

# Skeet Hall of Fame 2013

Photos courtesy of Steph Manley.

On Friday the 24th of May 2013, the Skeet Hall of Fame dinner was held at the RSL club in Wagga Wagga. As per usual, the night was a tremendous success with a big list of awards, presentations and the induction of Mr. Laurie Chelepy into the Hall of Fame. Full credit goes to Glenn Clarke with all of the hard work he puts in every year as the designer and presenter, he once again made it a great night.

## 2012 ACHIEVEMENTS

The year in review started off the night, with Glenn covering who won which events at all the major shoots throughout the year. Congratulations to all the shooters who won State and National Titles.

In 2012, the ACTA also sent an Australian team to the World Shoot. There were some fantastic results both from the team and other Australian shooters who attended. Achievements included:

- 200 x 20 Gauge Shane O'Brien
- 200 x 200 Mini World Dave O'Sullivan (12G and 28G)
- Glenn Walker and Dave O'Sullivan 150 x 150 12 Gauge (only 20 x 150s shot overall)
- Lorraine Hughes 149 x 150 12 Gauge
- Australian Team (David O'Sullivan, Paul Johnston, Glenn Clarke, Craig O'Neill and Shane O'Brien): 2nd overall
- 100s from Paul Johnston (12G); Nigel Hughes and Shane O'Brien (20G); Harry Bader and Dave O'Sullivan (28G).

## LONG BREAKS

Each year, long break awards are offered in the 12G, 20G and doubles. In 2012, Paul Johnston achieved the 12 Gauge long break for the year with a score of 305, shot at the NSW State Titles. The World Championships in San Antonio was the epicentre for the 20G and the doubles. Shane O'Brien shot a great 100/100 in the Mini World 20 Gauge, followed by another 100 in the main event to give him 200 straight in the 20 Gauge. Lorraine Hughes missed very early on in the doubles of the Mini World, but ran the last 94 to achieve the 2012 doubles long break.



2012 Long Break winners, L-R: Paul Johnston, Shane O'Brien, Lorraine Hughes

## GRAND SLAM

The Grand Slam Award is only presented when a person has achieved 200 x 12 Gauge, 100 x 20 Gauge and 100 Doubles. Two and a half years ago, Michael Buttigieg showed his face on the Skeet field with much enthusiasm. In February 2012, Mike broke 239 in the 12 Gauge and 207 in the 20 Gauge at the Victorian State Titles. In March, he shot a 103 break in doubles at the Bairnsdale 400 Shoot, which was only the 5th 100 shot in doubles by an Australian on home soil. This meant that within a period of 2 months, and with only a couple of years experience,

Mike achieved what many shooters have been trying to do for decades. Congratulations Mike.

## ADRIAN COUSENS MEDAL

The Brownlow of skeet shooting was next with the Adrian Cousens medal, a highly competitive and sought after award. The finalists at the end of the year were Glenn Clarke, Craig O'Neill, Nigel Hughes and David O'Sullivan. The year started as a Craig and Dave battle, going from one state to another and seeing each other in many shoot offs; a particular highlight was the 11 round shoot off at the WA State Titles where Craig was victorious. Glenn Clarke thought he would kick into gear late in October, winning 3 of the 4 events at the Tasmanian State Titles. Under the radar all year was Nigel Hughes, who won the Doubles at the Australian Nationals and the New Zealand Nationals High Gun. When the last shot was fired in New Zealand in November, we had a winner for the Adrian Cousens medal with no more shoots left. The winner was David O'Sullivan from Bairnsdale with 2 National Titles and 8 State Title wins for the year, accruing 100 HOF points ahead of Nigel on 70, Craig on 50, and Glenn bringing up the rear on 30 points. David had his eye set on winning this Medal for a few years and it finally came to fruition and was presented by Adrian Cousens himself.



Grand Slam awardee, Michael Buttigieg



Adrian Cousens and Medal winner, David O'Sullivan

## AA ELITE

The past year saw eight more people added to the prestigious list of Skeet AA Elite shooters. These were: Shane Bennett, Nigel Hughes, Martin Perry, Jacqui Durham (First Woman inducted), Peter Vosper, Peter Vella, Gil Farish and Edward Elder (First Junior inducted). Congratulations to each on your achievement.

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

The main part of the night saw the induction of the very deserving shooter, Laurie Chelepy, into the Skeet Hall of Fame. Laurie's shooting began in the early 1970s, when he joined the Rockhampton Gun Club and enjoyed shooting with his brother, Dave. In 1984, Laurie and wife Candy lost all their possessions in a devastating house fire, and ended up living at the Rockhampton Gun Club for three months. The extra practice that this allowed Laurie paid off the following year when he won the Queensland State High Gun, as a C Grade shooter, over Adrian Cousens. Needless to say, this was the end of Laurie's C Grade victories, moving straight up to AA grade where he remains today. This was also the start of Laurie's devotion to the Queensland State Skeet Shoots, attending 18 years in a row and only missing the 19th for his daughter's 21st birthday.

In 1986, Laurie attended his first national competition, where he won the Commonwealth Skeet Championship. Laurie's skeet success continued as he made the Australian team to travel to New Zealand in 1993. Another particularly memorable moment came for Laurie in 2000, when his son, Michael, won the Sub-Junior National High Gun and Laurie won the National 12 Gauge Championship.



*Hall of Fame inductee, Laurie Chelepy and family*

But Laurie's success has never interfered with his skeet shenanigans, with the 2011 New Zealand National Titles a particularly good example. Todd Bender spoke of Laurie's larrikin nature following the first event when Laurie proudly announced to Todd that it was Chelepy 1-Bender 0. After Chelepy 2-Bender 0, Laurie presented Todd with 'the rock', a lucky totem (picked up from the gun club parking lot a few moments earlier) that would aid Todd's performance. Todd won the next three events and has since carried the rock with him. As a token towards Laurie's skeet achievements, induction into the Hall of Fame, and in appreciation of his friendly character, Todd presented Laurie with his World Championship watch.



*Todd Bender, Laurie Chelepy and The Rock*

Overall, Laurie's shooting achievements include 3 National Titles, 6 National Runner-Ups, 14 State Titles, 13 All Australian Teams, 6 Australian / New Zealand Trans Tasman teams, and 1 Macintosh Team. He was the first person to be inducted into AA Elite and is the 6th to now be inducted into the Skeet Hall of Fame. Congratulations Laurie on such outstanding achievements, we all look forward to seeing your future successes add to your remarkable shooting career.

### **Clarkey's Quiz, with Laurie Chelepy:**

1. *Best skeet moment?*  
LC: The first time I made the Australian team and the trip to England.
2. *Worst skeet moment?*  
LC: Missing High 2 to miss making the Australian team to go to New Zealand this year.
3. *Best skeet moment when you didn't win?*  
LC: Watching Jacqui and Eddie in the handicap shoot off.
4. *What has skeet taught you in life?*  
LC: Be a mongrel, don't trust anyone, don't give anyone anything.
5. *What brings you back?*  
LC: The people, my skeet family are my motivation.

### **An Ode to Laurie – by Nigel Hughes**

The Nationals at Wagga, so this story is told,  
Is where a shoot-off took place between young and old.

Young Tom down from Sydney, he was cocky and tall  
He'd shot skeet for 6 months, so Tom thought he knew it all,  
With his crew in their Skylines and Scubies all 'P' plated up,  
All texting each other with 'Wicked', 'Wasup?'

But then into the car park rolled a ute belching smoke,  
In the back was a swag and some Bundy and Coke,  
Up front sat old Laurie from up Gladstone way  
Who although getting on now could still blow clays away!

But young Tom didn't know him and he couldn't care less  
About this old bloke, his K80, his Australia vest.  
But if you took time to read the badges he wore,  
You would see this old bugger well - he'd been there before.

Y'see Laurie's been shooting for so many years,  
That he'd learned a few tricks through the blood, sweat and tears.  
Unlike Tom and the rest of his 'Y' generation,  
Who thought life could be learnt from upon a PlayStation

So each day they both shot clean round after round,  
Broken targets stacked high, piles of clay on the ground.  
With Tom chipping them all - his crew cheering their mate  
But Laurie smashed em all too - high 1 thro' to low 8.

Until scores were all in and were all added up  
Just two for the shoot-off, old Laurie and Pup.  
And as they got ready to begin the last part,  
Tom turned round to Laurie, said 'come on you old fart'  
'You've had your turn Laurie - it's time to move on -  
So that young studs like me can show you how it's done'

But Laurie's a battler, who never took grief  
He just grinned up at Tom and took out his false teeth.  
Then went onto the layout where they drew a full crowd,  
Old Laurie seemed little against Tom so tall and so loud.  
But what Tom hadn't learnt from all that PlayStation  
Is the afternoon sun in this part of our nation!

'Cause at Wagga the sunset's not what you'd call 'grouse'  
'Cause the bloody thing sets right above the low house!  
Which won't affect Laurie who was just 5 foot four  
Unlike Tom who stretches to six foot and more!

Well, they both shot high eight . . . targets crashed to the ground,  
But 'twas the look on Tom's face as they both turned around,  
Y'see Laurie's face sat in a shadowy place  
But at six foot three Tom had the sun in his face!!

Laurie grinned . . . as he smashed both his low eights with ease  
Then young Tom tried to shoot them from right down on his knees.  
But he dropped both the targets - he was right out of luck.  
Laurie grinned, said 'there you go fool, go put that on Facebook!!'

### **IN MEMORIAM**

The previous year saw the loss of more members of the skeet family: Bernard 'Bernie' Mack; Zelko Bacani; and Fred McConnell. They will all be missed.

## **PHOTO COMPETITION NO. 11**

Clubs/members can send photo's (Digital only) to the CTSN email address. If space permits we will publish the best of these.

A winner will be selected every 3 months with the winner's photo being published in the CTSN with an article & receive a camera for their Club.

The overall winner will receive a full page gloss colour advertisement in the magazine for a shoot event (to be used in the next 12 months)

\* Each photo needs to be less than 6 months old.

\* The photo will need to be picture-ready for publication in the magazine (no touch-ups required).

\* Must be of Clay Target shooting or related to a shooting event.