

LINTON MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB

1914 - 1932

In 1915 Mr J Lachlan representing the Miniature Rifle Club attended the meeting of the Linton Defence Rifle Club (founded in 1900), suggesting that the Miniature club be allowed to amalgamate with the Defence club, or the latter take over the assets of the smaller club at valuation.

This was a time when the Miniature Club shot on a 25 yard outdoor range on Government land at Hokowhitu, the present site of the Massey University campus.

Later in the year, when this range had been closed to club shooting, the then President of the Linton club, had erected at his own expense, a fine up-to-date building in King Street, Palmerston North. This building was opposite the rear of the present Farmers building and had provision for a 4 mound range, with a possible extension to accommodate 7 mounds so as to meet the requirements of an extensive membership.

Club shooting was organised mainly amongst its own members until 1921, when the sport flourished and several other clubs were formed. Much discussion followed and many ideas were put forward to form a Manawatu Association.

The Linton Club was finally rewarded in 1924 when the Manawatu Association was formed and Charlie Page was elected as President.

Some of the stalwarts who shot in this era were, C Page, J Smith, G Tremaine, H Barlow, W Kells, W Randell, F Lewis, F Needham, G Shelley and G Craw.

The club reached its peak in this era when it annexed the McKelvie Cup in 1923 and held the trophy until the last challenge in 1927, when the cup was won by Ohakea. It never reached such great heights again and finally fell into demise when the long-standing President, Mr Hugh Akers passed away in 1932.

Hard times had fallen on the country and the Linton Defence Club could no longer afford to maintain the property, so the range was dismantled and the lease reverted to the New Zealand Schools Commission.

So passed into history the Linton Miniature Rifle Club, the first recorded Miniature Rifle Club shooting in the Manawatu.