

Towards a 'Gun Safe' community

Reducing gun related accidents, violence and suicide.

In 1938 my dear Dad went shooting rabbits with his horse and fox terrier Tobe. He was in Corryton Park right up next to the Pewsey Vale Peak.

Having secured the horse he was using his 10 round Browning .22 semi automatic. The rabbits were thick and running fast and so was Tobe.

Sadly, as he took a bead on one, just as he pulled the trigger, Tobe ran into his line of fire!

He rode home with his rabbits but no Tobe. Next morning he rode back with a crowbar, spade, hammer and chisel. He buried Tobe under a huge gum tree on our property nearby, found a nice stone and chiselled his name on it.

I recently surrendered this rifle which had become unsafe, along with a double barrelled 12 gauge circa 1900, single barrel 4.10 circa 1920, and bolt action .222, 1966.

While these were all precious family relics, they were mostly surplus to my requirements, but all still lethal weapons.

*In 2007 there was just over one privately owned firearm for every man, woman and child in the United States.

*Hardly surprising that in 2013 there were 33,000 gun related deaths, including 21,000 Suicides. *Wikipedia.

Fortunately following Legislation after Port Arthur and greater vigilance by our whole community, Australia is in a much better situation.

But there is always room for improvement.

I only have to visit Tobe's grave to realise the guns we own, can kill the ones we love the most.

Gun Amnesty on now!

By Sergeant Michael McNally, Nuriootpa Police.

A firearms amnesty is currently underway in South Australia until 30th June 2016.

The object of the Amnesty is to reduce the number of guns in the community which are no longer used or wanted, or have become surplus to needs.

Old and unsafe firearms can also be surrendered. Unwanted firearms may also include those held as a part of a deceased estate. Reducing the number of unregistered firearms in the community makes it harder for guns to fall into the wrong hands.

Members of the public in possession of unwanted, unregistered or illegal firearms, firearm parts, silencers and ammunition are encouraged to hand these in at any police station or participating licensed firearm dealer during the amnesty without fear of prosecution.

The Amnesty also permits any person holding a current South Australian firearms licence to surrender a firearm to a participating licenced dealer and make an application to register the firearm fee free, or sell the firearm to the participating licensed firearms dealer.

The Amnesty will not provide protection to any person using or in possession of an illegal firearm for any reason other than surrendering it to a member of the police force or a participating licensed firearms dealer.

The Firearm Amnesty Information Line number is **1800 586 945** and will be operational until 30th June 2016, Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

More information including a list of licenced participating firearms dealers is available on the SAPOL website www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/firearms-and-weapons/firearms-amnesty-2015