



ACTA National Skeet Presentation Dinner

The much-anticipated 2026 Skeet Hall of Fame gathering commenced with well over 140 attendees enjoying some pre-event refreshments in the ACTA Range Function Centre lounge area before making their way into the dining hall.



ACTA EO Les Kadziela & Skeet Hall of Fame MC Richard Sammon

MC for the night, Richard Sammon, welcomed all the guests and the ACTA Board members in attendance and then invited ACTA EO, Les Kadziela, to the stage to say a few words.

Les mentioned

that ACTA Chairman, Michael Kruger Davis, was disappointed that he could not attend the event, as he was managing some health issues but wished everyone an enjoyable time.

Les then welcomed the Skeet shooting community and wished them well for the week ahead and thanked the ACTA staff and the ACTA Range Function Centre staff for the fabulous presentation of the venue.

Richard Sammon then acknowledged the tremendous support that our sponsors provide to the Skeet Nationals. This year we thank and acknowledge the following businesses:

- Power Ammo* National 410 and 28g
- Beretta Australia* National 20g
- CR Kennedy (Pilla)* National Skeet Handicap
- Spartan Global* Commonwealth Title
- Winchester Australia* National Skeet 12g
- CR Kennedy (Fabarm)* National Skeet Doubles
- ACTA & ASSA* Champion of Champions
- National High Gun* Casella/Bronze Wing

ASSA Life Membership (Australian Skeet Shooters Association)

The formal presentations then commenced with the MC inviting Nigel Hughes to the stage to announce the new ASSA Life Membership of Kat Mules (SA), Wayne William Read (Qld) and an anonymous person from SA. Nigel then passed over the role of President of the ASSA to Karl Bowen who thanked Nigel for all the work he has done in supporting Skeet via the association.

We then moved onto recognising the wonderful shooting achievements of the 2025 shooting year.

First State Title Winner

Austin Gibbes, SA
12 Gauge Skeet
Championship 2023.

First National Title Winner

David Muir, AUS National 20G Skeet
Championship 2023.

2025 Glenn Trophy

With the 2025 Glenn Trophy being shot in New Zealand, it was great to see the Australian Team bring home the Glenn Trophy. The Australian Team of Austin Gibbes, Benn Baker, Shane Bennett, Wayne Peterson and Matthew De Paoli on a score of 237/250, defeated the NZ Team.

Annual Long Break Awards for 2024

12 Gauge Long Break Michael Buttigieg (325)
20 Gauge Long Break Michael Buttigieg (147)
Skeet Doubles Long Break Jack Stockdale (121).



Nigel Hughes



Karl Bowen



Wayne Petersen & Shane Bennett,
Glenn Trophy team members



Paul Johnston & Karl Bowen, receiving 2024 Long Break Award
on behalf of Austin Gibbs



Paul Johnston & Jim Kalaboukis, receiving 2024 12g & 20g
Long Break Awards on behalf of Michael Buttigieg



Jim Kalaboukis, receiving
Michael Buttigieg's
2025 Long Break Awards



Jason Corbett, receiving
Keith Ferguson's
2025 Long Break Awards



Jack Stockdale received a
2024 Long Break Award

Annual Long Break Awards 2025

12 Gauge Long Break
Austin Gibbs (249).
20 Gauge Long Break
Michael Buttigieg (87).
Skeet Doubles Long
Break Keith Ferguson
(115).

AA Elite

Austin Gibbs received
the AA Elite award.
To obtain AA Elite
Status the shooter must
attain AA grade and
accumulate a minimum

of 50 Hall of Fame (HOF) points.

Adrian Cousens Award 2025

The finalists for the evening were: Michael Buttigieg; Damon Michael; Jack Stockdale;



Austin Gibbs was awarded the AA Elite Award and was presented by
Paul Johnston to Karl Bowen in Austin's absence

Austin Gibbs; Darren Reus; Matthew De Paoli.
The Adrian Cousens Medal for 2025 was won by
two individuals: Michael Buttigieg from Frankston
in Victoria and Damon Michael from the NT.

2025 Skeet Hall of Fame Inductee

Shane Bennett

Our 2025 Skeet Hall of Fame induction was a chance to learn more about Shane Bennett, the shy and reserved individual from Dubbo who was



2025 joint winner of the Adrian Cousens Medal, Damon Michael, with Adrian Cousens



Adrian Cousens presents Jim Kalaboukis with joint winner Michael Buttigieg's 2025 Adrian Cousens Medal



Jack Stockdale received his 2019 Adrian Cousens award



Steve Makris accepted Antony Ballarino's 2024 Adrian Cousens Medal



*Sarah & Shane Bennett.
Shane was inducted into the Skeet Hall of Fame*

being inducted to the Hall of Fame.

Shane joined our MC on the stage for a conversation about his journey, not just in shooting but in his life, that had brought him to this wonderful achievement in his shooting career.

Early life: Growing up in the country it appears Shane led quite the regular country kid lifestyle of motorbikes, water sports and shooting.

Family is something that is very important to Shane and the MC invited up Sarah Bennett to say some words about Shane and married life and their son Blake. It was very clear from Sarah the love and



Sarah & Shane Bennett with Shane's mentor and good friend, Wayne Petersen

friendship she shares with Shane runs deep. Truth be known, Sarah is the only reason he has made it this far. She is a saint.

Early days in shooting: It was good to hear that Shane has been through all the trials and tribulations in shooting. The ups and down over the years with our Skeet community supporting him on the way. I enjoyed the story of him saying that he could not get out of A grade no matter what he did. And then one day it just happened and he had landed a National Title. Typical of Benno making a grand entrance.

Making mates and mentors: The squad of friends that travel across the county and lands far and wide like Wayne, Jono and Brian were talked about on the evening. A great support crew who gives as much as they receive in real support, humour and practical jokes.

The MC asked Benno about his favourite food: When you are traveling with Benno get ready for all the culinary delights. There is no end of Ice Cream from a large bucket, more ice cream from a cone. Margrita pizza, meat and vegemite on toast. Not much else passes those lips.

A video message from Michael Buttigieg: Michael was unable to be at the dinner but sent a great video message to Shane on his achievements and friendship. Coming from a great shooter who is as genuine and personable as Michael this was high praise.



Shane, Dad to his baby son Blake



Newlyweds Shane & Sarah

Induction into the Skeet Hall of Fame

After getting to know Shane Bennett, our 2026 Hall of Fame inductee, the MC then called on Shane's close friend and shooting companion through the years, Wayne Petersen, to say a few words and to present Shane with his Hall of Fame Jacket.

Shane's Achievements from 2011 till current times with 260 Hall of Fame Points:

- ✦ 5 x National Titles
- ✦ 5 x National Runners-up
- ✦ 30 x State Titles
- ✦ AA Elite Number 16
- ✦ Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2026
- ✦ 5 x Australian teams
- ✦ 4 x Glenn Trophy Teams
- ✦ 7 x Tran Tasman Teams
- ✦ 14 x New South Wales Postal Teams
- ✦ 9 x New South Wales Shoulder to Shoulder Teams



Hall of Fame members Jack Stockdale, Shane Bennett, Craig O'Neill, Paul Johnston

Shane Bennett is truly deserving of his ACTA Skeet Hall of Fame induction.













