

# Explorers Open Prize meeting report 2013



## Mike Rankin pictured after his win at Lockhart Range

After weeks of working bees and preparations to get the range looking good and the targets up to scratch it all came together on August 24 25<sup>th</sup> for the weekend of the annual Open prize meeting of the Explorers Rifle Club.

What a great event it turned out to be. Attendances and the weather were beyond expectations and happy but tired competitors headed home after a solid two days of competition and socialising. Overall it was a successful event with a rare outcome and some new and familiar faces emerging as winners.

Saturday we had 23 competitors for the 1000 yard sweep stakes and some interesting results were obtained. There were misses, cross fires, re-examines, missing gear and fun for all, followed by an adjournment to our major sponsor the Ex-Services Club for the evening meal. Those in for the evening included a strong contingent of the Seberry family and the over nighting Griffith club members. A birthday cake was also produced for Margaret Brindley to help her celebrate the occasion in style.

On Sunday an early start with competitors arriving at the range over an hour before the scheduled 8.30 start time catching the catering crew by surprise. A lot of this was put down to competitors making a weekend of it by staying locally and using the sweep stakes to get their eye in. However, it was also a fun night for those staying on the range and we were a bit slow to get going in the morning. A word of warning, all things being equal, it's unlikely that things will be much different next year.

The Wangaratta Club once again supported the event on-mass with a mini bus full of shooters. Over the years their members have met with good success and this year was no exception with aggregate and range winners going home.

A range capacity crowd of 52 competitors from Nowra to Wangaratta took to the 600 yard range to try their hand in the first range of the day which had first shot down range well before 9 o'clock. A strong field of F class competitors was in attendance allowing the organisers to adopt the 2 grades available to the format. For the statistically minded the days entry was 52 made up of 10 A grade, 11B Grade (9 from Wangaratta), 7 C grade (6 of which are in the host club), 19 F class made up of 11A, 6B and 2 Open and a special junior match for under 18's using a rest but aperture sights.

The Rifle Butts range at Lockhart is only a 4 targets range so potentially over 3 hours per range if everyone used the time allowed under SSR's. The decision was made early to cut the programmed 15 shot match at the closing 500 yards range to 10 shots due to the number of entry's and provide for a timely finish. This was a prudent decision which lightened the load on the overworked butts' crew. However, it was noted in the pits that one shooter, obviously a scopey was getting good results and putting shots down in a very consistent 3 seconds so conditions and elapsed time were clearly of little concern to this marksman.

Despite what appeared to be fairly stable wind and sighting conditions and the relatively short distances there was a fair spread in the scores within and across the grades. One of the rarer outcomes from the weekend was the fact that the top target rifle score for the day was posted by Mike Rankin of Wangaratta in B grade. Mike dropped his only point for the day in the opening 600 yard range and came home with a pair of 50.7's to finish the day on 149.20. During his last stage it was noted that he was waiting for the flags to come back to position as the frontal quartering breeze was in action. Early on a flag shift and / or failure to adjust would produce a bird at worst or an inner if you missed the change.

Despite Mike's win, the home ground advantage was demonstrated across the course with several Explorers members winning their grade aggregates and or being runner up. Graham Crowe took out the A grade aggregate on the same score but six centres behind Mike. Ken Cooke also of Explorers, and a previous winner at this event came runner up a point and two centres back from Crowey.

Former winner Bruce Kneebone of Wangaratta regained his crown by once again claiming the A grade aggregate in F class with a score of 178.10. Fellow club member Phil Jonkers was one point behind but 5 centres up and possibly unlucky not to win the agg having won 2 of the day's range prizes.

In C Grade the Explorers John Owens won the aggregate by a point from a slightly disappointed club princess Laura Brindley a point behind. Laura has only been shooting off the elbow for about 12 months having graduated from the "junior" ranks and shot a PB of 49.4 at the opening 600 yard range to pick up the range prize. Scott Wade from Griffith won FB and was the quiet achiever all weekend finishing 2 points clear of the field on 168.6. Keith Hills of Lyndhurst club picked up the F Open aggregate on 177.15.

Emma Brindley cleaned up in more ways than one in the junior section with a score of 144.8 that would have put her 7th in A grade just behind her father and club captain Scott.

Full details of the day's scores are available on the NSWRA web site at the following link <http://www.nswra.org.au/pages/Prize-Meeting-Results.html>

On a disappointing note we received advice prior to the prize meeting that the Numurkah Rifle Club is longer in operation. This brings to a close many years of friendly cross border rivalry between the Lockhart club members (a foundation club of the Explorers) and Numurkah.

The Explorers would like to thank the EX Services Club, the Lockhart Motel, Lockhart IGA, the Seberry family, Joyce Asquith and club members for their sponsorship and support of the event. Also a big thanks to the guys and girls that gave up their weekend to support the event both marking and helping out in the kitchen and office.

## EXPLORERS OPEN PM 2013

### A GRADE

NAME	CLUB	600	500	500	AGG
G. CROWE	EXPLORERS	50 4	50 3	49 7	149 14
K COOKE	EXPLORERS	49 5	50 4	49 3	148 12
G HAHN	LYNDHURST	48 4	49 7	50 3	147 14
B THURTELL	WONDONGA	49 4	50 6	48 1	147 11
I SANDFORD	WANGARATTA	49 4	47 5	50 4	146 13
B BALLANTYNE	HORNSBY	48 4	48 3	49 7	145 14
S BRINDLEY	EXPLORERS	48 4	48 5	48 8	144 17
T DOXFORD	NOWRA	48 5	48 4	48 3	144 12
F GUGATT	KARRAMOMUS	45 0	50 4	47 1	142 5
E COEN	WANGARATTA	46 1	47 3	47 4	140 8

### B GRADE

NAME	CLUB	600	500	500	AGG
M RANKIN	WANGARATTA	49 6	50 7	50 7	149 20
J LYNCH	UNGARIE	50 4	48 2	48 4	146 10
A BENTON	WANGARATTA	49 2	47 2	48 2	144 6
R MC RAE	WANGARATTA	47 2	46 3	47 4	140 9
K DUNSTALL	UNGARIE	46 1	47 2	47 2	140 5
D DOIG	WANGARATTA	48 2	43 5	48 3	139 10
J GULLOCK	WANGARATTA	46 0	49 3	43 1	138 4
G WARRENDER	WANGARATTA	46 1	44 1	46 4	136 6
J YOUNG	COOTAMUNDRA	42 0	47 2	46 2	135 4
T DIFFEY	WANGARATTA	43 1	46 3	45 1	134 5

## C GRADE

NAME	CLUB	600	500	500	AGG
J OWENS	EXPLORERS	48 2	47 3	44 2	139 7
L BRINDLEY	EXPLORERS	49 4	43 1	46 0	138 5
G MULL	ESKDALE	40 1	47 1	45 2	132 4
J WESTBLADE	EXPLORERS	43 1	45 3	41 0	129 4
N HANSEN	EXPLORERS	37 1	44 1	47 1	128 3
B GOODWIN	EXPLORERS	29 0	43 0	44 0	116 0
K PICKERSGILL	EXPLORERS	40 1	33 0	25 0	98 1

## FA STANDARD

NAME	CLUB	600	500	500	AGG
B KNEEBONE	WANGARATTA	60 3	58 3	60 4	178 10
PHIL JONKER	WANGARATTA	60 5	60 5	57 5	177 15
R GARLICK	LYNDHURST	59 7	59 3	59 5	177 15
G EMMS	LYNDHURST	57 2	60 3	59 5	176 10
DI JONKER	WANGARATTA	57 2	59 5	58 4	174 11
C AUSTEN	NOWRA	58 2	58 1	56 2	172 5
DARREN BRADLEY	GRIFFITH	58 2	52 1	57 3	167 6
R SPERRING	NOWRA	56 3	55 3	55 1	166 7
S DUNSTALL	UNGARIE	52 1	58 5	55 2	165 8
W SIDES	COOTAMUNDRA	57 1	53 1	54 2	164 4
SCOTT WADE	GRIFFITH	53 0	58 1	57 5	168 6
B ROWLANDS	LYNDHURST	57 4	54 4	55 3	166 11
J ODDY	TUMUT	53 2	57 0	55 3	165 5
J LEASK	LYNDHURST	56 4	53 1	55 3	164 8
J HOSKINSON	UNGARIE	49 1	54 2	53 0	156 3
B CROWE	EXPLORERS	50 2	52 2	51 1	153 5
L NEVINSON	GRIFFITH	49 3	52 2	50 1	151 6
K PATON	GOULBURN	40 0	47 0	50 2	137 2

## A GRADE

NAME	CLUB	600	500	500	AGG
KEITH HILLS	LYNDHURST	59 5	58 5	60 5	177 15
SIMON DEVERY	GRIFFITH	55 0	59 3	55 1	169 4

## JUNIORS

NAME	CLUB	600	500	500	AGG
E BRINDLEY	EXPLORERS	47 2	48 3	49 3	144 8
Z ATKINS	EXPLORERS	41 3	35 0	40 0	116 3