



## **National Rifle Association of Australia Limited**

### **MEMBER UPDATE #51**

Welcome to Members Update 51

## **NRAA Chairman's Christmas Message 2020**

As the year draws to a close, I am sure that many of you would rather forget about 2020! Whilst we largely escaped the national bushfires early in the year with only one range badly affected (fortunately), it was quickly followed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Pandemic has had a significant impact on our Shooting Sport, however, we have remained financially viable and our Membership numbers have not declined significantly. The Board met regularly during the Pandemic to monitor the situation locally as well as monitor the status of international competitions. Looking forward, the key for our Sport, as the broader financial and employment impacts play out, will be to ensure that we maintain our current membership and that we continue to attract new members and new disciplines. The long-term management of the impacts around COVID-19 are very much at the forefront of the Boards thinking.

In November last year, the Members forum was held as part of the normal NRAA AGM cycle. The AGM saw the election of Ms Tina Thornhill and Matthew Pozzebon to the Board, with myself having been re-elected. At the forum, we sought and received feedback from the State and Territories as to the tasks that they saw as a priority for the Board. This work, aligned to the Strategic Plan, was set as a priority. That said, the Strategic Plan which outlines fully the tasks and work that the Board sees itself doing, has been the guiding document – it is worthy of a read if you haven't already done so.

At the Members workshop in November 2019 we were specifically asked to get after:

- Development of a forward IT Plan, [Completed]
- Contact Information, based on new communication tools to the broader membership, [Completed]
- A central Powder Supply, ensuring competitive pricing and supply, [Completed]
- A business case to examine the feasibility of NRAA manufacturing our own projectile, [Completed]
- Trading as Name for the NRAA, and [Not Completed]
- Personal Firearm Insurance for the membership. [Completed]

In addition to these tasks, the Board also sought to address:

- A Constitution Review, [In Progress]
- The conduct of a Junior Development Camp, [Planned, not executed due to COVID]
- Articulation of the Membership Benefits/Value, [Not Completed]
- Implementation of breech flags (Empty Chamber Indicators), and [Completed]
- Establishment of a rules sub-committee. [Completed]

I would like to highlight that the collective use of our buying power has seen a reduction in price across powder and Sierra projectile supply. We must continue to work harder at reducing the cost of our Sport, but also to ensure the supply of components that allow us to continue to participate.

The Board has focused on maintaining and expanding on our governance and adherence to best practice. There have been many changes behind the scenes, many of you would not recognise, however, testing the market, putting best practice business decisions in place has effectively contributed to reducing costs and getting better value for our dollar.



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In closing my comments as the Chairman, I would like to make a few observations:

- I would like to thank for the Board Members who work, in their own time, to contribute to the development and longevity of our sport. All of the Board members have contributed significantly to our achievements; moreover, we have worked collaboratively in a friendly, participative environment. I would like to personally thank them for their support and hard work.
- Catherine Berry supported by Jo Oliver have worked hard to implement most of the Boards decisions and run the NRAA on a daily basis. Many of you would be unaware of the time and effort that goes into managing our Sport – it's the same for all of the staff and volunteers at every level. Please take to the time to thank them. I would like to extend my gratitude and personal thanks to all volunteers and paid staff who work tirelessly for our Sport. Thank you, Catherine and Jo.
- I would like to thank Gordon Duncan who has continued to support the Board in the management of the financial records and pass on his great wealth of knowledge. It has been clearly evident to me that Gordon has a deep love of this sport and has contributed tirelessly to the management of it. Thank you Gordon.
- Bruce Scott as President plays an invaluable role in supporting the Board. Bruce uses his extensive network and experience to assist the Board in decision making and connecting the past with the present. Bruce has also fulfilled the role of being the ICFRA delegate – enabled by his long experience in managing ICFRA issues. I would like to thank Bruce for his inquisitiveness, guidance and support that he provides the Board. The ability to mentor is an important one.
- Our public acceptance will be, by in large, be dependent on recognition that we are a safe and inclusive target sport. One mistake, careless action, non-adherence to mandated safety rules and procedures could see somebody badly injured or killed and it will jeopardise our sport. Please, please be safe and ensure that our sport is safe and inclusive.
- Our collective success will lie in our ability to work together. I recognise that some see this as a threat, but it must be recognised that collective aims, determination and support to decisions mean that we all share in the same successes. Our longevity as a sport will be determined by our willingness to achieve common aims.

As the year comes to a rapid close, we look to continue to maintain broad communication with all of the membership and do our best to achieve outcomes as articulated in the strategic plan. That said, this Christmas period is about spending time with family and friends and relaxing. Unfortunately, the news is reporting a 'Wave 3' of COVID breakouts – please remember to stay safe and look after yourself and your mates.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2021 be a successful year for you – whether that be big or small in the sport or in another area of your life. Please also make it the year that you introduce a new member to our Sport!

I think it is safe to say that we all look forward to a 2021 that will allow us meet with friend and foe on the battleground of our Queens and other major competitions.

Merry Christmas, good shooting, and please stay safe.

Piers Cambridge  
Chairman on behalf of the Board