



# SPC Newsletter February - May



## **Editorial:**

**Prior warning too all that are reading this newsletter:** go make yourself a cup of tea or coffee (or your preferred choice of drink) and then read this newsletter and make sure you are quite comfy, it is quite a full issue, as there have been many things that have been happening in the last 3 months.

Thank you, to all members and non members who braved the elements to come to our Killers and Thrillers night it was a good night that was had by all. (See report pg 6& pg7) on what a night that you missed out on (if you didn't come)

I would like to wish Brian and Zeljko the best of luck for when they go over to America for the Bianchi Cup (21-24 May) and if any one is interested in seeing how they are going go to <http://www.actionmatch.com.au/>



**Who would have thought that the Grim Reaper and Pancho could get along well???**

Alexandria and Allen. Best Dressed Male and Female of the Night.



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**Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.**  
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**AN AULD LANG SYME TO YOU- ALWAYS REMEMBERED NEVER FORGOTTEN!**

Well people On December 31st 2007 the inevitable end to yet another year was upon us, as we celebrated with gusto our Annual New Years Eve Party, held at the Springvale Clubrooms. As always a great time was had by all who attended; the numbers were down slightly probably due to the incessantly hot weather, a very unforgiving day.

The air conditioning in the club rooms provided the only escape from soaring temperatures, I must admit I did feel some sympathy for the enthusiastic cooks around the hot bar-b-queue braving the heat with cold VB's to keep them cool and clean the bbq at the same time.

There were several highlights for the night one of which was to see our dear friend Laurie Vezer (and of course wife Inger). Everyone was so glad to catch up on old times and have a few drinks meeting some new members in the process. It was a shame some of our regulars weren't there to say "g'day". We took lots of photos on the night, I took my new digital camera for a test run, Brian Hardy was armed with a new Video Camera - and yes he got it for Christmas

As the night progressed many an embarrassing video was taken of some members doing everything from the Nut Bush to the Macarena. Little did we know we were being filmed by Mr. Hardy

In the tradition of SPC we rocked on till the "wee hours" eventually calling it a night at 2.00 am after welcoming the New Year with a 10 second countdown and a kiss for all and sundry in the room.

About the only thing we didn't do is sing "Auld Lang Syne", something I remember every year without fail on this special night since my earliest childhood memories, singing this song seems to bring the year to a close so to speak. I do hope we sing Auld Lang Syne at the end of 2008.

So I beg the question - What does Auld Lang Syne mean?? Why sing it?? Well I am here to tell you,

-Auld means old

-Lang means long

-Syne means since

This tradition is normally sung with everyone holding crossed hands in a circle moving in and out, a little bit like ring around the Rosie after too many drinks.

It is a Scottish tradition of Hogmanay, which comes from the Gaelic "oghe maiden" which means "New Morning" or the celtic "hogunnus" meaning "New Year".

On that note I wish everyone at the SPC and their families a Happy and Healthy Hogunnus for 2008.

Regards  
**Valerie**



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The man who smiles when things go wrong has already thought  
of someone to blame it on  
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### **THE ADVENTURE BEGINS FOR 2008**

(A brief insight into a weekend of Open Competition in International 1920 Action Match)

The new season is here & off and running with the first comp held at Mildura Pistol Club. Normally preparation starts a week or two prior to the event with final practice of our weaker events. In my case sometimes it could be the whole match. Never the less, excitement & expectations are high & everyone is looking forward to it. This year unfortunately the number of SPC members were not as many as years gone by, due to other comps held on the same weekend.

5.30am Saturday morning alarm has already come around real quick, jump out of bed, stumble into the kitchen, kettle on, toast happening. Ahh that first mouthful of "43 Beans in every cup" has set the morning off on the right foot. A quick shower & shave, dressed ready to go. As clockwork 6.20am "knock knock" at the door, Brian has arrived. A mandatory 2 shots each of heart starter & we are ready to go. Load the van, Tullamarine here we come. Jump on the shuttle bus, halfway to the terminal we ask each other "Do YOU remember which letter we parked at?" At the terminal we checked in for the first time using those automatic touch screens. This trip we really traveled light for the first time because we were fortunate that Tom Whitehead drove up & took up our gear, no suitcase, no service desks, no special baggage only carry on bag. This is the way to go.

Making our way to the departure gate we eagerly searched for our plane. I said to Brian "That's the same size plane that we usually fly in." "Have another look it's the one over there" Brian said. Twin propeller Qantas link on the side, seemed large enough from the top of the stairs, but, as we got closer the smaller it seemed. Never the less, we got on, found our seats, took off and after a smooth flight of one hour arrived in sunny and warm Mildura. Les Moncrieff greeted us at the Airport & took us to the Range. Upon arrival and greetings of friends we see only on a yearly basis, we prepared ourselves to start the Match.

After the mandatory gun check, we started with Metallic on Saturday & Open on Sunday. The Mover was the first to test our skills. As you know Metallic is hard to master & this weekend it was. The Club had a large number of old targets with just the black X, but no black lines, which were used. I tell you, the black lines on a target make all the difference as you see by our scores. Plates came next, very challenging as always, sights were hard to see. I thought it was just me, but all the boys said the same, and we all finished on the same score 440. Practical was next, which was acceptable, followed by barricades which I was happy with. At the end of the day it was a hard match and a lot of work. Brian Hardy was outstanding finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> position 1817 105x. I managed 2<sup>nd</sup> with 1807 99x & Tom Whitehead said he wanted to start again, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> 1742 103x.

With our gear safely packed away, it was off to have some refreshments in the Clubrooms. Since our last visit, the Clubrooms have had a new addition, air con, its big

its loud, sounded like the plane we flew up in but it cooled the place a real treat. As we sat down to get well watered, we went through the ritual of "If only we did this & not that" our outcomes would have been perfect. After depleting their bar fridge, substantially of stock, guess who were the last to leave?

It was then off to Les' house, who with his father Vern made us feel very welcomed. They wine and dined us with more liquid amber, red & white wines and a BBQ tea. After our fill of everything, we agreed on a time to rise, said our goodnights & went to bed. As much as I enjoy traveling & sharing accommodation with Brian on such weekends, I made a point to thank Les in the morning for the quality of his soundproofing in the house walls, as there wasn't a chainsaw to be heard all night. Come to think of it, the same has been said about me, but I don't believe it to be true. Sunday morning everybody is up showered & ready to go. We gave our thanks to Vern & said goodbye till we see each other again. The morning was perfect, a little cooler with a small amount of cloud, as we drove to the Range for one of Peter Griffin's famous BBQ breakfast's, as usual he did not disappoint us.

After breakfast on went the holsters, speed loaders & mags. were loaded, all in readiness to start the Open match. We decided to shoot the same as Saturday starting with the mover. After we had finished we agreed maybe we should have started in Plates. Plates were a lot better than Mover. Undeterred we went on to Barricade & Henry Dajczer outshining everyone with a 480 47x.

Les learned a valuable lesson when reloading, if after you drop your mag & decide to adjust your dot, make sure to reload in readiness to shoot on the R/H side of barricade.

Practical was our last event, it took a little longer to complete than usual, due to another lesson. If you chew gum on the line ready to shoot, make sure your mouth is closed when surrounded by friendly flies. As I gagged, I beckoned to Peter Griffin, who understood my sign language & allowed me to go forward of the line to clear my throat. We finished this event & everyone did reasonably well. Tom whitehead was his normal rock solid with 480 35x. The Match was over; score cards were then taken to the scoring shed to be tallied by Fiona.

The weekend at Mildura was perfect, weather, company & enjoyment wise. However as you all know 1920 Match is very unforgiving. We all made mistakes, but hopefully we learn from them & be better for it.

Congratulations & many thanks to Peter Griffin, Les Moncrieff & Mildura Pistol Club, all their members & volunteers who helped to make this weekend what it was.

Clubs putting in shoots is one thing but without shooters being able to attend is another & hopefully next year the calendar will be better so more can attend this great weekend.

I must give a special mention to Bruce Peters, Bruce Dickey & Suellen Ryan; we think that we traveled far from Melbourne. This trio really did need a cut lunch & a water bag. Coming from St. Ives & Blacktown via Sydney Airport to Tullamarine connecting to Mildura & back again. That is a real effort & if we are all able to support & do the same, this open comp will go on forever. Before I finish, we at SPC are fortunate to have an official Judge at our Club in Brian Hardy. I am not sure but I think this was his & Tom whitehead's first Open Comp as Judges. This Match went well for them, both as Judges.

Hopefully the rest will be just as smooth and in future if there are any close decisions to be made concerning SPC members, look favourable on us.

In the end the final results in the Open Match, I was lucky enough to make the least amount of mistakes with a 1907 161X, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Peters, St Ives 1905 149X 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Whitehead, Geelong 1898 147X.

In conclusion with my first & possibly last editorial, to all the SPC Members that are able to travel, I hope this brings a smile to your face. As for the ones thinking of joining our band of merry men & women, don't let this put you off.

Regards

**Zeljko**



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**The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.**  
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### **CASTLEMAINE ISSF OPEN FEB 2008:**

I was fortunate enough to attend the Castlemaine Competition starting off the inter club comps for 2008. We all had a ball everyone was in good spirits.

Beautiful sunny weather held up all weekend. I am grateful for the company of other members giving encouragement as I was very nervous my first attendance at Castlemaine, but the experience of those that are veterans and take it in their stride helped us newcomers feel at ease.

Some of our members Mikhail/Alexandra, Marek and Stuart did the country thing and slept on the Range, while Chris and I opted for the local motel with back support mattresses and air conditioning.

We drove up Friday night to settle in and a great steak for dinner at the local pub went down well with some bubbles we were drawn out of a hat to select the mystery raffle prize from 5 unmarked boxes, I won a fish weighing device - that wouldn't weigh a bunch of grapes! You had to laugh.

Gun checks were early Saturday, followed by Normy's legendary bacon and egg toasted sandwiches. Then we were into it, comp after comp after comp. I didn't stop all day Saturday. By the time I did Air at about 1.30 pm the Air Shed resembled something like the steam room at sauna bath house. You shot so much you were too busy in the end to be nervous. The thing that really stood out the most is that everyone is incredibly supportive and helpful. Not just from Springvale, people from other clubs are so willing to give a tip, or give directions.

You also had to admire the voluntary work that goes into the logistics or organising such a big event over two days. People working in the head scoring, patching and running the range.

It was amazing to watch everyone struggle with their own personal goals and expectations for the weekend. While the top shooters deal with (missing a 10) us

newcomers were thanking God for an as many in the black as possible. I would compare it to climbing Mt Everest the top climbers are at the top of the mountain on Base camp 4 at 8,000 meters (in the death zone) waiting for a opportunity in the weather to tackle Hilary's step and reach the summit ( a perfect score in shooting). While for beginners just the three day hike into base camp 1 at the bottom of the Mountain would be an incredible achievement (reaching a personal best or breaking grade in shooting at your own level). I suppose we all have our own Everest.

Mikhail and Stuart won a string of competitions; it was a terrific surprise for Mikhail to win a trophy for winning 5 events on the weekend. Springvale did very well all weekend. With the girls Christine Renzow came first in Air on Sat and broke grade, I came Second in Sport Pistol on Saturday, while Alexandra received some prized on Sunday. The actual scores I am told will be email to the club. We also have several photos from the weekend.

In summary everyone appeared to have a great time, we had a couple of drinks on Saturday night to celebrate, the Castlemaine club put on a terrific buffet for us, we were spoilt - country style.

The thing that seemed to stand out was that while money can buy the firearms and ammunition there are a multitude of extraneous variables which should be adhered to; time, commitment, coaching, knowledge and the magic ingredient - Talent all these will get you well on your way to YOUR MT EVEREST, what ever that might be for you.

Signing off, happy shooting

**Valerie.**



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**I can please only one person per day. Today is not your day.  
Tomorrow isn't looking good either.**  
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### **Killers & Thrillers**

On the cold and wintery evening of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Feb a strange group of people were seen socializing at the Springvale Range

Among these people there ware the Grim Reaper, Rambo, The Terminator, Ned Kelly, Countess and Count Dracula, Pancho, Steve Irwin, Cat Woman, A Witch, Magnum P.I.(20yrs on), James Bond, Mata Hari, Bloody Mary, The Phantom of the Opera, Miss Marple, A Serving Wench, Zorro, A Pirate, The Avengers, The Woman in White, as well as others who turned up to socialize and just support our fundraising night.

Though the night turned into a film night with us all watching "Blazing Saddles" we still found time to run some raffles, find who was sitting on the lucky seats ( hope you enjoy those candles Bill), and some games as well.

Thanks to Valerie and Samantha for organising the night and to Mary and Chris who made sure no one was thirsty. A big thanks to all who donated stuff for prizes which helped raise \$464.00  
P.S Don't forget there are more pictures on our website.

**Chris**



**Ned Kelly's last meal.**

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*Don't talk unless you can improve the silence.*  
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### **The Mother load of all Report:**

#### **1) Outtrim WA1500 and Service - March**

This one was so long ago that I forgot most of what happened. I suppose it is due to my own laziness and lack of motivation that I haven't written it before.

From what I remember though it was very well organized competition and for Springvale members the order of the day was penalties. It was Peter Renzow and David O'Malley and Myself who participated; and between the three of us we scored about 300 penalty points. In WA1500 David got 60 for sitting instead of kneeling, Peter got 120 for going right barricade before left (which costed him 3<sup>rd</sup> place in his grade) and I got 10 for a foot fault on a barricade plus 120 in Service 50 for hands not bellow the shoulders in unsighted (my good mate Alex again).

There would have been a few more Springvale members going (and possibly more penalties) had the VAPA not scheduled Castlemaine ISSF for the same weekend.

Personally, I've got two grade breaks over the weekend (WA1500 and Service Unrestricted), which I was quite happy with. David came third in Service 50 C grade and WA1500 Marksman so overall we did all right. A good thing about Outtrim is that they have quite a few Master grade shooters and they are all very happy to share they tricks and secrets, so talking to them we got quite a few helpful hints.

## **2) Service State Titles - Mount District - March**

This one too is a distant memory now. It was me and Marek who went the first day and shot Service 50 and Service 25. The range is in Yarra Valley; very secluded at the back of De Bortoli winery; it's a very good set up, it is possible to see the holes in the target even at 50 yards (just).

This times no penalties for Springvale.

The first day Marek broke grade into C in Service 25 and I also broke grade into B (well a shot it before a few times at the club so I adopted our president's approach that it does not matter unless its in an open (more about it later)). In Service 50 I got beaten by a few points in C grade Service 50 and ended up second. The second day Mikhail joined us. His service gun was being fixed at the time so he borrowed mine to shoot unrestricted and he also shot snubby. He did OK in both Service 25 A grade (came third after a very good start, looked like he'd break into Master grade) and came second in Unrestricted C grade with my gun (that relegated me to 4th).

The event was very well organised; we got a bag of goodies (with pends, hats, stubby holders ...), there was a raffle with some very good prizes (Lee reloading press, Champion shooting glasses probably the most attractive), and a wine coin throwing competition (they got to keep the coins); we did not score very well in that one. Overall, as a club, we got something in every event and a couple of grade breaks, which I guess for our limited abilities (Mikhail excluded) was quite all right.

## **3) Ballarat Service and ISSF - April**

This one was going to be an altogether different experience for me; never before had I gone away on a shooting trip for a whole weekend. I was more inclined to stay at the motel but Marek insisted that we sleep on the range. So on Friday before we went Lisa had gone and bought me a sleeping bag. Marek turned up at about 6.30 Friday night and off we went. We got there just after 8 and there were people there still shooting air rifles at the range where we were going to sleep. Others were in the club house drinking beer so we joined them and also managed to get the gun check done the same night because the next morning it was 7.30 start and there was a strong possibility for a long queue at the gun check. Some time during the evening Mikhail and Alexandra turned up; they were sleeping at the nearby motel.

I was accused of snoring during the night but frankly I don't remember any of it; all I know is that my air mattress deflated considerably overnight so I found myself sleeping virtually on the concrete in the morning.

First up at 7.30 centre fire. I shoot this event as practice for service matches. Since MISC open last year I swore never to shoot centre fire with a single action revolver; it was just too embarrassing to miss the target so many times. I don't have any single action revolvers anymore anyway. I decided to use my 6-inch service revolver, which at the gun check weighted in at 1398 grams; that's just 2 grams bellow the legal limit. Compared to 4 inch is better for precision but harder for duelling. Marek had just broken grade into C the Wednesday before at our postal but he entered in D so we expected him to do well. Mikhail was going well with his new-old Pardini and we knew he'd do well too. In the end Marek scored just bellow C grade (492) and I went 484 which made us first and second in D grade; Mikhail got 562; a great effort and only 3 points from A grade.

Looking at the scores it looked like there wouldn't be too much threat from other shooters in D grade except the fact that our own 'el presidente' Stuart also entered centre fire in D grade. Now, even his policy that scores at the club don't matter and only opens count would not work because there were witnesses that he had shot at least C

grade score in Castlemaine. So we decided to dob him in and he got moved to C grade. In the end he won that too and broke B into grade; just to prove that it just would not have been fair for him to compete in D grade. And we got to keep our 1-2 positions. For me totally unexpected as in ISSF I could only ever win something in D grade Rapid Fire. During the morning more Springvale members arrived, they were the ones who had a late start. First Stuart and then Chris and Sam but surprisingly no Peter.

I had some expectations in service events but it wasn't to be. I shot bellow my scores in Mountain District and only just barely shot my grade in Service 50, in Unrestricted and short barrel I was a few points under my grade. OK there's some excuses, like a few rounds did not go off, in short barrel you lay and sit on the bench and kneel on the floor which is quite weird but you've heard all this before and not only from me. Even Mikhail shot some 20+ points bellow his Mountain District score from a month ago and Marek fell short of C grade by a few points too. In spite of that we got some trophies, which just show that the rest weren't up to scratch either.

C grade Service 50 wasn't much of the competition, there were only 3 competitors. One of them did not turn up so it was between me and the old Werner from Yarra, whom I managed to beat by 3 points for the win. In case you've wondered who the third guy was; that would be our club secretary.

On Saturday we also shot air pistol which, and as everybody knows, it gives me nothing but frustration. Why would it be different this time?

Most of us shot well bellow our best scores. The air range is quite big; there are 18 bays and the back plates are made of tin, so when the competition starts it sounds like shooting action match plates. The air torture finished at about 4.30 and we could relax and drink beer (quite a lot of it).

Saturday night dinner was spit lamb and roast chicken with roast potatoes and pumpkin; very nice. So we ate and drank and talked (sometimes crap) and drank some more.

That night I slept OK and reportedly did not snore, so Marek said he got worried that I might have been dead.

Waking up in the morning, still with the taste of wine in the mouth I would have really loved a nice coffee, but the best and only choice on the range was 'International Roast'. Under the circumstances it had to do as good as anything. Marek got woken up just before 7 by the staff setting up the range 1 and Mikhail rushed in shortly after, for 7.30 free pistol competition. It got quite boring, because we had to wait until 9.30 for the first competition. So we both regretted not entering the free pistol and went for a walk around.

Rapid was on at 9.30 with me, Marek and some guy who was in C grade but way bellow even D grade standard. I had some expectations; at the last club postal I got within 10 points of C grade. But it did not start well; the first half was pretty ordinary. There was meant to be a 5 minute break, the change of bays and another round of sighters between the first and the second half. We mutually agreed to just keep going as the world record was clearly not in danger and they were running behind the schedule. I improved quite a bit in the second half but still 30 points down on my best score. During the competition the coach from Oakleigh, Vladimir walked in and Marek gave him a great line: "If you're looking for future champions you're are in the wrong place, keep walking!".

Mikhail shot Service 50 at 11.00, did ok and won B grade. Both me and Marek shot Unrestricted right after that closely watched by Alex, probably because his son Grant was in the detail with us. Surprisingly, no penalties!

I must admit I haven't seen much of girls shooting during the day although Sam, Chris and Alexandra were shooting quite a few events. We were just busy, self-centred and preoccupied with our won competitions.

Meanwhile, competitions in rapid and standard were dragging on; rapid fire running about an hour behind. Standard pistol at 1.30 was our last chance for glory. We knew that Alexandra was leading D grade with 481 and we also knew that 481 would be right on the upper edge of our abilities at the moment. So the only way to win would be to break grade and go 1-2 just like we did in centre fire. That's what we were going to do! At the start there was Mikhail, Marek and me and some shooters whose scores make you depressive (if not sick) and also some others who make you feeling a little bit better about yourself. There was Grant Eagle, again closely watched by his dad. Mikhail was shooting well as always and me and Marek started throwing in some sixes and that was probably the end of the plan.

At some stage Alex went down the range and when the RO called Grant's target he pulled his gauge out and overruled the score; downgraded a 10 to a 9. No favours from Alex, not even to his own family.

And then Grant had a malfunction and I thought he'd shoot his malfunction series at the end of 20 seconds series. So I went out, went to the toilet, had a smoke and chatted to a few people. By the time I came back they had already shot the first 10 second series, because Grant had another malfunction and pulled out of the match altogether. So I would have missed out on those 5 shots, but luckily another shooter in bay 9 had a malfunction in the last 10 second series. And the RO goes "Shooter in bay 9, load!" and I went "What about me (it isn't fair)!" and he goes "Well, you weren't here", but anyway allowed me to shoot. That particular series was ok, probably 43 or 44 but still ended up with 462, which was only good for 4th in D. No big glory for either one of us, Alexandra with 481 had beaten us both comprehensively. At that stage I was still hanging in the 2nd for rapid, which kept dragging on; the day was getting long and everybody was just hanging around for trophies. Some have had enough and went home. We started drinking beer and after about the second stubby I got relegated to third in D grade (see below) rapid but that's how it stayed.

In between drinking beer we went in to watch Mikhail shooting rapid halfway during the match. We heard that in the first sighting series he got straight 50. He was shooting with our good friend and trusted gunsmith Norm and George from Yarra who will have eventually beaten me for the second place in D grade.

But unlike us, Norm requested to shoot sighters after the first half even though the world record (and for that matter the Victorian record) was still far from being in danger. His reasoning was 'the rules must be followed'. Both Mikhail and Norm got 49 in sighters and about 42 in the first 8 second series. When I remarked that his sighters could have been his first 8 second series Norm was still adamant that 'the rules must be followed'; another excuse as we all know.

Eventually the shooting died down and shortly the presentation was on. At the presentation the Springvale Pistol Club was quite prominent; we've got something in almost every event, except perhaps air (worthy exception was Sam winning Junior D grade). My camping buddy and me got 4 trophies each (out of 7 possible, that's better than 50%!).

After the presentation everybody just rushed out as it was already 6.30 and dark. We got home and back to reality by about 8 o'clock. I had switched off and forgot all about the work, the deck I'm building and all for two days. That was probably the biggest achievement of all.

As for the future, Marek decided that we should get into Men's Sport Pistol; there's not much competition there, it's good practice and always a chance to win something. As for me I got drawn back to ISSF, which I was considering abandoning in favour of Service matches.



**Drago.**

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