

# *SHANNON MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB*

**1938 – 1939**

The township of Shannon came about mainly through the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company which had been formed to establish a rail link between Wellington and Palmerston North. The Government of the day had promised the company grants of land which were to be sold by public auction. The township was formed as a railhead when trouble was encountered with the construction of the line through the swampy ground in the Makerua area, however this was gradually overcome and the link was finally completed in 1886.

The first flax industry had been established in the nearby areas and the products were taken down the Manawatu River to Foxton by barge, where they were shipped to Wellington for further processing.

The Shannon Defence Rifle Club was formed in 1900, and played a large part in the progress of the area.

A further boom in population occurred when three hydro dams were constructed in the surrounding hills at Mangahao. These were completed in the early twenties and resulted in one of the first electricity supplies for the lower North Island.

In 1938 a meeting was called with a view to the forming of a local miniature rifle club. This was well attended and it was resolved to send a delegation to Moutoa to discuss the question of amalgamation, as several members had previously shot with this club. Should efforts fail in this direction, it would be the next season before the club could start.

This meeting resulted in the amalgamation of the two clubs and a combined club was formed, to be known as the Shannon Miniature Rifle Club.

The following office bearers were elected: Patron - T Moynihan; President - V Simpson; Secretary - V Richards; Treasurer - O Tippler; Club Captain - J Lucinsky; and Vice-Captain - A Birss. It was decided to affiliate to the Manawatu Smallbore Rifle Association and that its headquarters would be in the Moutoa Hall.

Two of the best shots in the club were J Lucinsky and R McKenzie who finished high up in the individual aggregates of the Manawatu Miniature Rifle Association competitions.

The club continued shooting until the advent of the Second World War when most club shooting ceased. The Horowhenua Rifle Association was formed in 1946, but it's not known if the Shannon Club took part in their competitions.