

On Target

Volume 5—Issue 1
April 2010

Special points of interest:

- Range Progress Report
- Letter of reply to an ANTI
- Shot Expo 2010

Ever stop to think, and forget to start again???

The statistics on **sanity** are that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.

Hey Everyone !!!!!!!! **THIS IS A NOT TO BE MISSED EVENT,** **SHOT EXPO 2010**

When?

Sat 5th, Sun the 6th of June 2010

Where?

Hall 5, Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park Homebush

Times?

9.00am to 5.00pm both days.

Admission fees?

\$19 non SSAA members, \$15 SSAA members, \$10 pensioners and kids under 15 are free when accompanied by an adult

Wrinkled Was Not One of the Things I Wanted to Be When I Grew up.

Welcome to all PFA Members to "On Target"

Range Progress Report April 2010 **by Tony Garland.**

We are at the stage where

1. / Plans have been drawn showing the ground levels above sea level. These plans become the base drawing on which the architectural plans for the layout of the range are overlaid.

This enables us to see how much digging or filling is needed to give us our flat areas for the actual range, clubhouse and car park.

2. / The architectural plans have been drawn. These drawings show the site plan, the overhead views of the various structures and the elevation (side) views of the buildings and the floor plans of the lower level which is the shooting bays, the open patio entrance, storage areas, preparation area and toilet areas. The clubhouse level or upper level shows the three sided verandah, ramped entrance from the car park level, entertainment and social areas, kitchen, servery, office and storage space and toilets.

3. / By the time you are reading this article the drawings will be with our Town Planner for him to include in the preliminary submission of our Development Application to the Warringah Council.

Included in the preliminary D.A. to the council will be sufficient plans as to the nature of the works to describe the outcome. Arising from that meeting Council will provide, their preliminary assessment of the land use as proposed, and matters which the Council will require to be addressed in the preparation and presentation of a formal Development Application. I anticipate these will include:

1-A level and detailed survey of the site.

..... (Done)

2-Plans sufficient to detail the nature of works required to facilitate the land use. (Done)

3-An arborist's report to document the vegetation on the site and trees to be removed (if any) as a consequence of the

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works proposed.

4-An acoustic report in terms of the level of disturbance to the surrounding land users as a consequence of the land use as proposed.

5-A traffic report to examine the means of entry into the site, the requirements for the provision of off street parking and any measures arising to satisfy Council and the RTA in terms of the point of entry from Mona Vale Road into the site.

6-Possibly a threatened species assessment to determine the possible impacts arising from the works and the land use to flora and fauna.

7-A landscaping design and bush land management plan.



Once the formal D.A. is ready to go it has to be endorsed by the Department of Lands who are the owner of the property and our landlord, as they have to give permission before the project can proceed. Then we need actual structural engineering drawings for the range walls, the buildings and the car park.

Tony G

I got this new deodorant today, The instructions said, 'Remove cap and push up bottom.' I can barely walk, but whenever I fart the room smells awesome.

A Response to a Letter From an Anti, USA Publication

My response to a nay-sayer who hates hunting and hunters

By [Russ Chastain](#)

In life, opportunities come in a variety of ways, and one secret to success is learning to recognize them. When I got an Email from an anti-hunter who had found this Web site, I had a choice: 1) answer it and keep the exchange private, or 2) make my reply public, in hopes that others will benefit from the exchange. I'll take option number two.

One of the most enduring and popular articles on this Web site is called **Q&A Hunters & Killing**. In it, I addressed positive and negative comments from various readers of another article, entitled **Why do Hunters Kill?** I have had numerous requests for more of the same, so here goes.

The Email in question is from someone calling herself Donna, but that hardly matters. I have received many such messages over the years, most of them reflecting the same tone and general message. This serves merely as an example of their way of thinking.

"You will never convince me that hunting is a sport. It is so cruel and inhumane."

To quote myself from as early as 1999, "It is my feeling that hunting is not a sport, inasmuch as a sport is most often perceived as an organized activity performed for the entertainment of the participants and/or onlookers. Hunting is something that goes much deeper than that."

So you will not find me trying to convince anyone that hunting is a sport. It is, however, a legitimate and traditional outdoor activity enjoyed by millions of good people who are unafraid to face their deepest human instincts. The mention of cruelty and inhumanity must also be addressed. **Webster's Dictionary** defines "cruel" as "disposed to inflict pain or suffering." While folks who know nothing about hunters may believe that the goal of hunting is to inflict pain and suffering, nothing could be farther from the truth.

The goal of hunting is to hunt! The kill is a necessary part of that experience, but it is not the be-all, end-all motivational factor that some people think it to be. When the time comes for the kill, as any true hunter will tell you, it is always the goal of the hunter to effect it with a minimum of pain and suffering.

My dictionary defines "inhumane" as simply "not humane." Referring to its definition of "humane," I find the following: "marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for other human beings or animals." For hunting to be accurately called inhumane, then, it must be proven that hunters do **not** have compassion, sympathy, or consideration for other human beings or animals. Hunters display their sympathy for living creatures by striving for fast, efficient kills when they do kill. Their compassion is displayed in their willingness to swiftly take the life of an animal which might otherwise starve slowly to death due to overpopulation, or meet an ugly, lingering death in an auto collision, something that is often costly and injurious to drivers as well as wildlife. Hunters also use the animals that they take, unlike so-called "sharpshooters" that some municipalities employ to kill excess wildlife. Hunters' consideration for all living things, both animal and human, is

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embodied by the things mentioned above, and by their polite demeanor which does not demand that others enjoy these same activities.

We hunters do not wish for everyone to share our beliefs or commitment to our outdoor heritage; we wish simply to be left alone to enjoy this intimate connection with nature and our roots. We are secure in our place and in our commitment to hunting why can't everyone just let us be? After all, we extend that courtesy to non-hunters.

"They should outlaw [hunting] in every state."

That idea is both impractical and misguided. Hunting is a legitimate activity and wildlife management tool - *hunters pay their own hard-earned dollars to manage wildlife populations* which would otherwise explode to unhealthy levels in many regions of the USA. No other method of wildlife management is as practical or as effective as hunting.

"I cannot see the pleasure in killing an animal."

That some folks cannot see the "pleasure" in a hunter's harvest is unsurprising. It is extremely hard to put the satisfaction of hunting into words, even for self-proclaimed wordsmiths like myself. To truly understand the essence of hunting, one must get out into the world and hunt.

Those people who are predisposed to dislike hunting understandably resist the pull of this great outdoor activity, but to do so is to limit their experience to such an extent that they really cannot make a qualified statement on hunting, having never participated in it.

"They were not put here to be eaten or killed. They have just as much right to be here and to live."

Animals do not - and should not - have any rights. Man was told in Genesis 1:28 to "have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." So Biblically as well as practically, we are the caretakers of all non-human life here on earth, and we have dominion over them.

My dictionary defines "dominion" as "supreme authority." Therefore animals (including insects and the like) lie under the rule of man, certainly not on anything resembling an equal footing.

This is again made obvious in Genesis 3:21, when "did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them." Already animals were being killed and used to serve the needs of mankind, by none other than God Himself.

As for eating animals, in Genesis 9:3, God said to Noah and his sons, "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." So eating a nice thick porterhouse steak with a helping of green beans is entirely in keeping with this mandate - not to mention being utterly delicious. My mouth waters at the very thought of it!

"I would like to see hunter's put out in the wood's and give gun's to the animal's, and do to the hunter's what they do to the animal's."

I have heard this same sentiment many times, and it never fails to disturb me. How can anyone place such a minuscule value on the lives of fellow humans? It is sick, disgusting, and very, very wrong. Hopefully I do not need to go into why it is wrong to place a higher (or equal) value on animal life vs. human life.

"What pleasure do you get out of blasting an animal."

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How can you look into their eyes and kill them."

For my answer to that, please see [Why do Hunters Kill?](#) and some of the other articles linked at the end of that one. *"When I hear of a hunter being shot while he is out in the wood's, you know what better them than the animal they were going to kill. I never ever feel sorry for them at all."*

That is so sick! Am I alone in seeing how demented that thought is? To wish the death of a fellow human being rather than that of an animal, based on no crime or mortal sin by said human... it is about as backwards a way of thinking as any that I have ever run across.

How is any reasonable person to believe that anyone who thinks that way is even sane? I don't wish the death of anyone based on whether or not they hunt - how could anyone do so? Do these people also wish the violent deaths of folks who make their living in slaughterhouses or butcher shops? Do they wish the drowning of fishermen? And if so, why? I don't believe that way of thinking could ever be properly explained to the satisfaction of a rational mind, so an explanation of that will probably be hard to come by.

"What give's you the right to take that animal's life."

Among other things, the Holy Bible does, and I hold that law above that of any man or woman.

"I know you could care less what I have to write, but I had to get it off my chest."

If I didn't care what you had to write, then I wouldn't be responding to it now. Perhaps you feel better for having made your thoughts known - I know that I feel better now that I have again expressed mine.

"Yes, I also haven't eaten meat in 16 year's. If I can save one animal's life than that make's me feel better. My sister also does not eat meat."

Okey dokey. Whatever turns you on, as long as it doesn't interfere with the lives and pursuits of other folks. It's not my place to try to talk you out of your decision, and I don't even want to. But I do wonder if you wear leather shoes, or use leather purses, belts, gloves, etc. You do realize that leather's original purpose was holding an animal's insides in, don't you? Do you eat fish? Snatched from their native water, fish drown when brought into the air that we humans breathe (sounds cruel to some I suppose, but they sure do taste good to me). How do you feel about killing mosquitoes? Rats? Mice? Cockroaches? Termites? Ants? Fleas? Head lice? What about the deer and other living creatures that the farmers who raise your vegetables kill, to prevent them from eating the crops before harvest time? What about the critters that the trucks squash as they haul the harvest to market? The rodents and other pests that are purposely killed in the facilities that process, package, and sell your food? If one is going to be committed to preventing the deaths of living creatures, then one should at least try to be consistent about it.

The fact is, no one is blameless, we all cause the deaths of living creatures merely by existing here on earth. But the good news is that we don't have to feel guilty or ignoble about it, because controlling the populations of non-human living things is something that was commanded and sanctioned by God Himself! **Russ Chastain**, (Author)

Contributed by John Pashley, PFA Chaiman.

Never Underestimate The Old Blokes

Shooting Competition 2009 Winner Tony Griffiths

One of the hi-lites of the 2009 AGM was the presentation of prizes to the winners of the Club Target Shooting Competition. This presentation was made even sweeter as Champion and Runner-Up were both in the Veterans category ie over

55 years of age – shooting over 50m with ‘veteran rifles’ using iron sights.

Champion: Tony Griffiths winning group size 39.28mm.

Runner-Up: Tony Garland group size 70.39mm.

Tony Griffiths used a British



made Birmingham Small Arms model 12 martini action target rifle most likely manufactured in 1925, with a Parker Hale aperture rear sight . The BSA was purchased in the UK in 1965 for nine pounds, in those days nearly three quarters of his weekly wage, but only after the UK Police had contacted NSW Police to ensure that Tony did not have a criminal record. Tony’s comment is “I’m 72; the rifles 85; and it's in better condition than I am.” I feel that Tony being a School Cadet (Bren gunner at 13) and a National Service veteran may have something to do with his rifle skills. Tony Garland used an American made Stevens Arms & Tool Company model 1890 single shot hammer action rifle with a single



stage trigger and Stevens vernier tang rear sight with flip flop front post. This rifle came to Tony as a rusted solid throwaway and

has been lovingly restored to near new condition. It is now capable of minute of angle accuracy, and is “now one of my favourites.” These two gentlemen have certainly set an impressive example to Shooters of all ages. Both are again competing in 2010, and are looking forward to giving the younger Shooters another good run for their money. Each Shooter was presented with a unique Australian design belt buckle, cast and engraved by fellow PFA member John Webeck.

Well done guys, John Pashley, PFA Chairman

Flashback, from the 2008 AGM



No!! you gotta be kidding, you can't be serious, that big? or so it seems to be what Van is saying to Tony (The Stockade) Garland at the 2008 PFA AGM. All in attendance had a great time with promise for the future of PFA being demonstrated throughout the meeting and during informal discussions after the meeting. **(AGM report was covered in an earlier "on Target, Ed)**

The Sun Herald, Sunday July 20th 2008, by Adam Bennett

How Mum was saved from a mad Kangaroo

A 65 year old woman who was mauled by a kangaroo on her central western NSW farm is lucky to be alive, with the animal only stopping its attack when it was chased away by the farm dog, her son said yesterday. Rosemary Neal was rushed to Mudgee Hospital suffering facial lacerations and other injuries, after being attacked on her farm while checking on horses in a paddock late on Friday afternoon. Her son Darren said his mother was lucky to be alive after being attacked by the male kangaroo which he estimated was two metres tall and weighed 60 kilograms. He said Mudgee had become overrun by kangaroos in the past two years. "There would be a couple of hundred kangaroos within a hundred metres of the house and last night (Friday) she was just walking down the paddock to check on the horses before it was dark," he said. "A lot of kangaroos just bolted, but the males don't care, they just stay laying down, they're not scared." "The kangaroo just jumped up and launched straight at her. He hit her once and she just dropped and rolled." "My dog heard her screaming and bolted down and chased him off. If it wasn't for the dog she'd probably be dead." Mr Neal said his mother was in a "bad way", but had been discharged from hospital late on Friday night. "My mum is 65 years old and about five and a half foot (167 centimetres)," he said. "Her face has been ripped apart, her hand has been mauled, and she's got scratches all over her back and concussion." Mr Neal said Mudgee people had been complaining about the kangaroo problem for a number of years.

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"We've seen little kids running through the paddocks, and if they run over one of those big ones they wont last two seconds," he said. **(Reads like a plea for help, an invitation for some active control, doesn't it? Ed)**

Firearms database on the way

CRIMTRAC is developing a National Firearms Identification Database (NFID) to address inconsistencies in methods of identifying and recording firearms and to reduce the potential for registration mistakes. "The central database aims to establish national standards for identifying firearms, in order to promote improved consistency of definitions and descriptions of firearms nationally," Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor said. "Each police jurisdiction already has its own management system but there is a recognised need for a more consistent, national view of firearms records. "To achieve this consistent view, one national standard in firearms descriptions will be developed to inform the regulatory recording of firearms in Australia. This will involve the establishment of a central firearms identification database, which will be accessible via a web-based reference tool." The reference tool will make searching the data-base easier by offering lists of possible matches based on answers to questions regarding make, model, type, action, category and calibre. The tool will include up to three images of each matching firearm. These images will display the location of firearm specific markings such as manufacturer logos and the locations of serial numbers as well as a full side view of the firearm.

The new national capability will be based on the Victorian Weapons Identification Database System (WIDS), one of the most effective firearm identification databases in Australia, which can be accessed by police, licence holders and dealers who have access to the internet.

"Licence holders may choose to access the NFID system to validate the registration details of their firearms. Firearms are expensive and owners are expected to want to ensure that their property is correctly recorded for insurance purposes among other reasons."

Following the project's recent endorsement by the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management - Police, CrimTrac will implement the national system in 2012. .

Shoot Dates for PFA Inc in 2010, Last Sunday of each Month. Shooting starts at 12,15pm with the last detail commencing at 3.30pm, **28 March, 25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 29 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November, No Shoot in December**