

Re: ECM 9759766  
LUC 24-48583

Good Morning

My name is Maree Rush.

I have had the privilege of being an active member of the New Plymouth Pistol Club for the past 13 years.

I would like to speak about what this club means to me, its members, and the wider community.

### SAFETY

Safety is our highest priority at the New Plymouth Pistol Club. All members are trained to follow strict safety procedures at all times. Flags must always be flying when shooting is taking place, and all range activities are conducted under the rules and standards set by Pistol New Zealand.

To become a registered Pistol New Zealand shooter and a member of the New Plymouth Pistol Club, people must demonstrate safe handling, discipline, understanding, and respect for both the sport and everyone on the range.

That strong safety culture is what makes our shooting sports safe and well managed.

Pistol shooting is also an internationally recognised sporting discipline, with New Zealand competitors representing our country at national and international levels. New Plymouth Pistol Club is proud to have members who have represented New Zealand in competition, *with all calibres*

### HEALTH, WELLBEING, AND COMMUNITY

The New Plymouth Pistol Club is not only a sporting venue, but also an important community hub.

Alongside competitive shooting and sporting enjoyment, the club provides social connection, support, conversation, laughter, and a strong sense of belonging and mutual respect between members.

The main discipline I participate in is Cowboy Action Shooting, and I am also the CAS (Cowboy Action Shooting) Convenor.

A great deal of volunteer time is spent preparing and organising club days and competitions. This commitment is shared by convenors and members across all shooting disciplines within the club.

In all my years at the New Plymouth Pistol Club, I have never witnessed anything unsafe or offensive. The only issue I have experienced at times is traffic noise from the road, which can make it difficult to hear stage instructions or conversations in the car park.

In 2013, during a North Island Championship hosted at the New Plymouth Pistol Club, the Match Director personally visited the three adjacent residential neighbours to advise them that a three-day competition would be taking place.

Those neighbours, including Big Jim's Garden Café, thanked him for informing them and advised that the traffic noise from the road was more constant and noticeable than the sporadic shooting activity from the club. They stated that the shooting noise itself was not a problem for them.

This club contributes far more than just a place to participate in sport. It provides camaraderie, personal wellbeing, skill development, community involvement, and a safe environment for people from many different backgrounds to come together.

In closing, I respectfully ask that careful consideration be given to the importance of this facility and what it provides to so many law-abiding and responsible members of the community.

It is vital that the New Plymouth Pistol Club continues operating for the benefit of its members, sporting disciplines, organised competitions, training activities, and the wider community into the future.

Yours sincerely  
Maree Rush

- Daytime contact: 027 405 3198
- I will be speaking
- Approx. 7 minutes total