

## Australian Rifle Team Report 149th Imperial Meeting, Bisley, UK 2018

The NRAA called for nominations for the positions of Captain, Vice Captain and shooters for the 2018 Australian Rifle Team to Bisley UK on/or around August 2017.

Geoff Grosskreutz nominated and was successful in his appointment to the Captain's position and further appointed James Corbett as Vice Captain and Joanne Corbett as Manager.

There were a further sixteen applications received and accepted for the remaining positions in the team.

One team member subsequently notified the Captain he would be withdrawing from the team due to family travel in the UK prior to the meeting.

The final team numbered 18 comprising shooter/coach Captain (1), shooter/coach Vice Captain (1), Manager (1), team shooters (13), Armourer/shooter (1) and Historian (1) with members from Queensland, Victoria, NSW and ACT.

*Refer NRAA Team - Bisley 2018*

NRAA TEAM - BISLEY 2018								
First Name	Surname	Captain	Vice Captain	Manager	Coach	Shooter	Armourer	Historian
Geoff	Grosskreutz	✓			✓	✓		
James	Corbett		✓		✓	✓		
Joanne	Corbett			✓				
Mark	Buchanan				✓	✓		
Jim	Bailey					✓		
Angus	Bell					✓		
Mark	Horsnell					✓		
Jim	Jeffery					✓		
Chris	Maher					✓		
Peter	Maher					✓		
Stephen	Negus					✓		
Matt	Shepherd					✓		
Keirin	McCamley					✓		
Don	Thompson					✓		
Shaun	Wingrove					✓		
Barry	Wood					✓		
Ian	Griffiths						✓	
Wes	Robinson							✓
Rob	Cadden	Withdrew from team						

The appointment of Di Wood, who is an experienced book-keeper, as the team's Treasurer formalised management of the team finances. A spreadsheet, accounting for all of the team's financial transactions, is included in this report.

Team members were provided with an advance program/calendar informing them of details for both official and friendly team matches as well as social events together with estimated cost. *Refer Australian TR Program/Event Calendar UK 2018*

Table 1

Australian TR Program/Event Calendar UK 2018					
Date	Team Competitions	Fee including Ammunition	Social Event - location	Cost	Attendance
<b>1st Tues 17 July</b>	British Commonwealth Match shot in late afternoon 5pm at Century Range	~£28 each, 4 shooters, 1 coach, price includes BBQ dinner	BBQ at British Commonwealth Club, at end of shooting approx 8pm		Optional for Australian Team
<b>1st Wed 18 July</b>	Army invitation to shoot short ranges.	~£20 each	Australian Team Social Get-together, venue TBA weather dependent, commencing 5pm to 6pm, BYO refreshments, nibbles provided	~£10 each	Optional for Australian Team
<b>1st Thur 19 July</b>	Opening Shot, Stickledown Range 900yds 1000yds	£215/5 = £43 each, 4 shooters, 1 coach, Max 2 - X class, 2/15 at 900 and 1000			Optional for Australian Team
<b>2nd Mon 23 July</b>			Australian Team Function Dinner & Drinks, Venue: City RC, time 6pm-8pm	~£30 each	Compulsory for Australian Team
<b>2nd Thur 26 July</b>	Overseas Match shot at Century Range, 300yds 500yds 600yds	£455 paid by NRAA, 12 shooters, 3 coaches, 1/7 at 300, 500 and 600			Compulsory for Australian Team
<b>2nd Fri 27 July</b>	Kolapore Match, shot at Century Range, 300yds 500yds 600yds	£419 paid by NRAA, 8 shooters, 2 coaches, 1/10 at 300, 500 and 600			Compulsory for Australian Team
<b>Final Sat 28 July</b>	Mackinnon Match, shot morning at Stickledown Range, 900yds 1000yds	£419 paid by NRAA, 12 shooters, 3 coaches, 1/10 at 900 and 1000			Compulsory for Australian Team
	Parting shot, Century Range, 500yds	£132/6 = £22 each, 5 shooters, 1 coach, 2/15 at 500			Optional for Australian Team

## Bisley 2018 - Australian Rifle Team program/calendar of events

The Bisley Camp home of the National Rifle Association since 1890 is in large part a Victorian and Edwardian time warp <https://nra.org.uk/who-are-we/history/> . The social invitations associated with the various rifle clubs situated along Club Row are as much a part of the Bisley experience and tradition as is the shooting over the two weeks of matches.

We were privileged to receive formal invitations from the Chairman of the NRA, the Officers of the British Commonwealth Club, the President of the Army Rifle Club and the President of the Canadian Rifle Club to attend dinners and receptions at their respective clubs.



Australian Dinner at the City Rifle Club

We reciprocated their hospitality by inviting the club presidents and officials to the Australian team's formal dinner held on the second Monday 23 July at the City Rifle Club. Guests enjoyed pre-dinner drinks followed by a sit down meal of delicious roast meats and vegetables.

## **Team Matches**

There were members in this year's team for whom it was their first trip to Bisley. Selection for the early friendly matches was based on allowing these 'first timers' a run before the more serious matches commenced so they could be better prepared.

### British Commonwealth Match

The BC Match held on the afternoon of Tuesday 17 July was a friendly match between England, Canada, Australia and Kenya held on Century Range over 300, 500, 600yards x 10 shots. England with shooters enough to field several teams on their home range were hard to beat and the Australian team with some still recovering from their air travel had to contend with fourth place. <http://www.nraa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/BisleyDayTwo.pdf>

### Inaugural Australian RT vs UK Army RC Match

In March 2017 the Australian Rifle Team Captain received an invitation from the President of the Army Rifle Club Brigadier Andy Storruck and Captain Nick Healy inviting the Australian Rifle team to a friendly match. The inaugural match held on Wednesday 18 July over 300, 500 and 600 yards (10 shots) was extremely close with the Army winning by one point.

Following the match, the Australian team and attached members were treated to a barbecue dinner hosted by the Army with prizes awarded to the highest scorer from each of the respective teams. Subsequent discussion with the Army recommended we alternate shooting positions for next year's teams à la Army/Aust/Army/Aust to gain experience with UK style of coaching and back plotting. <http://www.nraa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/BisleyDayThree.pdf>



Australian Team at Barbecue Dinner Hosted by the Army Rifle Club



### Opening Shot Match

Australia was able to field three teams in the Opening Shot held on Thursday 19 July. Teams competing in the OS match must have a maximum of two X grade and a minimum of two A/O grade shooters. We were fortunate this year in that the majority of our team met the entry eligibility.

The three Australian teams managed 7th, 12th and 14th placings in a field of 21 teams.

<http://www.nraa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/BisleyDayFour.pdf>

Later that day the team held a "Meet and Greet" for the Australian team members held at the rear of the Pavilion, our gratitude to Di Wood and Sue Weissner for organising the get together.



Australian team's informal get-together held Thursday 19 July after the Opening Shot Match

### Overseas Match

The Overseas Match held on Thursday 26th July was the first of the official and more serious team matches. Held on Century Range over 300, 500 and 600yards x 7 shots the match day belonged to the Australians who shot consistently across the three ranges with a winning score of 1212.125v. Guernsey came in second with 1198.101v and Canada third on 1190.96v. Next best scores were Jersey 1174.94v and Kenya 1154.98v



Overseas Match the Winning Team Australia

## Kolapore Match

The second of the official team matches was the Kolapore shot on Friday 27 July over 300, 500 and 600yards x 10 shots on Century Range.

Teams competing in the Kolapore were Australia, Great Britain, Canada, Kenya, Jersey, Guernsey and GBMP Germany. Muster was 8am for 8.30am start.

Australia had a reasonable start at 300 yards on 391.37v coming in second behind Canada (394.42v) with GB third (390.43v).

500 and 600 yards proved more difficult for Australia due in part to the extreme weather conditions and the unpredictability of ammunition and how it was performing in individual's barrels. Subsequently they were unable to maintain their 300 yards level of shooting and finished in third place.

AUSTRALIA				2018 KOLAPORE			
MAIN COACH - D THOMPSON							
COACH - J BAILEY							
S. NEGUS	X, V5V, VV4, 555, V	49.5 <sup>5</sup>	X, 4VV	VV5, V45, 5	48.5 <sup>5</sup>	X, VV5, 5VV, 55V, 5	50.3 <sup>3</sup>
M. BUCHANAN	5, 5V5, VV5, V5V, V	50.5 <sup>5</sup>	X, V54	445, 544, 5	45.1 <sup>1</sup>	X, 5VV, 445, 455, 5	47.2 <sup>2</sup>
M. SHEPHERD	5, 55V, V55, 5V5, 5	50.5 <sup>5</sup>	5, 554	5V5, 55V, 5	49.7 <sup>7</sup>	X, 55V, 54V, 454, 5	41.1 <sup>1</sup>
J. JEFFERY	X, V55, 5VV, V45, V	49.5 <sup>5</sup>	5, 555	5VV, 55V, V	50.1 <sup>1</sup>	5, 555, 5VV, 45VV	49.4 <sup>4</sup>
COACH - B. WOOD							
M. HORSNELL	X, VV5, VV, V5V, V	50.5 <sup>5</sup>	5, 5VV	V4V, VVV, V	49.1 <sup>1</sup>	5, 545, 45V, 5V, V	48.1 <sup>1</sup>
A. BELL	5, 554, V45, 445, 5	46.1 <sup>1</sup>	5, 554	445, VVV, 5	47.3 <sup>3</sup>	5, 55V, 55V, 54V, 5	49.3 <sup>3</sup>
P. MAHER	5, 554, VV4, V5V, V	48.5 <sup>5</sup>	VVV, 5	5V4, VV5, V	49.1 <sup>1</sup>	5, 5V5, VV5, VV, 5	50.4 <sup>4</sup>
J. CORBETT	5, 545, 55V, V55, V	49.3 <sup>3</sup>	X, VVV	VVV, 5VV, V	50.1 <sup>1</sup>	X, V4V, V4V, 4V5, V	47.4 <sup>4</sup>
CAPTAIN - G. GROSSKREUTZ.				RESERVES/ROTTERS			
VICE CAPTAIN - J. CORBETT.				C. MAHER			
MANAGER - Jo CORBETT.				S. WINGROVE			
391.37				387.38			
				387.35 1165.38			



Team captains drew for targets at 900 yards. At 1000 yards, teams were allocated to targets in order of their team's placing after 900 yards.

All teams were struggling with the strength of the wind. However, with the prevailing wind from the West, those teams that had drawn targets up on Stickledown's higher and less protected ranges, the going was far more difficult.

Unfortunately Australia's draw and subsequent placing after 900 yards meant the team shot both 900 and 1000 yards on the higher level ranges.

The other factor making Australia's task difficult was the inability for coaches, plotters and the master coach to be able to effectively communicate with one another during the shoot. Australia was the only team amongst the competitive nations such as GB, Canada and Jersey to not be operating with wireless headsets. Compounding this was the fact that Australia had drawn three targets one of which was separated and distanced from the other two Australian teams by a row of flag poles.

Nine teams contested the Mackinnon: England, Wales, Scotland, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Kenya, Guernsey and Jersey.

At the close of 900 yards Australia trailed in sixth place with 533.32v. After the final range of 1000 yards Australia had managed a finish in fifth place on 1040.59v behind Guernsey (1060.69v) Ireland (1065.66v) Wales (1070.73v) and England in first place on (1085.74v).

AUSTRALIA		2018 MACKINNON MATCH	
J. JEFFERY	1 VVVV4454544 45 3 4355	5554444 44 1	89.5
S. WINGROVE	4 3544444V5 42 1 XV544	V5V4444 46 2	88.5
A. BELL	3 545345VV45 35 2 343	254V55V 41 2	86.5
S. NEGUS	3 44VVA55V35 45 3 2451	342SV4V 41 2	86.5
M. BUCHANAN	1 54444543V5 43 1 433	45V4V5V 43 2	86.5
C. MAHER	4 4VV4V44V55 46 3 434	46V4434 40 2	86.5
G. ROSSKREUTZ	3 444453435V4 41 1 3345	35344V5 41 1	82.5
M. SHEPHERD	3 55V.VVV455V 49 5 033V	454V34V 41 2	90.5
M. HORSWELL	1 545.VVVV444 46 1 445	5545V54 46 1	83.5
K. MCCAMLEY	1 V445554244 42 1 43V5	3V4534V 41 1	79.5
P. MAHER	3 V345444255 41 1 2354	3425V3 48 1	93.5
J. CORBETT	1 VV5V4VV5V4V 48 1 4V3V	VV4V4V4 45 1	1040.59
CAPTAIN - G. CROSSKREUTZ.		COACHES	
VICE CAPTAIN - J. CORBETT.		D. THOMPSON	
MANAGER - Jo CORBETT.		J. BAILEY	
		B. WOOD	

Mackinnon Match held Saturday, 28 July, Australian team score board.

<http://www.nraa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/BisleyDay13.pdf>

<http://www.nraa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Bisley-Update-Day-Fifteen-Monday-30th-July.pdf>

This year Australia was successful in winning the **Dominion Prize** with a score of 3417.291v. The trophy is awarded to the overseas team whose scores in the Kolapore, Mackinnon and Overseas make up the highest aggregate.

## **Recommendations**

1. It was evident, particularly in the major matches of the Kolapore and the Mackinnon's long ranges 900 and 1000 yards, the Australian teams were significantly disadvantaged by not having an effective form of communication between coaches, the master coach and Captain.

The more competitive countries' teams such as England, Wales, Canada and Jersey all operate with wireless talking headsets.

**Recommendation 1** That a set of eight wireless headsets be purchased and permanently stored over at Bisley for use by future Australian Bisley teams.

2. Accurate and timely communication between team officials and team members is crucial for the smooth running of a team. Despite modern day technology and the wide use of electronic devices and smart phones and a team notice board on the Corbett van, there were still some missed communications.

**Recommendation 2** Designate two specific communication mediums such as email and telephone. Each team member must ensure prior to departure and on arrival in UK that they can access either communication medium by purchasing a UK sim card.

3. Informal feedback on the NRAA Bisley Team Blog and daily Bisley Updates has been positive.

**Recommendation 3** That the NRAA consider expanding the website to include all blogs from travelling teams.

4. The appointment of a treasurer to manage team finances ensured transparency and accountability with team funds. Collection of monies was coordinated with receipts and invoices issued and a number of the team's match entries and ammunition paid via online funds transfers. Shooting team members averaged between 83 and 181 pounds spend depending on the number of matches entered and any additional for family members travelling.

**Recommendation 4** That future Bisley teams appoint a treasurer to collect the equivalent of 100 pounds up front prior to departure for Bisley. This provides a money float for the team expenses and allows for online funds transfers where appropriate.

## Summary

2018 is the sixth consecutive year the NRAA has fielded a team in Bisley.

This year, as in previous years, a number of our team's state-level shooters were keen to gain international experience.

We continue work on familiarising team members about travelling with firearms and sufficient kit to compete at a high level.

The NRA of GB has again expressed their gratitude for our commitment to sending an Australian team each year and our commitment to fostering relationships between our team members and the international shooters attending Bisley.

It is estimated that in the last six years the Australian Bisley team has spent around \$600,000. Annualising this amount indicates a team expenditure of \$100,000 per year, averaging \$5,000 per person (estimated on 20 people per team).

This must be considered by any measure to be a great personal commitment by the individual team members.

We strongly recommend the NRAA maintain its support for the concept of the Australian team to Bisley. Thus providing the necessary experience and training required by Australian shooters to remain competitive at an international level and creating a pathway for those participating in other ICFRA competition and team events such as the Palma and Australia Match.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Grosskreutz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoff Grosskreutz  
Captain  
Australian Rifle Team to Bisley 2018





2018 Bisley Australian Rifle Team

AUSTRALIAN TEAM - BISLEY 2018											
	First Name	Last Name:	UK Shooting Permit	Permit Postage	British Commonwealth Watch 17/7 Optional £35	Army Invite shot 18/7 Optional £35	Aussie Get-Together 18/7 Optional £10	Opening Shot 19/7 Optional £43	Aussie Team Dinner 23/7 Compulsory £20	Income	Di Wood
1	Geoff	Grosskreutz	GBP 10.03		GBP 35.00	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 153.03	
2	James	Corbett	GBP 10.03		GBP 35.00	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 153.03	
3	Joanne	Corbett			GBP 5.00	GBP 5.00	GBP 10.00		GBP 20.00	GBP 40.00	
4	Mark	Buchanan	GBP 10.03		GBP 5.00	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 123.03	
6	Jim	Bailey	GBP 10.03	GBP 3.43	GBP 10.00	GBP 40.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 136.46	
7	Angus	Bell	GBP 10.03	GBP 3.43	GBP 5.00	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 0.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 83.46	
8	Mark	Horsnell	GBP 10.03	GBP 3.43	GBP 35.00	GBP 5.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 126.46	
9	Jim	Jeffery	GBP 10.03	GBP 3.43	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 131.46	
10	Chris	Maher	GBP 10.03	GBP 1.70	GBP 35.00	GBP 5.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 124.73	
11	Peter	Maher	GBP 10.03		GBP 5.00	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 123.03	
12	Stephen	Negus	GBP 10.03		GBP 5.00	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 123.03	
13	Matt	Shepherd	GBP 10.03	GBP 3.43	GBP 45.00	GBP 45.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 25.00	GBP 181.46	
14	Keirin	McCamley	GBP 10.03		GBP 35.00	GBP 5.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 123.03	
15	Don	Thompson	GBP 10.03		GBP 5.00	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 123.03	
16	Shaun	Wingrove	GBP 10.03	GBP 1.70	GBP 35.00	GBP 5.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 124.73	
17	Barry	Wood	GBP 10.03		GBP 40.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 133.03	
18	Ian	Griffiths	GBP 10.03		GBP 5.00	GBP 35.00	GBP 10.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 20.00	GBP 123.03	
19	Wes	Robinson			GBP 5.00	GBP 5.00	GBP 10.00		GBP 20.00	GBP 40.00	
20	Phil	Bain					GBP 10.00			GBP 10.00	
	Income		GBP 160.48	GBP 20.55	GBP 380.00	GBP 415.00	GBP 190.00	GBP 645.00	GBP 365.00	<b>GBP 2176.03</b>	✓
	Payments cash					GBP (548.00)	GBP (100.45)		GBP (590.00)	GBP (1238.45)	✓
	Payments EFT James		GBP (160.48)	GBP (20.55)	GBP (350.00)	GBP (30.25)		GBP(650.00)		GBP (1211.28)	✓
										<b>GBP (2449.73)</b>	✓
	Credits Meals					GBP 200.00				GBP 200.00	
	Credits Ammunition					GBP 108.75				GBP 108.75	
	Debtor to reimburse team					GBP 35.00				GBP 35.00	
										GBP (2105.98)	
	Profit towards team photo		GBP 0.00	GBP 0.00	GBP 30.00	GBP 180.50	GBP 89.55	GBP (5.00)	GBP (225.00)	GBP 70.05	
	James/Joanne expenses		GBP 10.03		GBP 40.00	GBP 148.75	GBP 20.00	GBP 43.00	GBP 40.00	GBP 301.78	
	Refund James									GBP (909.50)	✓

2018 Bisley Australian Rifle Team - finances