



SOUTH AUSTRALIA – SOME CLAY TARGET SPORT HISTORY

The International Gun Club Story – Renamed the International Clay Target Club

What a fantastic sport we enjoy and from the beginning the founding members shared the same joys as we do now, a family sport with friends, enjoying the simple things in life, being outdoors, great food. A challenging sport which requires split second timing, a sport that is physically and psychologically trying that gives you the opportunity to represent your country (if that's your goal), or one that is joyous and relaxing just being there.

The start of the club was very humbling, the founders a group of Italian migrants that had a great passion for hunting in Italy and had recently migrated to South Australia. The founders would get together regularly with their families and enjoy good food and often game dinners together with a few glasses of homemade vino. This group of friends often discussed how great it would be to shoot clay targets when the hunting seasons were closed. It was hard times, money was a major issue as all arrived in Australia with very little and all were working very hard to look after their families.

In 1964 the group was able to acquire a Plus trap by all contributing towards the purchase in pounds (the photo below shows our first trap with Artie Dalle-Molle one of our Foundation members).

But where could they shoot –no problem, what better place than a winery/vineyard one of the founders owned Patriitti Wines and they had a property at McLaren Vale. Now a trap house was needed, again one of the founders was a metal fabricator so he built it but it looked more like a shield than a trap house. So up to the property they all went, had a few working bees, dug a hole for the trapper to sit in, built a stand inside the hole for the Plus trap to be bolted on, erected the trap house shield and marked out some lanes. Now for those that haven't experienced using or shooting over the Plus trap I'll explain how it works. First there is no such thing as a slow pull, they are all



Artie Dalle-Molle – Foundation member

slow. A trapper would sit inside the trap house (they would all take turns doing this, I was 9 years old and would follow my dad Serafino Olivero into the trap house handing him the clays),

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the trapper would manually bring the arm of the trap back to spring load it and place a clay on the arm (all shooters had to allow enough time for this to happen, the springs were not a soft load).

The shooter would call loudly for the target and the trapper on hearing the call would release the target. The trapper would periodically change the angle of the target by lifting the trap into various slots for the different angles.

Now it was really a picnic type shoot that occurred with not too much shooting as physically they could not throw a lot of targets but economically they could not afford many cartridges or the clays (a lot of clays were missed and they were all picked up and recycled). Most of the cartridges back then were paper (32gm loads the norm) and many used side by sides and automatic shotguns it was great. In fact the Eikins paper cartridges were loaded in South Australia and this small business provided gunsmithing, firearms and reloaded cartridges. Dario Panazzolo used to buy these for the shooters and some were stored in cartons of 50 and displayed on picnic tables, so you could buy 10 cartridges if that's all you could afford.

These were special days, it was a family affair with children and good food everywhere, it was the once a month shoot that everyone looked forward to so much.

Between 1964 and 1967 some of the founders started shooting a little at other clay target clubs with modern facilities i.e. traps that were power operated they oscillated and you didn't have to manually set the throwing arm after each shot. The founders lead by Enio Boldrin our first president started the formal process of establishing an ACTA registered gun club with all the modern facilities, a DTL trap that ran by electricity and a proper trap house, lanes etc to ACTA regulations.

So the founders had weekly meetings at each others homes and these were always great social events with lots of laughter and of course good food, wine, coffee and home made treats. Discussions that followed included what name shall we give to the club, there were various names discussed but Enio and Dario suggested a name that all supported – International Gun Club, the reason behind this name was it reflected a welcome for all to this club and to hopefully one day hold a major International event.



Founding members Club Plaque

The club name was established, now to obtain a club ground that could meet the needs of the future at no or little leasing costs as there was no money. The word was spread and Dario and Artie met with a market gardener from Virginia, Peter Marcoionni who had a few acres of land and enjoyed shooting. Peter was happy to provide the grounds at no cost and he had an ideal place with shady trees and the river running nearby, now the club had the grounds.

Enio and Dario worked with Bob Mules in liaison with the ACTA to register the International Gun Club and work through all the required official paperwork to formally register the club in 1967.

The club build then happened, with all voluntary work, within the founders there were concreters, electricians, earthmovers etc and the one DTL trap layout was built very quickly. The first trap was a DAMO and this was expensive, donations were sort and social events were organised to raise the funds, these included dinner dances with several hundred people attending, raffles,

pizza fund raising dinners, donations by sponsors. Now back then no one had hopper fed traps like today and phono pulls, there was a trapper boy in each trap that loaded every clay one by one after each throw, the target was released by the referee using a push button. The trapper boys would spend all day inside the trap house and were usually the members children.

Team shoots were very keenly contested in the early days. We had an inter club shoot with Marconi for a number of years and we would travel to each others club every two years, a great inter club spirit.

Another team win, it was a grand event back then we actually went to a photo studio for the photo, (see photo next page).

What a fantastic time we had at the club, a true family outing with many young families enjoying the outdoors with just the best bbq's and social gatherings after the shoot that went on for quite a while, different to today when everyone is so busy.

The success of the club was outstanding, from one DTL layout there were two built very quickly as we couldn't cater for the number of shooters with one and soon quite a large club house was built.

Australia did not shoot the Olympic Trap disciplines for many years (i.e. after the 1956 Olympics when Liano Rossini won the gold medal at Melbourne Gun Club) but in the 1970's the interest in setting up and developing the Olympic disciplines emerged.

One of the goals of the club was to host an International Event, the Olympic Trap discipline was the way to do it, the committee planned on how to

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Winning team from left: Enio Boldrin first President, Eugene Verbis, Dino Oliviero, Metro Martini and Claude Verbis

Fred Atkinson (Veteran and gentleman who lost one arm WW2) receiving a prize from Dick Ayres, Winchester rep

Dino & Peter presenting prize to Leni Crema, Marconi Gun Club





L-R: Arturo Montesso, Dino Oliviero, Artie Dalle-Molle, Lidio Spizzo and Dario Panazzolo (Antony's dad, again like his father one of our long standing committee members)



Peter Marcoionni and Dino presenting to Jim Finis

Artie Dalle-Molle the International Gun Club supreme BBQ king



Dick Ayres Winchester rep presenting to Grant Bollen

John Fleetwood and Phil Mules, regulars at Inter



get the first Olympic Trench layout in South Australia. The establishment of a trench ground was very exciting but a major project, the building and excavation works a big job, the financing of all this and procuring of traps, parts internationally etc another big job. There were a number of traps available including the Rossini and yes the person who won the Olympic gold in Australia in 1956 also made the traps. The committee had a building works group led by Metro Martini, John Burrows, Peter Marcoionni and supported by many and an overseas liaison group of Serafino and Dino Oliviero. As Dino was travelling to Italy during this time he was asked by the committee to meet with Liano Rossini and negotiate the purchase of the Rossini Traps, now Dino met with Liano and they shot together (what a great experience) in Italy, soon it was all organised and the pneumatic Olympic traps and a spare were on their way to Adelaide.

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New clubhouse



Presentations in the new clubhouse, first photo the Marconi Gun Club and International teams, of course Inter always won



John Muscio, Eric Commons, Gary Bollen, Trench in background



Presentation display

International first clubhouse building opening, birthday shoot with Franchi shotguns donated as prizes





Jim and Annette Finis Trench Team Shield won by Inter, from left Danny Stefanato, Dino Oliviero, Jim Finis and Peter Marcoionni



1977 Trench Fund Raising Shoot, Dino, John, Speedy and Peter



International team, kneeling: Leighton Martin, Dino Oliviero, Metro Martini, John Burrows and Paul Aromataris with Marconi Team at the Marconi Gun Club

The opening of the Trench layout was fantastic and the Minister for Tourism Recreation and Sport the Honourable Tom Casey together with Bob Mules (a legendary shot in South Australia and member of the National ACTA Executive) were asked to open the Trench layout as per the report opposite.

The club ran a National Olympic Trap Championship on one layout in the 1970's and these events back then were always 200 targets, due to the high number of nominations the event could only be shot over 150 targets. In these early days we had many shooters at state championship events etc, as there was no

INTERNATIONAL GUN CLUB (SA) OPENS TRENCH COMPLEX

October 23rd saw the opening of the latest Olympic Trench layout in Australia. Situated at Virginia 30 km north of Adelaide on the grounds of the International Gun Club it has been described by experienced trench shooters as the best in Australia.

The Civil works, built to full Olympic specifications and beautifully finished nestles nicely in a stand of old gum trees, a feature much appreciated in all weather conditions. The trench faces due south.

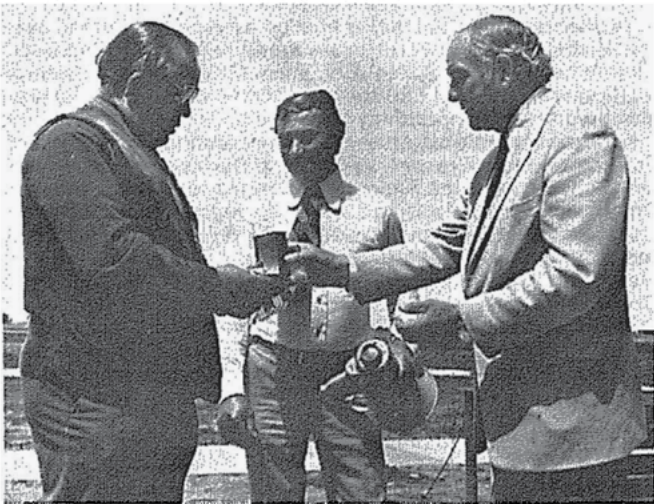
Mechanical equipment is the latest "Rossini" pneumatic cocking traps, and a fully transistorised electronic control box.

The trench was built and the traps installed by Club Members on a voluntary basis and . . . "will remain as a constant reminder to all that shoot over it of the tremendous effort put in by Club Members to bring this exciting and ultimate of the Clay Target Shooting sports to South Australia" . . . said the Hon. T. M. Casey M.L.C. when opening the complex. Mr Casey, the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Sport paid tribute to the committee and members of the club for their efforts when he officially opened the complex on the morning of October 23rd.

The opening event was the S.A. State Trench Championship (15 trap) of 100 targets. Sixty-seven competitors faced the trench over two days (23rd and 24th) and when the dust settled, the overall and 'AA' class winner was 'Pud' Burgess of Cobar, N.S.W. with a score of 94/100.

Runner-up and 'A' class winner was T. E. (Ernie) Evans of International Gun Club (SA) with a score of 92/100.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAT BROWNE.
SHOTGUN EDITOR — AUSTRALIAN SHOOTERS JOURNAL.



National Executive C'tee member Bob Mules receives a "Seiko" watch from the Hon. T. M. Casey M.L.C. The presentation was made by the club in appreciation of the help given to the club in its formative years.

INTERNATIONAL GUN CLUB ATTRACTS 100 SHOOTERS TO ANNIVERSARY SHOOT

With fine weather and a big array of trophies, the International Gun Club (S.A.) packed them in to their Annual Anniversary Shoot on Sunday 7th November.

Main Events were a 16 metre graded event with a Beretta A301 Auto loading Shotgun for each grade 'A', 'B' and 'C' and the anniversary Championship (DB).

Eric Commons of Bute Gun Club took the laurels in the Double Barrel 76-76 from John Hutchings. Stan Keen (A), Ron Whimshurst (B) and John Torresan (C) captured a gun each, whilst Pete Smith went home with a radio/cassette player from winning the Sparnon Bros Handicap.



The Hon. T. M. Casey M.L.C., using a Perazzi fires the first shot at International Gun Club's opening. (Yes he DID hit the target!)



"Pud" Burgess, a great supporter of I.S.U. shooting is presented with winner's trophy for South Aust. Trench C'ship. International Gun Club President "Metro" Martini is making the presentation.



Happy trophy winners after South Aust. Trench C'ship (International Gun Club).

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The Rossini Trench traps when they arrived, from left Bob Baker, John Burrows

other trench ground in South Australia and not many in Australia, it was an exciting new discipline for young eyes.

Then the club also built a Skeet layout to have all the disciplines, 5 stand was shot sometimes when a mobile set up was operated by a shooter from WA.

The club hosted many events and at the end of each shoot we shot off the fence, for those that haven't shot this here's a glimpse, everyone pays \$1 and start on lane 1 at 27 yards (25m), if you hit the target you move to lane 2, if you miss your first you can buy and pay another \$1, you keep shooting and after lane 5 you move back a yard and start on lane 1 again, it was



The trench layout now has a cover. L-R: Mary Martini, Serafino Oliviero, Dino Oliviero, Bob Baker, Peter Marcoianni, Artie Dalle-Molle, Metro Martini

a lot of fun with some shooting at 35 yards or beyond before a miss, 36gm loads were the best. We also shot the mini target, this was a target half the size of the normal target and wasn't easy to shoot, basically this target isn't shot anymore as we all have hopper fed traps, you need to load each individual target on the plate which was all done by a trapper boy.

In the early days the club would not be open for practice, the first event of each shoot would usually be a 10 target eye opener cash divide, that's your practice. Just as another interesting point in the very early years of clay shooting there were no graded events, prizes were given for 1st to 3rd only. Right is a advertisement of our programmed shoots after we had the trench ground at the old club.

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INTERNATIONAL GUN CLUB 1977 PROGRAMME

BAKERS ROAD VIRGINIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JANUARY 16th 11 am — (1) Club New Year Trench C'ship 25 tgts. (2) Peter Marcianni Hcp. (3) Gawler River DB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

FEBRUARY 6th 11 am — (1) Trench SS 25 tgts. (2) Graded Shoot 16m United Insurance Brokers. (3) Club DR C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

MARCH 5th 9 am — Trench Practice. 1 p.m. — (1) State Trench Team Elimination 50 tgts. (2) & State DR C'ship A B C badges.

MARCH 6th 9 a.m. — (1) Tgt Hcp 1 case cartridges divided 1 2 3. (2) Winchester Graded Shoot 16m. (3) Club PS C'ship A B C badges. (4) State Trench Team Shoot. Taipan High Gun OA.

MARCH 27th 11 am — (1) Virginia City Trench C'ship 25tgts. (2) Vin Amadio Graded Shoot. (3) Club DB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

APRIL 24th 11 am — (1) Anzac Day Trench C'ship 25 tgts. (2) Sportsgoods Graded Shoot. (3) Club SB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

MAY 8th 10 am — (1) Trench SS 25 tgts. (2) D. Martini Shield off Hcp. (3) Adelaide Cup DB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

MAY 29th 10 a.m. — (1) Trench SS 25tgts. (2) Nailsworth Building Co. Graded shoot. (3) Nthrn Districts DB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA

JUNE 26th 10 a.m. — (1) International Club trench C'ship 25 tgts. (2) Guthrie Trading Hcp. (3) Virginia City DB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

JULY 24th 10 a.m. — (1) Nthrn Districts Trench C'ship 25 tgts. (2) Taipan Projectiles Shield 16m DB. (3) Club DD C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

AUGUST 28th 10 a.m. — (1) Gawler River Trench C'ship 25 tgts. (2) Hendon Pizza Bar graded shoot. (3) Gawler River PS C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

SEPTEMBER 11th 11 a.m. — (1) Trench SS 25 tgts. (2) Clarksons Graded Shoot. (3) Italian Festival DB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

OCTOBER 8th 9 a.m. — (1) State Trench C'ship 100 tgts (shot over 2 days). (2) IMI Graded Shoot.

OCTOBER 9th 9 a.m. — (1) Fisher Firearms Hcp. (2) Commonwealth PS C'ship, Taipan High Gun on D.T.L. events & OA High Gun.

OCTOBER 23rd 11 am — (1) Trench SS 25tgts. (2) Advance Constructions Graded Shoot 16m. (3) Club Labour Day DB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

NOVEMBER 13th 9 a.m. — (1) Anniversary Trench C'ship 50 tgts. (2) Sparmon Bros Hcp & shot in conj., The Dissolved Live Bird Association Shield. (3) Grand Anniversary Graded Shoot 1st trophy gun for each grade & 2nd trophies. (4) Club anniversary DB C'ship A B C badges, Taipan High Gun OA.

DECEMBER 4th 11 a.m. — (1) Christmas Trench C'ship 25 tgts. (2) Verbis Bros. Graded Shoot. (3) Grand Christmas Hcp. Every shooter wins a prize, Taipan High Gun OA.

FREE BBQ & REFRESHMENTS

FUN FOR THE KIDS

President/Secretary:
D. MARTINI,
24 Dunn Ave.,
FINDON. S.A. 5023

The Club reserves the right
to alter the programme
at its discretion.

Metro & Peter checking out the Birthday Shoot dinner



Inter's first DTL trap





International, always lots of children



Old club, always lots of food and families



Some of the great events hosted at the club included the Winchester tournaments and the Eley tournaments, these were highly sort tournaments and attended by many shooters as the prizes consisted of Winchester and Franchi shotguns together with lots of ammo. Winchester and ICI Australia were basically the two companies that supplied cartridges and shooting accessories to all the shooters in Australia, in the early days it was the blue star and ICI special paper cartridges and then the Eley and Winchester plastic cartridges.

In the 1980's a competitor emerged and started manufacturing clays and cartridges in Australia. Sergio Zuffo from N.S.W. began loading the Scorpio cartridges and manufacturing the Olympic clay target and these were purchased by the club.

The club also ran the Miss Australia Charity shoot for one of our special founding member's (Artie Dalle-Molle) daughter Angela.

When the Formula One Grand Prix was hosted in Adelaide there were a group of teams that loved clay shooting, the McLaren Team, Ferrari and the Minardi Team especially formed a close tie with the club and we hosted members from their teams every year. In fact we made the teams honorary life members it was great and the club was given Alain Prost's (World Formula One champion) steering wheel as a souvenir (See Grand Prix photos following).

INTERNATIONAL GUN CLUB (S.A.)

Miss Australia Charity Shoot a Huge Success

In the most appalling weather, 84 shooters braved the elements to support Miss Angela Dalle-Molle in her efforts to raise money for the Spastic Childrens Association by taking part in the Miss Australia Quest. Angela is Miss Orlando Wines in the Quest and it was this company that came to the party in more ways than one, with the full array of trophies for this gala shooting day.

Two hundred and forty bottles of top class wines were up for grabs and the competition was fierce. Paul Aromataris, a very competent and improving C grader streeeted the opposition in the Trench event with a fine 23/25 and took both sashes and the large portion of the wine in this event. The graded handicap was split between about a dozen shooters. In the Double Barrel event Bob Mules had to withstand a determined challenge from C grader| Graham Goldsmith to take the wine and top honours in this event.

(Story and Photos by Pat Browne).



Happy wine winners with Angela Dalle-Molle.



Arte Dalle-Molle, Metro Martini (President), Angela Dalle-Molle and George Harms (Director Orlando Wines) with the huge array of wines at International Gun Clubs September Charity Shoot.



INTERNATIONAL GUN CLUB (S.A.)

Secretary Weds

Popular International Gun Club Secretary and top Trench shooter Dino Oliviero married at St. Michaels College Chapel on Saturday 6th August.

Whilst one must be very careful about writing of shotguns and weddings in the same article it was very evident that the new Mrs Oliviero, formerly Miss Susan Tonellato will be most welcome in clay target shooting circles. Sue is a keen follower of the sport and is an occasional competitor.

Following the reception at the Venator Club, Mr and Mrs Oliviero will (and are) spending their honeymoon in Italy where Dino says he will keep his hand in at Trench Shooting.

(Story and Photos by Pat Browne).



Paul Aromataris bedecked with sashes and holding portion of his hoard of wines after winning the Orlando Trench Championship.

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Life Members board showing McLaren and Minardi Formula One teams



Big Hugs were common at the old club no Corona then



In the early 1980's the club was offered a new shooting ground by the State Government to join the State Shooting Park at its current location (Buckland Park) and this was quite near to the old club. After many years at Peter Marcoionni place the committee decided that for the long term benefit of the club and the potential of the new grounds to expand the club to 7 DTL traps, 2 Trench layouts and 4 Skeet layouts that the club should relocate.

Now what was made available was approx. 100 acres of saltbush at a good annual rental leasing arrangement and some financial support.

The challenges again in starting major building works from scratch were huge. Apart from the traps the only thing transportable was the club's old shed, this was shifted by Peter and became the new clubhouse for a number of years as per the first photo following.

The land was cleared and levelled and the major building works undertaken by many volunteers with Metro, Peter, Artie leading and the club was ready within several months to host it's opening shoots.

The club now has 7 DTL traps, 2 trench layouts, 4 skeet layouts and a 5 stand sporting layout. The club has hosted international events with the World Police and Fire Games, has hosted National Championships and Australian team selection series and hosts all the South Australian State Championships.

There has been some great shooting (black targets) on the new grounds by some old and recent members, some results follow:

- Nathan Campbell, State Skeet record 312 straight, winner National Skeet Handicap,



- Glenn Cup Australian Team representative
- Ben Baker, National Doubles & 20 Guage Champion, Glenn Cup and World Team Australian representative
- Robert Dower, Australian Team representative ISSF and American Skeet, SA Hall of Fame
- Dennis Lymn, National DTL Championship, SA Hall of Fame

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- Lisa Smith, Australian Oceania Ladies Trench Team
- Martin Collumb, SA Universal Trench record 100 straight, Veteran Universal Trench World Team representative
- Dino Oliviero, 145 Single Barrel, State DTL Record 512 straight held for a number of years, broken by Russell Mark with over 600 straight, broken by Ross Walsh with over 700 straight, held by Glen Hayden with over 800 straight. World DTL Australian Team representative, Glenn Cup Team (with team members Russell Mark Olympic Gold, Michael Diamond Olympic Gold, Steve Aitkins, Robbie Nesbit, shot 250/250 to beat NZ), Veteran Universal Trench World Team representative, South Australian Hall of Fame.

Our 50th Birthday shoot was also fantastic with \$40000 worth of prizes all donated. We had 146 shooters (new club record) who came to support and enjoy our 50th Birthday shoot together with their families and friends. There were many visitors from interstate and it was most pleasing to see 180 attend our dinner dance on the Saturday night, it created a great atmosphere and fun night.

Our major sponsors (Joe Melisi, Polyaire, Beretta, Bronzewing, Bronte Evans CA) and others just exceptional and can't thank them enough, our catering sponsors just beautiful food with pork and rumps on a spit cooking all day Saturday for the 180 for dinner.

A respectful proposal was put to the committee in 2019 by one of our committee members to honour the foundation members and families that

made an exceptional contribution to the club, it was proposed that the shooting layouts be named after those families, all the committee were in favour. In October 2019 at the Club's birthday shoot the foundation members that were still with us or their representative families that is – Boldrin, Dalle-Molle, Marcoionni, Martini, Panazzolo and Oliviero were invited to receive their Plaques and Tania Evans drew the names for the layouts. This was a most emotional and rewarding event for those Foundation members and their families and was much appreciated by all.

The International Gun Club of today thanks all for their support, a special thank you to all the family members especially the ladies who ran our canteens,

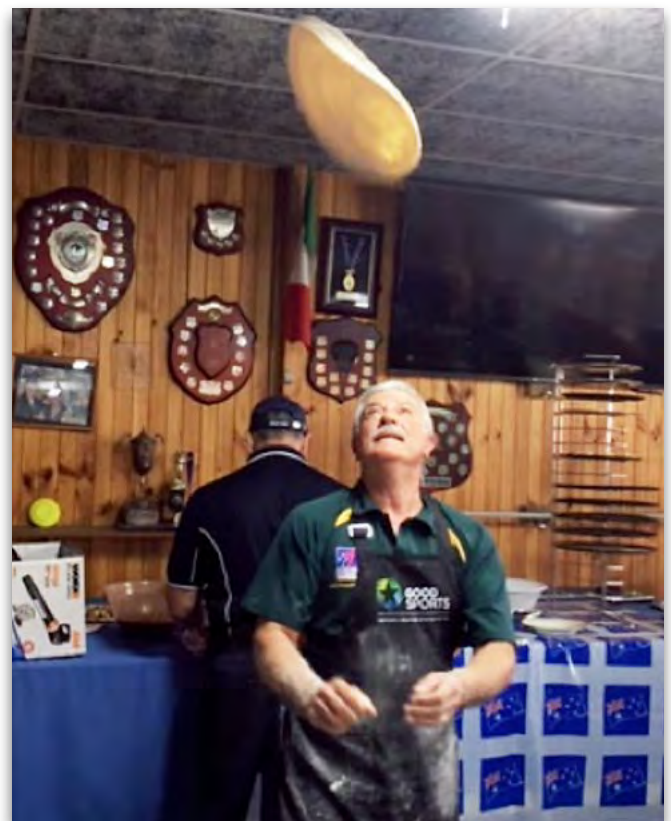


The International Gun Club today





Foundation Members or their families receiving ground naming plaques



Like father like son, Serafino Oliviero (Foundation Member) making pizza during a fundraising dinner for the club at his pizza bar in the 1970's and Dino Oliviero, son making pizzas recently at the club with Bruno Piteo helping.

cleaned our clubhouse and just supported their husbands and friends to make it a special club. Lets keep those old traditional values going, we've had some fantastic events and records shot at the club and we still love good company and food , the recent purchase of the pizza oven is another beauty.

We have a great passion for our club and thank all that helped develop the club past and present, we would love to see you at the club, come and join us to enjoy our great sport of clay target shooting

in good company and for the best pizzas.

All the Best and hope we can get out to our Clubs again soon (Corona Epidemic Lockdown unprecedented but well done to all for achieving a good pandemic control result so far for Australia by social distancing, unfortunately no pizzas, game dishes or spaghetti marinara for a while).

*Dino Oliviero, son of Foundation Member Serafino Oliviero,
President International Clay Target Club*

April, 2020