2016 Victorian State Skeet Carnival

Held at Frankston Australian Clay Target Club 28-31 January 2016

With 115 pre-nominations received from Shooters representing every state in Australia, and the first time the Victorian State Skeet Carnival would be shot over six grounds, the foundation for a successful four days of skeet shooting had been set.

After a warm start on Day One and a reduced field for the Gauges, interstaters quickly realised Melbourne's weather of four seasons in one hour. Thunder, lightning and heavy rain stopped competition for forty-five minutes. With a close eye on the weather radar, competition got back underway with clearing and cooler conditions.



Overall 28 Gauge M Buttigieg

With 6 shooters clean in the 28 Gauge, Lorraine Hughes was right on the tail of Michael Buttigieg as the last two remaining in the shoot off. Lorraine unfortunately missed her 66th target in the shoot off giving her a win in AA and Ladies (115/116) and Michael claiming overall with 118/118. Laurie Durham missed his 39th target in the shoot off

giving him 2nd in AA (88/89). Laurie Chelepy also making the Overall shoot off, missed his 8th target and gave him a win in Veterans (57/58). Antony Ballarino, after a shoot off with Jack Stockdale, won Juniors with 54/58 and was the start of what would become a very successful Carnival for him. Sam Arcuri won A grade outright with 47/50 and Greg Miller claimed success in a shoot off with Mark McDonald and Wayne Read for 2nd in A Grade (55/59). Andrew Beveridge



28 Gauge 1st AA and Ladies L Hughes

won B Grade with 48/50 and Timothy Stockdale 2nd in B Grade after defeating John Pethybridge in a shoot off (48/54). Outright place getters in C Grade with a win to Jack Bird (45/50) and 2nd to Ron Peno (44/50).



Overall and Juniors .410 Bore A Ballarino

No possibles in the .410 Bore, gave Junior Antony Ballarino the outright win for Overall as well as the Juniors Title with 49/50. Mark Rosenboom and Michael Buttigieg went into a shoot off for 1st and 2nd in AA and with Mark missing his first target out (48/51), Michael claimed 1st with 49/51. Outright 1st and 2nd in A Grade with Paul Kouroupis 46/50 and Pat Dury 44/50. John Pethybridge 1st in B Grade with 47/50 and after a shoot off with Adrian Cousins, also took out Veterans. Simon Hewitt won 2nd in B Grade with 46/50. C Grade places were determined with a shoot off between Ron Peno and Peter McWilliam with Ron successful with 40/54 and Peter in 2nd place with 39/54. Lorraine Hughes proved that she was warming up for a successful carnival with a win in the Ladies (46/50).



.410 Bore 2nd in C P McWilliam

Day Two and competition started getting serious with the next five events all counting towards the prestigious High Gun. 7 entered the shoot off, with a combination of AA, A, B and Lady shooters, after shooting the 20 Gauge event clean. Again Lorraine Hughes hung in tight but missing her 33rd target placed her in 2nd in AA and a win in the Ladies. It was then down to Richard Sammon, Timothy Stockdale and David O'Sullivan to determine Overall. Richard Sammon missed his 40th target and resulted in a win in AA (89/90) with Timothy Stockdale missing his 48th and placing him in 1st in B Grade. David O'Sullivan took out overall with 98/98. Christian Lagos, missing his 8th target in the Overall shoot off, took out 1st in A



20 Gauge Overall D O'Sullivan



20 Gauge 1st AA R Sammon

Grade (57/58) and after a shoot off with Paul Kouroupis and Thomas Laber, Sam Arcuri took out 2nd with 57/58. Paul went on to win Veterans with 49/50. Reg Petts beat Simon

Hewitt and Leonie Johnston in a shoot off to claim 2nd in B Grade (56/58), Jack Bird had an outright win for 1st in C Grade with 46/50 and 2nd going to Ron Peno (42/50). Antony Ballarino and Jack Stockdale shot off for the Junior Title with Antony winning (80/83).

The 50 Target Handicap event saw 47 shooters finish with 50/50 and a long shoot off ahead. Carrying the remaining 8 in the shoot off over until Sunday, there was finally a result! Leigh Roberts



20 Gauge 2nd A S Arcuri

Adrian Cousens (157/158), 4th David O'Sullivan (154/155) and 5th Naidos Markou with 153/154 and 1 target to spare! Sarah Bennet was up there in the shoot off but missed her 63rd target landing her the Ladies Title with 112/113. And an outright Juniors win to Antony Ballarino with 49/50.

taking 1st place with a whopping 162/162. 2nd went to Jack Bird with 161/162, 3rd and Veterans



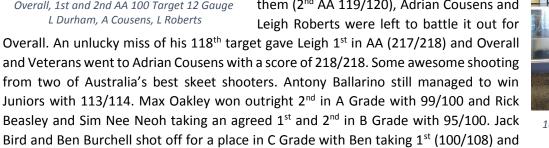
Handicap 1st to 5th L Roberts, J Bird, A Cousens, D O'Sullivan, N Markou



Overall, 1st and 2nd AA 100 Target 12 Gauge L Durham, A Cousens, L Roberts

Day Three was the 100 Target 12 Gauge and the Victorian Teams events. 6 Shooters shot the 100 and this gave Mark McDonald a one-way ticket

from A to AA for the events on Day Four. Although missing his 35th target in the shoot off, Mark still managed to take 1st in A Grade finishing on 134/135. With Glenn Walker and Antony Ballarino exiting the shoot off early and Laurie Durham not far behind them (2nd AA 119/120), Adrian Cousens and Leigh Roberts were left to battle it out for



100 Target 12 Gauge 1st B R Beasley

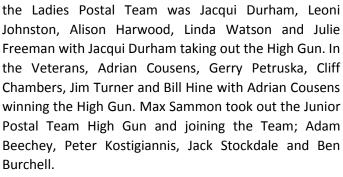
Jack 2nd (99/108). Some more top shooting from Lorraine Hughes saw her take out Ladies with a 97/100.

With the 100 Target event concluded, it was time to announce the Open, Ladies, Veteran and Junior Victorian Postal Teams. Congratulations to Leigh Roberts, David O'Sullivan, Mal Briggs, Max Oakley, Laurie Durham, Sox Pilipasidis,

Hayden Mountjoy, Danny Sajn, Paul Johnston, Michael Buttigieg, Glenn Clarke, Jack Beveridge, Greg Miller, Gil Farish and Mark McDonald for making the Open team. David O'Sullivan took out the Postal Team High Gun. Making



Open Postal Team





Ladies Postal Team



Postal Team High Guns

After a 50 Target event for Open and 25 Target Event for Ladies, Veterans and Juniors, the top five in the Open and three in each of the remaining three categories, were chosen to represent Victoria in the Shoulder to Shoulder teams at the 2016 National Skeet Carnival. Congratulations to Leigh Roberts, David O'Sullivan, Mal Briggs, Max Oakley and Sox Pilipasidis for making the Open Shoulder to Shoulder Team with Laurie Durham and Hayden Mountjoy

the Reserves. Special mention goes to Sox for making a Victorian Sporting, Trap and Skeet Team. A great achievement to excel in more than one discipline.



Open Shoulder to Shoulder Team

Jacqui Durham, Leonie Johnston and Alison Harwood made the Ladies Shoulder to Shoulder Team with Linda Watson and Julie Freeman the Reserves. For the Veterans Shoulder to Shoulder Team; Gerry Petruska, Cliff Chambers and Jim Turner with Adrian Cousens and Bill Hine in as Reserves. Max Sammon, Adam Beechey and Jack Stockdale will be representing Victoria in the Juniors Team with Peter Kostigiannis and Ben Burchell in as Reserves.



Junior Shoulder to Shoulder Team



Ladies Shoulder to Shoulder Team



Veterans Shoulder to Shoulder Team



Ian Hale with Adrian Cousens

Day Three also saw Ian Hale inducted into the VCTA Hall of Fame for his shooting achievements and as only the second Skeet Shooter to be inducted, this made the

induction even more honourable.

The Champion of Champions and Doubles events on Day Four were the last two events of the Carnival. Four shot 50/50 for a place in the shoot off for Overall in the Champion of Champions 50 target event. Ben Baker won the shoot off taking overall (54/54) with Laurie Rodden and Michael Buttigieg taking 1st (57/58) and 2nd (58/60) in AA. Sarah Bennet was not far



Champion of Champions M Buttigieg (2nd AA), Ben Baker Overall, Laurie Rodden (1st AA)

behind on 57/60 taking out Ladies. A Grade was won outright with Dean

Laurie Rodden (1st AA)

Baird taking 1st (49/50) and Gerry Petruska 2nd (48/50). Leonie Johnston won B Grade with 46/50 and a quick shoot off with Linda Watson saw Andrew Beveridge in 2nd place with 46/51. Another fine performance from Jack Bird gave him an outright win in C Grade (47/50) and another quick shoot off, this time between Andrew Watson and Nadine Katarski, saw Andrew take 2nd in C Grade with 42/52. After a shoot off with Adrian Cousens and Peter Vosper, Gerry

Petruska was victorious in the Veterans with 56/58. Again Antony Ballarino took out the Juniors, one target ahead of Jack Stockdale, with 46/50.

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Doubles Overall L Roberts

A nice and quick 50 Target Doubles Event saw Leigh Roberts, Laurie Rodden and Michael Buttigieg into a shoot off for Overall with scores of 49/50. Laurie Rodden missing one in his second pair gave him second in AA (52/54) with Leigh Roberts taking overall on 60/62 and Michael Buttigieg 2nd in AA (58/62). Greg Miller won A Grade with 48/50 and Jim Kalaboukas shooting off for 2nd with Ryan missing one target in the first pair to give Jim the win with 49/52. All other placings in

this event were outright with Simon Hewitt 1st in B Grade on 44/50, one target ahead of Marie Carmody (43/50). Jack

Bird, with 3 targets ahead of Ben Burchell took 1st in C Grade on 46/50 and Ben placing 2nd with 43/50. Ladies went to Lorraine Hughes with 46/50 and gave Lorraine the Ladies State Title in 5 out of 7 events during the Carnival. Laurie Chelepy took the Veterans with 47/50 and one target ahead of Paul Kouroupis. And to claim 7 out of 7 Junior State Titles, Antony Ballarino finished the Carnival with a 47/50 in the Doubles, 4 targets ahead of Ben Burchell.



1st & 2nd A Doubles J Kalaboukas (2nd), G Miller (1st)



Doubles 1st & 2nd C Grade B Burchell (2nd) J Bird (1st)



3 Man Team D O'Sullivan, G Clarke, M Buttigieg

With all events now concluded, it was time to determine the High Guns and 2 Man and 3 Man Teams. It was Frankston Australian Clay Target Club represented all the way in the Teams with Glenn Clarke,

Michael Buttigieg and David O'Sullivan taking the 3 Man Team with a score of 882/900 and Michael Buttigieg and Glenn Clarke the 2 Man Team with a score of 587/600.



2 Man Team G Clarke, M Buttigieg

Leigh Roberts was shining 'bright like a diamond' with only 3 points down to take the 2016 Victorian State Carnival Overall High Gun with 297/300.



Overall High Gun L Roberts

the Skeet community is.

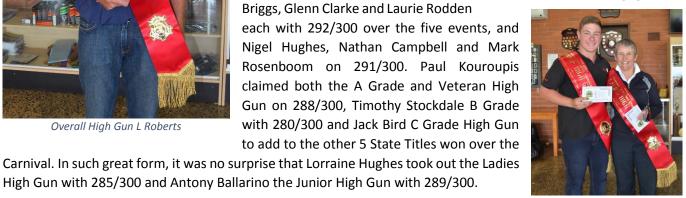
Add that to his Overall win in the Handicap, AA win in the 100 Target 12 Gauge, Overall win in the Doubles and a member of the Postal and Shoulder to Shoulder Teams, and it is clear that Leigh had a cracking Carnival and his experience and talent so evident.

An equal 2 points behind Leigh Roberts, entered David O'Sullivan and Michael Buttigieg into a shoot off for the AA High Gun (295/300). David missed his 16th target leaving Michael victorious with 311/316. fantastic shooting also from Mal Briggs, Glenn Clarke and Laurie Rodden

each with 292/300 over the five events, and Nigel Hughes, Nathan Campbell and Mark Rosenboom on 291/300. Paul Kouroupis claimed both the A Grade and Veteran High Gun on 288/300, Timothy Stockdale B Grade with 280/300 and Jack Bird C Grade High Gun to add to the other 5 State Titles won over the



Grade High Guns J Bird (C), T Stockdale (B), M Buttigieg (A)



Junior High Gun A Ballarino, Ladies High Gun L Hughes

The Victorian State Skeet Carnival is over for another year and WOW what a Carnival it was. The grounds looked spectacular, the events ran smoothly and the buzz and atmosphere in the clubrooms and around the grounds proved what a close knit group

High Gun with 285/300 and Antony Ballarino the Junior High Gun with 289/300.

With over \$12,000 offered in cash prize money and without sponsorship, the Frankston Australian Clay Target Club definitely left its mark on this event. To the Club Committee and the effort contributed to the Carnival, the Skeet Community is thankful. Thank you to all who supported this event from the Shoot Marshall, Ground Staff, Handicapper, Office Staff, Kitchen Staff and most importantly the Shooters. We look forward to the next Victorian State Skeet Carnival at Melbourne Gun Club 26-29 January 2017.

> Article: Jane Vella FACTC Secretary Photographs: Stephanie Manley