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## AMRA Chairman's Report

Welcome back to the members of the Woomera Match Rifle team from their trip to the UK. Unfortunately, they weren't able to bring back any of the trophies but hopefully everyone enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to shoot at Bisley. There were 6 "New" Match Rifle team caps in the team of 16 that went and I am sure the experience will bode well for future teams. More on the Woomera team later in this newsletter.

A reminder to everyone that AMRA fees for 2019/2020 became due on 1 July. Please ensure that you have your fees paid by the end of this month (September) to avoid having to reapply for membership. Best way to pay is by EFT -see page 7 of this Newsletter.



Time is moving fast and it is hard to believe that the next Australian Match Rifle & Long Range Championships are only now 10 months away (15-19 July 2020, Raglan QLD). The program is available in the Calendar section of the Match Rifle website. As usual the Championships include the State Teams competitions and all State Associations have been contacted and asked to provide Match Rifle, F Open and FTR Teams. I want to encourage everyone to apply for their State Team. Don't leave it to others – we need all States to enter teams to continue to build a strong competition. Win or lose it is always a great experience to represent your State so give it a go! If you haven't heard about nominations for your State team please make enquiries with your State Association.

Please note that there is provision within the rules for States to combine if they are unable to field a team on their own provided NRAA approval is given for this. If your State has insufficient numbers for a full team, contact the AMRA Secretary, Philip Bain, or myself to discuss this option.

The shooting program for the year is now in its final stages with only 2 more events for the year. The Ultra Long Range Challenge in early October in Coonabarabran, NSW is 2 ½ days of competition including a number of opportunities to shoot at 1500 yards. The final event is the Victorian Championships on 2 & 3 November at Stawell. This is always a great weekend to end the shooting year.

**Paul Monaghan**  
**AMRA Chairman**

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## For The Diary

2019	
<b>8-10 October 2019</b> Ultra Long Range Challenge (Including 1500 yds) <i>Coonabarabran, NSW</i>	<b>2 &amp; 3 November 2019</b> Victorian MR & LR F Class Championships <i>Stawell, VIC.</i>
2020 – Save the Dates	
<b>Australian Match Rifle &amp; Long Range F Class Championships</b> <b>15-19 July 2020</b> <i>Raglan, Queensland</i> <b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b> - Queensland MR & LRFC State Titles	

## Programs

<b>ULTRA LONG RANGE CHALLENGE</b> <b>Coonabarabran Rifle Range</b> <b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019</b> Match Rifle - FTR - F Open ENTRY FEES \$120 for the 3 Day event or \$45.00 per day <u>Monday Afternoon Practice Session \$10</u> <u>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 8.15am Muster. 8.30 Start</u> <b>Match 1: 1,000 yds.</b> -3 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots <b>Match 2: 1,100 yds.</b> -3 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots <b>Match 3: 1,500 yds.</b> -5 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots <u>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 8.15am Muster. 8.30 Start</u> <b>Match 4: 1,500 yds.</b> -3 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots <b>Match 5: 1,200 yds.</b> -2 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots <b>Match 6: 1,100 yds.</b> -2 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots <u>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 8.15am Muster. 8.30 Start</u> <b>Match 7: 1,500 yds.</b> -3 Sighters & 15 scoring Shots <b>Match 8: 1,500 yds</b> - 3 Sighters & 15 Scoring Shots	<b>Victorian Match Rifle and Long Range F-Class Championship</b>  Stawell, 2 & 3 November 2019  Friday 1st. Practice from 9:00 AM Saturday fifteen shots at 1000yds. & 1100yds. Twenty shots at 1200yds. Sunday fifteen shots at 1000, 1100 & 1200yds. Match rifle competitors will have three sighters on Saturday and only two sighters on Sunday. F/TR & F/Open will have three sighters on Saturday & Sunday.  3 badges for Match Rifle Open 1 badge Match Rifle res. 2 badges for F Class Open 2 badges for F/TR Shot under Standard Shooting Rules.  Entry: \$70  Paid markers Free camping on range with shower and toilets  Contact: Lew Horwood (03)5356 2532 or email <a href="mailto:lew308win@gmail.com">lew308win@gmail.com</a>  
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## Woomera 2019

One minute we are having the first practice and then suddenly we are all at Bisley. Most of the team has been here before, but for some this is the first time at this great range. The historic buildings and for long range shooters, the 1200 yard range – Stickledown – with 50 targets, is one of the best shooting environments in the world.

Practices concentrated on refining ammunition and getting consistent group sizes with a specific set of parameters in mind. Did we get there? Read on.....

The visit to the UK began with most of the Team gathering at Bisley to collect the ammunition and non-dangerous goods (jackets, mats, rests etc) which were shipped separately. Many of the Team then travelled north to Scotland, shooting at Blair Atholl in the Scottish mountains. We were made most welcome by the Scots and this was a chance for us to get over jet-lag and make sure we had remembered to pack everything!



And so to Bisley. The weather leading up to the visit was a typical British summer with lots of rain, but we were lucky; the sun arrived and stayed throughout the match rifle shooting competitions.

We had a warm-up Team match against Ireland and Scotland in the Heritage Trophy & Lex Lyons match, which is a commendably laid-back affair and then it was time for the Hopton. This is the GB national MR competition and there were over 120 MR shooters competing. Shooting 'Bisley-style', two to a target, stretches the wind-reading skills and in addition there is the difference between target positions on the range to cope with. You think you have got a bit of an idea and then the wind comes from the other direction the next day and it's back to the drawing board.

The Hopton finishes with the 'Albert'. This is three distances and no sighters. Always a difficult day and Phil Bain managed the best score of the Australian Team, although sadly this could not make up for his trigger problem earlier in the competition. Overall it was clear the Aussie Team had found shooting on the other side of the world to be a bit more of a challenge than some anticipated and we would have to work hard to get back to form for the Woomera.

The next day is 'Elcho' day. A match between the Home Countries which has been shot for over 100 years, but also includes the Overseas Match Rifle Teams event (trophy donated by Martin Townsend) when the

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Australian Team is in Bisley. The Overseas Teams is shot concurrent to the Elcho and consists of 8 shooters on two targets over three distances: 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards with the top 4 scores at each range counted. The first range at 1000 yards proved close with Scotland, England, Australia and Wales only separated by 3 points going back to 1100 yards. Australia put in a strong 1100 yards picking up 4 points on Scotland and 7 points on Wales to be in second place only 1 point behind England at the end of 1100 yards. At 1200 yards England only dropped 8 points and took the Overseas Match by 7 points from Scotland with Australia third a further 5 points adrift.

So with some heart we prepared for the Woomera. Pitted against a strong GB Team we were always going to have to work hard and despite sterling efforts by the shooters and coaches – not helped by a scope problem - GB won by a healthy margin (again). GB 1758.208 v Aus 1702.143.



Team details, tour results and photographs can be found at [matchrifle.org](http://matchrifle.org)

Anna Dyson played an absolutely vital role organizing the trip both in the planning stage and at Bisley, and the Team must thank her for her hard work. Once at Bisley she was ably assisted by the Team Ladies and they put on a number of evening events that kept the Team entertained, fed (and watered). The Team must also thank the NRAA for their assistance with the timely help with the formalities of the trip.

The next Woomera match will be in Australia in 2022. Venue to be confirmed.



## News From Bisley



2019 was another good year for Nick Tremlett taking the coveted Hopton Trophy for the sixth time - ten years after his last win of the trophy. As can be seen above, he also managed to pick up one or two other trophies along the way and then Captained the English team to a 12 point win in the Elcho.

Other winners included:

Albert	DP Calvert	222.25
Armourers	DP Calvert	99.11
Cottesloe	JPL Sweet	100.16
The Edge	G James	199.26
Halford	CN Termlett	144.13
Wimbledon	J Peck	100.14

## Scotland 2019

Members of the Australian MR Team were privileged to be invited by the National Rifle Club of Scotland to shoot at the iconic Blair Atholl range in the Scottish highlands prior to this year's Woomera competition.

Unfortunately competing time demands of work etc meant that only a small contingent of shooters and supporters could make the trip north. Those that did were warmly welcomed and treated to a wonderful weekend of shooting at "Blair".

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Saturday was a day of individual competition with the weather proving 'brisk'. Newcomers to Blair were briefed on it's eccentricities like needing to adjust for elevation at the same time as making any wind adjustments due to the infamous 'tilt' of the range and the winds coming up and down the glen. MR Shooting at Blair is done at the unique distances of 987 yds, 1114 yds and 1233 yds which required some intelligence gathering to calculate how much to come up between ranges.

27 shooters took part in the individual competition on Saturday with the day won by Scotland's Mike Barlow with 217.18. Highest placed Australian was Philip Bain on 205.12. The day was capped off with a formal dinner at the historic Atholl Arms Hotel courtesy of our Scottish hosts.

Sunday was team competition day with the Australian contingent up against a strong Scotland team competing for the Captains' Quaich. The Captains Quaich was

donated by the current and four previous Captains of Scotland and the plinth has been inscribed with the scores of the last three matches between the countries from 2001, 2006 and 2012.

With a true Highland wind blowing, the Scotland team and coaches had come prepared with knee rugs, gloves and warm hats. The Australians thought it was supposed to be summer!

Teams were 8 shooters with coaches and each team having two targets. Shooting was on electronic targets which provided some learnings for the Australians for future events. Placement of the screens so that coaches can see what was happening on both targets is important particularly as the Aussies didn't have communication headsets.

Scotland's final score of 1718.177 was comfortably ahead of Australia with 1643.111.





## AMRA Membership

AMRA Membership Fees became due on 1 July 2019. Under the Rules of the Association, fees are required to be paid within 3 months of the due date or you cease to be an active member.

If you have not paid your fees or you are a new member looking to join AMRA, please complete the application form available on the website and submit to the Secretary. Membership is currently \$20 per annum and once your application is approved, fees can be paid by direct deposit to Australian Match Rifle Association's 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](mailto: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





## Cliff Austen – Order of Australia



Australia Day 2019, saw one of our own honoured for services to shooting over many years. Cliff Austen (AMRA Vice Chairman) was deservedly awarded an Order of Australia medal in the 2019 Australia Day Honours list.

Cliff was presented with his Order of Australia by the NSW Governor, Margaret Beazley, in May at Government House.







## 2019 Queensland Championships

Competing in the Queensland MR & LRFC Championships at Raglan in July is always a great excuse to enjoy “winter” in Queensland.

This year some of the usual ‘southern’ competitors were missing due to the Australian MR team’s tour of the UK but it was pleasing that there were some new faces for the event.

2020 will see the Australian MR & LRFC Championships held at Raglan from 15-19 July with all welcome. The Queensland Championships for 2020 will be a 1 day ‘warm up’ for the National Championships and will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.



### QUEENSLAND MATCH RIFLE LONG RANGE F CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 Grand Aggregate

OPEN		Day 1	Day 2	Grand Agg
Viv Hunt	CQTSC	241.12	220.28	461.40
Tom Smith	Crows Nest/G	239.14	222.19	461.33
Graeme Michham	Bundaberg	214.08	212.13	426.21
				0.00
RESERVE		Day 1	Day 2	Grand Agg
Anthony Wilson	Clermont	234.14	219.14	453.28
Rod Prayle	Maryborough	221.09	215.11	436.20
Emily Cronin	Clermont	220.05	213.13	433.18
Petr Hill	CQTSC	214.10	214.15	428.25
Peter Hearle	Uni. Of Qld	196.05	196.09	392.14
F OPEN		Day 1	Day 2	Grand Agg
John Farmer	T'ville Markman RC	273.00	260.00	533.00
Ross Atherton	CQTSC	261.00	251.00	512.00
Terry Sheedy	T'ville Markman RC	266.00	146.00	412.00



## 2019 South Australian Championships

GRAND AGG		25-8-19
MATCH RIFLE		
PETER MAHER	458	36
SHANE COURTNEY	453	35
PHILIP BAIN	449	36
LEW HORWOOD	449	24
BILL FREEBAIN	433	19
F OPEN		
STUART BRAUND	539	23
CHRIS MARTENS	533	24
DANNY BLACKMORE	532	12
CLIFF RUSTEN	520	7
FTR		
MATT LAGANA	521	15
MICK PUNTI	517	20
BRYAN GALPIN	503	7
STEVE SMITHSON	501	8
MICHAEL HANCOCK	492	13
CALEB HANCOCK	477	7
PAUL MURPHY	404	6

With the Australian Match Rifle team members only just back from overseas, MR numbers were down a little on previous years for the SA Championships with the FTR competitors being in the majority this year for the SA Championships.

Matt Lagana (FTR) in his second attempt at this competition managed the win over Mick Punt in the Grand Aggregate - an event Mick had won 3 out of the previous 4 years.

Stuart Braund, also in his second time in the SA Championships, took the honours in F Open by a narrow 6 points over the 6 range competition in at times blustery conditions.

Match Rifle proved to be an 'up and down' affair with the lead changing throughout Day 2. Ultimately Peter Maher with a strong final 1200 yards, took the Grand Aggregate by 5 points from Shane Courtney the overnight leader – who had shot a 100@1200 for the 20 shot match on Day 1.







## AMRA Who's Who

*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**

Cliff Austen (*NSW*)

**Secretary**

Philip Bain (*NSW*)

**Treasurer**

Tom Smith (*QLD*)

### Zone Delegates

New South Wales

Rob Halloran

Queensland

John Kielly

South Australia

Bill Freebairn

Tasmania

Gil Walker

Victoria

Lew Horwood

Western Australia

David Martin

ACT

Shaun Wingrove

F Class

Paul Murphy (*Vic*)