



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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NRANZ President's report – January 2025

This meeting marks the end of my first year as President of the National Rifle Association.

The year has been a very busy one for both me and the NRANZ Council. Face to face Council meetings were held in both June and December. Electronic meetings were held as required from time to time. Hardly a day goes by without some sort of email or communication regarding Council business. All these things are handled in good spirit by all, and all time donated by your Councillors free of charge. Thank you to Councillors for all of your efforts.

Submissions on proposed amendments to firearms legislation are ongoing and seemingly never ending. Those submissions and the administrative requirements of the legislation on our clubs have taken a significant toll upon the hard-working volunteers of our movement. There are more changes coming with a rewrite of the Arms Act now upon us. I would like to make special mention of Malcolm Dodson who has continued to shoulder the heavy burden of these submissions. Thank you, Malcolm, your ongoing efforts are greatly appreciated by us all.

After some two years of searching, it looks like we have finally found a replacement for our "Temporary Temporary" Chairman, Mr Ross Mason. Ross, you have been a hardworking and enthusiastic servant of our organisation for many years, and we all owe you a great debt of gratitude. Thank you for all you have done for us Ross, I hope you are now able spend some more time on the range enjoying your own shooting.

The day-to-day management of NRANZ is handled by our Executive Secretariat, Ross, Helen, Andre and Coby. Helen, thank you so much for your tireless efforts on our behalf, you do so much more than the scope of your part time position, and your assistance to me a new President (without a clue) has been greatly appreciated. Andre, the generous gift of your time and effort over many years continues in the background, thank you. Coby, this meeting marks your final act as our Treasurer, thank you for all you have done for us. I do hope you have given the incoming Treasurer some lessons in poetry?

One of the things I often note when visiting rifle ranges in other countries, is the poor state of the targets and mounds compared to those we enjoy here at Trentham. I have no doubt that the excellent targets and range conditions at Trentham are a direct result of the hundreds of hours of volunteer labour donated by the fabled "Wednesday Gang" Well done again team, the range and the targets are a real credit to you.

As you will all know, we are required by law to update our constitution so that it is compliant with the new Incorporated Societies Act. My thanks to those who gave us input, and to Larry Meredith and Daryl May for their assistance with the draft document that is now circulating for your final comments and input. I would like to see a final version in a form acceptable to everyone well ahead of the 2026 AGM, so that we are able to approve the constitution at that time and register the document soon thereafter.

In August last year we hosted a club membership workshop at Trentham. My thanks go to all those who attended and participated so generously with their ideas, and to those who have since made a real and significant attempt to implement some of the ideas that came from that weekend. For those clubs that were unable to attend, it is my hope that we will be able to hold another membership workshop that will build upon the knowledge we have gained to date, share our learned experience with all clubs, and make some concrete plans to assist clubs with membership going forward.

Whilst discussing the issues facing our clubs at the membership workshop, it became clear to all that some changes were beyond the control of individual clubs, and they needed to be implemented by NRANZ. Those things include (by way of example) things like our outward appearance to the public (website/brand/logo), having different types of membership, and making it easier to join our organisation. We need to recognise all the things we do well (like our world class Kings Prize Meeting), all the good stuff to be proud of (like our rich and wonderful history), but also, we need to be honest about the state of our aging membership and the fact that our organisation does not have a future unless we make real and significant change.

The demographics regarding firearms licencing are scary, young people are not taking up shooting sports, and the majority of licence holders are slowly but surely dying off. We cannot keep our clubs and ranges going with a shrinking membership, and we will soon fade away with our trophies in museums and our achievements and records a mere footnote in the history books of our country. The truth is that our organisation faces a crisis that threatens our very existence, and we need to accept and deal with that crisis as a priority.

For this reason, the Council have started working on a review of our organisation. We have already had input from another organisation which faced similar problems, and we intend to get more professional assistance going forward. We are not doing this for fun, it would be much easier for us to just put our head in the sand and keep doing the same things in the same way as they have always been done. I am telling you all this so that you know what we are doing, and why we are doing it. We will be asking you all for your thoughts about our core values, who you think we are, and what you believe we stand for. We will keep you informed, and we will not be walking away or turning our back on our wonderful history or the events we already run so successfully.

I know that many of you will not like change. I don't like change either, but I just don't see how we can exist going forward unless we urgently address our decline.

At last year's AGM I was a very reluctant to stand as nominee to be your President. As I drove home from Trentham last year, I was very worried about the fact that our organisation faced a grim future, and I had no way of solving the problems we faced. During this past year, with the input from those who attended our membership weekend, and learning from the experience of others, I have become more confident that there is a way forward, and we can have a future. There is much work to do, but with your support I'm prepared to give it a go.

Brian Carter
President NRANZ