



NEWS FROM THE BOARD No.14

23rd June 2017

- New Firearms Regulations.

The government has now release the new Regulations to compliment the Firearms act that was amended earlier this year. Both are due to come into effect on the 1st of July. A copy of the new Regulations can be found at:-

[FIREARMS REGULATIONS 2017](#)

As far as our type of shooting is concerned there seems very little to worry about. The main issue is the new storage requirements. Gone are the days of wooden cupboards, Brownbuilt lockers and the like. The new regulations say that for up to 20 guns (not pistols and class C)

- (A) where the firearm is kept under the main roof of the person's residence or place of business—subject to subclause (6), by locking the firearm in a level 1 safe; or
- (B) where the firearm is not kept under the main roof of the person's residence or place of business, or the firearm is kept in an outbuilding—subject to subclause (6), by locking the firearm in a level 2 safe

Basically a Level 1 safe has walls and doors of a thickness of not less than 2mm, and Level 2 the walls and doors must be not less than 3mm. Both must have flush fitted hinges and be fitted with a 3 point locking mechanism or an external lock with a body at least 40mm wide and which is covered to prevent it being cut.

If your safe has door and walls at least 1.5mm thick and you owned this prior to the commencement of the regulations then it will remain legal by giving the Registrar notice in writing.

If you have more than 20 rifles, or you have pistols or Class C firearms please refer to the Regulations. The above is just a summary.

The storage of ammunition and the transporting of firearms and ammunition does not seem to have changed. Remember that ammunition must be stored and transported in a locked container. Transporting firearms is still relatively vague but if you have a lockable container then it must be used, if not the firearm must be kept out of sight in the most secure part of the vehicle.

Again. If in doubt, read the Regulations.



- 2017 Members Forum.

The 2017 Forum was held on Sunday the 19th of June at Lower Light. A big thanks goes to the Light River club for allowing us to use their club house which has a heater in it.

The Forum was attended by 23 members from 10 clubs, as well as all 5 Board members and the Executive Officer. It was a little disappointing that not more clubs were represented, but I am assured by those who came that we at least had quality if not quantity 😊

Forums while not a decision making meeting, are an important vehicle for the members to let the Board know their opinions on a range of subjects, as well as giving the Board an opportunity to report on some of its activities.

The agenda included:-

- Questions to the Board from the floor
- An outline of the Exec Officers Operational Plan for 2017-2018. The items included
 - The implementation of the SARA Estore (on-line shopping)
 - The implementing commercial use of the Lower Light range
 - The review of existing Policies and formulating new policies
 - The updating of the SARA web site and the appointment of volunteers to assist in the areas of Publicity, Web Site management and the management of a Social Media presence (eg. Facebook etc)
 - Executive Officer succession plan.

At this point the Executive Officer informed the meeting that he had informed the Board that he intended to retire at the end of June 2018 (12 months time).

- Discussion groups on - How to encourage participation in OPMs and the State Champs
- Discussion on having a Handicap Prize at OPMs to encourage entries.
- Discussion groups on - Extending the number of Pennants for Country and DRA teams
The consensus here was that there should be some form of recognition for 2nd and 3rd place.
- Discussion on altering the make-up of DRA teams.
The consensus was that the make-up should stay the same as last year.
- Discussion on a change of date for the DRA/Country teams weekend.
There was general agreement to move to June next year as a trial
- A report was given by Jim Caspers on the recommendations made by a subcommittee set up to look at the criteria for bestowing Life Membership. There was then Discussion groups on the subject.
- Discussion on how the DRAs allocate the SARA medal.
It was agreed that it was up to the individual DRAs as how to allocated the medals and it was made clear that extra medals could be purchased if desired.

If any member wishes to comment on the above, or any other issue, please feel free to contact me or any Board member. It is your Association.



The Operational Plan and the Life Membership criteria document will be published in the near future on their finalisation.



- Range and Butts Officers.

Thanks to our new Training Officer Alison Hansen, Range and Butts Officer courses have now recommenced.

There are 3 levels of accreditation defined by the NRAA:- Club, Prize Meeting and State and all are valid for 3 years. The same accreditation applies to both TR and F-Class types of shooting. To be recognised as an accredited RO & BO the person must be a NRAA member; failing to renew NRAA membership will make accreditation invalid.

Once a SARA member has completed the course to the satisfaction of the instructor, they will be issued an NRAA Club level "Range and Butts Officer" accreditation. To progress to the Prize Meeting level, an application should be made in writing to SARA detailing relevant experience which should preferably include being an assistant RO on at least one OPM. Similarly to progress to State level an application should be made detailing experience at OPM level and preferably experience as an assistant at a state level event.



- Best wishes to Mal Bethune.

Many of you will know Mal who has been a tireless worker looking after the Lower Light range. He has had some serious health problems recently and I am sure everyone wishes him a speedy recovery.

- Associate Members.

We are still encouraging all members to help sign up new Associate members - remember numbers count. Show your support and sign up someone today.

[Associate Member Form](#)

on Behalf of the Board

Paul Gale
Executive Officer