

FOR Around the Trad 2019.1

*It was unfortunate that notification for the date for Manning Valley Trad Shoot was only advised 2 weeks out from the weekend it was being held, Sept 22/23, so consequently the numbers were lower than expected, which was perhaps a little disheartening for the club. Even though I wasn't able to obtain any information, the photos on the club's Facebook page indicate everyone was having a great weekend. We shall keep our fingers crossed for the club to hold a Trad shoot in 2019.

*The weather had been glorious in Qld; however leading into the long weekend of Sept 29/30 the reports were a little less certain. When we arrived at Chevallan Archery Park for the weekend shoot, there were already quite a few campers that had come to enjoy the area, and one travelling archery couple having visited Yeppoon, and were picking up the Trad shoots on their way back to Lithgow NSW.

After setting up a couple of targets and checking the layout of the course a few of us went over to the practice butts to have shot, the wind had now come up and our arrows were flying a little sideways toward to the targets. As we collected our arrows we realized we were being watched by quite a lot of the campers. I wandered down and invited them to walk around and watch some of the events tomorrow. So I advised them to keep an eye on one of the gates and then wander over and lean on the fence to observe.

By now it was getting a little cool, time for some relaxing with friends. After dinner we sat around the fire, enjoying a few nightcaps, while the sky around us kept lighting up and we could hear the storms in the distance.

Saturday dawned with a medium dense fog; it was going to be a fine day for archery. Following a hearty breakfast, and registrations done I had a brief muster, and off we went. At this stage of the day it wasn't too hot, however it was windy, nevertheless we set off for the Clout Range. For this weekend we decided to go around in a rather large group, and we also had a cub with us, so at the Clout range there was a staggered layout of shooting positions. I let all the chaps shoot, then once complete I walk toward the flag until I feel the distance is better, and making allowances for a, by now, a quite stiff headwind, it was always going to be a punt. So arrows away and I love the encouragement we all give each other, "that looks like a great line", "you look pretty close to the butt", which is wonderful, until you get up the other end to discover, yes it was a really good line just not quite in the circle. Oh well, this is only a practice end.

We let the young fellow shoot and moved him up a little each time until he was getting his arrows in the circle.

Shooting back the other way was just as tricky as we were wind assisted and some shots went a bit too far.

Once we had finished the Clout, we went to the rolling discs and met up with the campers, then we did the 30sec speed round followed by the Popinjay. Shooting flu flu arrows skyward and into a head wind makes hitting Owls-on-high very interesting indeed!! I was explaining the different events to the campers as we were doing them, and they were all quite keen to follow us around the course too.

We stopped for a cuppa before heading down to do the field course. Target numbers 24 and 25 are closest to camp and if there are archers there, you can walk down and start at target 1, which we did and our rent-a-crowd soon caught up with us.

For this Trad shoot the 60second hunt round had been inserted where targets 2-4 were often found. The targets had been set in place as a walk through, with 3 plates/targets on the left of the path and 3 plates/targets on the right and you could either shoot all the targets on the left going down, then all the targets right coming back, then continue until the time was up, or you could zig zag your way from one side to the other through the course.

Once complete we went back to shooting the rest of the course, where we found a javelina in front of log under a canopy of lantana, also a crocodile heading up an embankment, and a small baboon in the remains of a very large tree trunk both in areas we have not shot in before which was brilliant.

We finished the course and after a short break grabbed our flu flus and headed down to the lolly popinjay, which was also just near our audience was camped, so they enjoyed the event in the comfort of their camp chairs.

For this event you shoot at hinged round targets that fall down when hit. There were 9 of us in the group, and 5 of us had hit 3 of the targets, so were on the same score as written on the scoresheets. Now just to make it interesting I thought it would be good if we have a little shoot off to get the "winner of our group" just for this event. So the 5 of us shot one arrow only and we all made it through to the next round, so another arrow each and then there were 3. A further round and then there was 2, another round and there was 1. The winner then took another shot, just because he could, and yes, if you're wondering, he did hit the mark!!

Some of us didn't want to carry our flu flus down to the moving target so I bundled them all up and asked a family of one of the archers who were enjoying their camping holiday, if I could just leave them near their camp. Mum asked could the kids take them up to our camp, so I suggested they put all the same colours together, and then thanked them. We walked down and did the moving target then wandered across to the field course.

When we arrived back in camp we found our flu flus had been very neatly arranged in a rather colourful fan layout. The kids were pleased we had liked their arrangement.

With shooting for the day now over, it's time to relax. After dinner we lit the fire and sat around it solving all the problems of the world, and many other things as the night sky lit up all around us again. There were storms in the distance and then around 11.30pm it started to spit a little bit as we were heading for bed. As my head hit the pillow the thunder was sounding closer and there were a few drops of rain on the roof. Not enough to really wet anything, which was great.

Sunday was looking rather overcast and as we all headed off, did we take brollies with us, of course not!! We had been joined today by a few more of the local archers, so they formed their own group and went around.

Two of us in our big group shot recurves yesterday, longbows today, and surprising to find the scores are only a little different between the two bows.

It didn't start raining until later in the morning. One group was down at the tea tent and our group, which was now bigger than yesterday with the arrival of two more archers, found ourselves playing games under a very large tree down the bottom. There was one person holding many bows while two of us went and scored the four targets we had all just shot in the drizzle.

Once the drizzle eased we carried on to finish the course and headed back to camp. I was putting in the scores and the rain started just as lunch was being prepared. So I waited until everyone had finished eating then did the presentations, and this found me speaking rather loudly to get over the rain on the roof. At this shoot the Kylie Cousins Encouragement Award was presented to a lady archer whose score had improved since our last shoot. This is the final 2 day event of the year at Chevallan Archery Park; our next two day shoot is being held on weekend of February 23 / 24, 2019.

* The following was sent to me by one of the regular club members: "Hunter Valley Traditional Archers were blessed with glorious weather for their Andrew Spiechowicz Memorial Shoot held on the long weekend 29th September to the 1st October. 150 people signed in as present on the range with 99 of those nominating to participate in the shoot as competitors.

New range captain Keith and his helpers set up three ranges that were spread out over the varied and beautiful area that is HVTA. Each one arrow range consisted of ten 3D targets set up to give archers a feel for hunting, hence no butts.

Scoring novelties included the speed round, hunt round, running pig, bow bird and rolling disc. The unusual set up of the hunt round saw archers moving in a large oval giving equal advantage to both left and right handers. The axe and knife is also very popular on Saturday afternoon.

The wonderful part of this shoot is the overwhelming generosity of the archers. All profits raised each year go directly to small charities. 2018 raised \$5500 towards Mums' Cottage. This charity helps young families needing somewhere to turn for support.

Early Saturday evening is a time for memories and reflection as everyone gathers for a drink looking down over Andy Specs favourite spot. There were tears flowing as Nick Lintern spoke of three wonderful HVTA archer friends who sadly are no longer with us, Specs, Andy Firth and Erik Neilson. Erik lost his battle with cancer just a week and a half before this year's shoot. Friendship arrows are swapped and folk slowly make their way back for the evening's generous baked dinner cooked in the largest spit I have ever seen.

Sunday allows time for course completion and Towball's Spinning Deer and Archery Poker. All good fun as this is a great time for people to catch up and chat. Sue's head shave along with raffles, including a new longbow donated by Norseman, raised valuable money for Mums' Cottage. The presentation acknowledged the most skilled archers.

Positive visitor comments included observation of the fantastic family atmosphere that is found at HVTA. The number of three generation campsites is increasing and it is lovely to watch the older folk passing their knowledge onto the young ones. There were many children, teenagers and the odd dog or two having a great time. HVTA looks forward to seeing everyone again at their 20th Anniversary Gathering, June long weekend, and another charity shoot October long weekend 2019."

Post script added by me:

Mark your calendar - HVTA is hosting the Andy Firth Memorial Trad shoot March 30/31, 2019

* Here is a short story on the TAA National Muster held at Tenterfield on the weekend of October 8/9, as sent to me by one of the participants.

"The town of Tenterfield was the home of the second TAA National Muster held over the weekend of the 6th and 7th of October. The Tenterfield Archery Club is a new club that has earned the support of the community. Marian and Bob, together with a strong band of club members, have worked miracles to get the club ready to host such a large event.

The club was officially opened early on the Saturday morning with both the local Mayor and Member of Parliament present to perform ribbon cutting duties.

TAA members set up a range of twenty 3D targets to challenge the 70 plus archers present. The granite rocks, trees and various other objects acting as back stops ensured the archer focused on hitting the target. Missing usually meant a broken arrow.

On Saturday archers shot three arrows at each target. Adults shot these from three different walk up pegs. On Sunday only one arrow was allowed at each target.

The novelties were the 30 second speed round, 60 second hunt round, running deer and rolling discs.

Sunday afternoon archers gathered around Hog's Hollow, a hollow inhabited by 8 piggy 3D targets. The perpetual trophy for this hilarious event honours Cleve 'Shrek' Wood the instigator behind this novelty. Shrek sadly passed away earlier this year. Being one of archery's more colourful characters he decided that archers who were not heckled when trying to shoot the pigs would be disqualified. Archers who did not move continually between two pegs placed a few meters apart would also be disqualified. Each archer had 60 seconds to build their score. Everyone had a great laugh.

Other events were the axe and knife throwing and arrow making competitions. The introduction of archery craftsmanship to this event ensures that the skills behind shooting arrows are recognised.

The Tenterfield Club and TAA organized camping at the showground, a free bus ride to and from the range and the showground, dinner on the Saturday evening and plenty of food and refreshments throughout the day.

To sum up this was a great shoot and a credit to all those involved."

* As we headed south for the Coffs Harbour ANAA clubs' Annual Trad shoot for the weekend of October 13/14, the sky was overcast, and we already knew from the weather report it was going to rain over the weekend. In such a case one will still go and support the club as they always put on a good shoot, while keeping your fingers crossed it wasn't going to be too wet. On Thursday evening there were 10 who had set up camp, and Friday saw quite a few more campers arriving, some were up the top on the flat, while some of us camped down the bottom. There had been a few light showers, and we'd managed to all stay dry all day. One of our Trad characters set his camp up with the Native Magnolia branch sitting under his awning, and being of Celtic origin had his specially made Flag of Celtic Nations flying high.

At Saturday morning muster there were 40 hardy archers gathered at the club shelter, some had travelled from the Mildura area in VIC, others from southern NSW, Shellharbour on the South Coast of NSW through to the Sunshine Coast in Qld, the Kingaroy area of Qld and many places in between, plus a few locals and some travellers who were staying in other accommodations in town. Once we had received instructions of the events we set off in our groups to enjoy the day. At Coffs Harbour they have 2 courses of 15 x 3D targets – you shoot one course as a 2 arrow and the other course as a 1 arrow on the 1st day, then the other way round on the 2nd day. Our group did the 2 arrow round first. As we went around we discovered many and varied target placement with very good use of the natural settings, many targets were placed strategically; a bear leaning against a tree with many a tree to shoot through on the way, another target set behind a burnt out tree stump with a great gapping burnt hole in it, and yes you guessed it, I hit the lovely pink paint which was on the stump to highlight the fact it was there.... woops!! Another target, a deer, that had a log quite a distance in front of the target, it did not interfere with the shot at all, it was just there, with a lovely pink circle painted on it so we wouldn't walk into it. Other targets set behind a couple of vines, or where a tree branch was framing the target, not really in your line of site vision and of course, yes, some glanced arrows off the branch down toward the target. When we finished this set of 15 targets there was the running pig at the end, so we did that in 2 sets, it had by now started to drizzle a little bit. Oh well, we are out here now; brolyys deployed and we carried on to do the 60 second hunter round, which comprised of 6 pig or javelina targets, set in a line, where you walked along a path and shot at the targets between the huge pine trees. Now onto the 2nd course, this time as a one arrow round. This course wound its way down toward the creek and was a little wet underfoot. Once again the targets had been strategically placed and a couple of us did sacrifice an arrow to the river gods. These are retrieved later by a keen canoeing couple. There were 3 gamble shots, 2 on one course and 1 on the other. It was interesting to hear when we got back to camp that quite a few of the groups had not realised the large brown elk at the back was the gamble shot and not a lump of earth, as they had set this target up with his head behind the tree, so therefore is was incognito.

At the end of this course we found the Swinging Bundy Bear. This had the small white bear target cleverly set up on a pendulum and when a stopper was released, by pulling a rope, the little bear swang backward and forward behind the tree and you had to hit it before it disappeared again. This was a 3 arrow event. Some arrows found the mark, some did not, and thankfully, none found the creek.

We went back to camp to have a bite of lunch and at this time it started drizzling again, so we waited for it to ease up then went to do the 30 second speed round which had 5 deer set up at various distances around the "pond".

Once again they made good use of the many, many, many logs that were piled up in this area. All the deer were

standing well above the logs, that doesn't mean we didn't hit them... the logs that is!! Next was the Stalker Round where you were given 2 minutes to follow a path, which had pink markers along the sides, and find as many targets as you could. Well just by coincidence from the first two pink markers you could actually see and shoot at a target, so some of us (including me) jumped to the incorrect conclusion that must be where the targets are. Wrong!! After looking for targets at the next two markers and seeing nothing but bushy scrub and vines, I scrapped that strategy and just kept walking. The bear was quite an obvious target sitting out there plain as day at the end, so I took a shot, and turned around to walk back, and as it turns out, I missed one of the targets, which was a duck just to the side of the bear. I didn't feel so bad to find out later, that I am not the only lazy archer, who only walks as far as they "think" they need to.

The final event of the day was the tumbling marble. This event is held off to the side of the current club house, and on our way through, I spied two of our more life experienced archery couples enjoying a little picnic at one of the tables under the kitchen covering. One can only imagine the stories they were sharing.

With the new marble event, you start with your arrow in the quiver, someone drops the marble, the archers remove an arrow from the quiver, then nock and shoot it before the marble clunks into the bottom of the tin, after it had wounds its way down and around the tube taped to a pole. You were allowed only 1 arrow per marble drop, and everyone had 3 goes. Not quite as easy as it sounds, with some archers not having enough time to get the 1st arrow away, then trying just a little harder on the 2nd and then 3rd arrow.

Heading back to camp it was starting to drizzle again, thankfully we had finished for the day, just needed to now tally up the novelty scores. Once complete I wandered back to hand them in, under my trusty broolly. I walked up to the far end of the camping area to catch up with some archers and on my back it started to rain again. This time a couple of groups were caught out and didn't quite finish one of the events.

The Coffs club has not done an evening meal for the last couple of shoots, so some of us have pooled together and ordered pizza, as we did last year. Big thanks to Tom for organising the order and John G for being the delivery driver. Settling in with some beverages for the evening as the rain tumbled down around us. As we all went to bed the rain kept falling, and continued all through the night.

We awoke Sunday to discover many a large puddle of water around and about where we were camped, and we were wondering if they would go ahead for the day, as one course would be very slippery under foot and there was the possibility of the creek engulfing some targets. A couple of club members went off to investigate and when they returned with a few targets we realised that course was out of action. After a quick deliberation it was decided to cancel the Sunday shooting. Then wouldn't you know it the rain started to ease, so quite a few of us took advantage and packed up our camps. There was a lot more rain forecast at Coffs and up and down the east coast.

We left before the presentations and raffle were done, and its unfortunate the weather turned a little worse than expected. The weather aside, the Coffs Harbour club has to be commended on the great courses they always set up; it is well worth the journey. All of that were in attendance were of course disappointed with the weather halting proceeding, and will be back next year rain or shine. There was also talk that is shoot may be moved to another month, away from the rainy season. We are very much looking forward to next year's event, whatever the date.

* As we set out for the ANAAs' Sunshine Coast Bowmen Traditional Knot Shoot being held on Sunday Nov 18, we saw a lot of debris on the side of the road following the bad storms that blew through Saturday evening. From the skies above you would not have known it had even rained, however as we drove toward Nambour there were a few clouds around, nothing too much to worry about. This club is set up behind the oval of a school ground, and after signing in you walk along a pathway to where the clubhouse is. There were 51 Trad archers registered and ready to set out for the day. Following a muster, we all headed out to our designated target numbers. The layout of the club courses deems it easier to allocate and commence at the same time. For this shoot there were 2 courses of 20 targets with a mixture of 3D and vinyl targets, which at times on some targets we found both styles, so figured we should take the 3D option. Their courses are set in a rainforest and the range captain had done a sterling job of utilizing the foliage of the cabbage palms, which we were encouraged to shoot through, and at times the entire target was covered. (in the photos there is one I have underlined where the target placement view is, firstly from the peg, then I stepped out and have taken a photo of the actual target to give you, the reader, a better idea). As we were heading toward target 4 the skies opened up, so we took shelter where we could and kept shooting. The scoresheets were hard to keep dry and I don't believe many (if any) had an umbrella on us. Oh well, everyone will be

in the same boat (if you'll pardon the pun). The rain continued to fall for at least 6 targets and we were a little wet, and a couple of groups had given up on scoring while others resorted to modern technology, their phones, and others kept the paper as dry as possible. By the time we finished the course we were reasonably dry. When we had finished the first course, which we shot as a 2 arrow round with both scoring as 10 or 5, we all stopped for a morning tea break. There were a couple of people that had gone home due to the rain and while we were having a break a couple of light showers passed over. Hopefully it will clear now. We then set out again onto the 2nd course, also a 2 arrow round, starting at the same target number as allocated earlier. This course had a couple of tricky shots, one warthog sitting behind a log with a smug look on his face, another was a vinyl target shot between a couple of trees. A crocodile along the bank, so well disguised we couldn't find it until we stepped up onto the mound where the peg was. Once this course was complete we stopped for lunch which was hamburgers. Some of the archers left after doing the second course, leaving the chef with a few too many burgers, which he generously gave away, so he didn't have to throw them away. There was then the rolling disk and the knock down targets which was a new event, and we all had to shoot the club bows and arrows. As we were all doing these events at the same time it did take a little longer to get through them, nevertheless a good time was being had by all. Once these events were complete, the scores were handed in and tallied for the presentations to get underway. By this time our numbers had dwindled a little, and despite being rained on everyone had a really great day. The target placements on the courses are always well thought out, making them enjoyable and sometimes challenging at the same time. A big Thank You to Sunshine Coast Bowmen and we look forward to the clubs 3 Trad days in 2019.

* At the time of printing Trad shoots confirmed for Feb/Mar 2019 are Chevallan Archery Park 23/24 Feb, Twin City Bowmen Trad, Albury NSW Mar 16/17, Bega Valley Archers Asian Experience Mar 16/17, Andy Firth Memorial being held at HVTA Newcastle NSW March 30/31

* Reports for Chevallan Archery Park Nov 25 Trad day/xmas campout will be in the next edition.

For the readers who are on Facebook, check out Travellin' Round the Trad, where you can read the shoot write-ups and view many more photos.

You will find the further information and available flyers for the Traditional Shoots on the following websites:

Ozbow: www.ozbow.net > Traditional Archery Events > each shoot has an individual thread

Wallace Woods: www.wallacetradwoods.com > Shoot information (proposed 2019 calendar, and will have the link to the shoot flyers as they become available)

Chevallan Archery Park: www.chevallanarcherypark.com – for the 2019 Proposed Traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO approved African 3D targets now with replaceable centres, Customised unique Archery medals/medallions. Proudly supporting Traditional Archery

Traditional Archery Australia: www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org > Shoot Information

If you have any queries or would like to be added to the Qld Traditional Archery data base for direct shoot information please feel free to contact me by email at swallace@wallacetradwoods.com

I look forward to seeing you 'round the trads in 2019. ☺