

REYNELLA SMALLBORE & AIR RIFLE CLUB INCORPORATED

meets every Friday night at 7.30, at their clubrooms at the Reynella Oval, Oval Road Reynella SA
Contact the Secretary, Coral, on 0466 385 188
or by email at reynellaclub@gmail.com

Our club welcomes new members and visitors to our air conditioned and competition standard air rifle range situated beside the Old Reynella Oval at the Reynella Community Centre. It has 12 fully automatic shooting bays.

We shoot a variety of air rifle events. These include the International competition which is shot in a standing position and an air rifle supported match which is great for beginners and our younger and older members

We have a range of club equipment and this is available to members and visitors. Visitors are always welcome and it will cost \$20.00 to come and have a go. We provide all equipment and coaching for visitors. For insurance reasons however, visitors are asked to make a decision to join the club after 3 visits.

Our club fees are \$240.00 for seniors and \$95.00 juniors. This fee includes membership to the State and National Associations and the local Community Centre where our clubrooms are situated. Fees cover Public Liability Insurance. The membership fee is the only fee charged by our club for shooting at the clubrooms during the year. Members do not pay any additional range fees as is common in many clubs. There is also no charge for the use of our club equipment. Members must, however, pay for their own air pellets, entry fees into any competitions outside the club environment, and the usual members range fees will apply to members using the State Range at Wingfield.



Many of our members also compete in .22 rifle events and currently need to travel to our State Range at Wingfield in order to participate in these events. The Club Committee is currently working on the extension of the club's facility at Reynella in order to include this discipline in an indoor 20 metres range on the site.

The club also has a Junior club which meets separately from the main club from 6.00-7.30p.m. on Wednesday nights during school term time only. This section of the club caters for juniors from 10-14 years of age with a special program. The joining fee for this section of the club is \$51.00 and there is a nightly range fee of \$7.00 which includes pellets, targets, air rifle, a free drink and coaching.

ABOUT OUR CLUB

The club has a short history compared to many rifle clubs. Our club began in 1983. It boasts a number of State and National champions. A number of our members have represented Australia in the Olympic Games, World Championships, Commonwealth Games and many other international events

In May 1983, a teacher, transferring from the Morialta High School to the Reynella East High School, was charged with the responsibility of trying to encourage outside use of the Reynella East High School's new gymnasium. He had been impressed with the Morialta Air Rifle Club, who used the gymnasium at the Morialta High School, and learning that the mother of a student at the Reynella school was connected with the same State organisation as the Morialta Club, he approached Morian and Sylvia Muehlberg with the proposal that they might like to start a similar club in the Reynella East High School gymnasium.

During, June 1983, notices appeared in the school newsletter, and several members of the Association were approached for assistance. Informal shoots were held throughout the month of July 1983, assisted by members of the State Association, who attended and helped with coaching and safety requirements for the people who turned up each night.

On August 22nd, 1983, a formal meeting was held, chaired by the then President of the SA Smallbore and Air Rifle Association, David MacFarlane, and a motion to form the club was passed.

The Club was named the Reynella East Air Rifle Club, but this name was later changed to acknowledge the inclusion of the .22 rifle element, becoming the "Reynella East Smallbore and Air Rifle Club Inc." and later, after the club moved to Old Reynella, the "East" was dropped, and the Club became the "Reynella Smallbore and Air Rifle Club Inc." – the name it is known by today.

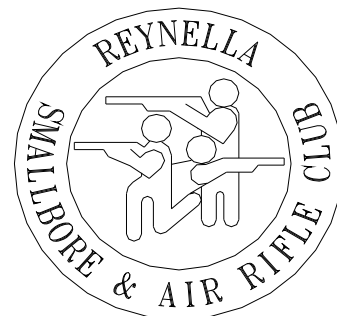
The Club met every Monday night in the Reynella East High School Gymnasium from 7.30 pm. until about 9.30-10.00 pm. Every Monday morning one of the members, Sylvia Muehlberg, travelled across Adelaide to the Morialta High School to collect the Morialta Club's Air Rifles, and every Tuesday she would make the trip again to return them. This continued until about March 1984 when the State Association purchased a number of .22 and Air Rifles, and as these were available for hire by clubs and members, the club took advantage of this.

We have always been very fortunate, having pro-active members on our Club's Committee and a bunch of very supportive and keen members.

In September 1983, only one month after its formation, the Club entered 4 teams into the Association Air Rifle Night Teams Competitions, and also began to make payments on it's first Club Air Rifle - a break barrel Weirauch. This was paid for in full by Christmas 1983. The Club also began to consider incorporation, and ways it might adopt to earn money for equipment - especially lighting, and it's own air rifles. One method, which was successful was to provide soft drinks, and later tea and coffee, and biscuits, to members during a 20 minute break in the middle of the evening. This had the dual effect of encouraging a social aspect into the club as we all got to know each other better, as well as providing us with some much needed funds.

The first Annual General Meeting was conducted on July 9th 1984, and after a quick fun shoot, and the AGM, the members celebrated, by attending Hungry Jacks for a Whopper supper, paid for by the Club.

During the second year of the Club's existence, logos were considered for a club badge. The winning logo, which is still our club badge, was designed by Bryan Hewett. The Club also purchased more Club Air Rifles, and started to shoot some .22 rifle events. It was about this time that we began to look around for somewhere in the Southern area which might be suitable to shoot on - especially the .22 rifle events. We approached all the local Pistol Clubs, but they did not want to let our club rent their ranges for air rifle or .22 rifle competition. As the State Range had been lost in the 1983 bush fires, this meant that we had very limited opportunities to develop this section of the sport. We approached local Councils but had no luck here either. In the years that followed we kept this thought in mind, occasionally following up leads which presented themselves from time to time.



In 1984 one of the founding members, Sylvia Muehlberg, represented Australia in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. She competed in both Air Rifle and .22 rifle events.

By 1985 the Club began winning trophies. Association Plaques for Air Rifle Postal Teams, and Night Teams, and individual trophies were won in the Association Short Range League.

By 1986 the Club owned 4 Club Air Rifles. Fundraising activities were given a high priority again, and the club participated in a number of activities including selling chocolates, and a bottle drive.

Over the years we had experienced several "last minute" problems with the availability of the school gymnasium. Naturally the school's requirements were met first, but on several occasions during the years we used the school's gym, we arrived for a club meeting and found that the school had not advised us of a function or school activity which required their use of the gymnasium instead. On the few occasions we were advised, we often had less than a week to advise our members.

School commitments in early 1988 meant our meeting night had to be changed, causing us to lose a few valuable members who were unable to attend on the new night. Then later in 1988, our night was again changed, and we were advised that in 1989, we could use the gymnasium on Mondays for terms 1 and 4 and Wednesdays during terms 2 and 3. This move, and the proposed changes of meeting dates for the new year would have been disastrous for the club's future as we stood to lose several more valuable members. We decided to look around for a venue which would allow us a regular meeting night, without sudden unexpected changes. A member, Graham Pascoe, took on this mammoth task on behalf of the club, and in the process of investigating almost every hall in the area, he contacted the management of the Reynella Community Centre who were more than willing to assist the Club.

NEW BEGINNINGS

In April 1989, at the end of term 1, the Club moved its activities from the Reynella East High School and began to conduct its weekly meetings in the Reynella Community Centre's changing rooms.



We purchased 6 automatic returning air rifle target machines, and thus became the first Smallbore and Air Rifle Club in South Australia to use these machines. The RCC Committee were very helpful, allowing us to position our target machines in the cavity behind some un-used windows where we placed target lighting and new shutters, and even providing a brand new heavy table, for the Firing point. Each night we would wind out the strings and set up the range. Eleven members survived this series of changes to our Club.

Over the next couple of years the RCC continued to support us, eventually providing our new range with a total of 5 such tables when over the ensuing few years we purchased an additional 8 target machines, additional club rifles and expanded to 14 bays. They also provided some much needed funding to purchase an Air Rifle suitable for the smaller juniors in our club.



In 1989 the Club changed its name to "Reynella Smallbore and Air Rifle Club Inc", as we were now sited in the middle of the Old Reynella township, and it seemed more appropriate.

In September, 1989 the idea of an inter-club shoot with the Morialta Club was considered, and we

challenged that Club to a "Battle for the Scraps" - a match which is still contested.

In November 1989, at the suggestion of the RCC Committee, the Club participated in the Reynella Community Fair, advertising the Club and making a small profit. Each year since we have set up a shooting gallery - the first year in the cricket nets, then in the changing rooms, and later, in our own facility which we built in the narrow stretch of land between the tennis courts and the bowling club.

In 1991 we again began to shoot .22 rifle, this time attending the new State Range that had been built at Wingfield. (The "old" State Range having been a victim of the 1983 bushfires). This involvement with the .22 shooting continues to this day, with members attending the State Range on a regular basis to mix and compete with members from other clubs.

During the first year after the club moved to the Reynella Community Centre, the membership of the club doubled, and in the years since has continued to increase.

During the 1990's we had multiple competitive successes; three sisters, Carolyn, Suzanne and Belinda, daughters of the founding members, Morian and Sylvia Muehlberg, achieved the ultimate - in 1994 Suzanne competed in the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, then in 1996 she competed in the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Not to be out-done Carolyn and Belinda repeated this performance in the next round by both representing Australia in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1998, where they



won gold and silver medals and the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000. These three girls, as the three members of the Australian Air Rifle Team, together also won the gold medal in the Oceania Continental Championship in 1997. As well, at the 1997 Oceania Championships, the whole of the Junior Australian Air Rifle Team were members of the Reynella Smallbore and Air Rifle Club.

In the early 1990's the German Club moved its famous Schutzenfest from Hahndorf to the Bonython Park and the Reynella Club was asked to assist them in the running of the Air Rifle Range. This piece of very good fortune enabled the club to earn some real money each year, until, towards 1999 we were beginning to realise that we could act on the dream we had to build our own facility on the grounds of the Reynella Community Centre.

In 1999 a small grant of \$6,000 from the Office of Recreation and Sport's Active Club Grant, and the good fortune to have members with building expertise, (Morian Muehlberg, Russell White, Jim Griffin and Peter Dawson) enabled that dream to become reality, and in 2001, we moved into our new facility.



Anxious to move into the new range before the football season started, the early days in our new range are still fondly remembered by our members.



On Friday nights the building was turned into a rifle range. The only "proper" lighting in the place being the lights over the targets which were put in place together with the backstop and the shooting bench as a matter of top priority.

To light up the membership area however, temporary flood lights were fixed to various sections of the building's infrastructure with leads running across the floor and everyone standing up or perching on the ends of saw horses and work benches.

During the rest of the week the range became Morian's second shed as he plodded on with the building work, helped as they could by the other members on weekends and after their working hours. Gradually the facility took shape - the walls were lined, ceilings were put in, and the building was fully insulated.



It became a facility to be very proud of with a carpeted and air conditioned clubroom and firing point, and a modern shooting range to International standard.

In 2004 the Club spread its wings a little wider by supporting the sport in South Australia, and conducting an Open Shoot at Morgan on the River Murray. This was a .22 rifle shoot and included both prone and benchrest events. It was so successful that the event has become a fixture on the State Association Calendar.

In 2007, in response to requests from members of the public attending the Reynella Community Centre Fair, we began a new initiative and opened a junior section for our club. The plan was to provide youngsters with a safe place to shoot air rifles – teaching them safe handling and technical skills, and providing them with competition at a level to suit their size and age by developing new events.



Our club encouraged the State Association to include these adapted events in the competition program at State events. The Junior Club is growing in popularity and continues to meet weekly during school term time.

Currently we have 2 juniors who are in the State Development Squad and are also members of the State Senior Air Rifle Team.



Coaching school groups is also an important part of the club's social commitment. In 2010 alone, we hosted 29 sessions with classes from local high schools, providing some basic information on an Olympic and Commonwealth Games sport that is not generally well known.

FUTURE PLANS

Members of this club have always been actively involved in both the air rifle and the smallbore rifle events that are supported by our shooting discipline. The need to always travel to Wingfield, (1 hour each way!), in order to train in the smallbore rifle (.22) events has been detrimental to both increasing our membership and also to improving the standard of our members who enjoy the .22 events. The long term plan has always been to work towards providing a training facility for the smallbore rifle events in Reynella. Since establishing the facility in 2001, our main goal has been to achieve this.

In October 2010 we applied for a Facilities Grant to assist in this goal, and in February 2011 we were advised that the application was successful. We now have the funds to extend the existing facility to incorporate a 20 metre range for .22 rifle training.

Development approval from the Onkaparinga Council took 18 months. Three metres were added at the front and 6 metres added to the back of the building, and work inside commenced.



It is still on-going.

