

FOR Around the Trads 2019.2

*The temps were certainly on the rise as we were heading toward the Chevallan Archery Park Full Day shoot, which was being held on Sunday Nov 25, so why were we heading out Friday evening? We had changed the original shoot day plans, and still decided to have a camp out weekend anyway. There were a few of us there Friday evening and as organised we cooked our own meals, and also had the good fortune to be able to help one fellow eat the biggest piece of beef shank I had ever seen, and a frypan full of asparagus. A meal fit for a king I tell you, followed by a few malts and many an interesting conversation as we watched the full moon rise higher in the clear evening sky.

The emphasis on Saturdays' activities was going to be on fun, and after a hearty breakfast we waited for a couple of others to turn up, then off we wandered, leaving behind some to set up camp. The boys found a tennis ball and the games began, with the object being, to hit the tennis ball so it moved to a new locale. Then just keep shooting at it, as it moved, until you were at the point where the tennis ball was at the start, to collect those first arrows shot, then the second spot etc. It is quite surprising that not too many arrows are swallowed by the grass, with many eyes searching the ground, most are found. We kept hitting the ball until we reached the moving target then all had a few goes at that. Skill level doesn't improve if you try and shoot more than one arrow at it as it goes out along the run, and goodness me, we even shot it when it was being dragged back as well. As you can imagine it only takes one to start and everyone has a go. Someone found an inch square piece of timber which was about 16" long, so it was poked into an ant nest, then back to the line and we all started shooting at it until someone finally hit it, which was good, as we were all running out of arrows, again!

It was getting later in the morning, and a little warm, so we decided to head back up for a cuppa, when someone else found a pink golf ball, you guessed it, now we had a tennis ball and a golf ball. It did take us quite a while to get to the top of the walkway, and we arrived back to find Tamara had kindly put on a sausage sizzle, (onions underneath of course!) even though we were all self-catering. Lunch enjoyed and now feeling reinvigorated we set off once again, with both golf ball and tennis ball.

We had done one round with the golf and tennis balls, and someone noticed we were getting closer to the moving target, I say closer; we are still at least 150 meters from it. Arrows away until all our quivers were emptied, then we collected those arrows shot at the tennis ball, and one very happy person, who doesn't shoot as often as she would like, was stoked to hit it. The tennis ball was thrown down the walkway and off we all went again, this time we were nearer to the moving target, only by about 20 yards. We all had a few shots, this time hitting the ground closer to the target until one chap finally hit it.... Not with his own arrow, with an arrow he borrowed from another chaps quiver... cheeky thing!

By now we had now been joined by those setting up camp, so we shot the moving target for a couple of turns with one fellow being really pleased he hit the moving target, and I took a photo for him to see. I will take this opportunity to say a big "Hello" to Blake who I believe will be seeing this article, "it was nice to meet you". As it was rather warm in the sun, we started to shoot the golf ball in the direction of the swing set which we knew would be in the shade. Some didn't have water on them, so one kind fellow walked up to the house, purchased many bottles of water and rode the quad back down, so delivery was prompt, cool and much appreciated by all.

There were many, many, rounds of hitting ping pong balls, the pigs tail-end target through the tyre, and empty water bottles tied to the swing set rails. This little game can be expensive on arrows, when one person hits either a ping pong ball or a water bottle and the string it is tied to, then wraps itself around the top bar, and yes you guessed correctly, someone just has to try and hit it again, to flick it back around, and inevitably hits the steel bar instead.

It was now getting a little late in the afternoon, so everyone headed back to camp, while I checked out the target placements and put in some shooting marks with Tamara on the new speed round. Then we all settled in for some sociable drinks, as we decided which pizza to order for dinner.

While Tamara and I were picking them up, the fellows joined all the tables together and we had a pizza feast on our return, plus we were joined by two Dutch campers who had arrived in the afternoon. I was being a little pizza piggy and totally forgot to take a photo, which is a shame, it would have been nice to share. Oh well never mind, you'll have to use your imagination.

The full moon was on Friday, however we had a better opportunity to watch it rise in the valley of two mountains on Saturday evening. My photo really doesn't do it justice and in one of the shots one chap walked in front of me, so I have a light reflection off the top of his head that was bigger and brighter than the moon. There were some in-depth conversations around the fire as we resolved the problems of the world once more. While one lovely lady danced to her little hearts content.

Sunday morning found us all up pretty early, and after we enjoyed a hearty breakfast everyone was almost set to go. Just one small problem, it was only 7.00am and the shoot didn't start till 8.30am.

More archers started arriving with a small group from the Lakeside club, who had come prepared for the warm day by bringing their own shade, as they quickly erected a tarp. We are hoping to have cover over the practice butts shooting line before the commencement of 2019 calendar which will be good.

There were also archers from the Sunshine Coast Bowmen club whom we had shot with last weekend, so once all registrations paid, and the Visitor's book signed, I welcomed everyone with a Muster and we all set out.

Today our group did the rolling discs first, then walked toward the round yard to find another group heading there also, so we went down to the moving target. Once we had finished and scored there, we headed across to start the field course. For this shoot we had a 20 x 3D target x 2 arrows (both scoring), shooting from the orange peg on the way down, having a break at the tea tent which is set up near the end of the course, then shooting from the blue peg back up toward the camp. I have taken some photos to show the same targets from the two different shooting positions. Once we had completed the course, from both plates, we headed to the round yard to do the 30 sec Speed round.

The old practice butts had been stacked against the steel rails and 3D targets placed in front of them. There was a starting point, an orange circle, and then shooting positions, marked in blue with the target number noted. So you had to move from one blue spot to the next to shoot the appropriate 3D target in 30 seconds and then go back through the targets should there be any remaining time. There were many comments on the format as it was not as easy as it first appeared.

Once everyone had returned and enjoyed some lunch and a cool drink, I did the presentations as timely as I could, thanked one and all for joining us, with a very big Thank You to Tamara for all the work she puts into setting out and placing all the targets, in order to make every Trad shoot held at Chevallan Archery Park individual. This one also had us venturing into places not shot in before. I then wished everyone a merry festive season, safe travels and looked forward to next years' events.

*On the weekend of Dec 1 / 2 The White Rose Archery Klub Inc in Victoria, held a Xmas Shoot which included holding the AGM. The archers all arrived on Saturday morning, coming from Renmark and Mannum SA and down from Broken Hill NSW. One fellow was coming across with his family from Shepparton Vic, unfortunately his shoulder wasn't functioning correctly so he wasn't able to make it.

The location of the archery property at Irymple is, although on the Calder Highway, situated at the front and in the middle of 24 acres of sultana grapes combined with various citrus trees, and just as the archers were set to start after lunch the neighbour popped in to advise he would be watering later in the afternoon, and that meant the cars needed to be moved away from the boundary fence.

They commenced shooting on the left hand side of the shed doing the rolling discs and the windmill, had a break and the ladies served cool drinks and nibbles before continuing on, to the right hand side of the shed, where the 3 little pigs were under a tree and for a challenge, one had to hit the pig in the eye instead of the score zone. All was going well, until one chap hit the pig, which turned it around to have its little tail to shoot at – the challenge was set down, and accepted, with the result being, success!! Behind the 3 piggies was a small 2D triceratops and one needed to kneel or sit to have a clear shot of the target. This shot was also made a little more interesting, as the neighbour had turned the water on to irrigate his orchard and as the stream of water oscillated it would spray the archer across the back of the legs as they shot by the castle wall. It was only a little off putting, as you can imagine.

There was also a bear, the 3D dodo and some rabbits plus other targets. After the days shooting activities they sat around enjoying a few ales while the keg bbq was fired up to cook the beef, chicken and lamb, plus the ladies had made potato bake and salads, followed by ice cream and home grown white peaches for desert, freshly picked from the boundary trees. A veritable feast by the sounds of it. This was followed by the AGM.

Once the meeting was adjourned they glued some glow sticks onto the rolling discs and the 2 ducks on the windmill and commenced to have some evening shooting fun. There are a couple of photos in the sequence where a flash has been used so you can "see" what they were shooting at, and then one without the flash and all you can see is the pretty lights. Now that, looks like a lot of fun, then a drink or two with some conversation amongst friends, to bring the evening to a close.

On Sunday in the cool of the morning they shot the windmill and the static targets once again, followed by a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs, to allow everyone to pack up and be on the road, as most had a ways to travel.

The shoot, as always, was a lot of fun and enjoyed by everyone who was able to make it.

Once again Roadie has put on a successful shoot, and we will do our best to support him in his Traditional endeavour. Looking forward to the 2019 events, and I know he is already planning for the Birthday Shoot Weekend May 25/26, 2019.

*Over the weekend on January 5/6, 2019 a few of our members gathered at Chevallan Archery Park to celebrate the life of one of our original founding members whose life slipped away during the festive season, and to also remember a couple of other members that passed during the year. We arrived around 2.30pm Saturday afternoon to find everyone rather relaxed and enjoying conversation around the table near the showers. We enjoyed the shade for a little longer then headed down to the course. As this was an impromptu shoot we weren't expecting any targets to be out, however Tamara had put out quite a few carpets targets plus some of the older 3D targets for us to shoot at. To add a little bit of adventure to target 3 we decided to try and get to the target by shooting through a small gap in one of the branches - most of us got through, perhaps not as cleanly as we would have liked, and one fellow, well the photo tells the story, one very colourful arrow stuck in the branch. I also have to tell you that we may have made it through the gap, we didn't hit the target, that task was only completed by a couple of the archers. At one of the other targets my little arrow managed to hit smack bang in the middle of a vine that was sitting "on the way" to the target. We had our usual fun at the swing set and realised we had better head back up in order for me to head to town with Tamara for pizza pickup, which we enjoyed with a wonderful sunset view. During the evening we toasted our lost friends and shared many memories, and discovered we have a few members can play the guitar, and most of us cannot sing, at all! Still, it was fun.

Sunday morning dawned and was a little overcast, so following a hearty bacon and egg breakfast and a few shots at the practice butts, with flu flus in hand (or quiver) we headed over to shoot the popinjay. This was the late members masterpiece, so I got everyone to line up and loose at the same time.... well almost at the same time. After a quite a few rounds of Popinjay we collected a couple of late arrivals and headed down to the course. The first target was a croc set up on a dirt mound, and we stood beside one chaps camp to take the shot. At target 3 we had another go at shooting through the V in the tree, with a little more success today. We also had the usual fun at the swing set and also shooting at the targets in the open paddock from various distances, and angles. One we used as a walk up shot then spent quite a few minutes looking behind it for all the overshoots. On the way back to the shed for an early sausage and salad lunch we played pick a spot on many of the targets- well it was more "pick a gap in the shrubbery and shoot through it".

We celebrated life while missing our friends at the same time, and are looking forward to our first 2 day shoot in February.

* At the time of printing, Trad shoots confirmed for Apr/May 2019 are: NAFA Traditional Rendevous, Yatala Qld 20/21 Apr, Chevallan Archery Park Trad shoot Apr 27/28, Gladstone Longbow and Recurve Muster May 4/5, White Rose Irymple Vic May 25/26, European Match Play Bega NSW May26

** Reports for Chevallan Archery Park Qld, Twin City Bowmen Trad Albury NSW, Bega Valley Archers Asian Experience, Granite Belt Stanthorpe will be in the next edition. The Andy Firth Memorial Shoot being held at the end of March will be in the following edition.

For the readers who are on Facebook, check out Travellin' Round the Trads, 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. ☺