

SSAA NSW  
Limited

# Whats On!

FEBRUARY 2023

SSAA NSW CEO Message



RANGE / BRANCH MATTERS  
Peter Szaak



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SSAA NSW

If you or anyone you know are interested in becoming a SSAA NSW Member and becoming a licenced shooter, contact Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (New South Wales) Limited on (02) 7900 1555 for further assistance.

ABN 40 624 274 165 - ACN 659 347 109





**SSAA NSW**  
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## SSAA NSW CEO Message



SSAA NSW CEO Jai Rowell

G'day Members,

February has been an extremely busy and successful month for SSAA NSW, Branches and Clubs. With good weather and no travel restrictions, our ranges all over the State have been opened, hosting great events and welcoming people. We have heard of many members out and about in the field undertaking hunting and important conservation work.

### *SSAA NSW Board Strategic Planning Day*

Our hard working Board led by Lance Miller just this weekend past, held a Board Strategic Planning Day working to the vision for the Association over the next ten years. This is an important piece of work for any large organisation, identifying priorities and having discussion as to how to fund new ideas.

This is the first part of developing the long term strategic plan, with a survey to all members being emailed soon and followed up by a Branch Strategic Planning Day with current and emerging leaders. We are very excited by this work, as, together we set the path for increased services to members and place SSAA NSW in a strong position for the next decade and beyond.

### *SSAA NSW State Discipline Chair Meeting*

The weekend prior to that, saw the State Disciplines Chairs' meeting being held. The meeting was led by our Junior SSAA NSW Vice President and NSW Discipline Coordinator Scott Wagner who conducted a survey of our disciplines chairs as to their needs and provided a detailed presentation as to how we can support them even further.

Disciplines are an important part of what we do, run by our dedicated volunteers. SSAA NSW is keen to further support the disciplines and give our 62,000 members a better understanding of the various disciplines available and the opportunities to shoot them.

### *Attendances*

It is a very busy time with mandatory attendances due by the end of March for Longarms, Hunting and Collecting. Our members have been attending ranges and a big thank you must go to all our Branches, and Clubs who run ranges to allow people to enjoy the sport and of course meet their legal obligations.



SSAA NSW has been sending out reminder notices for the past couple of months, so you are aware of the 31st March deadline. We have had a small number of people contacting the office to indicate that the information we had was in error as they have completed their attendances.

I thought I would take the opportunity to explain why this may be the case with SSAA NSW sending someone a notice saying that they hadn't completed their attendances when they had.

One reason is that when someone joins themselves and someone else (usually a partner or family member), sometimes they put in the same address for both. So even if you have completed your attendances but your partner or family member hasn't and has the same email address as you; the email address registered with SSAA National will be sent a reminder. In the future, we will make sure that we state who the email is intended for even if one email is shared across multiple individuals. This has only been a problem in a small number of cases.

The other main reason is that some members let us know they do not have to do an attendance for a category, as it is not on their licence. This is correct, however the confusion is that although a person, has for example one category on their actual firearms licence, when the person first joined SSAA NSW, they ticked multiple categories. Unless you update categories to match your actual firearms licence; our records indicate that you need to complete attendances for that particular category.

The good news is that our friendly staff are here to help and have been assisting members to update records with SSAA National. Although, you can update your records on line on the SSAA National website, to make it easier for our members, we have been taking the information and ensuring the updates are done, for you.

Thank you for your understanding during this busy time.

## *Range Development*

Apart from working with Branches with range upgrades and other projects, we have great news regarding our Dubbo range project. Initial civil works has commenced and we can't wait to be shooting at the range later this year.

In a future edition, we will provide you with a detailed update on the project but hope you are as just as excited as we are. Covid restrictions, torrential rain and regulatory red tape slowed the project down but it is great to see the project underway.

There are a number of other projects we are working on both the short and long term and we look forward to updating you on these details soon. Although we do not have an endless supply of funds, however with strategic vision and working collaboratively with branch leadership, we are achieving more than we ever have. This must continue to be able to build even more ranges.

## *NSW Election*

The NSW State Election is less than a month away, being held on 25th March. Although SSAA NSW has a strong advocacy program throughout the year and every year, we continue to engage with Government, Opposition and the Cross Bench at this time about what is important to protect the shooting sports, recreational activities, our members and all legal firearms owners.

Next month we will be publishing responses from various political parties on their views to a number of important questions we have put to them, so you can see where they stand on issues relating to the shooting sports.



## *St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre*

For those of you in the Sydney and greater Sydney region, St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre, owned and operated by SSAA NSW and SSAA Sydney Branch, is a fantastic place to shoot and hosts many tens of thousands of members each and every year, as well as many resident clubs.

Over the next 12 months and beyond we are undertaking a transformation of the centre, offering more services, increasing retail offerings, implementing online try shooting bookings and will shortly have an online shop with member discounts. If you are passing by or travelling from afar, I encourage you to come visit the centre, have a shoot and provide us with feedback on what else we can do to make the customer experience even better.

Being opened 7 days a week until 10pm on 6 of those days it is a convenient place to shoot even if you have to work during the day. With so much to offer, if you haven't been there a while; we would love to see you.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at the range or out in the field.

Jai Rowell

CEO / Executive Director  
SSAA NSW Limited



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# ST MARYS INDOOR SHOOTING CENTRE

"SMISC: The ultimate indoor shooting destination"



(02) 8889 0406



[www.stmarysindoorshootingcentre.com.au](http://www.stmarysindoorshootingcentre.com.au)

Sydney's largest public indoor shooting range

## Opening Hours:

*Family Friendly  
Environment*

**SAFE  
STORAGE**

FEEL HAPPY KNOWING  
YOUR FIREARMS ARE  
SECURE.

BOTH RIFLE & PISTOL  
LOCKERS AVAILABLE  
FOR HIRE!

**RAIN, HAIL  
OR SHINE**

MONDAY- 10AM to 10PM  
TUESDAY- 10AM to 10PM  
WEDNESDAY- 10AM to 10PM  
THURSDAY- 10AM to 10PM  
FRIDAY- 10AM to 10PM  
SATURDAY- 10AM to 10PM  
SUNDAY 10AM to 6PM

**\*CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS\***



WE STOCK A WIDE  
RANGE OF FIREARMS,  
AMMUNITION,

**Licenced  
Firearms  
Dealership**

AND ACCESSORIES FROM  
ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS AT  
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## BRANCH FOCUS

# SSAA WAGGA WAGGA

Wagga Wagga Branch cater for the needs of over 1000 members; hunters, plinkers and competition shooters, men and women, juniors, and those for whom youth is a very distant memory. Our range is open on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm, Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm and Sundays from 10am to 4pm except for long weekends and between Christmas and New year.



It caters for Shotgun, Black powder, Rimfire and Centrefire Field Rifle, Military Rifle, Rimfire Metallic Silhouette, Lever Action, Benchrest, Fly out to 500 metres and Pistol as well as those who just want to do their own thing. There are four major two day competitions each year and club competition shoots most Sundays and some Saturdays. While we have a small group of target shooters who travel to major competitions, the majority who take part in the club competitions do so with their hunting rifles.

For this reason, the club competitions are structured so that hunting rifles are competitive, in fact, the 2010 club champion achieved his success with a hunting rifle. Visitors and those who just want to test the waters are always welcome.

The branch was founded in 1988 and concrete for the benches was laid in 1991. The original range consisted of a 100 and 200 yard benchrest range with benches for 18 competitors and a 200 metre Field Rifle range.

Since 2004 we have built a large clubhouse, added a Shotgun range with a field layout, a Rimfire Silhouette range, a new 200 metre Field Rifle range, added 3 benches to accommodate 21 competitors and most recently, extended the Benchrest range to 500 metres to cater for Fly shoots.

### *Coming up in March & April* SSAA Wagga Wagga

- 04 MAR- SHOTGUN 1:30PM START
- 11 MAR- LEVER ACTION 1:30PM START
- 05 APR- MAJOR SHOOT 500 FLY
- 22 APR- COLLECTORS MEET 1:30PM
- 23 APR- RIMFIRE 100YD GROUP

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The 44-hectare Big Springs Rifle Range, wholly owned by the Wagga Branch of SSAA NSW, is located near Wagga Wagga in South Eastern NSW. Founded in 1991, the range is zoned rural/agricultural and is bordered by a National Park and farmland. The range provides a covered 20 bench firing line catering to casual shooters, and competition shooters alike. Shotgun (5 stand), pistol (9 stand), and offhand (9 stand) ranges are also situated on the Big Springs site.

Pic: SSAA Wagga Wagga- Big Springs Rifle Range



There is a dedicated group of competition shooters competing in shoots every Sunday morning and some Saturday afternoons; the rest of the time is taken up by casual plinkers, hunters and competition shooters looking for that winning edge.

The emphasis on our friendly competitions is on having fun rather than winning.

There is a large solar powered and air conditioned clubhouse complete with kitchen facilities, scoring room, men and women's toilets with hot shower facilities. The facilities also cater for wheelchair access and have a disabled persons toilet/shower. Rudimentary camping facilities (non-powered) are available.

A large reloading and rifle cleaning room has recently been added adjacent to the firing line.

Everyone is welcomed and we look forward to seeing you at the range.

Contact:

Web: [www.ssaawagga.org.au](http://www.ssaawagga.org.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SSAAWagga/](https://www.facebook.com/SSAAWagga/)

Email: [waggawagga@nsw.ssaa.org.au](mailto:waggawagga@nsw.ssaa.org.au)



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## SSAA SYDNEY **LADIES SHOOTING PROGRAM**



On the 5th of February, SSAA Sydney Branch held a try shoot for ladies at Holroyd Rifle Range in Greystanes.

SSAA Sydney had three sessions booked with 8 to 10 ladies try shooting per round.

The try shooters arrived to the Pigeon Club Hall in Holroyd Rifle Range and were given a briefing on Firearm Safety. The attendees then wore their pink try shooting vests and were given their PPE and made their way to the Range where Range Officers were waiting.

Each participant was greeted by their Range Officer and began the process of learning how to look through the scope and adjusting it to their eyesight. They learnt how to load a magazine and apply it to the rifle while also being shown how to remove the magazine once its empty and load it again. They also learnt how to use the bolt on the rifle and how to reload when they've taken their shot towards the paper target.

This happened with every session and one group after the other, would come back to the Pigeon Club Hall after their round and wait for their paper targets while they enjoyed refreshments.

It was great seeing each participant enjoy their time and seeing how well they went.

Each wonderful who participated in the try shoot, was gifted with a very nice gift pack from Winchester Australia. SSAA Sydney held a raffle with some really good prizes from Safari Firearms, Dog & Gun Coffee and Olight. The three winners were overjoyed when they found out they had won the raffle.

All proceeds from the event and the raffle were donated Father Chris Riley, Youth Off The Streets charity.



Pics: Try Shooters & Range Officer Shakir

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The first ever Session was held on the 22nd of April 2018 by our own SSAA NSW Communications and Projects Officer, Kadeja Assaad who founded the program and has made it her mission to bring more women to the sport. She knew this would work, she wanted women to have a voice in the shooting world, and she made it happen!



Kadeja wanted it to be non-profitable event and made sure a different charity was chosen for each event across the years' this program ran. Helping others while enjoying what we love was her aim.

The Ladies Shooting Program has welcomed many new members to SSAA NSW.

If you or someone you know would like to try shooting at one of the ladies try shoot days, get in touch.

**Let's keep on growing!**



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DPI Hunting

# DPI Hunting Noticeboard

P: 02 6363 7650

E: [hunting@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunting@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Website contact form:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/contact-us](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/contact-us)

Facebook (click 'Message' from our page):

[www.facebook.com/NSWDPIHunting](https://www.facebook.com/NSWDPIHunting)

## *State Election*

You will see limited content from NSW Government departments, including DPI Hunting, from Friday 3 March 2023 in the lead up to the NSW election, to be held on 28 March 2023.

We'll still be available to answer your questions on our usual channels though!

## *Online R-Licence Accreditation*

Want to start your public land hunting journey? It all begins with a NSW Restricted Game Hunting Licence (R-Licence)!

An R-Licence is your ticket to access over 200 State forests across the state through a self-serve booking system.

### **How to qualify:**

#### 1. Complete the R-Licence Accreditation Course

You can now complete the accreditation online, in the comfort of your home and at a time that suits you. Stop and start the course as you need while you manage work and family commitments.

If you prefer face-to-face training, simply email [hunter.leap@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hunter.leap@dpi.nsw.gov.au), letting us know where you'd like to complete the course, and we'll put you in touch with a local trainer.

Find out more on our website:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/education-and-training-for-hunters/restricted-licence-accreditation](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/education-and-training-for-hunters/restricted-licence-accreditation)

#### 2. Be a member of an Approved Hunting Organisation

If you're reading this newsletter, you've probably already completed this requirement! SSAA NSW and its many branches are approved by DPI Hunting, and their members qualify for an R-Licence.

If you're not a member of a hunting club yet, check out the list of approved organisations on our website: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/clubs-and-associations/approved-hunting-organisations-full-listing](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/clubs-and-associations/approved-hunting-organisations-full-listing)

### **How to apply:**

Simply jump online and complete the application form once you've qualified. Make sure you have all your accreditation certificates from the course (could be up to four) and an image of your club membership card (front and back).

Certain types of pensioners qualify for a concession rate, as do applicants under 18-years, as long as you provide proof. Read more on our website

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/hunting-licences/granting-a-licence](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/hunting-licences/granting-a-licence)

### **What next:**

We'll email you a PDF 'interim' licence on the day we process your licence.

If you or anyone you know are interested in becoming a SSAA NSW Member and becoming a licenced shooter, contact Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (New South Wales) Limited on (02) 7900 1555 for further assistance.



You can use the PDF until your licence card arrives in mail. If the PDF is going to expire and you've not received your card yet, make sure you phone us on 02 6363 7650 so we can look into this further.

### Self-service access:

Once your licensed, you'll be able to access our online system to book hunts (written permission to hunt) across the state! You can also update your details, view maps and amend any existing bookings with a few clicks of your mouse (or taps of your finger!).

We also have an app for licence holders called Hunt NSW. App users receive automatic map updates alongside their written permissions, meaning you're never at risk of using an expired map. Download Hunt NSW from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

### Here are some tips that will help you prepare safely for your next adventure:

- Plan ahead

Always have the right recovery equipment in your vehicle and plan for that inevitable situation.

- Safety first

Vehicles and equipment can always be replaced. But recovery equipment has been known to severely injure and even cause death when used incorrectly. Only use recovery equipment for its designated purpose, and make sure your passengers are out of the car and standing away from the vehicle at a distance of at least double the length of your straps or winch cable.

- Know how to use recovery equipment

There is no point spending all your hard-earned money on the best equipment if you don't know how to use it. Read the instructions carefully, learn how to operate your recovery gear and then practice until you're familiar with the process.

- If you get stuck, don't panic!

Panic causes you to react without thinking and this can escalate your situation from bad to worse. Take your time to assess the problem, ensure your passengers are safe and then choose the right equipment for the job.

- Use low range

Make sure your vehicle is in 4wheel-low and rock the car forward and back a few times to compress the earth and provide solid ground to drive on.

- Don't over-accelerate

Ignore your first instinct to accelerate over boggy terrain. This can cause your vehicle to dig its way deeper into the bog. Hop out of the car first and develop a safe plan.

- Identify the reason you are bogged

Assess the situation and work out the reason you're stuck. The two main causes are loss of traction and bottoming out. If you have broken car parts, call for help!

- No traction? Check your tyre pressure.

Check you have the correct tyre pressure for the terrain. Adjust the pressure as necessary and try to get moving. If you continue to sink deeper, use traction aids or a winch to get you back on a solid surface.

- Bottomed-out? Remove debris from the undercarriage

Grab your trusty shovel and remove the dirt or sand from the undercarriage. When the chassis is free, accelerate very slowly to lift your vehicle out of the bog. If that doesn't work, use your winch, snatch straps and traction aids.



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**SSAA NSW**

# Range/Branch Matters

**Peter Szaak JP**

SSAA NSW Firearms Regulatory and Compliance Manager

## Range Officers

When you get down to the nuts and bolts of a club's everyday operations, there are few roles as important as a confident, knowledgeable, and diligent Range Officer. Your Branch Committee leads the club, of course, but Range Officers provide important leadership for shooters on the range.

The current SSAA NSW Range Officer Information Booklet is clear on the matter: "Range Officers have the vital role of ensuring the safety of all users of the Range, while at the same time ensuring that all the Range Approval conditions are being met. Without Range Officers, we wouldn't be able to open our Ranges. They are essential to the sport."

It goes on: "The Range Officer has total control over range activities ..."

Think about that. What a massive responsibility, and what a great opportunity to take your sports shooting to the next level. Qualified Range Officers develop deep knowledge of range protocols and procedures, good people skills, and a sense of pride and achievement in leading the daily operations of a safe shooting range.

Our booklet is a handy read. It covers nearly everything your branch needs to know, from the Range Officers Code of Conduct &

Ethics to the full range of procedures for opening and operating your range.

But things change, laws are amended, and the way we do things evolve. In that context, Branch Committees know better than anyone how challenging it can be to convert policy into good practice.

So, how can the SSAA NSW continue to support people to step-up and become qualified in this vital role?

Rest assured, more opportunities to undertake Range Officer training is on the agenda. SSAA NSW wants volunteer Range Officers to have the training, capacity, and status to match their considerable responsibilities.

To that end, I intend to lead a review of the current SSAA NSW Range Officer policy, procedures, and related training courses, with a focus on maintaining the highest levels of safety for all members. We cannot do this alone and from 'above'. SSAA NSW will need a working party of likeminded, credentialed members from the branches and membership to assist in this project. I will be seeking your expressions of interest.

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On all matters, engagement with and input from the branches is essential.

I recently attended a committee meeting at a branch in a regional town to provide advice on the governance of branch meetings. This very positive meeting led to improvements in the administrative processes (meeting notices, agendas, minutes etc) and has helped the club to get on top of the fundamentals. If your branch is on top of the fundamentals, you can focus on the fun bit: sports shooting.

I'm keen to continue getting out to the branches and working with you on whatever it is you need. On behalf of SSAA NSW, do not hesitate to contact me for assistance.

I will be reaching out to support your branch in readiness for the scheduled NSW Firearms Registry Branch/Range Inspections.

Thanks to those who wrote to me, congratulating and welcoming me to my new role in the SSAA NSW.

See you on the range.

Peter Szaak

Pic: Peter Szaak

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**SSAA NSW**

SSAA Illawarra

# Sienna's Story



The day was like no other day in the Southern Highlands, summer, warm in the morning, and heating up during the day with a predicted storm in the afternoon. A story all too familiar for those who live in the South Coast or in the South Highlands region; but the truth is this day is far from ordinary.

Over 50 keen members arrived at the NSW Government owned shooting facility known as the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex or better known to the regular attendees Hill Top.

The attendees turned up early to enjoy a day out shooting and fulfill their mandatory attendances and amongst them all, was a quiet reserved junior who would shake it all up.

During the day's activities I was approached by the SSAA Illawarra Branch Senior Vice President who also serves as the SSAA Illawarra Branch Pistol Club Captain, letting me know there was a junior

on the range in the company of her parents. This was nothing unusual or so I thought. Shortly after, I was informed that this junior had shot over a THOUSAND points, had won her bronze medallion, and had also come second place in the clubs' BR30 shoot. It was safe to say I was one of many who were amazed. Questions were quickly being asked 'who is this person' and how did they manage to outshoot so many of the older shooters.

When I met this junior, I was greeted by a young girl who was beaming from ear to ear who was humble, well-spoken and extremely polite. During our conversation I found out that this was her first ever competition; I could only say to myself surely not, this must be a gee up for sure!

During my conversation with the junior shooter, she introduced herself as Sienna, 12 years old and, new to shooting who was here with her parents and brother. Talking to Sienna's parents, I found out a bit more about their daughter and her passion for firearms and our sport. Sienna's dad proudly told me about how his daughter had given a primary school project speech last year on our current firearm laws, the positive aspects of the sport and how misunderstood shooting can be.



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I spoke with Sienna's father more about this, and he said to me that he was at first hesitant about Sienna doing the speech, and initially tried to persuade her from doing it, in fear of how it would be perceived. However, after giving it some thought, gave his daughter his blessing and allowed her to follow her passion and encouraged her to follow her dreams.

When I spoke with Sienna it was easy to forget that I was speaking with a 12 year old girl; she is wise beyond her years, shows a level of maturity and emulates everything that we look for in a junior shooter. Sienna is proud to talk of her other charity work that she does which assists kids who suffer from congenital heart conditions. She is a true inspiration.

Whilst she may be young in age, she casts a great big shadow that many of us wish we had the time, drive and opportunity to do.

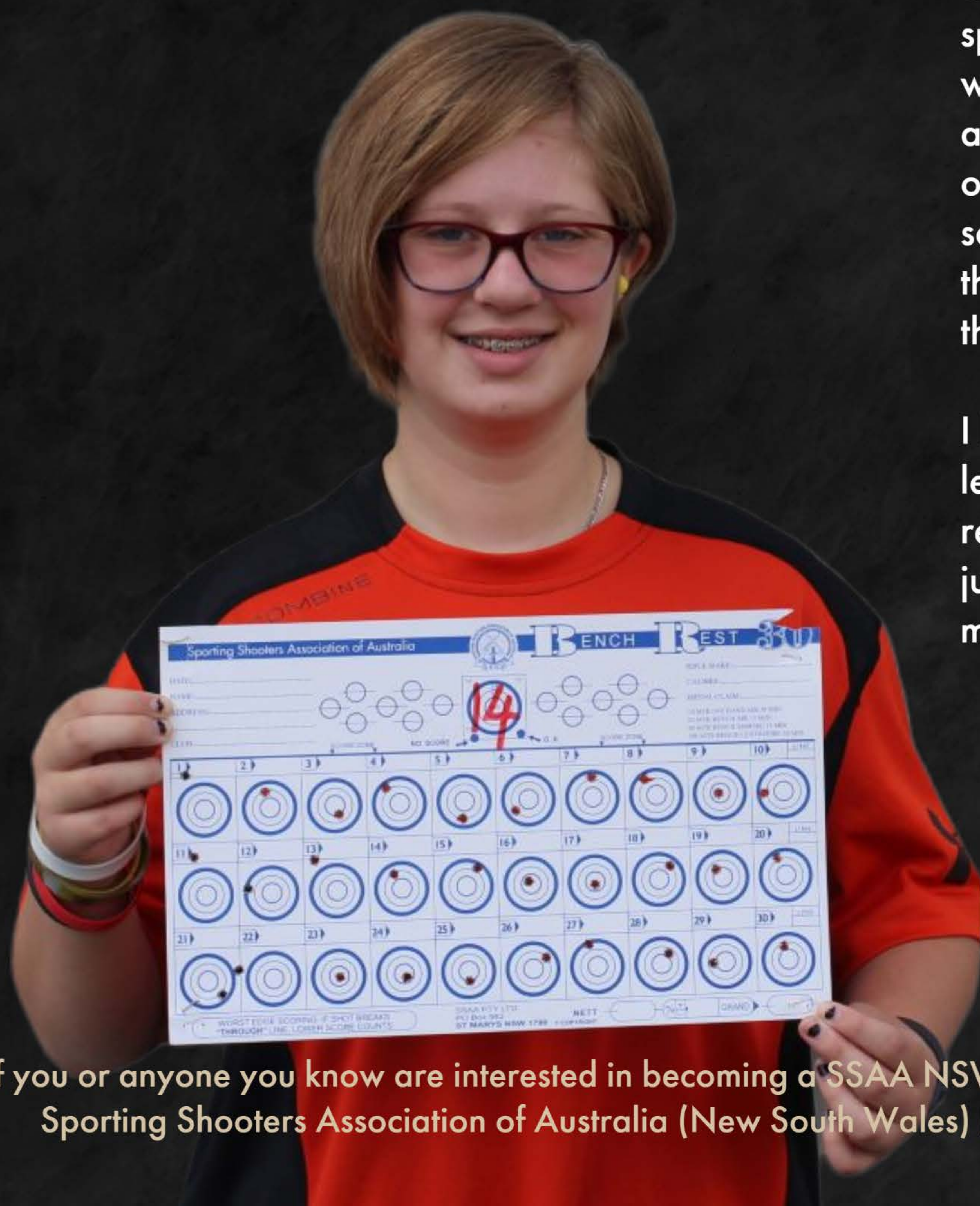
I spoke with Sienna and her parents about what her goals and ambitions were and what their ambitions for their daughter were. Sienna said that she wants people and kids her age to know that shooting isn't

a bad thing or anything to be ashamed of. Sienna proudly states that she wants to be an Olympic shooter and I have no doubt that she has every capability of doing this and the SSAA Illawarra Branch along with SSAA NSW will be there every step of the way, to assist her with her dreams and aspirations.

Sitting and listening to Sienna and talk about what she wants to get out of our sport is contagious; she talks positively about what we do and how she wishes more kids her own age would take up the sport.

After speaking with her and realising that she, and so many other juniors are the life of our sport, it kicks in and makes you remember why we shoot. It's not for the medals, trophies, accolades, or notoriety. It is seeing the next lot of juniors coming through; it's watching them score the bullseye; it's watching them knock over the metallic silhouette and seeing the enjoyment that they get.

I have no doubt that Sienna will be a future leader of our sport in one way or another and its reassuring to know that we have parents and juniors who care about the shooting sports as much as we do.



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Sienna's parents shared another memory about Sienna often going to the gun shop with them and having already picked out the firearm she wanted to shoot when she turned 12. I had a good laugh at this, as I share the same memories with my two children.

I am constantly reminded by both of my children that they soon will be able to come shooting with Dad.

I look forward to the day when they receive their minors' permits so I can take them down to the local gun shop to select which firearm they would

like to shoot with. My daughter has expensive taste and is quite fond of the Anschutz variety of firearm whilst my son is keener on the Australian made variety of Lithgow's.

We, like many other parents including Siennas', are both proud SSAA Illawarra Branch members and are keen shooters themselves.

When I spoke with Sienna's dad about how he had been beaten by his daughter the very first time she shot in a competition, was a subject of great comedy. He said that his daughter has an attitude to always give 100% in everything she does and that she has great competitive spirit.



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The Illawarra Branch is all too aware that Juniors are the life blood of our sport and is committed to continuing the support that it offers juniors.

Chris Sainsbury  
SSAA Illawarra Branch President

When the discussion came up for potentially sponsoring a junior it was an easy decision for myself and the other branch executives to offer Sienna a position as an ambassador, not only for our club, but for our sport.

Speaking with Sienna's dad about this, I was told that she was hiding around the corner listening, and I thought this was absolutely hilarious and we had a great laugh.

Historically the Illawarra branch has allowed junior members to not only attend for free but recently has started supplying juniors with free rimfire ammunition and access to club owned rifles to encourage their future endeavors. This is a project that is close to the heart of many of our members and of course, the committee members.

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**SSAA NSW**

*Send us a Story*

CHOSEN STORIES WILL BE FEATURED ONCE A  
MONTH IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Send to  
[media@nsw.ssaa.org.au](mailto:media@nsw.ssaa.org.au)

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