

# *TOTARA ROAD AIR RIFLE CLUB*

**1993 – 2024**

Air Rifle shooting is all done in the standing position, the shooting distance is 10 metres and the ten is a dot of 0.5mm diameter. For some time the course of fire was 60 shots for men and 40 shots for women, however now both men and women compete equally over 60 shots..

Air rifle shooting was introduced into the Olympic Games in 1980 and into the Commonwealth Games in 1982. New Zealand was first represented in this branch of shooting in the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh and we have been well represented at Oceania Championships since 1982.

In 1991 and 1992 it was felt that Manawatu should provide an Air Rifle Range and a range was constructed above the marking room.

The Totara Road Air Rifle Club was formed in 1993 and club meetings were held on Sunday evenings. Most of the shooters were, or became international shooters. Those members who shot air rifle at Commonwealth Games were Ruth McNair (nee Stuart), Sally Johnston, Paul Brown and Eddie Adlam. Several other members shot at Oceania Championships in New Zealand and Australia and most were very competent in smallbore events as well.

By 1998, many of the club members had moved away from the Manawatu. Some had finished their studies at Massey University, some got married and relocated and some just stopped shooting, so early in 1999 it was decided to put the club into recess for the time being. The facilities were still there however and we are still able to hold very good competitions for the Manawatu and North Island Championships, and when there is sufficient interest the club can restart at a moments notice.

This proved to be a good plan, as in 2006 the Totara Rd Air Club was re-established, with a renewed interest in air rifle shooting coming from the local smallbore members. The Club remained active for a number of years, and continued to host the annual Championship matches and provide facilities for TSNZ Junior Development Squad camps.

Unfortunately by 2014 those shooting Air Rifle in Manawatu had again decreased in numbers, and the few still shooting did not feel able to continue to run an official Club, so Totara Rd Air Club was formally dis-established.

This did not stop the use of the facilities though, and individual air rifle shooters have continued to use the paper target changers to train and compete. MSRA runs the annual Air Matches in conjunction with their Smallbore events, and three Designated Matches are hosted there each year.

In 2021 NZ Shooting Federation received 10 SIUS Electronic Targets as part of a sponsorship package, and these are now shared between TSNZ and Pistol NZ events. These targets are regularly set up in the MSRA range and provide an exciting new focus for events held there.

And with new young Air Rifle shooters recently coming into the sport, by 2024 there is again talk of re-establishing this Club.