

RANGIWAHIA SMALLBORE RIFLE CLUB

1957 – 1972

In the small back country village of Rangiwahia keen local residents formed a smallbore rifle club with a range in the local hall in 1957. The club was officially opened on the 3rd of June 1957 with Mr J Carey firing the first shot.

Club officers for that first year were: President - W S Couper; Secretary/Treasurer - K R Thompson; Assistant Secretary - R A Lock; Club Captain - W S Couper; Range Officers - A McCaskie, F Ellen, W Taylor; Handicapper - R A Lock; Committee - F Thompson, M W Thompson, N Deihl, G Lock, S Stent, R Burford and D Mercer.

Foundation members were W W Smith, W S Couper, R A Lock, G W Lock, V Guillmeatt, D Mercer, V Thompson, N Deihl, R G Thompson, R D Turnball, R Burford, Reg Thompson, F Ellen, J McCaskie, W Hyde, R L Nicholson, K R Thompson, A Thompson, W Taylor, F Thompson, J Muir, N Lourie, J T Boshier, J C Stent and P Jenson.

Snippets from the first meeting on the 6th May, 1957: There was to be no liquor allowed in the hall; People under 16 were not permitted to shoot; The rifle breeches must remain open except when in the aiming position; Range Officers had to enforce the rules even at the risk of offending people.

At a meeting on September 1st, 1958 the club decided to affiliate on the same conditions as Utuwai, but it wasn't until the 1960 season that the club joined into the interclub series. Most of the interclub competition was on a postal system with mainly Utuwai and the odd town club travelling to Rangiwahia to shoot.

In 1968, owing to a lack of sufficient members, it was decided to go into recess for one year.

After being in recess for two years a few keen members revived the club but just on a social basis. This lasted a further two years before the club went into recess again.