



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND Inc.

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Presidents Report 2015

Welcome to the AGM of the National Rifle Association of New Zealand.

I take this early opportunity to acknowledge 100 years since the Gallipoli Campaign with the NRA being a significant trainer of men to head overseas and defend our way of life. Many lives were lost in this campaign and many returned to New Zealand to continue their lives. The NRA was built around these events and we have a long association with the Armed Force and Civilian shooting. Our history bears names from the past on trophies and cups.

Last year saw the 153 Ballinger Belt competition, congratulations to Diane Collings from the Te Puke Club for winning the Belt for the 3rd time in trying conditions as we have come to expect, Rob Kerridge from the Te Puke Club for winning the FTR Championship and Colin Brown from Karori for winning the F Open National Title, strong competition in all forms of Rifle shooting were seen.

This Trentham we have the World Championship winning F Class Team competing against the New Zealand F Class Team over 800, 900 and 2 x 1000 ranges. Congratulations to the winners and I hope that these events can be regularly held between the two countries, there is always a fierce competition between NZ and Australia and I am sure yesterday was no different.

In June/July Mike Collings and John Snowden, with Bevan Mehrtens as manager set off to Bisley on their way to the Commonwealth Games. John McLaren was also there so New Zealand competed and won numerous trophies along the way. After Bisley, Bevan, Mike and John travelled on to Glasgow for the Commonwealth Games. Both of them represented New Zealand with pride and like most Fullbore shooting matches someone always seems to have a special time and finish in the medals. Unfortunately after their success in India with gold in the pairs, they finished a creditable 18^h (John) and 20th (Mike) amongst the best shooters in the Commonwealth. Thanks to all who assisted our shooters overseas and I hope one day that they will come to NZ so that we can repay their efforts.

In September Lindsay Arthur, Rob Johansen and Irene Cameron travelled to Spain to take part in the 300m World Championships. The scoring was high as expected with Irene making the final in the Woman Division. All shot well, against the best shooters in the world.

This Year Malcolm Dobson is taking a NZ Team and Under 25 Team to the World Long Range Championships and Palma Match at Camp Perry in the USA. There is a mix of younger and the old hands going so I wish them good shooting and safe traveling. Updates on the shooting will be posted on the website during the event, safe traveling to the team.

Also travelling to Australia is the New Zealand Ladies Team who will be shooting in June against Australia at the Australian Nationals in Brisbane. It is a strong team being sent and another fierce battle with the Australians can be expected.

The following World Championships and Palma Match is to be held in New Zealand at Trentham in 2019. This event will be on us quickly and I urge everyone to get involved in this event, it is a chance to show case Fullbore Target Shooting in New Zealand and we can expect a lot of overseas and local interest. Please support the organisers, a small team so far has been set up to start organising this event and they will need all of our assistance as the event gets closer. Start training yourselves now for this event, it will be the cheapest way to attend a World Championship Fullbore event at home and not on the other side of the world, it will be 24 years before it returns to Trentham so get involved.

Mitch Maxberry is taking the Association to court over his membership termination and some Health and Safety issues. All that can be done has been, an offer was made to settle which was turned down, so now we will have to front up to the High Court hearing sometime this year. Every effort has been made to try and settle this, we are going to have a large lawyer bills at the end of this, which cannot be avoided. Please be assured that Ross Mason, Andre Doyle, Kevin Will and Malcolm Dobson have worked tirelessly on our defence and put in endless hours of work. I thank them on your behalf for this efforts, it is appreciated. I will keep you inform of the outcome, win or lose.

I would like to thank the Council for all their efforts during the year, they attended three Council Meetings during the year and attended to numerous emails. Alan Drake is standing down from the Council after 4 years, he has contributed greatly to NRA affairs with ease and professionalism. I wish him well and hope to keep seeing him around the ranges. Welcome to the Council to John Ball from Te Puke, I hope that you will come onto the Council and enjoy and participate in NRA matters. Alan Whiteman is also joining the Council as Deputy Chairman, thank you Alan for being willing to get involved.

Andre runs the NRA office, he puts in many hours attending to all issues concerning the running of the organisation, I take this opportunity to thank him on your behalf, we may be a small organisation but a lot of work is done behind the scenes. Andre has also advised that he will be standing down from his positions of Secretary and Treasurer. It is time for him to move on to other venues and opportunities, after 5 year in these positions it will be a great loss to the Association. We will begin shortly advertising to fill these positions. Ross Mason took over as Chairman and has been thrown in at the deep end, thank you to Ross for handling the Lawyers and paperwork required to defend us and for being available to discuss all matters concern the running of the organisation. Alan Whiteman has been Range Director for a number of years and again has worked behind the scene to keep the range in top condition. Karyn Flanagan and Amy Hatcher have also been fund raising for the Association successfully with books, shirts and hoodie sales proving popular and raising a great deal of money that we would not have had without their efforts.

During the year the Council gets to consider awards to members nominated by their clubs:

Bob Andrews and Earl Graham were awarded there Veteran Badge.

John Dobson (Blenheim), Colin (Nobby) Clark (Upper Hutt), Roger Wait (Upper Hutt), John McLaren (Masterton), Brain Carter (Te Puke), George Knuckey (Akarana-City), Brain and

Margaret Hooper (Whangarei) were awarded Distinguished Service Medals for years of dedicated service to the NRA.

Two Life Memberships to the NRA were awarded, John Hastie from Hawkes Bay and Tom Penrose from the Upper Hutt Rifle Club has been awarded Life Membership. Both have been shooters, administrator in their clubs and Associations, represented New Zealand and John won the Ballinger Belt in 1982. I congratulate them both and hope that we will see them around the ranges for many years to come.

On a sad note, Din Collings, a NRA Life Member and his wife, Viv Collings passed away, this is a huge loss to the Collings family, Karori Rifle Club and NRA. Both funerals were well attend by members and the loss of these two members will be felt throughout the organisation.

Looking at the membership of the Association, I see the need to concentrate on increasing membership, new members are being gained but with our membership aging a number of shooters are retiring and our membership is staying neutral. There are pamphlets available, use them, put them out in sports shops, with the Police Arms Officer. You need a contact number who will get these potential members to the range but then everyone has to welcome them and look after them, it is pretty daunting coming along to a club and no one speaks to you. Start webpages, Sportsground site are easy to set up and run, also look at Facebook, many clubs are running pages and getting pictures and comments out on the sport. Graham Piper has started an F Class League in the upper North Island, he is receiving great support and I hope that this event can be continued, with excellent support from Trueflite Barrels. Can other district start up a similar league? Barnard Precision have also given great support with the Championship Aggregate bring in income for the Association and increasing participation in regional events. Steve and Matt Bartlett have given great sponsorship and I hope everyone will support them in the future.

The NRA is supported by a number of sponsors, please support these companies that have advertised in the Redbook,

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the NRA, good shooting for the week and safe travelling to all for the coming year.

Bruce Millard
NRA President.