

Sale Pistol Club AGM 2015

President's Report

At the start of this report I thought that I would take a moment to reflect on my time as president of the Sale Pistol Club. My focus has been to improve the club for the benefit of all members. With this focus in mind and with the committee we have concentrated on improving club governance, increasing membership, improving our facilities and enhancing the reputation and profile of the club and our sport.

To that end I believe that we have achieved much. The proof of this lies in; the new faces we see around the club, the new buildings and range improvements that we enjoy, the positive feedback we receive at the show and of course the liquor licence that now hangs on our wall.

However, although we have achieved much there is no time for the club to rest on its laurels. In the constantly changing and challenging political environment that we live in, it is vitally important for the club to ensure it continues to improve its governance structure and maintain a positive public image. I will speak a little more on this later.

As most know I will not be standing for a committee position this year. This is not a decision that I have made lightly and I have had the odd sleepless night in reaching my decision. There are a number of factors that I have taken into account in reaching my decision and they are generally as follows;

- Since being transferred back to Melbourne my work commitments have increased significantly
- The time impost of this makes it difficult for me to attend the club as regularly as I believe is necessary to continue driving the club forward
- Changes to work's outside interest policy makes it challenging for me to undertake roles that may be perceived as a conflict of interest

Taking these point into account I do not feel that I am currently able to dedicate the amount of time that I believe is necessary to the club.

In order for the club to continue to grow I believe that there are a number of areas that will need a continuing focus into the future. This will of course be a decision for the new committee but I will share my thoughts here today. Much of the work has already commenced and I'm confident that those who have undertaken the work will continue with it. Some issues are of course more pressing than others and I will highlight them in an order that I think presents the most risk to the club:

- In 2012 there were significant changes to the Incorporations Act. The new act places a number of accountabilities on all incorporated bodies "Sale Pistol Club Inc" is such a body. At this stage there has been a lot of work taking place in the background but the club is still not compliant with the legislation. This is fine when everything is going well but leaves the club and in particular the committee exposed if something goes wrong. The club needs to be made compliant as a matter of urgency

- There is still a need to tighten up the governance structure of the club. The conduct of regular committee meetings and broad compliance with club rules is essential if the club is going to maintain relevance and continue to grow in the increasingly complex political environment that we live in. Strong governance helps to protect the club and our sport from the incessant attacks that we are subjected to by those who don't understand our sport
- We need to create a higher degree of financial transparency at the club. There is lots of free money for sporting clubs floating around at the moment. This is particularly relevant for clubs that lend themselves to participation at a junior level or for those with physical limitations. Our club fits very nicely into that space. I have had many discussions with members re this issue and it makes sense for the club to chase this money. However, without fully transparent financial management, which includes audited books, we simply can't progress past square one. An auditor who will do the work for the club pro-bono has identified and I encourage the club to utilise his services. It would be nice to get some of our rates and tax dollars back for free
- The need to work toward future proofing the club needs to continue. At present we have good relationships with our neighbours that enable us to enjoy our current range facilities. However, as you should be aware this can change at short notice. Baffling a number of ranges would enable the club to maintain a shooting program in the event that permission to shoot within the confines of the existing range template were to be withdrawn

In any case that's probably enough from me for now. So in closing I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committees that I have worked with over the last 6 years for their commitment and support. They have been fantastic to work with and the level of commitment they have to the club is truly commendable. Of course what we have achieved would not have been possible without commitment from the general membership. When there is a job on there is never a shortage of helpers. This is what makes this club such a great club.

I am very proud to be a member of the Sale Pistol Club and somewhat humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve as president of this great club. I look forward to continuing to serve the club in whatever capacity I can into the future.

Mick McGinn
President
Sale Pistol Club Inc.