



ON TARGET

Newsletter of the Buffalo Rifle Association of Australia *Issue 20 - August 2014*

APERTURE

On Committees

The English Oxford defines "Committee" as "A body of persons appointed for special functions by (and out of) a larger body".

There are also many quotes about committees most often referring to groups appointed by governments and politicians. "A camel is a horse designed by committee" or "The optimum committee has no members" or "A committee should consist of three men, two of whom are absent" - just to quote a few. They are often well founded, I might add.

All very interesting you say, but what's that got to do with long range black powder cartridge shooting - well I'll tell you! Without your BRAA long suffering committee you would be constantly searching for places to make smoke and loud noises with the toys you lovingly possess, clean, oil and polish.

The thing is that the only 'pay' for the committee member is the rewards of seeing their labors produce the desired outcome. In our case it's planning and organizing times, venues, food, cooking facilities, prizes, shooting records, targets, range equipment, match details da-da, da-da, da-da!!! And all this culminates in a get-together, for a bunch of like-minded individuals, to enjoy their chosen sport.

The other thing about committees is they eventually tire of no feedback, no thank you and unfounded criticisms. Thank goodness we don't have that problem with BRAA. So most likely the same few will stand again, just like the sports clubs, boy scouts and so many other organizations and associations where the same few put up their hands time and time again.

Where is the new blood? Where is new energy? Where are the fresh ideas? Why not put your hand up? Come on have a go - even for a little while, you might even enjoy it. The AGM is this month, so act now.

'Naw - I just wanna come and shoot my rifle'. Well good luck with that!

..... S/f

BULLET-IN

➤ **Reminder**

Please note that correct date for the Billy Dixon and BRAA AGM is 20 & 21 September.

➤ **Perpetual Trophies**

Could those who hold perpetual Billy Dixon trophies please bring them along to the event. If you are not attending kindly contact Gary, Bill or Paul to arrange for the return of them for the match.

➤ **Calendar Change**

Also note that due to concerns of an extension of the lambing season, the Cooyal shoot for October has been cancelled. In place we were able to arrange a metallic silhouette shoot at Rankin Springs- Note the date is also changed from 25/26 forward to 18/19 October - see full details in "On The Line"

➤ **MOA Calculator**

Brad has advised that there is a MOA Calculator available from STS Online. You can see it on www.stsonline.com.au

➤ **John Bodine**

I hear on the grapevine that Mr Forbes has recently acquired a new Pedersoli John Bodine from the makers in recognition of 25 years as a dealer for the brand. Therefore he is selling his 'old' one - need to check it out? contact him direct at www.forbesws.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS

- Wanted to Buy - Pedersoli 1885 in 38-55 - contact Brendan by return email to BRAA.
- Got something to sell? Send me a note.
- Wanna buy something? Send me a note.
- Sick of being asked? Send me a note !!!

THE POSSE

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SHOT TO BITZ

August (Mixed) Shoot at Cooyal

The Cooyal weather Gods were kind to us for our August shoot. But it was quite cool in the evenings so the pot belly stove got another work-out before heading to the pub for dinner. All of us were staying on the range in the bunkhouse and in vans and tents so there was more timber consumed after dinner.

Saturday morning was bright and sunny after the early fog lifted. Brekky over, we got things underway and the weather improved to a fine, but quite cool day, with a little breeze from the east as the day improved.

Only six shooters contested the match which went as planned, shooting on the buffalo plate at 600 and 400 yds. We elected to use the 'diamond' plate target for the off-hand at 200 yards to make it more interesting. The final event was the 1000 yard, a first for us at Cooyal, which we shot on paper with scorers in the butts. This is the only reliable way to score at that distance. In future we could shoot on the buffalo target with the aid of Jim's camera system.

The below score sheet says it all but just to recap, at 600 yds Gavin shot a 33 with Paul Mac and Gary just behind. Scoring was 3 for a hit on the plate and 5 for the 'heart'.

And at 400 yds Gavin still top scored on 40 with Gary and Paul R second and third respectively. Scoring was the same as the 600.

The 200 yd off-hand was made more difficult by using the small diamond target. However Bill didn't have a problem with it, scoring a very creditable 32. Closest behind were Brendan and Paul Mac. This is a great little target and scoring was 3 for a hit on the plate and 5 for a yellow centre.

As an observation at this point, Bill won it on Saturday, he didn't even need the great 19 points he scored on Sunday - well done Bill.

So at 1000 yds with clear skies and only a light breeze we took to the mound near the road. Scoring was 3 for the white, 5 for the black centre and 10 for the 'bull'. Sighting through a fairly narrow opening in the trees is an interesting experience. Not quite sure just what that does to the projectile but it's back to the drawing board for most of us - except Bill of course. Gary managed a couple of hits on the white and gavin got a 5. In fairness, Paul M did break a sight spring and wasn't able to finish. The rest of us Well.

Scores for the match - individual wins highlighted.

POSN.	NAME	600 y	400 y	200 y	1000 y	TOTAL
1st	Bill	24	35	32	19	100
2nd	Gary	29	38	15	6	88
3rd	Brendan	23	33	25	0	81
3rd	Gavin	33	40	3 dnf	5	81
5th	Paul Mc	30	27	19	0 dnf	76
6th	Paul R	26	36	11	0	73



Diamond Target at Left & Bill takes the Whiskey Side Match (Rimfire) - August Shoot



Lever actions and single shot .22's dominated the 'rimfire' side event at Cooyal. We arranged one of our swinging target plates and also a card shoot. All had 2 shots at each of the swingers and cards. Paul Mac showed us all the way.



WOTZ DIZ - Boyz and their Toyz



ON THE LINE

Note! The following dates and arrangements are subject to change from time to time depending on prevailing conditions etc. Every effort will be made by your Committee to advise any changes well prior to the event. It is also advisable to check this calendar with each issue of "On Target"

CALENDAR 2014

Jan. 25/26 Cooyal "B" 7,5,3+0 s/e LA 3 o/h
Feb. 22/23 Cooyal "P" 6,4,2+8 s/e Pistol tba
Mar. 22/23 Cooyal Quigley "B" Six Dist. tba (no side event)
April 20/21 Canberra "P" s/e SSAA Silhouette tba
May 24/25 Nioka Champagne s/e Shotgun Clays
June 28/29 Cooyal Silhouette s/e Q/Bucket
July 26/27 Cooyal "P" 7,5,3+0 s/e Swap meet
Aug. 23/24 Cooyal "B" 6,4,2+1000 s/e R'fire (any cal)
Sept. 20/21 Nioka B/Dixon+AGM s/e LA 3 o/h
Oct. 18/19 Rankin Springs - Metallic Silhouette no s/e
Nov. 22/23 Cooyal "B" 6,7,8+9 s/e Pistol tba
Dec. No match.

Note! In each match;

- "B" means shot on buffalo plate
- "P" means shot on paper targets
- the 'numbers' are (hundred) yards.
- the match will be shot in that order
- '+' separates Sat & Sun
- "s/e" means side event (duh!).

Our next shoot is the most important of the year! **The Billy Dixon Match at Nioka 20 & 21 September** is our signature shoot and also the venue for our **BRAA AGM**, all members should be present if at all possible.



..... **Put it in your diaries now**

Nioka Range is 42 kms from Manilla on the Boggabri Road and has excellent facilities for camping or caravanning. Bar-B-Q's plus hot and cold water for showers and clean pit toilets are provided.

For the non-campers there is accommodation available at the Manilla Motel and also at Boggabri and Gunnedah. This is great opportunity for BRAA members across the State to get together.

The campfire at night is an excellent place to swap lies and share an after dinner 'warmer' - whatever your pleasure. It's still cool at Nioka in Sept, so bring your woolies too.

Vittles

The event entry fee includes your dinner on Saturday night and a cooked breakfast on Sat and Sun morning.

If arriving early on Friday, you will need to bring your own food for lunch. Dinner on Friday night is optional as self catered or a stew or similar, provided by the Meigels at additional cost (usually about \$10) - damn good too! Lunch on Sat and Sun also is optional as self catered or, again, provided by the Meigels (usually about \$5). Additional meals are 'pay as you go' direct to the Meigels.

The Match

Full details of the match has been issued with the invitation to attend already sent out by Bill. If you have not received yours or if it has been misplaced, please contact any of your Committee members.

It is essential to **contact Bill Sherman** (or another committee member) to advise your attendance and meal requirements on bsher40@bigpond.com or 0418 257 330.

The Annual General Meeting

The AGM is an important part of any club or association. It provides every member with a chance to raise questions, make suggestions and vote for your new committee. If you are unable to attend, make sure your proxy vote is sent prior to the event. There is nothing quite like being there.

SIDE EVENT

The scheduled side event for Nioka is a lever action rifle event to be shot off-hand. Bring your favorite centre fire lever gun in any calibre and join in the fun.



Full details of the event will be provided on the day but a maximum of 20 rounds should be sufficient for the match, plus a few sighters if you need them.

COMING UP

- November 8-9 for the next gun and knife show at Penrith Panthers.
- The **October** shoot at **Cooyal** was **cancelled** by request of the property owner, due to the possibility of the lambing season being extended. We have been able to secure an alternative venue for a shoot but **1 week prior to the original shoot date**. The now proposed shoot will be at Rankin Springs range and will be a metallic silhouette event. Rankin Springs is west of West Wyalong and north of Griffith. Full details of the shoot will be in your next newsletter.
- Don't forget, if you know about any event of interest to other members, don't keep them to yourselves, drop us a line and we can include it in the next newsletter - or even send out a 'Special Event Notice' to all members.

BISON TALES

DID SHERIFF PAT GARRETT REALLY KILL BILLY THE KID IN 1881?

After William H. Bonney escaped from Lincoln County Jail in New Mexico while awaiting hanging for the murder of Sheriff William Brady, the record will tell you that Sheriff Pat Garrett tracked the outlaw, better known as Billy the Kid, to a residence in Fort Sumner where he shot and killed him. Questions abound, however, as to Garrett's trustworthiness and the reasons for the prompt disposal of the victim's body. Even one of his deputies present for the shooting said that the man Garrett shot was not the fugitive they had been looking for.

When a man going by the name Brushy Bill Roberts (above, left) surfaced in Texas in 1950 seeking pardon for the crimes of Billy the Kid, the media took notice. His case was eventually thrown out by the governor of New Mexico, who agreed to meet with him. The Governor did not believe Roberts was Billy the Kid. Roberts died a short time later, reportedly ashamed by the media circus that followed his confession. Jameson, however, is one of many convinced that Roberts was the real deal. "We started out trying to prove Roberts was lying," he says of his investigation. One by one, though, all of Roberts' claims were eventually verified. A statistical facial recognition analysis comparing Roberts to known images of The Kid suggested that the two men were actually one and the same. Jameson says that he's challenged the so-called "traditionalist academics" that hold to Garrett's official account of The Kid's death to debate him on the subject, but none have accepted thus far.

Acknowledgement to mentalfloss.com

GUNSMITH

No Tang Sight Fitting

The Buffalo Classic, and Browning High Wall are just two of the rifles that do not have a metal tang to enable the fitting of a long-range tang sight. Securing the sight to the timber stock with wood screws or self-tapping screws is less than successful over time as lubricants, cleaners etc., seep into the screw holes and destroy the surrounding timber. Larger screws are then fitted and the process starts over again till eventually the screws are too large to fit through the sight base.



One solution is to fit threaded inserts with internal metal threads. These inserts are designed to screw into wood with a relatively large 'wood screw' type exterior and in some cases a top flange, which seals the surface of the wood preventing damage to the wood as described above.



These inserts come in a variety of sizes and threads; the ones pictured above have M6, M5 and M4 internal threads and a hexagon drive. The external wood screw is tapered and designed to cut it's own path into the wood. The M5 (middle) is the flanged type and uses a 5mm hex allen key to screw in the insert.



Next you need a secure set-up for drilling and it is recommended to use a drill press rather than a hand held drill. You also need to ensure the stock is clamped and packed level, as appropriate, to make the drilling vertical and straight. As the insert has a tapered external wood thread, staged drilling using at least three drills at varying depths to provide an easy lead for the insert or a taper reamer if you have one the right size. In the case of the pictured stock above some minor repairs were necessary to the wood immediately adjacent to one of the screw holes.



The inserts are then screwed in using a hex key and a few drops of PVA glue to seal the timber although this is not really necessary in most cases where the timber is reasonable to start with. On that point, if a tang sight has never been fitted ie, 'virgin' wood, it would be advisable to drill some pilot holes first using the sight base as a template.



After assembly of the sight it will be necessary to adjust the sight on the base spring to ensure it is plumb fore and aft. It may also require some packing on one side or other with shims to plumb the sight from side to side. This 'plumbing' is best achieved using two small spirit levels.

So there you have it, the sight is now secure on solid metal inserts and will not come loose during those all-important moments when the bull buffalo is charging straight at you.
.....Sf