



# VICTORIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION INC

ESTABLISHED 1860

Registration Number A13641H

ABN 37 571 868 151

## Annual General Meeting

Saturday 23 November 2024, 1.25pm  
Pavilion, Wellsford Rifle Range

Councillors: Markus Gaebele, Garry Kay, Frank Conner, Brody Dare, James Corbett

Attendees: J.West, R.Williams, C.Sutherland, P.Farley, R.McCready, V.McCready, J.Grayson, G.Grayson, S.Atkinson, K.McLeod, R.Mahon, C.Bodle, J.Hallifax, R.Hall, R.Carpeggiani, J.O'Rourke, B.Steer, D.Moore, A.Wright, S.Dunn, R.Tapps, P.Maher, A.Proctor, T.Sunderland, An.Williamson, B.Williamson, L.Gaebele, S.Baklien, Al.Williamson, A.Amor, N.Parkinson, D.Gardam, N.Gordon, R.Jackman, B.Thurtell, M.Horsnell, P.Betts, L.Hayes, M.Garcia, C.Olsson, S.Olsson, B.Wood, D.Black, G.Sewell, R.Moyle, M.Sewell, A.Maddison, T.Roberts, J.McDiarmid, D.Jonker, D.George, P.Jonker, T.Diffey, R.Aldridge, S.Morgan, G.Cavanagh, P.Turner, T.Gee, G.Kerr, I.Gordon, R.Jackson, D.Jankovic, D.Clothier, D.Smith B.Gardiner, B.Hawes, P.Jeffery, K.Toh, N.Mann, E.Staley, G.Rose, D.Chappell

1. Deceased members: John Wohlers 06/02/24, Stan Smith 16/02/24, Rod Fyffe 12/07/24, Morrie Jackman 01/09/24

2. Apologies: Bill Poynton, Greg Phelan, Wayne Mitchell, Joan Kay, Colleen Morgan

3. AGM minutes 2023: Moved Peter Maher, seconded Andrew Williamson that the 2023 minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Chairmans Report: Markus Gaebele spoke on the Chairman's report (attached). Moved Allan Williamson, seconded Keith Toh that the Chairman's Report be received.

5. Treasurers Report: Frank Conner asked Markus Gaebele to read out the Treasurers Report (attached). Moved Susie Morgan, seconded Richard Tapps that the Treasurers Report be received.

7. Election of Auditors: Moved Ian Gordon, seconded Garry Kay that we re-appoint AASB as Auditors.

8. Election of Patron: None

9. Election of Councillors: Jeremy Carson resigned, James Corbett retired, Garry Kay was elected, Gloria Carson was elected and resigned, Bill Poynton and Peter Farley were appointed.

10. Special business on notice: None

11. Presentation of 50 year awards: Bill Austin, Gina Black, John Branton, Stewart Goodwin, Robin Hall, Allan Holden, George Holden, Rod Mahon, Gwenda Metzke, Val McCready, Robert McLaren, Ross Moyle, Ken McLeod, William Taylor,

12. Closing address: The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting closed 1.45pm



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AGM 23rd November 2024  
Chairman's Report

Good afternoon to all our VRA members,

Welcome to the 2024 VRA AGM and thank you all for making the time to attend this important meeting.

My first year as Chairman has been a great experience, but also a steep learning curve and again, I'd like to thank James Corbett and the council for the support they have given me over the past 12 months. The main aim (pardon the pun!) is always 'members first' and what we do both as council and collectively, must involve placing members at the forefront of the decisions we make. I would also like to welcome on council two new councillors – Peter Farley and Bill Poynton, who will bring a vast amount of knowledge and experience to the council.

On a different note, I would like to acknowledge and thank fellow councillors, our members, and in particular, James, who helped get our range back open and up and running. It has been an extremely complicated, long and drawn-out process, but ultimately an outcome that has our members' best interests at heart while representing a substantial cost saving for the VRA. Communication was kept to a minimum during this process as there were several stakeholders involved, including the Premier on several occasions. The overall result is a great outcome for Bendigo and will ensure that the VRA stays viable to shoot at the Bendigo range.

Also a big thanks to all the volunteers and councillors that put in their own time to help prepare, maintain, improve and upkeep our range, that as I'm sure you would all agree, looks fantastic. We have seen the grounds kept neat and tidy, upgrades to the bathroom facilities on the range, dangerous trees removed, stopbutt repaired and road and drainage repairs completed.

I had the pleasure recently to attend in-person the NRAA members forum which was extremely positive, with the NRAA highlighting the importance of our members, with the future of our sport relying both on this and in keeping our ranges open. A number of initiatives were discussed on how the NRAA is supporting the states and territories, which we are looking to roll out within the VRA.

I thank our previous Chairman Albert Van Wyk for his hard work and dedication and helping to set the path of our future, a path that needs the support of all members in order to achieve our goals to continue to grow our sport.

Our shop has performed above expectations and we thank Marty for his tireless work, not just for the few days he is in the office, but also his time searching the web



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for great deals whilst caring for his animals at home. For the first time ever, sales have exceeded \$700k in a 12-month period. While this is an impressive figure, only 23% was to VRA members, so it would be fantastic if members could please support our shop. All money earned goes back to the facilities used by our members and to buy more stock for the shop.

Due to a global shortage, many shooters have struggled to acquire components. We can now proudly say that the VRA has been thinking outside the square, and now has plenty of stock to keep our members shooting. We are continuing to work with increasingly more suppliers to obtain better deals and pricing for our shooters, yet another reason to support our shop. If there are items you need, please don't forget to reach out to Marty and he can provide support where possible.

The membership management system update has gone very well and is currently being looked at by the NRAA as a national rollout, with many clubs nationally facing similar challenges to the ones we had in the past.

In other plans, we are currently looking at the structured development of a junior program, a plan that has previously been hindered substantially by the closure of the range. We are also reviewing the construction and utilization of shot marker targets to allow more use of the range without the need for markers.

On the achievement front, we've had a lot of success as a state, and here are just a few shooting accomplishments over the past year:

## **VRA Kings 2024**

- TRB, Peter Daldy, Karramomus
- FSA, Jason O'Rourke, FCGRC
- FTR, Marty Kelly, Wangaratta
- Sporter Production Class, Graeme Kerr, ECDRA

2025 is already looking to be an exciting year for the VRA and a year to recommence our competitions and utilization of our great range. A draft syllabus will soon be available for clubs to shoot at Bendigo. Don't forget to check out the event calendar on the website.

Thank you again for attending and good shooting to all!

Markus Gaebele  
VRA Chairman



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## Treasurers Report – FY 23–24

AGM 23rd November 2024

Good afternoon to all members, Chairman, Executive Officer, and fellow Councillors.

You should have a copy of the financials for the year 2023-2024.

It has been a difficult year with the closure of the range and online shop however this has been finalised and we should improve from here.

We were able to hold Kings this year and through cost controls the result was a profit of \$8505. The planning the the next Kings is advanced with a lot of medals and badges having been purchased.

Revenue for the year was up by \$321976 in real terms

Wages were up \$86941 due to the extra time required to renegotiate the Wellsford lease on the fall out Zone, completion of the Membership Management System database (MMS), application for accounts with NAB and eWay to reopen the Online shop, extra hours in running the VRA shop on Saturday mornings, multiple storm cleanups plus time taken in going to Melbourne to get goods through Customs.

After all of the above we ended the year with a profit of \$36148

As of 30/06/24, our current assets are \$1,347,314, we have \$192,609 in cash and \$482,414 in stock on hand.

The VRA is financially stable and able to service any of its current commitments.

Thank you

Frank Conner.