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AMRA Chairman's Report

Where were you? If you shoot long range F class, this means you. The recent Tasmania Match Rifle and Long-Range F class competition in Campbell Town had only two F Open shooters (local, Neville McKinnell and a big thanks to Terry Sheedy from Queensland for making the trip) and one local FTR shooter (Alan Routledge). Yes, the numbers of Match Rifle shooters who regularly make the trip across the water were swelled by the Woomera practice, but it was a big disappointment that F class was noticeable only by its absence. The TRA puts on a good meeting, Campbell Town is a great range and the winds are always interesting. How about supporting long-range rifle shooting in the smallest state next year and giving Terry, Neville and Alan a proper competition?



On a more positive note, we have a good year of shooting ahead with the rest of the state championships and the Nationals at Coonabarabran. All good news for barrel makers.

I have been giving some thought to what we do in practice sessions on the range. Are any of us occasionally guilty of going to a practice without a plan in mind? Hopefully, not too often. Sometimes we go with the idea of repeating what we usually do with the aim of improving consistency. There is nothing wrong with that. Sometimes we go to the range to try something new, with the hope that this will result in a better performance. The problem comes when we go with the intention of the first (repeat what we usually do) but hope for the result from the second (get a better score). However, if you keep doing the same thing (eg in practice sessions), you should not be surprised when you get exactly the same answer. This had a familiar ring to it, and I made the mistake of checking its origin with Dr Google. I discovered that in one source, it is a definition of insanity! There are somewhat more positive interpretations, but enough philosophising.

Woomera Team update

I am pleased to report that the NRAA has approved the selection of the Woomera team to GB in 2019. Following the lead of the GB team to Australia in 2016, the team will number 18 including

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team officials. The full team list is available on the AMRA website. In further Woomera news, it has just been announced that Tim Kidner will be Captain of the GB Woomera Team in 2019.

The practice at Campbell Town went well, and I think the standard of shooting is improving. Perhaps the simplest area where improvements in scores can be made is working to eliminate the odd high and low shots that often mar a good shoot. The two likely culprits are ammunition extreme spreads and changes in position. Of course these apply to all aspects of shooting, but because we insist on shooting at long range, the effects are magnified.

Looking forward, Woomera Team practices start in the run up to the NSW State Championships and the focus will be on teamwork to enable shooters and coaches to work together like a well-oiled machine! Well that's the plan anyway.

Paul Monaghan
AMRA Chairman

For The Diary

3 & 4 May 2018 Australian Match Rifle Team Practice <i>Ungarie, NSW</i>	
5 & 6 May 2018 NSW Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships <i>Ungarie, NSW</i>	23 & 24 August 2018 Australian Match Rifle Team Practice <i>Lower Light, South Australia</i>
25 & 26 August 2018 South Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships <i>Lower Light SA</i>	1 Oct 2018 Australian Match Rifle Team Practice <i>Coonabarabran, NSW</i>
2-6 October 2018 Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships <i>Coonabarabran, NSW</i> 2 Oct to 5 th October (am) – Individual Championships 5 th October (pm) & 6 th October – State Teams for Match Rifle and F Open & an FTR Teams competition	
7 October 2018 Ultra Long Range Challenge – 1500 yards <i>Coonabarabran, NSW</i>	1 & 2 November 2018 Australian Match Rifle Team Practice <i>Stawell, VIC</i>
3 & 4 November 2018 Victorian Match Rifle and Long Range F Class Championships <i>Stawell, VIC</i>	



2018 Tasmanian MR & LRF Championships

Fabulous autumn weather greeted competitors in the 15th annual Tasmanian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class championships. Match Rifle competitors were well represented with an increase in shooters from recent years. Unfortunately there were only 2 F Open and 1 FTR shooters for the event.

Day 1 dawned with a coolish start which had visitors from the more northerly States pulling on their jumpers. Light breezes started the day which suited those first down at 1000 yards. Peter Maher won the range in Match Rifle Open with a 75.8, the only possible shot for the range. Barry Southern however was lamenting his last two shots, both inners, meaning he finished with only a 73 but 10 for his centre count. Terry Sheedy in F Open also had a great shoot finishing with 89/90 for the first range.



Moving back to 1100 yards and the wind was lifting (randomly!) with only half the match rifle field able to break 70. Shaun Wingrove (ACT) took the range for Match Rifle Open with a creditable 73.6. Two locals, Stephen Clarke & Mark Walters (both from Launceston), battled it out for honours in Match Rifle Reserve with Stephen on 70.5 taking the honours from Mark on 70.3.



The final range for Day 1 was 1200 yards. Nobody was able to break 70 in the conditions and Rob Halloran took the honours for Match Rifle Open on 69.2 with Stephen Clarke (66.2) winning Match Rifle Reserve.

At the end of the first day only 3 points separated the first three placings in Match Rifle Open -Shaun Wingrove (ACT) 215.14, Rob Halloran (NSW)

214.13 and Paul Monaghan (TAS) 213.14. Stephen Clarke 209.10 lead Mark Walters in Reserve by 5 points and Terry Sheedy led Neville McKinnel in F Open by 26 points. Alan Routledge in his first go at long range FTR put in a creditable 211.

Day 2 warmed up and so did the scores with Paul Monaghan taking MR Open at 1000 yards with a 75.11 from Shane Courtney on 75.8. Day 2 proved to be "Monaghan Day" with Paul also going on to take 1100 yards on 74.5 and the 20 shot 1200 yard match with 94.6 giving him the Grand Aggregate win on 456.36, 3 points ahead of Rob Halloran on 453.29.





In Match Rifle Reserve, Mark Walters and Stephen Clarke went range for range with scores tied on 74.7 at 1000 yards, Mark (70.5) pipping Stephen (70.3) by 2 centres at 1100 yards – exactly reversing the previous day's 1100 yd result! But at the last range it was David Rich who came through with an 89.4 for the 20 shot match. Victory in the Grand Aggregate for Reserve went to Stephen Clarke by a single solitary point on 437.22 with Mark Walters finishing on 436.24.



Grand Aggregate for F Open went to Terry Sheedy on 507 from Neville McKinnel on 470 and in FTR went to Alan Routledge on 447.

Special thanks to Noelene, Brian and Andrew and all the Markers for their great work in making this such a happy and enjoyable competition.

NSW Match Rifle and Long Range F Class Open State Championships

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th May 2018

Ungarie Rifle Range, NSW

Featuring the:

Keith R. Herron
Match Rifle Grand Aggregate
& the

FTR & F Class Open
Long Range Grand Aggregates

Saturday 3 sighters and 15 shots @ 1000 and 1100 yards
3 sighters and 20 shots @ 1200 yards

Sunday 2 sighters and 15 shots @ 1000, 1100 & 1200 yards

Grand Aggregate Badges

1st, 2nd & 3rd Match Rifle Open Class
1st & 2nd Match Rifle Reserve Class
1st, 2nd & 3rd F Class (Open)
1st & 2nd FTR

Range Prizes

Paid Markers

Shooting starts at 9.00 am on Saturday and 8.30 am on Sunday.

Practice Session - Friday 4th May commencing at 12 noon. (\$15)

Entry Fee - \$90 (for the two days)

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AMRA Membership Fees – 2017/18

AMRA Membership is now paid on an annual basis and fees for 2017/18 became due on 1 July 2017.

Membership Fees of **\$20** can be paid by direct deposit to Australian Match Rifle Account as below:

Account Name: Australian Match Rifle Association Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 140420423

Reference: **FEES and then Your Initial & Surname**

Please email your payment receipt to info@matchrifle.org

Alternately payment can be made by cheque payable to Australian Match Rifle Association and sent to
PO Box 535, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

2018 Merton Vale 1500 Yd Championship

Following the conclusion of the Tasmanian Match Rifle and Long Range F Class Championships, 11 brave souls fronted up for the 1500 yard championships on the Monday morning.

This year the Merton Vale Championships was expanded to 3 ranges at 1500 yards, each of 15 shots.

The First Stage got off to a great start with near perfect wind conditions – highly unusual for Campbell Town! In Match Rifle, Paul Monaghan continued his winning way from the weekend putting down a 71.2 (a score that couldn't be beaten for the rest of the day) and 5 of the other shooters scoring 65 or over. Gil Walker and Chris Halloran tied for the highest centre count on the first range, each with 4 centres.

Campbell Town however came to the fore in Stages 2 and 3 with a reasonably light fishtailing wind taking shooters from about 7 right to 3 left – variations which saw plenty of magpies flying around (or was that a *murder of crows*?).

Paul Monaghan (TAS) took the day in Match Rifle with a 71.2, 61.1 and 62.4 for a total 194.07. Second was another Tasmanian, Mark Walters, on 170.3 with David Rich from Victoria only a point behind on 169.03.

Terry Sheedy (F Open) and Alan Routledge (FTR) were unchallenged in their disciplines

Special thanks to the Markers for their great work





Celebrating 25 Years of Australian Match Rifle Competition

The 2018 Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships to be held in Coonabarabran (NSW) in October this year, will mark 25 years of National Match Rifle competition in Australia.

The first Australian Match Rifle Championships were held at the Woomera Rifle Range in South Australia from 6-9 October 1993 with 36 hardy Australians and 2 brave Englishmen lining up for the competition.

Below, James Freebairn (founding President and Honorary Life Member of the Australian Match Rifle Association), shares his memories of this inaugural competition.

It was held on the Woomera Rifle Club range which is on the former Australian Woomera Rocket Research facility about 20km North West of the town on the original 'G Range' of the rocket era. Leftover buildings of use were the Mess Hall, showers and toilets, as well as a shed suitable for target making & storage. The aspect of the range was east to west which caused problems about mid-afternoon when the sun shone directly into sights and spotting scopes. Shooting was planned to be over for the day by then.

The range is situated on a piece of flat desert country with gibbers, small salt bush and no trees. Tony Hoare (AMRA Hon. Life Member) and helpers were able to have the range enlarged from the original four targets up to 1000yds, to 10 targets up to 1200yds. Among the 40 or so competitors were NRAA Chairman, Alistair McPherson; Deputy Chairman, Colin Kuchel; Philip Saul (a back-gunner), who at the time was Treasurer of NRAGB; and Michael Davis (also from England) who was a front-gunner and the only shooter with a telescopic sight.

Alistair McPherson, on behalf of NRAA, welcomed everybody and then fired the opening shot.

The three classes of competitors included Open Match Rifle under the same rules as present, with shooters using bullets such as 185gn Berger, 155gn Sierra, 168gn Sierra and others. Suitable projectiles were not readily available, so whatever could be obtained was used. Reserve grade had the same rules as Open MR, but was restricted to Australian B & C graders. B Class was for those shooting ADI 144gn bullets, which was standard for Target Rifle shooting at the time.

The desert wind that blows from the north and then from the south, usually vigorously, created havoc several times.

DAY 1: *a light North Wester,*

Day 2: *a solid North Wester out to 20 minutes with Berger 185gn and much more with ADI 144's. An extra target was put up to allow all competitors the opportunity to aim off an extra 12 feet, as many of the iron sights wouldn't turn far enough.*

DAY 3: *a very strong North Wester (and hot). Shooting was abandoned halfway through the first range (1200yds) because conditions in the pit were not safe with targets breaking. Michael Davis came off the mound and said "that is enough wind I am convinced".*



DAY 4: came with a solid southerly in which 1000yds & 1100yds were completed, but at 1200yds nobody could get a hit, even with lots of help from the markers. So, that range was reshot at 1000yds.

*No matter the conditions we had winners - Match Rifle Open : Peter Robinson (Canberra R.C., A.C.T.)
Match Rifle Reserve: Trevor Haythorpe (Adelaide R.C., S.A.): Class B Geoff Ayling [Metropolitan R.C., S.A.]*

After the individuals, the inaugural Freebairn Teams of four competition was shot. This should have been at 1200yds, but because of the rude weather was pruned to 10 shots to count with 2 sighters and fired at 1000yds. The winning team was Reg Rowlands, Bill Martin, Peter Robinson & Geoff Ayling.

When the shooting was done, the competition was completed with the presentation dinner at the Woomera Hotel where the woes of the previous days were talked about or forgotten, but the congenial company was enjoyed. During the evening the markers and Stan Edwards (NRAA Chief Range Officer at the time) wrote a poem relevant to this shoot, which was presented to the gathering and received with much hilarity.

From this event, Match Rifle in Australia has grown to where there are now State Championships held annually in five States - Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland - in addition to the National Championships. These provide high level competition throughout the year for long range enthusiasts.

In 1997 the first International Match Rifle competition was held in Australia with Great Britain sending a team to Tasmania to compete against Australia for the inaugural Woomera Trophy. The 8th Woomera Trophy competition between Australia and Great Britain is coming up in 2019 with a 16-person Australian Match Rifle Team heading for Bisley in the U. K. in July next year.

In 1997 the inaugural State Teams event for Match Rifle, the Rowland's Trophy (4 shooters over 3 ranges), was also introduced and this was followed by the introduction in 2008 of the Maloney State Match Rifle Team Trophy (4 shooters, no sighters at 1200 yards). In 2011 the Mincham Aggregate Trophy was introduced as the aggregate trophy for the Rowlands and Maloney event. The donors of these trophies, Reg Rowlands, Ken Maloney and Graham Mincham, were all competitors in the inaugural 1993 competition and strong supporters of the development of Match Rifle shooting in Australia.

In 2000 Long Range F Class was introduced to the National Championships held in Queensland with Ken Larkin, John Skinner and Andrew Larkin being the inaugural F Open competitors in the Nationals. In 2013 the first State Teams competition for long range F Open was held and the same year the individual competition was expanded to include long range FTR.



Talking to some of those early match rifle competitors it is obvious how much the sport's equipment, skills and knowledge base has developed over the past 25 years. Compared with the 1993 shooters using their standard target rifle (13" twist with peep sights), today's Match Rifle shooters are generally using a 9 or 10" twist barrel with 20+ power telescopic sights. From the old stuffed chaff bag being used as a rest for the front hand, there are now a wide variety of front rests in use – from the simple to the sophisticated - but suffice to say anything that can provide a level of stability and some height adjustment will get you started.

The discussion on best bullet weight and projectiles to use back to 1200 yards is still being debated for hours! Generally though most are using upwards of 210 or 215 gr projectiles with a powder combination to give velocities of > 2650fps muzzle velocity.

One of the major positives coming from match rifle shooting is improved wind reading. Practicing at distances back to 1200 and even 1500 yards, hones wind reading skills like nothing else! As shooters 25 years ago quickly discovered, even small wind changes at these distances can easily take you off target. Whilst the 1993 event was shot in some pretty 'atrocious' conditions, other years at other venues have been equally challenging (we all know what Campbell Town and Lower Light can blow like) yet overall scores show how the shooting standard is steadily improving.

The next Australian Match Rifle and Long Range F Class Championships will be held at Coonabarabran in October 2018 with the Individual event going from 2nd – 5th October and teams events held on 5th & 6th October.

It will be followed by the Ultra Long Range Challenge on Sunday 7th October for those wanting to try their skills at 1500 yards.

Further details below and through the Match Rifle website at www.matchrifle.org

3M



The Australian Match Rifle Team would like to thank Peltor – 3M for their generous donation of communication headsets for the Australian Team.



2000 K. Lindley



2004 S. Collings



2006 J. Kielly



2016 A. Cargill-Thompson



2007 J. Kielly



2008 L. Horwood



2011 P. Hill



2014 P. Bain



2010 G. Mincham



2013 J. Kielly



2017 P. Bain

Australian Match Rifle Open Champions – 25 years On

1993	Peter Robinson	ACT	473.18	8 ranges
1995	John Myles	NT	701.37	10 ranges
1997	John Pugsley	Great Britain	597.61	9 ranges
1998	David Bullen	ACT	743.61	10 ranges
2000	Kerod Lindley	QLD	729.40	10 ranges
2002	Adrian Abbott	NSW	754.81	10 ranges
2003	Greg Warrian	WA	672.35	9 ranges
2004	Stuart Collings	Great Britain	693.37	
2006	John Kielly	QLD	742.38	10 ranges
2007	John Kielly	QLD	749.38	10 ranges
2008	Lew Horwood	VIC	761.67	10 ranges
2010	Graham Mincham	SA	755.61	10 ranges
2011	Peter Hill	QLD	722.41	10 ranges
2013	John Kielly	QLD	758.57	10 ranges
2014	Philip Bain	NSW	733.50	10 ranges
2016	Alex Cargill Thompson	Great Britain	761.70	10 ranges
2017	Philip Bain	NSW	759.68	10 ranges
2018	Will this be you? - Coonabarabran 2 nd - 6 th October 2018			

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2018 Australian Championships – Coonabarabran Draft Program

Individual Competition

Day 1 - 2nd October

Match No	Range	Sighters	Shots
1	1000 yds	3	15
2	1100 yds	3	15
3	1200 yds	3	15
4	Day 1 Aggregate		

Day 2 (Note reverse range order) 3rd October

Match No	Range	Sighters	Shots
5	1200 yds	2 MR , 3FClass	15
6	1100 yds	2 MR , 3FClass	15
7	1000 yds	2 MR , 3FClass	15
8	Day 2 Aggregate		

Day 3 – 4th October

Match No	Range	Sighters	Shots
9	1000 yds	2 MR , 3FClass	15
10	1100 yds	2 MR , 3FClass	15
11	1200 yds	2 MR , 3FClass	15
12	Day 3 Aggregate		

Day 4 (am)- 5th October

Match No	Range	Sighters	Shots
13	1200 yds (Day 4 Aggregate)	2 MR , 3FClass	20

Cross Aggregates

Match No	Range
14	1000 yds Cross Agg (Matches 1, 7 & 9)
15	1100 yds Cross Agg (Matches 2, 6 & 10)
16	1200 yds Cross Agg (Matches 3, 5 & 11 & 13)

Grand Aggregate

Match No	Range
17	Grand Aggregate (Matches 4, 8, 12 & 13)

Day 4 - 5th October (am)

- **Freebairn Teams Competition (Match Rifle only)**

Match rifle coached teams of 4 people selected from placings at end of Day 3 of the individual championships.

Match No	Range	Sighters	Shots
18	1200 yds	2	15



• **Siegloff/Simms Pairs (F Open)**

F Open self-coached pairs

Match No	Range	Sighters	Shots
18	1200 yds	0	25

TEAMS EVENTS

Day 4 (pm) -5th October

Match No	Range	Sighters	Shots
19	1200 yds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maloney Match for Match Rifle State Teams Victoria Match for F Class Open State Teams FTR Teams 	0	16 per shooter

Day 5 - 6th October

Match No	Range	Sighters	Shots
20	1000, 1100 and 1200 yards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowlands Match for Match Rifle State Teams NSW Match for F Class Open State Teams FTR Teams 	2 3 3	15 at each range per shooter 15 at each range per shooter 15 at each range per shooter

Teams' Aggregates

Match No	Range	
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mincham Trophy for Match Rifle State Teams SA Trophy for F Class Open State Teams FTR Teams Aggregate 	Aggregate of Rowlands and Maloney Match Aggregate of Victoria and NSW Match Aggregate

PRESENTATION DINNER

All individual and team competitors and partners are invited to attend the Presentation Dinner on the evening of **Saturday 6th October**.

Venue and cost to be advised

ULTRA LONG RANGE CHALLENGE – 1500 yards

Sunday 7th October

Match Rifle Open & Reserve F Open FTR

2 stages at 1500 yards – each 15 shot stages.

Prizes for each stage plus aggregate prizes and badges

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Australian Match Rifle Association

Newsletter

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QUEENSLAND RIFLE ASSOCIATION INC & QUEENSLAND MATCH RIFLE ASSOCIATION

invites you to participate **AT RAGLAN** in its



QUEENSLAND MATCH RIFLE & LONG RANGE F CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

9th & 10th JUNE 2018

FRIDAY 08th JUNE – 01.00 p.m. PRACTICE Entry \$5-00 900/1000/1100/metres

ENTRY \$70

SATURDAY 09th JUNE – 8.30 a.m. start 900/1000/1100/metres
(3 Sights and 15 Shots @ 900m and 1000m – 3 Sights and 20 shots @ 1100m)

SUNDAY 10th JUNE – 8.30 a.m. start 900/1000/1100metres
(2 Sights & 15 Shots @ 900m, 1000m, & 1100m)

Grades: OPEN, RESERVE, F OPEN, & FTR

Badges (Dependent on Entries) Open Class 3, Reserve Class 2, F Open 2, FTR 2
Plus excellent Trophies for Daily and Grand Aggregate winners and
Medallions for Individual Range Winners - all Grades

Camping on Range – 10 Powered Caravan Sites and Rooms (7) on first in basis
(Powered Sites @ \$5 per night – Camping \$2 per night – Single Room with facilities \$30 (Linen Req'd) - Twin rooms without
facilities (Linen Req'd) @ \$15 per person per night - book early)

Catering commences Friday evening. All meals at reasonable prices. Hot showers available

**Other accommodation available Raglan Tavern Ph: 07 49346558 or at Rockhampton or
Gladstone (35 Min. Drive on M1)**

The Committee of the QMRA reserves the right to amend or alter this programme as required

Rules as per NRAA's Standard Shooting Rules 1 January 2018 and as amended apply

Enquiries: John Kielly 07 33799075 Kerod Lindley 07 49272315 or Ross Atherton Ph: 0407037003

For Entries & On-site Accommodation Bookings Contact: Ross Atherton Email: raglantargetsports@bigpond.com or

Mob: 0407037003 – Postal Address: P.O. Box 5658, Redhill, North Rockhampton, Qld 4701

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*100% of funds from advertising sponsors goes to AMRA activities & the
development of match rifle and long range shooting in Australia*

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AMRA Who's Who

Join the Australian Match Rifle Association

The purpose of AMRA is:

- To promote and encourage Match Rifle and compatible F Class shooting in Australia
- To oversee and coordinate Match Rifle and compatible F Class shooting in Australia
- To encourage team shooting in Match Rifle and compatible F Class disciplines

**Further info on membership available at http://www.matchrifle.org/Match_Rifle_Australia.htm
Membership is only \$20 per annum.**

Feel free to contact any of the Committee or Zone Delegates if you have suggestions for the Association

Executive Committee

Chairman

Paul Monaghan (*Tas*)

Vice Chairman

Nick Simms (*Vic*)

Secretary

Philip Bain (*NSW*)

Treasurer

Tom Smith (*QLD*)

Zone Delegates

- F Class Bill Sieglhoff
- New South Wales Rob Halloran
- Queensland John Kielly
- South Australia Bill Freebairn
- Tasmania Gil Walker
- Victoria Lew Horwood
- Western Australia David Martin
- ACT Jim Clifford

- **Contributions to the AMRA Newsletter are greatly appreciated and can be emailed to info@matchrifle.org**

- **Next edition will be August 2018.**