

## Report from Darryl Crow

The first NРАНZ Commonwealth Games trials was completed at the Whatawhata Range on the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017.

Thanks to the Hamilton Whatawhata Rifle Club and members who ensured use of their excellent range and facilities to stage the event. Graeme Piper, with his organisation prior to the event and his team of superb markers, made sure the trial was a success.

With the unfortunate withdrawal of Di Collings from the trial squad, Gaz Morris made himself available to compete as the sixth shooter so there were even numbers - as the trial was "Bisley Style" with two shooters to each target. We are sorry for Di's withdrawal and grateful that Gaz was willing to step in at short notice.

Day one dawned with heavy fog around Hamilton which just cleared by start time. The first stage was 7 shots at 300, 500, and 600yds and was shot in sunny conditions with a slight left wind. The remainder of stage one was fired in similar conditions with just enough wind movement to keep the competitors on their toes, particularly at 600yds. Temperatures were on the rise also with high humidity.

After lunch stage two, 10 shots at 300, 500 & 600yds, signaled the wind increasing and coming from the right and with greater variation, which is not uncommon at Whatawhata range.

Day 2 was the third stage of 15 shots at both 900 & 1000yds. It was cloudy up until the start of shooting, when all the cloud disappeared and 900 was shot in clear conditions with a gentle frontal wind that had a few tricky patches from the left at times. It caught a few!

The rest of the event was in generally overcast conditions which thankfully helped keep the temperatures of yesterday at bay. 1000 yards started with right hand winds that became frontal and was tricky enough to keep the sights moving either side of zero. The competitors, who had a maximum time per shot of 60 seconds, made the odd wind error but overall the standard was very high.



Malcolm Dodson – John Snowden – Gaz Morris – Brian Carter – Rob Johansen – Bevan Mehrstens

NRANZ Commonwealth Games Trial 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017  
Hamilton Whatawhata Rifle Range

Stage 1 x 7 shot		300	500	600	Stage Score
Carter	B	35.03	35.05	35.02	105.10
Dodson	M	33.03	35.04	34.02	102.09
Johansen	R	33.03	35.05	33.02	101.10
Mehrtens	B	34.03	35.05	35.05	104.13
Snowden	J	35.07	35.03	34.01	104.11
Morris	G	34.04	35.06	35.02	104.12

Stage 2 x 10 shot		300	500	600	Stage Score
Carter	B	49.06	50.04	49.08	148.18
Dodson	M	48.03	50.07	50.04	148.14
Johansen	R	49.05	49.06	45.01	143.12
Mehrtens	B	49.04	48.04	49.03	146.11
Snowden	J	49.04	49.02	48.02	146.08
Morris	G	45.02	50.03	45.02	140.07

Stage 3 x 15 shot		900	1000	Stage Score	
Carter	B		73.08	73.08	146.16
Dodson	M		75.04	68.01	143.05
Johansen	R		75.06	74.04	149.10
Mehrtens	B		74.06	70.03	144.09
Snowden	J		75.12	70.06	145.18
Morris	G		74.08	73.02	147.10

		Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Rank
Carter	B	105.10	148.18	146.16	399.44	1
Snowden	J	104.11	146.08	145.18	395.37	2
Mehrtens	B	104.13	146.11	144.09	394.33	3
Johansen	R	101.10	143.12	149.10	393.32	4
Dodson	M	102.09	148.14	143.05	393.28	5
Morris	G	104.12	140.07	147.10	391.29	

*Gaz Morris shot to help with uneven numbers. He is not a NRANZ trialist.*