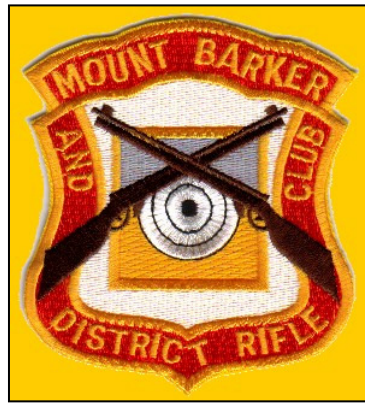


WELCOME TO THE MT.BARKER RIFLE CLUB.

**THE MOUNT BARKER AND DISTRICT RIFLE CLUB
INCORPORATED - (No. 146).**

Incorporated on 23rd of May 1961. (Incorporation No A2295)



Mount Barker Rifle Club History

The original club at Mount Barker was formed under the Defence Forces Act in 1891 under the Captaincy of Mr. H. Paltridge and had about 30 members. The club was disbanded by the Government in February 1897 when the Defence Forces Act was repealed.

Another club was formed in September 1900 with Mr. F. R. Smith as Captain but this club did not get off the ground.

A meeting was held in February 1911 to form a club and in March a deputation approached the District Council to make available the road that was previously used as a rifle range for the old club, about a mile from the railway station. The range built by the Military Authorities, was completed in March 1913 and only awaited the installation of additional targets for use by the club. The official opening was held in May 1913 with Mr. Louis Von Doussa officiating Mr. F. H. Ferry held the Captains position until 1918.

In February 1914 an additional two targets were installed on the range bringing the total number to 6 and in May a shelter shed was built (although it took until 1927 before a convenience was added) most of this work being made possible by the generosity of Mr. R. Barr-Smith who donated 100 pounds to the club. Because of the availability of 6 shutter type targets, Mount Barker was made the District range for the Southern D.R.C.U.

Fourteen members of the club enlisted in the Armed Services during World War One, of whom 3 were killed in action. An Honour Roll was place in the club house as a mark of respect and unveiled in March 1920.

The Club held it's first Open Prize Meeting on 27th December 1921 which was attended by 87 competitors, 57 from city clubs .The shoot was held over 300, 500 & 600 yards and was won by W.T.Collyer of the Cyclists club with 98/105. His winning prize being 2 pounds ten shillings. Although the shooting was commenced at 8.30 am the proceedings were delayed by the late arrival of the train from Adelaide.

The Club was formed as Mount Barker in 1913 but its name was changed in July 1937 to Mount Barker & Districts at the July 1937 annual general meeting to better reflect the area covered by its membership.

In October 1938 the lease of the range expired and the land owner (who had purchased the property two years prior) was not of a mind to renew the lease. Shooting actually ceased at the range in April 1939 and arrangements were made with the Hahndorf club to practice at their range until a new range was available. The new range , to the west of the town was opened on 1st June 1940.

The Mount Barker Rifle Club is still in this location today and the members enjoy the success which Mr Von Doussa predicted.

Members had to contend with a few trials & tribulations along the way, one of which was the original Clubhouse being partially destroyed in a severe storm in 1956. Most of the clubhouse was salvageable so the members set about rebuilding it in its original form where it stood with a few additions and alterations until early in 1983.

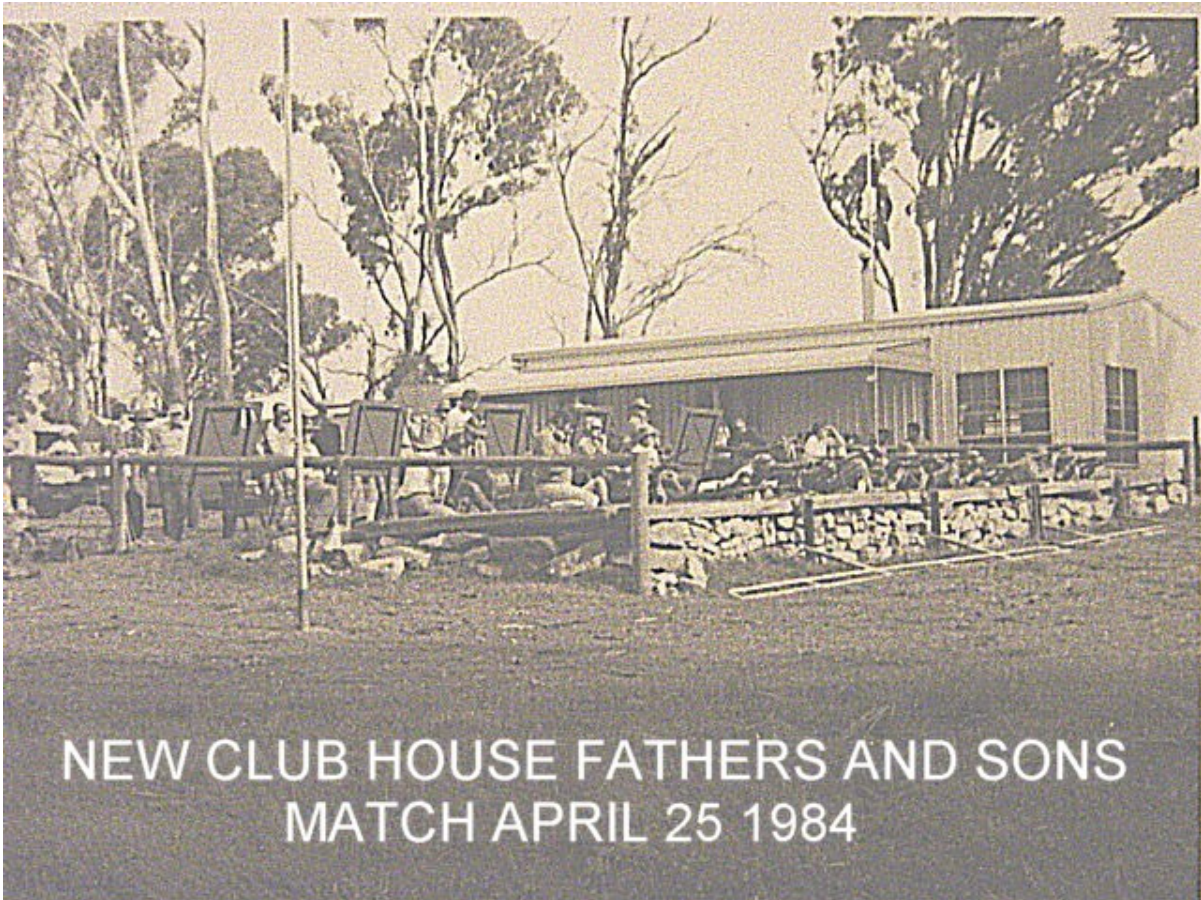
February 16th 1983 (Ash Wednesday) nearly saw the demise of the Club , as the range and Clubhouse were completely destroyed by fire. Due to the stern resolution of members at the time, some financial assistance from the South Australian Fullbore Rifle Association and some of the affiliated Clubs the range and facilities were completely rebuilt.

Some 5,500 man hours and a cost of \$26000 has seen the resurrection of the Club from the ashes on that horrific day.

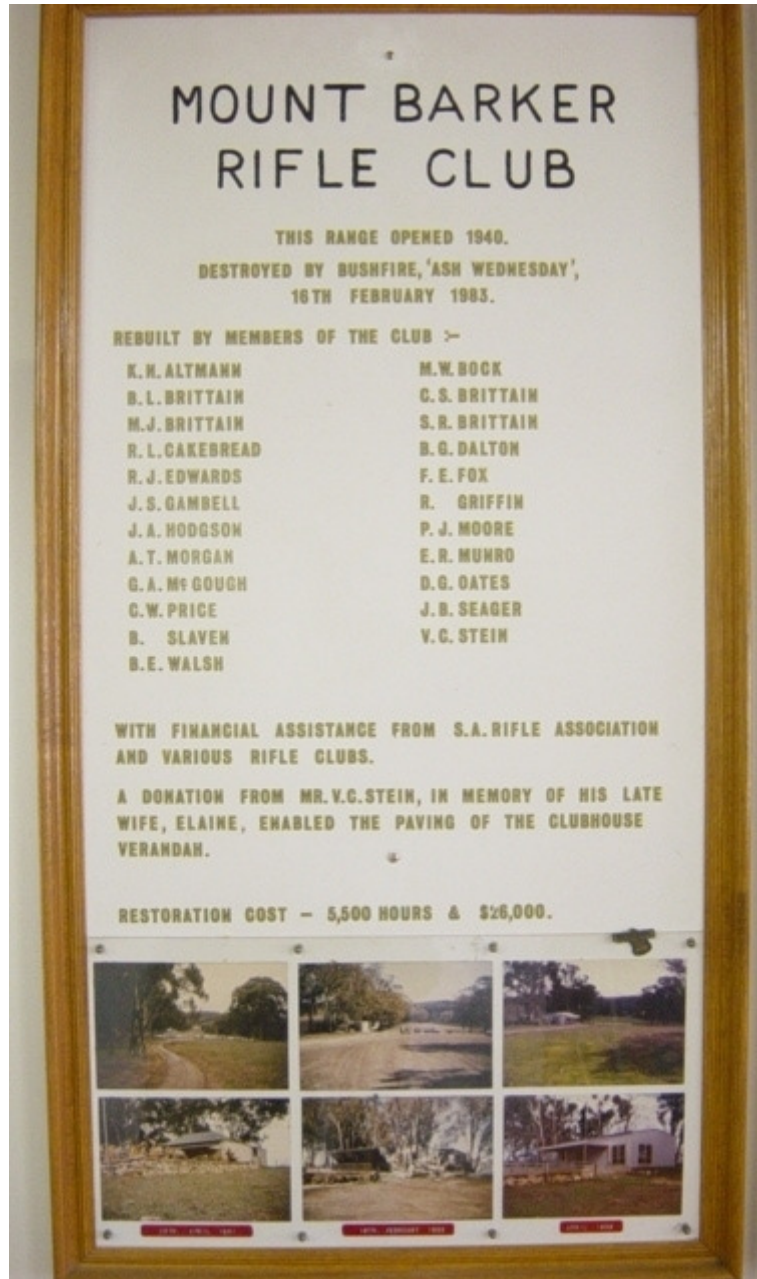
The priority of members was to have the range operational for the annual Fathers & Sons competition conducted each year on 25th April which they duly did.

Members come and go but the Mt Barker & Districts Rifle Club continues to prosper and in fact in this day and age of restrictive firearm legislation is increasing in membership and going further ahead.

Mt Barker Club House



The Mt Barker Barker Honour Roll of Club Members who rebuilt the Club



The Club entered a new phase in it's history with the introduction of Electronic Targets. The Mount Barker Rifle Club was having problems trying to employ people

to mark targets. Some lasted for a few weeks, some a little longer, but none turned up on a regular basis.

The Club would then be back in a similar situation of " Self Marking ". Due to the number of older members in the club, it seemed that the same members were volunteering week after week.

A committee was formed to look into costs and viability of Electronic Targets and what systems were available to us.

A period of approximately 9 years went by and some serious "Fund Raising " took place with all our efforts channelled towards Electronic Targets.

Auctions were held after some members donated all their spare bits & pieces and then raffles were the norm each Saturday and we even started our own Club Lotto. Funds began swelling and steadily increased.

The Target Committee that had been formed began to search and compile information as to what systems were available.

The Hex System was researched thoroughly and seemed to tick all the boxes. It is a wireless system, exactly what we required.

Meanwhile we still kept on fund raising.

On the 9th November 2012 the Club purchased, and with the help of the Hex Systems installed two Electronic Targets.

The results were better than we expected. Everything went as planned after some fruitful working bees and quite a few jobs completed behind the scenes. Some money managed to be saved and we were able to purchase target number 3.

At the present moment, the Club is very proud owners of four Electronic Targets. We were the only club in SA to acquire ET Targets.

Pictured below is the arrival of the first 2 Electronic Targets all the way by car from N.S.W.



Target Legs in position ready for the big launch



Our first Target in place



Overview of new target

Drop down electronics system



Scoring and Shooters viewing tablets housed in user friendly stands



M.B.D.R.C - Copyright ©2020

Electronic Target Update

The club now has four electronic targets and is pleased to announce that Hex Systems have updated our software and our shooting each Saturday between 1.00 pm until 4.30 pm may now be viewed live in real-time as the participants shoots.

<http://shooting.hexsystems.com.au/>

For Latest Club Results go to the world wide web at:

<https://shooting.hexsystems.com.au/club/4>