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Issue  
One

Your Quarterly Traditional Archery Australia News

“Promoting and Protecting Traditional Archery in all forms”

# Sticks And Strings



Save the date March - June >>>

## Alliance Events & Workshops

20&21 March – Traditional Shoot

Twin City Bowmen

13 March – Robin Hood Tournament Day

Loxley Archers

3&4 April - Traditional Rendezvous

North Albert Field Archers

11 April - Kurwongbah Open

Lakeside Bowmen

15&16 May - Traditional Shoot

Chevallan Archery Park

22&23 May - Invitational Shoot

Mossman Archery Club

29&30 May - Birthday Celebration Trad  
Shoot - White Rose Archery Klub

29&30 May - Trad Bash

Barambah Bowhunters

12&13 June - The Gathering

Hunter Valley Traditional Archers

19&20 June – TAA NSW State Trad Titles

Coffs Coast Archery Club

## TAA a brief history Part 1

Trad Talk Editorial by Beth Allott

There was a time when what we call Traditional Archery was just Archery, but time and technology moved on and humans by and large like to advance designs, always pushing for improved performance.

That's where we come in... Traditional Archery in Australia has been Protected and Preserved since 2005, by a band of pioneers who stepped out of line with the Big 3 Archery organisations and went their own way.

Their own way was one that found more importance in the traditional skills that went into not only making the equipment used in stringbow shooting but the ephemera (gear) that went with it, and the Arts that celebrated this most elegant of sports. Their own way also included putting old fashioned mateship over winning.

Their own way focused on making a safe place for Traditional Archers to do archery their way, without the intense oversight of a governing body or pressure to conform to performance standards.

A safe place  
for all  
Traditional  
Archers

Over the next three editions we'll look at a short history of how Traditional Archery Australia Inc. came to be, based on the words of the founding members. We've got a lot of ground to cover, with the three phases of the history of TAA.

Part 2: The Fenton and Simpson years. The Eureka moment that led to the realisation that traditional archery needed to be taken seriously. The designing and inception of the TAA logos, including the Crafters Guild.

Part 3: The Journeymen and Part 4 The Speight years leading up to our current milestone of 1050 active members. So, don't miss the next edition when the story starts.



Editor Beth Allott  
National TAA  
Membership Officer



Feature Shoot >>>

# Tenterfield Traditional Archers Blacked out Shoot

By TAA Secretary Mrs Leslie White

*2nd Annual  
Blacked Out  
Shoot:  
20-21st  
February 2021*



Marian in Action

Beautiful New England weather greeted archers as they began arriving in Tenterfield for the 2nd Annual Blacked Out Shoot. In its short four year history this club has been built twice.

Under the guidance and hard work of Bob and Marian Rogan the club was just realising its potential when, in 2019 bushfires ravaged the area completely destroying the range.

As heartbreaking as this was, the little club and its band of members and volunteer helpers have once again brought the club back to life. With only a few experienced archers the club now supports many keen newcomers finding pleasure in the world of traditional archery.



Marian and Bob have poured their heart and soul into this club. TAA are so proud of what they, with the help of their dedicated members have achieved.

Following is an account of the shoot. Photos illustrate how the range is recovering after the fires.



Below: Willem getting in a few practice shots.



## Saturday >>>

Saturday saw archers ready for an early practice and muster. The registration flyer advertised Saturday as a three arrow 20 target range plus sneaker round and rolling disc. Bob explained that 2D black and white ABA targets were out on the course as part of the blacked-out theme after the fires.

Right: Merv showing us all how it's done.

Notice the contrast of blackened tree trunks and lush green new growth.



Left: Trevor on his knees.

If cheers count for anything, he must have nailed this shot. The dam in the background makes for a lovely backdrop.





## Sunday >>>

*Sunday we were all treated to a different range. This time an eighteen-target 3D two arrow round was set using some brilliant new targets. The last target being a running pig.*

*A speed round was also set out and those that had not finished the rolling disc on Saturday were given another chance.*



Young Cub  
Adelaide in great  
form on the 2D  
targets.



Experienced archers  
Britta on the left and  
James on the right.

Noticing a few issues  
with a young archer's  
technique, James gave  
some tips that saw this  
archers score improve  
immediately.  
Trad archery  
sportsmanship in  
action.



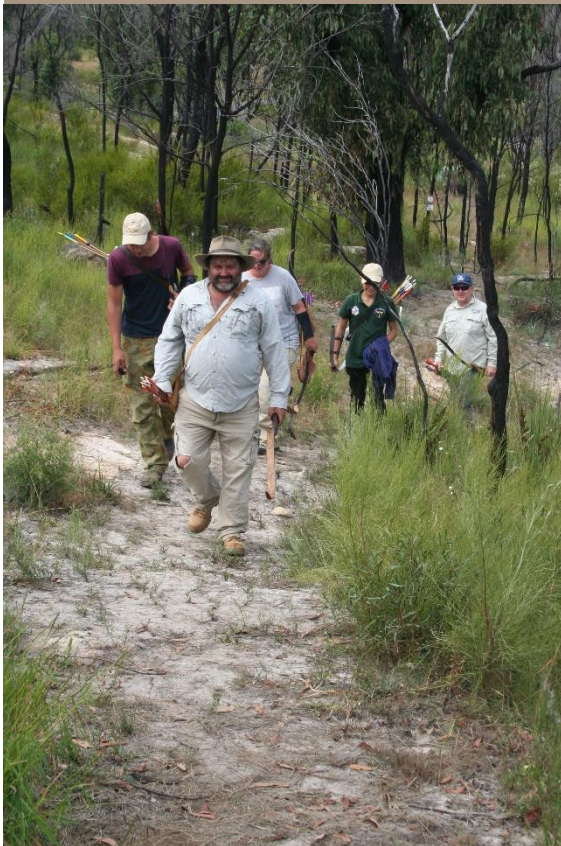




Josh



Roadie, James, Joshua and Andy at the toilet seat shot. This seat is complete with giant redbacks.



A good morning's hike around each range. The granite rocks are why this area is known as The Granite Belt. That's Jason on the left leading his group up the slope.



Well known archer Roadie showing us all that hitting trees and bull's eyes takes the same amount of practise.







Can you find the four animal targets in these photos? They form part of the Sneaker Round.

No club would be complete without its volunteer workers. Tenterfield definitely have a happy bunch of people who give up their time to ensure the rest of us are looked after. I know I did not capture you all on camera, however thank you and well done to every one of you!!



Saturday evening dinner was served in the club house, one could choose to sit on the deck or inside. Either way as the day drew to a close the sunset observed across the dam was stunning. Social interaction is one of the great health benefits of this wonderful sport. Those that chose to meet here for a scrumptious home cooked meal, complete with apple pie and apple crumble, had a great evening of fun and laughter.







Saturdays' Sunset from the clubhouse deck. Thank you to Jennifer Schiffman-Penshorn for this stunning image



### Meet Joshua Gowers >>>

Joshua is a member of White Rose Archery Klub, one of only two TAA clubs in Victoria. Joshua is seen here with Tenterfield President Bob Rogan. Bob was in charge of setting out two brilliant ranges for the Blacked Out Shoot. He is a very experienced archer. Josh is currently helping Grant 'Roadie' Cawthorne,

President of White Rose Archery Klub, to move his club onto the family's property near Mildura. He asked Bob if he would show him how to set up a safe but challenging range. Bob was only too keen to pass on years' worth of knowledge to this young man. Expert knowledge across the generations. Thank You Bob. Good luck Josh with the new WRAK club grounds, we all wish you and Roadie all the best of success with the move.



Cub Medal:  
1st Adelaide  
Gutmanis  
Score: 298

### Presentations Sunday Afternoon >>>

After lunch and a well-received raffle draw it was time for the presentations. This shoot is still growing. The registered number of archers for this year: 35. It is always a sensible decision to limit divisions rather than present medals to everyone.

**Ladies**  
1st Sue Wallace  
Score: 423  
2nd Alison Carr  
Score: 402  
3rd Marian Rogan  
Score: 392



Junior Medal:  
1st Benjamin  
Gutmanis  
Score: 216



## Mens

1st Steve Wallace  
(Absent for presentation)

Score: 594

2nd Merv Vickary

Score: 516

3rd Gary Penshorn

Score: 512



**Winner of the Top Place  
Trophy  
Steve Wallace.**

**Congratulations to all  
medallist. Marian has all  
scores on the Tenterfield  
Traditional Archers  
Facebook.**

## Afternoon Entertainment: >>>



Trad shoots are always fun when the serious scoring ends. The swinging dice proved popular as did the axe and knife. The rolling discs with multiple archers in a line (three up) also created much laughter.



**Thank you Marian and Bob and Thank  
You to all of your wonderful helpers.**

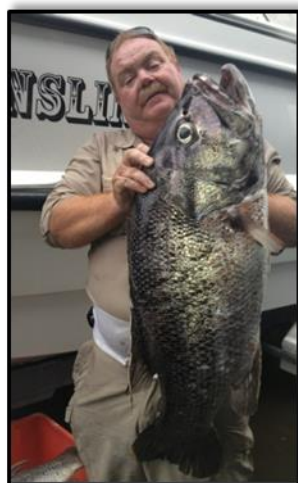
**It has been very much appreciated. Job  
Well Done!**

**See you next year, Leslie**



# Behind the Nock...A Spotlight on Steve Linaker your National TAA President 2019 to 2021.

By his Club President - Bonnie Cabrini



Stevens' induction into  
fishing (right) and  
Graduation Day (left)

Steve has a couple of bows in his collection, 7 x longbows & 5 x Recurve's. He did try compound for a very short time but soon reverted back to the traditional gear. Currently he loves to shoot his self bows.

He is also a bit of a collector of archery gear & in his spare time when not dealing with club or National commitments & "you can't find him", he will be in his shed making knives, longbows, out in his garden or gone fishing. NO rest for this boy.

What can I say about Steve, he is a very colourful character with a passion for a bit of archery & always a laugh when he is either on or off the course.

Steve started archery at the Bunbury Target Archers in 2000 always shooting a recurve or longbow. He was the club treasurer for many years & alongside his family travelled to many target competitions where he won numerous medals for his achievements.

Bunbury target archers had a competition with the Southwest Bowmen (SWB) in 2009 where Steve attended & not long later, he joined the SWB after being poached by our President at the time, Ken Hart.

Steve has been a regular SWB member including taking on the role of Treasurer for 3 years & entertainment co coordinator. When you mix the 2 together (colourful character & entertainment) you get Steve with anything from smoking/cooking his perfect roasts to dancing around the practice course in the dark decorated in xmas lights & keeping us entertained with his singing & dancing. But don't ever get him near a massage table though.



*"But don't ever get him near a massage table"*

Steve has attended the last 3 National musters & the last one I believe was the most memorable one with 4" of rain. Steve said he woke up & didn't realise that his tent roof was leaking until he saw his gear making its way past his bed in a pool of water, Heather & Dave (Pender) to the rescue with a dry sleeping bag.

Steve loves travelling especially to archery events where he shoots for fun but nothing better for him than to meet so many people that have the same passion as he does.

## Straight to the point – Coaching tips by National Coaching Officer Dave McGuire

Meet Dave McGuire the national Coaching Officer for TAA. Dave oversees the Training of your Club Instructors and is available to help you with any questions you may have concerning the technical side of Traditional Archery. Dave has a lifetime of experience in Archery and truly adheres to the TAA ethos in his willingness and enthusiasm to help any archer improve. So, if you've got a question for Dave send it in.

Dave, to start us off why don't you explain the "Catching the Ball" release method people are talking about. You may ask what catching a ball has to do with archery?

This is a term used to describe the action when you release the bowstring and is the final stage of release and follow through. So here is my explanation on how to catch that invisible ball. To achieve this skill, you will need to use back tension and to achieve back tension you will need to use your back muscles, in particular your upper and lower trapezius and to a lesser extent your lats. But the real work horse in the muscle groups are the upper and Major Rhomboid muscles, the major does most of the work when drawing the bow. So now we have covered the important back



muscle groups used to achieve back tension we can get on and catch that ball. To make this happen when drawing the bow you will need to squeeze your left and right scapula together (shoulder blades) using the above mentioned muscle groups, whilst keeping the shoulders in a low position, draw the draw arm elbow back so it lines up with your bow hand, essentially it is one straight

line from your bow hand to your draw arm elbow, this is called alignment, when you feel you have your alignment pause on the shot and settle and make adjustments, when you are ready to take the shot give your back muscles one last squeeze, it may only be one millimeter. Now release the string, the tension you have built up in the back muscles should propel the draw hand back onto the shoulder to catch that invisible ball. It's a simple action to do and when practised properly can be very rewarding.

This is a very brief explanation on how to catch the ball, and is only one step in the shot sequence to master but it is a very important step and if done properly will give you great results. Regards, Coach Dave.



## Mischief and shenanigans



Traditional Archery often sees many a prank pulled. On the Saturday of the TTA Blacked out shoot Simon Rogers and Marian's daughter Ellen arrived to check out the archery. Marian asked Simon to accompany Towball around the range as he had been left puppy sitting and now could not score alone. As Towball rose to leave he linked arms with a very unsuspecting but good natured Simon.

It apparently was some time before Simon realised that the person attached to his arm was not a blind archer who needed to be escorted to each target ready to let loose an arrow or two. Simon saw the funny side and is now saving madly to buy his own bow.

## Show us your shirt!

The editorial staff want to see you in your official TAA T-shirts. Get snapped showing off your Trad style somewhere interesting (but LEGAL). Best picture might win a prize... maybe ... look we're not sure... but if its PG and amusing we'll publish it here.

## Best Beards of TAA



**The editor is unsure if there is a clear winner here, though there's some stiff competition for best hat. Think your beard is better? Why not take it out to a trad shoot and see how it fares against the competition, ladies are also welcome to compete.**

## Traditional Skills

*By Traditional Skills Officer - Perry Jackson*

I'm Perry Jackson, your Traditional Skills Officer.

I have been a Traditional Archer for much of the last 43 years.

Since I was a child I have been drawn to the Craft and Skills side of Archery and to learn to make and use Traditional Archery Equipment. Archery is endlessly fascinating, these words from the Thompson Brothers, The Witchery of Archery, create images in my mind that stir my soul.



*"So long as the new moon returns in heaven, a bent, beautiful bow, so long will the fascination of Archery keep hold of the hearts of men" Thompson.*

I consider myself somewhat of an experimental archaeologist, there is only so much you can learn by studying an Artefact or admiring a Bow or set of Arrows. If you learn how to make and use that object not only do you gain an intimate understanding of how it works, you find yourself in the mind of the person that made that object and marvelling at each step they followed, perhaps visualising decisions they made thousands of years ago.

Each Newsletter I will feature an Archery Craft or Skill and answer Archery related Craft and Skills questions, readers may send in to our hard-working editor. If I don't know the answers to your question, I will seek out people who do.

I shall leave you with another short Poem from Maurice Thompson.

*"The joy is great of him who strays  
In shady woods on summer days,  
With eyes alert and muscles steady,  
His longbow strung, his arrows ready."*

Perry



# 5<sup>th</sup> annual Postal Shoot

By National Score Recorder - Bonnie Cabrini

Over the Christmas break & ending in Feb, the 2020 – 2021 postal shoot (also known as *The Wand*) was advertised for anyone that would like to take up the challenge.

*"This shoot was open to be completed any day from Saturday the 28th of November 2020 to the Sunday 14th of February 2021. The postal shoot was in the style of a "Wand" 50mm wide and 1 meter long, placed vertically on any boss. 50 arrows are shot from set distances and scored consecutively ED."*

Sadly, we only had a handful of members that were able to participate in this event. Speaking for the WA clubs & I am sure most other clubs/members would be in the same position, but most of us closed down at the end of November & did not re open again until mid-January/February.

Since reopening & with the extreme heat we have had in WA, along with cyclones/bad weather & then Covid showing his head again. It was unfortunate most of us could not take part, but better luck next time round.

I would like to congratulate those from NSW & WA that did take up the challenge as it's not an easy task shooting a line at variable distances.

Well done to Claudia Ellem & Jonah White, first time picking up a bow in 2020 & taking up the challenge.

| Division       | Name          | M/ship # | Club          | State | Total Score |
|----------------|---------------|----------|---------------|-------|-------------|
| Longbow        | Jonah White   | 1556     | Hunter Valley | NSW   | 50          |
| Men's Recurve  | Steve Croft   | 556      | Southern FA   | WA    | 105         |
| Female Recurve | Sonya Otway   | 531      | Southern FA   | WA    | 80          |
|                | Nicole Booth  | 1279     | Southern FA   | WA    | 70          |
|                | Claudia Ellem | 1552     | Hunter Valley | NSW   | 10          |
| Men's Hybrid   | Towball White | 13       | Hunter Valley | NSW   | 120         |
| Female Hybrid  | Leslie White  | 441      | Hunter Valley | NSW   | 65          |



Jonah White from Hunter Valley Traditional Archers, having a go at the 30m Mark

## Going for a Shoot?

*Don't forget* to make sure your membership is up to date. Membership is due on the anniversary of joining. It's on your card. Not sure? Use the contact us button on the TAA webpage  
[www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org](http://www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org)

## In the Next issue >>>

*Trad Talk – A brief history of TAA P2*  
*Next Quarters calendar*  
*Shoot reviews*  
*Behind the Nock: Spotlight on*  
*Australian Archery legends*

**If you've got this far and you're reading this, THANK YOU for reading our first newsletter we hope you've enjoyed it. Also, a big thank you to the Contributors, Proof Readers, Beard Models and our Cover Archer, ED**

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 the editor Beth Allott at [membershipofficer@traditionalarcheryaustralia.org](mailto:membershipofficer@traditionalarcheryaustralia.org) or on the "contact us" button on the web [www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org](http://www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org).

Shoot reviews should be a maximum of 400 words and 5 to 8 photos, inclusion of scores also encouraged. Permission from subject should be sought for all photos.

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# Traditional Archery Australia's

Inaugural NSW Traditional State Titles

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021- Woolgoolga NSW

Field Course and Novelties as per the current TAA Shoot Guidelines.



Coffs Coast Archery Club

Shoot about the life of trees

## General Information:

- For the competition you must shoot timber arrows and be a financial TAA Member
- Nominations: can be done online. Go to the club's Website [www.coffscostarchery.com](http://www.coffscostarchery.com) and open the "TAA NSW State Titles" page. At the bottom of that page you will find an online form, complete all the fields and click send button. Should you have any problems, please email your details to: [coffscostarcheryclub@outlook.com.au](mailto:coffscostarcheryclub@outlook.com.au) and Simon will do a manual nomination.
- Registration: (at Club grounds), from Friday 4pm and completed by 8:00am Saturday.
- Shoot Divisions: Men's, Ladies, Junior's and Cub's
- Styles: Longbow, Modern Recurve, Traditional Recurve, Asiatic, Hybrid, Historic and Roadie Para Division
- Fees: To be paid at time of registration OR Bank Transfer, between 4 and 2 weeks prior to the event.  
(EFT Payments: Acc: Coffs Coast Archery Club, BSB: 533000, Acc No: 100157294, Ref: Your Name)

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adults:                | \$60.00*                    |
| Juniors:               | \$30.00                     |
| Cubs (<13 with Adult): | \$15.00                     |
| Family:                | \$120.00                    |
| On Grounds Camping:    | \$5.00 per person per night |

## Itinerary for the NSW Titles Weekend

### Saturday

- Muster: 8.30am. Form shoot groups of 4.
- Shoot Rounds: Two 10 shot ranges of 3D targets, with a 3 arrow walk up format.
- 3 Novelties Events: Choose from- Hunt Round, Speed Round, Running Target and Rolling Disc.
- Lunch: BBQ style, will be available 12:30pm – 01:30pm

### Sunday

- Muster: 8.30am
- Shoot Rounds: Two 10 shot ranges of 3D targets, with a 1 arrow format.
- 1 Novelty Event: Remaining unattempted event from Saturday; Hunt Round, Speed Round, Running Target or Rolling Disc.
- Lunch: BBQ style will be available 12:00pm – 01:00pm, for pre-ordered food only.
- Event Presentation and TAA Raffle as early as possible to facilitate early departure.

## Accommodation and Camping

- Camping Grounds: Camping is available at the club grounds, cost of \$5 per person per night. We have a Flat Camping area, with basic shower and toilet facilities, but no access to electricity or town water. Alternatively, the nearby township of Woolgoolga has a number of caravan parks and motels.
- Club Ground Facilities: Portable Toilets and 3 Hot Showers
- Meals: Breakfast (from 7am) and Lunch BBQ food available Saturday and Sunday, (please pre-order Sunday lunch)
- Early & Late Camping available: by arrangement Call Steve on 0419984300 (Camping available 17th to 21st June)
- All Pets Welcome: Owner responsibility expected
- Physical Address: Woolgoolga Creek Rd. Directions: 1.5km West of Round-about, then turn Right off Woolgoolga Creek Rd, just before Pacific Highway overpass.
- Website: [www.coastcoastarchery.com](http://www.coastcoastarchery.com) or Facebook or Email: [coffscostarcheryclub@outlook.com.au](mailto:coffscostarcheryclub@outlook.com.au)

\* Adult shoot fee includes TAA admin costs, including a contribution to the TAA Young Archers Development Fund, and Forestry NSW major event fees.





**Loxley Traditional Archers**



## **ROBIN HOOD ARCHERY TOURNAMENT**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Closing date for registration: Monday 8th March 2021

A medieval styled archery tournament for archers of all ages. Enjoy traditional targets and tests of skill in a fun and safe outdoor archery environment.

**Venue:** Havenview Primary School, Cnr. Old Surrey Road & Marriott Street, Havenview, Burnie

**Start time:** 10.00am

**Divisions:** Open Men, Open Women, Junior

**Targets:** A selection from Popinjay / 5 ring colour Target / Wand / Hole & Split in Wall / Castle with knockouts / Spinning targets / Knights / Bugs Eye



**What You Need:** (Compliance with these conditions is essential for competing.)

**Shooters must be members of TAA. ABA. 3DAAA. or AA.**

**Bow\*:** Longbow / Bare bow recurve / Horse bow (Strictly no Stabilisers or Plunger Buttons)

**Arrows:** Wood or aluminium points fletched with feathers (Wooden Blunts supplied)

**Equipment hire:** Bows, Arrows \$5 - Please advise if required.

**Some form of MEDIEVAL STYLE CLOTHING IS ESSENTIAL** – to get into the spirit of things!

We are more than happy to help with ideas and have some **clothing for hire at \$5 if required**.

A plate of food to share for lunch – approximately 12pm

Entry Fee - \$10.00

**For more information:** Contact Peter Starr

**Phone:** 0402 783 158

**To register:** Email: [loxleyarchers@gmail.com](mailto:loxleyarchers@gmail.com)

**Please note this is an Alliance Cross Participation event all archers welcome.**

**\*No metal handles (grips) / risers.**

**\*No modern spring / flipper rests.**

**\*No Plunger buttons or Stabilisers are allowed.**