

# From the VRA Council



**The VRA Council would like to wish all Members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a Safe New Year.**

I would like to thank those members who attended the recent Special General Meeting where we passed the financial reports and more importantly granted a posthumous Life Membership to our former Chairman and Treasurer Mr Frank Metzke. A formal awarding of this to his family will be made in the early part of 2015.

There have been some changes in the VRA Council and the association's administration this year with the resignation of our previous chairman and planned departure of our Executive Officer and Business Manager next year. Your Council will be conducting a strategy meeting /workshop early in the year to review the association administration, Councillor Areas of Responsibility, potential developments at the Wellsford range, range safety issues and the operation of the shop.

#### **Appointment of Michael Hall to position of VRA Councillor**

The Council meeting on 14 December 2014, confirmed the Council's decision to appoint Michael Hall to the vacant position of Councillor for the next 12 months.

We welcome Michael to the role and look forward to his contribution to the administration and development of our sport.

# From the VRA Council



## **Appointment of Peter Hulett to position of VRA Chief Range Officer**

The Council meeting on 14 December 2014, confirmed the appointment of Peter Hulett to the position of Chief Range Officer in Victoria. The role has the responsibilities administration of the range officer training and accreditation scheme. We welcome Peter to the role and look forward to his contribution to the administration and development of our range officers and butts officers.

## **Appointment of Michael Waites to position of Captain F OPEN Team to Brisbane in 2015**

The Council meeting on 14 December 2014, appointed Michael Waites as Captain of the F Class OPEN Team to compete in Brisbane in August 2015.

Michael's appointment follows the appointment of Rod Mahon to the position of Captain of the FTR Team. Council wishes Michael at the best with the development of the team and the competition.

## **Further call for nominations for F Class OPEN Team Shooters and Coach- Brisbane 2015**

With the appointment of Michael Waites as F Class OPEN Captain, the VRA is now reopening nominations for the positions of F Open shooting members and coaches for this team. Please confirm your nomination as some previous nominees may now be applicants to the FTR team.

Nominations close 5:00 PM Thursday 15 January 2015, with the VRA Executive Officer.

Team members will conduct themselves at all times so as to be a good ambassador for the VRA and not at any time do anything which may bring the team or the sport of rifle shooting into disrepute. A breach may lead to automatic exclusion of the offending person from taking their place in the Team at the discretion of the Captain and/or Manager.

The Captain is the final arbiter in all matters relating to the team and team arrangements including (without limit) selection of shooters for each team event.

All members who are taking medication are to familiarise themselves with the prescribed drugs list and ensure that any medication they may have does not contain any banned substance. The prescribed drugs list may be obtained from the VRA or Australian Institute of Sport upon request.

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## **Range Safety Issue and restrictions applicable to shooting on the Belmont and other rifle ranges in Queensland**

The VRA has been made aware of concerns relating to our rifle range safety template criteria and restrictions introduced by the Queensland Rifle Association. We are continuing investigations into these restrictions, which relate to the template for a “classification” range. A change in the assessment criteria may result in an increase to the safety area requirements.

The VRA is not considering or planning on banning any rifles, but restrictions may be needed to ensure we are meeting our safety requirements. Please check the Range Standing Orders applicable to each Range. Information on the restrictions in Queensland is available from in the news section of the QRA Web site at:

<http://www.qldrifle.com/images/updates/2014/2014.05.02%20Restrictions%20velocity%20WEB.pdf>

Please be mindful that actions and comments made by members may be misunderstood by others and may bring our current range approvals under review. Historically our range templates were based on the military template. Some of these military requirements were recently reviewed and may have implications for all shooting ranges. We have an-impeccable safety record and very stringent controls that support our current criteria. I understand that some of the template criteria adopted in NSW and possible used in other States may require a review shooting range templates. This may affect other shooting disciplines more, but we will also need to review our requirements. We will keep you informed.

I am sure I do not need to remind members of their obligations for the safe storage of firearms and ammunitions, but please also consider the security on the range and in transit.

## **Successful Grant Application for Artificial Grass to Three Mounds at Wellsford**

The VRA through Geoff Evans (as Chairman) was successful in obtaining a grant for the replacement of artificial grass on the 300, 500 & 800 yard mounds. Contact is being made with the supplier and the new grass will be installed in early 2015. At that time we will be looking for a number of people to volunteer to assist in the removal and placement of the artificial grass on the three mounds.

## **VRA 2015 State Championships and change of name for F Class matches**

The NRAA has explained concerns regarding the use of the term “Queens Badge” for the F Class competitions. Victoria will now fall in line with other State Associations and our F Class competitions at the State Championships and VRA Queens this year will use the term Victorian F Class Championships.