



## NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND Inc.

Seddon Range, Trentham, Wellington, New Zealand

PO Box 47036 Trentham 5134

email: nranz@xtra.co.nz www.nranz.com

Phone +64 4 528 4843 Fax +64 4 528 4198

### **Presidents Report - January 2012**

#### **Management**

The past twelve months has seen a reduction in Council Meetings, partially as the work requirements of Council has been reduced and there was of course a desire to reduce costs. Nevertheless, your Council has again done a splendid job of giving freely of their time and giving due consideration to decisions they have taken. I thank the members of Council for their hard work and diligence and, I am pleased to report, foresight and care for the future of their sport.

The ever increasing and complicated lot of our Secretary Andre Doyle has been met with the type of attitude I expected from him and I thank him for that plus for the extra work that he does over and above his employment agreement and this, coupled with his huge efforts as our Honorary Treasurer, has played a big part in the progress the Association has made in recent times. There needs to be continued efforts however, to improve the office and its functionality in order to provide the members with a more modern and affordable service and this will remain an ongoing task.

#### **Finances**

The finances of the Association are running close to budget with a decrease in deficit from the 2009/2010 financial year and this with some planned increases in certain areas of expenditure. However, our operating costs are still more than our income and I would like to see this gap closed even more this year. Initiatives like our new web site and a new championship/membership programme will incur one off costs of course but will be financially beneficial in the long run.

#### **Changes and improvements**

As I stated in my report 12 months ago, Council is set on a path of necessary change for the Association and I sincerely hope that continues. During the past twelve months we have undertaken development of a new and exciting web site. This site will be developed further as we understand and deliver the associations requirements. The site developer, Hugh Frostick, has gone out of his way to make sure we are going to get what we want and has made many financial concessions. One of the recommendations for the future growth of our style of shooting is for clubs to have their own web site, to be used as a tool for attracting members and not just gathering scores. NRANZ will have a proposal for clubs and the information and implementation of this will become a priority after the current championships.

There has been for some time a need for a computer programme that will assist the secretary and clubs in controlling membership data and supplying clubs with the ability to take the load off the office, and our part time employee. That programme has been developed and not only does it include important membership data processes, it replaces the old "blue screen" programme that was written by Tony Halberg over 20 years ago and used as the National Championships records programme.

Once again, the writer of this programme, Grant Barnett, has given us value way above its cost and will actually be here during the week, at no cost, to see that things run smoothly. It is planned that in the future, this programme may perhaps be used at club and association level also.

Thanks to Tony Loughnan we now have a Range Accreditation Process and qualified Range Inspectors who are to be tasked with certification of all of the NRA (Civilian) ranges in the country. This will be a deliberate and ongoing job to bring more focus on safety and range capabilities and to ensure we satisfy legal and insurance requirements.

During the year we saw the adoption of the ICFRA Rules and Regulations for F-Class Rifle Shooting. These were adopted with a couple of changes, namely the coincidence of scoring rings with TR class and the allowance of a sound moderator. With the changes to the FTR section it is hoped that there will be a more even competition and an increase in popularity of this class.

### **Membership**

Increasing membership continues slowly, but increasing just the same. The need to continue membership initiatives is imperative and I am confident that should the drive and enthusiasm of a gradually growing group continue then we will see this trend not only continue but increase. Special mention in this area is due to John Martin and Malcolm Dodson who both put in huge amounts of time at the junior level. There is ongoing Council work in attempts to increase membership and it must remain the associations, as well as member clubs, number one priority for the foreseeable future.

### **Seddon Range**

The signing of a licence to occupy Seddon Range, part of the Trentham Rifle Range Reserve, for the next 30 years is a huge milestone for us. This drawn out process was outlined in the Licence Announcement and plea for donations last September.

I would like to once again thank Tony Loughnan and Brian Carter for the years of toil they put into this project and the ground work they laid towards the final outcome. Similarly in more recent times the work of Andre Doyle who worked beyond the terms of his position of Secretary as the contact person with our legal team - and in attempting to keep costs to a reasonable level.

This task has unfortunately taken up so much time of a few volunteers over a long period of time and has served to take our eye off the ball regarding our main concerns, like membership. It has also served to wear down some of us and the past few months has seen recuperation somewhat of a priority, unfortunately to the detriment of some tasks.

There is still some work to do with the licence however, and the Range Standing Orders is next in line for a major review.

Contrary to some opinions being aired, there is now the opportunity to use this document to negotiate the terms of use so not only must we make sure that our main interests are catered for, we must also seize the opportunity to include other shooting disciplines in the document so that, for example, classic and military style firearms are able to be used once again on Seddon. The fact that NRANZ have primacy of lease as a clause of the licence means that should we desire to include other types of shooting and, have done the homework regarding the legalities of that, then the possibilities of counting those firearms users as members of the Association is an exciting one. I hope to see the Range Standing Orders eventually reflect the true capability of the Seddon Range.

The cost of the lawyers used in the negotiations with Defence was, as previously reported, some 23K, a necessary expense to the final outcome and not a lot in the greater scheme of things. However, 23K is a large slice of our annual income and there was no hesitation or embarrassment in requesting donations for cost recovery, and there was certainly nothing to lose. I am very pleased to report that to date we have received over 20K in donations from extremely generous individuals, clubs and associations including a surprising number from overseas and from some non members of the Association. To those who have been able to donate to this cause, I thank you on the Associations behalf, both for your generosity and especially for your understanding of the benefits the Seddon Range brings to this organisation.

It must be understood though that the use of the range comes with conditions. The care of the range must increase and that will incur more costs. Although we have an agreement that sees shared ongoing maintenance, the range is in somewhat of a state of disrepair and there will be a detailed plan for improvements within the next six months. This plan will include upgrades to the mounds and formation of a zeroing facility to name but two. I would hope that there will also be enthusiasm to include a major restructure of the village and surrounding areas so we can present our complex as, once again, a world class shooting venue.

### **Competition & Awards**

The New Zealand teams that competed in the Palma events in Brisbane achieved a mixture of success with the disappointment of the national teams performance offset somewhat by the showing of the Juniors. This young group showed that there is particular strength in the young brigade and that our membership and juniors initiatives have merit and bodes well for our future. There was great pride of course that there were so many Kiwi's at this event with the Veterans Team competing as well and I am pleased to report that all of the NZ reps represented their country with great pride and dignity.

Palma 2019 has officially been awarded to NRANZ. Planning for this will begin within the next year with the main focus being Seddon Range upgrade and sponsorship for the event. If anyone can supply leads for possible sponsorship then please contact the Secretary.

Those of you present at last years Nationals final presentation will recall a generous donation from Jillian Bray and Rayellen Chisolm, both daughters of Eric Ballinger, to be used to encourage young shooters to participate in the National Champs. The "Ballinger Scholarship" will be spread over the next five years and this year there are five new members who are to receive \$200 each towards their first ever National Championship entry. This is a great initiative and should we get 5 new participants each year it will be well worth while and I am sure, pleasing to the donors.

The Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) was awarded to two recipients last year, Peter O'Flaherty and Ernie Gilchrist. I am a little surprised that there have been so few nominations for this award so please, those of you with influence please give consideration to those around you who have given exceptional service to your club, association or our sport in general. Please also consider those who are perhaps no longer active in our sport, or are indeed non members but have done much in the past.

Likewise, there have been few requests over the past few years for the NRANZ Veterans Badge. I am of the opinion that this award must have been forgotten somewhat. I am sure that we have in our numbers some who fit the criteria for this which is club recommendation, 40 years of service and having reached the age of 65. This year we are pleased to present this particular award to Petone's Bob Pearce.

### **Conclusion**

Last year we celebrated 150 years since the beginning of participation for the Rifle National Champion and it was won by Richard Rowlands from Malvern. Congratulations to Richard and to all the other winners and indeed participants.

This years indications are for a reduced field and we are obligated to ensure that the championship does not cause hardship to our coffers. In fact, the championship is budgeted as being a substantial earner for us so as changes to format are required then we must consider all available options. I am sure there will be some debate on the reduction of the "Final" numbers and welcome that.

I wish to thank all of those people who have contributed to NRANZ over the past year and to those who have assisted both myself and others in an effort to improve Fullbore Rifle Shootings lot. There have been some trials and tribulations this year but on the whole, it has been a pretty satisfying one.



Darryl Crow  
President