



**2019 LRWC Committee  
National Rifle Association of NZ  
Seddon Range  
Trentham**

4 April 2017

**REPORT TO NRANZ MEMBER'S – Long Range World Championship 2019 - #2**

Dear Members

Sorry for the long delay between newsletters but we have been waiting for the go ahead to be able to announce our funding grant from Major Events which is a government organisation attached to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

This has been embargoed until recently as part of the conditions of the contract to allow the investors to manage the announcement.

The following has now appeared on their website;

*The Government will invest up to \$255,000 in the World Long Range Rifle Championships in 2019, with over 440 international participants expected to attend from key tourism and trade markets.*

*The championship is the international pinnacle competition for individual and team rifle shooting and is held every four years. The championships take place in Upper Hutt from 26 January-10 February 2019 at the Seddon Rifle Range in Trentham.*

*Shooting over distances between 300 and 1,000 yards, teams from across the world will compete for a range of championship titles. The event includes two historic shooting competitions - the Ballinger Belt and the coveted Palma trophy. The Ballinger Belt is the oldest sporting trophy in New Zealand and was first won in 1861. The first Palma match was held in 1876 in the United States as part of the celebration of 100 years of US independence. It is hotly contested as it is the longest running international rifles match in history.*

*“With participants and officials expected from countries like the United States, Canada, South Africa and Europe, we are expecting this event to bring good tourism revenue to the region and New Zealand,” says Devorah Blumberg, Manager of Major Events at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. “Participants are estimated to stay for the length of the championship, which runs for 16 days, with many likely to extend their visit to experience more of New Zealand.”*

*The Government invests, through the Major Events Development Fund, in major events that are expected to generate significant immediate and long-term benefits to New Zealand.*

Our Chairman Ross Mason sent around an email two weeks ago once we got the go ahead so that members would know ahead of any media announcements. As it turned out there was very little comment by anyone

apart from Duncan Garner on TV3's AM Show who thought the funding should have gone to boxing instead in order to promote Joseph Parker.

I suppose everyone's entitled to their opinion, but I am just happy he does not sit on the Major Events assessment board who made a balanced and non-biased decision and funded us because we met their criteria in regard to attracting overseas visitors and promoting New Zealand as a destination.

The funding will be staged in five progress payments dependent on NRANZ meeting certain obligations and milestones along the way. The first milestone involves producing a project plan and a progress report by July. The draft project report has already been lodged with MBIE with feedback due in the next couple of weeks.

While this funding won't cover the delivery of the whole event it does go a long way towards it. We still have around another \$250k to find but that does include entry fees. At this point I would like to acknowledge Kim Whiteman (Owen's wife) for volunteering to help us with funding applications to other organisations for Capital works in upgrading the range that is not covered under the Major Events contract. Kim has lots of experience in this area and seems to make light work of an area that most of us struggle with. Thanks Kim.

The rest of the committee is coming together well and we have spent the last six months defining roles and responsibilities and getting down into the detail.

Karyn Flanagan and John McLarens wife, Jan, have collaborated to produce a very good communications plan that will focus our reporting and clarifies our objectives around who we are trying reach and what we want to tell them. This also forms part of the project plan.

Geoff Smith is getting to grips with just what his role entails as Match Director (Boss of Everything) and as a practical man is working through the responsibilities and details.

What is really focusing us at the moment is that we have a mini "Palma" scheduled for our 2018 Championships at the end of January and we want to trial as many of the arrangements we want to use in 2019 as possible. All of a sudden January 2018 doesn't seem that far away.

So in the meantime, thanks to all those who have supported our efforts so far and we look forward to your participation in the future.

All the best

Rob Morgan

LRWC 2019 Committee Chairman