
Our Third Edition

Work dominates the news, yet again. Kitchen work, toilet work & trap work. Luckily, our club has spirit and a core of volunteers prepared to jump in when needed. The positive attitude that is always evident around the club is what keeps us moving forward, rather than looking backwards.

Insurance Update

The insurance claim resulting from the December storms and water inundation has been finalised and the club has received the settlement. Throughout the process, our tenacious Vice-President, Brian Reid, has been in constant communication with a variety of representatives of the insurance company, the assessors and the club's insurance broker. The amount of paper work involved was mind boggling. Anton Motha & Col Crittenden spent hours inspecting and categorising the damaged equipment, ready for the assessor. There were obviously other club members involved in the process, but the broad shoulders mentioned above deserve the gratitude of all club members.

Equipment Replacement

Now that the insurance is settled, the committee has been hard at work procuring replacement equipment. Some of the traps will be coming from overseas, so there will be inevitable delays in their delivery. Some traps were available locally and the club has already ordered six Bowman Sporting Clays traps. Ground No.3 currently has a Laporte Twinlap trap on loan from Bronzewing Aust. We have ordered two of the same model traps and will return the borrowed one when the new items arrive from France. The intention is to have DTL up and running on grounds 2 & 3 as soon as possible after the new traps arrive. Orders have also been placed for new Canterbury microphones and a variety of other ancillary components, such as cables, etc.

Kitchen Renovations Working Bee

Our kitchen upgrade grant application was successful and work is scheduled to start immediately after the March DTL competition. There will be a working be on Sunday the 17th of March to dismantle and remove the existing kitchen. It would be great to see as many volunteers as possible on site to help. Work will start bright and early on Sunday the 17th of March, so wear your green work gear if you must (St Patrick's day!), but please come to help.

Toilet Grant Application Successful

We missed out in the first round of the Federal Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Grants programme. Heart break turned to joy, though, when we were successful in the second round, with Senator Bridget McKenzie, the Federal Minister for Sport, visiting the club to personally confirm the grant. Anton, Brian & Col have been flat out chasing plans, quotes and council approval and it seems that we are close to finalising those. Details of the actual structure and its location will be posted on the club's website and Facebook as soon as the council planning approval is received.

Sport North East This Girl Can Programme

Brian Reid developed a plan for our club to partner **Sport North East** in VicHealth's **This Girl Can** programme, aimed at encouraging female participation in sports and activities. Special Learn Clay Target Shooting sessions were run at our club on Tuesday evenings from the start of February until mid-March. Numbers varied, but one session had 12 participants. Ages also varied, with the youngest being 12 and the oldest in her 70s. Each shooter was teamed up with an experienced club member for individual coaching and all of the participants managed to break at least a few targets.

Sporting Clays

The decision to affiliate our club with *Sporting Clays Australia* was a significant one for the club's long term health and viability. Entry numbers have been growing steadily since that change and the most recent event, February's Sporting Clays, saw the entry go through the roof, with 56 shooters signing up.

Centenary Celebrations

The Wangaratta Clay Target Club is turning 100! Our club started way back in the days before mobile phones and reality TV. Ah, heaven... On a more serious note, celebrations are planned for June and it has been proposed that a combined DTL & Sporting Clays shoot be held. Further details will be publicised in due course. I reckon Barry Ellis might have some of the guns used at the club's first shoot.

Politicians' Visits

There has been no shortage of politicians, current and potential, at our club lately. Senator Bridget McKenzie visited early in January to get an update on our EPA status and to discuss our recovery plan after the December storms. She came back in late February with Nationals candidate for Indi, Mark Byatt, to officially announce the success of our toilet grant application. Between those visits, Liberal candidate for Indi, Steven Martin, dropped in to discuss our operations and to get a feel for our clubs plans for the future.

New Members

We've had quite a few new members sign up over recent months and each and every one of them is a welcome addition to our club. Our most high profile new member is Senator Bridget McKenzie, Federal Minister for Sport. Bridget is a keen shooter and a great supporter of our sport. She recently moved her electorate office to Wodonga and on her most recent visit here, mentioned above, she chose Wangaratta as her gun club. Brian even presented her with a club cap.

Committee Membership

In accordance with the club's constitution, vacancies can be filled by invitation of the committee. At our most recent monthly meeting, Rylee Long accepted an invitation to join the committee.

Bon Voyage, Jacob Motha

Keen young club member Jacob Motha has set out on the next stage of his life's journey. He has moved to Wagga and has started his double degrees in Veterinary Science & Biology at Charles Sturt University. Jacob has been deeply involved in all aspects of our club's operations over the past year or so and he will be missed. Anyone who has spent time around the club knows what a fine young bloke he is and, to paraphrase the classics, young fellows like him are the future. Jacob, if you're reading this, plan your trips home around competition weekends, your old man needs you.

We hope you've enjoyed our newsletter. We look forward to keeping you up to date with the latest developments at our club.

*Anton Motha
President, on behalf of the Committee
Wangaratta Clay Target Club*