

JOINING A PISTOL CLUB

(Contributed by Robert O'Neill)

To join a club had never occurred or even been a remote thought. What's a pistol shooter anyhow?

What do they do? Where's the local range? What's it all about?

We read in the local "rag" about some local identities going overseas to shoot in one competition or another.

You think "half their luck, they must be pretty good." Time passes, then in the paper you read how the local identities had "cleaned up big" at the said competition. Carrying Australia to greater sporting honours etc.

Well, what do you know about that. They must be good.

Then one day you meet a pistol shooter (one doesn't know it at the time). Over a couple of beers the conversation gets to pistol shooting (don't know how then, but I guess I could tell you now).

A few beers later the inevitable question "Why don't you come and have a shot?" "Oh, no!! I'd be no good at that, I'd shake too much".

"So what, everybody does" — that's the way the conversation goes.

A few Sundays and more beers later you decide to "have a look". You meet the President and the local identities you'd read all about (names like Gloria Vause, John Tre-melling, Brian Nisbet — hereafter called "the experts"). And all the other members who make you most welcome and go out of their way to make your "have a look" quite an experience.

You watch the shooters do their "thing" and before you know it, you've a gun (or is it a pistol) in your hand "having a go".

The person who introduced you to this new and by now very noisy (no ear muffs) sport

tells you something about "hold the thing at six o'clock and try to shoot a group and don't pull the trigger you squeeze."

The first shot goes anywhere . . . then somebody says "that's O.K. the things got a hair trigger or something so many pounds." A couple of shots later its "wind the sights eight to the right and up four". So there you are, like a duck in a thunderstorm trying your best to do something you've got absolutely no idea about.

And they call this sport!

Then the experts get to you "Say that's pretty good for a beginner". When you leave the range you're not sure if you've had your leg pulled but vanity says "You must be O.K., the experts said so."

The following week you get taken along to the new shoot called air pistols. "Hey, that's a lot of fun". "Yeah, why not bring the wife along next week." "Sure thing, I'll do that."

The time comes when you've shot for and earned a handicap. You think "That's not very good but at least it's better than the wife's". It's about this time you just know you're going to be a pistol shooter of some sort.

The experts keep telling you. Then comes the first win in the family, guess who? The wife! (Well, she did have a longer handicap). So you buy your first pistol (You see, they're not guns anymore), and both you and the wife practise because that's what the experts say.

Somewhere about here, those experts turn out to be just ordinary people like you and me. About now you practise because you want to be better but your scores are strictly YUK!

Then comes your first trip away. "You should go. It'll be good experience".

It's just as well we did go.

You learn what nerves are and when your turn comes you just know your legs are made of jelly.

So that's your first "big shoot" (It wasn't really, but it sure seemed like it). We didn't win, but our new friends did (the experts). That felt pretty good too, because they're part of OUR club.

Time passes and you become a learner. A lot steadier than you were.

You see new faces "coming along for a shot" and, suddenly, you're not a new member any more.

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TERRIGAL SEMINAR

N.S.W. Publicity Officer Jim Lewis has advised that the 4th N.S.W. Pistol Shooting Seminar will be held on Saturday, 20th and Sunday 21st of November at the Hotel Terrigal under the direction of Rod Gardiner, N.S.W. Executive Officer to the APSUA.

Application has been made to the National Coaching Council for the services of Tibor Gonczol and Mike Papps and an invitation has been extended to Alex Taransky.

There is every indication, according to Jim, that this Seminar will be even more successful than the previous one.

Applications will be going forward to club Secretaries in the near future, giving full details of the Seminar.

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POSTAL TITLES — POSTAL TITLES —

Please note that the Annual Postal Championships organised by Bill Perreau on behalf of the APSUA, are now on and that full particulars were in our July issue, pages 6-7.

Entrants who have not yet got their score cards are invited to write at once to —

Mr. W. A. Perreau,
66 Albert Street,
ROSEWOOD, Queensland 4340.

There is an added event which may be of interest!

This is an extra event set aside for JUNIORS (those under the age of 21 at 31st December, 1971), in the Standard and Air Pistol events.

Scores made in the open event may be nominated for the Junior event at no extra entry fee. It will NOT be in grades — only "off pistol" scores.

Mr. Perreau has advised the ". . . Pistol Bulletin" offices that scores MUST be in his hands by October 21st. (This is to try and ensure that results are published in our November issue. — Ed)