

01/03/2022

Natives Rifle Club No4 Inc

Captain's Report for 2021

Although Covid was still with us we saw a full year of competition in 2021. Funding was reinstated by our major sponsor Carina Leagues Club (CLC) and their ongoing support is greatly appreciated. The CLC awards night was held this year with numbers severely restricted. We reinstated our prize meeting which was well supported.

The membership was saddened to lose two members in 2021. Longtime member Tom Canty and not so longtime member Marty Pont passed away. Although with us for very different periods of time they both left an indelible mark on the club. RIP.

The most exciting news for me as Captain was the growth in our membership in 2021. The 2021 membership stands at 79. There are 41 Target rifle and 38 F class members – a pretty good balance. New members who made Natives their new happy place are Adam Silk, Bas Hopkins, Bob Crawford, Kristine Crawford, Jess Crawford, Riley Crawford, Bronwyn Ryan, Clancy Thomas, Warwick Thomas, Danny Kelly, Mark Huxley, Mirko Teglassi, Reilly Pitt, Simon Pitt, Rhys Kinsky, Saxon Fairbairn, Scott Mitchell. Thanks for choosing Natives.

The club is also very fortunate in having a large contingent of under-25 shooters. These young members are the future of the club and the sport. They are keen and many are shooting competitively alongside senior shooters. They are well supported by numerous members who often put their own shooting aspirations to one side to help develop them. A big thank you to all the trainers be it for Juniors or any member and John Caske for his tireless work with reloading for the clubs .223. You are major contributors to the growth and strength of the Natives. Junior members are Bas Hopkins, Clancy Thomas, Daniel Cullen, Isaac Brinin, Jess Crawford, Josh Pratt, Lily Halpin, Michael Ward, Reilly Pitt, Reyd O'Loghlen, Riley Crawford, Teddy Spence. It's very pleasing to see all the young shooters socializing at the end of shooting talking about their scores and no doubt strategies for beating the oldies.

Club Champions for 2021 are Josh Pratt Target Rifle, Gordon Craick F Class.

Grade Champions for 2021 are Josh Pratt A Grade, Wendy Latham B Grade, Isaac Brinin C Grade, Wayne Latham FSA, Gordon Craick FSB, George Constantinou FO, John Stevens FTR. A special note that although Gordon was FSB he secured the F Class championship. Great effort.

Natives were very successful in the 2021 MDRA fixtures. We won A Grade, C Grade, F Class 2nd Division. And the 1000 yds Whisky Challenge went to Natives for the second year in a row. Another solid performance from the Natives and a big thanks to all the coaches. Another first was a challenge from Pacific's F Class members for a 1000yds Bourbon Challenge. This was won by Pacific.

Lots of members do lots of things for the club but I would like to mention Tony Inwood. Tony came to us many years ago as a target marker and transferred to ET technician in the butts when ET's were introduced in 2014. He has become an integral part of the Natives family. He is always doing

maintenance and yard work and rubbish removal. He is a valued member whose work does not go un-noticed.

The 2021 Natives Prize Meeting was a great success due mainly to the efforts of club members. Winners were: Geoff Grenfell Bendigo A Grade, Barney Neilsen Southern Highlands B Grade, Isaac Brinin Natives C Grade, Andrew McKillop Pacific FSA, Corrie Hooson North Arm FSB, Brian Potter Brisbane Mariners FO, Mark Fairbairn Cannon Hill FTR.

The Keith Affleck Belt was won by Ben Emms. Mark Fairbairn kindly donated the Wild Dog Custom Rifles trophy. This is the first year this has been shot for. The format is similar to the Affleck Belt with top 3 in each F division shooting off at 1000 yds. Inaugural winners were Andrew McKillop FSA, Jenni Hausler FO, Mark Fairbairn FTR. Thanks to Mark for this donation.

At 117 entries it was our best prize meeting in many years.

Many Natives toured around to country prize meetings with varying degrees of success. The QRA State Championships were well attended. Top performing Natives were:

Duncan: Bob Crawford 2nd TRA, John Caske 2nd TRB, Ian Errington 2nd TRC, Wayne Latham 7th FSA, Oliver Ploch 11th FO, Brett Clarkson 8th FTR

Queens: Josh Pratt 2nd TRA, Isaac Brinin 1st TRB, Reilly Pitt 1st TRC, Wayne Latham 8th FSA, Jeremy Wardrop 3rd FSB, Danny Kelly 6th FO, John Stevens 10th FTR.

Grand Aggregate: Bob Crawford 2nd TRA, John Caske 4th TRB, Reilly Pitt 1st TRC, Wayne Latham 6th FSA, Oliver Ploch 10th FO, John Stevens 7th FTR.

Some great shooting particularly from the young guns.

The end of year presentations were a great success. The captain couldn't make it for the second year in a row. This year it was flu like symptoms and with covid still rampant he decided to stay away. The big surprise for the evening was a birthday cake for Brian Poppy Pickles who turned 80.

A big thanks to the committee, Wayne Blair Vice Captain, Wendy Latham Secretary, Lyle Vinter Treasurer, Kim O'Loghlen and George Constantinou committee members. Thanks also to Wayne Latham for running the stats and updates on the website and to Michelle Dick for redesigning our website. I'm sure she went above and beyond her quote to deliver such a great website.

Natives winning Championships, Natives winning fixtures, Natives winning whisky, great club atmosphere, great club members, growing membership – what more could a Captain want!

Have a great years shooting in 2022.

John Menzel