event a success. Our Chief Range Officer competed in Air Rifle Field Target; target changers took part in Combined Services and Metallic Silhouette; scorers joined the Lever Action Rifle matches and even the catering team competed in Benchrest! Well done to everyone involved for delivering an unforgettable shoot. Next year's nationals are expected to be held in NSW.

Between July 2025 and December 2025, there will be a SSAA Muzzleloading Postal Shoot and between July 2025 and September 2025, the Pacific Zone Postal Shoot against New Zealand, USA, Canada, South Africa, Brazil, Japan and Argentina will take place. Stay tuned.

# Benelli Sponsored Shooter Search



Beretta and Benelli are conducting an 828U Sponsorship Search. Do you have what it takes to be part of their team?

They are looking for three standout individuals from the Australian shooting community to join their team. The positions are open to junior and senior Sporting and FGA shooters who have made a name for themselves in their shooting circles. If successful, you'll receive:

- A brandnew Benelli 828U Steel Australian Edition 30" Shotgun
- A Benelli Shooters Pack full of great gear
- An official Sponsored Shooters Contract with Beretta Australia
- A trip to Beretta Australia headquarters.

Click [HERE](#) to start the application process. See where you shooting can take you!

Applications close July 31st 2025.

## Competition

# WIN A SWAROVSKI RIFLESCOPE!

Z5+ 3.5-18x50 P BT

Valued at **\$3,360!**

To enter, simply go to: [ssaaqld.org.au/win-riflescope](https://ssaaqld.org.au/win-riflescope)

The Z5+ 3.5-18x50 P BT scope adapts to any backcountry challenge, whether shooting in forests, over rough terrain, or at long distances. Higher magnification settings and a 50mm objective lens allow for better target identification and judgement at long distances, even in low-light conditions.

With 18x magnification, a newly designed Ballistic Turret, and increased internal adjustment range, this scope ensures precise shooting at long distances, essential for hunting in open terrains or mountains.

The 30mm Main Tube Diameter allows for more physical space and increased adjustment range.

The Ballistic Turret has 3-times more adjustment range, featuring four coloured-dash-rings and a two-rowed MOA scale ring, plus a locking mechanism and zero-stop function.

Reticle options include 4W, PLEX, BRS, and BRW. The BRS reticle is optimised for hold-overs, while the BRW reticle is designed for combined turret and reticle compensation. All reticles, except for the Plex non-illuminated reticle, are glass etched for high contrast.

Competition Closes: May 31st, 2025.  
Terms and Conditions apply.

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**Mount:** Ring mount

**Objective:**

- 3.5-18 Magnification
- 34.3-50mm Effective objective lens diameter
- 9.5-2.8mm Exit pupil diameter
- 95mm Exit pupil distance
- 10.1-2.1 m/100m Field of view
- 5.8-1.2° Field of view degrees
- 21° Field of view apparent
- -3 to +2 dpt Diopter adjustment
- 91% Light transmission
- 9.9-30.0 Twilight factor acc. to ISO 14132-1
- 50-∞yds/46-∞m Parallax correction

**Measurement:**

- ¼ MOA/7.27mm Impact point correction per click (m/mm)
- 82.8/82.8 2.3/2.3 Max. elevation/windage adjustment range (m@100yds/m@100m)

**Size and Weight:**

- 346mm
- 560g
- 30mm (central tube diameter)

**Environment and Conditions:**

- -20 to +55°C Functional temperature
- -30 to +70°C Storage temperature
- 13ft/4m water depth (inert gas filling) submersion tightness.

\*Click the graphic to go directly to the entry page. Competition closes May 31.

# The Report: June is on its way



*The Report* magazine is now being printed monthly, with the June issue hot off the press and being prepared for mailing. We have even increased the pages by 25 per cent so more stories about target shooting and hunting for Queensland members. Keep an eye out for your copy! In the meantime, you can view the latest digital issue [here](#).

## Back on Instagram

SSAA Queensland has reactivated our Instagram page – now live as *The Report* – Magazine. Check it out here: [@thereportmag](#)

Please 'Follow' the page if you don't already and feel free to 'tag' us in your shooting, hunting and outdoor adventures if you would like to be featured and are happy for us to re-share your content on our stories.

We'll start sharing fresh content from next month, so watch this space! 

