

## **NRA NZ – Southland Championships 2025**

held at the Oamaru rifle range, Otago on 1 & 2 February 2025

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Two weeks after the conclusion of the Bellinger Belt and the rifles were back in action. Their firers hotting up for the season's climax – the Southland Championships – the one we have all been talking about. Well, all of us shooters from Southland, at least. Southland stalwart, Ken Chittock, had skipped Nationals. Rumour had it, he was saving himself for the big one. In fact, half the field had been resting up waiting to unleash their skills at Boundary Creek Road, possibly their last chance to win the Championships in Oamaru. The Championships are moving back home to Southland and will, in all probability, be at the Invercargill Range in 2026. This could require a cheese roll diet, a mullet, a Fat Bastard Pie or southern accent as a condition of entry – who knows what goes down in the Deep South?

Anyway, Saturday was fine and sunny with the usual Oamaru Sou'Wester which kept everyone on their toes (or elbows). The flags were flicking through zero and the mirage couldn't make up its mind as it switched through zero every time a shooter took aim. Spotting scopes proved essential for the TR shooters.

Day 1, which doubles as the Eastern Southland Champs, was very closely contested. In Target Rifle A Grade, Bruce Horwood headed off Chris Kershaw by two centrals. B Grade saw Andrew Orr in front by three points. Bruce Plant was the only contender in C.

F Open witnessed Murray Cook was on the boil, leading Les Grimsey by a single point. Sharon Grimsey built a comfortable lead in FTR Classic. John Pearce was on his own in FTR.

On Sunday, the skies were overcast and the wind was a bit more settled which was reflected in the scores. In A Grade, Chris K made a move with the perfect 150 to edge out Bruce H by a point. Ken also recorded a fine 150 and seems to be making a habit of scoring maximum points on Day 2 at Oamaru. For Chris, it was a great finish under pressure after Bruce notched up a 50 just before Chris fired, meaning Chris needed ten shots within the 5 ring to win – easier said than done. That said, Chris made it look easy with his 6<sup>th</sup> score of 50 over seven ranges. In B Grade, Andrew Orr held off Barry Brown who had closed the gap from a boat's length to a gnat's whisker right till the penultimate shot. Bruce Plant took out C grade.

In F Open, Les turned up the heat on Murray helped by a fine 60.10 at 500 to edge in front by a handful of X's. Murray needed 60.10 to snatch a win on countback. He scored 60 but fell short on Xs. Sharon held onto her lead in FTRC. John won FTR.

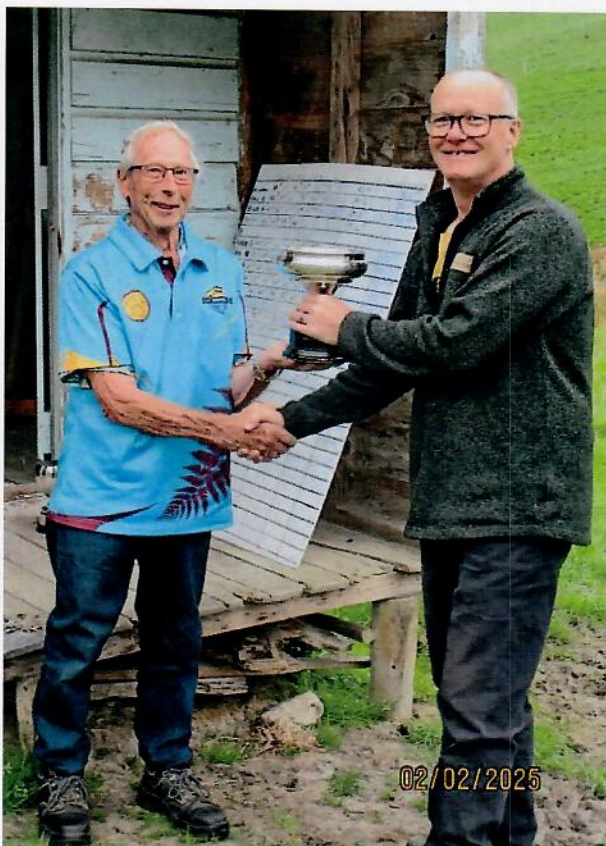
Many thanks to Oamaru RC for facilitating this event and to Ken for his organisation and stats. See you next year.





**Above: Chris Kershaw – Southland Open TR Champion**

**Below: Les Grimsey – Southland F Open Champion**





**2025 Southland Championships.**

| Name             | Club | Grade  | Vet/Tyro | 300(1) | 500 (1) | 600 (1) | 300 (2) | 500 (2) | 600 (2) | 300 (2) | 500 (2) | 600 (3) | SOUTHLAND | Eastern Agg | 600 AGG | Veterans |
|------------------|------|--------|----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-------------|---------|----------|
| Chris Kershaw    | mal  | A      | V        | 50.005 | 50.003  | 47.001  | 50.007  | 50.006  | 50.006  | 50.006  | 50.005  | 50.006  | 347.033   | 197.016     | 147.014 | 347.033  |
| Bruce Horwood    | ash  | A      |          | 49.004 | 50.005  | 49.005  | 49.004  | 49.008  | 49.008  | 50.007  | 50.007  | 50.007  | 346.040   | 197.018     | 148.016 | 0.000    |
| Ken Chittock     | ash  | A      | V        | 49.003 | 49.005  | 46.003  | 49.006  | 50.008  | 50.008  | 50.003  | 50.004  | 50.004  | 343.032   | 193.017     | 145.013 | 343.032  |
| Martin Fleming   | ash  | A      | V        | 50.005 | 49.004  | 48.004  | 46.001  |         |         |         |         |         | 193.014   | 193.014     | 94.005  | 193.014  |
| Andrew Orr       | mal  | B      |          | 46.005 | 49.006  | 48.003  | 48.000  | 45.000  | 45.000  | 47.001  | 49.005  | 49.005  | 332.020   | 191.014     | 145.008 | 0.000    |
| Barry Brown      | mal  | B      |          | 49.004 | 46.001  | 46.001  | 47.002  | 49.004  | 49.004  | 50.004  | 45.003  | 45.003  | 332.019   | 188.008     | 138.006 | 0.000    |
| John Miller      | ash  | B      | V        | 47.002 | 49.002  | 46.004  | 44.001  | 49.004  | 49.004  | 49.006  | 47.002  | 47.002  | 331.021   | 186.009     | 137.007 | 331.021  |
| Robbie Gilchrist | oam  | B      | V        | 44.003 | 47.003  | 44.000  | 46.003  | 49.004  | 49.004  | 49.008  | 47.003  | 47.003  | 326.024   | 181.009     | 137.006 | 326.024  |
| Bruce Plant      | oam  | C      | V        | 43.000 | 46.001  | 45.003  | 34.000  | 32.000  | 32.000  | 45.001  | 48.005  | 48.005  | 293.010   | 168.004     | 127.008 | 293.010  |
| Les Grimsey      | oam  | F      |          | 58.005 | 57.004  | 58.002  | 58.003  | 60.006  | 60.006  | 60.010  | 59.006  | 59.006  | 410.036   | 231.014     |         |          |
| Murray Cook      | ash  | F      |          | 58.006 | 57.003  | 58.002  | 59.007  | 59.004  | 59.004  | 59.004  | 60.003  | 60.003  | 410.029   | 232.018     |         |          |
| John Pearce      | oam  | FTR    |          | 59.005 | 59.001  | 55.001  | 53.001  | 59.004  | 59.004  | 57.002  | 58.005  | 58.005  | 400.019   | 226.008     |         |          |
| Sharon Grimsey   | oam  | FTR-CI |          | 57.005 | 58.003  | 54.000  | 52.002  | 58.003  | 58.003  | 59.005  | 53.000  | 53.000  | 391.018   | 221.010     |         |          |
| Athol Henderson  | oam  | FTR-CI |          | 51.002 | 56.001  | 49.001  | 51.000  | 54.002  | 54.002  | 56.003  | 53.000  | 53.000  | 370.009   | 207.004     |         |          |

*Eastern Southland Trophies. 2025.*

**A Grade**

Eastern A Grade cup.

**Bruce Horwood. 197.18**

**B Grade**

Yule cup.

**Andrew Orr. 191.14**

**C Grade**

CBA cup.

**Bruce Plant. 168.04**

**F Class**

Free Rifle cup.

**Murray Cook. 232.18**

**FTR Class**

Eastern Southland FTR trophy.

**John Pearce. 226.08**

**FTR-Classic Class**

Eastern Southland FTR- Classic trophy.

**Sharon Grimsey. 221.10**

**Highest Overall score**

Preece cup.

**Bruce Horwood. 197.18**