

31/01/13

Natives Rifle Club 2012 Captains Report

2012 has been another great year for Natives Rifle club. The club now has a membership nudging 60 making us one of the most powerful clubs in the MDRA. We are now at the stage if everybody turns up on Saturday we will need 5 targets. Even with such large numbers all members appear to be having a good time.

The 2012 fixtures was one to remember for Natives. We won A B & C grades. Don Thompson flew back from Canberra to shoot for the A reserve team and even though he top scored on the range that day Mariners still got us by one point. Dave Gardiner did an excellent job in coaching full time for A grade and the club owes him a debt of gratitude for giving up his shooting place to coach. Thanks to all shooters and coaches of all teams. I will be calling for a meeting with A and A reserve teams prior to fixtures commencing to discuss tactics for fixtures in 2013.

Tom Canty has continued to provide training to interested members in the use of the reloading equipment and they are now competently reloading their own ammunition. His efforts are greatly appreciated. Thanks also go to Alastair Fitzmaurice for hosting a training session for club members on ammunition and establishing muzzle velocities for interested members.

The following members have joined or transferred to Natives - Craig Meldrum, Daniel Meldrum, Neil Jones, Garry Henderson, Gordon Craik, George Constantinou, David Warland, Jeff Leung and Reyd O'Loughlen. I hope they are happy with their choice of clubs and that they have been made to feel welcome. It is worth noting that at 11 years old Reyd is the youngest member the club has ever had and with Emile Daniel an octogenarian it shows we are a club for all ages. On a sadder note Carol and Len Solomon have left the club to transfer to Clermont which is closer to Lens work. Their work with the newer members of the club with positioning and grouping and their shooting prowess will be greatly missed.

F Class is becoming stronger in our club with 9 regular shooters and I hope to continue to grow this class.

The club champions for 2012 were A grade Peter Scovell, B grade Brian Pickles, C grade Kate Menzel, F Class Emile Daniel, Veteran Wayne Latham - Congratulations to all winners.

The club was well represented at prize meetings throughout the year. Individual achievements can be viewed on the web site thanks to Wayne Latham's excellent work.

The Natives prize meeting was for 2012 was a great success with 95 shooters attending. The weather was good and feedback was again very favourable. Kim O'Loughlen won A grade again Stephen Small won B grade, Graheme Bollard won C grade, Mick Kyle won FSA, John Johnstone won FSB and Mark Fairbairne won FO. I think the fact we offer equal prizes to all TR and F class grades is greatly appreciated by all shooters. Catherine Berry again worked hard for our club with badge

procurement and putting in a good word for us with the NRAA board and we are indebted to her. You don't have to turn up every week to be a valued member of this club. Thanks to all members who worked hard to make it all happen. Keith Affleck still maintains a great interest in the club and every year Keith sponsors the Affleck Belt at our annual prize meeting. In 2012 the belt was won by Helen Griffiths from Pacific Rifle Club.

The QRA's CATTs program has been very successful and we now see participants shooting on the range on the same day as our normal competition. We have been proactive in picking up new members from the CATTs program and as a club we should be supporting this initiative.

Thanks to a generous grant from the QRA we were able to install a ramped access to the club hut. And it won't only be the older members who benefit from this.

We are also very grateful for the support given to the club by The Carina Leagues Club. As an associated sporting club the Carina Leagues club generously gives the club a grant each year and this year we were able to purchase the new Barnard rifle for use by new and intending members. In October the Carina Leagues Club hosted its annual Sportsman's Dinner and trophy presentation. Natives Rifle Club was well represented at this great social evening and I would urge those members who did not attend to come along as it is a great night out. The winners of the Carina Leagues Club trophies for 2012 were A grade John Caske, B grade Brian Pickles, C grade Kate Menzel, F Class Emile Daniel.

The website continues to be a great and informative feature of the club and recognition must go to Wayne Latham for his excellent work as webmaster. My thanks go to Wayne for his efforts in maintaining and updating our site.

I thank the Vice Captain Dom Whalan, Treasurer Marcia Canty, Secretary Shaun Connolly, Statistician Steve Smith, Provider Brian Pickles and the committee for their assistance throughout the year and all members for their support.

I wish all members good shooting for 2013 and urge all members to get behind the fixtures effort and attempt to win all grades. I believe that good fixtures shooting is about what each shooter can give back to the club on these team days and in 2012 I would have to say everyone gave their all to achieve a tremendous result.

John Menzel
Captain 2012