

## Successful Try Shooting Day at Seaham Range, SSAA Newcastle Brings Scouts Together for an Exciting Experience

Seaham Range, SSAA Newcastle recently played host to an exciting and exclusive event, as Scout units from Singleton, Maitland, and Cessnock came together to participate in a thrilling try shooting day. Shooting, known for its appeal to individuals of all ages and abilities, welcomed 22 enthusiastic Scouts, accompanied by their guardians and Scout leaders, for a day filled with exhilaration and camaraderie in a safe and supportive environment.

Under the guidance of the Branch Senior Vice-President Derek Roberts, participants received a comprehensive safety briefing, ensuring all necessary precautions were taken. With P650 forms completed and essential hearing and eye protection donned, the eager Scouts were ready to take on the challenge of shooting at various targets and ranges.

Excitement filled the air as the Scouts entered the covered area of the range and were organized into groups by the branch Junior Vice President, Mick Ling. With expert guidance from the Range Officers who would oversee their shooting experience, they aimed at different targets set at various distances throughout the day, using a variety of 22. rifles provided generously by the officers. Even some of the parents couldn't resist joining in the fun.

Following the completion of the shooting round robin, a well-deserved lunch awaited the participants, thoughtfully organised and prepared by the Branch Secretary Arthur Hodgetts and Treasurer Deanna Dunleavy. During this time, each Scout was presented with their own targets as mementos of the day, igniting friendly competition as they compared their shooting achievements while creating memories of this remarkable day. It was evident that the event had left a lasting impression on the young marksmen, as many were already inquiring about when they could return for another round of shooting. Such enthusiasm bodes well for the future of the sport.

One testament to the event's impact was the story of a father and son duo, who decided to pursue gaining a firearms license, spurred on by their experience during the try shooting day. This positive outcome further solidified the event's success and its potential to inspire future generations of shooting enthusiasts indicating a bright future for the sport.

As shooting continues to prove itself as an engaging and unifying sport, events like these serve as an opportunity for individuals to come together, foster new connections, and share in the thrill of shooting sports. The Seaham Range, SSAA Newcastle's try shooting day stands as a shining example of the sport's power to bring people together while providing an exciting platform for individuals to discover their passion for shooting together in a safe and enjoyable environment.

As quoted by the Group Leader of Singleton Scout Group "*Thank you again to the volunteers and the club, you could not have made it any more enjoyable*". Heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the event, whether by attending on the day or providing valuable resources. Without such support and dedication, hosting these try shooting days would not be possible.

