



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND Inc.

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Presidents Report - January 2013

Management

I would like to thank Council for once again giving freely of their time for meetings and for giving time and due consideration to decisions they have taken.

There have been changes of personnel this year and I would like to thank Jim Dunn for his many years of hard work and dedication to Council and to Ray Vine for his acumen and common sense in his role as Deputy Chairman and as a member of the Executive Secretariat. Also to Rick Fincham, who during his terms as Wellington Councillor added logical argument and strength to his exemplary work ethic and care for our Association.

As well as being a Councillor as Treasurer, our Secretary Andre Doyle has been working, once again, beyond his terms of employment and the Association owes him a special vote of thanks for his business aptitude and attitude and willingness to get the job done. Andre has enlisted a bit of help this year and I would especially like to mention appreciation of the time given by Kevin Win. As I reported last year, there needs to be continued work to improve the office and its functionality and we will continue down that path.

Finances

The finances of the Association have again run close to budget with a similar deficit to the 2010/2011 financial year. The lower numbers at last years Nationals impacted our final result, but that was expected and the overall outcome was a foreseeable so acceptable conclusion. We also had some one off expenditure that will not occur again this year.

A pleasing result was that, without the National Champs losses, our operating costs were less than our income for the first time in a while and with continued financial responsibility I would expect to see this as a trend that will continue in the future.

Income sources are suffering though and with a trend of diminishing ammo sales and championship days, there must be a concerted effort to support and or diversify if we are to maintain lower subscription and entry fees.

Membership

It is pleasing to once again report an increase in membership with many young recruits amongst the numbers. Your Council is keeping a high priority on this aspect and will continue to do so with spending and resources in the right areas. With assistance from Clubs and individuals, It will remain our number one priority.

Unfortunately, your Council implemented some clauses of our Constitution which saw an individual's membership terminated recently. This was an unpleasant decision taken after much deliberation and one that I hope is not required to be repeated any time soon.

Life Membership

It was a sad day that I informed the son of Tony Loughnan that his Dad had been awarded Life Membership of the Association. Sad because it was then known that Tony would not live for more than a couple of weeks and that I could not present the award to him.

Tony was made aware of the award however and it will be passed on to his family who are very proud of the honor earned by Tony over many years as the holder of many offices within the Association including that of President, and who was in the eyes of many the savior of Seddon Range during that tenure with his engineering expertise and determination.

Tony gave such sterling service to NRANZ in many areas that he has left a seriously big hole, nigh on impossible to fill, and although his life membership was short he was one of our most deserving recipients.

Changes and improvements

As I stated in last years report, Council continues on a path of necessary change for the Association. During the past twelve months our web site has developed well and is becoming crucial in delivering members needs and removing some of the work from our part time Secretary. It is also proving invaluable as a repository for Council information and makes some chores so much easier. We also now have the ability to deliver web sites to clubs at a discounted price and as New Plymouth have discovered, this is a great tool for membership and advertising. I urge Clubs to contact our Secretary for information on this as I am of the opinion that there is benefit to be gained for our most important aim, that of increasing membership.

Our new computer program (Rifle) has provided a tremendous improvement in the management of our office, clubs and members, and as acceptance is increasing so to is the value of its services. Accepted use of this tool will reduce costs over time and minimise errors regarding membership data. It will also eventually provide important historical membership data for use in planning.

Seddon Range

With the tenancy issue behind us for a while we must now accept more responsibility with how the range is used. An agreement within the licence is to deal with breaches of Standing Orders, however minor, so if in future you are approached about how something is happening that shouldn't be, please treat it as a positive and necessary step and assist the authorities with the progress required here. The Range Standing Orders have undergone a recent update and there will be progressive changes over the next year or two in a few other areas regarding range use.

There have been some substantial repairs undertaken on the range in order to keep it within required parameters for legal use. Thanks to the Wellington people for this and if it is not known, the range is checked on a regular basis by Army and required work is never far away. As usual, Alan Whiteman bears the brunt of this and thanks to him for that.

I reported last year that there was a desire to restructure the range complex and to this end, Tony Loughnan provided a draft plan to Council in July of last year. There will obviously be delays and issues now that Tony has gone but his planning thoughts will be given impetus where it can and not be left on the shelf. The state of disrepair of some parts of the range complex needs addressing in any case so this plan remains a work in progress.

Awards

The NRANZ Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) was awarded this year to Don Gallop of the Whangarei Rifle Club.

Veteran Badges have been awarded to Don Gallop, Colin Simonsen, Wally Hewitt, Trevor Oliver, Bernard Laracy, John Apperley, Jim Southall and Stan Bowen.

Conclusion

Last year we celebrated 151 years since the beginning of participation for the Rifle National Champion and it was won handsomely by Brian Carter from Te Puke. Congratulations to Brian and to all the other winners - and indeed participants.

This years championship indications are for a increased field from last year and yet we remain obligated to ensure that the championship creates income. The reduction in the "final" numbers has been refined a little but remains based on finance and ability to conduct the whole finals afternoon with decorum and pride. Thanks go to all those who have been working hard to make this years event a success.

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 Council in an effort to improve Fullbore Rifle Shooting. There have been further trials and tribulations this year, which have mainly proved time consuming, but once again there are good signs of progress.



Darryl Crow
President