GGWAS Chair report of the Society’s activities during 2018.

Year Four – The Gosling has learnt to Fly.

On the surface 2018 has not been a good year for the Grey Goose Wing Archery Society, no RMT’s have been held, we have not hosted any tournaments apart from the Tinsel Trophy, and we have seen little change in our membership figures.

Numbers have remained stable at around 30 members (currently 16 Seniors and 13 Juniors) but we have lost 8 members over the year. Of these, 6 have vowed to come back when they either return to New Zealand (Alex and Yutorario), or find more time (Kent, Kevin, Michael and Hael). However, the club is still as diverse as ever with Target Recurve, Compound bows as well as a growing number of Barebow Archers on the line each Sunday, and we still have those shooting Long and Short (or Horse) bows from time to time.

The year started with the 2018 NZ Nationals, in which Julia and Lauren picked up right where they left the 2017 outdoor championship with more podium finishes between them and both remaining New Zealand National Champions in their relative disciplines. Lauren also gaining the Most improved Female Junior Compound awards for 2017.

We have seen some of our club members shoot Internationally for New Zealand in 2018, not bad for a young club. Maria shot in the first of the World Grand Prix event of 2018 in Shanghai in April having gained selection at a selection shoot held in Rotorua over w very wet February weekend. She also competed in the Senior Oceania event in New Caledonia held in July coming away with a Silver Medal for the Mixed Team with Chase from Auckland. We also had Julia and Lauren shoot in the Bi-Annual Trans-Tasman Youth championship in Melbourne (Aus) in April and in the Youth Oceania event in New Caledonia in which they returned with several podium positions between both. Well done, Girls!

We had many archers shoot the Royal Hutton competition and in Feb and came away with several medals.

For the first time we had a team in the ANZ Team Summer Postal run from Oct 2017 to March 2018 and won our division with a clean sweep, this promoted our team up 2 divisions enabling the club to enter a second team for the 2018/19 season so that more of our archers have a change to “fight’ for a spot on the team. Currently both teams have won their first matches, but it looks like things are a little tighter this year, so we need to be on our best in the rest of the season.

Winter had us shooting the East Coach Bay of Plenty Archery Associations Postal and as in 2017 have come away with several medals. The 2018 winners have been presented with (or will be) during this AGM.

We have also managed to put teams in the Archery New Zealand Ryan (Recurve), Fraser (Compound) and Hamilton (Barebow) for at the end of 2018.The results of this are reported at the Banquet at the end of the Archery New Zealand National in Auckland in January. Not many clubs in New Zealand have the depth of members to do this and the club has been thanked for having the strength to enter this competition in all its forms.

But it has not all been about competitive Archery. We have held 3 successful beginners’ courses over the year. It is good to see new archers from these courses here today (hopefully) and hope that they continue with the sport in whatever direction they wish to follow. The club has hosted several fun shoots over the year, shooting and Dinosaurs, Zombies, and Famous Grose as well as Halloween and Christmas themed fun shoots. A further fun event will be held this afternoon (weather permitting More of these will be in the plan for 2019.

While the club as not put on any RMT’s during the year as hoped, with the purchase of the 4 full size targets we can start to do more and will be great to see more GGWAS shirts on a competitive line shooting shoulder to shoulder as Barebow/Longbow/Recurve and Compound archers together. However, we need to support more archers to start competitive shooting, and this will be looked at later in this meeting.

On the Admin side, the big push has been to fulfil the requirement to become a full Incorporated Society, this protects members of the club should an accident happen as well as providing a more formal base to apply for grants. This was achieved on the 3rd May, so we are now officially “The Grey Goose Wing Archery Society Incorporated 2703231”. This required a few very small changes to the club’s constitution at the time of incorporation for which the approval was made during the 2016 EGM and AGM. There is still some work to do to keep us compliant and these actions are currently in progress.

The Society management team are also aware of the need to look for better shooting grounds, especially with the new classrooms being installed at the east side of the school field. Over the year we have been in talks with Canterbury University Sports department (and Archery Club) with the hope of moving to Ilam and gaining some form of Indoor capability. However, as all University sports are moving away from the Campus this move is unlikely to progress further at this time. A possible move to the Elmwood Sports club in Papanui is currently being looked, but cost and availability may be an issue here. We are also in contact with the Council overtaken on (with the organisations) the use of the Coronation Hall on Domain Terrace in Spreydon as an indoor shooting venue and moving the club to the Spreydon Domain and joining the groups of clubs that use this area. Cost is a big factor in all these moves and so we must ensure that it is to the benefit of the club now and into the future before we make a move.

Wonder what 2019 will bring, maybe the Goose will fly high?

Colin Tucker – The Grey Goose Wing Archery Society