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AMRA Chairman's Report



The Christmas period (so long ago now) is quiet in the long-range shooting world. First chance to blow the cobwebs out was the Tasmanian MR Championships and the Merton Vale competition at 1500yards. More on this later in this newsletter.

From a Tasmanian perspective, it was good to see plenty of MR shooters on the range at Campbell Town, although the Woomera Team practice might have had an influence on this! F class was a bit thin (again) but heartfelt thanks to Terry Sheedy (WA) and Cliff Austen (NSW) for making the trip. If any F class shooter will take the time to let me know why they did

not come this year I would love to know. If we can make changes to make the Tasmanian MR Championships more appealing, we'll do it if we can.

Looking to the next few months, the 2019 calendar is a bit disrupted by the Woomera trip to GB in July but hopefully, after that, things will return to normal.

Electronic targets and wind-reading. Yes, I know electronic targets are still being tested at the longer ranges, but they are certainly becoming more common at shorter ranges. One advantage of electronic targets is that you can shoot really fast, especially if you shoot F class. As a consequence, there is a risk that you can lose focus on the wind flags. Shooting 'Bisley style' at one of your practice shoots with two or three shooters taking turns to shoot is a great way to get back to looking at the flags and becoming a better wind judge.

I recently attended a one-day seminar given by Shooting Australia. One of the activities they are supporting are 'Come-and-Try' days. These are planned to take place during May. Hopefully some of your clubs will be running one of these days. I admit that it is not likely that many people will decide to take up long-range shooting from the start, but this is a good opportunity for us to let



other shooters know what we do. There is no doubt that we have a problem with the wider shooting community not really knowing about us.

Paul Monaghan
AMRA Chairman

AMRA Membership

AMRA Membership Fees became due on 1 July 2018. 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

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

For The Diary

<u>2019</u>	
<u>4 & 5 May 2019</u> NSW MR & LR F Class Championships <i>Ungarie, NSW</i>	
<u>8 & 9 June 2019</u> Queensland MR & LR F Class Championships <i>Raglan, QLD</i>	<u>24 & 25 August 2019</u> Sth Australian MR & LR F Class Championships <i>Lower Light, SA</i>
<u>8-10 October 2019</u> Ultra Long Range Challenge (Including 1500 yds) <i>Coonabarabran, NSW</i>	<u>2 & 3 November 2019</u> Victorian MR & LR F Class Championships <i>Stawell, VIC.</i>
<u>2020 – Save the Dates</u>	
Australian Match Rifle & Long Range F Class Championships 15-19 July 2020 <i>Raglan, Queensland</i> 14th July - Queensland MR & LRFC State Titles	



Tasmanian MR & LRF Championships

Campbell Town dished up its usual challenging conditions for the Tasmania Match Rifle & Long Range F Class championships on the first weekend in March - kicking off the 2019 MR & LRF shooting program.

A good contingent of Match Rifle shooters attended which saw some hot competition. Saturday morning started off benign enough with Paul Monaghan putting down a 75.11 to start at 1000 yards, closely followed by Philip Bain with 75.10 and Lew Horwood 75.9. But it was all down hill from there with strengthening and blustery wind conditions seeing scores plummet at both 1100 and 1200 yards.

Local knowledge earned Mark Walters top score at 1100 yards with 73.4 and Paul Monaghan top scored at 1200 yards with 69.0.



At the end of Day 1 there were some battered and bruised souls but the competition couldn't have been closer with three shooters only separated by 5 centres – Philip Bain leading on 211.19 followed by Lew Horwood on 211.16 and Peter Maher on 211.14.

Day 2 proved to be a little friendlier and again three shooters made 75 at 1000 yards. Shane Courtney on 75.9 took the range from Nick Cock and Philip Bain both on 75.8. This was Nick's first MR competition and he was ably assisted on the Saturday by the 'gourmet chefs' residing in 'The Hut' who

interrupted their menu planning and culinary preparations for a time to help him with some early ammunition problems.



Paul Monaghan relished the better conditions and put down scores of 73.9 at 1100 and 97.5 at 1200 to take both the Day 2 Aggregate and the Grand Aggregate.

Official placings were:

- 1st Paul Monaghan 452.41
- 2nd Lew Horwood 446.27
- 3rd Philip Bain 445.33

Sadly, there was not as good a representation in the F Class disciplines with Terry Sheedy and John Collis vying for honours in F Open and Cliff Austen and Alan Routledge in FTR.



Terry Sheedy backed up his 2017 win to take the 2018 F Open event with 511 and FTR was won by Cliff Austen on 493.





Merton Vale – 1500 Yards

The Merton Vale trophy was held on Monday 4th March and this year comprised 3 Stages at 1500 yards.

There was a near perfect start to the day with virtually no wind which benefited those down first. Showing what can be done at this distance, Lew Horwood threw down the gauntlet with a 72.2 as his opening stage with David Rich on 67.2 using all his wind coaching skills to good effect.

However it was not to last with the strong and blustery conditions seen on Saturday, once again moving in making 1500 yards more than challenging. Highest score for Stage 2 was again the locals with Paul Monaghan on 67.0 and Mark Walters on 62.0. Lew Horwood added to his Stage 1 victory with a win at Stage 3 on 57.0 followed by Mark Walters on 52.1 and Paul Monaghan on 52.0.



Grand Aggregate placings were:

- 1st Lew Horwood 186.4
- 2nd Paul Monaghan 178.7
- 3rd Mark Walters 173.4

Terry Sheedy (182) and Cliff Austen (167) were the two F Class contenders.

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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 has spent nearly 40 years promoting and supporting target shooting across a range of disciplines. Cliff first joined Nowra Rifle Club Inc in the late 1980's when Wal Styke was President of that Club. He soon became the Club Secretary and together, they worked towards expanding the activities, infrastructure and membership of Nowra Rifle Club. In 1994, Wal resigned and Cliff assumed the Presidency.

This was a challenging period for target shooters in general and for the Club in particular as the new uniform firearms regulations had just been enacted and much work had to be done to ensure continuity of the sport in the Shoalhaven. In addition, plans were underway for a new road to be built straight through the Club's range that would have potentially sealed the fate of the Club.

This combination drew heavily on Cliff who was compelled to approach numerous organisations knowing that time and the circumstances were not on his side. However, he threw himself into the demands of the role and never once relented.

Cliff is always vigorous in his advocacy to not only protect the members' interests but to also ensure the survivability of the Nowra Rifle Club, its range and to provide a facility for lawful shooting sports. He has met extensively with local officials and Members of Parliament over many years promoting the interests of the Club and addressing many challenges along the way and continues to do so.

Under his stewardship, the Club has grown in numbers (from 16 to 450), extended its facilities (from a single Fullbore Range to 16 Long Arms Disciplines, 9 Pistol Disciplines and 6 Ranges) and has become a significant target shooting entity in NSW. Now the Rifle Range is used by the NSW Police, National Parks and Wildlife Service, The Royal Australian Navy, Corrective Services, Cadets and a number of private organisations. In 1999 Cliff was awarded Life membership of the Nowra Rifle Club.

Of course, Cliff did not achieve everything on his own but was assisted by numerous people, a dedicated committee and an excellent Vice President/Secretary in Ray Burton.





Through these and related extracurricular activities, which were very time consuming and of considerable expense to himself, Cliff's dedication and service saw him being appointed as the President of the NSW Shooting Association, an advisory body to the Premier on shooting sports.

This expanded the demands placed on his personal time but Cliff went on to serve honourably and judiciously, representing all shooting sports in NSW. His advocacy on behalf of the target shooting fraternity is constant and unrelenting.

Cliff does all this despite having a visual impairment which no doubt makes these efforts especially challenging. Yet he continues to compete and wave the flag on behalf of the constituency that he represents. He travels extensively and meets many persons in his ever-expanding network of contacts.

Cliff is an ardent, honest and committed advocate. The Target Shooting community has been well served by his extensive contribution, well beyond the usual call of duty.

It is difficult to relate the full extent of effort made by Cliff, but it has to be recognised that a great deal of personal and emotional investment accompanied the physical activities. There were often times where he was tempted to give up but it is the mark of the man that he continued in the face of adversity and sometimes hostility, sometimes within the shooting fraternity itself. Over the years, many people have benefited through his efforts and management skills. He has been an articulate negotiator and mediator, especially in the public forum and is well regarded.

Not only has Cliff been active in Nowra Rifle Club for the past 28 years but he has also sought to make a difference for all shooters as:

- President Nowra Rifle Club Inc.
- President NSW Shooting Association
- President NSW Match Rifle and Long Range F Class Association.
- Vice Chairman Australian Match Rifle Association.
- The Australian Target Shooters Club. Director.
- Vice President F/TR in NSW F Class Association.
- Past Councillor NSW Rifle Association (8 years).
- Past Secretary Illawarra District Rifle Clubs Association (15years).
- Member of the Firearms and Licensing Communications Online Network (FALCON) with Firearms Registry
- Member of the Clubs and Ranges group reviewing Firearms Legislation and Regulations.
- Commonwealth Games. Shooting Representative
- Olympic Games. Shooting Representative.





2019 NSW Championships

NSW Match Rifle and Long Range F Class Open State Championships

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th May 2019
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 for all disciplines - Match Rifle Open, FTR and F Open
Range Prizes

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

Practice Session - Friday 3rd May commencing at 12 noon. (\$10)

Entry Fee - \$75 (for the two days)

For more details on the event, the Ungarie range, accommodation and other Match Rifle and Long Range F Class events check out the
Match Rifle Website

www.matchrifle.org

Annual General Meeting of the NSW Match Rifle Association – Central Hotel, Saturday 4th following conclusion of shooting. Membership fees/renewal \$10

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Australian Match Rifle Team – Bisley Bound

The 2019 Australian Match Rifle Team had their final practice in March at Campbell Town following the Tasmanian Championships.

Pictured here enjoying a Team BBQ, the next stop for the members of the team is Bisley UK in July where they will compete against Great Britain in the 8th Woomera Match. The Woomera Match is being held as part of the 150th Imperial Meeting celebrations for the National Rifle Association of Great Britain.

With friends and supporters, the touring group number 29 people and a similar number of shooters and supporters are going to Bisley this year as part of the NRAA Target Rifle team. So Australia will be well represented at the anniversary meeting.



Prior to the Imperial meeting, a small contingent of the Match Rifle team will be travelling to Blair Atholl in Scotland for both an individual competition and a team competition against Scotland. The National Rifle Club of Scotland's Jubilee range at Blair Atholl is on the Blair Atholl estate along the valley of the Tilt. It is recognised as one of the most beautiful and challenging rifle ranges in the world and this will be the fourth time the Australian Match Rifle Team has been invited to compete there. Built along and around the natural topography of the Cairngorm mountains, the Jubilee Range features the unique distances of 987 yards, 1114 yards and 1233 yards for match rifle shooting.



The full Australian team will assemble in Bisley in early July with their first competition the inaugural Heritage Trophy against Ireland and Scotland on 10th July. Members will then compete in the individual Hopton Trophy events over 4 days. On 16th July Australia will compete against England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales for the Townsend International Match Rifle Trophy and then the following day, 17th July, will be the Woomera Match against Great Britain.



The Team Book with the full program has been released and is available on the Match Rifle website at http://www.matchrifle.org/Oz_Team/2019%20AMRT%20Book.pdf.



As everyone knows, travelling to international competitions with firearms and ammunition is a complex business and added to this the vagaries and timing of Brexit and possible implications for timely transitioning of equipment through UK Customs, has given many sleepless nights to the team management.

So fingers are crossed for everyone arriving in the right place at the right time with all their equipment there to meet them!

We wish the 2019 Australian Match Rifle Team all the best for their competitions.

Electronic Targets Shoot - Ungarie

By Dave Xuereb

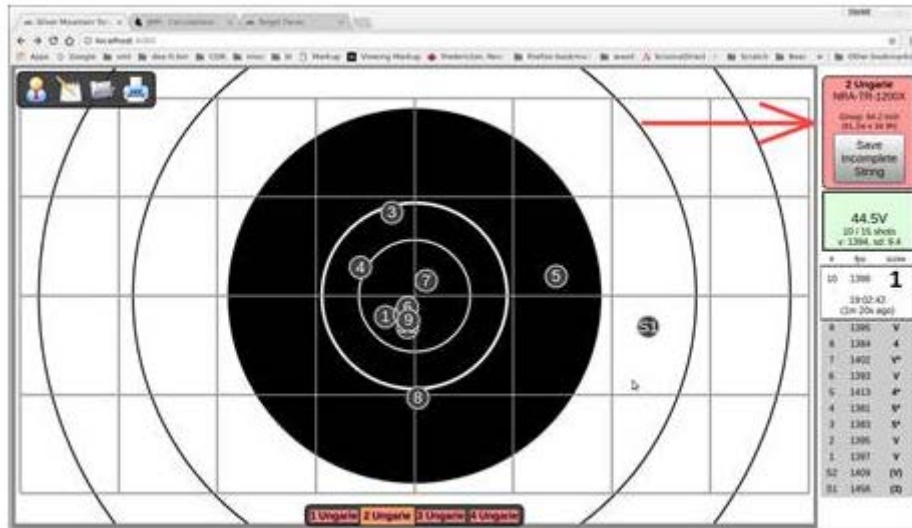
On the weekend of the 23 & 24 of March, twenty-six enthusiastic shooters converged at the Ungarie Rifle Range for the Match Rifle and Long Range F-class Silver Mountain Target trial weekend. We had people from Sydney, South Coast, South Australia and the Riverina all keen with smiles to try this system at the long ranges. The theme for the weekend was casual with everyone having the opportunity to test loads, positions and gear in a non-competitive environment.

David Waters, the owner of the SMT units, with the assistance of a couple of helpers had the 4 targets ready by our 8am start on the Saturday at 1000 yards. David's patience and experience

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were very much appreciated as there were a lot of questions and discussions during the set up. His knowledge of the system was excellent and he was able to thoroughly explain the features, benefits and why this system is so highly regarded. One of the many features of the system that benefits long range shooting is the ability to tell the shooter an indication of the shot if they had missed the target. The below is the indication of a shot missed out on the right.



However, in trying to get the near century old target frames more stable, one of the sensor cables became damaged but with analysis of the SMT log data this was quickly and easily identified. No-one had any problems getting on the target and the SMT worked without any faults. Everyone was enjoying the morning and the ease that the shooting was progressing with instant shot results and a simple and diverse method of group visualisation and analysis through either the tablet or personal smart phone.

Conditions on Saturday morning at 1000yds were a little tough with up to 13 ½ points of wind on TR. Conditions got better in the early afternoon with wind dropping to 1 ½ - 4 points with some excellent groups emerging.

At around 3pm we moved back to 1100 yds. The wind was a little stronger however very constant and again there were a lot of smiles as a result of some very pleasing shooting done by all. Our full-bore brothers enjoyed the extra challenge given by the 155g bullet. Once again the targets worked brilliantly with no missed shots.

Following a huge breakfast at the local bowling club everyone was at the range bright and early on Sunday morning, all keen and eager to take shots at 1200 yards. Wind was much the same and mostly very stable, cloud cover gave great sighting with temperature very comfortable. Unfortunately the 155's were not supersonic and thus not able to register on the SMT system. Although this was disappointing it was expected and there were vows to attend next time with a more appropriate projectile.



Australian Match Rifle Association

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Phil Bain took advantage of the benefits in shooting Match Rifle (308Win only) on the SMT and produced a brilliant 100.17 at 1200 yards which we believe would have been a world record if shot at a sanctioned event.



All in all, everyone had a terrific time with many requests for another one in the near future. As with all events this would not have been possible without the tremendous help from others. David Waters for the use of the SMT and his experience and patience. Spencer Dunstall and Greg Warrian in the preparation of the club house, catering and the BBQ. Our range officer John Oddy. John Dixon, Joe Figliuzzi, Cliff Austin, Bill Ballantyne, Phil Bain and Garry Trudgett for their assistance in getting the targets ready.



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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

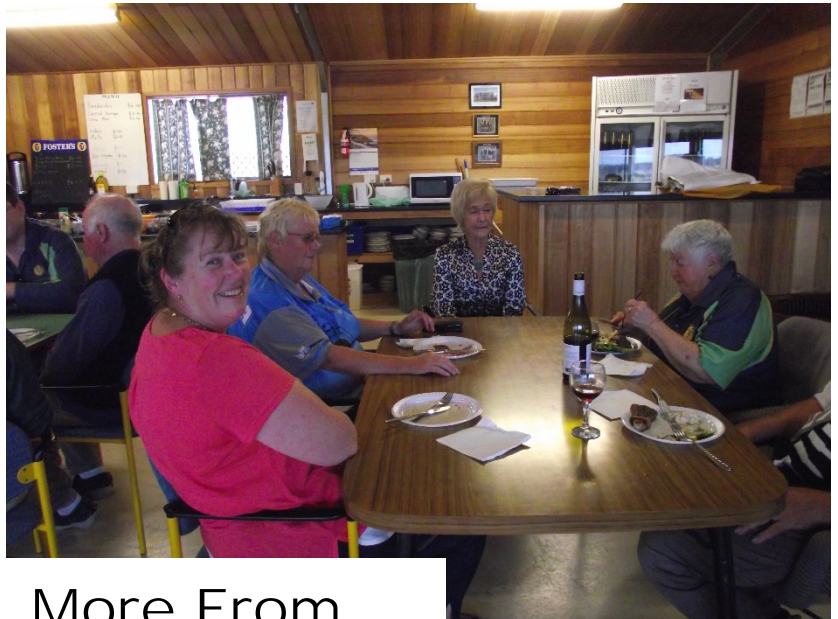
David Martin

ACT

Shaun Wingrove

F Class

Paul Murphy (*Vic*)



More From
Tassie!