**NEWSLETTER July 2019**

**Range Operating Hours**

**Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm**

**Sunday 10am to 5pm**

**Air pistol and Air Rifle: 5.30pm to about 7.30pm**

**(Range 9) Wednesday.**

**New to Friday evenings ‐ air pistol for those with**

**their own pistol.**

**Important dates and range closures:**

**The Heartland Territorial will be held from 24th July until 28th July, with all ranges closed from Wednesday 24th July and many closed from Sunday 21 July for set-up.**

**The Errol Harper IPSC will be held on the weekend of 17 and 18 August. Ranges will be closed from Wednesday 14 August for set-up.**

**In this bulletin:**

* **Flood appeal**
* **Be sure you have your photo ID card**
* **Guns in the news**
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**Fun shoot raises funds for flood appeal**

The recent IPSC Grand Slam and fun shoot raised a total of $4851.73 for victims of north Queensland’s floods and a cheque has been forwarded to Rotary to distribute to those in need.

Thanks to all those who took part in the event and to those who gave up their time to help make the fundraising effort so successful and so much fun.

**Unclaimed photo ID cards**

A reminder that we still have a many photo ID cards – some dating back more than three years - that have not been collected from the office. These include F33s, membership cards for H licence holders and holster qualification cards. A number of swipe cards are also awaiting collection.

Some members do not have their photographs on file and so a photo ID card cannot be made for them.

Please note that ALL members are required to have their ID cards with them while they are at the Club.

Those who have either failed to collect their ID cards or do not have a photo ID card (because we do not have their photo) will have their swipe cards suspended until further notice.

So, if your swipe card won’t work, check with the office.

Intending members who have lodged an Expression of Interest but have not provided the necessary documentation within a reasonable time will also have their swipe cards suspended.

**Guns in the news**

**“Be wary of the extreme right”**

New Zealand firearm licence applicants are being checked for shaven heads, Nazi symbolism and camouflage clothes after the March 15 terror attack in Christchurch, according to online news, Stuff.co.nz

A report dated June 29 claimed that New Zealand police have issued a new directive to staff vetting firearm licence holders to be wary of the "extreme right".

According to the report, this includes white supremacists and those subscribing to “far right ideology” which is supposedly indicated by tattoos, Celtic or Norse symbolism, books on the Third Reich, Confederate flags, and references to Norway’s mass-shooter Anders Breivik.

Police are said to be monitoring a list of more than 100 people including white supremacists and Muslim converts as part of Operation Whakahaumanu, a nationwide operation to reassure New Zealanders following the attacks.

Stuff says police have adjusted their vetting of "fit and proper" firearm licence holders since March 15, when a 29-year-old man considered a “fit and proper”person is alleged to have killed 51 Muslim worshippers with semi-automatic weapons that he lawfully owned.

**New Zealand’s gun ‘buyback’ scheme**

The New Zealand government has set aside $208 million to compensate firearm owners following the ban on semi-automatic weapons after the attacks on two mosques in Christchurch.

According to ABC online news on 20 June, New Zealand’s Parliament passed the new gun laws by a vote of 119 to one in April and firearm owners will have from now until 20 December to surrender their weapons in return for compensation of up to 95 per cent of the original cost.

An estimated 14,300 military-style semi-automatics are covered by the new legislation and almost 700 weapons were handed in before the compensation scheme was launched.

New Zealand has an estimated one firearm for every four people and, prior to the new laws, had no ban on semi automatic weapons.

**Sporting shooters defend funding**

The Beaudesert Rifle Club and the Shooters Union Australia have taken aim at Gun Control Australia which claimed that taxpayer dollars were funding their clubs.

On 22 May the Beaudesert Times reported claims by Gun Control Australia that more than $77 million in government grants had been awarded to gun clubs since 2014 and that Queensland had received the lion’s share, with $16.5 million allocated to upgrade shooting complexes.

Gun Control Australia president Samantha Lee reportedly said that the level of funding for shooting sports reflected “how effective the gun lobby’s backroom deals with politicians continues to be”.

However Shooters Union president Graham Park said most of the money spent in Queensland was for the upgrade of the Belmont shooting complex in Brisbane in preparation for last year’s Commonwealth Games and what was spent was small change compared to funding for other sports.

Beaudesert Rifle Club president Mike Samuels said he found it incredible that a sport that produced so many Australian world champions was 90 per cent self-funded and found it harder to secure funding than AFL, NRL, cricket and swimming.