

MOUTOA MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB

1929 – 1938

The Moutoa Miniature Rifle Club was formed in 1929 and had its range in the Moutoa Hall. This was situated on the Foxton-Shannon highway 5 miles from Shannon, in an area mainly known for its flax growing. About this time Yellow Leaf disease had resulted in a failure of the crop and, while waiting for a new variety of flax plants resistant to this disease, much of the land had been cut up into farming blocks.

Moutoa was one of 8 clubs affiliated to the Manawatu association at this time and was the southernmost club. Due to the low lying ground in the area flooding, sometimes 3 or 4 times a year, made travel difficult and often made the roads impassable. The floods in 1931 caused the club to drop out of the competitions that year.

In 1932, the addition of several new clubs made travel difficult owing to the distances having to be covered. The Manawatu Association decided to create 2 sections in the competitions, the winners shooting off for the championship. The Southern section consisted of the Longburn, Aokautere, Oroua Downs, Tokomaru and Moutoa clubs.

The election of club officials resulted in Mr Bowe as Patron, G Barber as President and A Walsh as Club Captain.

While the club did not have much success in interclub competition, the most notable achievement attained was, when visiting Longburn in 1935, the club won the Collinson Shield by a large margin. This team comprised G Triggall, L Small, W Bryson, J Stanbra and A Smith. The 'A' team also surprised by finishing 3rd in the Noble Cup competition with J Lucinsky and H Richards being the top scorers.

The nearby township of Shannon had decided to form a miniature rifle club in 1938 and approached the Moutoa club for permission to share the range. This was a time of dwindling membership and as the area could not support two clubs, it was decided to amalgamate and shoot under the name of Shannon Miniature Rifle Club.

Thus ended the Moutoa name in rifle shooting as it faded into obscurity.

