DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT RIFLE ASSOCIATION PRIZE SHOOT

This year the Annual Event was hosted by the Crows Nest/Goombungee & District Rifle Club over two beautiful sunny days with light to mild wind and temperature around 21°C. 32 shooters turned up for the Sweepstakes Competition Saturday afternoon over 2 x 10 shots over 500 yards. In TR ‘A’ local Marksman Ash Bidgood mastered the light conditions to post a possible 100.15, his father Max topped TR ‘B’ 99.10. TR ‘C’ was won by Tom Smith, Darling Downs 93.3. FS ‘A’ won by Andrew McKillop Bundaberg/Burnett 119.7, FS ‘B’ Roger Hannemann Crows Nest/Goombungee 118.7, FO Lowell Tillack Goondiwindi 119.10, FTR Ron Millingen Murwillumbah 115.6.

The Crows Nest/Goombungee Club Ladies served up very nice hot meal that was washed down with a beer or two or three by quite a few attendees who wisely camped overnight. Sunday morning commenced with the Goondiwindi Club Members cooking a BBQ Breakfast for the overnight campers. 43 Shooters trudged up the hill to commence the 2 x 600 yard Ranges. Conditions picked up a little from the previous day and turned around to come from left to right with a 1-3 Minute variance. This kept the wind arm fingers twitching some as there were two only 50’s in TR and four 60’s in FO, one in FS ‘B’ and one in FTR.

The two 600 yard Ranges were completed shortly after 11am due to the low Entry numbers, the use of SMET’s and by rolling through both 600’s without a break. Shooters and guests chowed down on a nice steak burger before the commencement of the 10 shot match at 500 yards at 12:30. Again wind arm fingers were working to stay with conditions which resulted in two only 50's in TR and one in FO. All shooting was completed by 2:15, the Range hardware was packed away and Prizes prepared for the presentation by 3pm.

The Days Aggregates were awarded to TR ‘A’ Ash Bidgood Crows Nest/Goombungee 148.17, TR ‘B’ Jim Breeze Darling Downs 147.9, TR ‘C’ Tom Smith Darling Downs 141.8, FS ‘A’ Andrew McKillop Bundaberg/Burnett 172.14, FS ‘B’ Peter Haden Gatton/Glenore Grove 170.4, FO Mark Fairbairn Cannon Hill RSL 180.13, FTR Jason Mayers Brisbane 175.10.

The two day Aggregates were TR ‘A’ Ash Bidgood Crows Nest/Goombungee 248.32, TR ‘B’ Joshua Turner Bundaberg/Burnett 245.21, TR ‘C’ Tom Smith Darling Downs 234.11, FS ‘A’ Andrew McKillop Bundaberg/Burnett 291.21, FS ‘B’ Rodger Hannemann Crows Nest/Goombungee 287.15, FO Lowell Tillack Goondiwindi 297.27, TR Ron Millingen Murwillumbah 286.16. The SS Barrel was won by John Gilliland Crows Nest/Goombungee. In general the Event was successful and enjoyed by all, however the low attendance was disappointing.

A comment by one winning Competitor said that it was a pity that the big City people who only need to drive for just over an hour to this Range did not support the Event, whereby quite a lot of the attendees from Country Clubs travelled up to thee hours. Most people agreed that these Events in the Country need to be supported otherwise they become unsustainable due to cost and will disappear like Rifle Ranges are in the present environment.