

LINTON DISTRICT MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB

1932 - 1971

The Linton District Miniature Rifle Club was formed on June 1st, 1932 and held its first shoot on 23rd June that same year.

The honorary club Officials were Patron: Mr G Craw, President, Mr A W Akers, and Vice-Presidents G Rix, Jos. Batchelar and G H Curran. These continued in office until 1940 except that Mr L H Craw was appointed Patron after the death of Mr G Craw, and Mr T D Lynch became a Vice-president after the death of Mr G H Curran in 1938.

The club affiliated with the Manawatu Miniature Rifle Association and enjoyed considerable success in the competitions. At one time or another the club was able to win almost all the trophies competed for including coveted McKelvie Cup which was a challenge trophy open to all teams affiliated with the Association.

In 1938, Owen Terry won the Manawatu Championship, Murray Rix the A grade Aggregate Cup and Lance Craw the B Grade Aggregate Cup. Others taking part in the club included G Merriman, J Christensen, O Batchelar, J Romley, M Craw and H Rix.

A Ladies section was also included in the Club's activities, Mrs Haley presenting a trophy for competition when she left the district in 1938.

Socials and dances were held and in 1935 it was agreed that end of season dances should become an annual event.

War conditions resulted in the club going into recess in 1941 and the Defence Department commandeered the club's rifle scope.

In 1945 a meeting was called where it was agreed that the club should be revived. It continued operations until 1949, and then again went into recess. With the closure of the old hall the range was no longer available.

During that period those who acted as Honorary Officials were Presidents: L H Craw (1945-46), W Algie (1947), L Ballinger (1948) and M Rix (1949). Vice-Presidents included M Rix, K Russell, W Algie, J McMahon, L Retter, O Batchelar, S Collis and L Ballinger.

On the 19th October 1971, a meeting was called where 5 members were present, and it was decided that the Linton Miniature Rifle Club be wound up, the rifles sold and assets of the club be donated to the Linton Hall Management Committee, the funds to be used towards the cost of a sound system for the hall.