Flashback Friday to 1973



May 8, 2020

Queensland Government to Assist 1974 Nationals

The Queensland Government has allocated a \$1 in \$3 grant to the Queensland Amateur Pistol Shooting Association for the conduct of the 1974 National Championships and the Elimination trials for the World Shooting Championships pistol teams.

This was announced in Perth by Queensland Delegate John Fiege. The fixture will be held on the Belmont Range. He said the initial grant was for range improvements and totalled \$4,300, with the likelihood of the association receiving another grant (requiring no association contribution) for the administration of the competition.

It is understood that moves are underway to have the 1974 competitions accepted as a South Pacific Regional Championship with the possibility of overseas teams being invited to take part.

South Eastern Zone Titles

There is a growing interest in pistol shooting in Queensland and this was evidenced by the high percentage increase in entries for most matches at the South Eastern Zone Titles.

Lyn Gilligan reports that the increase was 30% in most matches. Among the more notable scores recorded, was the 384 in Air Pistol put on by Barry Downs of Brisbane Club. Ron Petersen from Bundaberg won the aggregate with 2588.

Queensland Titles from 1972

had a record 109 shooters competing on the Belmont Range. Following the QAPSA annual meeting at which Jim Feige was re-elected President and Doug McWilliam was elected Secretary.

In September 1972 Murrumba

held their annual open at its range at Caboolture.
Extensive planning and careful organisation was needed to ensure such an Open Shoot, and committee members who put long hours of preparation into the shoot were rewarded with possibly the most successful Open Shoot the Club has ever had.

The Ladies Auxiliary provided free morning and afternoon teas as well and cut lunches for all shooters, and this service undoubtedly contributed to the over all success of the day. A late buffet was also provided

(L-R Ian Gilligan(GC), Merv Church, David Knowles, Bill Martinek, all from Roma) immediately preceding the presentation of trophies by the Club's President Mr Col Palmer.

16th National Championships (1973)

The 16th National Championships were conducted on the Thornton Range at Spearwood with Air Pistol at the Perry Lakes Basketball Stadium Perth. State Teams paraded in uniform and the Union and State flags were flown for the ceremony which was ended by the State Association founder and former President, Dr I.W Thornton firing a shot from his revolver, the first to be privately licensed in WA.

Queensland placed third in the team events for Air Pistol and Rapid Fire.

See our Qld Team on the next page, see if you can recognise anyone?



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Ryan 7th in the World

In the latest UIT releases,

Noel Ryan of Victoria (originally QLD and back again now!) is listed as 7^{th} in the "TOP 10" of Standard Pistol. This followed on from his splendid shoot in this event in the World Championships held in Phoenix. Ryan, who first came to our notice only 4 years ago after a series of record scores in Oueensland had not been noted as a Standard Pistol exponent prior to his selection for this event in 1970.

A slightly built, happy natured man, Ryan takes his competitions seriously. Whilst trying not to become the servant of competition nerves he nevertheless undergoes a personality change when he nears the firing line.

From a slouching, loose limbed appearance, he 'tightens' into his shooting stance, although still retaining an appearance of relaxed readiness.

Ryan, a popular, happy go lucky member of Australia's shooting fraternity, is also remarkably sold Rapid Fire shot and likes his centre fire also.





Rules for 1973 **Nationals**

A.P.S.U.A. has announced that the National Title **Events to be held in Perth** will be shot under the same regulations as those which applied to the 1972 Titles, plus any amendments from the 1972 Annual General Meeting. Rulings regarding Air Pistol which have since been given are: That the Western Australia **Association investigates the** possibility of using individual wind back targets for air pistol. However, if these were not feasible the A.P.S.U.A. would accept two targets side by side in addition to the sighting target which could be in position for the duration of the event. Two shots per aiming mark and the two targets might if necessary, be on the same card.

Noel Ryan in foreground in typically relaxed pose at the Mangalore Range Tasmania with John & Margaret Pearson (WA)

Scores shot through the year of '73:

Ian Gilligan Air 345 L Douglas Centre 551 Barry Downs Free Pistol 539 Lenny Zaver Free Pistol 524 Ron Petersen Rapid Fire 580 Lyn McMillan Ladies Match 537

Steve Faunt Centre Fire 573 Lyn Gilligan Ladies 539 Howard Cook Rapid Fire 539 Bob Moore Air Pistol 360 Col Goldup Free Pistol 533 Barry Downs Air Pistol 384

