

COMPETITION: FULLBORE SHOOTING



➤ Bruce Millard shooting at 600 yards, Clevedon Rifle Range, Barnard Action with a Kreiger barrel.

AROUND THE RANGES –

“ALSO COMPETING ARE VETERANS TEAM FROM AUSTRALIA AND THE USA, AND HERE NEW ZEALAND HAS AN OUTSTANDING RECORD AT TRENTHAM HAVING WON THE TROPHY THE LAST TWO YEARS IN A ROW.”

BRUCE MILLARD REPORTS...

The new shooting season is now well underway, after a very wet winter and spring, clubs around the country are shooting in Target Rifle, F Class and Hunter Class. Fullbore ranges are spread from Invercargill to Whangarei. The National Range is situated in Wellington at Trentham where plans are well progressed towards 2018 National Championships. The following year the World Long Range Championship and Palma Match will also be held at Trentham. This January/February sees a run through for 2019, with a lot of overseas competitions expected to check out the facilities and the weather.



The 2018 Nationals this year will host an F Class International Teams event. Australia recently won the F Class Open title in Canada for the 2nd time, so the New Zealand team will have a huge undertaking to compete successfully. Local knowledge and experience will help but New Zealand will still need to be competitive to win the day, as always where NZ and Australia are involved.

Also competing are Veterans Team from Australia and the USA, and here New Zealand has an outstanding record at Trentham having won the trophy the last two years in a row. Jim Bailey from Australia will be returning to defend the Ballinger Belt he won last year. It has not been won consecutively for 120 years, so this will be a big challenge with a lot of local and overseas competitors involved.

➤ Members of Clevedon shooting at 1000 yards with Target Rifles and F Class Rifles.

Two Fullbore Shooters, Brian Carter from Whakatane and John Snowden from Ashburton, will be representing New Zealand at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. They have had plenty of practice on the Belmont Range this past year with two Queens and the



➤ Alan Dickson from Te Puke Rifle Club, shooting with a Millennium Action and True-Flite barrel.

Oceania Games held at the venue. Both are past winners of the Ballinger Belt and are also Commonwealth Games competitors, so if they continue their great shooting hopefully we will see some top finishes.

Barnard Precision are great supporters of the NZNRA, and their ongoing sponsorship is appreciated.

The New Zealand Palma Team has been named; 26 shooters, coaches and management are now training towards a goal of winning the Palma Trophy in 2019. Second is the best New Zealand has achieved so far but we are still competitive, and with the event being held on our home range at Trentham, local knowledge and practicing in the expected conditions will help.

2019 will be a big year for Fullbore Target Shooting. It's been 25 years (1995) since New Zealand hosted the match, held every four years. Teams and individual shooters are coming from Australia, USA, Great Britain, South Africa, Canada, and Europe. The Trentham range is notorious for big winds and changing conditions, and many shooters have left the range having been "Trenthamed" over the years but we keep coming back for the enjoyment of the

➤ Jim Bailey being chaired of the 900 yards mound by his team mates, a tradition that goes back over 100 years.



➤ Kiwi shooters around the country are getting in some practice, in anticipation of the international competition arriving.

“THE NEW ZEALAND PALMA TEAM HAS BEEN NAMED; 26 SHOOTERS, COACHES AND MANAGEMENT ARE NOW TRAINING TOWARDS A GOAL OF WINNING THE PALMA TROPHY IN 2019. SECOND IS THE BEST NEW ZEALAND HAS ACHIEVED SO FAR BUT WE ARE STILL COMPETITIVE...”

sport, the people and friends made. Info, a program and an introductory video are available at: www.lrwc2019.nz

The final for the Ballinger Belt, F Open and FTR Finals are on Saturday 3rd February 2018 starting at 2pm at Trentham. Spectators are welcome – so come and watch long range shooting with a bit of pressure and tradition thrown in.

Bruce

Contact info is at www.nznra.org.nz or search Facebook for National Rifle Association or contact the NRA Secretary at: secretary@nranz.org.nz

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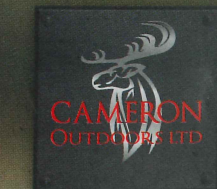
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