

Australia Match 2026 & Palma Match 2028 Planning

Hi

I thought that I would start the 2025 New Year and share what is being planned in the way of training for the 2026 Australia Match (@Belmont Brisbane, Australia) and the 2028 LRWC & Palma Matches (@ Bisley, UK).

Firstly, I have pulled together a management group to help the team improve and ultimately succeed in the two matches. They are Jason Henry (Adjutant) Brian Carter (Vice Captain) Jono Phillips (Shooting Skills Coach), Andre du Toit (Financials), Bruce Horwood, and Johan du Toit (Team coaching etc)

Secondly, we need to improve our collective shooting and wind coaching skills. To start off we will be running shooting skills training (this is open to all interested shooters that want to improve their technique and skills) through the winter of 2025 at four locations throughout the country (Auckland, Palmerston North/Wellington, Marlborough and Canterbury). These training sessions will be over two-day weekends at indoor ranges with the idea to look at improving our basic techniques, position, hold and shooting skills

The first full-bore training weekend will be held in mid-September 2025 at Cheltenham RC (Palmerston North) and will be open to all interested in selection for the Australia and Palma Matches. This will be a two-day training camp (Saturday and Sunday finishing at 3pm). This weekend will give you and me a benchmark on where you are shooting skill wise and give individuals a point at which they can start/update their training plans to improve. That said we all need to improve our shooting skills.

We will follow this with two-day camp in November 2025 at Trentham. Again, this will be open to all interested in selection for the Australia and Palma matches.

It is planned that in January 2026 a further training squad opportunity on the Saturday will be available on marked targets alongside day two of the 300 Metre Championship and later that afternoon at 1000 yards alongside the WRA Sweepstake.

Our goal is to create a solid team for the Australia Match, and then build on that solid platform to create a training squad and then team for the Palma Match that will follow in 2028

The New Zealand Team for the Australia Match will be named at the conclusion of the 2026 National Championships. The team will then have two training weekends over Waitangi and Kings Birthday Weekends. The program for the Australia Match is here:

<https://nraa.com.au/australia-match-2026/>

It is our intention to use the two practice days in Brisbane on the Thursday the 8th and Friday the 9th of October as team training instead of a full team practice in September. Team Members will need to have arrived in Brisbane by the Tuesday the 6th of October at the latest.

With the success of shipping ammunition to South Africa for the 2024 Palma, we intend to do the same again. The ammunition round count for the two practice days, the individual and teams matches is approx. 550. The intention is for each team member to carry 150 and the balance will be shipped

Other things required of those selected in the team are: A barrel with less than 750 rounds upon departure to Brisbane; A Centra Rear Sight or equivalent (1/4-minute movement in elevation and windage); The team will be using the Berger 155.5gr projectile for all the teams matches.

Please put some thought and planning into things that may take time to arrive or source (eg a barrel) and other things like components etc. so that you have them on hand when you need them. I have already reached out to Berger (Capstone) with regards to possible sponsorship for projectiles and brass (there is more to come on this when we know more).

Further details like budgets and other planning for the Australia Match will come out during 2025.

After the Australia Match planning and training for the Palma will then kick in. Details on that will become available in due course

There is a lot of work to happen over the next 4 years culminating in the 2028 Palma Match and we are just at the start

I look forward to seeing many of you around the ranges this season and through next winter at the indoor training sessions. If you have any questions, I will endeavor to answer them

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Cheers

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Captain New Zealand Rifle Team

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