

NEW ZEALAND SKEET NATIONALS 2011

November 22-27, Canterbury Clay Target Club

Report by Jacqueline Durham

It was a record 25 Australians who flew across the Tasman Sea to attend the New Zealand Skeet Nationals on the 22nd – 27th of November, 2011 at the beautifully presented Canterbury Gun Club on the South Island. With much excitement and anticipation, the Aussies looked forward to a week of great shooting and great company.

The first event on Tuesday the 22nd was the 50 target 410 gauge trophy match. Conditions were ideal, with very little wind and enough sun to leave most of the Aussies with red noses! While no possibles were shot, the overall was taken by Brian Thompson on 49/50.

Overall:	Brian Thompson	49/50	
A 1 st :	Glenn Clarke	48/50	Aus
A 2 nd :	Todd Bender	48/50	
B 1 st :	Thomas Rhue	42/50	Aus
B 2 nd :	Paul Basten	37/50	

The second event on Tuesday was the 50 target 28 gauge trophy match. The only possible shot was by Todd Bender, who took out the overall.

Overall:	Todd Bender	50/50	
A 1 st :	David Mackenzie	49/50	
A 2 nd :	Dave O'Sullivan	49/50	Aus
B 1 st :	Thomas Rhue	48/50	Aus
B 2 nd :	Sam Gawn	43/50	

Wednesday the 23rd was the 100 target 20 gauge New Zealand Skeet Championship. Although it was mild in the morning, the wind came up in the afternoon which brought the rain along. No one managed to shoot the possible, but 4 Australians went one down to finish on 99: Nigel Hughes, Leigh Roberts, Mal Briggs and Laurie Sceresini. After a brief shoot off and a very nervous Lorraine watching on, Nigel Hughes took the overall on station 3 in the first box with a score of 109/110. Congratulations on your first National title, Skeet God!

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Nigel Hughes

Overall:	Nigel Hughes	109/110	Aus
AA 1 st :	Laurie Sceresini	108/110	Aus
AA 2 nd :	Mal Briggs	106/108	Aus
AA 3 rd :	Leigh Roberts	104/106	Aus
A 1 st :	Hamish Wilson	108/112	
A 2 nd :	Peter Boyd	107/112	
A 3 rd :	Blue Freeman	96/101	
B 1 st :	Hamish Holland	93/100	
B 2 nd :	John Moore	91/100	
B 3 rd :	Damien Bracks	89/100	
C 1 st :	Sam Gawn	89/100	
C 2 nd :	Jim Rodden	83/100	Aus
Ladies:	Lorraine Hughes	95/100	Aus
Juniors:	Thomas Rhue	93/100	Aus
Veterans:	Laurie Chelepy	96/100	Aus
Super Vets:	John Moore	91/100	

The 100 target Kilwell Trophy was shot on Thursday the 24th. The day was warm but the wind picked up in the afternoon. Some brilliant shooting saw Lorraine Hughes, Todd Bender, Tony Truss and Colin Heard all shoot the possible. Two went out in the first box, leaving Todd and Tony to continue the

shoot off. In the second box, Todd missed the low 4 leaving Tony Truss to win the overall on a score of 137/137.

Overall:	Tony Truss	137/137	
AA 1 st :	Todd Bender	136/137	
AA 2 nd :	Colin Heard	114/115	
AA 3 rd :	Lorraine Hughes	104/105	Aus
A 1 st :	John Tonkin	99/100	
A 2 nd :	Thomas Rhue	112/114	Aus
A 3 rd :	Hamish Bell	111/114	
B 1 st :	Kerri Wrigley	97/104	
B 2 nd :	Doug Evans	101/109	
B 3 rd :	Steven Diack	100/109	
C 1 st :	Sam Gawn	97/100	
C 2 nd :	Rachel Van Bysterveldt	91/100	
C 3 rd :	Andrew Caldwell-Smith	85/100	
Ladies:	Lorraine Hughes	100/100	Aus
Juniors:	Thomas Rhue	98/100	Aus
Veterans:	John Tonkin	99/100	
Super Vets:	Graeme Webber	93/100	

At the conclusion of the Kilwell Trophy, it was time for the Glenn Trophy shoot. With all of the Australians watching and cheering the team on, (Glenn Clarke seemed in danger of having an anxiety attack due to all of the “tension building”!!!) the Aussies brought home the win with a team score of 243/250, over New Zealand’s 241/250.

Australia:		New Zealand:	
Leigh Roberts	48/50	Ewen Pirie	45/50
Dave O’Sullivan	48/50	Steven Cooper	49/50
Steve Vaccaro	50/50	Ray Everett	49/50
Len Edwards	49/50	Lindsay Rodgers	49/50
Shane Bennett	48/50	Kelvin Gutsell	49/50



The Australian Team

Day 4, Friday the 25th of November was the New Zealand Handicap Championship. The weather was mild but the wind was very strong which made for some interesting targets! After the initial first 50 targets were shot, there was a fairly long wait for the shoot off while the Webber Ellis North/South Skeet teams were competed and the 2012 Glenn Trophy team was selected.

Eventually the shoot off began, with 10 squads heading out into the windy conditions. After the first box, the shoot off was down to just 3 squads, and after the second, 7 shooters remained. In the third and final round of the shoot off, with the support of all the Aussies watching on, Jacqueline Durham came out the overall winner on station 7, with a score of 121/123.



Jacqueline Durham

Overall:	Jacqueline Durham	121/123	Aus
2 nd :	Sam Gawn		
3 rd :	Hamish Holland		
4 th :	Greg Maniatis		
5 th :	Mason Reed		
6 th :	Andrew Caldwell-Smith		
Ladies:	Jacqueline Durham		Aus
Juniors:	Mason Reed		
Veterans:	Russell Smart		
Super Vets:	Jim Rodden		Aus

Saturday the 26th was a cold morning that fined up in the afternoon, but the persistent wind again made targets difficult for the New Zealand Skeet Championship. The wind, however, did not stop some awesome shooting and 6 possibles were posted on the board: Todd Bender, Blake Slater, Paul Johnston, Mal Briggs, Kelvin Gutsell and David O’Sullivan. After the first two rounds, the shoot off was down to just two shooters, Todd Bender and David O’Sullivan. An epic battle ensued, with both shooters looking like they couldn’t miss, but in the sixth box, Dave dropped a low 3, leaving Todd the overall winner. Congratulations to both shooters on a fantastic effort in tough conditions!

Overall:	Todd Bender	235/235	
AA 1 st :	Dave O’Sullivan	234/235	Aus
AA 2 nd :	Paul Johnston	131/132	Aus
AA 3 rd :	Mal Briggs	123/124	Aus
A 1 st :	John Tonkin	99/100	
A 2 nd :	Ross Roy	99/100	
A 3 rd :	Roddy Williamson	99/100	
B 1 st :	Damien Briggs	95/100	
B 2 nd :	Chris Helem	94/100	
B 3 rd :	Mason Reid	92/100	
C 1 st :	Gary Clarke	89/100	
C 2 nd :	Henry Clarke	85/100	
C 3 rd :	Jim Rodden	84/100	Aus
Ladies:	Sarah Bennett	95/100	Aus
Juniors:	Devon Da Silva	98/100	
Veterans:	John Tonkin	99/100	
Super Vets:	Pop Andreassend	95/100	



Sarah Bennett

The NZ Skeet Championship was also the event that decided the 2 person team and 5 person team victors. The winners of the two person team were Blake Slater and Mal Briggs, both with a perfect score to give them 200/200. The runners up, after a brief shoot off, were Leigh Roberts and Paul Johnston with 198/200. The 5 person team winners with an overall score of 492/500, were David O'Sullivan, Glenn Clarke, Blake Slater, Steve Vaccaro and Jacqueline Durham.

With the Nationals coming to a close, the last event to be shot was the New Zealand Skeet Doubles Championship on Sunday the 27th. The wind was having fun with the targets again, and no possibles were posted, though Todd Bender shot a lovely 98/100, and was unopposed for the overall.

Overall:	Todd Bender	98/100	
AA 1 st :	Leigh Roberts	97/100	Aus
AA 2 nd :	Matt Fallon	97/100	
AA 3 rd :	Colin Heard	96/100	
A 1 st :	Greg Middleton	94/100	
A 2 nd :	Dean Everett	94/100	
A 3 rd :	Devon Da Silva	92/100	
B 1 st :	Sam Gawn	87/100	
B 2 nd :	Hamish Holland	87/100	
B 3 rd :	Mason Reid	84/100	
C 1 st :	Liam Buchannan	82/100	
C 2 nd :	Jim Rodden	71/100	
C 3 rd :	Gary Clarke	65/100	
Ladies:	Lorraine Hughes	92/100	

Juniors:	Devon Da Silva	92/100
Veterans:	Ray Anderson	92/100
Super Vets:	Sandy Trotter	73/100

Last but not least, with all of the events concluded, it was time to decide the High guns.

The Overall High Gun went to Todd Bender on a score of 247/250.

The AA grade high gun went to Matt Fallon on a score of 246/250.

The A grade high gun went to Dean Everett on a score of 239/250.

The B grade high gun went to Sam Gawn on a score of 227/250.

The C grade high gun went to Liam Buchannan on a score of 199/250.

The ladies high gun was decided with a high gun shoot off. Lorraine Hughes and Jacqueline Durham both ended on a 236/250, and after one 14 target bracket, Lorraine came out on top with a perfect 14/14.

The junior high gun went to Devon Da Silva on a score of 239/250.

The veterans high gun was also decided with a shoot off. Len Edwards, Laurie Chelepy and Ray Anderson all ended with a score of 235/250. The shoot off took one 14 target bracket, with Laurie coming out the eventual winner with a possible 14/14.

The super vets high gun went to Sandy Trotter on a score of 209/250.

At the end of a fantastic week of shooting, most of the Aussies headed out for dinner and to let off some steam, and an awesome night was had by all. (Apparently skeet shooters really know how to let their hair down... Lorraine, I don't think I can ever look at you the same again!! Haha!)

I think I speak on behalf of all of the Australians who attended the New Zealand Skeet Nationals when I send a huge thank you to the New Zealand Clay Target Association, the Canterbury Gun Club, all of the sponsors and everybody who helped out with the shoot. We were all overwhelmed with your hospitality and had a brilliant time. Congratulations must also go to all of the winners and place getters throughout the week. I'd also like to send a special thank you to Paul Johnston and Ivan Spiller, who kept the Aussies back home informed of news via the ASSA website on a daily basis. Finally, thank you to everyone who made the trip over, and for making the NZ Nationals are really great event!

Jacqueline Durham.