



# ON TARGET

*Newsletter of the Buffalo Rifle Association of Australia*

**Issue 2 Feb 2013**

## APERTURE

Here we are again folk's round two of your club newsletter.

It's been a quiet month at BRAA due to weather constraints, pity there's no 1000 yd indoor range. But your Committee did meet to analyze the results of the Member Survey - thanks to all those who replied, and to discuss the forward direction of the club, it's facilities, match types and rules, ranges, finances and all those other mundane things that elected committees must do.

Main decisions reached are detailed in 'SHOT TO BITZ', being our column for reporting the month's activities.

Next, 'ON THE LINE' details changes to the upcoming program and events.

'BISON TALES' gives you the second installment of *'The Buffalo Rifle in History and Today'* and "GUNSMITH" continues to review the many BP Cartridges developed over history.

And just a gentle reminder, this is your newsletter and your input will make it a success, so get with the program and send us some interesting stuff to print .... *Please!*

Also we would like some feedback regarding anything else you would like to see in your newsletter.

But don't forget the editor reserves the right to exclude any matter that is controversial or confrontational.

Keep your powder dry ..... Sf

## THE POSSE

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## SHOT TO BITZ

What a bummer, nothing got shot in January, well nothing that I know of anyway. This was due to the hot dry weather making the fire risk much to great at Cooyal. We are told that even the grass couldn't be slashed due to the risk of a spark igniting the parched dry range. Let's hope that February is kind to us, but as I write this, the heavens have opened up outside (again) and we all need say a silent prayer that we don't have a bog at Cooyal next time. Beautiful one day .....

Soooo the most significant event this month for BRAA, was the committee meeting as programmed, with the venue moved to President Gary's ranch. Unfortunately not all the committee was there to enjoy the refreshments and vitals but we did have a quorum and lots of discussion produced a few notable decisions.

In all of the discussions, reference was constantly made to the Members Survey 2013. The survey had 27 responses and Bill kindly had compiled a summary. This summary is available to all members and copies will be at the next shoot for your perusal.

**Membership** is slowly growing with resignations due mostly to the inactivity of the member and not any unhappiness with the club itself. We have some new members join this year and it has been decided to let the club grow naturally and unlimited whilst continuing to promote it through website, flyers, 'On Target' and word of mouth.

In the true spirit of BRAA, Buffalo rifles with **black powder cartridges** will only to be used in BRAA shoots. Nitro can be used in a match and bragging rights prevail, but scores will not be included in final results.

**Side matches** will be held, where time permits, to use different firearms at a pre nominated time so as not to interfere with the actual match.

It was decided that the **review of rules**, instigated at the Oct. AGM, be abandoned and a series of match rules specific to individual matches be issued. ***The first set for Cooyal Whiskey Shoots is issued with this newsletter.***

Two **Creedmoor** type matches will be held at Cooyal at a time to be advised. 'Paper' targets are being constructed for the lifting frames behind the butts.

BRAA signature match, the **Billy Dixon** as usual Sept 27 to 29 at Nioka, which is also, booked for May 24 to 26. No match will be held at Cooyal at same time as any other pre set match at other venues.

**Audio Visual TV** target spotting is being investigated so as to make scoring easier and more precise.

**Maintenance of Cooyal** range was discussed and lots of work is needed. Jim, Brad and Paul to go up between shoots to attend to the main problems and plan future maintenance.

**Security and insurance** for Cooyal will be investigated.

It was agreed that, unless specifically required for a particular shoot, **period costume** for matches is preferred but will not be enforced.

All members must **nominate for matches** for shoot and catering purposes, late shooters may be allowed to participate in the match but catering is done only by pre order and late nominees will have to self cater.

On renewal of membership a request for **voluntary donations** towards targets may be included.

The club **website** is seriously out of date and must be updated as soon as possible.

The **roles of officers** and **safety** were also discussed and will be clearly spelled out in the Rules.

## ON THE LINE

The only changes to your **2013 Calendar** are Jan, which as you know, was cancelled, and May which is now confirmed to be at Nioka.

January **CANCELLED**

February 22/23/24 - Cooyal (7-5-3-9)

March 30/31/01 - Canberra

April 26/27/28 - Cooyal (6-4-2-8)

May 24/25/26 - **NIOKA**

June 21/22/23 - Cooyal (7-5-3-9)

July 26/27/28 - Cooyal (6-4-2-8)

August 23/24/25 - Cooyal (7-5-3-9)

September 27/28/29 Nioka - plus AGM

October 25/26/27 - Cooyal (6-4-2-8)

November 22/23/24 - Cooyal (7-5-3-9)

All '**Cooyal**' will be **Whiskey Shoots** and will alternate between 600 yds, 400 yds and 200 yds shot on Sat with 800 yds on Sunday AND 700 yds, 500 yds and 300 yds (Sat) with 900 yds (Sun).

Since January Whiskey Shoot was cancelled the first for the year (hopefully) will be **February** and we are looking for a good roll-up. So get it in your diary and load up!

Because of the January cancellation the February shoot will now have the inaugural **Quigley Bucket Shoot** as a side event. This is planned for Saturday afternoon after the main shoot is completed. The event will consist of a shot at a wooden bucket like the one in the well-known Quigley movie.

As previously advised there will be one (1) shot, offhand at about 350 yards. The bucket may be on the ground or suspended (tba). We will draw lots to decide the order of the shoot and once it is hit, that's the end of the event. Bad luck for those who draw their turn late in the match.

The winner gets a smashed bucket and has bragging rights till the next one. He/she will also have their name enscribed on the permanent 'Bucket' trophy, which will be kept in the clubhouse and if it gets hit too soon in the match we will get a **smaller** bucket for next time!!!

Don't forget the **March Canberra Shoot**. This is a great opportunity to test your skills out to 1000 yards and your resistance to Canberra's icy conditions. Even though it's Easter we always get a great roll up especially by the southerners who can't often make the 'northern' shoots.

The match details for the **Canberra and Nioka Shoots** will be advised in the next newsletter.

It has been decided that **working bees** will be on the Friday preceding each Cooyal Whiskey shoot. a plan for the ne



## BISON TALES

### The Buffalo Rifle in History and Today - Part 2

In 1873 two events took place, which were to ensure the Sharps, and Remington rifles their place in history.

The first was the Challenge by the Irish National Rifle Team, who the previous year had won the Rifle Championships of the British Isles, to The Riflemen of America to decide the champions of the World. The challenge was taken up by the National Rifle Association of America through one of its Founders Colonel G W Wingate who was appointed Captain of the Team. The match was set down to take Place in September 1874 at a Farm known as Creeds Moor on Long Island New York. Each team had six members and whilst the Irish Team decided to use Rigby Muzzle loading Rifles considered to be extremely accurate the American team chose three Remington Rolling Blocks and three Sharps Falling Blocks.. The American team included LL Hepburn a gunsmith with Remingtons New York factory and GW Yale the Superintendent at the Sharps factory in Hartford Connecticut. The other members were all senior ranking army officers.

The targets were agreed to be Standard English Targets being 12ft by 6ft with a centre Bullseye 3ft by 3ft and the shooting took place at 800yd, 900yd, and 1000yd distances.

The International match created great interest in New York and over 10000 spectators travelled to what was being called the Creedmore Match on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1874. Colonel John Bodine won the match on the last shot with final scores being 934 to the Americans and 931 to the Irish.

..... To be continued in next issue

## GUNSMITH

### BP Cartridge Calibres - Part 2

#### .45-90, .45-100, and .45-110 Sharps (Straight)

This series of Sharps rifle cartridges are all based on the same basic case trimmed to lengths of 2.875", 2.60", and 2.40". The original was the 2.875" (2 7/8") .45-110, introduced in 1876. The .45-100 (2.6" case) was added at the end of 1876 and the .45-90 (2.4" case) appeared during 1877. The base diameter of these big rimmed, straight taper cases was .500" and the neck diameter was .489". All of these cartridges used standard .458" diameter bullets.

The .45-90 was virtually identical to the .45-70 with a longer case, and .45-70 ammunition can safely be fired in .45-90 rifles. This was quite useful on the frontier, where .45-70 Government ammunition was widely distributed, and made the Sharps .45-90 a popular buffalo rifle.

All of the cartridges in this series could be used with bullets weighing 320 grains to 550 grains. The heavier bullets were the best for hunting buffalo, and the larger cases favored the heavier bullets. Factory loads for the .45-110-550 launched a 550 grain bullet at a MV of 1360 fps with ME of 2240 ft. lbs.

Frank Mayer, a well known buffalo hunter, tried various rifles but preferred his Sharps .45-90-420, which was equipped with a 20x telescopic sight made in Germany. He found that the 420 grain bullet shot flatter over ranges out to 300 yards, and killed faster than the lighter bullets he had tried. Mayer's .45-90 Sharps rifle had a 32" barrel and weighed 12 pounds.

(More Calibres ..... next issue)