

Interview with Ian Grant PRESIDENT OF ECHIDNA PARK SPORTING CLAYS



1. Why was Echidna Park formed?

The Club was formed under Sporting Clays Australia by a dedicated group of members to ensure we could maintain our numbers and attract new members to Echidna Park. Under the former ACTA banner, all participating shooters were required to be an ACTA member. This did not open shoots up to members of any other association and our numbers would have been significantly reduced at any event we held, so we formed the new club under SCA.

2. Why is the Club named Echidna Park?

The name came from a camp ground set up here by my Father in the nineties as Echidnas are native to the area and can still be spotted around the grounds today.

3. What kind of facilities are on the grounds?

Echidna Park is in the process of building a clubhouse with facilities including a full stainless steel kitchen, bar and meals area, hot showers, toilets and hopefully we will have some powered sites for campers and caravans (to be confirmed closer to the Nationals).

4. How many grounds will be available for the 2017 Nationals?

The Nationals will be run over eight grounds, which will be the same number as last year's event in Brisbane. Four of these grounds are Greenfield sites.

There will be two grounds available for practice on Wednesday and Thursday.



5. What kind of terrain can we expect at the 2017 Nationals?

You will see from photos the grounds offer some very unique and varying terrain, from very steep hills to more open, flatter country all set in a piece of virgin bush.

Buses will be utilised to transport shooters to and from the clubhouse to the various grounds. Ablution blocks will be available throughout the grounds.







6. Where is Echidna Park and how do I get there?

Echidna Park is located approximately 35km outside of the city.

Travel 5km on Yanget Road and follow signs to Echidna Park Sporting Clays Club. Yanget Rd is 30km east of Geraldton on the Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road.

7. Do you have any recommendations for accommodation?

Geraldton has a variety of accommodation available, from caravan parks to selfcontained apartments and hotels. Geraldton has accommodation suitable for groups of all sizes.

If you book at the Mantra Geraldton, mention the SCA Nationals at Echidna Park and they will offer you a discount.

Camping and caravans are welcome on the grounds with full amenities available. Bookings are essential.

Other helpful websites to search for Geraldton accommodation are:

airbnb.com.au

stayz.com.au

8. Tell us a little about Geraldton?

Geraldton is a city in the mid-west region of Western Australia, located approximately 400km from Perth. Qantas and Virgin both offer flights to Geraldton and it's about a one hour trip from Perth. Geraldton has many car hire companies available from the airport.

For those driving to Geraldton, there are two routes available; Brand Highway or the more











scenic route (often used by caravans / RVs) via Indian Ocean Drive. Both routes will take between 4 to 4.5 hours of travel time.

The population of Geraldton is between 30,000 and 35,000 people. There are plenty of restaurants, cafes, fast food outlets available in the city.

Geraldton is known for its pristine beaches, beautiful wildflowers, amazing surfing and incredible seafood. Wildflower tours can be organised via the Visit Geraldton website and if you're a keen fisherman, fishing charters can be organised through Justin Pirrottina on 0429 900 071 or by contacting Greg Brown at http://bataviacharters.com.au/.

The Abrolhos Islands are situated 60km off the Geraldton coast. There are a number of shipwrecks in the vicinity of the Abrolhos Islands and the area is fantastic for snorkelling, diving, fishing and bird watching. Why not get a group of friends together for a day trip, or consider staying a few nights?

Geraldton is surrounded by many local attractions so take some time to explore the area. Visit the Kalbarri National Park, Greenough River, Geraldton History Trails or view the HMAS Sydney II Memorial. For further information on Geraldton attractions and activities, check out the Geraldton Visitors Centre website visitgeraldton.com.au.



Abrolhos Islands

Geraldton Wax

9. What will Echidna Park have in store for the Nationals?

Echidna Park will have meals available for purchase from 7am all the way through into the evening. Trade exhibitors will be in attendance so all ammunition and merchandise will be available for purchase on site.

Echidna Park is an environmentally friendly club; there will be water bottles for purchase which you can refill with pure rain water from the Club's rain water tanks (situated near the clubhouse). This will reduce the risk of littering disposable plastic bottles throughout the bushland.

After the presentations conclude on Sunday night, Echidna Park has organised a chefcooked seafood feast that will be available to all for purchase. Diners can expect the menu to showcase the delectable local seafood that Geraldton is famous for.

10. What if I didn't get enough shooting at the SCA Nationals?

The weekend after the SCA Nationals, Geraldton Clay Target Club will be holding their annual Crayfish Carnival with 300 targets DTL and if you are still standing, the State DTL Championships are being held in Perth the week after that.

Echidna Park is very excited to be your hosts over the Nationals and will make your stay a memorable one.

Keep an eye on the SCA website and Facebook pages for more information, or contact lan Grant on 0407939730 or warrine@bigpond.com.

