



**BULLET – IN**  
**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF**  
**THE NSW RIFLE ASSOCIATION INC**  
**ESTABLISHED 1860**

Supported By



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**ISSUE THIRTY ONE**

**SPRING/SUMMER 10-11**

Welcome to issue thirty one of the official New South Wales Rifle Association Newsletter. This *Bullet-In* also contains information published in the *Australian Target Rifle* magazine. Clubs are encouraged to circulate this newsletter to those members who don't have access to the *ATR*. Extra copies of the *Bullet-In* may be obtained by contacting the NSWRA Office.

The next issue is planned for publication in March. We extend an invitation to all clubs and members who have anything that they would like to have published in this newsletter please forward it to the NSWRA Office. Deadline for the next issue will be the end of February.

On behalf of the NSWRA, we would like to extend our very best wishes and compliments of the festive season to all our members and their families. We trust you have an enjoyable and safe Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2011. Merry Christmas.

*Barbara & Ken*



**NSWRA OFFICE & STORE CLOSURE OVER**  
**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2010-2011**

***THE NSWRA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY***

***20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2010 AND REOPEN MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY. THE***

***NSWRA STORE WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND OPERATIONS***

***RECOMMENCE SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011.***



➤ **Council members of the NSWRA Inc Council 2010-2012**

President                      Graeme Berman

**Executive Committee**

Chairman	John Fitzgerald	Co-opted
Deputy Chairman	Stephen Negus	Metropolitan
Treasurer	Rick Ashton	Co-opted
Ian Trevathen	Metropolitan	
Ken Cooke	Western	

**Other Council Members**

Cliff Austen	Southern	
Graham Crowe		Co-opted
Ken Larkin	Far Northern	
Ron Whalen	Northern	

➤ **Expressions of Interest – NSWRA Store Manager**

NSWRA is seeking Expressions of Interest to manage the operation of the NSWRA store which consists of a retail store and an on-line store. This position is on a part-time basis from the Association headquarters located on Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar.

Applicants would need to be available Saturdays and Tuesday afternoons. Other days could be agreed depending on availability and final job description. Saturday hours can be discussed to work around Saturday afternoon shooting activities.

The following attributes would be highly regarded.

- Demonstrated management capability
- Computer literate with the ability to update the online website
- An understanding of good customer service

The NSWRA is looking to grow this business and suggestions for innovation/improvement by applicants are encouraged. Remuneration and working arrangements will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Applicants should contact the NSWRA for a detailed job description.



➤ *Nominations for NSW Veteran Team – Brisbane - August 2011*

Nominations are hereby called for the positions of Captain (1), Wind Judges (2), Fullbore Shooters (10) and 2 reserves for Target Rifle events, and Captain (1), Shooters (4) for the Rob Richards-Mousley F Class Standard events, to compete at the Belmont Rifle Range Brisbane in August 2011.

Any NSW shooter over 60 by 10th of August 2011, whether a member of the NSW Veteran Rifle Shooters or not, may nominate. Non-members pay costs which exceed annual membership fees.

Nominations close 5.00pm on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011** to the NSWRA Inc. Office.

All correspondence to:

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➤ *State V Rest Match – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010*

Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar, saw the annual contest conducted between the NSW State team and the invitational “Rest” team as a preparatory competition for the State Team in readiness for the fierce National Teams competitions in Darwin in June of this year.

This annual grudge match is highly valued as a final test for the NSW side and forms a major component of the team’s preparation as well as providing a platform from which to profile and groom those people who are striving for recognition and a chance to be highlighted in readiness to step into future NSW State teams. This year’s contest certainly provided those opportunities.

The match is conducted under the same conditions as the prized “Merrett” match where all State teams are pitched against one another. This year the distances were 300M, 600M and two stages at the difficult 800M range.

The contest opened with the traditional dull Sydney morning light on the target faces and saw the “Rest” team streak away to what was thought at the time, a commanding lead of 10 points that may be an almost impossible task to be able to pull back. The state side struggled to get away and perform as a team and this was further demonstrated at the 600M range where again, the “Rest “ performed brilliantly and increased their lead by a further 3 points to give them a very handy 13 point margin over the State side. It would be fair to say that by this stage, the State team was feeling more than a bit demoralised.

After lunch the mood shifted significantly within the state side after some tight group talking and tactic changes and when the first of the 800M matches was completed, the fortunes had changed and the tide of war swung in favour of the State team when they came home strongly with an 8 point win on the range and pulled the score deficit back to a more manageable margin of 5 points. Buoyed by this result the State and Rest teams went at the final match with renewed enthusiasm and the final 800M match was a gargantuan tussle which resulted in the State team winning the match again by a margin of 8 points to give their team a slender win of 3 points.



The final scores were; State Team 2125.199, Rest Team 2122.187

Highlights of the match were; Top scorers for the contest; Jim Jeffrey 198.24, Les Fraser 198.24, both from the “Rest”. Top score for the State team was Donna Negus with 196.18 (yes, a girl) under the capable coaching of Ken Cooke.

Thanks must go to the rest team and certainly the capable Captain, Graeme Bright, you guy’s gave the state side the level of contest necessary as an eye opener for the competitions yet to come in Darwin.

John Baxter  
Captain NSW Open Team

#### **NSW Under 25 State Team V Rest match**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> of April was the date for the annual NSW State V Rest matches.

The Rest team assembled by former NSW U/25 and current Australian U/25 Representative, Dave Brown, was a strong squad determined to give the State team a solid hit out. The State U/25 team had been training for 4 months and were looking forward to the challenge. Jumping out of the blocks strongly at 300m, the State U/25 team dropped just 2 points to not only lead the Rest team, but led the two senior teams as well.

Moving to 600m the wind was starting to strengthen and along with some wind changes, buffet was having an effect on scores. State U/25 team went further ahead at this range and had set up a nice lead, but with 2 x 800m ranges to come the match was a long way from over.

Back at 800m after lunch the wind had got up, with anything between 8 and 13 points required. Once again the State U/25 team performed well and by the end of the range had a lead in excess of 20 points. The last range presented somewhat easier conditions with the Rest team shooting extremely well, only dropping 6 for the range and getting 4 points back on the State U/25 team. In the final wash up it was a strong win for the State team.

Top score on the day was Ed Cartwright 195.18 followed closely by Jessica Bale 195.15 both from the U25 State Team with Brendan Parkins from the Rest team third on 194.8.

The competition on the day provided invaluable match practice prior to the National matches in Darwin.

Jim Bailey  
Captain NSW U25 Team



#### **NSW State Teams**

##### **NSW State Team Captains report – Darwin 2010**

These 2010 state team performances at Darwin in June were outstanding, both in terms of individual performances by all members as well as the outcomes achieved as a team. We faced a difficult task from the outset in putting the team together and then being able to come together for practices and to formulate and develop strategies.



Time was always our enemy due to the Darwin venue being substituted for Lower Light in an effort to remove time conflicts with the lead-up competitions in Brisbane in October 2010 as preparation for the 2011 World Long Range Championships. Long-range practices were conducted at 1000yds on the Lyndhurst rifle range in conditions that can only be described as disgusting and one can only wonder at what benefits may have come from such an outing. The main benefit may well have been in bonding within the team and not from the shooting /coaching activities.

With almost all of the team staying at the same resort in Darwin, it was very easy for us to socialise and “keep together” as a team, inter team communication was facilitated by this and the easy going manner in which it could be carried out.

With pride I present both the “Merrett” trophy and the “Sweet” Grand championship trophy to the Council of the NSWRA.

We enjoyed a 7 point margin to take out the “Merrett” match from Western Australia and our strong performances across all of the other matches came together to allow us to become victorious in the Grand Championship.

Other results are; 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the “Bruce White” at 300m by 2 points from Qld, 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the “Neville Holt” at 900m by only 4 centre bull’s from Victoria 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the “Alastair MacPherson” match at 800m by 1 point from Victoria.

While these are pleasing results and we achieved our competition goals, we still have room for improvement and now need to regroup and plan for South Australia in 2012.

I now wish to recognise the contribution of several people, without whose efforts, loyalty and support I am certain we would not have prevailed.

Our team Manager Wendy McGuigan reigns supreme. She endured a great personal loss at the critical time of departure of the team for the Top End. Wendy’s contingency planning and pragmatic approach to attending to matters, placed us in an impregnable position, she delegated the majority of her duties to other team members, knowing that she could not be with us to enjoy the contest and with the presence of mind to not load me with extraneous tasks. Thanks Wendy, I can’t imagine a state team without you.

Our Coaches; Alan Seaman and Ken Cooke showed exceptional patience and judgement with their on mound assessment of conditions and their contribution towards the maintenance of team morale, well done guy’s, you were a key element in a championship team.

I am pleased to have been able to introduce two new shooters to this year’s team, these being Evan Jones and Rob Sweegers, both fitted into the team seamlessly and theirs and the contribution of all of the other shooting members ensured that we were successful.

There was never a need for follow-up on any issue. I thank all team members for their professionalism whilst in competition and their friendship throughout.



This now finalises the activities of the 2010 NSW State Rifle Team, I would like to thank this council for having had the confidence to appoint me as Captain, it has been a very satisfying and pleasant role.

John Baxter

### **NSW U25 State Team Captains report – Darwin 2010**

With a very short turnaround time from the last matches in Brisbane, only two members from the previous team were able to nominate and travel to Darwin. This meant we had one of the most inexperienced Under 25 teams in recent memory.

With no manager nominating, Richard Bale stepped into the fold and did a fantastic job looking after the shooters behind the mound.

Our practices consisted of a weekend in Sydney, followed by a full weekend at Lyndhurst at 1000yds and finally a match V the rest team in April. Unfortunately, we never had a full team for all our trainings, due to other (understandable) commitments. Having said that all team members did all that was asked of them, and I couldn't have been more impressed with their efforts in the lead-up to the matches.

Once in Darwin we all assembled for a team get-together prior to the matches to plan our campaign. I had decided before leaving Sydney that all shooters would get a fair go, meaning a rotation system for the Reserve position for each match.

The practices went well with no problems with gear or shooters. In our 1<sup>st</sup> match we got off to a dream start by winning the 15 shot match at 300m. I had one of the shooters Neil Pringle “coach” this match so all could get the butterflies out of the system.

We had reason to feel confident for the next day's WA match. Unfortunately this day didn't deliver our best performance. I think being a young team there were still some nerves and this affected the 1<sup>st</sup> couple of ranges. We also had a cross-fire at 600m which, along with some variable shooting gave us a lot of ground to catch up after lunch.

While our performance at 800m was an improvement, WA were shooting beautifully and further increased their lead. At 900m we had a few hiccups which ultimately lead to us finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the day. WA once again shot very well and gained a well deserved win.

While this is a team event, it is fair to say that Howard Sweegers from Lyndhurst was the standout of all the under 25 teams, topping the day with 198/200. Howard has just turned 16!!!

Onto our final day of competition and we started nicely with a good win in the 15 shot match at 800m, which gave us the agg for the 2 x15 shot matches. We performed well at the last two ranges, finishing just behind the winners of each match.

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time in quite awhile that NSW hasn't won the WA match and the grand agg. Having said that I feel this was quite a successful team. As I said earlier we had only two members with State team experience. The remainder of the team are teenagers with two still at school. I think (hope) they have learnt plenty from the experience and they will be much better prepared for future teams. The improvement by all of the new shooters over the 6 months of our time together was immense.



I have a few people to thank:

Richard Bale. Richard stepped into the manager's role seamlessly. He carted gear for the team and kept everyone organised behind the mound. Richard made my job much easier, by allowing me to concentrate on the coaching.

Wendy McGuigan and the open team. Thanks to Wendy and all the senior team for their support. Wendy left no stone unturned in her efforts to make sure we were as organised as we could be.

Rob Turnbull and Peter Jenkins. Both guys helped greatly by taking on our scoring duties. This allowed the shooters to stay out of the sun when not shooting. In very hot weather they did the job for us and I can't thank them enough.

Neil Pringle. Neil is a fantastic asset to any team. He showed again he is prepared to put the team in front of any personal aspirations he may have and is a real leader. In my opinion Neil is a future Captain/Coach of U/25 teams.

The whole team. Once again this was a really enjoyable experience. Made so by all the shooters accepting team selections and just getting on with the job.

Also all the families that made the trip, their support and company were appreciated and enjoyed. My thanks also go to the NSWRA for allowing me the opportunity to Captain this group. Once again it was a very enjoyable experience.

The NSWRA can be proud of their Under 25 team, they were a credit to themselves and the association on and off the rifle range.

Jim Bailey



## **NRAA News**

### **NRAA History – Appeal for reports**

The NRAA history "The Rifleman" is well underway, but we need help to reconstruct the early years. NRAA Historian Andrew Kilsby, appeals to anybody who has an interest in the rifle shooting movement and who may have copies of any annual reports of the following:

- Any of the colonial (pre-1901) of State rifle Associations (except New South Wales) for the period 1861 – 1965
- The general Council of Rifle Associations 1888-1892
- The federal Council of Rifle Associations 1893-1901
- The Commonwealth Council of Rifle Associations/NRA 1901-1965

If you can assist, please contact Andrew through the NRAA, or directly on 03 9563 0089. Any help in this regard will be gratefully acknowledged.

### **2011 World Championships Update** (3<sup>rd</sup> October to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011)

Planning continues for this event. Current information is now available through !!

HYPERLINK "<http://www.2011.nraa.com.au>" <sup>¶</sup>[www.2011.nraa.com.au](http://www.2011.nraa.com.au)<sup>†</sup>



**Chairman - John Fitzgerald**

The NRAA wish to acknowledge the contribution of Brigadier Bruce Scott in his role as a Director of the National Rifle Association of Australia and in particular in his portfolio as Competitions Director.

Bruce has found it necessary to resign from the Board as of the 24<sup>th</sup> September last due to a posting overseas which will be for a period of at least 12 months. We all wish you well Bruce for a safe and timely return home at the end of 2011. We are indebted for your contribution and dedication to the role and hope to have the benefit of your knowledge and forward thinking once more upon your return.

There will be three vacancies on the Board to be contested at this year's AGM in November. The term is for three years and nominations have been called via your State and Territory Associations for those positions.

The forum of State and Territory Chairman was conducted at Belmont during the weekend of the August Board Meeting. The NRAA Strategic Plan was tabled for discussion and comment with constructive feedback welcomed and received. The Chairpersons of the respective associations have returned home with an agenda and it is anticipated that this meeting will be the first of many as an annual event.

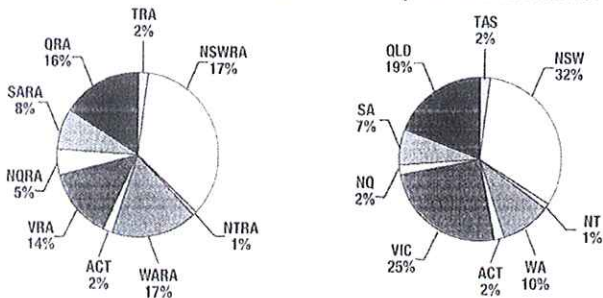
A paper was presented to the meeting by the NRAA Membership Director, George Wittorff, with various graphs indentifying membership numbers and membership percentages compared to population. This resulted in some very interesting figures and some are displayed here as part of my Chairman's message.

**STATE AND TERRITORY MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS  
March, 2010**

Data supplied by State & Territory Associations to Membership Director

Association	Clubs	Clubs > 20	Clubs < 20	Average	Total
ACT	2	2(86)	0	43	112
NSWRA	87	47(118)	40(3)	26.6	2316
NQRA	15	6(51)	9(8)	20.5	307
NTRA	2	1(55)	1(10)	32.5	65
QRA	45	10(108)	25(0)	23.3	1051
SARA	34	6(45)	28(1)	14.6	498
TRA	11	1(28)	10(1)	9.9	109
VRA	59	14(52)	45(2)	15.2	893
WARA	68	19(82)	49(1)	16.3	1107
NRAA	323	106	207	20	6458

Comparison of State & Territories Membership V's Population  
S&T Membership as % of NRAA Total      S&T Population Statistics 2010



Comparison of State and Territory Associations' membership with State and Territory populations indicates that membership generally reflects population totals.

One S&T Association membership's proportion is greater than 5%: WARA (7%)

One S&T Association membership's proportion is less than 5%: VRA (11%)

All other S&Ts membership either equals or exceeds population % by 1% 0 4%

