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Issue 18

Your Quarterly Traditional Archery Australia News

“Promoting and Protecting Traditional Archery in all forms”

Sticks And Strings



Every club has a Greg, Gav or Owen!

The people in your own club might not have the given names of Greg, Owen or Gav but, they definitely go about their business like Greg, Owen and Gav.

Now, I better clarify where I am going with this:

In my local club we are blessed to have a couple of blokes who just get things done with no fuss.

Always the first to arrive and the last to leave any working bee. Mowing, whipper snipping, making target bales, sourcing the plastic to fill the bales, making multiple bow racks, cooking the BBQ, filling the esky and just getting things ready for every shoot. These are just a few of the chores that just get done without hesitation.

With 2024 nearly done and dusted, I thought I would say thank you to all the “Greg, Owens and Gavins” at every club.

We all appreciate your commitment to your local TAA Club and look forward to seeing you all next season.

Cheers,

Tim Fox

Traditional Archery Australia

President

Welcome to the 2024-2025 TAA Committee

President - Tim Fox

Vice President - Kevin Smoothy

Treasurer - Bonnie Cabrini

Secretary - Michael Campbell

Membership - Zanette Williamson

Score Recorder - Beth Allott

National Coach/Public Officer - Les Simpson

Web Manager - Alex Allott

Club Communication - Alison Goodwin

& Tane Hardwick

Hunt Adviser /Risk & Safety Officer - Chris Nelson

Traditional Skills - Perry Jackson

Shoot Director - Shane Morris

Thank you for your patience as the new committee transitions into their roles.

During this period, there may be delays in responding to communications and a handover process for certain responsibilities.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that our committee and social media pages are managed entirely by dedicated volunteers who generously donate their time and effort to ensure we can all enjoy our sport.

Your understanding and support during this time is greatly appreciated .

Brought to you by the
Traditional Archery Australia
Management Committee
All for Archery

The story of the "Boomerang Bows"

Not that long ago, a generous bloke who wishes to remain anonymous (Scott Porteous) of the Gín Gín Club) approached me with 2 custom made "Grínga" kíd longbows. These two bows were made for his sons when they were younger. Now that the boys have grown out of the bows, Scott wanted them to go to other junior archers who need an upgrade.

After a quiet drink and a few not so quiet drinks we both agreed that the bows would become "Boomerang Bows" – meaning that they would be given to young archers who are in need and deserving of an upgrade.

When the young archers grow out of the bows, they return to either Scott, the Shoot Director, or the local archery club to be regifted to the next budding archers.

Congratulations to Kelly Nelson from Far North old on being the first recipient of one of the Boomerang Bows. Kelly is a very deserving young archer who is already putting the "Grínga" Longbow to good use.

A huge thank you to Scott Porteous and his sons for donating these one-of-a-kind bows to the TAA family. I am looking forward to seeing these bows in action around the shoots for many years to come.



*Tim Fox
TAA President*

IS YOUR PACK PREPARED?

G'day everyone, with the holiday season coming up and people aspiring to getting away, figured we should start with packs while out in the bush. Many of you would be all over what works for you. This list is intended to throw some ideas around as each pack will differ from person to person. At the end of the day, do what works for you.

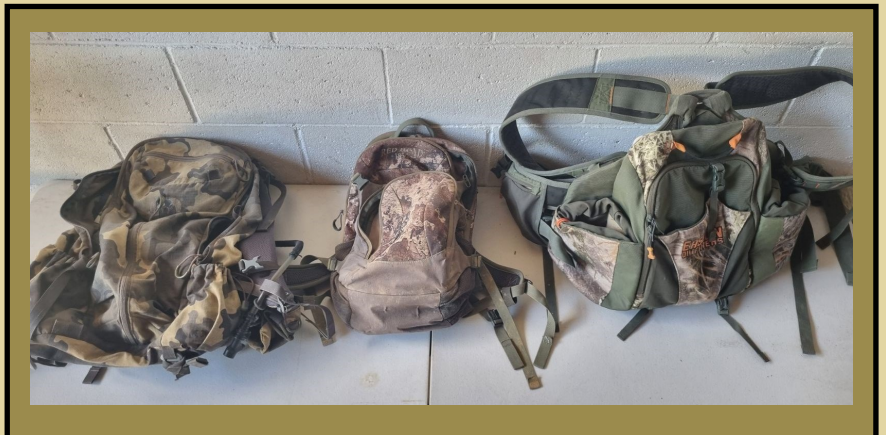
THE PACK - Lets start with the pack itself. A pack doesn't have to be anything flash, it doesn't have to cost a small fortune as long as its comfy and suits your needs. Depending on where you live, the weather and even the game you're chasing, your pack can vary from large to small or even a hip bag. In a hot area having something that's hanging off your back may not be as comfortable as having a hip bag which could allow better air flow to your back attempting to stay cooler. On the flip side, in colder country a pack on your back can help keep the chill out. There are stacks of options out there.



WATER - Having Water on a hot day can almost be as good as a cold beverage. Having a couple of litres should go without saying when walking in the scrub even in winter. Having a spare bottle in addition to a water bladder for example, camelback can become the hydration reserve to get back to camp. Even if you are only doing a 5 minute walk. It doesn't hurt to out a water bottle in your back pocket. It doesn't take much for a quick run around a dam to turn into a hike of you see something you want to go after, and next minute you are a mile from where you started.

FIRST AID - A first aid kit doesn't hurt, after all, we live in Australia! Having 2 or 3 bandages can help to treat most things. A snake bite kit is worth your consideration.

BLADES/SHARPENERS - Now we have covered first aid, lets talk about sharp, pointy things. There are a lot of knives out on the market and finding what works for you, like with everything is key. A good knife or 2 that holds a sharp edge will help to cut out a jaw, butcher your fresh harvest or cape



out your skin. Bigger is not necessarily best in this situation. Having a steel and/or blade sharpener will help keep your knives and broadheads sharp in the go. Nothing worse than trying to work with a butter knife in these situations.



CABLE TIES AND ROPE - When hunting/bush walking, its best where possible to only carry in your hands your bow. By having a small supply of cable ties or a length of paracord on hand becomes handy to attach anything to the outside of your pack for example, hindquarters, cape, meat bag etc. Tip: A pig jaw cable tied to the back of your pack is great to help keep the flies out of your face.

COMPASS/NAVIGATION - A compass, GPS, UHF or even a phone these days with maps is a good way to help you not get turned around. If you are waling alone make sure at least someone knows where you're going. On a side note having an emergency beacon can be a good thing if you are in an area with no phone service. It may be better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it. There is so much information available online for these devices, doesn't hurt to look.



TORCH - A torch or headlamp helps at the end of a late afternoon hunt. It beats tripping over in the dark. Also good to help signal for help and look for cats and foxes up hollow logs. Don't forget spare batteries.

DUNNY ROLL - It goes without saying what its main use is for, helps when its dry so pack it in some plastic, you don't want to come back sleeveless or missing a sock. Just make sure to bury it to help keep our country looking good. It can also be used as a fire starter. You can hang it from a tree to



mark a spot you may need to come to later (just not like Halloween!)

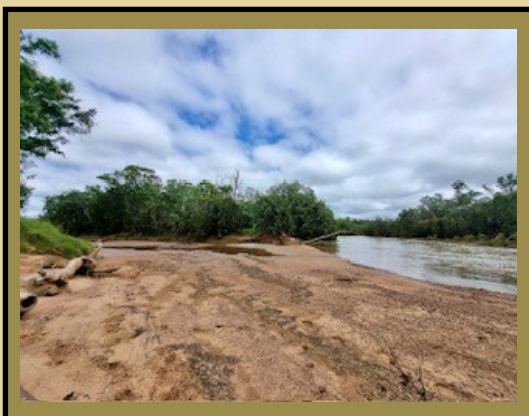
MEAT BAGS - If you plan to carry out meat from an area you are hunting in, keeping the meat clean and dirt free - a meat bag is the way to go. You can get the fancy game or meat bags if you like, but a pillow case will do the trick.

BINO'S - yes, typically not in your pack. However if they save you from stalking in on a stump pig, cos some of us have done it - you know who you are. A set of 10x42 is the general go to. Any more magnification than 10 can start to get tricky to stabilise.

This is just some pack ideas if you are new to hunting, enjoy bush walking and getting out to take in your surroundings, take from it what you will. Its not intended as a must have list or a perfect pack set up.

As for me, my pack can change depending on what I'm chasing, the area I'm in, how far I'm going and how long I plan to be out .

There are some amazing knowledge getting around in our communities. Don't be afraid to ask anyone for their guidance , most experienced people are happy to share.



We would love to hear your thoughts. Is there something in your pack that is a must have for you?

Is there anything you would recommend in addition?

Keep your broadheads sharp and see you next time.

Chris Nelson
Hunt Adviser: Risk & Safety Officer

Mossman Archery Club 2024 Invitational



Each club's shoot offers a unique experience, from the targets to the terrain, novelties to raffle prizes.

Mossman Archery Club stands out as the *Reef & Beef Kings!*



Picture this: lining up for your Saturday night dinner, plate in hand, and being greeted with a mouthwatering selection of reef fish, mud crabs, prawns and steak.

Participants were absolutely blown away by the delicious seafood smorgasbord. It was an unforgettable experience that left everyone going back for seconds.

ENDURO



2024 Archery Enduro Series

In 2023, Tenterfield hosted a new shoot format in the form of an Enduro. This format is not to replace any of our Trad Shoots which we all love. The Enduro is designed to challenge any archer who is looking for a bit more. Age is no barrier, and neither is your ability. Competitors ranging in age from 13 to 60 plus years have made it to the final hour of the day. Your only real rival is yourself.

The two most important rules of the Enduro 1# Have fun. 2# There is only one campfire, and everyone gathers around the campfire before and after the event. This is to bring everyone back together to share their stories, team tactics, compare cramps, sore feet, aching joints and lots of laughter.

The competition – Two ranges will be set of similar degree of difficulty and length of course. Usually 20 targets on each range. These can be 3d, vinyl or a combination of both. Score zones are 5, 10, 15.

Everyone shoots in the same division.

Competitors are put into pairs and allocated a time mark.(example, 8:10am on range 1 with your next round to start at 9:10 on range 2 and then 10:10 on range 1 again and so on.) Each pair has 1 hour to complete their allocated course with a short rest before they embark on their second round and following rounds until the archer cannot get around within their hour or they cannot reach the points allocated for that round.

A minimum of one arrow must be shot at every target on your allocated range even if you have already accumulated the points for that round.

50 points is required for the first round. Even though this can be attained in just a couple of targets, one arrow must be shot at every target on the rest of the round.

Each hour you must accumulate an extra 50 points per round.

Previous Enduro events this year has seen archers shoot for up to 10 hours straight and up to 525 arrows during the event.

Managing yourself throughout the day is important. The hosting club will usually provide fruit and light refreshments throughout the day to help your energy levels.

This year there was 3 events scheduled for the season. North Burnett Traditional Archers, Chinchilla Archers and Tenterfield Traditional Archers. Thankyou to each of these clubs for being open to something different and look forward to visiting your clubs again to see what challenges you have for us.

Any clubs interested in hosting a round of the Enduro series are encouraged to contact the new TAA Shoot Director Shane Morris or Mick from Tenterfield Traditional Archers.

See you all on the range soon!!

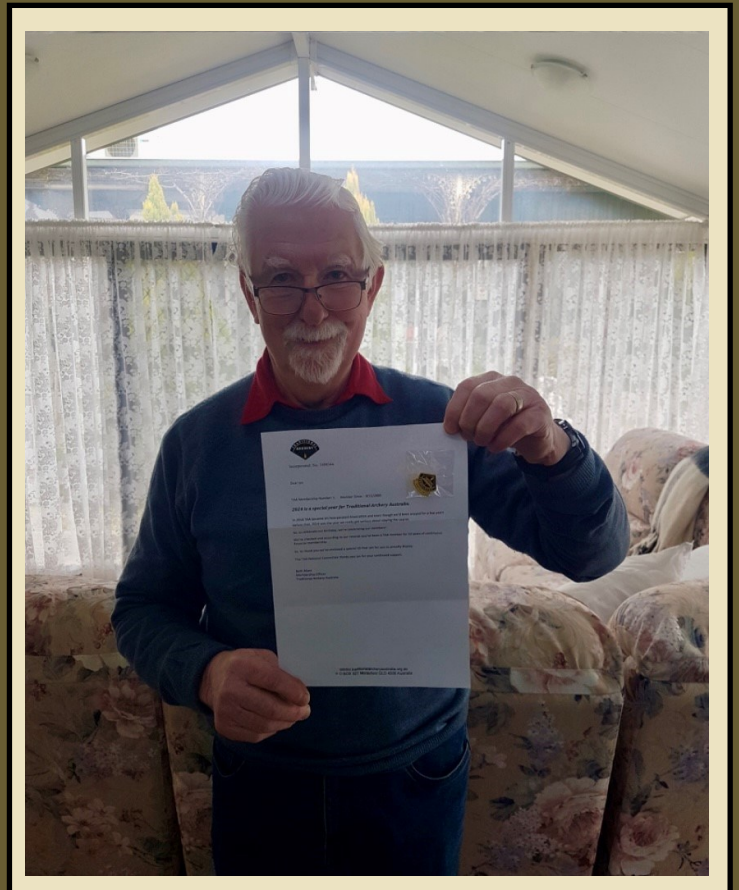
Celebrating 10 Years

To commemorate our 10-year anniversary, we proudly recognized our 10-year financial members - those who have maintained uninterrupted membership for a decade - with a special anniversary lapel pin. Among the recipients was our esteemed founding member, Ian Fenton, affectionately known as "Number One."

Thank you for the very special 10th. year anniversary badge received; I am absolutely stoked. Please convey my heartfelt congratulations to all TAA executive and members. This is a historic milestone for the sport in Australia and everybody concerned should hold their head up high.

To Les Simpson and Keith Speight, you must be very proud of what you and your teams that followed have achieved over the decade... a supreme effort by you all and an ongoing success story for Traditional Archery into the future.

I am a very proud man to be a member of this unique organisation. Again, thank you for your much appreciated celebration badge."



Ian Fenton

Bill Baker Memorial Trophy



The 2024 Bill Baker Memorial Trophy was recently presented at the Tully Invitational Shoot, recognizing the top male and female shooters who utilized traditional bows and wooden arrows. This year, the esteemed award was given to Kevin "Pop" Smoothy and Nadia Bonnell, both members of the Brotherhood of Bowmen who journeyed from Southern

Tim Fox, a teammate and close friend, presented the award to Kev and Nadia. It was clearly an emotional moment, with a slight crack in his voice and a hint of moisture in his eyes.

Kev is no stranger to receiving accolades in his archery career, having achieved success on both national and international stages. However, this particular award held a special significance for him due to his personal connection with Bill Baker.

TAA National Muster 2024

The Traditional Archery Australia (TAA) National Muster hit the bullseye this year! Hosted by the Barambah Bowhunters and Field Archers, this event brought together traditional archers from all corners of the country for a weekend filled with camaraderie, fellowship, and, of course, some epic archery action.

This year's Muster was jam-packed with exciting activities that showcased the incredible skills and dedication of the archery community. From field and novelty events that tested archers on unique courses and terrains to tomahawk and knife throwing that added a competitive edge, there was never a dull moment. Well, except if you missed the moving crocodile and had to retrieve their missed arrows from the mud – that part was a bit of a struggle!

One of the highlights of the event was the Hawkeye Shoot, a test of precision and accuracy that had archers aiming for a small, coloured dot on a target set at varying distances. This highly competitive event was a crowd favourite, with archers showing off their skills and supporting each other in a lively and spirited atmosphere. Sledging was not only allowed but encouraged, adding an extra layer of fun to the competition.

An encouraging total of 9 sets of arrows were submitted for the Arrow Craftsmanship Awards. Due to the stringent craftsmanship criteria no one achieved a Master Fletchers Award this year. All arrows were well made and the fletchers were very keen to discuss the areas they needed to address to lift their arrows to the next level. Kev Smoothy was awarded a Craftsmanship Certificate. Overall, conversations regarding the reinvigoration of the Archery Crafters Guild was very encouraging.

Overall, the TAA National Muster was a smashing success, bringing together archers of all levels to engage in some friendly competition and strengthen the bonds of this passionate community. Here's to many more years of arrow-slinging fun at this fantastic event!



CALLING ALL TAA CLUBS FAR AND WIDE!

Nominations are open for the 2025 National muster.

If you club has the grounds, ability, enthusiasm & man power then consider hosting the National Muster next year.

Nominations are open for NSW, VIC, WA, QLD and TAS.

The National Muster is a great chance to highlight your Club and a good excuse for all members to visit.

Throw your hand up and Nominate - dates can be organised later.

The nominations forms can be found on the TAA website:

<https://www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org/information-for-clubs>.

Nominations close 28th Feb 2025.

Please send all nominations to the TAA Secretary on Taasecretary23@gmail.com

Your Questions Answered

Why does TAA ask me if I'm in a TAA club/ Why doesn't TAA want to know about other TAA clubs I'm in.

This is a question that's been floating around for a little while and there's a little misinformation out there as well, the answer is a little long so grab a cuppa and have a read. If you've filled out the membership application form (online or on paper) you would remember we asked you if you were a member of an affiliated TAA club or another association. There are two reasons we ask the question.

One: It's a requirement of the TAA constitution that we ask you this, and that you tell us.

This question is influenced by the requirement for all regular members of TAA affiliated clubs to also be regular TAA members.

Here's the section of the constitution that details it for regular membership:

- ◆ 3.2.2 Application for TAA membership
 - 2) Application shall include reference to an affiliated club or state independence. This may be revised by notification to the secretary in writing at any time. *(note club singular)

Here's the section that requires clubs to have all members as TAA members:

- ◆ 3 Membership
 - 3.1 Affiliation
 - 1) Ordinary Affiliate Organisations shall as a provision of the Organisation's constitution, require that all members of the Organisation be financial members of the TAA.

Two: Statistics

- ◆ TAA has reporting responsibilities to our insurer and each year we provide our vital statistics so that we are adequately insured. Just like you tell your insurer the details of your home or car for those policies.
- ◆ One of the questions we are asked is "How many members are in affiliated TAA clubs"

So, bearing that in mind, if we recorded multiple club memberships against each member, when the time came to produce that statistic, it would be artificially inflated as the statistic is about the members not the clubs.

For instance: *If we have 10 TAA members, belonging to 2 clubs each, that will produce a statistic of 20 members (twice the actual number of members). Or if you have 10 TAA members, 8 belong to 2 clubs each and 2 are independent. That would give a result of 16 members in clubs. Still more than the actual number of TAA members.*

Where if you only report the primary club that members belong to: 10 TAA members, 8 belong to a primary club and 2 are independent. That gives a total of 8 members in clubs. Which is a correct statistical result.

When we ask Clubs for their membership list its about this section of the constitution:

- ◆ 3 Membership
 - 3.1 Affiliation
 - 1) Ordinary Affiliate Organisations shall as a provision of the Organisation's constitution, require that all members of the Organisation be financial members of the TAA.

That's a different matter so their ordinary members can be in multiple clubs and as TAA membership is a separate transaction to Club membership, it's just about assuring that the separate transaction has taken place, and everyone is properly insured.

So, there you have it, when TAA asks for the club you are a member of, it's not about allegiance or preference it's simply about the data. You can support as many clubs as you wish, and that's a good thing but just tell us about your home club, so we can get the numbers right.

Hopefully this clears up why TAA only holds details of one (1) TAA affiliated club against each ordinary membership.

Find us on Facebook

Check out TAAs Official
Facebook page

Traditional Archery Australia
Inc 1400344

@[https://www.facebook.com/
TraditionalArcheryAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/TraditionalArcheryAustralia)

Did you know your TAA membership allows you membership to TAA's "members only" Facebook group.

Join up and have access to an exclusive group of experienced archers for advice or to just connect.



Follow the link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/875784273270104/> or scan the QR code



Have you checked out Scoring Apps?



Are you tired of lugging around bulky folders and score sheets on the range? Say goodbye to broken pencils, faulty pens, and illegible scrawl! With scoring Apps on your mobile phone, you can easily keep track of your scores without the hassle.

These Apps are a game-changer, eliminating the need for paper and photocopy costs for the club. They work offline and are incredibly easy to set up. You can customize your event, create your own scoring systems, or use the preloaded options. Teams can be created and scores recorded after each target, making it a breeze to keep track of your progress.

Once the round is finished, you can easily email or show your scores to the score recorder. Say goodbye to the days of messy score sheets and hello to a more efficient and organized way of keeping track of your scores.

Get ready to revolutionize the way you keep score on the course with scoring Apps on your phone!



Easy 3D Score
Works well
for Apple
phones.



3D Skill Board
Works well
for Android
phones .

As the year draws to a close and we look forward to Christmas and the New Year, we are filled with excitement for the opportunities and adventures that lie ahead. This year has been a resounding success, with numerous clubs hosting events that have brought our community closer together. These events require months of meticulous planning and preparation, with every detail carefully managed.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering dedication of all the organisers, volunteers and those who tirelessly work behind the scenes. Their countless hours of hard work ensures a seamless and enjoyable experience for all participants and spectators. Their commitment and effort are the foundation of every successful event.

We encourage all members to continue their journey with us, to bring their enthusiasm and energy into the new year. Together, we can build on the strong foundation we've established, creating even more memorable moments and achieving greater heights.

Thank you all for being a vital part of our community. Your involvement and support are what makes us strong. Let's step into the New Year with renewed vigour and a shared commitment to making it the best one yet.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and lets step into the New Year with renewed vigour and a shared commitment to making it the best one yet.

Be safe !



If you've got this far and you're reading this, THANK YOU! We hope you've enjoyed it. Also, a big thank you to the Contributors and Proof Readers.

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 at taaeditor23@gmail.com or on the web www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org/contact

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

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to share their thoughts and ideas.

Thank you for your understanding and for being a part of our community



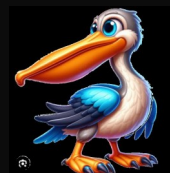
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