



SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is great to report that the Committee elected at last year's AGM has worked positively and productively together.

Your Committee...

Since last year's AGM there have been a couple of changes on your Committee. Following the AGM, Peter Downey resigned which created a casual vacancy. The Constitution provided that casual vacancies are to be filled by appointment by the Committee. The Committee nominated that this casual vacancy be filled by Cheryl Sumbar.

The next changes to the Committee were the resignation in December of Richard Harris and recently in April we received the resignation of Pauline Smith who both had changes in their work circumstances. As the term of office for both these positions was to expire at the 2016 AGM, the Committee decided to allow the positions to remain vacant until filled at this AGM. We thank them all for their time and contribution whilst on the committee.

Under the new constitution, when the Committee appoints a person to fill a casual vacancy, the position is up for election at the next General meeting. While the term of office for the position to which Cheryl Sumbar was appointed expires in 2017, as it was filled as a casual vacancy the position is deemed vacant and will be filled by ballot at this AGM.

I draw the attention of all candidates standing for election tonight to the constitutional provisions determining who is eligible to stand for election.

Staff News

There have been some changes in staffing at our ranges. Fred Blacker was appointed as Senior Range Officer at Silverdale, working to Range Manager Andy Mallen. With the announcement that we are back on ANZAC, and the ongoing operation of Sunday nights at Holroyd, this meant hiring a floating range coordinator. The committee welcomed Michael Wozniak to coordinate the running of the Anzac Range and to support the Range Managers at Hornsby and Holroyd. We are thankful for the hard work and time generously given by all the range managers, assistant range managers and volunteers that run these ranges.

Communications with members:

Our Branch website www.ssaasydney.net and our Facebook page [SSAA Sydney](https://www.facebook.com/SSAA_Sydney) are the best way to keep an eye on what is happening. When it's necessary to get information out to our members quickly this is where it is posted. It is also where you will find information on range operating hours or special events. You may also sign up to receive our E-newsletters. To subscribe to our mailing list, please go to the bottom right hand corner of our website and fill out your details. Thank you to our executive officer, Pam Reeves, for maintaining all of these forums.

Thanking our volunteers

Many of our volunteers and their partners attended our now annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Bankstown Sports Club in January to recognise their assistance to the Branch. The Committee gave each range manager the hard task of nominating one volunteer from each range to receive a special mention and a gift voucher. Named were Shakir Kabbabe (Malabar), Marlies (Holroyd - Friday), Jim Gale (Holroyd - Sunday), Tony Zoccoli (Silverdale) and Warren Andrews (Hornsby). These volunteers gave over and above what is hoped of a volunteer.

It is easy to take the organisation that goes into running a range for granted, members turn up to shoot without recognising that this is only possible through the generous donation of time and work of other members. **Thank you** to all our volunteers. Your time and effort is appreciated.

As always we continue to look for more members willing to volunteer as Range Officers, Safe Shooting Testing Officers, R licence testers, Match Coordinators and so on. If you hold a firearms license and wish to put some time back into the Association, please contact our Executive Officer to discuss where and how you can assist. You can make a difference – for example every additional six volunteer range officers that are willing to work at Malabar on Sunday means that we can open Malabar for an additional Sunday per month. It would be tremendous to be able to say that Malabar is open not only every Saturday, but every Sunday. At present we are flat out manning the range on Saturdays, plus just one Sunday a month.

Committee Projects

Committee members have been heavily involved in the organisation of our success return to Malabar Range, with President James Walsh taking a lead role in political lobbying and negotiations on the agreement signed with the NSW Rifle Association, Junior Vice President Peter Thomson building infrastructure and being one of three Range Officer team leaders, and Cheryl Sumbar, Pauline Smith, and Richard Harris being rostered Range Officers there.

In an effort to stand up against media and social media backlash against firearms, Sydney branch has engaged an advertising agency to promote the normal and healthy aspect of our sport via the placement of two large billboards on the M5 eastbound.

The branch has also lobbied SSAA NSW for the removal of compulsory attendances and will continue to pursue this in 2016.

Keep an eye out for upcoming events and notifications via our website and social media outlets.

Marianne Taranto

Secretary

2015/16 Meeting Attendances

Name	Position	Meetings Attended	Apologies/ Absent
James Walsh	President	8	1
Simon Taranto	Senior Vice President	9	
Peter Thomson	Junior Vice President	9	
Marianne Taranto	Secretary	9	
Mark Godwin	Treasurer	9	
Pam Reeves	Executive Officer	6	2
Dave Billinghamurst	Committee Member	8	1
Jason Selmes	Committee Member	7	2
Leslie Gardner	Committee Member	8	1
Richard Harris*	Committee Member	4	2
Steve Sori	Committee Member	8	1
Pauline Smith*	Committee Member	5	3
Alex Chryss	Committee Member	3	6
Cheryl Sumbar	Committee Member	4	4
Peter Downey*	Committee Member		

* served for only part of the year