

Natives Rifle Club No 4 Inc.

Captains Report 2020.

2020 was a tumultuous year with Covid severely impacting our activities. The range was closed to shooting for a period from late March to the end of May. Your captain together with the QRA developed a Covid safety plan in mid May for a limited return to shooting in June and this continued until early July. Normal competition commenced from early July.

As a direct result of Covid the club did not hold the annual prize meeting. Our major sponsor Carina Leagues Club was also severely affected and as a result funding was withheld for 2020. These two things resulted in a loss of income to the club in the region of \$7000.00. The club was successful in gaining 3 Qld Govt. grants to the total value of \$8875.00. The funds will be used to make the club facilities more Covid friendly and posters, sanitizers, and a wash sink have already been installed. In December work commenced on increasing the size of the deck. When completed this will allow members to socialize in a Covid safe manner. This work will cause a huge drain on resources but the safety of the members is paramount. Work is due for completion in early 2021. All labour for the deck construction is voluntary by the members and is being professionally guided by Dom Whalan and Brett Clarkson. Thanks to both of you for your expert guidance.

Despite the difficult times the club welcomed many new and returning members. Matthew Ngu, Oliver Ploch, Jakub Tez, Brett Clarkson, David Ward, Michael Ward, Jeremy Wardrop, Martyn Pont, Andy Kansky, Rob Bell, Allen Hedges, Bryn Abad and Jaden Liang all joined the Natives family and Catherine Berry made a welcome return to the club. Thanks to all members who make this club so welcoming and for their assistance with developing all the new members.

A couple of fixtures were shot prior to the shutdown and when we reopened, the competition picked up where we left off. Natives were successful in winning the F Class flag. Div 1 was 3rd, Div 2 was 2nd, Pennants was 3rd. Well done to all participants and in particular to captains and coaches. The 1000 yds Whisky challenge with Pacific was won by Natives – the first in a while.

In 2020 the club invested in new perpetual trophies for the club and grade champions which are now on display in the club house. The 2020 Grade Champions were Wayne Blair (FSA), Gordon Craick (FSB), John Stevens (FTR), Jakub Tez (FO), Kim O'Loghlen (A Grade), Craig Meldrum (B Grade), Rob Bell (C Grade), Josh Pratt (Junior), Wayne Latham (Veteran). The club also introduced new categories of Club Champion for Target Rifle and F Class. This year the club champions were Wayne Blair in F class and Kim O'Loghlen in TR. Congratulations to you all. All Champions were presented with their awards at the annual Christmas celebrations. Although the captain was absent due to ill health the photos indicate a great night of festivities was had by all.

Despite Covid the QRA was able to host the State Championships and many Natives attended. The top performers were:

Duncan – A Grade Josh Pratt 10th, B Grade Dom Whalan 6th, C Grade Ian Errington 6th, FSA Wayne Latham 3rd.

Queens – A Grade Josh Pratt 11th, B Grade Dom Whalan 8th, C Grade Ian Errington 8th, FSA Wayne Latham 6th, FTR John Stevens 11th.

Grand Agg – A Grade Kim O’Lughlen 8th, B Grade Dom Whalan 8th, C Grade Ian Errington 6th, FSA Wayne Latham 3rd.

Thanks as always go to the committee in particular for running the club during my absence due to illness – Wayne Blair Vice Captain, Wendy Latham Secretary, Lyle Vinter Treasurer, Kim O’Lughlen Committee member. Also a big thanks to Wayne Latham for running the website and the stats. I would also like to thank Luke Baker, as my predecessor, for handing the club over in great shape.

New members choose a club based on the manner in which they are first greeted and welcomed. Given the number of new members the club has welcomed, the membership must be doing everything right. Keep up the good work and remember that our prime reason for existence is to foster the sport we love and help our fellow members become the best they can. Thank you every one of you for making Natives our happy place.

John Menzel 07/05/2021.