

SHOOTER HITS PERFECT SCORE

Halloran reaches shooting pinnacle



Les MUIR

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Mountaineer Hillary has nothing on shooter Halloran

RETIRED Wantabadgery farmer Rob Halloran yesterday likened his weekend Australian record shooting performance to a mountain climber scaling Mt Everest.

Halloran, 62, shot a perfect score at the 1200 yards (1097m) range at the Victorian Match Rifle Championships at Corryong on Saturday.

Firing 20 bullets in the competition, Halloran hit the bullseye with every shot, including piercing the small central circle eight times.

Halloran's sharp-shooting performance earned him the first ever 100-point score in Australian match rifle shooting.

Recalling his remarkable achievement yesterday, Halloran said it was hard to imagine he had reached new heights in the sport.

"It was the first time someone had shot a possible 20 from 20," Halloran said.

"Each of those 20 shots was worth five points, so it was a perfect 100."

Two people, including Phillip Bain from Wagga, had shot 99, but this was the first time anyone shot 100.

"It's like someone climbing Mt Everest. It's as high as you can go."

Halloran, who has been shooting for most of his life and is a member of Junee Rifle Club, said distance and conditions made the 1200

Team-mate upstaged

SHOOTER Rob Halloran wiped the name of Wagga counterpart Phillip Bain from the record books at the weekend.

Halloran achieved a perfect 100 point score at the Victorian Match Rifle Championships, edging past Bain's previous Australian best of 99 points.

Bain, however, finished second to Stawell's Lew Horwood in the overall Match Rifle event.

As consolation, Halloran took home the prestigious High Country Challenge Trophy for his record effort.

yard competition so difficult.

"At this extreme range accuracy is critical," he said.

"It's a long way. Even though we're using telescopes, the bullseye is barely centimetres across from 1200 yards away."

"Wind and other factors also have to be taken into consideration when attempting every shot."

After starting out as a pistol shooter, and achieving NSW representation, Halloran made the switch to match rifle competition late in life.

"I love shooting," he said.

"When I sold my farm a few years ago I moved up to match rifle."

"It's more difficult, but I enjoy the challenge."

For Halloran, the change to the testing discipline has produced stunning results.

Coinciding with his record-breaking achievement at the weekend Halloran was selected in the Australian team to compete in England next year.

The 16-member national team also includes Wagga's Phil Bain and Tumut's John Oddy.



SHOOTING STAR: Rob Halloran and his trusty rifle at his Wagga home yesterday.

Picture: Les MUIR