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Promoting and Protecting Traditional Archery in all Forms

Your Quarterly Traditional Archery Australia News

Sticks and Strings



Save the Date >>> 2023

Trad Shoots and TAA Events

- **North Albert Field Archers**
Trad Rendezvous Yatala Qld
Easter weekend 8th-9th April 2023

Clubs wishing to advertise dates in future newsletters for their Traditional and Interclub events or craft and promotional days are welcome to contact me using the following email. gladioli015@gmail.com

Any Archery Club holding a Traditional Shoot or Event, or TAA clubs with a story they would like to have published in *Sticks and Strings* can do so by emailing me on the above address.

TAA members who travel or feel they have an interesting archery story to share please let me know.

Leslie White

TAA Newsletter
and
TAA Merchandise



Embrace and Appreciate Uniqueness Trad Talk!

Traditional Archery and all of its related crafts and skills has brought together an eclectic mix of clubs and members all chasing the same dream; to enjoy our style of archery in a safe environment with folk who share our passion. At last count TAA alone had just over 1100 individual members, many of those choosing to belong to one of our 22 TAA Clubs.

As we enter the summer holiday period most of our archery clubs will take a well earned break. A time to relax and recuperate for the year ahead.

For me it is a time for family and planning our Trad Calendar for the year to come. Time to reflect on the many travels my husband David (AKA Towball) and I have been fortunate enough to take over recent years. This has reminded me of the uniqueness of each archery club. The boundless variety of hard fought for grounds;

rainforests, red earth desert, dry creek beds, some on vast open spaces, others tiny parklands next to a big city. Some lucky to have clubhouses and amenities built by members over many years, others offer the real bush experience of pit toilets and *fill the bucket* showers. Watching the city kids crinkle their nose when staring down a pit toilet is something to behold. They talk about it for years and keep coming back for more.

Comparing clubs is often very unfair. The journey that a club's members have been on just to make a start is often fraught with many

Each club is
different,
this adds to the
pleasure of
Trad Shoots.

challenges; wrangling with councils and other authorities, abiding by rules and regulations that are often very restrictive, plus expenses that are sometimes insurmountable. As travelers we have learned to embrace and appreciate what is on offer at each club. Enjoyment comes in many forms. The creative novelty events

always a good laugh, from rotating targets to balloon pop, kids and big kids alike having fun. Try getting heckled at the Nationals in Hog Hollow or managing to Pluck-a-Duck, a Dave McGuire novelty at Barambah. We can only say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who are the backbone of our archery clubs. Stay true and embrace being unique. Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

Leslie

TAA 5th Annual National Muster & Craft Guild Event

29th~30th October 2022

Hosts Barambah Bowhunters & Field Archers Qld

Story: Leslie White~Hunter Valley Traditional Archers

Photos: Thank you to everyone who shared photos on the Internet;

Dave McGuire, Bianca Durham, Judith Hedrick, Nadia Bonnell, John Scott, Gavin Laracy, Leslie White.



As registrations were being finalised it was obvious to all present that this was going to be a great shoot. With 105 traditional archers all bringing their sense of humour and readiness for a bit of friendly heckling, this competition was shaping up to be more about mateship and camaraderie than scores. Parents, partners and other visitors all learning about the relaxed lifestyle that is associated with this wonderful sport.

The Barambah club has a very small membership. Instinctively members from other areas all pitch in to help pull events such as this together. A wonderful life lesson for the children present.

Camping was easy and our feathers stayed dry thanks to Mother Nature turning on some gorgeous sunny days. Archers traveled in from Victoria, NSW and Queensland to once again try their hand at hitting 3D rubber targets, many of them brand new. Dave McGuire as Range Captain set out a brilliant course, making use of the thick foliage and changing slope of the grounds. Being quite warm we were all grateful that the targets were set out to walk each of the two range paths one side, then returning on the other. With the TAA Shoot Guidelines being followed we all shot three arrows at each of the twenty targets on day one. The targets placed at different angles meant each arrow

was shot from a different perspective. Three novelties completed Saturday's scoring.

At the end of each path three targets were set up at different distances. The archer had to decide which target to shoot from which peg. A wrong decision would see an archer having a very poor view of at least one of the targets. Very clever Dave!

Sunday started early with the one arrow range and completion of the last of four novelties (running target, rolling disc, speed and hunt round). Hog Hollow, complete with heckling and lots of fun, rounding off the days shooting.

Friday Get Together!



After a day of setting up camps and afternoon registrations Perry Jackson, TAA Traditional Skills Officer, volunteered to cook *Perry's Tacos*. A National Muster Tradition and free snack for all. Research on the absolute best sausages led him to a local butcher and his research did not prove wrong, they were yummy, many going back for seconds and even thirds.

Here Perry on the left can be seen ably assisted by cheeky Towball. Together they did a brilliant job....thanks fellas!

Bouncing Sausages

Towball shared some wisdom. Cooked sausages bounce when dropped onto the hotplate. The boys bounced every one of them.....not a burnt sausage in the bunch!



Viking Encampment

Traditional Shoots are always more interesting when a Viking or two or ten turn up and set up their Encampment. Viking tents, furniture, drinking horns, crafts and dress all adding to the fun.

For me....I just love being called *Milady*.

Our friendly TAA Vikings are led by *Jean the Hornmaster*. John always donates one of his gorgeous drinking horns to the raffle tables.



Rolling Disc Novelty

Always a fun challenge the rolling discs, along with the running target, give archers a chance to 'catch' some rubber on the run. Five discs are rolled one at a time down a shoot. It is always a great feeling when one sees their arrow strike the disc pulling it up instantly. Note the two distance positions for shooting this novelty....two arrows from one distance and three from the other.

"Ya need to move forward" seems to be heard a lot as people forget to change positions. You've got to love the polite hecklers!



Judith, Keith, Merv, Lex, and Gavin all chasing the discs from the stand up position.

I think I can make out a couple of arrows hitting their mark.....well done!



First up you need a volunteer to stand behind a protective screen. Meet Disc Roller Peter.



Disc Roller Peter just had to be different.....

Down on one knee and with Gavin volunteering to take on the disc rolling job, Peter tries his luck from a lower perspective. Judging from the arrows sticking out of those discs at the right he may be on to something.

Hmmm.....it appears that while catching rubber rolling discs is Peter's forte, attaching his points needs a bit more research on the glue. Towball doing point removal surgery.



Out on the range...

With all the recent rains the grass and other foliage had really taken off. If you look carefully at the photo on the left you will see folk scoring, collecting and looking for arrows. In front of them a target staring straight at us. This photo was taken from one of the shooting pegs for that target. Dave's target positions really made you concentrate. No wonder his Fitbit indicated he had walked over 100Km setting all of this out. The photos on this page show groups along the track ready to shoot.



The pictures decorating the trees are photos of the targets. Archers at TAA Musters do not use visual aids, the exception being their prescription spectacles. These photos clearly identify the ten zone. In dense foliage this ensures fairness for every archer.



There is a popular teams event run at the National Muster. Here we have Glen Mason from Team Chinchilla, wearing their identifying bucket hat, watched closely by Brotherhood of Bowmen team member Gordon Mattson, note his shirt. Keeping a friendly eye on the team opposition is definitely encouraged.



Above we have a tree-mendous shot. I think there were a few of these over the weekend. The porcupine also had people hunting for arrows.

From Below Left: Trying to capture a trad archer ready to loose an arrow can be difficult. I bet there are a few photos of ...just a split second too late. Michael was just too quick. Middle: Sam Draper then Alex Williamson two of our Juniors.

Kyson and Alex above. Below Kobi accompanied by his dad Shawn. All cubs rocking their team Chinchilla Bucket Hats. It is wonderful to see the next generation out enjoying their traditional archery.



Archery Crafters Guild

Traditional Craft is an integral part of Traditional Archery....they truly go hand in hand. Not just bow making but everything relating to archery and bush craft; forging knives, flint knapping arrow heads, leatherwork, constructing arrows, the list is endless. Perry Jackson, TAA Traditional Skills Officer, is breathing life back into the TAA Crafters Guild. Leading up to the Muster he invited people interested in craft to bring along items for display.

Perry was delighted at the interest shown in the display items particularly by the young members in attendance. Passing these skills onto the next generation is vital in keeping our traditional crafts alive.

Next year Perry would love to see many more archers entering their arrows and bringing along craft items to add to the display.

Arrow Craftmanship Award Benjamin Gutmanis was the only person who submitted a set of *Hand Planed Arrow Shafts* and who used *Hand Split Feathers*. Perry felt it very praiseworthy to award Ben the Arrow Craftmanship Award in recognition of the craftsmanship shown. Ben also received a \$50 Archery Bug Voucher. For his very first effort he did a very good job. Ben had assistance from Mentor, Colin Gair.



Check out the arrow point in the front of this helmet



Saturday Night at the Muster!

Roast Dinner and a live band greeted archers and their families on Saturday evening. Thank you to TAA Members Mike O'Brien and Fiona Molloy for providing music that could be enjoyed by all present.

Our capable cooks for the evening with plenty of practise....TAA members Tim Fox and Kevin Smoothy. It was all hands on deck at carving and serving time. How good is it that members from outside of the Barambah Club stepped up to entertain, cook and help in the kitchen. The cooks and carvers (Millsy and Keith Mattson) even had their own cheer squad (Lex and Dave) hanging around the kitchen door.

Bottom Right: Two New South Welshman helping cook breakfast Saturday morning. TAA Musters are definitely a team effort.



Scoring, Raffle Tables and Presentation

A big thank you must go out to the Barambah Bowhunters and Field Archers. President Bart Simpson and Secretary Joh Simpson kept in touch throughout the planning journey. Dave McGuire performed Range Captain duties along with a huge amount of advanced organisation. Joe Ansell Vice President assisted Dave with range preparations. Thank you to all Barambah club members that helped make this Muster a success. TAA hope that the healthy financial benefits will help the club going forward. I would personally like to thank the lady

pictured at the right, Barambah Treasurer and Spreadsheet Magician Bronwyn Adams. Together we managed to wrangle the scoresheets and nomination forms. Working with Bronwyn has been an absolute pleasure. This unflappable lady had the most calming effect on everyone that approached our desk. She worked tirelessly all weekend always with a smile.

To John McDonnell a thank you for ensuring we both didn't dehydrate and Noel Perrett who kept an eye on serving the drinks and ensuring the clubhouse was ready for use.



In true traditional spirit when Dave asked for help packing up the ranges a trusty army of volunteers from outside the club jumped on board. It took Dave four days to set the ranges and only an hour or so to have it all packed away. He was most appreciative.



The raffle table was full to the brim with donations. An outstanding Axe and Knife forged by Joe Ansell caught everyone's eye. Beth Allott sent across a custom quiver and Dave McGuire again donated a bow. Jean the Hornmaster's beautiful drinking horn always a winner.....the list goes on, thank you to all who donated prizes and bought tickets. In amongst it all Glen Rohweder casually placed a literal heap of t-shirts all screened as a memento of the 2022 Muster. People were wanting him to take orders for more but sadly Glen is now retiring this business and moving on to another career. Pictured at left we have a very cute Tex. He had an absolute ball all weekend and now wants to take up archery just like big brother Kobi. Tex has a favourite new t-shirt from the raffle table thanks to Glen. Fresh air and a weekend in the bush and Tex is ready for sleep.



Ticket caller Tim.
In the background Dave and Heather Pender rolling the barrel.

Team Event



The increasingly popular Team Event for 2022 was won again by KLTA 'Not Trad Enough'. Sneaking up behind, with only an eight point difference, 'Brotherhood of Bowmen' in their black and yellow shirts. Followed by 'Sunshine Coast Bowmen and Friends' dressed with identifying rosettes, Chinchilla's 'Bowen Therapy' wearing stylish bucket hats and last but not least our Viking 'Beserkers' dressed aptly as Vikings. Another two teams almost got there but didn't quite submit the eight or more names required. Bring it on next year! Photo left: KLTA Photo right: A mix of BoB and Chinchilla folk.





Top Scores:

Steve Wallace (left) and Ross Dickinson managed a whopping 800 each on the rather challenging ranges.

Top Scores in each Division:

Adult Male: Steve Wallace, Ross Dickinson

Adult Female: Fiona Young

Junior Male: Ben Taylor-Rose

Junior Female: Gemma Holmes

Cub Male: Kobi Durham

Cub Female: Janae Schultz

All scores and presentation photos for the 2022 TAA National Muster will be available on the TAA Website.
www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org



Hog Hollow

The overall winner for pushing the bounds of heckling and fudging the rules, all whilst wearing a onesie covered in rubber duck pattern.....not to mention shooting at rubber pigs for 60 seconds: Scott Pluck-a-Duck Johnson.

A special award to young Alex Klein for his keen interest in the craft displays and his super dooper participation in Hog Hollow. Alex is learning the way of the trad archer real quick. Future heckler in the making perhaps. He had fun.

An extra mention must go to Tim Fox. His hilarious display as he literally threw himself into the action with the kids, just very special. A fantastic event with tons of laughs to complete our Muster events. I am sure Cleve 'Shrek' Wood was looking down from above having a good old belly laugh at the antics his Hog Hollow has produced.

The Muster also ran the Tomahawk and Knife using a new format devised by Dave McGuire. The guidelines can be found on the TAA Website. Anthony Lange took out the knife. Tomahawk: Howard O'Connell Adult Male. Adult Female Zoey V. Junior Female Gemma Holmes. Junior Male Kobi Durham.



John with his homemade selfbow...
It has Perry worried 😊

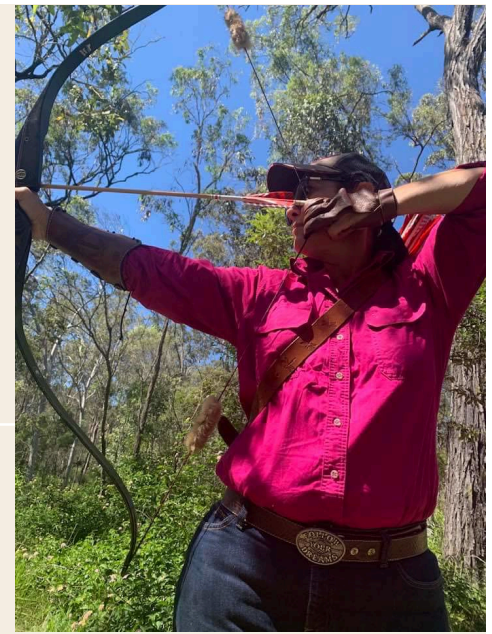


Roadie had a visit from
the Viking Hairdressers

Below: Tim visiting his Viking friends Gary and John.

Right: Dave Bonnell trying his hand at the new Tomahawk block.





Larrikans, Lovable Characters, Rascals....whatever you want to call them the adult males in the Brotherhood of Bowmen Team sure do know how to have a great time. Any one of them would help you out in a crisis. From Left: Millsy (just score recording), Lex, Kevin, Tim, Keith and Dave. Lovely Nadia is also part of the team. When I caught up with her early on the Sunday morning I noticed a large bunch of store bought flowers on her swag. Shaking her head she told me the story of Hubby Dave picking her a big bunch of flowers that were growing wild in the field (see photo left). That started a competition within a competition. Who on the team could find the biggest bunch of flowers for Nadia.

Trad Archers....You've Gotta Luv 'em!

Along with their Juniors, Sam and Alex, this fun loving team came a very close second to Kurwongbah Lake. I think they will be really prepared for battle next year.

TAA Annual General Meeting Held 8th October 2022 over Zoom

Usually this meeting is timed to coincide with the National Muster. However with the vastness of Australia it was decided to advertise the meeting for an earlier date. The minutes can be found on the TAA Website. Congratulations to the 2022-2023 Incoming Committee

President: Greg Smith Qld (Steve Linaker retired after five years thank you Steve for your calm capable leadership)

Vice President: Paul Sparkes Qld

Secretary: Les Simpson NSW

Treasurer: Bonnie Cabrini WA

Membership Officer: Beth Allott Qld

Traditional Skills Officer: Perry Jackson Qld

Hunt Advisor and Risk and Safety Officer: Ray Hardes Qld

Web Manager: Pera Thongjaj WA

Club Rep Coordinator: Brian Ross Qld

Shoot Director: Tim Fox Qld

Coach: Stephen Croft WA

Score Recorder: Liane Gordon Tas



Congratulations Dave McGuire for all you have done in organising a great Muster. Thank You Perry Jackson for the Crafters Guild Display and awards. Top job both of you, Respect in spades.

Thank You Barambah Club Members.

Full Draw~Junior Tales

Featuring: Edward Mason (Ned)

Member of Chinchilla Archers

TAA member

Ned's Archery Story

Hi, my name is Ned, I am 11 years old and I'm a Chinchilla Archer. I started shooting at age 7 with a little club compound and I quickly learnt that they are for cheaters 😊 My dad and I started doing archery together.



Left: Seven year old Ned starting his archery journey.
Below: Car trip with archery mates.



I made lots of new friends doing archery like Tim Fox, Kyson Laracy, Kevin (Smoothy), Perry, I could go on. Back to archery. We have been to a shoot at Roma and Dad and I are going again soon for a campover shoot.



Predator Ned

Dad and I bought a bow from a guy named Steve, it was the best recurve that I have ever shot I loved It. Then one day I decided to try Dads long bow (an Emu) and I got it back to full draw and hit a 10 on the first shot.

Dad took me on a rabbit hunt near Chinchilla, I stalked in on one rabbit to 16 metres and was getting ready to shoot but the wind changed and the rabbit ran off. Dad said I did really well to get close and sometimes the wind does that.

When we went to the Barambah shoot I shot the long bow and I came first in cubs long bow. I also learnt how to flint knap with Scotty Johnson, which for those who don't know what that is it is when you strike a peace of obsidian with a rock to form it into an arrow or spear head.



Learning to Flint Knap

I got to throw an axe and Towball gave me an axe. I have burnt designs in the handle and sharpened it with a file.



I enjoyed my time there at Barambah. I met some brilliant people that taught me amazing things like how to throw a spear with a atlatl. Joe (Ansell) gave me some great survival tips. I had the absolute best time at archery.

*I loved reading the Hunger Games.
I 100% recommend trying archery if
you like that sort of stuff.*

Ned

Ned

Right: Ned shooting his recurve.

Far Right: Best times shooting with mates.

Below right:
Ned checking his
flights. A bit of
straightening required.

Below:
Ned before his trad days
shooting in the backyard
with sister Tilly.



Tenterfield Traditional Archers Blackout Shoot

22nd~23rd October 2022

Story: Leslie White Hunter Valley Traditional Archers

Photos: TTA FB, David Robertson and Leslie White

Tenterfield

With a great Trad Shoot on offer and a wonderful little country town to visit, it is always a pleasure to travel the New England Highway into this glorious part of our country. History abounds in Tenterfield and I would recommend staying a while. As you drive in you cannot help notice buildings named after Sir Henry Parkes and Peter Allen. Tenterfield 'The Birthplace of Our Nation'. This is where Sir Henry made his famous speech back in 1889 calling for Australia to become a Federation. Peter Allen's famous 'Tenterfield Saddler' written about his Grandfather also carries special significance.

If you're passing through Tenterfield when TTA are holding a club day see if you can call in for a visit and a shoot. President Jason and Secretary/Treasurer Britta along with the other club members will be most pleased to see you.

Checking the Bureau of Meteorology!



At left and wired for sound, we have TTA Club Member Mick working some kind of chemistry with the meat for Saturday night's dinner. Whatever he did it tasted delicious. The salads and desserts prepared by Noel's wife Sharon were also very yummy.

For breakfasts and lunch a club member known as 'Fossil' manned the BBQ. Quail eggs from Jason and Britta's farm went down very well with the crispy bacon. I had never eaten quail eggs before. Four quail eggs = one hens egg. So on your plate were four little yolks staring out from the circle of white.



Ready set go... Britta taking registrations and Mick on raffle tickets. Colin and Ollie up for the weekend with Archer and Ally.

With rain coming down outside Roadie kept a watchful eye on the weather forecast. The rain did deter several people from attending, however the keen folk who turned up, such as happy Gary Penshorn, were shown the best time. A bit of suitable wet weather gear and we were all ready to start. What's a few wet feathers amongst friends.

Below: Dave Pender and Noel Perrett traveled in and judging by those smiles were already enjoying the weekend immensely.





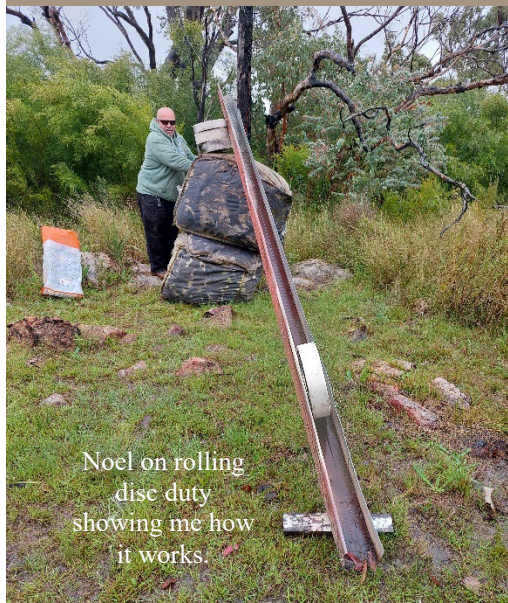
Noel Griffiths and David Robertson
Both men are passionate about seeing TTA survive and thrive. Noel is the fixit man come errand man and a super friendly bloke. David is the Range Captain who set up a magnificent set of ranges and novelties for the weekend.



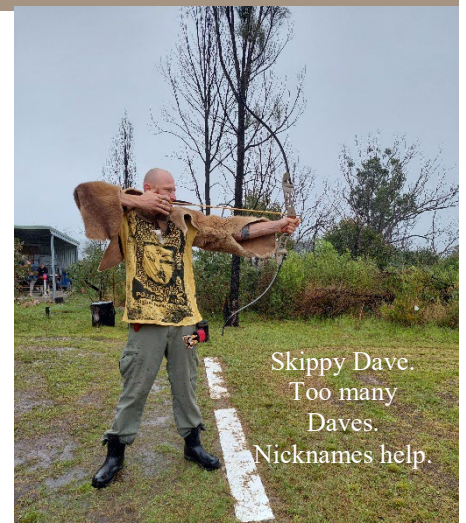
The club has recently purchased several sets of vinyl targets with excellent graphic detail. One of those targets is a huge Bigfoot. The target completely covers the double bed sized mattress that acts as its backing. The club call this the 'Chicken Shot'. Why? Because those archers who are chicken shoot from the closer pegs. Middle photo taken from the close peg.



Archers sizing up the target and their chances of hitting the Bigfoot from the furthest peg. Adding to the difficulty the arrows are shot uphill over a very large exposure of granite. This first range consisted of 2D targets. We also shot at 3D targets on the second range.



Noel on rolling disc duty showing me how it works.



Skippy Dave.
Too many Daves.
Nicknames help.



TTA approached the local businesses for raffle donations. The response was overwhelming. The generosity of people in small communities is heartwarming. Raffle prizes also came in from the visiting archers. It is vital we keep our small clubs alive.





Clockwise from Top Left: Perry with Ollie, Archer and a wee pup all ready for delivery to its new owner. How cute is this photo....Yes Perry, even you! Ben received a nice gift of arrows from John Morgan. He shot with them and gained a massive score. Jason playing Hercules with a donated pot for the raffle. Col bringing the Sunshine. Britta shooting at the Bigfoot. And Ben trying out his new arrows. Top Score for the Shoot: Gary Penshorn

Now you have it folks....there is a great little club in Tenterfield NSW. It's worth putting their next shoot on your calendar. Thanks Tenterfield.

TAA's Newest Club

Macarthur Traditional Archers



Is now Up and Running

*Information: Helen Wreford
Secretary/Treasurer*

Macarthur Traditional Archers started in October 2022 to promote Trad Archery in Southwest Sydney.

We held our first shoot on 23rd October 2022 in weather typical for 2022 - it poured from start to finish.

Despite the weather we had 5 members join the club and 1 visitor to shoot. We will be holding our next shoot on 13th November - hopefully in sunshine.

Our shooting venue is the *Campbelltown Steam and Machinery Museum* which is located just south of Campbelltown. A bit different to normal Trad Club venues but we are looking forward to building a great relationship with the Museum and an interesting club to shoot at.

Our Facebook page is up and running so please visit and like.

Thanks and Regards

Helen

Secretary/Treasurer

Macarthur Traditional Archers

macarthurtraditionalarchers@gmail.com



Above: First sign in. Left: Rain cover.
Below: Rowan shooting Clout



Photos Below are from the second shoot 13th November. Although still a bit wet the rain has eased and the club has grown by one.

The targets are an interesting variety.

TAA wish this fledgling club all the best moving forward.



On your Marks

An archery tradition that goes back to Europe's Middle Ages

Article written by: B. E. Mooyaart,
Captain of the Fraternity of Saint George 1509
7 November 2022



Back in October 2022, TAA Member John Scott traveled to the UK keen to participate in the medieval tradition; *Shoot to Your Marks* run by The Fraternity of St George 1509.

John approached the Captain of the Fraternity of Saint George, B.E. Mooyaart, to see if he would be kind enough to write an article for TAA illustrating the history, importance and guidelines of this tradition. Photos were also supplied by the Fraternity.

What a wonderful experience. We know you will enjoy the read and appreciate the visual look at so many archers lined up with their English Longbows.

In the late afternoon of August 26th 1346, as King Philip VI of France and his mighty army looked up towards the gentle slope of the Crécy ridge, their experienced eye could easily see the advantageous position of the much smaller English army deployed by its wily King Edward III. Silhouetted against the horizon were the ranks of some 4000 men at arms and 10000 archers. Banners unfurled the confident French Knights readied themselves to charge, casting aside the disappointment of the Genoese crossbows. Heading an army that has variously been estimated to be between 40000 to 60000 strong, what these brave men could not have guessed was the imminent annihilation to come upon them. An ancient weapon now refined, newly trained and deployed in a foreign land; the mighty longbowman had arrived.

True that the weapon had been tried and tested before, but here on a late summer's day both it and its disciplined deployment were to be put to devastating use on a larger scale than ever before. The course of the ensuing Battle of Crécy has been written about to an extent that falls beyond the scope of this article. However, one of the crucial elements that has not been emphasized is the novelty of the training in longbow shooting. That training enabled the generally much smaller English Armies to outrange their opponents time and time again. It was called Shooting to the Marks or Artillery Shooting.

Unlike target shooting these Medieval longbowmen had developed a long-distance plunging shot that enabled them to disrupt and fragment an enemy charge, particularly a cavalry charge before it could bring its full kinetic energy to bear in physical contact. To do that they had trained at shooting over large unknown distances, always landing their arrows within a small area surrounding a "Mark". Now they rained down their arrows in thousands, volley after volley, landing them precisely in those areas of the battlefield where they would cause most devastation. Lifting their bows 45 degrees for the longer ranges, 60 degrees to plunge their arrows into the horses' unprotected backs, then level to punch through the armour as their opponents closed in. Any angle, any speed, any direction and always in disciplined and purposeful unity.



In that late August afternoon of 1346, the brave men at arms of King Philip's huge army made some 15 separate attacks, confident that by fighting into the night their numbers would eventually prevail. Until by the midnight moon a third of that army and the cream of French Nobility lay dead on the battlefield.

The mighty longbowman had literally "made his mark" and continued to do so for the next Century and a half. His ability to dominate the battlefield at a distance was immediately recognized in the French language (if not in strategy). The expression "Artillery" came from the French "Arc-tirer", to draw the bow.

A change of routine; aim of course, but accurate distance too

Much less is known about how the longbowman was trained. Army manuals are lost to us though guidelines must have existed in some form. Clearly the army marshals had routinely taken out large contingents of archers for regular exercise. Shooting over hills, across valleys, over water, behind escarpments and into battlements, until the archer's ability to judge the exact distance to be shot was accurate.

In other words it was not just about hitting your man, it was about hitting him even when he thought he was safe behind a wall.

Not just about killing the horse from under him at 70 yards, but about making his horse unmanageable in panic at 240 yards with an arrow yawing in its back. Aim of course, but accurate distance too !

What a change this is from the usual archery routine. We all think of archery as target oriented in some shape or form. Whether as a target of roundels, a "clout" target, a flag, a 2 or 3d animal target, or hunting with the bow; aim is (nearly) everything. The surprise for the aspirant Medieval longbowman was that his Officers regarded his ability at accurate target shooting as a bare minimum necessity. Chronicles recount his ability to prick an oyster at 80 yards and hit an open hand at 100 yards. Few of today's longbowmen would accomplish such a feat. Nevertheless, it was not enough. To be effective in battle much more was needed. It was better to wound at a distance, but that meant arrows had to be delivered in precise areas of the battlefield where they were most effective. Bigger range was needed, that meant longer heavier bows and the strength and technique to use them. So too was the ability to switch elevation from long range 45 degrees, to a short range 60 degrees plunging shot, to a short range flat trajectory shot and then back again raising the bow for the medium and longer ranges. For the Medieval longbowman this was a serious business for which he was well paid. Fortunately this domination of the killing-fields has in our time translated into a very enjoyable game.

An actively supported revival in Artillery Shooting

To make your Mark. To be up to the Mark. (Eyes) on your Marks. Stake money. To up the stakes.

So many English expressions have come down to us from those far off times. That they are in such current use is testimony to the impression this type of archery must have made.

Today this type of archery is undergoing a major revival in England, France and Germany. While so-called "roving marks" shooting has kept going in smaller groups over many years, major shoots involving thousands of archers had ceased by the beginning of the 18th Century. The practise of shooting to fixed Marks, the original Artillery Shooting had become a rarity in our time. Today there a couple of entities that encourage this type of archery. The Fraternity of Saint George is foremost of these as its shoots are the largest, the most international and take place both in England and in France. It is very fortunate to have the active support of the International Longbow Archers Association in recognition that archery like any sport needs variety. Where that variety can include a reference to tradition then so much the better. The sheer scale of support and enthusiasm these shoots create is stunning. Hundreds of archers from all walks of life come to large and beautiful



Estates for two days shooting in a large group, whether in great volleys of arrows or in their own time. Each sense the fellowship of archery and each sense the great power of the longbow where collectively used.



What a shoot to the Marks is like

So what makes these shoots so irresistible and how do they work in practise ?

First of all the Fraternity of Saint George keeps to the old tradition of free association. You decide you want to come, you reserve your place, pay your shooting fee and shoot !

Whether in full Medieval regalia, or in ordinary shirt, jumper and trousers, all are welcome. Good walking shoes are obviously useful and weatherproof gear should be close to hand as the shoots are never cancelled. Our ability to match the rain soaked men of King Henry's Agincourt army may not stand the test but then why should it. After all archery is now a sport. Nevertheless, the today's archers have been seen, rain soaked in the morning to come out after lunch for a full afternoon's shooting. Perhaps it is the atmosphere

of fellowship and gentlemanly competition that shows we have not gone soft after all. That said most shoots have basked in sunshine.

To imagine these shoots to the Marks, think of Golf (which comes from shooting at the Marks). Instead of standing on the Tee with a couple of friends aiming at the distant flag, you are standing in a long shooting line all aiming at a distant Mark. Just as in golf you have to judge the distance. The undulations, slopes, ridges, trees and bushes between you and the Mark make that judgement a challenge. Across a valley you will tend to overshoot while up an incline you will undershoot. You aim to drop your arrows as near to as possible to the stake on which sits the Mark; a traditional emblem depicting a coat of arms, a bird, an animal or a myth. The long line of archers will each shoot three arrows and when all are done move forward for scoring. For a hundred archers, each mark will have three-hundred arrows. As they have plunged down at 45 to 70 degrees they are easy to find. However, only arrows falling within 18 feet of the Mark will score. In today's British Armed forces an artillery hit is still at 18 feet. That too has an ancient heritage as it corresponds to three lengths of a longbow. The Fraternity of Saint George scores the arrows within half a bow at 12 points, the next three-quarters outwards at 7, the next bow and three-quarters at 3.

The reaction of many archers unfamiliar with this type of archery, is that they will not be able to shoot such distances. However, within a couple of Marks they soon realise they are well able to do so. Many times one hears exclamations of, "this is the first time I have seen my arrows really fly !", or "I feel this is really working out my bow !". Lighter bows are always taken forward so that older men, women and even very young children can come within range. Indeed at the end of a day's shooting every archer will have scored something. Even those taken forward will not in practise score either better or worse. After all an unknown distance minus say 70 yards is still . . . an unknown distance.

The "dread roar" of the longbowman

A typical day's shoot will have 5 to 7 marks in the morning and include a speed shoot. The afternoon will have some 9 to 12 Marks. Often a traditional shot will be taken, such as the Goose's eye at Christmas and, you guessed it; the oyster and the open hand. The day is rounded off with a distance shoot in four volleys, known in the Fraternity as the Shot in the Cloth of Gold. Preceded by the traditional "dread roar" of the longbowman, it is the final adrenalin push of the day and has resulted in some amazing records.



From time to time the Fraternity has also introduced shoots at lit-up marks at night. These have proved to be a great success and surprisingly scores are only marginally lower than their day-time equivalent. A well rehearsed system of arrow-retrieval means that losses are minimal and any not found are easily recovered the next day.

The Fraternity hosted a World first Championship to the Marks in 2002 and carried this on every year to date. Open to all nationalities, the substantial International content of the shoot puts the English archers on their mettle as they well know how much those from other countries would like to swipe those medals from under their noses. All in a spirit of friendly insouciance, of course.

unaudiat dantur id nunc maxime placuit legem melius vult omni ut autem



In the final analysis the popularity of these shoots comes about by a combination of several aspects. Competing against one another yes, but these shoots are also about bettering one's personal scores and achievement as an archer. The sheer fellowship of a large group of courteous archery enthusiasts and the exchange of ideas and techniques that encourages. The imagination of living history and tradition, without necessarily having to dress by the book. All of it means that at the end of a full two-day's archery your fulfilment as an archer combines well with that glimpse of history and where these traditions really come from.

Shooting to the Marks or Artillery shooting is all about variety. All sports need variety as an injection of vitality. If shooting to the Marks eases access and widens participation in a sport we all love then that can only be to the good of all.

For more information go to
<https://www.longbow-archers.com/fraternity.html>

B. E. Mooyaart, Captain of the
Fraternity of Saint George 1509
7 November 2022

As a side note: John made it back
from the UK just in time to join
us at the TAA National Muster.
What an adventure filled month
of Traditional Archery.



Behind the Nock a Spotlight on....

Dale Marsh



*“All phase Archery
Champion with 266
trophies, Talented
Author, Professional
International Artist”*

Ian Fenton

Book Two *Beyond the Target*

My Archery Journey

By Dale Marsh

As a young man, 21 years old, I spent a lot of time at Lake Macquarie NSW spearfishing. Underwater one day I had the sudden thought that “wouldn’t it be good to do this on dry land, hunting rabbits with a bow and arrow”.

1962 I was then living in Melbourne. I eventually found a club that shot F.I.T.A. The Bowmen of Essendon. I joined up and had my first lesson in archery from no less than Hans Wright. That week I purchased my first bow from a sports shop in the city. It was a white steel Kestrel take down with cork handle in the middle. I also bought twelve wood arrows. I shot that Kestrel non-stop every spare moment.

I returned to Queensland and by then I had a new (second hand) bow, a West Australian made Hooker recurve.

I joined Grange Company of Target Archers and shot with them for many years accumulating an impressive number of record scores.

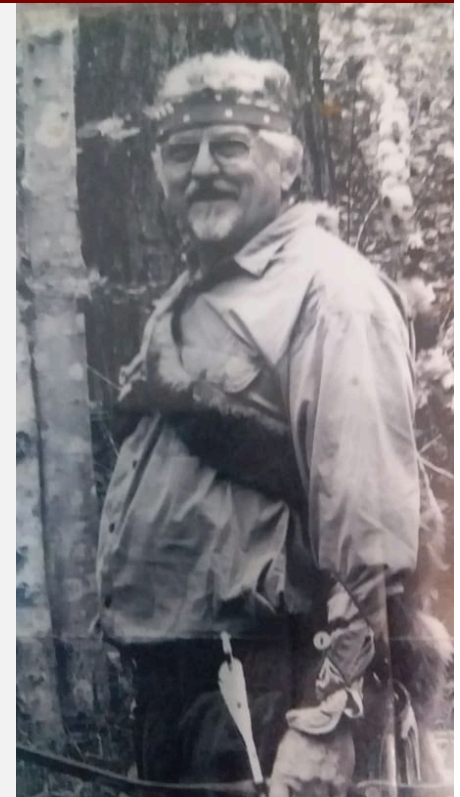
Still keen to go bowhunting I formed, together with Reg O’Reilly, the *South Queensland Bowhunters Society*, designed a badge and set down a Constitution. I then set about creating a bow-hunting style shoot. I made a big shield and cut out and painted animal shapes out of cardboard. I called it the Huntingdale Shield.

Hunting Dale..Get it!

I won the inaugural shoot in 1965.

I returned to Melbourne to study art at R.M.I.T. University the next year, leaving the running of S.Q.B.S. to Reg and it staggered on for a couple of years, (we didn’t really know too much about bowhunting), finally being wound up at a meeting attended by Reg O’Reilly, Sid Green, Alan Podlich and some others. S.Q.B.S. was signed over by Reg and became A.B.A. under new direction of Sid Green.

During this time I was a member of Mitcham Bowhunters in Melbourne, along with Hans Wright and Keith Speight and shot field courses all over Victoria for years. Compound Bows appeared on the scene, and of course I had to have one. Shot this style for years in F.I.T.A. I returned to Queensland and re-joined Grange Company of Archers. By this time I had a brand new, state of the art 75lb. Hoyt compound with super-duper fast cams, 3 stabilizers, one at the front



(long) and two at the sides, a whoopy do can't pinch, draw check release aid and a gigantic field telescope mounted on a tripod. It was during this time that I met the lovely Lorraine, and very soon introduced her to archery, proudly showing her my bow and equipment. She said *"That doesn't look like a bow, it looks more like a dingo trap"*. That opened my eyes, I looked at my equipment that was so far removed from my beloved Kestrel and Hooker Bows and the thought hit me "What am I doing with all this junk!" I retired the compound bow with the strange stabilizers, the whoopy do release aid and shoved the telescope into a cupboard, went out and bought a simple straight longbow and a set of wood arrows, and put the carbon tapered shafts with the titanium tips and u-beaut paper thin fletches away in a draw.

I was back!

With my back to basics, down to earth gear, and Lorraine's white bare bow recurve, we were beginning to find F.I.T.A shooting just a bit too repetitive. Around this time we discovered 3D archery, thanks to good friend Perry Jackson. We joined Caboolture 3DAAA Club and Lakeside Bowmen at the same time.

While at Lakeside I was given permission to design a trad shoot in memory of my lost son Julian. I called it the Jules Shoot and made a memorial shield for all the winners, gents and ladies, to be mounted on over the years. It is with deep regret that I have to say that I have never won the Jules Shoot, although I have come a close second on a couple of occasions. Lorraine on the other hand has won the ladies on several occasions. In my case I have now retired from all competition, and...

I've never enjoyed shooting my bow more in all my 62 years in the sport.



Above: Dale shooting at Lakeside. His long shot landing perfectly in the ten zone.

Below: Dale has been making bows over the years.



Over the years I have been making bows, Recurves and Longbows, specialising in bamboo longbows after doing a course with Greybeard, (Daryl Messingbird). I have bought and owned Hoyts and Black Widow bows of all descriptions but I prefer to shoot my own bamboo bows. A few years ago I wrote and published a small book titled *'Shooting in the Zone'* It covered the mental and emotional areas in archery. It was finally translated into German and sells in Europe.

A couple of years ago I worked with Dave Pender arrow building. He especially taught me the finer points of cresting. A short while later I received my degree as a Master Fletcher, something I am very proud of.

In 2016 I received the Traditional Archery Australia Medal and in 2020 Lakeside Bowmen made me a Life Member.

I have won 267 trophies in shoots around the country, won gold at the World Masters Games for both Field and F.I.T.A. in 2004 and gold again in 2010. In 2008 I was 3DAAA National Champion and in the same year, National Champion A.B.A. In my last competitive shoot at Barambah I won the Traditional Longbow Division finishing my career with a win.

I am now 82 years old, I practise every morning first thing after breakfast, taking 2 arrows and shooting 20 shots with strict attention to form.

Archery and painting have pretty much defined my life and I think I have been blessed.

I have so many exquisite memories of so many camping away shoots all over Victoria, NSW, Queensland, Norfolk Island, New Zealand and Alice Springs, but most of all it is the many wonderful friends Lorraine and I have made. We refer to them as our extended family.



Above: Dale in great form and Medieval dress.



Below: Not even Lorraine and Dale have escaped the Towball Banie craze. Great sports, wonderful friends.



My Archery Career has been a Glorious Ride...Dale
November 2022

TAA Merchandise Vouchers

TAA over the last two years have donated vouchers for merchandise to TAA Clubs holding an advertised shoot on the TAA Website Shoot Calendar. It is always exciting to see people taking up the offer to promote the TAA Logo. Amongst the winners this year we have Tye from Far North Queensland Club. He was so excited to win his voucher at Mossman and wanted a t-shirt. Unfortunately they only come in men's sizes so while he is growing into it he was also given one of our bucket hats....he wears it to school. At Tenterfield Club brothers Archer and Ollie each claimed a voucher. Here they are wearing TAA cap/bucket hat and holding up the patch they are going to ask mum or dad to sew onto their shirt.





Bathurst Archery Festival

5th~6th November 2022

Hosts Bathurst Archers NSW

The Bathurst Archers once again turned on a wonderful event. TAA clubs, Maydaan from Sydney and Archery Ascension from Narre Warren in Victoria, certainly had a great time.... just look at all those smiles. Members from these two clubs were more than happy to demonstrate their Ottoman Style of Archery. Thank you to everyone involved in the planning and work associated with this festival. Seated at the front and a little left of the centre (wearing white), is everyone's sweetheart Roma Fenton. Roma, together with husband and founder of TAA Ian Fenton, continue to support our wonderful sport. Ian is just visible at the very back behind Roma.

Thank You Maydaan Archery Club of Australia and Archery Ascension for representing TAA so beautifully.

Congratulations and Thank You Bathurst Archers!

Copied from the Archery Ascension Facebook with kind permission from Omar Haniffa Archery Ascension President.

Take To The Bow!

There is so much more to archery than the stick and the string. Last weekend 100 of our archers from Archery Ascension, Maydaan Archery and clubs across Vic and NSW took to the bow at the Bathurst Archery Festival 2022.

What an amazing experience of community, connection and physical activity. There were displays of archery from different traditions, we were able to connect with elders and pioneers from the archery community, meet old friends and form bonds with new ones.

Just as every arrow tells its story so does every member of this community. Thank you to the organisers and TAA for making something like this possible.

InshaAllah (God Willing) looking for many more opportunities to shoot and share together. Our next event is the inaugural Australian Menzil muster on November 26th. This event has been booked out. Make sure to keep in touch for the latest updates.

TAA Merchandise

Thank you to all those lovely folk who purchased TAA Merchandise throughout the year. Wearing the logo is definitely a conversation starter. Promoting and Protecting Traditional Archery in Australia is something we as TAA members strive to achieve. It is paramount that both the traditional archery skills and associated craft skills are passed on to the next generation. How wonderful that a junior archer, Benjamin Gutmanis, achieved The Arrow Craftmanship Award at this year's National Muster. The only archer to submit arrows with *hand planed shafts* and *hand split feathers*. Let us all help Perry Jackson with the revival of the Archery Crafters Guild.



To order TAA Merchandise you will now need to contact me on the following email: gladioli015@gmail.com

TAA have a good stock of t-shirts \$25

Plenty of brushed cotton Caps \$20

A limited supply of Bucket Hats \$22

A limited supply of Navy Polo Shirts \$45

Patches \$10

Stickers \$2

Cheers, Leslie



When your archery hat looks like those pictured below you know you have reached the absolute pinnacle of our sport.

I wonder who owns these hats.... 😊

From Left: Dave Pender, Howard O'Connell and Towball
It does appear however that Ned Mason aged 11, seen at left with his dad Glen, is off to a good start.....

Just imagine the hat he is wearing in 60 years time.



If you've got this far and you're reading this, THANK YOU for reading our newsletter we hope you've enjoyed it. Also, a big thank you to the Contributors. Leslie

Want to be a Stringer (that's a freelance journalist) for Sticks and Strings, you can! If you've got an interesting story, a fantastic photo or something to share. Submit your contributions to Leslie White at gladioli015@gmail.com

Permission from subject should be sought for all photos.

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Cover Photo: Hunter Valley Traditional Archers. Archers walking the range to the next target. Photo Leslie White.