

August 2024

BULLSHOTS

Please continue viewing our web site and our Facebook pages as all Nowra Rifle Club announcements will be posted there.

The club will be using email in place of Australia Post mailouts so make sure you advise us of your email details and make sure that club emails are not going into your spam folder.

A.G.M. and COMMITTEE ELECTION 2024

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting of Nowra Rifle Club has been delayed. Normally the AGM is held on the second Saturday in August but due to the delay in getting the club's financial accounts to our auditor the AGM date can not be declared until we have a firm date to receive our audit report. Under our constitution we must call for committee nominations one month prior to the declared date of the AGM.

Notices advising the date will be posted to our website, Facebook, the front gate, shooting ranges and clubhouse so be aware and look for these signs.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALLBORE SHOOTING

Smallbore every second Wednesday night, consult the Club's calendar. This will give members the opportunity to complete their statutory shooting requirements, test ammunition, set up scopes etc. Please note, 22 rimfire call Standard Velocity ammunition only. The Smallbore Range will be open from 5.30pm.

Come along, brave the cold, have fun all undercover on the Smallbore Range.

Members are also advised that they can satisfy their 4-shoot target requirement on the 50m pistol range whenever members practice is scheduled. NOTE* rimfire rifles only.

PISTOL CLUB HOLSTER COURSE

The NRC pistol club is organising a holster accreditation course for H class license holders wishing to become holster accredited. If you shoot Service Pistol or are interested in Steel Challenge matches in the future you should be holster accredited. You can register your name for this course on the club's website. Cost for the all-day course will be \$100. The course will provide holster accreditation in addition to extensive instruction on shooter stance, accuracy etc. The course is being run by Tim Featonby who is the OIC of our club's peak body, the NSW Shooting Association. It will be a weekday course with a date yet to be announced as soon as total numbers are known. You will require a full H class license (probationary H class license holders are not eligible) together with a double action or single action revolver or semi-automatic handgun and suitable belt worn or thigh worn right or left-handed holster. The holster must fully cover the trigger of the handgun when fully holstered and have some form of lock that prevents the handgun from falling out or being unintentionally withdrawn.

NOTE** This accreditation course is not compatible with holster accreditation as adopted by SSAA for Single Action Cowboy or Wild Bunch matches.

RANGE WORKS:

- The second police container has been relocated adjacent to the new police container at the 100M practice range.
- The Shotgun shooting pads have had loads of road base placed around them in order to eliminate the reported trip hazard.
- The club's ride on mower had developed a serious problem where it had no forward power. Both hydraulic transmissions had been diagnosed as being faulty. The mower was 9 years old. Cost of new transmissions is \$1900 per side making a total of \$3800 plus labor. A new mower would cost between \$7500 and \$10,000 depending on model.

The Secretary tracked down a mower service center in Sydney who could refurbish the transmissions for \$500 per side plus GST & shipping so it was decided to have the drives refurbished. The mower is now fully operational and almost as good as new.

- The club's Kubota tractor was due for a service. Kubota didn't do a proper job the last time it was serviced. The local Kubota dealer couldn't service it at the South Nowra workshop so we would have to take it to Moss Vale so it was decided to service the tractor ourselves. The service was done and the tractor is back in operation.

- The Secretary stated that to service the mower & tractor the club needs some basic tools such as socket sets, ring/open end spanners, rattle gun etc. at a cost of approx. \$500. These tools were purchased and have been placed in the custody of the club's range curator and are locked away to prevent people borrowing them and forgetting to return them as has been the case in the past.
- The committee approved Robert Russell as a Service Pistol range officer. Moved by Garry Nosworthy, Seconded by Daniel Galea. Accepted by all present.
- Secretary has been doing assessment of mobile phone/internet coverage around 100m & clubhouse with a view to possible EFTPOS use on Shotgun & 100M range.
- Shoalhaven Shotgun Club will be provided with 4 clay target traps on loan to enable them to conduct a major competition. Traps to be returned in the same condition they were given. All new tubeless wheels have been fitted and photographs taken. Charlie & Ian to coordinate loan & return. The traps were returned in good condition.
- Solar powered courtesy lights have been installed to main clubhouse, small-bore range & toilet block.
- Solar power has been installed to the long-range rifle container to facilitate charging of the components of the electronic target system. Previously these components were transported off-range every week for charging.
- The solar powered surveillance/security camera at front gate sign is now fully operational and the comings and goings of members & guests can be monitored in real time so don't get caught being irresponsible, make sure you close the front gate if the red danger flags are displayed.
- Daniel Galea also mentioned that 5 long range rifle members competed successfully in the NSW state championships.
- Wally Beliaiev reported that the Last Posse was a success. Garry Nosworthy thanked Wally & Charlie Warren and in particular Charlie Warren's daughter Brittany for her efforts with promotion & catering.
- More traffic control signage has been placed on the range roadway. If you are entering the range going downhill you have 'right of way' over traffic leaving the range that must give way to you but please be courteous and slow down when you are driving on the range passing other vehicles.
- Government hirers had expressed a desire for mobile phone coverage on our range for safety and convenience reasons.

A motion by the Secretary was approved that the club purchase the necessary components and install a mobile phone repeater to enable both Telstra and Optus coverage simultaneously on the 100m, shotgun range & main clubhouse at a cost of approx. \$5000. To put things into perspective our government range hirers currently contribute about \$40K into club coffers annually so this action was a no-brainer.

- General works on the range are continuing. Front gate camera is now viewable in real time with about 30 days of memory and password restricted internet access is available down the range as far as the 500M firing point. The mobile phone repeater (Telstra) is currently being installed and completion is expected by the first week in September. If the performance is satisfactory then the second stage (Optus) will be started.
- Les Rosznyai reported that he and Daniel Galea had success at the state championships at Ungarie.
- Geoff Smith reported that he has renewed and paid for the NRC website domain and email accounts.
- Major refurbishment is being conducted on the causeway near the small-bore range to arrest the undermining of the roadway caused by constant flooding. The club is spending approx. \$10,000 on these refurbishment works.

THE MAIL BOX. The Club's Mailbox is located at the **MAIN CLUB HOUSE**. There is a slot under the MAIN CLUB HOUSE sign with the sign MAIL. The mail drops into a secured gun safe. All **Attendance Cards for Rifle and Pistol**, any information/mail you want to get to the committee/secretary/office please deposit it into the mailbox. **DO NOT PUT CASH** into this mailbox. The club will no longer accept or be responsible for membership subscriptions paid in cash and deposited into the clubhouse mailbox. If you wish to pay CASH for your club membership or late fees you must attend the Horizon Bank and deposit your CASH into the club's nominated bank account.

Do not, **DO NOT**, leave cards on the kitchen bench etc. the Club will not be responsible for lost cards.

SINGLE ACTION LAST POSSE.

Went well with a good roll up. Broke even financially.

RENDEZVOUS

Went well with a large number of visitors competing.

It's sad to see that support from our own members was light on the ground. Made money for the club which was a plus.

CLUB SHIRTS & CAPS. Members wishing to buy Club polo shirts, caps etc. can do so from Shoalhaven Embroidery 'LOGO SHACK'. Enquiries, please phone 0400 523 011.

TRY ANOTHER ACTIVITY

Your Club has a lot to offer. Take a look around. Pick something different, speak to the Code Captain or other shooters and give it a go. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLUB.

If you want to try Pistol Shooting then contact Garry Nosworthy, our Pistol Captain and Club Secretary, on mobile 0428 863 428

SAFETY. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Members are reminded that the use of mobile phones at the firing line is absolutely prohibited unless the phone is set in "Aircraft Mode" Use of mobile phones elsewhere on the range is conditional on not interfering with range safety or the concentration of shooters on the firing line. Taking photographs or videos of shooters & firearms is conditional on the individuals who are the subject either directly or indirectly of the photographs or video giving their consent.

Remember to keep your speed down when on the range and be courteous to other traffic. Down range traffic has right of way.

Reminder, all rifles must be pointing upwards when going to and from the firing line.

The wearing of SANDALS and THONGS is PROHIBITED, covered footwear only to be worn anywhere on the range. Covered footwear with socks on the pistol range.

Ear and Eye protection is Highly Recommended. Eye Protection is Mandatory for Muzzle Loaders.

Don't forget THE GUN IS ALWAYS LOADED

Advertising of Firearms and/or Firearm PARTS

Before posting a For Sale notice at NRC make sure you comply with the following requirements.

Part 6 > Section 54 of the Firearms Act 1996 (NSW) deals with the advertising of Firearms and Firearm PARTS in NSW. After a detailed reading of this Section, I have decided to continue to allow the advertising of firearms.

However, I have to insist on the following details being provided in the post:

The following is **REQUIRED** for **Advertising of Firearms**

- 1) The dealer's name and dealer licence number through whom the transfer will be arranged.
- 2) The firearms licence number of the seller.
- 3) The serial number of the firearm.

Advertising of Firearm PARTS

Where a part does not require a Dealer Transfer and/or does not have a serial number, items 1 and/or 3 can be removed.

All Firearm and Firearm Parts for sale must include item 2, i.e. The firearms licence number of the seller.

If the above 3 items are not included in the post where required, the advertisement will be deleted without warning.

Dealers

Advertising of goods for sale in commercial quantities or as a firearms dealer is **not permitted**.

DECEASED ESTATES

The Firearms Act requires registered firearms to be in the custody of a person with a firearms licence. When a licence holder dies, his executor is obliged to notify firearms registry of the death and then within six months from the date of death to transfer the firearms to a dealer or to a person with an appropriate licence. This disposal has to be done through a dealer who can transfer them to a licensed family member, advise of value and/or offer the firearms for sale.

The Club is drawing the attention of members to the issue of deceased estates.

Members should mention their firearms in their will, and make provision for a family member to be licensed so that person could take over the firearms from the executor, through a dealer.

If no family member is interested in taking over the firearms, members should consider bequeathing them to the Club, which means the firearms are being put to good use and providing a potential income for the Club.

Cliff Austen OAM
President

Some messages from the Nowra Rifle Club Secretary.

e-Membership Cards

The Nowra Rifle Club is considering the introduction of e-Membership Cards in 2025 to replace the familiar plastic membership cards.

e-Membership Cards would be sent by the club to your mobile smart phone once your membership renewal payment reaches our bank account. When you need to present it, you would call up the card on the phone just like any other phone App. One month out from your membership expiry date, the App on your phone would remind you to renew the membership. If you lose your phone or get a new phone the club can simply send a replacement card on request to your nominated phone for a small administration fee.

The club's administration is always looking for ways to make our operation more efficient and to keep our operating costs down so that we don't need to increase membership fees as often if at all.

With rising postage charges and escalating labour costs our membership renewal processes this year was an expensive and time-consuming ordeal, with costs exceeding \$14/member just for the bookkeeping labour, membership card and the distribution mailout. Our card printer which cost over \$3000 more than 10 years ago is on its last legs and will need replacement very soon if we continue to print in excess of 700 cards every year. The manufacturer no longer supports the model and we have had difficulty obtaining the print ribbons so e-membership cards are looking very attractive.

Email to replace Australia Post

This year we were able to make savings of more than \$3500 by issuing membership renewal notices using email rather than the Australia Post 'snail mail' but there were some teething problems caused by Google mail, some of our members with Gmail email addresses did not receive our email distributions and our mails did not bounce back so we didn't know about the problem initially. The other issue we found was caused by our members failing to regularly check their spam folder and failing to mark club emails as "not" spam. We also have a number of members who have not registered their email addresses with the club and in those cases, we were forced to use expensive

Australia Post 'snail mail'. Next year we will not use Australia Post mail at all so senior members without an active email address should make arrangements with their children or grandchildren to act as their postmaster by keeping them advised of our emails. Just keep the club advised of the email address where you want your mail notices to be sent.

Administration fee for late payment

Much to the frustration of the Secretary during this year's membership renewal process, many unnecessary and frustrating hours were spent chasing members who had not paid their membership fees by the due date despite our numerous emails, postings on our website, posting to Facebook and various notices placed on each shooting range and a large sign on the front gate immediately adjacent to the gate opening latch and membership cards that clearly show the membership expiry date. A lot of those very same members also failed to advise the club that their landline phone numbers and, in some cases, mobile phone numbers were no longer in use. Members are reminded that memberships fall due for renewal on the 30th April each year. If your membership of Nowra Rifle Club is your genuine reason for holding a firearms license it is a condition of your firearms license that you keep the club advised of your current address & contact number information. If you change your address, phone number or email you must keep the club advised. You must also advise Firearms Registry within 14 days if you change your address.

The committee will be considering the imposition of an administration charge for members who fail to renew their membership by the due date. If your membership lapses due to nonpayment of the fee within a reasonable time there is already a re-application fee in place of \$100 payable to restore your membership.

Shooting Record Cards.

I have lost count of the number of members who have either messaged me or emailed me stating that they have not received their blue or yellow shooting record cards with their membership card.

I have been involved with the club for more than 13 years and these record cards have never been mailed out with membership cards so having to constantly reply to these messages is more than frustrating. The club's shooting record calendar ends at the end of August each year and this date is clearly printed on the current cards so why would the club mail out new cards in April/May/June which would only confuse members.

Unlike past years the shooting record cards will not be distributed to members using Australia Post but rather they will be available from the various code captains/range officers from the last week in August and onwards. Each member will be provided with one card and members who are part of a family membership will be issued with the equivalent number of cards for each family member.

Your shooting record cards **MUST** be filled out and endorsed by the range officer **EVERY** time you shoot until the card is full. If you forget to bring your card to a shoot you will **NOT** get the benefit of that shoot unless you are able to make special arrangements with the range officers to search the sign in books. **There will be a \$50 cash fee imposed to search the sign in books and have a range officer endorse a late entry on your shooting record card. Be considerate, range officers are volunteers and don't need their valuable time wasted by forgetful shooters.**

Membership application forms.

The club's Membership Secretary, Julius Kudor is the **ONLY** individual who is authorised to distribute the club's Membership Application forms. When an applicant contacts the club wishing to become a member, they are contacted by phone where a determination is made as to whether they have a genuine need to join the club and partake in club activities or as in some cases they just want to sight in a rifle occasionally. If they are only interested

in sighting-in then they are advised to continue paying a visitor's fee. The membership Secretary will only distribute Membership Application forms as an emailed *.PDF document with the applicant's name embedded into the document in order to prevent unauthorised distribution. All other hard copy Membership Application forms **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**