



# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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## **NRNZ PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AGM 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

It has been good to see our shooting programmes going ahead around the country and being largely unaffected by covid.

The Nationals have again got a lift in entry numbers, and that has mostly come from an increase in kiwis, and not from international visitors returning, although we do have some this year.

The preparation for the Nationals has as usual been kept well in hand with the office end run by Helen and the Executive, and the Range preparation by Alan Whiteman and the Wednesday Gang. The whole crew are very experienced at this, having the wisdom of age and years of practice. They all do it for the love of the sport and the only one receiving remuneration is the Secretary. We all owe a huge vote of thanks to this dedicated group that do so much for us all so that we can come here once a year and enjoy ourselves.

### **International Shooting**

Our F Class Team for the 2023 World Championships are well down the track with their training and preparation having already had three training camps and a three day one still to be held. Thanks for the work being put in by Captain Ian Hughes and Manager Frank Duckett. The team leave on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

The TR World Championships are now 15 months away in March 2024. The Palma and Under 25 teams will be named at the dinner on Friday evening.

There have been a good number of nominations for both teams.

Further down the track the next F Class World Championships will be at Bisley in 2026 and the TR World Championships in 2028 also at Bisley.

### **E Targets**

After doing a lot of testing and a full cost analysis the decision was taken that we do not purchase E Targets for the National Championships.

The cost of the actual target was only a part of the cost of the requirements to run a National Championship.

E targets would certainly not have resulted in a decrease in the entry fee.

ICFRA have also not approved any E targets for international events.

### **Components**

Component supply has again been problematic with erratic supply, especially with USA sourced items. Currently the main worry is with F class projectiles and primers.

At the 2022 Nationals the F Class shooters agreed on a range of projectiles that NRNZ would source and stock for supply to members. The lead time is such that we have already placed more orders when we have not yet received some of the first order.

Powder supply issues seem to have largely eased with more regular shipments coming in

from Australia now that covid is not affecting production.

With Optimus, the makers of the HBC 155, going out of production, most TR and FTR Classic shooters will be having to change projectile in the next year or so as our existing stock of HBC's runs out.

NRANZ will have the Nosler and Hornady ELD-M 155's, and the Berger 155.5 in stock and possibly the Lapua 155.

There are going to be significant price rises for TR and FTR Classic shooters in particular as the price increase on these projectiles will be at least 30 cents at the cheapest end from the HBC price.

### **Firearms Regulations**

I have got to the stage of feeling a bit punch drunk with the stream of regulations and submissions which have been thrown at us in the last 9 months. I have spent over a week on the submissions and regulations, not to mention the lost sleep.

Firstly, it was the shambles that was the proposed Clubs and Ranges regulations.

The draft regulations had been written by people that I am sure had never been on civilian ranges in this country, such was the stupidity of some of the proposals.

They also did not understand the Incorporated Societies Act and the requirements of that.

The immediate upshot of the release was, Police HQ staff involved with it, offering all the National Shooting Organisations in the country an hour and a half face to face with them.

That was how badly they knew they had mucked it up.

Ross Mason and I certainly took them up on their offer as did all the other bodies.

COLFO did a great job in getting the guideline document done by lawyers which certainly made doing a good comprehensive submission a lot easier.

The Clubs and Ranges Regulations came into effect on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, but such was the rewrite required that they were only published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, 6 months late.

There was no extension to the date when we all must comply though, which is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June this year.

The published regulations have certainly been scaled back from the draft proposals.

There is a job to do getting Range Standing Orders done and sorting out the Range Operator and the requirements for that.

It is mostly a paper war as you would expect but there are some things which you need to get right already.

One of these is recording the sale of ammunition if the club sells ammunition.

Please ensure that you do all the record keeping that you should as I am sure that police will be monitoring records and like all bureaucrats looking to make an example of some club or range to prove their point that we need to be heavily regulated.

I had cause to take the Christchurch Police clubs and ranges guy to task over some of his sweeping generalisations about shooting clubs' safety, and the training that was being done. This was when he visited Blenheim to look at smallbore ranges. He certainly didn't like being challenged and within 24 hours I had a phone call from Peter Baird, the Police HQ guy in charge of clubs and ranges. It was an interesting conversation as it was the day after Police Minister Hipkins had been quoted in the media saying that these regulations may have prevented the Christchurch shootings by raising red flags or identifying the terrorist. The

implication yet again being that clubs had harboured and supported the terrorist. This is the kind of rubbish being fed to the minister by police. Needless to say, there was a response to the minister, and not just from me.

Incidentally the Dunedin club where the terrorist is supposed to have trained has never been told by police that anything they did was wrong or illegal. Same from the Royal Commission. They were extensively interviewed by both.

A couple of months after the draft clubs and ranges regulation came the draft regulations for registration. Another round of submissions to be done and sense made of their proposals.

Again, it was a case of the police wish list and registration being the cure all.

Security of the collected data is a real concern given the number of times that police have released information that they shouldn't have, or have been hacked, or left details of LFO's laying around in the recent past.

One proposal was the trigger event for your firearms to be entered in their system could be as simple as purchasing ammunition. You would then have a week to comply.

Wanting to know storage safe capacity so that if you purchased one firearm more than your stated safe capacity, it would raise a red flag. By modifying the racks in my safe I increased the capacity by 20%.

Again, Colfo did a good job of getting a draft guideline reply document.

The latest in police proposals are the fees that they want to charge us for the privilege of having firearms. A licence renewal up to \$1000.

They want to end the overseas shooters that support our sports across all disciplines with their proposed charges for visitor's licences, about \$450, and about the same for an import permit. For someone to come from Australia their cost to get their firearm here will be about the same as their trans-Tasman fares.

For us to go to Australia, the Australian visitor's licences varies from \$50 to \$75 and if you are attending a shooting competition there is no charge to import your rifle.

I am also concerned about the annual charges being levied on dealers. Anyone doing gunsmithing work now needs to have a dealer's licence, and a lot of our barrel fitters work from home. Their proposed charge is over a \$1000 a year. I know one that does our barrel fitting that is seriously considering giving it away with the fee being the final straw.

I predict in a few years' time that the number of FAL holders in NZ will drop from 250k to about 150k as many will decide to not renew and say they have disposed of their firearms. I also predict that there will be even more firearms in NZ held by unlicensed people as a result of the proposed charges.

Submissions on the proposed fees are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

### **Work ahead**

With all clubs having to be entered into the range certification and club licencing process with the absolute deadline of June this year there is a lot of paperwork to get on top of.

As club presidents you must drive this. Do not leave it.

We intend to have some draft guidelines that may help alongside what Police have produced. We have not been able to do much until the regulations were published.

With a new Incorporated Societies Act becoming law, all clubs are going to have to redo their constitutions to satisfy the new requirements, and all must re register. Being an Incorporated Club is also now a Police requirement to sell or supply ammunition, components are not ammunition.

### **Council**

We have had one meeting together in the last year, this being the two-day one mid-winter. There have also been four zoom meetings. The Zoom meetings have been a good way of keeping on top of issues and keeping up to date. They will continue. The Council are a pleasure to work with. There is a good diversity of opinions and vigorous debate on most topics, with constructive decisions being made.

### **Executive**

NRANZ is very well served by a very experienced Executive. Ross Mason has now been the Chairman for 11 years. Coby Snowden has been the treasurer for 8 years. Andre Doyle has served for longer than I can remember. Secretary Helen Morgan has been in the office for 8 years. All except Andre have expressed a desire to step down but have thus far been convinced to keep going. Helen has said that the 2025 Nationals will be her last. Not only has Ross been doing the Chairmans job but he has also been involved with the Firearms Community Advisory Forum. The FCAF group are a very diverse group that have regular meetings with Police. I know that at times it has been a frustrating and exasperating exercise. The one lot of draft regulations that they did not see before they were published were the Clubs and Ranges ones. It showed in the quality, or lack there of, of the draft regulations. Thank you for the work you have done here Ross.

### **Conclusion**

It has been a very busy year and it has felt like there has been no let up. Thank you to Helen, Ross, Coby and Andre for their wisdom and the work that they do. Thank you too to Brian Carter for your help and advice, it is much appreciated. To the Council, thank you for the work that you do and the great attitude that you all bring to the decision-making process. You are a great group to work with.

This coming year will be my last as President. It is an appropriate time once the last of the law changes have taken effect for someone else to take over.

Finally, my last thank you is to my wife Gail for her love and patience.

**Malcolm Dodson**  
**NRANZ President**