



The Melbourne Gun Club 2013 Skeet Bonanza

May 4th to 5th
Report By Jacqui Durham

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On the weekend of May 4th and 5th 2013, Melbourne Gun Club once again hosted their annual skeet shoot, the 2 Day Skeet Bonanza. Shooters from all over Australia turned up to compete in one of the premier skeet events in the country. With the Skeet Nationals coming up in mid May, the Melbourne Gun Club Skeet Bonanza has become a "must attend" for many shooters as an awesome lead up to the skeet calendars' biggest event. With the grounds looking amazing as always and great company around, everyone was abuzz with anticipation of the two days' great shooting ahead.

Saturday the 4th of May dawned quite chilly and with a threat of rain, but the wind held off and conditions for shooting were quite good. **The first event of the weekend was a 50 target trophy**, and the bar was set high early with possibles posted by Laurie Durham, Michael Buttigieg, Glenn Clarke, Benn Baker, Fab Francione, Leigh Roberts and Bill Hine. As there were no overalls in these events, B grade was comfortable taken by Bill Hine, while the other 50's all shot off for AA grade. The shoot off was doubles from stations 3, 4, and 5, with Fab, Laurie, Glenn and Benn dropping early. Leigh was next to go, and Michael Buttigieg was deemed the winner. Shoot off's were also required for A grade, where Pedro Da Silva came out victorious, and C grade which saw Jake Beveridge take the win.



AA 1st:	Michael Buttigieg	70/70
AA 2nd:	Leigh Roberts	69/70
A 1st:	Pedro Da Silva	57/58
A 2nd:	Kate Light	56/58
B 1st:	Bill Hine	50/50
B 2nd:	Bob Thorne	51/52
C 1st:	Jake Beveridge	47/54
C 2nd:	Nancy Badewitz	45/54

With the first event concluded, and many shooters already buying Calcutta tickets and talking tactics for their purchases later that evening, **event 2 was under way. Another 50 target trophy**, the class of the morning's event continued into the afternoon with red ink going on the board for Benn Baker, Leigh Roberts, Michael Buttigieg, Mal Briggs, Colin Finn and Dennis Savage. Colin Finn took A grade unopposed, as did Dennis Savage in B grade, while the other possibles required a shoot off for AA. Leigh and Mal were first to go, and Michael continued his winning streak when Benn let one go on station 3. C grade went to Sam Arcuri with no shoot off required.

AA 1st:	Michael Buttigieg	60/60
AA 2nd:	Benn Baker	59/60
A 1st:	Colin Finn	50/50
A 2nd:	Peter Finn	55/56
B 1st:	Dennis Savage	50/50
B 2nd:	John O'Sullivan	47/50
C 1st:	Sam Arcuri	44/50
C 2nd:	Nancy Badewitz	41/50



Once all of the events for the Saturday were concluded, all of the shooters were treated to an amazing feast and sat in anticipation for the Calcutta draw and auction to begin! After a final last minute rush for tickets, the drawing began, and soon all of the shooters had an "owner", and some lucky drawers had a brand new embroidered towel, care of Stephanie Manley. A quick break for drinks and dessert, and the auction was under way. The bidding was fast and furious until every shooter and grade had been sold. After a long day with great company, everyone was happy to head home and hope that they had made a lucky purchase. The following photos were taken at the Saturday night feast and Calcutta draw - beware of the candid camera.



Sunday the 5th was again a very cold day that threatened rain. The wind had also picked up and was making for some interesting targets! **The first event was the 50 target Calcutta**, and while everyone was hoping to shoot well themselves, they were also wishing their purchases the best of luck! At the end of the 50 targets, a rarity had occurred, and no shoot off's were required to decide the winners of the grade. Barry Moss took AA grade with the only 50 (making Sam Arcuri and Michael Buttigieg very pleased), and Danny Sajn did the same in A grade (The Durham family couldn't have been happier). Linda Watson picked up B grade with a lovely 49 (The Johnstons had big smiles on their faces), and Jake Beveridge took C grade with a 44 (His dad Andrew was very proud of his son and his purchase!).

AA 1st:	Barry Moss	50/50
AA 2nd:	Steve Vaccaro	61/62
A 1st:	Danny Sajn	50/50
A 2nd:	Christian Lagos	53/54
B 1st:	Linda Watson	49/50
B 2nd:	Dennis Savage	60/62
C 1st:	Jake Beveridge	44/50
C 2nd:	Sam Arcuri	45/54



The final event for the weekend was the 50 target doubles. As is customary at most skeet events, the wind hit its peak for the shoot, and some tough targets were presented to the shooters. This wasn't enough to curb the class though, and possibles were posted by Michael Buttigieg and Ben Garraway, so a shoot off was required for AA. The shoot off was short and sweet, and saw Ben Garraway claiming the win. A grade was won outright by Peter Finn with a stellar 49, Linda Watson continued her form from the earlier event taking B grade with a 45, and C grade was won by Sam Arcuri with a 38.

AA 1st:	Ben Garraway	54/54
AA 2nd:	Michael Buttigieg	53/54
A 1st:	Peter Finn	49/50
A 2nd:	Bruce Baker	49/54
B 1st:	Linda Watson	45/50
B 2nd:	Dennis Savage	43/50
C 1st:	Sam Arcuri	38/50
C 2nd:	Greg Miller	37/50



At the conclusion of all the events, the only thing left to decide was the high guns.

The Overall high gun went unopposed to Michael Buttigieg on the amazing score of 199/200. The best score ever posted at this event, Michael showed awesome skill all weekend and continues to show that he is a true champion in Australian Skeet shooting.

The AA grade high gun went to Mal Briggs with a score of 197/200. As always, Mal was very consistent throughout the shoot and shot extremely well under pressure.

The A grade high gun went to Danny Sajn on 186/200. Danny's shooting continues to improve and he put in a very solid effort over the whole weekend.

The B grade high gun went to Dennis Savage with a score of 187/200. It's great to see Dennis well and back on the skeet field showing that he is still a fierce contender.

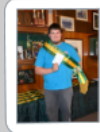
The C grade high gun was won by Sam Arcuri on 167/200. Sam is new to skeet shooting and clearly showed his potential at this event.



The Ladies high gun went to Lorraine Hughes on 191/200. As always, Lorraine had a fabulous shoot and continues to show her ability in the sport.



The Junior high gun was won by Eddy Elder with a score of 187/200. Eddy's recent great form continued into this event where he proved that his is a name we'll all be hearing for a long time.



The Veteran's high gun went to Robert Albon on 185/200. Robert is a consistent performer who once again showed a few of the younger shooters how to play!

With the high guns decided, the Melbourne Gun Club Skeet Bonanza had come to an end.



Firstly, I would like to send a huge congratulations to all of the highgun winners, and everyone else who won over the weekend.

A massive thank you must go to the Melbourne Gun Club and everyone who helped out, particularly Paul Johnston, Laurie Durham, Leonie Johnston and Roger Esplin for once again putting on a fantastic shoot. Thank you must also go to Christine Durham, who ran the scoreboard, Seralyn and Georgia for their tireless work in the office, the ASSA webmaster Ivan Spiller for keeping our webpage up to date with programs and reports, Stephanie Manley for her wonderful photos and towels, the trappers, all the kitchen staff and everyone who worked behind the bar.

Thanks also to all of the people who helped with putting on the feast Saturday night, particularly Leonie Johnston, Christine Durham, Stephanie Manley, Tania Farish, Selina Briggs, Carmel Pearson, Tina White and Jacqui Wemyss for their salads, serving skills and the big clean up after. Also to Jim Turner and Frank Santoro for the delicious meat they cooked.

Without the help of Tayla Johnston, who spent Saturday selling raffle tickets, Trevor O'Connell for printing the tickets, Mal Briggs for organising the new Calcutta board, Paul Johnston and Judy Lafferty the Calcutta could not have been such a success so a big thank you to them and anyone else who helped out.

As always, a massive thank you must go to the sponsors; Brendan Pearson, Mal Briggs, Justin Hayden, Fab Francione, Ben Garraway, Paul and Leonie Johnston, The Durham Family, The Elder Family, The Lagos Family, Bill Hine, Barry Moss and Technology Core Pty. Ltd. The extra sponsorship that has been put into this event is just amazing for not only the Bonanza but for skeet shooting in general, and it's really fantastic to see so many people getting behind their sport.

Finally, the biggest thank you goes to all of the shooters, especially the travelers, for making the 2013 Melbourne Gun Club Skeet Bonanza a fantastic weekend and a huge success.

By Jacqui Durham.

*Once again, a huge "thank you" to Jacqui Durham for preparing yet another detailed report of a major skeet shoot. Jacqui is one of the few members who know and understand that News pages can survive only if input is provided. Thank you Jacqui for the time and effort.
Ivan Spiller
Webmaster*