

MATCH REPORT – THE 2024 ANZAC APPEAL RIFLE MATCHES

It is with great pleasure that I write this Match Report of the Inaugural ANZAC Appeal Rifle Matches between New Zealand and Australia. This International Match, the first of its kind, was held in the week ending the 21st of April as a Postal style match for the controlled environment of Air Rifle. It was conceived at the 2023 Oceania Championships as a way to provide ongoing International Competition between our countries. Other sports such as Rugby League and AFL have their ANZAC Day Round Matches as well as an ANZAC Test Match, so we thought that the sport of Target Rifle Shooting should also have an annual ANZAC Match.

New Zealand had 15 competitors and Australia had 27 competitors. Australia had match winning score of 9,104.9 and New Zealand had a very creditable score of 8,197.4 (adding the scores of the top 15 competitors from each country).

Very pleasing was the number of competitors (43 – 42 Air and one 50m Prone) given the short organisational time frame and the fact that a lot of Australian competitors were overseas competing in ISSF and WSPS World Cups. I am confident that next year's edition will have many more competitors. Combined, we raised \$215 to donate to the ANZAC Appeal from the \$5 Donation Entry Fees.

The match is a Teams Event (as it appropriate for ANZAC Day) that allows rifle shooters at all levels from both our countries to compete in a controlled environment. Competitors could shoot the 60 shot match under Supervision at their home range or range of choice in the lead up to the weekend before ANZAC DAY and the match can be shot Off-hand or Supported thus allowing all to compete.

The purpose of the Anzac Rifle Matches is threefold. Firstly, to raise funds for the ANZAC Appeal and recognise ANZAC day. Secondly, foster mateship and the Spirit of ANZAC between our countries. Thirdly, to allow target shooters from both countries, at all skill levels, of all abilities, in all regions, the opportunity to compete for their country at an International level and foster participation in target rifle shooting.

The match is scored with decimal scoring, with those competitors shooting paper targets scoring their targets with a Rika Scoring Machine or Target Scan App to create a level playing field with those competitors who were able to shoot on electronic targets.

The match winning country is determined by totalling the scores of an equal number of shooters from each country (using the total number of shooters from the country with least entries) working down from the highest score to the lowest. All the scores of the equal number of shooters from each country are then totalled to determine the winner.

A big thank you to Kirsten Birrell from Target Shooting New Zealand for organising things in New Zealand.

Sincerely
Jamieson Webb – President
Queensland Target Sports