



ON TARGET

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA 58 NOVEMBER 2019

From President Gavin

Greetings to all from the impeachment free (so far) presidential desk. It sure has been a long time between drinks this year! With the weather as it is I fear the situation is likely to continue for a few months yet.

A special welcome to our new Members. The more the merrier and here's to a coming year with some milder temperatures, a lot fewer fires, some rain ... and some range time. I'd like to say that a lot has happened since the September newsletter but, to be honest, BRAA shooting has been sparse to say the least, ever since the Billy Dixon in August.

For those not aware, Firearms registry conducted a thorough inspection at the Nioka Range a few days after our Billy Dixon Match. The result was a blanket ban on the shooting of high velocity jacketed rounds on steel plates. The fall out area was also called into question, along with rocks on the mounds and the BRAA Creedmoor (Buff) plate and its supporting frame. That target has been at Nioka in one form or the other since we moved there about 10 years ago and caused no grief on previous inspections!

This meant that the organisation doing long range high power shooting at Nioka, 365 Precision, were prohibited from using the range.

To their credit, the Miegels kept up communication with the Registry and while there was some resistance to the perceived ricochet issue, BRAA has been given the go ahead to shoot lead alloy projectiles at black powder velocities. This was solely due to the efforts and negotiations conducted by the Miegels.

In the meantime, the management of 365 Precision were able to generate extensive support from other shooters and to generate a fighting fund to pay for legal representation. And it appears that after extensive negotiation their prohibition has been overturned as well.

Good News for all. Make no mistake. Issues that impact on one discipline impacts on the rest of us. A long standing problem in Australia and elsewhere for that matter is the idea that "it only applies to them" and "wont affect me". Not So.

I had been hoping to make it to the September shoot but it was not to be. A few braved the windy conditions at Nioka to enjoy a day of long range steel. Paul Mac, Happy Hans, Ken Brown, Jonesy and Cheryl and one or two others made the pilgrimage and shot in the blustery conditions.

The Creedmoor plate has been fitted with an endless chain to allow it to be raised and lowered as needed. This was tried before but the chain gearbox didn't take well to being hit with the odd 550gr projectile (no ricochets though). The Miegels did an extensive clean up of rocks, installed the chains and also put some conveyor belt rubber on the frame to satisfy the Registry. This was later deemed unnecessary but what can you do?

The October shoot at Cooyal was cancelled due to lack of numbers which is a shame and the November shoot at Cooyal was cancelled, as you know, due to the extreme fire hazard. A pity to be sure but it probably wasn't much of a surprise to anyone.

No shoots are scheduled now until 25/26 January at Cooyal so lets keep our fingers crossed that there has been some rain of consequence by then and that the temperatures are only moderately warm rather than blast furnace hot.

So that's about it from me for the moment. I trust this finds you all in various stages of good health and ready to face the festive season. Keep well, travel safe if you are on the roads and we look forward to catching up over smoke or a spotting scope next year.



Remember the Club is only ever going to be as good as the attendance and involvement of Members that support it. Keep your powder dry.

Gavin Dignam (JB)

Quigley 2020

Four BRAA Members will be competing in the Quigley Match in Montana in June 2020 and at the Baker Match the following weekend.

Gavin Dignam, Gary Vandersluis, Paul Radin and myself (Bill Sherman) will be going.

This is the eleventh time BRAA has competed in the Match and Gavin will be defending his 2019 winner of the International Prize.

Some statistics may be of interest:

Highest score 46 out of 48 (Al Loquasto 2004)

Highest lady score (43 of 48 (Joan Jilka 2002— she also won the overall match)

Most shooters 635 in 2012

Shooters have participated from 47 States and 10 foreign Countries

2315 different shooters in all

A recent post match survey showed that:

52% of the Competitors used Sharps rifles, 20% 1885s, 7.5% Rolling Blocks and 2% Stevens

54% shot 45/70s, 15% 45/90s, 14% 40/65s, 5% 38/55s and 3.5% 45/110s.

66% used black powder, 30% smokeless, 2% Duplex and 2% Black Powder Substitute

And a bit of nastiness

There have been reports of Hunters in the Central West of NSW running over deliberately set tyre spikes . They have been identified as belonging to PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). Imagine the uproar if a shooter did something so stupid and dangerous

2020 Match Program

Revised

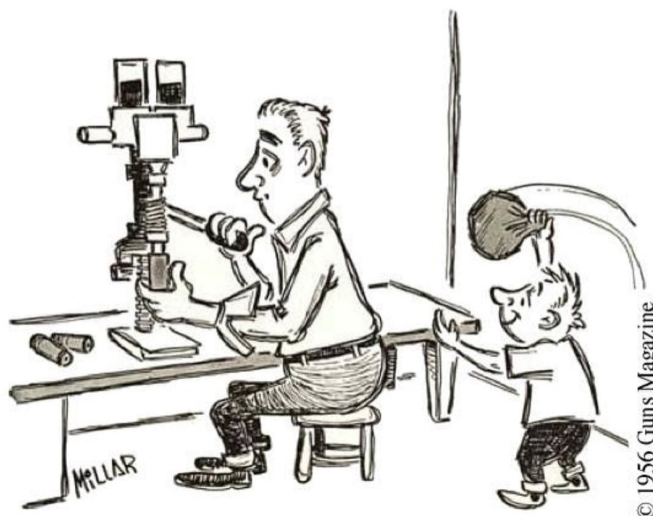
January 25/26	Cooyal
February 22/23	Cooyal
March 28/29	Cooyal
April 25/26	Cooyal

Mini Quigley

May 16/17	Nioka
June 27/28	Cooyal
July 18/19	Cooyal
August 15/16	Cooyal
September 19/20	Nioka

AGM Billy Dixon and State Titles

October 24/25	Cooyal
November 28/29	Cooyal
December	No Match



Diary Note

25/26 January 2020 (weather permitting!)

Cooyal Match

Details to follow