



Colleen Tett

Council meeting - Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 9am, at the Civic Centre, Liardet Street, NP, Plymouth Room.

Kia ora koutou,

Ko Taranaki te maunga e rū nei tōku ngākau

Taranaki is the maunga closest to my heart.

Ko Waitara te awa e māhea nei ōku māharahara

Waitara is the awa that eases my worries.

I tipu ake au kei Waitara

I grew up in Waitara.

Ko Kaiako aha ki Midhirst Kura

I am a teacher at Midhirst School.

No Te Ātiawa ōku whānau tuarua

My second whānau are of Te Ātiawa descent.

Ko Mike rāua ko Heather Tett ōku matua

Ko Colleen Tett taku ingoa.

Why I Joined the New Plymouth Pistol Club (NPPC)

When people look at me, I am probably not what they expect a competitive shooter or firearms licence holder to look like. I did not grow up involved in shooting sports, nor did I enter this environment casually or without careful thought.

I obtained my firearms licence following the passing of my father, as I wanted to responsibly retain my grandfather's rifle within our family. This decision was not made lightly. The process of obtaining a firearms licence in New Zealand is rigorous, thorough, and highly regulated.

As part of that process, I completed the required theory and safety training, including a Mountain Safety course. It was there that I met Ron, who encouraged me to visit the club and experience firsthand the level of discipline, responsibility, and safety culture that exists within organised shooting sports.

What I quickly learned was that written rules alone were not enough. True firearms safety comes from continual training, supervision, accountability, and a strong safety culture — all things the NPPC provides exceptionally well.

I attended one of the club's Thursday evening training sessions designed for prospective members and the public, and from that point I became part of a community built on respect, discipline, responsibility, and support.

Then started the serious task of obtaining my B licence/Vetting.

What the Club Means to Me

I joined the club knowing almost no one. Over the last 10 years, the NPPC has become far more than simply a sporting venue to me.

It has become a place where I have formed lifelong friendships, built strong support networks, and been encouraged to continually challenge and improve myself.

The club has provided me with opportunities for personal growth, leadership, and service. Over the years I have taken on several important roles within the club, including:

- Club Secretary for three years *and committee member*
- Assistant Armourer
- Mentoring and supporting new members entering the sport

These responsibilities have strengthened my understanding of the serious obligations that come with firearms ownership, range management, and public safety.

The NPPC is a community where people genuinely look out for one another. It is a place where members support each other not only in sport, but in life.

The Friendships and Support Networks Built Through the Club

The NPPC brings together people from a wide variety of backgrounds, professions, ages, and life experiences through a shared commitment to safety, discipline, and sport.

Within the club there is a strong culture of mutual respect, accountability, and trust. Every person who steps onto the range understands the seriousness of what we do and the standards expected of them.

and other venues I have travelled to in NZ.
I have built friendships not only throughout Taranaki, but across New Zealand and internationally through competitions hosted at the NPPC. These relationships have created opportunities for learning, officiating, mentoring, and competing at higher levels. Honour of hosting Council shoot.
For many members, the club provides an important sense of belonging, purpose, and positive social connection. It is a healthy and constructive environment that benefits people of all ages and genders.

Firearms Safety and Training

I am proud to be part of an organisation that places safety above absolutely everything else. The NPPC is not simply a place where people "shoot." It is a highly regulated training and sporting facility focused on education, responsibility, discipline, and continual improvement, as well as social aspects. Established in 1964, the club has operated responsibly for decades and has earned a reputation as a respected sporting and training facility. Our members range in age from 12 to over 100 years old, reflecting the inclusive and community-focused nature of the club. The culture at the NPPC extends well beyond the seven fundamental firearms safety rules, yet safety is embedded into every aspect of club operation.

The club has an exceptional safety record because members actively work together to train, supervise, mentor, and support one another. New members are carefully guided by experienced shooters to ensure the highest standards are maintained at all times.

At every training session and competition:

- Strict range commands are followed
- Police regulations and club rules are adhered to
- Nationally recognised competition standards are enforced
- Unsafe behaviour is not tolerated

Casual users

The club develops responsible firearms owners through ongoing education, practical supervision, accountability, and structured training.

This is exactly the type of environment that promotes safe firearms ownership within our community.

A Positive and Respectful Environment

At the NPPC, people are treated fairly, respectfully, and equitably.

The club encourages discipline, self-improvement, focus, resilience, and personal responsibility. Competitors support one another to achieve their goals and continually improve.

Like any recognised sporting code, progression and achievement can only occur through regular, structured training.

The club has produced competitors who represent the region and New Zealand at national and international levels across multiple disciplines. Many members volunteer countless hours to:

- Organise competitions
- Maintain facilities
- Mentor new shooters
- Uphold safety standards
- Support ^{supervise} community events *Support and supervise community events*

Their commitment and professionalism inspire newer competitors like myself to continue striving for excellence.

Benefits to the Wider Community

The NPPC provides significant benefits to the wider Taranaki community.

It is a valuable local facility where people can safely learn firearms handling under supervision while working towards their firearms licence requirements.

The club hosts regional, national, and international events that bring competitors and visitors into Taranaki, contributing to the local economy through accommodation, hospitality, fuel, retail spending, and tourism.

The facility is also used by businesses and organisations for team-building and educational events, allowing members of the public to experience the sport in a safe, controlled, and professionally supervised environment.

Importantly, the NPPC is the only local pistol club with:

- Eight outdoor ranges that can operate in all weather conditions
- Dedicated training rooms
- A medical bay
- Accessible ablution facilities
- Ranges accessible for people with physical disabilities

This makes the facility unique within the region and highly valuable to a wide range of users.

Most importantly, the NPPC is currently the only suitable facility in Taranaki available for Police and Armed Offenders Squad training.

Without this facility, officers would need to travel to Whanganui or Hamilton for essential firearms training and recertification. This would create substantial operational disadvantages for the region.

Should an emergency situation arise while officers were away training, response capability within Taranaki could be significantly impacted — particularly given the vulnerability of road access into and out of the region.

The club therefore serves not only as a sporting facility, but also as an important community and public safety asset.

The Competitive Sporting Aspect

The NPPC supports seven recognised shooting disciplines: IPSC, Speed, ISSF, Service, Cowboy Action, Air Pistol, Shotgun.

These are legitimate sporting disciplines requiring precision, discipline, concentration, mental resilience, strict rule compliance, and continual training.

Like athletes in any sport, competitive shooters must train consistently to remain competent, safe, and competitive.

Previously, members were able to train from 9am to 9pm on most days of the year, excluding ANZAC day, Good Friday and Christmas day. This flexibility allowed working people, shift workers, families, and competitive athletes to train effectively around work and life commitments.

However, training opportunities have now been significantly reduced following complaints from one nearby resident who moved next to an already established pistol club and later objected to its operation. This has had a serious impact on a large number of responsible, law-abiding sporting participants. It is deeply disappointing that the concerns of one individual are being allowed to outweigh the interests of a long-standing sporting organisation that has operated responsibly for decades and provides substantial benefits to the wider community.

Shooting sports are internationally recognised and are included within the Olympic Games. Like any athlete, shooters require adequate access to training facilities in order to improve and compete successfully.

The club has consistently worked with Council to comply with requests and requirements since this issue arose. Members have made significant efforts to cooperate and adapt. However, it often feels as though expectations continue to shift, making it increasingly difficult for the club to operate sustainably and fairly.

Quite simply, athletes cannot improve without access to training.

My Own Competitive Journey

I have dedicated countless hours to training and competing in a sport that demands concentration, discipline, accountability, rule adherence, and continual self-improvement.

Through hard work and commitment, I have achieved multiple national titles.

You have mention may find Police noise/use - they are the people we call them to train

buyer beware

~~Casual users~~



I also aspire to represent New Zealand internationally in my chosen discipline — something that can only be achieved through consistent access to quality training facilities and opportunities.

In addition to competing, I have trained and qualified as a National Range Officer. This role requires extensive study, practical assessment, leadership, and ongoing professional development.

The NPPC is fortunate to currently have three IPSC National Range Officers within the club, reflecting the calibre, experience, and professionalism of the people involved.

For many of us, this is far more than simply a hobby.

It is a recognised sport.

It is a community.

It is a source of personal growth and discipline.

It is a lifelong passion.

And it is something worth protecting for future generations.

Closing

The New Plymouth Pistol Club has operated responsibly for decades. It provides sporting opportunities, education, safety training, community connection, and vital support for law enforcement training within our region.

The club is made up of responsible, law-abiding people who are passionate about their sport and committed to maintaining the highest safety standards.

I respectfully ask **Council** to recognise the immense value this facility provides to our community and to support the continued operation and future of the NPPC.

Ngā mihi nui,

that we