

Carver's Gold



Neil Carver with Alan Dods (Club Captain)

Congratulations Neil Carver- 50 Years Membership of WARA

Neil's passion for shooting began at the ripe old age of 10 when he was given his first .22 rifle, which proudly occupies space in his gunsafe today.

Neil's family home at the time was in Warawarrup close to the south west town of Harvey. His schooling continued at Aquinas College where he enlisted with the college army cadet unit. Whilst attached to the cadets he was assigned a .303 rifle converted to fire .22 cal bullets (Known as a Morris Tube). As result of this training, he enjoyed rifle shooting so much that while on holidays at Warawarrup he rode his pushbike to the Harvey Rifle Range where he shot with the Harvey Club. Neil pays tribute to the members particularly Dougal Leech, Mick Hinge, Reg Upton and Ted Hanley for their support.

Neil not being a person for sitting still also enjoys several other interests outside Rifle Shooting, including golf, fishing, flying (Tiger Moth) and many family activities.

In 1959, as life moved on, an employment opportunity with the intrastate airline known as MMA took a young Neil Carver north to Carnarvon. It was here in 1959 that Neil acquainted himself with the Carnarvon Rifle Club and in 1960 formally joined the Carnarvon Club and officially affiliated with the NRA of WA (now known as WARA). There were many great years to follow and Neil acknowledges the Carnarvon members particularly Noel Cunningham & Ron Williams for their friendship and escapades on last minute decisions to attend prize meetings south a mere 300-600 miles away.

Neil competed in his first WARA Queens Prize Meeting in 1966 and has participated every year since, also including trips to interstate Queens Prize Meetings – A remarkable effort!

In only his second Queens he won 15th Badge and has also won a number of badges and Grand Aggregate Medals since. This shooting ability gained him selection in the West Australian Rifle Team as a shooter and as Neil's ability and experience at reading shooting conditions progressed, selection as Coach of both the Under 25's WA State Team and the WA Veteran's State Team followed. Neil and Joy had charge of the Under 25 team that travelled to the prestigious Bi-Centenary competition held at Anzac Rifle Range - Sydney in 1988.

When work permitted, Neil & Joy enjoyed travelling to many country DRA Prize Meetings with frequent success.

In 1975, with family being a priority in Neil's life he, together with wife Joy & family, moved from Carnarvon to the metropolitan area for their children's education. It was in that year Neil transferred his membership to the City of Subiaco Rifle Club, beginning a brilliant era including shooting, coaching, club administration and mentoring of many new Subiaco members, always willing to return the type of early support he himself had received.

Forever thinking about shooting, Neil created a team's handicap formula that would encourage lower graded shooters to compete in the MDRA's interclub team shoots.

Neil's contribution to the City of Subiaco Rifle Club has been enormous, holding several positions over many years, including Captain and President. As a result

of his huge contributions, in 1999, for service to the Subiaco Club, Neil was bestowed **Life Membership**.

Now, Neil also has a rare talent as a poet. Many a time at club functions, with minimal notice, Neil authors a poem reflecting the function's activities with a huge response of laughter and applause (this includes his famous Superman joke).

One other significant highlight during his shooting career was encouraging his wife Joy to compete in the sport.

Neil – you are a gentleman – on behalf of all your fellow Subiaco clubmembers – we say thank you.

By Stephen Tuckey