



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND Inc.

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Presidents Report - January 2014

Management

I would like to thank members of Council for once again giving freely of their time for meetings and for the due consideration to decisions they have taken. The time given by this group at, and indeed between, meetings is by no means minor and is of huge benefit to the association. Also, the work of others who have given time and assistance is as always, greatly appreciated.

Our Secretary Andre Doyle has been working, once again, beyond his terms of employment and as I stated last year and previous to that, the association owes him a special vote of thanks.

Alan Whiteman has continued to toil with Seddon Range management and care and with the assistance of Peter O'Flaherty and the renown Wednesday Gang, keeps the place ticking over and providing readiness for the National Champs. Thanks to all of you guys.

Membership

It is pleasing to once again report an increase in membership with many young folk again amongst the numbers. Our junior development programme is gaining momentum, and is also gaining members. As usual we are working as hard as time allows on our membership endeavors.

New range

The official opening of the new Hawkes Bay Rifle Club range at Horonui was held recently with the opening shot fired by David Ritchie, the land owner, at electronic targets. The Horonui range is the first "no danger" electronic range in New Zealand and is the result of hard work, perseverance and foresight by the clubs members, who are to be congratulated. It is not every day a rifle range is opened in New Zealand.

Range certification

Certification of club ranges has begun but this will be a longer journey than we would have liked. With the process underway however the end is of course nearer but the process is and will be affected over the next 12 months by the available time and training of officials.

Nationals

Last year we celebrated 152 years since the beginning of participation for the Rifle National Champion and it was won in style by John Snowden from Ashburton. Congratulations to John and to all the other trophy winners - and indeed all of the participants. This years championship indications are for a similar sized field as last year and so we can expect more of the same from a management point of view. An extremely good aspect is that the applications for the Ballinger Scholarship award, given to a first

timer at the nationals, exceeded the yearly allocation as decided for this award. We have accepted 11 applications which means there are 11 people here this week for their first nationals. An excellent outcome.

Teams of note

A first for NRANZ was being represented by an F Class team to the world champs in New Mexico, captained by Les Grimsey. Whilst the team were disappointed with their results the learning experience they gained will no doubt benefit future New Zealand F Class shooting. Congratulations to this team for their efforts, and for giving it a go.

The Ladies Team to South Africa, managed by Karyn Flanagan and captained by Nichole McKee, can be proud of their shooting achievements finishing runners up in all three internationals ahead of Australia and demonstrated great pride in their country. Well done team and also to the individual medallist.

Planning for 2015/2019

The 2019 world long range championships is to be held at Trentham. There is much planning and work to do and the planning anyway has begun. There is of course a competition for an official logo so if you have talent in this area then please have a go.

Malcolm Dodson is taking the New Zealand and Junior teams to the Palma matches in America next year. Training for selection for these teams is underway with much enthusiasm and I wish all contestants the best of luck with the journey.

Electronic targets

The introduction and wider acceptance of e-targets is pleasing. There will soon be 7 clubs using them with another 3 on the verge. Aside from undoubted improvement in marking, the fact that no personnel will be in the butts will remove many issues that are only just surfacing, like employment and safety concerns. In fact, if clubs use financial nous they will actually make money from e-targets after a couple of years. A novel concept perhaps? I would like to thank John Hastie for the effort he has put into this project of his as it will prove to be of huge benefit for the sport over time.

Awards

Veteran Badges have been earned and awarded to John Dodson, Dave Farnum, Barry Geange, John Scobie, Noel Bennett, Frank Eustace, Ray Hoy, George Knuckey and Cyril Schollum.

Life Members passing

It is with sadness that I record the recent passing of life members, Graham Derby and Ron Bowie. Both fine workers for our association who will be greatly missed.

Finances

I have left my statement regarding finances until the end of my report to give it a better chance of being remembered. The finances of the Association have taken a hit this year, as we have already heard from the Treasurer. With our income down but our expenses not, we are working hard to gather income from sponsorship and other initiatives. Karyn Flanagan has worked tirelessly in her short stint as our publicity and marketing person with some new initiatives and the history book that is currently on sale, along with some

apparel items will be a great help with our budget in this current financial year. Karyn has received tremendous assistance from Amy Hatcher and they both deserve much credit for what will be not only a historical piece but will generate much needed income for the association.

Our two main income sources are still suffering though with a continued trend of diminishing ammo sales and affiliation income. Although we have had good new member numbers again this year, there should be real concern from the whole association with diminishing affiliation returns and the root cause of that is that some clubs are of the opinion that affiliation of their members to NRANZ is optional - and that collection and payment of dues is at their leisure. It must be pointed out that NRANZ was formed by the clubs, initially to provide a National Championships and then later, other services. The clubs *ARE* the NRANZ and they need to fund it. The Secretary is constantly having to explain to club officials that ALL of their members are to pay subs and that it is in fact the responsibility of the club to collect and pay their dues. It is not acceptable for those clubs that do comply to have to subsidise those that break the rules and nor should they be their bankers by tolerating non and or late payment of those dues.

That some clubs openly disregard the fiscal rules of the association is intolerable and if not addressed will eventually lead to financial instability of the association. Maybe it is time for clubs to consider, in closed and open forum, the worth of their association and should they as a group conclude it is surplus to requirements and not worth funding, then wind it up. I urge club presidents to make this an issue within their club, to learn the history and purpose of the association and to take action, one way or the other. It will not be a pleasant task to impose penalties or increased fees, which is the next option of a responsible management. The association cannot continually run at a loss and we cannot simply penalise compliant clubs by increasing fees. If the clubs are not unified in their understanding of the rules and responsibilities and are not proud and supportive of the association, then there is scant long term hope for it anyway.

Cyril Schollum is 100 years old next week, has been a member for over 50 years and still pays his full subs. I guess he realises that he has gained great benefit from the association over the years, understands what it is for and what it provides and is proud to still be a part of it.

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.



Darryl Crow
President