

October 21, 2015

Sporting shooters go pink for breast cancer

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Victoria's Eagle Park Shooting Range at Little River turned pink at the weekend for the sixth annual Jenny Cole Memorial Shoot.



Hosted by SSAA's Little River Raiders Single Action Shooting Club and Big Game Rifle Club, the event was launched to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation.

Jenny Cole lost her battle with breast cancer on October 20, 2010, after first being diagnosed with the disease in the late 1980s. She was never a shooter, but her contribution to the Little River Raiders was unquestionable.

"Jenny Cole was my wife," said Little River Raiders' Ian "Grizzly Grumps" Cole. "She wasn't a shooter but she used to come along and enjoy the fun at the club. She enjoyed the camaraderie and seeing everyone having fun and she brought people together. That was Jenny all the time. That's the idea behind the whole day and that's why we give the belt buckle prize to the shooter who has the most fun."

This year Don Galliano, from Big Game Rifle Club, took out the belt buckle, and 34 competitors from across Melbourne, Bendigo and Warrnambool participated in the memorial shoot.

The Single Action Shooting discipline is a re-enactment group, in which competitors dress up in western attire and create aliases as cowboys. Big Game Rifle shooting involves using vintage and modern replica large-calibre rifles to shoot at targets.

Twenty cowboys and 14 Big Game Rifle competitors entered the weekend's event. The competitors – who included four women and two juniors – were all intent on raising funds for the McGrath Foundation.

"The main reason we raise the money is to support families going through breast cancer," Mr Cole said. "Most people who come along have loved ones who have gone through a breast cancer diagnosis."

The Cole family's long battle with breast cancer involved Jenny going through treatment in the late 1980s, then having 20 years of good health before the cancer returned and she went through more invasive treatment to try and rid her of the disease. During the journey Mr Cole said Geelong McGrath Foundation Breast Care Nurse, Sue Bowles, was "very helpful and supportive of our family as we faced this disease head on".

More than \$3700 was raised at this year's Jenny Cole Memorial Shoot, to ensure more families get support from dedicated Breast Care Nurses like Sue.

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