

NATIONALS MARCH 2016

(Graeme Banfield/Kath Redpath)

The 59th PA/ISSF Nationals were held at Whiteman Park Internationals Pistol Club in Perth Western Australia in March 2016. Whiteman Park is a National Park about 30 minutes north east of Perth and is home to the pistol club as well as other shooting disciplines and archery. The Pistol club itself is quite large with 13 ranges which includes a 32 bay air pistol hall. Outdoor ranges are grassed and spotlessly clean of spent brass and any other litter that is created when shooting, the pride in the facility is very obvious.

The representatives this year were all members of Van Diemen Pistol Club in Launceston, and all were outstanding in their behaviour on and off the line as well as their shooting abilities. Lots of comments were passed about our closeness and team spirit, and the young age of majority of our shooters.

Our Service Team and individuals all competed to the best of their ability and specially Jye Earnshaw and Matt Lockhart who were competing in their first National Competitions were outstanding. With this experience under their belts they can only improve for 2017 in Cessnock.

Chris Banfield had Top 10 finishes in every match he entered which is a great achievement, and received a Bronze medal for WA1500 Pistol match, with only 3 points separating 1st from 3rd places.

Matt and Jye both did very well to control the nerves and shoot creditable scores in all of their matches.

Brendan Lockett, Graeme Banfield, Darryn and Liam O'Brien all shot their average scores, which is pretty hard to do under the pressure of this type of competition so all in all a very successful outing.

John Hardisty competed in Black Powder events where the competition was obviously very fierce.

Bailey Groves – unfortunately didn't have the support we would have liked to have given him due to the fact that we were leaving before he really got started. We did catch up briefly and wished him well, before we left. As usual Bailey did a great job and showed the experience that he has gained since we first took him to Perth 3 years ago to compete in his first Nationals. He is a credit to VDPC and Tasmania, certainly putting us up there on the map with the best of the best.

Bailey gained four gold medals. Junior Air Pistol (571); Junior Rapid Fire (562) and a new National Record ; Junior 50m Pistol (522) ; Junior 25m Pistol (572); and 4th place in Junior Standard Pistol (529).

Bailey also gained a Bronze medal in Men's Air Pistol (571); 4th place in Men's Rapid Fire (562); and 13th place in 50m Pistol (522).

Bailey has also been selected to compete in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany 29th April - 6th May 2016

Training, planning and hard work is already being discussed in preparation for the 2017 Nationals which will be held in Cessnock NSW.

A great effort from our Tasmanian shooters overall and looking forward to even better results next

year. Thank you to TPA and VDPC for contributing financially towards getting the team there.