

## OBITUARY FOR JIM MARSHALL

One of New Zealand's most valued rifle shooters died recently in Darfield.

Jim Marshall had been a stalwart of both Fullbore and smallbore shooting for more than seventy years.

He started life on his family's farm near Timaru, and started shooting in the 1950s at the Timaru Rifle Club range along the coast just south of the city. In the early 60s his family moved to a farm at Darfield in Central Canterbury, and he and his brother Sandy joined the Malvern Club.

Jim was the kind of man which any club would love to have as a member. Not only was he a regular and committed shooter, he also held most offices in the club at some stage, and he was always available when work needed to be done. When targets needed repairs or annual maintenance, Jim would take his little truck to the range, pick them up, and take them home to do all the work and then return them to the target shed at the range. I don't think he was ever asked to do it – he just did. At various times he held office on the Canterbury Rifle Association, being President for many years, and later until his death was Patron of CRA. He was an Honorary Life Member of both the Canterbury Rifle Association and the Malvern Rifle Club.

As well as being a regular at Malvern, Jim also regularly supported all the other provincial shoots in the South Island. From Invercargill to Nelson, Jim was well known and well respected, and it required something of major importance in his life for him to miss any of those championships. He was a valued member of Canterbury teams over many years.

He was also a regular at the NRA Championships at Trentham for many years, and was very proud to have qualified for the Queen's Final on at least two occasions.

It was not only fixing targets and competing which Jim did. For many years, he also took "learn to shoot" sessions with the local high school, at the smallbore range and then on to the fullbore range. Many of these students went on to become members and take part in our sport.

Jim was at his prime in those years between 1970 and the nineties. It was a time when shooters travelled a lot and enjoyed not only the competition, but also the joy and camaraderie, and fellowship which went with the sport then. Many were the late nights of 5 cent pontoon and other innocent hi-jinks enjoyed with Jim. He had a wonderful and perhaps whimsical sense of humour.

More recently, he was awarded the NRA Distinguished Service Medal for his services to shooting in NZ. It was an award he treasured and it, along with the citation for it, was displayed in his home.

It was not only in shooting that Jim was active. He was a very successful farmer, husband, and father. He was a member of JCs, Courtney A&P Society, and many other community bodies in his district.

His funeral was held on 29<sup>th</sup> August and the many people who attended were testimony to his popularity. A large number of past and present members of the Malvern Rifle Club was there along with many other shooters from around Canterbury.

He is survived by his wife of 60 plus years, Janice, and their three children. Graeme, the oldest was also a shooter and a member of our 2011 Palma team.

Life in Canterbury shooting in general and the Malvern Rifle Club in particular will not be the same, but the memory of Jim Marshall will remain for as long as those of us who knew him, remain.

Geoff Smith.

1/9/18