

South Australian Skeet Carnival



South Australia had been deliberating over the past couple of years as to the viability of hosting a day of sub-gauge events. Last year, ICTC member Tore Pipicella took it on himself to promote a day of shooting .410 and 28g just before the State Skeet titles. The day went reasonably well with 3 squads showing up last year for each of the gauges. This year, that increased to 5 squads for each of the sub-gauges and there was a lot more interest to continue in years to come. BronzeWing Australia

decided to come to the party again and assist with sponsorship of some NSI sub-gauge slabs which was very well received. Most competitors were happy to have been given the opportunity to shoot these gauges and hopefully with the support of these competitors we will keep this going and see if we can grow it through more word of mouth. And to that end, Friday March 5th has arrived, and again, we've all aged another year since we met here last year at the South Australian State Skeet titles. Weather conditions were overcast but calm with very little breeze.

Eventual winners of the sub-gauge events were: Nathan Campbell for the 28gauge with a 49/50 and Sam Agostino took the .410 with a 48/50. Overall for the two events (and only 5 points down) was Sam Agostino 95/100. Congratulations and Well Done! And, thank you also to Tore and his family winery for assisting in the prizes for the sub-gauges. Please spread the word so that we can see a few others joining us next year and making these events even bigger.

Although the Western Australian State Carnival was held on the weekend before us, we were fortunate enough to be up a few squads for our Carnival this year.

The competitors that made it here were all here vying to try their skill at claiming one of the many Red State sashes that were on offer. Lurking around every corner and walking amongst us were some of the best Skeet shooters in Australia waiting to pounce and claim one of the available State titles.

Around the well manicured grounds, friends that hadn't caught up for a while were seen chatting and laughing and catching up on all the latest goss from their travels around this country. The atmosphere was already buzzing with a few caravanners and campers arriving to guarantee themselves a good spot and get some practice in to familiarise themselves with the grounds again before the games begin tomorrow.

The weather gods have been kind to us this year with mild to warm temperatures forecast. Practice day went off without a hitch and everyone chilled out while they were contemplating the results of tomorrow.

As Saturday morning arrived, there was the usual scurry of activity early in the morning as the 4 layouts were being tested and corrected for speeds, angles, heights and distances. A word of thanks has to go out to the limited State Exec who also put in countless hours in preparation to make sure everyone has a great Carnival. Thank you also to the ground staff for their trap filling and maintenance which makes the shooting experience a lot more pleasant for all our competitors.

9am on the dot and the first event was called – the 50 target State Skeet 20 gauge Championship. 13 squads (up 3 squads on last year) headed out to contest the event in reasonably calm conditions with clear skies. After a good deal of huffing and puffing, only 6 competitors ended up shooting the



20 gauge C grade 1st
Allesandro Forza



20 gauge B grade 1st
Joe Densley



20 gauge A grade 1st & Ladies winner Kerry Anderson



20 gauge AA grade 1st John Rodden



20 gauge Veteran winner Fred Guyatt

perfect score and went out to see who would take the honours. In the end, the results were: C grade was taken by Allesandro Forza 44/50 and 2nd was Jay Anderson. B grade went to Joe Densley 47/50 and Chris Parkin 2nd. Kerry Anderson got the 1st in A 54/54 and Simon Hewitt 2nd. AA grade 1st went to John Rodden 82/83, 2nd was Salvatore Agostino. And, the honours for Overall went to Richard



20 gauge Overall Open winner Richard Sammon

Sammon 83/83. Veteran winner was Fred Guyatt, Ladies went to Kerry Anderson and the Junior was James Sachetta.

At this point, SACTA Patron, retired Judge Kelvyn Prescott was called upon to award the Junior Scholarship. The announcement of the recipient had been made at the State DTL Carnival a few weeks before but, Hannah Munro being a Skeet shooter had been asked to attend at our State Skeet so that she could be presented with the Scholarship. An elated Hannah and her family were extremely

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Hannah Munro - Junior Scholarship Reciepiant being presented her award by SACTA Patron Retired Judge Kelvyn Prescott

grateful to the State for providing such a generous opportunity for upcoming juniors. Hannah received a \$2,000.00 contribution from the Association which can go toward anything associated with her growth in this sport. Congratulations Hannah.

By now, squad cards were already out for the 2nd event for the day which was the 50 target State Skeet Handicap Championship. 16 squads made it out to the walks (up 2 squads on last year) and over the rest of the day the temperature went a little higher to 28° and the breezes became stronger. All the competitors were hoping that they would get through their 50 targets before we saw any increase in the winds. As they came off, everyone was hovering around the scoreboard to see where their positions were and if they were in with a chance.

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*State Handicap 5th place
Michael Huxtable*



*State Handicap 4th place
Jason Stevens*

Flags from every State flying over the ICTC Clubhouse



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*State Handicap 3rd place
Liz Rymill*



*State Handicap 2nd place
Michael Buttegieg*

Office staff were busy counting the numbers and making up the new cards for the shoot-off's hoping that time was not going to get away from us.

5.30pm we started the shoot-off's with 6 full squads. Finally when all and was said and done, we managed to get through the first day at 7pm, and because of the lateness of the final shoot-off the presentation was postponed until tomorrow night. The top 5 were: 5th – Michael Huxtable 83/88, 4th – Jason Stevens 82/89, 3rd – Liz Rymill 103/106, 2nd – Michael Buttegieg 112/113, and taking the Red State sash and the Overall title this year was Janette Densley, with a well shot 111/114. Great shooting Janette.



State Handicap Overall winner Janette Densley

As day 1 drew to a close, everyone headed out to some of the local hotels and eateries for a well earned break and to get refreshed for the start of the qualifying events on the Sunday morning.

8.15am on Sunday morning saw the start of the 25 target Open Zone Team Shoots with everyone vying for the winning placing and their names on the title. Central and Eastern fought it out with the eventual

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Zone winners - Central - L-R Bob Dower, Tore Pipicella, Luca Forza, Lyn Schubert, Benn Baker & Nathan Campbell



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Shoot Marshall Michael Raper making sure everything runs smoothly

winners (by just 5 targets) coming in as Central Zone with 145/150. There is always a lot of rivalry and sledging (in a fun way) between these 2 teams each year. Team members were:- Nathan Campbell, Tore Pipicella, Benn Baker, Lyn Schubert, Luca Forza & 6th shooter Bob Dower. Congratulations to Central Zone!!

While the Zone shoots were in progress, people were wandering around the grounds having their bacon and egg rolls for breakfast and waiting for the call up. Shooting conditions were near perfect, bright, sunny, mid 20's and barely a breeze. Smack on 9am the 16 squads were called out for the 3rd event, the 100 target State Skeet Singles Championship.

As the day went on, the usual prevailing winds came through to give a few competitors a bit of grief. Everyone persevered and the day ticked along in good time. At the halfway point of this 100 target event, the 1st of the crayfish raffles were drawn and the winner was 'Cockles'.

There were only 2 perfect scores on the board so they went out to face it off – when all the shooting had gone quiet, the results were counted and the winners came in as: C grade, taken by Andrew



100 tgt State Skeet Singles C grade winner Andrew Hoare



100 tgt State Skeet Singles B grade winner Michael Huxtable



100 tgt State Skeet Singles A grade & Veteran Lyn Schubert



100 tgt State Skeet Singles AA grade winner Michael Buttegieg



100 tgt State Skeet Singles Ladies Jacqui Durham



100 tgt State Skeet Singles Junior James Sachetta

Hoare 92/100, 2nd was Ridge Floquet. B grade went to Michael Huxtable this year 92/100 with Guy Yoannidis winning 2nd place. A grade was Lyn Schubert 98/100 with 2nd going to Simon Hewitt.

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100 tgt State Skeet Singles Overall winner Nigel Hughes

AA grade was won by Michael Buttegieg 115/116 with 2nd place going to Jack Stockdale. The highest award went to Nigel Hughes taking the Red State Sash, Silver pin and perpetual trophy with the perfect score of 118/118. Veteran winner was Lyn Schubert, Ladies went to Jacqui Durham and the Junior winner was James Sachetta with a well shot 93/100.

Last formality for the day was the presentations for all 3 events and announce the State Postal Teams. Once this had been done, the teams were told to be in early in the morning to shoot for the positions.

Once this had all been done, everyone went off for a relaxing Sunday night, awaiting the last day of qualifying on the Monday SA public holiday.

As Monday morning started to break, the Postal Teams went out to shoot it off for the team positions and the team High Guns, which this year were: Open – Nathan Campbell, Veterans – Bruce Baker,



Veteran Team L - R Bob Dower, Kat, with Team High Gun Bruce Baker



Ladies Team High Gun State Secretary Deb McPherson

and Ladies – Deb McPherson. Sadly there was no Junior team this year.

On the last day, there was activity at the nom's window to see if there were any squad changes

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Below:

*Open Team L - R Team High Gun Nathan Campbell,
Tore Pipicella, Luca Forza, Lyn Schubert & Kenny Atkin*



for the long distance travellers, and as everyone was sorted out, the 50 target State Champion of Champions got underway right on time.

Six competitors shot the perfect score and there was some friendly rivalry again around the grounds before the shoot-off's began. Final scores came in as Francesco Buttegieg 1st in C 47/50, and Chelsea McKinnon 2nd. B grade went to Jason Stevens 48/50, and 2nd Bruce Baker. A grade winner was Michael Raper 50/50, and 2nd went to Simon Hewitt. AA 1st was Michael Buttegieg 57/58, with 2nd going to Benn Baker. Overall honours went to Ryan Miller who kept his cool and his head down to come in with 54/54. Veteran winner was Brian Clarke, Ladies was Jacqui Durham and Junior went to James Sachetta. A great effort from all these guys.

Time to draw the 2nd crayfish raffle between events and the winner this time was Mark Corbett. Well done Corbo – hope you enjoyed it. This year, we have to thank Bronte & Cockles for their unrelenting perseverance around the grounds in getting everyone to dig deep and donate. The amount that was raised this year (which goes to the Junior Development Fund), was \$1,038.85 – not bad from just 96 competitors. You all deserve a round of applause and a pat on the back. Thank you all so very much.



*Champion of Champions
C grade winner Francesco
Buttegieg (1st State Red Sash)*



*Champion of Champions
B grade winner Jason Stevens*

The final event of the weekend then got underway, the 25 pair State Skeet Doubles Championship. 13 squads headed out to fight it out and as scores started coming in, everyone was gathering at the scoreboard checking positions for High Guns.

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Champion of Champions
A grade winner Michael Raper



Champion of Champions
AA grade Michael Buttegieg



Champion of Champions Overall Open winner Ryan Miller



Champion of Champions
Veteran winner Brian Clarke



Champion of Champions Ladies
winner Jacqui Durham

Winners and scores for the Doubles were: C grade went to Jay Anderson 39/50, and 2nd was Des Neale. B grade was won by Michael Huxtable 46/50, with 2nd place taken by Damien Yon. In A grade, Simon Hewitt got the 1st place 47/50, and 2nd went to Tim Stockdale. In AA, Harry Bader 62/64 got the 1st, and Michael Buttegieg 2nd. The honours and red State Sash for Overall went to Nathan Campbell with a 50/50. Veteran was Max Oakley, Ladies was Lorraine Hughes and Junior was again James Sachetta.

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Champion of Champions Junior
winner James Sachetta



I reckon we can cram this pallet of clays inside this traphouse



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Skeet Doubles B grade winner
Michael Huxtable



Skeet Doubles A grade winner
Simon Hewitt



Skeet Doubles AA grade
winner Harry Bader



Skeet Doubles Veteran winner -
Max Oakley accepting his prize
while taking a quick nap

Skeet Doubles Junior winner
James Sachetta



Skeet Doubles Overall Open winner Nathan Campbell

After the presentations for these 2 events the 3 day High Guns were also awarded to the highest scorers. With a 284/300 was Junior High Gun James Sachetta. What a fantastic effort from this guy considering the conditions. The Ladies Overall went to Jacqui Durham on 295/314 and the Veteran High Gun was Max Oakley with 290/300. The grade High Guns were: C, Chelsea McKinnon 242/300. B, Jason Stevens 288/314. A, Simon Hewitt 290/300 and AA was Nathan Campbell 295/300. The highest accolade of Overall High Gun this year went to

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The Enemy!! It's between Us and Them



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Skeet Carnival 3-day Junior High Gun James Sachetta



Skeet Carnival 3-day Ladies High Gun Jacqui Durham



Skeet Carnival 3-day B grade High Gun Jason Stevens



Skeet Carnival 3-day Veteran High Gun Max Oakley



Skeet Carnival 3-day A grade High Gun Simon Hewitt



Skeet Carnival 3-day AA grade High Gun Nathan Campbell



Skeet Carnival 3-day Overall Open High Gun Michael Buttegieg

Michael Buttegieg who shot a near perfect 297/300 missing only 3 targets over the 3 days in the conditions. Congratulations to all these winning competitors.

The last formality was to announce the winning SA shoulder to shoulder travelling teams who were presented with their well earned State badges. The SA Junior Champion Shooter was not contested. Finally the SA Champion shooter award this year went to Nathan Campbell. Congratulations Nathan and 'Well done'!!

At this point we would like to sincerely thank all of our generous sponsors for supporting our State Skeet Carnival this year. Every shooter knows that without their involvement, contribution and support, these events, trophies and prizes would not be possible. This year we take a bow to Bronte Evans Chartered Accountants, Gunforce, Adelaide Gun Shop, Marsh Advantage Insurance, BronzeWing Australia, Kat (for the crayfishes) and SACTA. Thank you all so very much for making our State event a success.

South Australia was fortunate enough to have held this Carnival before the world came crashing down around our ears with this new threat to the world populations. As our Clubs around the Country start closing for an unknown period, hopefully everyone will get through this even though we probably know that we may return to a very different world.



On behalf of our State Executive, I would like to take a few moments to wish all of our friends and competitors safe times ahead during this unprecedented world event.

Finally, a word of thanks to the usual behind the scenes workers that make everything run so

well, from our Shoot Marshall Michael Raper to the staff in the office, on the grounds and in the clubhouse and kitchen. You know who you are and we at SACTA acknowledge and appreciate their relentless assistance in making everything run so seamlessly. On a last note, thanks to

all the shooters that participated and travelled from different States to compete and helped make it a great 2020 State Skeet Carnival. Without you guys, it would be a very small Carnival and we always appreciate your visit to support our State. Where I would normally say "Look forward to catching up with you somewhere around the country", I'll now sign off saying keep yourselves and your families protected at all costs, so we can meet again when the world returns to some semblance of normality.

We hope to see you all again sometime in 2021. Thank you all.

*Len DeCandia,
Chair – SACTA – Sales,
Marketing & Promotions*



SA Champion Shooter Nathan Campbell with SACTA President John Bretag & Len DeCandia