



Kapunda Rifle Club 160th Anniversary

Kapunda Rifle Club continues to hit the target



Some of the Kapunda Rifle Club members: Barry Kalleske, Geoff Neldner, Eddy Kanik, Jayden Mullins, Greg Mullins, Dave Shepherd, John Scobie, Peter Dayman, Lindsay Mullins (President), Fred Guyatt, John Hoerisch, John Jones.



Long-standing member, David 'Butch' Lindner.

By Jem Nash

Kapunda Rifle Club is celebrating a monumental milestone as it reaches its 160th anniversary this year.

One of the oldest sporting clubs in Australia, the history begins as early as 1863, and was initially financed mainly by the defence force.

Unlike many other clubs, Kapunda is incredibly lucky to own the property that its range is situated on, which is a major reason that it's lasted so long.

Over the years, previous clubs in Tanunda, Angaston, Eudunda and Truro have been forced to close and merge with Kapunda.

The club house was completed in 1974, and was constructed entirely under volunteer labour.

As it stands, Kapunda Rifle Club currently has 63 members, including 51 full members, 10 non-shooting associate members and two life members.

Many of its representatives have enjoyed success, including the likes of Adam Pohl and Peter Larsen who have shot for Australia.

"We've had so many members that have gone into state teams and Australian teams over the years," Kapunda Rifle Club Captain, Les Williams said.

Kapunda uses an imperial range, shooting from between 300 yards and 1,000 yards, with targets becoming smaller over the years as the rifles became more accurate.

The sport has also created new disciplines in the past 25 years, including F-class, which

uses rifles with a stand and a long-range sight, making it a bit easier to shoot and attracting new people to the discipline.

Les believes the sport comes with many advantages because it trains your mind.

"When I'm walking there with my rifle and ammo, I'm concentrating and mentally leaving distractions on the ground," he said.

"By the time I lay down on the mound, all I'm looking at is the strength of the wind... and just concentrating on breathing and clicking off the shot.

"It's mentally effective because it teaches you how to have a stronger mind."

The sport comes with no discrimination, depending on your age or ability, and the club has always promoted inclusivity.

Children can shoot while supervised from as young as 11 and join the SA Rifle Association when they are 14-years-old.

Kapunda also has David 'Butch' Lindner who is still shooting at 91-years-old and has many club, regional and state awards to his name.

He recently received his 70-years membership badge from the Association.

The sport has a lot of safety rules and regulations that are strictly adhered to.

"People have got a misconception of the sport and it's sad really because if they could just come out and have a look at what goes on, they'd probably change their mind," Kapunda Rifle Club President, Lindsay Mullins said.

"(It's) a sport that has absolutely no gender or age discrimination, or disability

disadvantages, that's been around for so long and actually is good for your mind as well as your body," Les added.

The club holds a shoot most weekends and it's always a very social day.

Les said it's very easy to "get the bug" for the sport.

"Each week, you'll do your best but it might not be the best and you'll keep coming back," he said.

The success of the club is due to its membership, which has ensured it has continued to thrive for 160 years.

"The only reason this club's supported as well as it is and has been, is because of the membership, and that's both labour (and) financially," Lindsay said.

"This club really has got a good foundation and has been built strongly," Les added.

"We've used the skills of the members to be able to extend the club and expand.

"It has just been fantastic."

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CONGRATULATIONS

to all Kapunda Rifle Club members on your 160 year anniversary!

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Congratulations to the Kapunda Rifle Club on your 160th Anniversary.

We wish your Club continued success.



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