

In this issue >>>

- ◆ Focus on the Target - Greg Smith
- ◆ Behind the knock - Greg Smith
- ◆ Southwest Bowman
- ◆ Rainbow Coast Archers
- ◆ Tasmanian Muster 2024
- ◆ When the weather is ...

Issue 16



Your Quarterly Traditional Archery Australia News

"Promoting and Protecting Traditional Archery in all forms"

Sticks And Strings



Save the date >>> June - September

Alliance Events & Workshops

FNQ Bowman

5-7 July— Annual Muster

Chinchilla Archers

13 July – Enduro Round 2

Mossman Archery Club

26–28 July – Invitational Shoot

Maydaan Archers

28 July – Maydaan cup

North Burnett Field Archers

3–4 August - Invitational Shoot

White Rose Archery Klub

31 Aug. – 1 Sept - Asian Experience

Macarthur Traditional Archers

21-22 Sept - NSW State Muster

Focus on the Target...

Committee News
TAA National President
Greg Smith



"No news is good news so the saying goes!"

The alliance talks are still ongoing. Please remember that everyone involved in the process are volunteers with busy workloads in their respective organisations. Coordinating schedules among all parties involved can be a time-consuming process. Your patience and understanding are appreciated.

Les Simpson (National Coaching Co-ordinator) is also headfirst into the new coaching programme with updates to come soon.

Although the NSW State and National Musters (held in Qld) are still to come this year, we are already receiving 2025 nominations. I encourage all clubs to nominate themselves for upcoming musters. It would be great to spread the events across as many clubs as possible.

TAA is growing as an organisation and one of the reasons for this growth is our diversity. Whether your club is fully traditional, hunter or target orientated, we support all forms of archery. It does not matter if you shoot a bent or straight stick, or your bow has wheels - archery is archery. We respect everyone's individual choice. The purpose of TAA is not to govern your clubs. Our aim is to unite all clubs, embracing each unique atmosphere and style. This gives members the opportunity to experience the variety and challenges each club provides.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind our members that our committee and social media pages are run entirely by volunteers. These people donate their personal time, working together so that we may all enjoy the sport we love.

Recently there have been some unnecessary comments made on our social media platform; While we are all entitled to our opinions, I will remind members that the TAA Facebook page is not the forum to abuse, argue or disrespect each other. If you have issues or questions with the organisation or committee, you are reminded to contact them directly in the first instance. TAA will not tolerate keyboard warrior behaviour. This goes against our values and what we are trying to achieve within our organisation.

In closing, thank you to all the Clubs and Committee volunteers. Without your valuable contributions this organisation would not be where it is today.

Cheers

Greg Smith

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



Behind the Nock...A Spotlight on

Greg Smith

G'day Folks,

I've been asked several times to do a write up for our members about myself to which I have dodged heavily until now.

My Dad was a police officer in rural and remote towns in Queensland. My parents were both mad, keen hunters and loved fishing. This became part of our lives and still is to this day.

I'm very stubborn, big on respect, family and kids, mates and heritage. I attribute all of this to my parents and the Tully Bowhunters. (and the odd stick) I'm most at home up The Cape under a tree away from technology and people.

In the 80's during my apprenticeship as a carpenter, I entered the Field, Game Management and Feral Pig Trapping programme with QLD National Park and Wildlife to supplement my low income and my passion.

Several years later my mate's dad Billy Ware was on a jobsite and says to me "Son, how many years have I been telling you to slow down and take up the bow and see the bush?" "Forget the guns, dogs, traps, choppers and just open your eyes!" Thanks Bill, I'll never forget those words of wisdom from an old bowhunter.

My neighbour Ray Hardy says to me one day over a beer "Come out to the bowhunters club with me and have a go. My first hunting bow was a 70" PSE compound for a couple of months until John Tetzl sold me his Demon Howat Hunter 65" recurve. Mark Kimber made my Huntsman bow and now its an addiction.



This year makes 20 years of being on the committee starting with Target Master to Treasurer to Vice and President of the Tully Bowhunters Club. I'm still here with a passion for the club and members who I'm very proud to call our FAMILY.

As a hunter, to me its not about the trophy taken, (that's the easy part) its about the adventure, the stalk, the skill and knowledge to achieve this. More to the point, its about taking somebody out and passing that skill and knowledge on, helping them to achieve something.

The life skills that I have gained from the TULLY BOWHUNTERS and the elders of the club—Respect, Morals, Ethics and Family . These are the same values that my parents entrusted in us kids.

ARCHERY is my family.



These life skills have helped me in running my building company for 30 years and now as part of the TAA Committee where I started as a Club Rep to Vice to now President. I'm a hunter not a target shooter but each to their own—its that simple—respect.

So, without kids and young families you cant pass on history, respect, morals and ethics so we need to look after them, they are our future.

As volunteers in any of these organisations and clubs, it can be very frustrating. Especially when you give so much of your time. The reward is the big archery family we develop. Uncles, Aunties, Mates from all over this country.

We all come from different cultures, backgrounds and places but we stand united in our archery family.

Show those 4 simple things: RESPECT, MORALS, ETHICS and FAMILY.

Cheers

Greg Smith



Find us on Facebook

Check out TAAs Official Facebook page

Traditional Archery Australia Inc 1400344

@<https://www.facebook.com/TraditionalArcheryAustralia>

Did you know your TAA membership allows you membership to TAAs “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

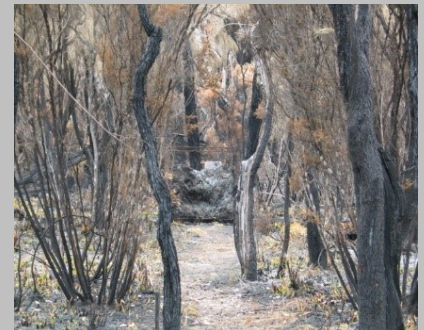


The Rainbow Coast Archers Inc Arson Incident

“A suspicious fire was ignited in the early hours of Oct 25th, 2023, in the nature reserve to the south of the Archery club. Incident number 644810. Fire was fanned by Easterly winds. Please see attached map of the fire area. ignition point was at -34.902978, 117.909025. When crews arrived, there was nobody on site and the location of the ignition was deemed as a deliberate act of arson. WA police were notified and attended the scene because of the suspicious nature of the fire.” Emergency Services Manager—City of Albany



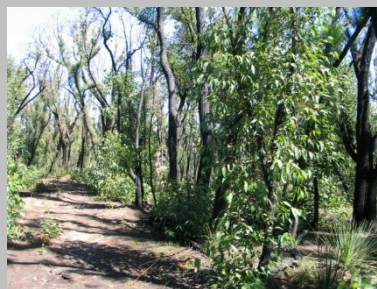
Access to the club by members was not permitted until the Saturday 4th of November while police investigations were undertaken. Quick action by the fire crews that attended the fire, managed to save the Club house, practice, and novelty ranges. All other areas of our lease were destroyed, which included 54 target butts on our Eastern, Western and 3D courses.



A grant from TAA and our club contents insurance allowed the long, slow process of refurbishment to proceed. The task of rebuilding 40 target butts was completed on the 13th April 2024.

One of the benefits to come out of the fire, was the redesigning of both courses which utilised the grounds more effectively. Much of the course design and hard work has been completed by Kevin Warnes (Range Captain). We certainly appreciate his efforts an enthusiasm during the long process to recovery.

Although the Albany region has received very little rain since October last year, nature too played its part with regeneration covering much of the blackened landscape.



Southwest Bowman

A discussion between Ken Hart & Lionel McLean in June 1983 about field archery in the southwest, led to a decision to start a local ABA club. Armed with intent, they proceeded to search the areas between Bunbury & Busselton for a suitable venue. An area adjacent to Giacci Sands in Hastie Rd Gellorup proved to be suitable. As it was private land, Ken approached the owners & gained permission for the use of the land. It was a large bush block with varied terrain & good slopes with room for more than just one field course.

December 1983 - Designs for club badges/logo were presented with the winning entry to Sharon McLean.

This design/logo remains today.

January 1984 - Ken & Lionel marked out the distances for two courses.

March 1984 - the inaugural ABA shoot was held at the grounds.

1987 - New grounds at Dobson Rd.

1989 - Permanent grounds at Boyanup. As it remains today.

January 2018 changed associations from ABA to TAA (Traditional Archery Australia)

Who would have thought that a cup of coffee in 1983, 41 years ago between Ken Hart & Lionel McLean would lead to this!

To celebrate this occasion on 2nd & 3rd of March 2024, we decided to combine the anniversary with an interclub fun shoot.

It was great to see that we had 70 + archers attend to make it such a fun weekend.



We invited one of our founding members Lionel to cut the cake before dinner.

Lionel made a short speech & was presented with a small thank you gift.

Lionel: "Starting a club although it takes work and endeavour is only a part of the whole.

What gives a club its longevity are the people who take up the baton along the way and we have been lucky to have and have had throughout our history.

We know who they are at this time and congratulations to them and all members".

A mixture of Field and 3D targets were used over the weekend. This made it a bit interesting for some groups who scored both targets the same. Lucky it was a fun shoot. A "farmers pet" was added to the 3D course and with no bino's or range finders allowed, it made for quite the challenge.





On behalf of Southwest Bowmen we would like to thank everyone for supporting & helping the Southwest Bowmen celebrate our awesome 40th Interclub fun shoot.

Thankyou to the SWB members for coming together as a team in the leading up & during the weekend a great team effort!



NEWS UPDATES

Have you seen our new web page?

@<https://www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org>

Head on over to the “News” tab for breaking info from the TAA National Committee, or follow the link.

<https://www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org/blog>



Tasmanian Muster 2024

Over the weekend of the 24th to the 26th of May the Break O'Day Traditional Archery Club pulled out all the stops to ensure a fun time was had for all when hosting the second Tasmanian TAA Muster.

Friday afternoon (the 24th) we opened the practise range so archers could come and sight their bows. There was a bit of discussion on what the field range was like, but we kept most things a secret with offering, 'there was three 3D targets out there and the rest of the field targets are a set of African Safari targets. As most of the attendee's had not shot this set of targets before, everyone was pretty excited. The 3D crocodile target half submerged in the creek bed and the large red back spider hanging on lane 20 were a welcome surprise and the cute little 3D bunny rabbit on a shorter lane – not so scary.

Saturday dawned a lovely crisp Tasmanian morning. Two ring-ins from Queensland, Mick O'Brien and Jill Bricknall, were finding it especially 'chilly'. Striking into the bush to complete our 3-arrow round, there was a great sense of comradery within each group, and this stayed for the whole weekend. Everyone was nice and relaxed, so it was a very pleasant time, enjoying the great outdoors.

Unfortunately for Nicola Oliver, the great outdoors included six leeches who decided to catch a ride on her legs. Naomi Robertson was so worried that she was also going to become an unwilling host for leeches that she perfected a weird sort of dance move every time she had to wait for the next shot. Reminiscent of Elaine from Seinfeld, for all of us, old enough to remember that TV show.

Nearly everyone was in an 'historical influenced garb' of some sort. Getting dressed up makes for a good tournament. It adds that extra element, that separates it from a typical shoot. Peter Starr was in his medieval Robyn Hood kit; an oldie but a goodie. Neil Wright was rocking his surcoat, but it still needs that Dingo image on the back to truly portray a warrior's heroic feats in battle. Brady Young, as always donned his kingly garb and we let him pretend he was in charge of something. Yours truly had two days of historical fashion, because, let's face it, you cannot wear any of this kit down to the supermarket, so I wanted to get my monies worth out of my hand made historical wardrobe.

The novelty events on Saturday afternoon included the speed round, moving target and rolling disks. As always, what looks like it will be easy – is not always the case. Those moving targets (both the flying pig and rolling disks) are hard to hit. A big hoorah from the spectators when someone had success.



Sunday dawned, another spectacular blue sky; but decidedly crisp! With current scores known, the competitors adopted a 'game on' attitude with not much separating some of the men, Jack Smith and Neil Wright had only a few points between them. In the ladies group Marion Robertson was a clear early leader and, in the end, she was able to maintain this lead to the end line. The Pop-in-jay proved to be a big hit. David Hart especially thought it was great fun. I agree with him, as it is my favourite too. Mike O'Brien managed to score the highest on the Pop-in-jay with 20 points.

The one arrow round had everyone feeling the pressure and there was a bit of a drop in scores. There was a lot of good-natured ribbing and roasting going on. Good to see people feeling comfortable within the groups they were allocated for the tournament.

The trophy presentation showcased the different, hand carved works of art made by Tony Lawson-Brown. In all honesty, the trophies were one of the highlights of the Muster. I don't think there was any trophy presented that was not making it 'straight to the pool room' as soon as it got to its new home. Tony gave a thumb for those trophies, so we can honestly say that a lot of

'blood, sweat and tears' went into their making.

The scores will be posted on the TAA website soon. However, the overall male archer was Neil Wright, female was Marion Robertson and junior was Naomi Robertson.

As a small club, the Break O'Day Traditional Archery club, is all about having a good time and a bit of a laugh. We acknowledge many people have commitments or reasons they were unable to attend and this reflected in the small attendance numbers for the Muster. Our main aim is to host an awesome event where archers feel welcome and have a good time, whilst they compete in the sport they enjoy. This was definitely achieved at the Muster.

Hoping next year, we are just as successful in hosting the Tasmanian Muster weekend (obviously got to go through the process for applying), with everyone going home feeling good about themselves and their sport.



Wondering where you can buy official TAA Merch?

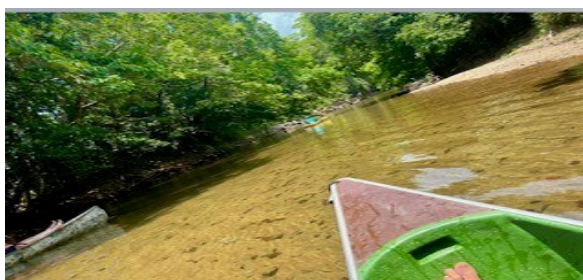
All our great Official TAA merchandise is coming soon to the TAA web store !



When the weather is this good...

Picture yourself gliding down a tranquil river in your canoe, the sun's rays dancing on the water while the melodies of birds and wildlife serenade you. As you paddle along, you catch a glimpse of a croc slide along the riverbank. When the weather is this good, the Tully Bowhunters club and friends grab their canoes and fishing gear for a day on the river.

The tranquillity of the early morning is broken with the occasional splash of a fish breaking the surface. The gentle lapping of the water against the sides of the canoes is soothing. Lures are cast into the water, eagerly anticipating a strike from a Barra, Jack or Sooty Grunter. Each tug on the line brings a rush of excitement and the promise of bragging rights. Soon the air is filled with shared stories, jokes, and laughter that reverberates through the trees.





Stopping at the edge of the river, casting a line from the riverbank while others swim in the cold shallows.

This really is the best of both worlds - fishing and swimming in the crystal-clear freshwater.

When the weather is this perfect in Far North Queensland, why would you want to be anywhere else?



As the sun sets and the stars twinkle above, the group gathers for a BBQ at the clubhouse.

The smell of sizzling sausages and juicy burgers fills the air as a few cold beers are cracked open and the stories of the days adventures are shared.

Laughter is heard, the simple pleasure of good food and great company.



As the embers glow, the crackling of the fire is the only sound to be heard in the stillness of the evening. The night ends with full bellies, warm hearts and the shared belief that to truly disconnect from the stresses of life, we need to first reconnect with the world around us!

July 13th & 14th
Chinchilla Archers
Healy's Crossing Road, Brigalow 4412



TAA ENDURO SERIES
Round 2
Enduro Shoot

\$50 nomination
Nominations due Sat 6th July

13th Enduro Shoot
14th Social Club Shoot

\$600 cash prizes

Email: chinchillaarchersinc@outlook.com
Tim - 0437 534221
Glen - 0499 992002
Get in early, numbers limited




ANNUAL MUSTER

5TH - 7TH JULY 2024

Meal package & Camping		Registration Fees	
Junior	\$40	Junior	\$25
Adult 16 Years +	\$90	Adult 16 Years +	\$35
Family 2 Adults 2 Children	\$260	Family 2 Adults 2 Children	\$100

Registration closes 30th June 2023
Go to our website to register or scan the QR code

<https://fnqbowmenarcheryclub.com.au/>
TAA, 3DAAA & ABA
Cross participation



REGISTER



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If you've got this far and you're reading this, **THANK YOU** for reading we hope you've enjoyed it. Also, a big thank you to the Contributors, 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.



Traditional Archery Australia

Preserving and Promoting Traditional Archery

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Publishing