

GGWAS Chair report of the Society's activities during 2023.

Nine years ago, a few people wanted something different and the GGWAS was formed. Now a respected Archery club within the whole of New Zealand, with ANZ Board members coming to us asking how it is done. We have kept to the same formula we started with, as being open, friendly, and if possible, an adaptable group of archers. When away from our shooting field, members from other clubs remark on the 'Vibe' of the GGWAS, likewise when old members come and visit, they remark that we are retaining and growing into our core values. They also comment on how well prepared and supportive we are of our archers, ensuring that they know what they need to do with scoring, line etiquette and general shooting standard.

ANZ social membership wing, often report on the friendly manner we portray ourselves and spread this to other clubs and social media outlets for Archery in New Zealand and Oceania.

On the Competition Field, key events

Over the past year the society has seen some continued success on the Shooting field by a small but growing group of Archers.

Some of these are from memory, so please correct me if I'm wrong or missed something or somebody.

- January: ANZ Nationals (Auckland), Julia, Maria and Tony with Lauren in Support
- February: Royal Hutton shoot (6 GGWAS archers took part as this is an ANS member shoot)
- March: Kenny Rogers Memorial (Christchurch) Julia, Maria, Tony & Russell and GGWAS club event Archery Darts between GGWAS, Christchurch and Timaru
- April: Fun shoot (Challenge Julia to get her ready for the Oceania competition) and WA Oceania (Melbourne) Gold for Julia in Mixed Team with Finn Matherson which had the club on an arrow-by-arrow watch until the live feed failed...
- April/May: Beginner course 1 held.
- May: Fun shoot to introduce the beginners to the Society
- June: Dunedin, Julia and Tony (Colin visited on his bike) and Oceania Club challenge (GGWAS), Tony, Colin, Saahil, Russell, Julia(1st), Maria (2nd) and Tori
- August: Dunedin 85th birthday, Maria and Colin and 50th Indoor nationals (Palmerston North) Maria, Tori and Colin attended.
- September: Aussie Nationals, Julia and did the club proud.
- October: Neroli Fairhall (Christchurch) Julia, Tony, Russell and Maria and Rookie Invasion with Saahil, Ian, Dean, Jeremy, Jesse, Jupiter, Aubrey & Aida.
- Oct/Nov: Beginners course 2
- November: Gream Marrett (Dunedin) Tony, Julia and Aida and GGWAS Fun shoot for Halloween
- December: Fun shoot with AGM,
- Still to come:
 - Tinsel Trophy (Dec 17th) RMT registered ST Nicolas with members from Timaru (7) and Geraldine (4)
 - Aussie Summer Binge I think (Morwell/Melbourne) Julia (End Dec 2023)
 - Dave Henshaw Classic (Jan 2024) Tony, Julia has a full line with 45 archers taking part, please drop by to support the GGWAS archers.

Club Membership

At the end of **1st December in 2022, we had a membership of 41 on the books**, with 16 Juniors and 25 seniors. As at the end of November 2023, it must be said that we have lost a few, some to other clubs such as Brooke that did her beginner course here at the GGWAS but moved to the Christchurch club because she could not fit Sundays into her work schedule. A few have decided archery was not for them at this time such as Hadley and Sean, but we may see them back some day.

We held 2 great beginners courses over the year to introduce some new archers to our sport and Society plus some intake from 'MC Archery' and we welcome all our new members that are here today.

Our current membership as of the **30th of November 2023 has increased to 55**, made up of 15 juniors (Under 21's) and 40 seniors (29 Males and 26 Females) and **an increase of 14 new members**.

One good marker is the number of archers turning up each week to shoot, something we have been recording since 2020. In 2020 on average the society had 14 archers, in 2021 this had dropped to 13 mostly due to COVID but grew in 2022 to 18. In 2023, we have not seen this grow much and stands at an average of 19. This is something the Society must address, and we need to identify why this number has not increased in line with the increase in membership. Please tell the committee what we can do if you are not a regular attendee so your view counts and as a society will do our best to accommodate.

With the current spread of ages and ability within the society, the number of targets we have available are mostly all in use, meaning the club is close to approaching a working maximum, with storage space becoming an issue, in some cases a good position to be in as a club, we are growing.

Coaching

Over the past 12 months we have held 2 beginners courses led superbly by Maria and her team of helpers, which hopefully are enjoyed by all that attend and especially by those that then become new members. Please tell everyone what we are doing right, but more importantly tell us if improvements can be made.

At entry level competitions such as the Rookie Invasion tournaments, GGWAS has been complimented, not just the quality of the archers that are entering, but the all-round knowledge of what to do with a score sheet, line etiquette and the general standard of our new archers. This shows that our method of coaching and continual improvement that we do, week on week as well as the coverage of skills we cover in all areas is of a high quality, and above what is offered by some more established clubs.

Back in January we held a bow tuning workshop which went down well, and this will be run again in early 2024 to help those that have purchased new equipment in the past 6 months, or as a refresher for others.

On improving the level from Novice and Development onwards we need to look at this in 2024, the morning is just not long enough to provide the level of coaching to you all. As the rules at National level are evolving, we must keep up with the change and how they impact archers at this level. The coaching team is fully aware of this and please speak up if you feel you have not been looked after or need more details if you want to shoot a competition away from the GGWAS. However, you coaches are all archers themselves and they also need some time to shoot from time to time so please ask early in the day and give time to receive an answer.

Some coaching activities planned for the Winter of 2023 did not go ahead as the Tucker household was not in a suitable state to accommodate the planned activities. Hopefully this will be addressed early in the Autumn, and this will help as it will give a platform to come and learn new skills and gain information away from the archery field (some practical will be involved this time).

With the wide range of abilities across the field we need to look at a different way to run the morning club coaching, so that our experienced archers down to our novices get the attention they deserve. To do this the current coaching staff needs to be increased and so we are looking at running some coach training to help free up the existing coaches a little more. The alternative is that some form of mid-week coaching at a home venue is arranged.

Club Equipment

Only 1 working bee has been held over the year and a 2nd one now overdue, some of our targets are beginning to suffer. We have had a few pass-through arrows when the air gets damp, from both recurve and compound archers. This is both annoying to the archer, as the arrows need to be refletched, as well as possibly dangerous as the location of the arrow is unpredictable.

Tony has made 2 more target stands which are awaiting delivery to the club, but a change to the 'Mark 1' stand needs to be made before we can fit them all in the container. We already have the 2 new targets sitting at the rear of the container waiting to go. In the coming year we need to look at a cost-effective replacement for our targets, Colin and Maria are investigating a possible solution from a UK model using locally sourced material but will require some in-house fabrication.

With regards to Bows and arrows, over the year the society has donated several sets of arrows (3 dozen) to Maria, club members have also been kind enough to donate old sets as well. 5 replacement bow stands have also been purchased and donated in exchange for the use of her works equipment each week and we thank her for that use. Even if the club had the resources to store club equipment of this type, it would still have to be stored in private homes as it is allowed to be stored on school grounds.

Recently we have seen a break into our society's container, with the loss of our 3 small compounds, several tools and the lock on the container. This could have been far worse had we had a supply of full-sized bows and sets of arrows in the same container. Those responsible did make their way halfway down into the space to get to the tools. Luckily, they missed the 2 metal detectors and so our losses are low.

The lock has been replaced with something a little more robust, but still not grinder proof. The 3 small bows have been replaced with the purchase of 4 hard found bows (These have been named as 'Avery', 'Dick', 'Harry' and 'Tom'....). Some of the tools have been replaced in the Black Friday sales by Tony and we will look at what else is needed and maybe replaced in the January sales.

We have been in talks with the school to add the society's container to their insurance but have been told that this is not possible and so we may have to investigate if this is possible to get ourselves.

With regards to the use of Maria's work equipment, due to the number of arrows damaged (Bent, broken nocks and loose fletchings) and the odd new string that is required. Maintenance is a full-time job some weeks, especially at the start of a school term or beginners course. Maria and sometimes Colin must work to keep these in suitable sets for every Sunday and also to be available for a Monday morning. This work goes unnoticed by the society and the club owes Maria their gratitude as without this we would not be able to hold beginners courses or have 'club' equipment available.

Club Diversity

We continue to have a Society that is inclusive in more ways than one.

We are happy to see our members have a go at barebow shooting, playing with stabilization and different bow types and having a go at a new distance from time to time.

All types of bows are welcome at the GGWAS. Recent events have raised an important question to the Board of Archery New Zealand with regards our growing number of traditional bow archers. Colin as a National Judge and as someone that wishes to ensure that all are included has been tasked by the Judges commission to come up with a set of rules for this type of bow and methods of releases/aiming, Thumb ring, finger release, allowable face/string walking that may differ from the normal Barebow methods. To find suitable rounds and distances for all ages and divisions and then to formally present this to the board. Support for this has already come from several clubs and an ex-president of Archery New Zealand. This will take time to put together and may still be rejected. It will be against World Archery rules, but so is having a camouflage bow which is allowed in New Zealand, so you never know.

Our actual membership comes from all corners of the world, but we still have no Australians, and no Māori as far as I know, but we do have archers from most other continents. Hopefully we make you all feel welcome if not please come and talk to us.

Issues over the year

The health of our society's Patron needs to be reported. Peter, having undergone brain surgery and was slowly on his road to recovery, only to face other obstacles with his health and can no longer see to drive a car, but is now pretty mean with a mobility scooter. Peter, while not being a regular at the Society keeps an active watch over our activities via the Facebook posts and when in contact actively seeks out updates into how we are all doing.

Equipment security, with the recent break in Tony has investigated how we could improve on the security of our container and believes that it is possible to fix a solid metal box around the lock to prevent grinders from being used without extended effort to deter future break ins. Hopefully the Society will get permission to do this (We do not actually own the container, just rent the space) and get this actioned during the Summer. A working bee will be needed and will be both time and weather dependent so sort this out.

With the society's equipment stored at the school, private garages and in people's homes, with recent events, the need for a full stock take of all the clubs equipment and location needs to be taken. Be it what score sheets we have in the filing cabinet, what target face we have and their rate of use. This is needed for the club to ensure that we know the state of our equipment, what target faces we need and to ensure that each year this detail is correctly reported in our end of year statement.

School Keys, with ongoing security issues at the school and the impact of Marian College moving to their new permanent location on Great North Road (former Foodstuffs warehouse) the number of school keys that are being allocated to external groups is being kept low, hence we have only 1 gate key and 4 door keys, none of these can have spares cut. We will keep on requesting a 2nd gate lock key, but this is unlikely to be actioned by the school in the foreseeable future.

Looking forward to 2024

The club is growing and so the needs of our archers are changing, this requires us to look at new ways to support all our archers. This will result in more "Split line" working with archers running 2 separate but well-spaced individually roped of areas, be that for walk back tuning, distance training, beginners courses etc. or 1-2-1 coaching area. Each area needs to have its own Field captain calling the line, some rules regarding this will need to be put in place to ensure safety and that it does not lead to a split club atmosphere. Extra equipment such as more rope (over 200 meters), stakes to support the rode and warning signage will be needed. This will help the Society to move forwards, but care will be needed, arrows in the all-weather cricket area could see us looking for a new shooting venue as well as not being good for the arrow (or cricketer that finds it).

Looking at arranging a rota for acting as field captain as we need more to take on this responsibility.

We have a great deal planned for 2024 with some form of monthly progress shoots (to test yourself against a known achievable score) and see if it's time to move up a distance, some RMT's to help archers gain ANZ achievements. We hope that we can fit in an Archery Darts Challenge with more of the local clubs and bow tuning workshop(s)

We also hope to run general archer Training (away from the field, mixture of theory and practical's) and a GGWAS Coach training course (if anybody interested) together with our normal events of a delayed summer championship and the winter program including the ECBOPAA series and maybe the odd beginners course.

Thank You's

To Close I need to say a few Thankyous to some of the members of the Society for their help and support over the year. But this report has gone on long enough so I will keep this short.

To Maria for almost everything, and Tori for looking after the financials.

To Tony for looking after the field most of the time (a thankless task I know)

To John, Sophie, James and Hazel with Tori and Maria for help with coaching and running the beginners courses.

To Tony and John for looking after the societies equipment, freeing me up to look after the archers.

But most of all to you as Society members for making the GGWAS what it is, the friendliest Archery club in New Zealand.

Please accept this summary of the society's activities over 2023.

Colin Tucker

Society President 2023

Presented 3/12/2023