

## **NRANZ Presidents Report 2018.**

Another year has rushed by and we are back at the National Championships again. There is a lot of work that goes into the Championships and that work load has grown considerably in the last 12 months, especially on those in and around Wellington in the run up to the World Long Range Championships. Please be tolerant of those that do the work and recognise their efforts.

### **Management and Organisation.**

The Council has worked well during the last year. All decisions that were made had good input from all Councillors. Thank you for your work and efforts on behalf of the members.

We had one Councillor, Darren Swaney, resign early in the year with no reason offered.

Ross Mason does a lot of work as Executive Chairman. The executive looks after the day to day management of the organisation. Thank you for the energy and effort that you bring to the job. He is ably supported by his deputy Andre Doyle.

Secretary Helen Morgan is a pleasure to work with and things are well organised. Thank you for keeping us all on our toes. The secretary's work load is going to be heavy in the next year. Please be aware of this workload when dealing with the office.

Coby Snowden is handling the Treasurers job as you would expect an accountant to, very well. The reports are easy to follow, and the budgets regularly reworked. She is also doing the treasurers job for the WLRC. There has also been extra work this year in changing our balance date to 31<sup>st</sup> August. Thank you for the work you do Coby.

Thanks also to Alan Whiteman for the work he does around the range and for the championships. Another one of the workers behind the scenes that we have all got used to being there and being an organiser.

The Wednesday Gang have also done a great deal of work this year building new targets in preparation for the increased numbers in 2018 and 2019. They also do a lot of the day to day work around the range keeping it tidy.

Karyn Flanagan has done the red book again and is getting good sponsorship for it. She is also doing sponsorship and publicity for 2019. The efforts Karyn put into the area of sponsorship sees the red book done at a profit.

All of the people mentioned give a lot of time and effort into this organisation to ensure that it runs smoothly and is managed well. Apart from the Secretary, none of them receive any remuneration for the work they do, and the Secretary does more hours than she is paid for.

### **WLRC 2019**

Organising this major event is well in hand with a strong and enthusiastic committee headed by Rob Morgan doing a sterling job. Early on, necessary improvements were identified and plans put in place to make them happen.

Behind the scenes the computers and the programmes need upgrading.

Staff need to be arranged and trained. Many volunteers are going to be needed, as we will have about 300 visitors here. As well as volunteers we need 50 markers, plus range staff, for 2 weeks, it will be no small task finding and training all of these people

The range itself also needs some capital works to get all of the targets fully operational, especially number 1-4 and 49-50. The mounds need leveling and filling in places. .

One of the most obvious improvements to the range for this event is the 1000 yard extension. Andre Doyle has planned, overseen and done a lot of the work to get it done for these nationals. It has made the mound a lot more user friendly, and safer. Funding was obtained to do this work.

One of the problems that we are having is trying to get a zero range established and operational again. Work will be ongoing to get one ready.

The entry fees for our Nationals next year will not be changing much, if at all. Early entries would be appreciated and there will probably be a financial incentive to do so.

The entry fee for the World Championships will be about \$500. It is more expensive than our Nationals, but it will never be cheaper for New Zealand TR shooters. I hope that you will take the opportunity to shoot in the event.

### **Membership**

Maintaining and getting new members is every members responsibility.

As a club you need to plan how you will look after new shooters, and look hard at what you are offering them. Would you use the gear that you offer to them.

New members are the only thing that will ensure the long term survival of this sport.

You are all here because you enjoy the sport and your involvement in it. Pass that on and mentor a new shooter, it will probably improve your own shooting too, and increase the enjoyment.

### **Ranges**

It is good to have some ranges reopening during the last year. The Ashburton range is now operational again after major work to redevelop it as a "no danger range". Over \$100,000 was spent getting it done.

The Westport range is open and being used again. The Nelson championships will again be held there this year after not being held for the last 2 years.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018.**

At the end of the trials process, our 2 representatives to attend these games are John Snowden and Brian Carter. They both dominated the process and will be worthy representatives. We wish them well in April. Bevan Mehrtens is again going as the manager.

At this point it may well be the last time that shooting is held at the Commonwealth Games, it is not on the programme for the next games. Strenuous efforts are being made to get shooting back on the programme.

### **National Championships.**

This year has seen a big jump in the numbers attending with our entries up to well over 200. Many of the systems and plans that we need to use in 2019 are being trialled this year. Please be tolerant of these changes and accept that with the prospect of 400 competitors here next year, some changes are necessary to how the shoot is run and the village is managed.

### **Teams**

Last year the honours were shared with Australia winning the Open team and NZ Veterans winning their respective trans Tasman matches.

It all steps up another gear this year with the Australians here in force again, with an Open team and a Veterans team. There are also teams here from the USA and Great Britain for the Monday and the mini Palma match on Sunday.

We also have the Australian F Open and FTR teams here to renew the Trans Tasman rivalry. It is a high mountain for our F class teams to scale to beat the Australians as their F Open Team won the world title in Canada in August and their FTR team were second, a great achievement.

We also have a Junior Development team here from New South Wales in Australia and our Under 21 squad shot against them.

Our Palma team for 2019, under the Captain Richard Rowlands, is taking shape with final selections to follow these championships. A number of training weekends have been held. New Zealand will also have a Veterans, Under 25 and Under 21 team for 2019. The first training weekend for the "Undies" was held in the autumn and a second in October with 15 in attendance. Nominations have been called for the Veterans team.

### **Beyond 2019**

At the winter Council meeting some time was spent looking beyond 2019.

This year we need to look at what we do and plan for the National Championships for 2020 and beyond.

Do we go to electronic targets. Is a week long programme still relevant. How do we get more New Zealanders to attend.

Time was also spent looking at our constitution with a discussion paper presented to the meeting.

I have heard a number of discussions around our name, the National Rifle Association of New Zealand. It has become unfortunate that there is so much negative publicity with the NRA part because the inference is that we have similar views to the NRA of America. I know many individual members have had to explain to people that we only share a name.

I believe that we need to have the words Target in our name, as we are a target shooting organisation.

### **Life Member Passing.**

Peter McLaughlan was a former NRANZ Treasurer and Secretary. As treasurer he was the one that first put the accounts onto a computer. He was in these roles in the mid nineties when the last World Championships were in NZ.

### **Conclusion.**

The main focus for the next year is obviously the World Championships. There is a lot of work to do. If you can help in any way, or know of anyone that would enjoy being one of the many volunteers during the event, please let the office know. You will also get to see the best in the world trying to master Trentham. If you compete you can measure yourself against them.

Let's hope the range doesn't go to sleep and it lives up to its hard won reputation.

We all put a lot of effort into our own clubs. Many also do this and find time to take on extra jobs for the greater organisation. I thank you all for your efforts during the last year, and long may it continue.

Lastly, thank you to my family and my shooting widow Gail, for your support, tolerance and acceptance of my absences during the last year.

Malcolm Dodson  
NRANZ President