

RAMBLINGS October 2004

By Peter Payne, HMS Section Director

This is Carl Rofe's last Bullshooter, I would like to thank him for all the work he has done with the Bullshooter making it a good informative shooting magazine over the years for us all.

I would also like to thank Carl for all the work he has done for the HMS Section because I'm sure we would not of had the Section if it had not of been for the driving force of Carl. Also, congratulations on Carl being made a Life Member of Pistol NZ.

We have had the second weekend of the Winter Series on the August 28th-29th. There was only one 40 which was Murray Templeton in Big Bore Prod. There were 12 shooters over the weekend shooting 65 matches. There are no more sanctioned matches before the National Champs in November 19th-21st.

Yvan Rosaire has informed me that New Caledonia will most probably be sending Handgun and Rifle Silhouette Teams to the Nationals.

I have to change the selection criteria for the Oceania Team to go to New Caledonia 2005. Because the Shooting Federation wants the selection matches between October 2004 and April 2005, the matches for Oceania Selection are the National Champs Nov 19th-21st 2004, South Island Champs March 5th-6th 2005 and the North Island Champs April 16th-17th 2005.

The selection matches for IHMSA Australia in October 1st-8th 2005 are still the same as what was printed in #169 Bull shooter.

The IHMSA International shoot in July was a good experience for me. It was good to have Evan Sanders and Murray Templeton with their International Shooting experience. After flying twelve hours from Auckland to L.A. we had two hours getting through customs, there was no problems getting our firearms through with the right documentation from the ATF.

We stayed in L.A. for the night then the next day flew to Columbus, Ohio via Chicago. Firstly we had to go threw L.A. Transport Safety Authority (TSA). All baggage is x-rayed and we had to sign a declaration to say firearms were unloaded and safe. It took about one and a half hours to get through departure.

When we got to Chicago we had to run between terminals to catch our flight to Columbus and just got there, as they were about to close the doors. Arrived Columbus 10pm and stayed the night before going to the Tusco Range, on the way we went to Ashland to "Fin, Feather and Fur", a 70,000 sq ft gun shop full of guns and fishing gear to get all our loading gear because we had to load about 2000 rounds between us.

We arrived on Wednesday afternoon and shooting did not start till Saturday so had two days to load. The Americans made us feel right at home, the matches were 80 shot matches and we shot within our grades so we did not disgrace ourselves. On the last day the shoot offs were done they started at 8.30am and finished at about 5.30pm.

We went back to Columbus and stayed the night and got a flight to Orlando for a holiday, it was the some going through departure there as L.A. and that happened at every airport we went to while in America, but I will have to admit the authorities were very pleasant.

Safe shooting until next time

Peter Payne