

## **NRANZ Presidents Annual Report January 2021**

The past year started out as business as usual with our National Championships and various provincial meetings. In mid-March we were all thrown into a tailspin when the Covid 19 virus first made its impact felt. A number of late season championships were cancelled and club shooting halted while most of us had an enforced holiday.

The current season for most has been able to proceed without too much of a problem from Covid.

As a sport we have not been hurt very much financially as the lockdown came at the tail end of our season. Unlike TSNZ which had a major reduction in affiliations from the effects of the various lockdown levels extending into their normal affiliation period.

### **International Shooting.**

International shooting events have been affected by Covid. The first one was the World F Class Championships originally scheduled for April 2021 in South Africa. This has been postponed one year until April 2022. At this time I would doubt that we will be in a position to be able to attend as I don't think there will be viable international travel in time for us to be able to plan with confidence, after all it is now only 15 months away. We will be well into the second half of this year before vaccines start to become readily available. With the way the pandemic is raging around the world I seriously doubt this event will go ahead at the current planned time.

The second international event which was affected was the planned Australia Match at Bisley in 2021. Australia pulled out and the match cannot be held without them being there. It is now planned to be held at the Target Rifle World Long Range Championships in South Africa in 2023.

Closer to home we have had to turn down an invitation to send teams to Australia for matches in June at their Nationals. With the prospect of being caught and having to go into isolation, and with questions about insurance cover for cancellations there were too many risks involved.

### **New Zealand National Championships.**

For obvious reasons this will be our first Nationals in a very long time with no overseas competitors, many of whom have been regular attendees.

It is of special note that at this Nationals we have got nine first time attendees.

The attendance of New Zealanders is well up on previous years.

Life Member Alan Whiteman this year marks off thirty years as the marker organiser. Organising markers can be a frustrating job at the best of times but to do it for that long deserves special mention. Alan also continues with his other voluntary job as the Seddon Range Director and does a lot of the work behind the scenes during the championships. Thank you for the time and effort you put into this organisation.

A lot of the work in maintaining the range and the targets is carried out by the Wednesday Gang. This group of, I will call them very experienced men, are headed up and advised by Life Member John Hand, John will be 90 in March this year, and is still active and helping even though he doesn't shoot.

### **Council**

At a constructive and positive winter Council meeting the remits to establish two new shooting

classes were passed.

The F-PR class which was discussed here last year along with the class rules was the first one.

Thanks to Graham Piper for the work that he did in the formative stages.

The second new class which was named FTR Classic, is basically what FTR was originally planned as when it was first promulgated.

The two new classes have been well received around the ranges. I know in my own club they are the two most popular F Classes.

Thank you to the Councillors that give their time to represent the members. Councillors all have good input and freely voice their opinions on all matters.

Costs to the Association for this meeting are kept down with the out of Wellington Councillors being billeted.

With Council support Jon Phillipps is running 3 regional coaching clinics this season. Covid has impacted the planning but the first one has been held at the Malvern and Ashburton Ranges. Jon has many years of coaching experience especially within TSNZ. The two-day course has a full day of largely theory based work which people are always reluctant about but it is the day that you generally get the most out of. If you get the chance to attend please take up the opportunity.

Last year Bruce Millard retired from the Council after about twenty years as the Northern Regional Delegate. Bruce also served as President in 2014 and 2015. He is also the person that organises and runs the Barnard Competition. Thank you Bruce for your many years of service to the organisation.

### **Components.**

Ammunition component supply is a bit sporadic currently. Powder shipments from Australia seem to be getting delayed and certain powders are in short supply. Hopefully we have got enough for our members, but the container sizes could be an issue with mostly bigger units such as 4kg lots available. Primers are also a problem. Stockpiling in America with the election of a Democrat President seems to trigger this, as it did 12 years ago.

### **Firearms Legislation.**

The government have already signalled that there are more firearms regulation changes coming. With a new police minister we can hope that they listen to those with knowledge about firearms and not just what police and politicians want.

With that in mind as we all know, it was great to see Nicole McKee transfer her firearms media profile into a new job as a member of parliament. Congratulations Nicole on your election.

I hope some of those forming the legislation at least have the decency to ask for your opinions.

With this new job, she has retired as our representative on Colfo after many years, a fair portion of them as their secretary.

The year after the Christchurch massacre was very trying for all legitimate firearms owners but you did a great job in helping to turn public opinion with sound and reasoned statements, and a calm and logical approach to all of the media.

The legislation which has already been passed is going to have a direct impact on clubs. Your record keeping must thorough. Your range must be in good order and everything must be up to the specifications. Make sure that your club is registered with Incorporated Societies as that is a requirement. We know we have an exemplary safety record and we want to keep it that way.

**Life Member passing.**

Chester Burt passed away earlier last year. Chester was NRANZ President for over 5 years in the nineties. He was also a Ballinger Belt winner.

**Treasurer.**

Coby has been doing the treasurers job now for 6 years. The finances are being well managed and Coby and Helen have a good working relationship.

We had to change Auditors during the year and now have one based locally.

It is good to see a small profit in the annual accounts.

Thank you Coby once again for a job very well done.

Our sources of income are component sales, affiliations and interest. Interest rates are dropping and so is our income there. This seasons affiliations are about the same as last year. Having people in the clubs that don't affiliate basically means that you are prepared to subsidise their involvement. Associate membership is cheap. Our affiliation is also cheap compared to most other sports. By buying what components you can through the Association means you are supporting your sport and not lining someone elses pocket. It is difficult for us to supply projectiles for most of F Class as there are so many options but we have your other components or can source them.

**Secretary**

Thank you Helen for the smooth running of the office yet again. I think you are keeping to your 20 hours per week now which is good. I always enjoy working with you. With Rob now retired I hope that it is not contagious.

**Chairman and Vice Chairman.**

To Ross and Andre, thank you for the hours that you put in on a regular basis to help run the Association. It is all behind the scenes. Along with Alan Whiteman, dealing with Army with their changing requirements has kept you on your toes during the year.

**Finally.**

Thank you to the membership for having me as your President. It is an honour to do so. With good support from the Council and the Executive, and the sound advice I get from them it is mostly enjoyable.

Lastly thank you to my wife Gail for her love and support .

Malcolm Dodson  
NRANZ President