

## **QRA Helps Clubs Upgrade and Improve Facilities**

Over the past couple of years the Queensland Rifle Association has been setting aside funds from its operations to assist its affiliated rifle clubs upgrade and improve range facilities for their members and visitors.

At this year's AGM the Council of the QRA approved an additional grant category that now extends the allocation of funds to include club house improvements. These grants are expected to be able to remain in place for a number of years into the future as the QRA's forward planning of finances has seen this is a top priority for the growth and development of the sport in the state. A special fund has been established whereby future applications can be drawn from to ensure the program has enough money available to last well into the future.

To date the QRA President Mr John Johnstone has been very pleased with the take up of the grant schemes by clubs and is actively promoting their use so that shooting ranges can be upgraded to provide the improved facilities and standards which members and visitors are now expecting from all sports providers.

Up until June 2008, over 20 QRA clubs have had applications approved totalling over \$58,000 for a variety of improvements or promotions to be carried out.

Mr Johnstone stated that *"it was interesting that once a club has had a grant approved many of them start looking to see what other things they can do to improve their operations. This has had the effect that Club morale is improved quite noticeably with the commensurate flow on effects towards membership and promotion of the sport"*.



### **Central Queensland Target Sports Club upgraded their kitchen facilities and replaced their bore pump with assistance from QRA**

One club, the Central Queensland Target Sports, based at Raglan (between Gladstone and Rockhampton) has been particularly active in these areas and has

had grants approved by the QRA totalling in excess of \$18,500 to help them complete the projects they have undertaken or propose to undertake.

Mr Johnstone also said that " *this is the sort of support to Country Clubs that the QRA has set out to achieve for its clubs and country members, as those people that shoot on the Belmont Complex have enjoyed the benefits of improved facilities over the past few years and it's time that these improvements started flowing through to the other regions in Queensland*".

The grants available from the QRA to its affiliated clubs are:

A- Country Club assistance

50% grant up to \$ 5,000 plus 1 third for a further \$ 2,500 giving a maximum of \$ 7,500 for a total project.

For; range upgrades to comply with Weapons Licensing Branch requirements to retain range approval, anything to do with safety, anything to improve the general running of the range complex.

Projects that have been or could be funded include- Upgrade of stop butts, Mantlet repairs and extensions, target machine replacement/ repairs, earthworks to improve/repair the firing points, fencing, safety signs, necessary critical road works, flags, power connection, external showers/ toilets, power packs to provide electricity for prize meetings, mowers, slashers etc.



**Barcaldine Rifle Club used their grant for earthworks and to replace target mechanisms**

B- Membership development

50% grant up to a maximum of \$ 1,000. For assistance with open days, come and try it, advertising campaigns etc.

C- Club Rifle upgrades

50% grant up to \$ 500 per rifle to provide fully adjustable stocks to club rifles for use by new members. Maximum 2 rifles per club.



**Murwillumbah Rifle Club members learning to set up adjustable stocks during Coaching and Simulation Training with QRA EO Rex Wigney**

D- Simulation subsidy

The subsidy is approx \$ 400 per beam hit simulation system, one per club.  
(Clubs or individuals may purchase additional units but there is no subsidy).



**Kerod Lindley Pheasant Creek, Bevan Goschnick Monto, Charles Arrowsmith Biloela  
and  
Ray Truelson Central Qld receive Beamhit Simulators for their clubs  
from Meredith Nestor QRA State Coach during  
Coaching and Simulation Training at the Raglan Range**

## E- Club House Upgrades

Funding for all clubs for certain upgrades to internal club facilities. The grant will be 50% to a maximum of \$ 2,500, initially cumulative.

Intended areas that would attract funding would be; Fridges, microwaves, sinks, jugs, toasters, cutlery, crockery and glassware, tables, chairs, filing cabinet, hot water system for sink NOT showers, etc.



### **North Arm Rifle Club repaired their roof with a QRA grant**

The grants are available to all QRA clubs looking to improve their facilities to assist in retaining existing members as well as attracting new members to the sport. In a number of instances the Clubs receiving QRA development grants have also made applications to other funding bodies under the Queensland governments sports grant scheme and or other bodies that provide grant funding for these types of programs. In these cases this has meant that those clubs have had to put in very little if any of own their funds to achieve range improvements that benefit all shooters visiting them.

Further details of the grants scheme are available from the QRA Secretary 07 33984309 or from any QRA Board member or Councillor.

Rob Rush

QRA Vice President