

Around the Trads 2019.3

*The Wednesday morning 20th Feb prior to the Trad shoot weekend a cyclone named Oma was hanging around the mid Qld coast and had intensified to a Category 3. They kept saying it was possibly going to head south and cross the coast somewhere between Gladstone and the Gold Coast. The shoot to be held at Chevallan Archery park, on the weekend Feb 23/24, falls within this region and we had considered calling off the shoot, however by Wednesday afternoon the cyclone had weakened and the cyclone watch was cancelled, so we decided to go ahead with the weekend. I issued an email and a notice to say the shoot was on, with a fee reduction, as some of the targets from the lower lying areas had been removed, just in case we did get some "predicted" rain. I had already received notice that quite a few would not be coming due to the weather forecast, which was fair enough.

Come Friday morning and they were predicting the now Category 1 cyclone to head north, so 3 of the removed targets were put back into place, just one small glitch, I had removed the numbers from the scorecards. Oh, I am sure we will cope.

We arrived mid-afternoon Friday, to blue skies, sunshine and a moderate breeze, and a few campers were set up already. I wandered down and helped mark out the clout range, shooting this event was going to be rather interesting tomorrow.

We sat around the communal table outside the shower with refreshments following tea and watched the moon rise over the mountain top.

On Saturday morning a few more joined us and around 8.15am I thought most had already arrived, so was about to do the Muster when a car pulled up in the driveway and a family jumped out. They had seen the flyer and the son and his friend wanted to have a go. The son had been there before at one of the birthday parties held last year, where the kids had shot a couple of novelties. The kids' friend had a bow bag with him and a quiver in his hand and I could tell by the shape of the bow bag it was a non-traditional bow. I figured the kid had come to shoot and wasn't aware we were a Trad club, so we let him shoot with his friend and it soon become apparent he had been shooting for quite some time too.

It was just as easy to let them come around in the group I was in, so the new kid could learn from all of us on the way, plus we explained some of the history that went along with the events. He was most excited when he hit his first 3D target.

Doing the clout wasn't the easiest as we were shooting down range into a very stiff cross wind, so you seemed to be drawing the bow back and shooting way off to the right to get the arrows on line, and then coming back the other way, one needed to shoot off to the left – was a little annoying when the breeze stopped and the arrow just kept heading left..... damn!!! Those who shot it in the afternoon thought they might not have to content with the breeze, however, they were incorrect.

There was a group at the novelties up the top, so we headed down to the field course. The new kid didn't quite get target 1, however the hunt round was next and he did really well, as he didn't get a chance to think too much about the shot, and he now realised he could do this. Mum was always giving words of encouragement while Dad was very laid back.

We continued around to complete the field course then walked up to the moving target and the young fellows dad ran it for us. Our group then did the 45sec speed round. This event had been set up in the round yard, with the six targets around the back of yard and the orange markers were placed in an arc toward the front of the yard. The first and last targets were closer shots than the two middle one, and once again the new kid did really well. Events complete, now it is time for lunch.

The kids finished their lunch pretty quickly and asked if they could go and do the rolling disks which they had done before at the party, so we let them go. Once we finished lunch and had a little relax the 3 of us headed down to do the Lolly-popinjay, and left the kids at the discs with dad rolling for them. Up to this point Dad had been very quiet and was happy just to watch and walk around, however he certainly came out of his shell at the rolling disc, and when we arrived he was more than keen to roll for all of us. I think he's found a calling. Then we all went to do the Popinjay and we were shooting into the head wind which was still blowing quite strongly, and as much as we tried to correct all we could do was watch our flu flus fly mostly off course. I am sure we wouldn't be the only group. The days shooting was now complete, time to relax, still the young fellows asked if they could shoot at the rolling discs some more, so we left them too it.

One chap had working Saturday morning and didn't arrive until about 2.30pm so we grabbed a score sheet for him and we went around while he shot for a score and we shot for fun. Although we were moving quite fast,

we weren't rushing, yet we finished the entire "days" shooting rather quickly and were all back by 4.30pm. The Top Everyone shoot didn't happen, and I don't think anyone was too fussed.

I entered the scores and was just waiting on one group, so I walked across to the table outside the shower where everyone was gathered with their chips, dip, cheese, nuts and many refreshments and was handed the last groups scores. So after I grabbed some nibblies I went back into the house to enter them, however something was odd. I put in the first archers score who was a very new archer, and thought to myself, "she did really well, getting a few tens", then entered the next score, thinking "wow that's also quite a few tens" – oh dear, quickly looked at the other two scoresheets which also only had 10's and 5's. So I walked over to get confirmation, yes they had only scored 10's and 5's, never mind it won't take me long to change all the other scoresheets. I just had to explain to everyone the scores on the computer were now higher than they would remember, and explained why. Everyone was really happy with the thought of better scores, as you would be too.

A very enjoyable evening meal of bbq meat with salads followed by ice cream and cheesecakes, plus a couple of us had picked some passionfruit that are growing on the course to add to our dessert. Now it's time to adjourn to the communal table for refreshments and enlightened conversation.

There had been quite a few strong gusts of wind during the night, and we arose to a cooler overcast Sunday morning. Our additional group members weren't coming back today, so the 3 of us headed out earlier than usual. We did the rolling discs then headed to the speed round, where the group was just about to finish, so we waited and issued comments of support for the last archer, as she was doing quite well for a very new archer. She and her daughter had driven from Warwick to join their relatives for a fun archery weekend.

After we shot the speed round we headed to and shot target 1 and with groups at the hunt round and targets 2 and 3, we walked on to target 4 which was the gamble shot. Being a small group we were able to keep well ahead of the other archers and were first to get to the tea tent, so boiled the 2nd kettle as well, ready for the next group.

Once the field course was finished I phoned the house to asked someone to come down and run the moving target for us, perhaps automation would be an idea. This event completed we walked across to do target 3 then 2, and the hunt round, then headed back. By now the day had warmed a little, however the clouds were looking a little greyer. Time for a much deserved cuppa, we thought!

I waited for a couple of the groups to come back before I started to enter the scores and was told by one group there had been a misunderstanding so the first few targets had been scored as 10 and 5 until another group corrected them. So to make it fair for all I converted all 8's to 10's. As I was re-entering the scores I could hear the rain on the roof. It was now 11.40ish so there was only one group that was still to come in. It was only a light shower of much needed rain, and a lot more was needed.

Most had just finished lunch as I came out with the medals and the final scores. There was only 3 off us to eat so I pressed on with the presentations so those who needed to travel could get away.

Despite Mother Natures' attempt to dampen our enthusiasm it was a very enjoyable weekend for all of those who attended and we now look forward to our next 2 day shoot being held April 27/28.

*Southwest Bowmen in WA held the TAA State Titles over the weekend of February 2/3 and I received the following from one of the participants with changes made for grammar.

"We both had a great time at the TAA State Titles as the weather was absolutely perfect.

The shoot format was the same for both days being a 2 arrow 20 target 3D with both arrows scoring and a 2 arrow 14 target ifaa animal round. The 20th target of the 3D was 2 arrow at rolling discs on the Saturday and 2 arrows at a running pig on the Sunday which you shot at the end of the day. You were put into shoot groups with a designated target number to start on. At the sound of the hooter everyone started shooting.

The club grounds are very small which doesn't allow shooting at more than one course/novelty at the same time.

Lunch was served on Saturday before the start of the shoot and after the shoot on Sunday. There was a dinner on Saturday night which we didn't stay for as we were staying with family. Some people camped at the club and I believe that they had a good night.

Considering their lack of space and experience in hosting these type of shoots they did an excellent job, we will definitely be shooting there again next year."

From me: I have also spoken to another participant who has given the club some further suggestion for running the Trad event next year.

*The south east coastal region of Qld had been receiving various amounts of rain, and it was good to see that the Trad day being held by ANAAs Sunshine Coast Bowmen Inc was still going ahead as at Saturday evening. We had quite substantial falls overnight, so headed out not Sunday morning March 17 to their club grounds near Forest Glen not sure what to expect. By the time we arrived there was blue sky and even some sunshine, yet the dark clouds were looming on the horizon. There were 35 Trad archers all set for a day of fun regardless. At this club, due to the compact layout of the courses, the groups are put together and then we all go out to our allotted target numbers and wait for the signal to start shooting. As you wander through the course it is almost as if you are the only group out there. We could hear voices and laughter, and only saw a couple of groups as we went through.

As it had been raining and more was due, for this shoot they decided to use the vinyl targets on normal course butts, and then moved the Trad peg away from the usual shooting position. This still made for some very interesting shots through the foliage on the 20 target by 2 arrow round.

When we had finished and returned to the clubhouse area, someone had been very busy cooking, and there were some very yummy sausages, care of the local butcher, which we had on bread with the onions first of course, plus some salad.

There had been no rain at all in the morning while we were shooting, it was unfortunate that as we were eating lunch the showers started again, so the days shooting was declared finished and the presentations were done. They had medallions for first place and big blocks of chocolate for 2nd and 3rd place. They then asked was everyone agreeable with the prizes, to which most responded "yes" – except me I wanted chocolate for first place too, all in jest, of course.

Once again it was fabulous morning, spent at the Sunshine Coast Bowmen Trad day, despite Mother Natures best effort to disband us.

The next Full day Trad shoot is being held at Chevallan Archery Park near Gympie on June 23 and the Sunshine Coast Bowmens' next day Trad shoot is August 18. Until then, please enjoy the photos.

*The following report was received from one of the participants: The Twin City Bowmen Inc at Albury NSW held their Traditional shoot over the weekend of March 16/17, with the weather being cool in the mornings and a little warmer in the afternoons. There were 60 archers gathered, quite a few from Qld, some from Melbourne, others Dunolly and Irymple and also Bega plus the Shoalhaven area of NSW.

On Saturday morning everyone was put into groups and set out to do the 1st field course which consisted of 20 pegs where there were 2 targets at each peg, and 1 arrow shot at each target. Then after lunch there was another 20 Novelty Targets to shoot at, some with 1 arrow, some 3 or even 4 arrows depending on the actual target. One target had 3 crows of different sizes which you to try and knock down, each one with one arrow and then scoring accordingly. Another was a yellow daffodil where you were to shoot the centre fire then each petal with varying scores and then the bumble bee for the major prize of 50 points. There was also King Kong with a damsel – shoot at King kongs heart and hit the damsel by mistake, then you lose points. There was also a Hot Rod with circles of different sizes representing 1st gear, 2nd gear, 3rd gear had different scores.

Particularly challenging was Pinocchio with his exceptionally long coloured nose.

Once the 2nd field course was done, it was onto the novelties, just one small minor technical detail, the moving target wasn't, so onto the long shot using flu flus where only a couple of shots actually hit the target.

Then there was a Knockout Competition where archers shoot against one another and the lesser score is eliminated until there is only one archer left winning a Bottle of "Refreshment"

The tables for Saturday evenings dinner, which is included in the shoot fee, were set up outside with various meats and many salads, and just as most had sat down to enjoy the meal, it started to rain. So everyone grabbed their meals and headed for cover, and then the rain stopped. Dinner over and a few drinks with enjoyable conversation and off to bed.

On Sunday morning there was a 3rd field course all 3D animals shooting 1 arrow only. Once complete a short break, then out onto a 4th course of the old ABA black and white targets where the score zones of A B and C were only the heart and lung shots of each animal, and this too was shot as a 1 arrow round scoring 20 for A, 18 for B and 16 for C.

Once everyone was back in the scores were soon tallied and the presentations were done. Most of the locals packed up and left on Sunday afternoon, and some who had further to travel left early Monday morning.

They are looking forward to next years shoot.

*The Asian Experience Trad shoot at Bega Valley Archers was cancelled.

*Trad shoots confirmed for June/July 2019 – HVTA The Gathering 8/9 June, Coffs Harbour Trad shoot 15/16 June, Chevallan Archery Park Trad day June 23, Jules Shield Lakeside Bowmen July 6/7, Chevallan Archery Park July 20/21, Bega European Matchplay July 28

*Reports from confirmed shoots: Andy Firth Memorial at HVTA, NAFA Trad Rendevous, Chevallan Archery Park, Gladstone Longbow and Recurve Muster, and White Rose at Irymple will be in the next issue.

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, 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. 😊