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RINGWOOD HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Address all correspondence to 175 Whitehorse Road, Ringwood

President: Mr. J. K. McCaskill, J.P. WU 6219

Secretary: Mrs. D. Anderson. WU 6537

20 Mullum Rd,
Sunday. 14 th Feb. 67.

Dear Mc,

Re William Grace and his Indian Army horses. I was talking today to the young chap who lives a stones throw from where Grace had his store shed. He said "that explains all the horse shoes we dig up. And also why ~~my~~ my father found horse shoes inside some pinetrees he cut down for firewood."

Re Rifle Club. In Oct. 1926 Mr. R. Storey, 4 Hobart St, Rwd, wrote to the Council asking that a rifle club be formed in Rwd. The Mayor convened a public meeting a month later, which he chaired. Meeting held in Rwd Hall. Present with Mayor were Colonel Merritt, after whom Williamstown Rifle Range is named, Mr Les James, Supervisor of rifle clubs, and a number of interested men in the body of the hall. It was decided to form a club and the finding of a suitable site for a range was left to Mr. Storey. Only two sites were inspected and as neither had a good safety area large enough, the idea of a club lapsed.

In 1953 seven local men joined the Lillydale Rifle Club. As this club had no range of their own everyone had to go to the Christmas Hills range. Soon it was found that the Rwd boys outnumbered the Lillydale and when a few more Rwd enquiries about joining were made, it was decided to try and form a Ringwood Rifle Club. This was taken in hand by the late Hugh Coleman of Oban Rd and First Constable Bill Hall of Rwd police. The 30 names of intending members was soon collected and sent in to the Supervisor of Rifle Clubs. A meeting was held in the Drill Hall, alongside the railway line near Wantirna Rd, in June 1954 and the club formed. This time they were directed to the Hurstbridge range which had 6 targets. The club went over there until early 1956 when it was decided to join in with Lillydale and take over an old abandoned range on Hill Bros property "Henley" Lillydale. This was rebuilt and 4 targets installed. By this time the Healesville Rifle Club had joined in. The Rwd club grew so big that the last men to shoot were doing so in the dusk. This caused a falling off in shooters and rather than have the club go down, the club Captain (First Const. Hall) and committee decided to find their own range. A wartime commando training camp was inspected and it was found that their range, a 300 yard one, could be rebuilt and extended. The owner, Phillipots a dairyman of Nth Balwyn, was contacted and a 5 year lease signed, £20 a year. This was in May 1958. The work of extending the range back to 600 yards and building a target pit to hold three targets commenced. The range is alongside the reserve in Jumping Creek Rd, Warrandyte, where Phillipots has 800 acres. The Range was officially opened on 12th Sep. 1959 by the Chairman of the Victorian Rifle Association, W. Mitchell Esq. Also present were Mr Manson M.L.A. and Cr. R. Spencer of Rwd Council. The club captain then being Alec Williams, Lot 50 Longview Rd, Croydon. The club forms part of the Diamond Valley Rifle Club Union and is the strongest club in it, having over 60 members. Enclosed is an invitation to opening and club badge.

All the best,

P.S. I joined in June 1954

Don Sullivan

Rifle Club

28-9-26 G. S. STOREY asks for support of Council to form
a Rifle Club. Mayor to call public meeting
NOT SUCCESSFUL.

R.R.C FORMED 1954.

R.P. foundation member