

HORNSBY RANGE

Changes to use of 100m Range – We suffered a big loss at Hornsby Range when in July last year the Firearms Registry decided that we could no longer use centrefire rifles on the 100m range after decades of safely doing so. This decision was followed by a realignment of the 100m range so that the pistol and rimfire rifle templates now overlaid upon it fall entirely within the area controlled by the Hornsby Range. This has led to a decrease in the number of shooters at the range, particularly in the months immediately after the change. We were able to shoot centrefire only when we had the use of the main range, which at the time was only about 3 or 4 Sunday afternoons a year. It was not until we came to an arrangement with 18th Battalion Rifle Club to swap some of its main range days with some of our 100m range days that we regained a more respectable level of access to shoot centrefire. We now shoot on the main range between 1 and 3 times a month.

As there is no logical pattern to which days we are on the main range and which on the 100m range, we strongly encourage members to phone the Range Information line (02 8230 2574), check the Alerts column on the SSAA Sydney website or look at the SSAA Sydney Facebook page, to see whether we are shooting rimfire or centrefire that week.

Trailer for transport of benches- Now that we were shooting far more often on the main range we wanted to be able to easily move some shooting benches over there to give members a choice between shooting prone and bench. We designed and commissioned a trailer and use this on a weekly basis to take benches out to the main range or down to the 50m firing line on the 100m range.

Safe Shooting Courses - Stan Cooper had an enforced break from doing Safe Shooting courses, but is now back again. Pam Reeves filled in whilst he was not able to do them.

Member amenities – We now have a couple of club .22s out at the range each week, as well as new spotting scopes and a couple of shooting matts that can be used by members

Staffing – Peter Downey (Assistant Range Manager) has had to take a step back over the last year due to health issues. We have a solid core of volunteers, but still need more, particularly now that we are operating on the main range more often. If you are able to turn up regularly once a month and enjoy helping people on the range please talk to me about becoming a volunteer Range Officer.

Robert Bernard
Range Manager