



# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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## **NRANZ Presidents Annual Report**

### **AGM 10 January 2024**

The last twelve months have been a period of consolidation with the raft of changes to the firearms laws coming to an end. Our clubs have handled the requirements of the regulations affecting them well and are all still functioning with their ranges. The proof though is still to come as for most, all we have done is get the range certification documentation done and our clubs registered.

For the bulk of our clubs, we are still awaiting the police inspection and sign off the Range Operating documents and the Range Standing Orders.

The announcement of the fees that are to be charged for a Firearms Licence and various permits proved to be politically unacceptable before the election, so has been postponed for the new Government to announce. We await with interest.

#### **Clubs and Ranges Certification.**

The process of getting our ranges inspected was largely done by a few of our members that put their hand up to get involved with attending Police training courses, and then spending their time getting inspections and reports done for clubs. It was a big time commitment and I thank you for your willingness to get involved and for doing the job.

Special thanks to John Snowden and Ross Mason for their work in getting some acceptance of our range rules and safety templates by Police and their work on those committees.

#### **Firearms Regulations**

The change of Government is going to bring more changes to the firearms laws as a review and rewrite is part of the coalition agreement.

The Clubs and Ranges Regulations are high on that agenda.

The political posturing from the anti's has already started and we can expect that to continue.

Given the process of changing laws and regulations I would not expect any changes to come into effect this year, so for us it will be business as usual under the current regulations.

Given that the change process is being driven by the Right Honourable Nicole McKee, MP, I would expect any new processes required of clubs to be a lot more user friendly as she certainly has a very good working knowledge of the subject.

#### **Incorporated Societies Act**

The new Incorporated Societies Act has come into effect with a deadline of 2026 for all organisations that want to be incorporated to have all the documentation in place, and the processes completed.

It is again going to require quite a bit of work for your club wordsmiths and getting the documentation done in a timely manner.

Changes to club constitutions need to be done at AGM's or Special General meetings, so it is not just a case of doing up a constitution and sending it in.

There are templates available, and I am sure more information will come on those.

Of concern in the new Act is the requirement that Club Officers names and addresses are all going to be publicly available on the Incorporated Societies website.

This has serious implications for firearms related organisations as it is a location guide for criminals as to where there are probably firearms are located.

There is an application process to have those names and addresses withheld. There will be more to come on this matter soon.

## **National Championships**

Attendance at this year's National Championships is up again this year, largely driven by our Trans-Tasman neighbours coming with F Class teams, and the return of international individual competitors.

All the target and range preparation is as usual done by the "Wednesday Gang". I think it closely resembles a men's shed for older NRANZ members, but however it works, they do a great job of getting the preparation and maintenance done as required.

Thanks, guys, for your work and dedication.

## **International Shooting**

Our F Open shooters have now got a real appetite for international team shooting after their experience at the World Championships in South Africa in March 2023.

The NZ Team, led by Ian Hughes, had a great trip with many top personal results and solid team performances, considering it was their first World Championships.

Having four South African expats in the team certainly helped with organisation prior to travel, and on the ground in South Africa.

The F Open shooters are already planning for the next World Championships at Bisley in 2026 with Peter Kynoch being named as the Captain.

It would be good to see the same happening for our FTR shooters.

In March this year our Open and Under 25 TR teams will attend their Long Range World Championships and the Palma Match in South Africa.

The teams have had 4 training weekends and have one more before departure.

Good luck and good shooting for those teams.

## **Components**

The supply of all components can only be described as erratic.

After problems getting powder a few years ago, supply seemed to have become more reliable, but now again supply of some powder types is becoming problematic.

Projectile supply just seems to need a long lead time especially now that we only really have American sourced ones available, with the demise of Australian production.

Primers are hard to get currently with stocks low everywhere.

As with all things that are in short supply, when they do become available there is inevitably some stockpiling that goes on which only compounds the shortages.

The law of supply and demand is also on full display with margins being pushed up by those that are in the supply chain. Primers are the obvious one here, you can't tell me the cost of production has trebled in three years.

## **NRANZ Council**

At the winter Council meeting there was discussion around selection of teams, especially for overseas matches. The result was that there will now be a squad selected to travel which may have more than the required number of members than that needed for the main team's match.

It is what many overseas teams do now.

It will give a bigger pool for team selections to be made from once overseas.

Council have had one meeting together for two days in June, and a zoom meeting roughly every two months during the year.

All Councillors have good and constructive input, with a good diversity of opinions.

It is and has been a pleasure to work with a group of people with a strong commitment to our sport.

Thanks to Vice President Brian Carter for his support and advice for the last 5 years.

## **Executive**

The administration of our sport by our Executive just seems to happen with no fuss and bother.

That makes it sound easy and simple, but it is actually a reflection of the experience and abilities of that small group.

The Chairman, Ross Mason, has been doing the job now for 11 years. At the last two winter meetings he has stood down saying he wants to retire but no one else wants to step up. Ross continues as our Acting Chairman. Thank you, Ross, for the time and energy that you bring to the Chairmans job.

Vice Chairman, Andre Doyle, has been around and keeping his hand up to do the work for as long as many of us can remember, and a lot longer than most that are in the sport. His experience includes being a past Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Andre has been and is a tireless worker for NRANZ.

Treasurer, Coby Snowden, has been the treasurer for 8 years. We have been very lucky to have someone of her calibre in charge of the finances. We also have the bonus of having had our annual report delivered in rhyme. The 2019 World Championships were a lot of extra work for her.

Our National Secretary, Helen Morgan, has been in the job now for 9 years. She is the first port of call for anyone wanting to contact the organisation or wanting information and members are always wanting something. Having been a shooter herself and around the sport for most of her life, she knows the sport inside and out, and seems to personally know everyone. I have always enjoyed working with Helen. From my perspective you have made my job easy, but I am not sure if you can say the same thing about me.

As a group the Executive have all been in their jobs at least as long as I have been President. This stability in the roles has made my job easy but there is a growing prospect of a lot of changes coming at once, which will no doubt be a bit disruptive.

### **Looking back**

The highs and the lows of my term as President both really came in 2019. The World Championships were a great success thanks to the terrific work done by the organising committee headed up by Rob Morgan. Special for me was having our Under 21 team win their World Championship and the Under 25 team finish third. This was the third World Championships that I had been involved with the Undies.

Close on the heels of the World Championships came the terrorist shootings in Christchurch. At times following that it felt like we were fighting for survival with anyone having anything to do with firearms being treated like a terrorist or at least a nutter. When you line up the news media going on a witch hunt and making up the next headline, Politicians out to look good and being seen to be doing something, the worst possible reason, and Police taking advantage of the opportunity presented to them by Government to write a new set of laws and regulations in an environment where the Government just rubber stamped it, it was a recipe for getting railroaded when it came to support for the use of firearms.

In the aftermath, Nicole McKee, as the Colfo Secretary and spokesperson, did a great job defending shooters and firearms by being calm, logical and factual, something that at times was sadly lacking from the other side. Colfo has done a great job behind the scenes and their support on the submission process for the numerous lots of regulations has been invaluable. The guideline documents that were made freely available cost quite a lot to get done. The Clubs and Ranges one cost over \$30,000 for example. The Clubs and Ranges original proposals, were written I am sure, by people that had never been on civilian ranges, such was the lack of quality thought and process in them. Slowly there has been a change in much public opinion about firearms use and the fact that we not all terrorists and gun nuts.

Covid was a big disruption to our clubs and shooting with the Nationals having to comply with Government rules around numbers and vaccinations. Whatever your opinion, we had to follow the rules or risk being shut down. Unfortunately, the vaccine mandates have cost us some members.

A couple of the more significant things that have been done in our sport was the introduction of the F-PR class which is certainly bringing new shooters into target shooting. Many thanks go to Graham Piper and his Hamilton Whatawhata clubmates for driving the adoption of this class.

The introduction of FTR Classic, although decimating the ranks of FTR, has been a success with many club shooters choosing this option as it is a standard class, with at the time cheaper bullets. Although the FTR numbers are low now, they were only high because of the number of shooters using the 155 bullets and not heavier ones.

The numbers now shooting this class a Provincial and National level have proved the need. Back in the 1990's it was the original proposal for FTR, use the TR bullet rule, before it went open.

### **Summary**

There is an old Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times" and the last eight years have certainly been an interesting time for the Association. The highs have been huge, and the lows have been equally far down. The time spent on the regulations has at times been draining.

The sport is, I believe, on the increase but the ramping up of component costs could well have a negative effect on numbers.

The balance of numbers in the Classes is changing with TR slowly declining and F Class numbers as a percentage of membership growing.

Clubs need to work hard to attract new members and work to keep them. It doesn't happen overnight, and you have to keep at it.

We have so many people that put a huge amount of effort into their club and range to keep the sport alive. Thank you for your work.

My lasting memory of being your President will be the quality of the people that I have had the pleasure of working with. Helen and CRO Rob, Ross, Coby and Andre, the Executive. Councillors, Vice President Brian, Diane, Amy, Larry, Darryl, Graham, Chris, Paul and Jonno.

Also, thanks to those that have retired during my term for your contribution.

The final thanks as always goes to my wife Gail for her love and support.

Malcolm Dodson  
NRANZ President