



# ON TARGET

Newsletter of the Buffalo Rifle Association of Australia Issue 8 August 2013

## APERTURE (the editors view)

As many of you may be aware, on 4th July Barry O'Farrell abolished **Game Council NSW** and suspended hunting in 400 NSW State Forests and 2 Crown Lands areas.

This latest move by the NSW Liberal Government is clear indication of their intention to aggressively restrict lawful use of firearms and hunting in NSW. It is very important that the 200,000 licensed, law-abiding firearm owners in NSW send Mr. O'Farrell a strong message objecting to his attacks.

The above is explained in more detail in an on-line partition;  
<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/barry-ofarrell-stop-your-attack-on-law-abiding-hunters.html>

There is also a Protest Rally on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013 from Hyde Park to Sydney Parliament 11:30 to 13:00. Visit [www.savehuntingonpublicland.org](http://www.savehuntingonpublicland.org)

Whether you are a hunter or target shooter (or both), as law abiding licensed shooters we need to voice our opinion on this disturbing development in our State. Don't leave it to someone else, have your say now ...Sf

## BULLET-IN (newsstuff)

### BPCR Silhouette Shoot

#### Rankins Springs in August 16 - 18

**Friday 16** - Range set up and open for practice PM

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** - 40 shot BPCR Smallbore Match followed by a 40 shot Service Rifle Match

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>** - 40 shot BPCR Silhouette Match.

There will be a presentation at the end of the weekend for State Medals in all grades in all matches. Ungraded shooters are catered for in our rules so all shooters are eligible to win medals. The Smallbore BPCR event caters for rifles of .22LR calibre only in the style and era of our Buffalo Rifles.

You can use your Buffalo rifle with a barrel insert (quite popular) or original or replica firearms. Stevens, Winchester Low walls, Remington Rolling-block, Martini etc. The match is shot on half-size Targets - chickens @ 50m, pigs @ 100m, turkeys @ 150m, and rams @ 200m.

Chickens are shot off-hand and the rest can be shot from any position using cross-sticks.

We use standard .22 ammo as stuff loaded with black powder is a bit like rocking horse s-t.

We have found ammo loaded with 40gr bullets @ 1200fps to work well for this event.

Service Rifle is shot on full-size targets at 200, 300, 385 and 500m. All are shot off-hand using an *As Issued* Military service rifle. SMLE, Mauser, Martini etc. Must be as issued to regular troops, NO "sniper" models.

The BPCR match is the main event and is as we shot in Canberra, with the difference being that at this range you can see all of the targets from the sitting and prone position.

Full details are in the competition section of the Shooters Journal or I'm sure can be found on the SSAA website.

There will be some practice time before each event and BPCR practice on Saturday afternoon on completion of the Service Match.

Anyone interested should e-mail Daniel at [danmac@activ8.net.au](mailto:danmac@activ8.net.au) or contact the address in the Shooters Journal.

Message from member Daniel McDonald aka "Taps"

## THE POSSE

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## SHOT TO BITZ

### Cooyal Whiskey Shoot July 2013

The Whiskey Shoot at Cooyal in July saw almost identical conditions to the previous shoot in July, cold, clear and quite still.

There were ten shooters for the match, which was shot as programmed except for reversing the Saturday schedule. The match was shot in 2 details of 5 with the non-shooters being range officers, spotters and assisting with the scoring. Alison admirably carried out score keeping and our heartfelt thanks for that. And b.t.w, a 'little bird told me' that Alison will be shooting with us in the not too distant future. We look forward to that Alison.

The match started with a 200yd event shot off-hand. The best result was Gavin Dignam (J B Brook) on 40 points (10.5 - being 10 target hits including 5 'hearts'). Closest rivals were Paul Mc Carthy on 33 (9.3) and Andrew Tuft on 31 (9.2).



**Where did you get that Hat**

We moved back to the 400yd mark and shot off cross-sticks. Three shooters achieved "possibles" and 40 points. Gary Vandersluis (Chris Madsen), Paul Radin (Sugarfoot) and Andrew Tuft (Quigley) all were 10.5 scores. Bill Sherman and Gavin Dignam also shot 'possibles' with 10.2 and 10.1 respectively. Brendan's gun malfunction meant a dfn, better luck next time Scheyville.



**"Gotcha"**



**"Spotted Buffalo Calf" - invisible at 900 yds**

The light was fading on Saturday afternoon for the 600yd event, which didn't stop Gavin (J B) who scored 32 (10.1) followed by Kristy Comb (Plinky) on 29 (9.1) and Brendan Sforcina 26 (8.1).

On Sunday, at 800yds, we had near perfect conditions but recognizing the difficulty of differentiating between target hits and heart shots we elected to call just 'target hits' with a score of 3 only. Three shooters again scored 21 (7/10 hits); Paul Mc Carthy, Paul Radin and Andrew Tuft. Closest to them was Plinky 18 (6/10) almost repeating her creditable (7/10) June performance on the 800.



**"Black" gets you "Double Black"**

Position	Name	Score
1	<b>Gavin (J B Brook) Dignam</b>	<b>116</b>
2	Andrew (Quigley) Tuft	115
3	Paul (Sugarfoot) Radin	102
4	Gary (Chris Madsen) Vandersluis	100
5	Paul (Rusty Nail) Mc Carthy	99
6	Bill (Hickory Will) Sherman	92
7	Mike (Kodiak) Fahey	82
8	Kristy (Plinky) Comb	79
9	Steve (Roy) Moffitt	52
10	Brendan (Scheyville) Sforcina	dnf



## ON THE LINE

There are no revisions to the calendar dates this month so keep them in the diary.

~~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)

### Coming up!

The next **Cooyal** shoot is **August 23-25** and we hope to get a full compliment of shooters.

Please contact either Bill Sherman or Gary Vandersluis to advise attendance and meal requirements. Remember no contact - no meals!

The shoot will commence at 9-30am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August and Finish at about Lunchtime on the Sunday. It will be shot over 700, 500 and 300 yds the latter being OFF-HAND on Sat. if time and daylight permit. The 900 yds will be shot on Sunday. Each event allows a maximum 15 shots at each distance of which the last 10 only will score ie the first 5 are sighting shots and if you have two hits your sighting session ends. The practice shots are optional.

If those present agree, informal practice can take place on the Friday afternoon but please be sure that there are at least two shooters on the range and that the usual safety arrangements apply. If you have a spotting scope please bring it and ideally your own spotter for the match. We will shoot two details to allow for those not shooting to spot and score for those shooting. Usual dress rules apply.

The cost of the match will be \$50.00 to cover two days which includes both days range fees, target paint, and depending on the number of attendees, prizes for the first, second and last place.

A cooked breakfast and lunch will be available on the range for \$5 each on Sat and Sun. Evening meals on Friday and Sat will be taken at the Cooyal Pub or you can 'do your own thing' at the Bunkhouse.

Camping and bunkhouse facilities are available on the range. The Cooyal Pub (Ph. 6373 5353) offers a range of accommodation from budget to full ensuite, but be quick.

Yarrowonga Cedar Cottages are close by and offer very pleasant accommodation. Check them out on their website at: [www.yarrowongacottages.com.au](http://www.yarrowongacottages.com.au).

As always there are always lots of things to do when setting up the range for the shoot and all too often this is left to the 'willing few'. So if you are intending to get to the range on Friday, please try to get there early to assist in the set-up and also don't forget the tidy-up after the shoot.

One last thing, don't forget the woolies it can get very cold at night in that part of the world eg -4C in July o'nite on the range

And another thought; subject to Committee approval, we could have another crack at the Quigley Bucket. 350 yds offhand and only 2 shots each. We can draw lots for the shooting order. Since the days are shorter now perhaps we could use it as a warm up on Sunday morning? Let's decide on Friday. If we decide to do that we must remember to fill the bucket with water and soak O'nite

**And don't forget September at Nioka is our signature shoot, "The Billy Dixon" and of course the BRAA AGM don't miss it.**

Good shootin' one 'n' all.

## CLASSIFIEDS (No advertising fee)

Wanna sell somethin' ?

Wanna buy somethin' ?

Wanna swap somethin' ?

Wanna tell the members somethin' ?

Now's your chance to keep it in the club, do you have some old bits and pieces that some of the newer members can use? Drop us a line and we may be able to match you up with a buyer or seller.

**45-70 LA :** To kick it off I'm looking for a really cheap, 45-70 Lever Action, hardly used and in perfect condition and under \$800 (well maybe a little more for the right gun). If anyone has too many in the gun safe, let's talk.

Advertise here!

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## BISON TALES

### CASTAWAYS

by Gavin Dignam (aka JB Brook)

I remember my mum wiping her hands on her apron on more than one occasion saying. "Beautiful result, taken hours to produce, only to be consumed in minutes by hungry mouths" Well I've spent hours and hours over a hot stove too. No, I'm not talking cooking but rather the hours spent over the lead pot making projectiles. We aim to achieve a quality we are happy with, only to hurl them down the range to their imminent destruction.

Now I'm no veteran bullet caster but I thought it might be worth a few lines in *On Target* to discuss various aspects of casting and experiences we've had and learnt from along the way. I mean why cast at all? Surely we can buy bullets to shoot? Well, when it comes to shooting long distance with lead alloy bullets, I haven't found it quite so easy, certainly not in Australia at any rate. The U.S.A. offers a myriad of cast bullet and even some swaged bullet options. Of the few I've tried, whilst I've been reasonably impressed, I haven't yet purchased a cast bullet that I couldn't have cast as good or better myself.

I imagine most individuals who are consumed by this fun, but frustrating, sport have turned to casting already. If not, why not give it a try. If you don't want to outlay the money initially, perhaps visit someone who does cast and see for yourself. There will be teething problems as there are with any new venture but the results can be very rewarding.

See you when the sights are down. ....J.B.

Thanks for getting the ball rolling JB.

Now for my part I've been slaving over the proverbial 'hot stove' too and I can assure those that haven't tried this, just like sending these things down the range, you can have fairly mixed results. So the plan here is to help one another to improve the consistency of good projectiles. And don't leave any ingredients out of the recipe like my grandmother used to do!

This should be an open forum so send in some ideas, questions, successes, failures, whatever;

- Getting started
- What and where to buy
- Safety tips
- Lead alloys, ratios, quality
- Mold types.

.....don't be shy... go for it .....Sf

## GUNSMITH

### BP Cartridge Calibres - Part 8 (Final)

#### .50-70 Musket (.50 Government)

The .50-70 was the U.S. Army's service cartridge from 1866 to 1873, when it was replaced by the .45-70. It was the first centerfire cartridge adopted by the Army, and was a big advance over the previous .58 Rimfire cartridge.

It was first adapted to the U.S. 1866 Rifle Musket, then the improved 1868 Rifle Musket, the further improved 1870 Rifle Musket, and the bolt action single shot Ward-Burton 1871 Rifle Musket. There were also carbine versions of some of these. All except the Ward-Burton design were converted percussion arms. In addition a number of civilian rifle manufacturers built rifles in .50-70. Most notably, Remington chambered their 1870 and 1871 Rolling Block rifles for the .50-70 cartridge, and Sharps offered it in the 1867-69 Conversion Carbine and later chambered the single shot rifle that became the Model 1874 in .50-70.

The .50-70 used a rimmed, internally primed, straight taper case that measured .565" at its base, .535" at the neck, and was 1.75" long. The COL was 2.25" and it used .515" diameter bullets. The U.S. Frankford Arsenal load for rifle muskets used a 450-grain bullet in front of 70 grains of black powder (.50-70-450). The reduced recoil carbine load used a 430 grain bullet in front of 55 grains of powder (.50-55-430).

Factory loads gave a 450 grain bullet a MV of 1260 fps and ME of 1488 ft. lbs. A 425 grain bullet was driven at a MV of 1275 fps with ME of 1535 ft. lbs. The .50-70 was quite popular and had a good reputation as a buffalo cartridge. It offered superior energy and penetration compared to earlier military cartridges.

This has been the final in the Series Black Powder Cartridge Calibres and