25/11/2026

Natives rifle club no4 Inc 2026 Captain's Report

Natives Rifle Club celebrated its 125th year anniversary this year and what a great year it has been. The highlight was a huge prize meeting in October with 240 entries from around the world. We are without doubt one of the strongest clubs in Australia with constant membership growth backed up with strong performances by individuals and teams alike.

We welcomed another large group of new members – Ricky Chalk, Alecia Van Zelm, Michael Gracie, Roger Tanti, Glen Watson, Adam Gardiner, Matteus Minnie, Kobus Minnie, Keala Muxlow, John Thwaites Lachlan Spencer and Ella Constantinou. Ella is our youngest member at 11 years and the granddaughter of the captain. Ella is a fifth generation member of Natives. Not something you hear about every day.

On a sadder note the club lost a great mate in Peter Noonan this year. Peter was a fierce competitor who loved a bit of a joke and was loved by all members. We are diminished by his absence.

The 2026 club championships have not concluded but last year's champions were – TRA Bob Crawford, TRB James Spence, TRC Zyden Wiid, FSA Peter Noonan, FSB Pieter Wiid, FTR John Stevens, FO Andy Kansky, Sporter PC Wayne Latham, Sporter PCO Brett Clarkson. Club Champion for TR was Bob Crawford and for F Class Peter Noonan.

Several competed in teams matches throughout the year. Leigh Marett (coach) and Isaac Brinin and Bob Crawford (shooters) were in the successful Queensland team who won the Merrett Match in August. Leigh Marett and Kim O'Loghlen were in the Australian Veterans team in October, Bob Crawford was in the Australian Team for the Australia Match. Isaac Brinin, Sampson Gee and Josh Pratt were in Australian Teams for the U/25 Australia Match. The captain is unashamedly a bit of a traditionalist when its comes to fullbore shooting and it gives me great pleasure to see the strength in our TR shooting.

Some Kings highlights of the travelling Natives- ACT Bob Crawford TRA 9th, NQRA Piers Cambridge TRA 4th, Brett Clarkson PCO 1st, NSW Josh Pratt TRA 10th, John Stevens FTR 5th, QRA Josh Pratt TRA 7th, Ricky ChalkPCO2nd, Megan Davern PC 9th ,NRAA Bob Crawford TRA 4th.

The prize meeting this year was the biggest ever hosted by a single club anywhere in the country. We attracted 240 entries which included many overseas competitors who were here for the NRAA Kings and teams events. The club can be very proud of how the event was hosted. It was an outstanding success and it was put together by the committee and members in the absence of the captain who was overseas. Warwick Thomas organized a commemorative club shirt, chamber indicators, hats and caps all of which sold very well. The shoot itself went off without any problems and many of the internationals who had not used Hex targets before were very impressed. A huge thanks to all those who contributed as sponsors or volunteers. Without your support the prize meeting would not have been the success it was. The takings were sufficient for the club to purchase another Hex target to add to the existing pool of targets. Well done to everyone who was involved.

Winners from the prize meeting - TRA Parag Patel Great Britain, TRB Peter Bevan CQTS, TRC Ella Farley Pacific, FSA Tom Noonan Natives, FSB Julia Spann Pacific, FTR James Hook Muckadilla, FO Brian Potter Mariners, Sport PC Jason Statham Beaudesert, Sport PCO Rick Chalk Natives.

Due to time constraints the 1000 yards shootoff was not held this year but instead winners were decided by the aggregate of the two day 1000 yards. The Affleck Belt TR went to Nicolas Brasier Great Britain, The Wild Dog F Class trophy went to Julia Span Pacific FSTD, James Hook FTR Muckadilla, Dave Boreham FO North Arm. This year we introduced a perpetual trophy for Sporter Class and named it the Noonan 1000 in memory of Peter. The winners were Jason Statham Beaudesert SPC, Ricky Chalk Natives SPCO.

Fixtures this year was a mixed bag. Congratulations to Reserve Grade and B/C Grade who won their competitions. A Grade finished 2nd on equal points to Albert but behind on actual score totals. All the scope divisions finished 3rd in their respective competitions. Fixtures are held only 7 times throughout the year. On many occasions this year we could not muster enough to make up teams. This is pathetic for such a large club. I ask you all to commit to the fixtures competition. It is the one thing all members can do to contribute to the strength of the club going forward.

Carina Leagues Club continue to be our biggest sponsor and their support is gratefully acknowledged. Numbers were down slightly at this years CLC awards night due to it being held in the middle of the NRAA Kings. Winners of the awards were Kim O'Loghlen TRA, John Caske TRB, Alecia Van Zelm TRC, Andy Kansky F Class, George Constantinou Sporter Class. I urge all members to support the Carina Leagues Club either by patronizing the club or attending the awards night. They generously sponsor our club to the tune of $7500 each year.

I would like to thank those who are not members but are always on hand to help at our prize meetings and with our website and facebook account. They are Bob Cramp, Phil Kraut and of course Michelle Dick.

We don't see much of Tony Inwood these days but he is still very active in the club. He does all the mowing and yardwork for the club when we are not around. Thanks for all your hard work Tony.

I have always been an advocate for succession planning for the club. In that regard last year I approached Steve Smith and Brett Clarkson to consider taking over as Captain and Vice Captain allowing Wayne Blair and I to step aside. They agreed and I am pleased to announce they will be your new Captain and Vice- Captain for 2027 and beyond. Please give them your support in taking the club to its next exciting stage. It has been an honour to serve the club for a long period of time and I look forward to assisting in other ways. A huge thanks to Wayne Blair as my Vice- Captain. He has been a calming influence on me on more than one occasion throughout our time together. Thanks also to the committee Wayne Latham Secretary, Webmaster and Stats, Lyle and Cath Vinter Treasurers, Kim O'Loghlen, Brett Clarkson, Gordon Craick, Isaac Brinin, Steve Smith Committee members.

There were quite a few safety incidents on our range in 2026. Please make range safety a priority. We are one major incident away from closure. Ensure you read and understand the SSR's, the Duncan Range Standing Orders and Natives Rule and By Laws. If you have any questions make sure you reach out for assistance.

I am looking forward to seeing the club enter another exciting phase under new stewardship. Good shooting in 2027. Help new members. And can the A grade fixtures team work a game plan that does not include taking it down to wire at the last 1000 yards.

John Menzel