



On target

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA 90 DECEMBER 2022

THE GREAT RETURN TO COOYAL

Well our BRAA 'shoot' year is over but we did manage to sneak in our final match at Cooyal in November !

The roads were all dry and just a tad more bumpy than normal but there was no rain, no waterlogged ground, mild temperatures hovering in the mid to high 20's and even blue sky.

The advance guard arrived Thursday afternoon to find the range dry and, while the grass was high, the slashing from June was still evident and allowed some inroads to be made with our hard working ride-on mower. It is planned to slash the range again in January and follow up with mower trims in subsequent months to consolidate on the initial clearing. The generator started first go and went to work chilling the fridge and pumping water to the header tank. We were in business ! The mowing took its toll on Friday though and a broken deck belt meant a trip into town to get a replacement. This was my excuse to have a ride in Ken's new truck. Very easy to get used to I might add.



The mantlet is covered in fairly thick grass currently but the real challenge was the saffron thistle and burr growing on the top. Ken B took to this with the edge of a spade and things were taking shape when we were joined by Mark G, Ken H and Mike F. who jumped in and kept things moving. With chores done, we retired to the clubhouse for showers, some cool drinks and the obligatory open forum. By now we had been joined by Burt (Walker) and Peter T. Neither shot this weekend for varying reasons but both assisted with scoring, spotting and R.O. duties throughout. Many thanks .

We elected to shoot our silhouette rifle match in two sessions with a 20 round match on the Friday afternoon and again on the Saturday. Ken H managed to take out the honours this time around with a score of

37/ 40. Mike was 2nd on 35 with Ken B and myself tied at 29.

Saturday morning was crystal clear for the main match and we drove up to the cleared 400 yd line to do our first distance, off hand at the buffalo. Seven shots for score with Ken B & Mike F both on 6 hits. I followed with 5 and Ken H on 1. At 600 yds we opted for the 3' diamond and ten shots for score. The grass on the mantlet was making it very difficult to spot fall of shot. It wasn't 'Nioka difficult' but it wasn't far off. After the smoke cleared at the 600 , it was Mike and myself on 8 with Ken B on 7 and Mark on 5. Back further to the 700 yd line and the target once again was the bison. Ken B came into his own with 9/10 and the next best score was 5 shared by two shooters. This was getting hard...or is that 'more difficult' ? We broke for lunch and came back to the 800 to find that we were starting to fade a little. It was decided that the 800 would be it for the main match for that day. Results at 800 being Mike and Ken B on 6, Gavin on 5 and Ken H on 1. We finished later that afternoon with the second part of our silhouette shoot and then headed to the pub for our dinner. A special of lamb backstrap with a Mediterranean salad was very popular. The cold beer didn't hurt either !

Sunday morning, with the silhouettes packed up by Mark and a few others, we had but to shoot the 900 and we were done. Mark G was having some back problems and opted out of the last distance to join the range crew and keep the shooters in line. The end result at the 900 being myself on 9 with Ken B on 6 and Mike F on 5. Once again hindered by the lack of feedback from the mound. You can certainly learn from your misses...but you have to be able to see them first !



With the pack up done and the presentation completed we were all on our respective ways home. A bit disappointed Ken didn't leave his RAM for me but what can you do ?



Ken B and Ken H receiving their prizes from President Gavin



It was good to get out and catch up with a few of our members and remember what this is all about. Way too long between matches and get together. So this was our last BRAA shoot for 2022.

Our first shoot for 2023 is the 28th/ 29th of January, followed by the 25th/26th of February.

The calendar was attached to last months newsletter so feel free to mark those weekends in your diary now.

Hope to see more of you, more often , next year. Until then, keep safe, stay well, catch up with loved ones and have a Happy Christmas. All the best for the New Year.

Hope to see you when my sights are down

Best regards
Gavin/JB

From the Secretary

Great to see the shoot go ahead this month, my apologies for being unable to attend. Thank you to all who RSVP'd and to those able to attend. A huge thank you to the mowing crew and Gavin for being treasurer. Hopefully that will keep the grass at bay until January and with more regular attendances the task should be less onerous.

Registry Reminder

Again a reminder that we need to concentrate on the current reporting period which ends 31 March 2023. So that is only 3 more shoots if BRAA is your principal club.

Everyone is back to full attendance requirements of 4 per reporting year for rifle and 6 for pistol. While minimum personal requirements can be met by attending 2 or 3 shoots per year, **as a club**, we need more members to attend more often to remain viable. Registry are looking very closely at our active member status so I can't urge you all strongly enough that we are in a "use it or lose it" scenario.

We will send out details for the January shoot approximately 2 weeks from the shoot. Please pencil it in, bring the family, bring a friend, bring some ideas and suggestions and bring lots of lead.

Best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a safe, flood free Happy New Year

Dan

