



NRANZ Presidents Report 2017

Management

I would like to thank the Council for their work and willingness to give up their personal time for the good of the sport. There are always matters that come up that are decided by the voting process. At times these decisions may not please everyone, but they are all taken with due thought and consideration.

At times this year there has been some friction amongst Council members, much of it unnecessary and it has often become personal. A result of this, there has been a marked reluctance of many of the Council members to express opinions on matters which they should feel free to do, without having to tolerate some personal comments not related to the matter at hand. I hope this will change for the better this year.

It was with sadness that I received the resignation of Owen Whiteman as Vice President and from the Council. I valued Owen's opinion and the Council will miss him. I certainly hope that he will return to some of the roles in the future.

As a result of Owen's resignation, the Council has decided that the third placed person in the recently held Council elections will come onto Council for the next year to serve out the remainder of Owen's term. This is in line with the constitution rule 9.13.2.

Ross Mason has continued to shoulder the job of Chairman with his usual gusto and enthusiasm. Applying your scientific focus to many problems soon sorts out the wheat from the chaff. The logic that you apply to any process is always enlightening. Thank you for your work during the last year.

Coby Snowden has got a good grip of the treasurer's job. Her report is thorough and it is good to see a surplus this year. Thank you for the time and effort that you have put into this association in the last year. She is also doing the treasurer's job for the World Long Range Championships in 2019. She has done a big job in reworking all of the budgets for this event.

Our secretary Helen Morgan has found her second year a little easier than her first. She worked from home most of the time last winter as the office is uninsulated and very cold. Helen is easy to work with and has a good understanding of the sport. She is also involved on the organising committee for the WLRC as a volunteer, not part of her paid role as secretary. Thank you for the time and effort you put into running the organisation.

Alan Whiteman has continued to oversee the work on the range and to liaise with the army. The Wednesday Gang continue to give sterling service with the work they do around the range. They have also undertaken the huge task of rebuilding all of the targets after the flooding which damaged all of the old ones. A full set of 50 targets plus spares, and legs to match are needed for 2018 and 2019. The new targets are also built to take electronics.

Karyn Flanagan has done a terrific job getting sponsorship for the red book this year. The book will make a good profit this year. She organises the apparel which is on sale. She is also working on sponsorship for the WLRC. TrueFlite have come on board this year with sponsorship of three barrels. Karyn has raised a lot of money for this organisation through her efforts. We all owe her a vote of thanks.

Membership

Our membership is basically static numbers wise. That could be viewed as good in that it has not declined, but it would be better if our numbers were increasing. The growth side of the sport is definitely in the F Class ranks.

Ranges

It has not been a good year for us.

The Masterton Range was closed by the landowner when the second generation took over the property. The club has not yet found a new home and are currently shooting at Trentham. In recent weeks the property on which the Kauri Mountain Range in Northland is on, has been sold with the takeover date of April 1st 2017. The new owner is very anti guns and at this stage it looks likely the range will be lost.

Earlier in the year the Westport Range was closed by Dept. of Conservation, the land owner. DoC had been in contact with the trustees about work on the range and the certification of the range. These things had not been progressed and the range was closed. After closure, a public meeting was called in Westport and 50 people turned up. Needless to say, things happened after that. It is only the finishing touches that are required, along with some fine weather to do them and the range will be open again.

The Ashburton Range which is currently closed, is in the process of becoming a No Danger Range. The club has raised a lot of money to get this work done and it is planned for the range be open again in the autumn.

All of the above follows on from the loss of the range in Taranaki last year.

Nationals

The entries at our nationals are on the increase already in the lead up to 2019, with numbers this year expected to be over 140. This year we have a full Australian Open Team and their Veterans Team are here again. Smaller numbers are also here from other countries scouting things out for 2018 and 2019. 2018 should see numbers over 200 with most countries sending teams. Next year, 2018, will see this event move to the last week in January.

Teams

In June 2106 we had our F Class Teams attend their first match overseas. This was the return match against Australia at the Australian Nationals at Brisbane. Although we lost the overall match, some

range wins were recorded, one range by one X. Thanks to the two captains Nik Chiew, F Open, and Darren Swaney, FTR, along with team manager Karyn Flanagan for the work they put into this team and trip.

On Monday we had a match against the Australian Team and the Australian Veterans Team. I trust the result was what we wanted.

It was disappointing that we did not get enough nominations to send a team to the F Class World Championships in Canada this year. I am sure that we will have some individuals there, as we did for the last ones in Raton, USA.

World Long Range Championships 2019

We now have a very strong group of shooting people driving this event. Rob Morgan is now the Chairman of the organising committee and has brought his considerable management experience into the role. This committee is nearly 20 strong and have got the tasks well in hand.

The decision was made by the Council to terminate the contract with CBL. CBL, that is Neil Maitland, had done a very good job getting much of the ground work done at a time when members of our association were not able to commit the time. One of the funding applications he assembled was a 60 page document. We are in the final negotiation stages of the contract for this grant and hope to be able to make an announcement in the near future.

There are some capital works that we are working on doing for this event. One is to be able to use all 50 lanes, currently only 45 can be used. The other major work is to extend the 1000 yard mound to the rear to increase the viewing and assembly area at firing point height. It will also make the mound better to use without the steep bank just at the back of the current mound. The plan is to do this extension on the 3 middle blocks.

On the shooting side, Richard Rowlands has been appointed as the New Zealand Captain of our Palma Team. Richard and his adjutant Chris Kershaw, have already run their first training weekend for prospective team members.

It is also our intention to have both an Under 25 and an Under 21 team for the age group World Championship match. The first training weekend for those eligible will be at Easter at Trentham. If you have any TR shooters in your club that would be eligible for these teams, please let me know as I am running this training group. If they fit the age group I want them. We will also have a Veterans team competing for the Veterans World Championship too. The Veterans and age group matches are on the same day. The Palma match is later in the programme.

Life Member passing

Morrie Gordon's passing saw the loss of one of the icons of our sport. Morrie was arguably the best shooter in the country from the fifties to the eighties. Morrie won the Commonwealth games gold medal in Christchurch in 1974, he won the Ballinger Belt three times, 1951, '53 and '70, and was runner up four times. He also won the St Georges Aggregate at Bisley, one of their big three aggregates.

Accidental Rifle Discharge

This occurred on the Kaituna Rifle Range in April. It was the first time this has happened in the memory of any of our current shooters. A number of rules were broken, leading up to the discharge. No one was injured by the discharge. A full incident report was done. On the recommendation of our Chief Range Officer, the use of empty chamber flags was introduced at the start of this season. Some clarification was also done to the wording of the rules relating to the clearing of the rifle on the firing point.

Conclusion

We are entering a busier than usual period for the organisation with the upcoming World Championships. You will never get a better, or cheaper, chance to attend a World Championships. It will be at least 24 years before it comes back to New Zealand, if it ever comes back. I still remember shooting the last one at Trentham as a B grader in 1995.

Most of us put a lot of effort into this association and into our clubs. The retention of members and the recruitment of new shooters is ongoing for us all. Giving up time to encourage and help new shooters is both rewarding and educational. The best way to learn yourself is to teach someone else. A good question to ask yourself and your club members is "have I replaced myself". If we all just got one new member we would double the size of the organisation.

Thank you to all of those people who have given of their time and expertise to NRANZ over the past year. Thanks to all that have helped and advised me.

My last thank you is to my shooting widow Gail, and my other family members, for their tolerance and support of my absences and frequent trips away.

Malcolm Dodson
NRANZ President