



On target

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA 113 Feb 2025

Nioka in February

Welcome back shooters. This month we returned to our other home, Nioka. With a few commenting on which way the wind was blowing, we all remembered that we haven't shot here in February before so we weren't so familiar with the weather other than it was hot, damn hot.

Friday saw the advance crew arrive and set up the targets and make themselves comfortable. We had 11 shooters RSVP but slowly due to various reasons we were reduced to 8.5 and 3 supporters. The old buffalo was "salvaged" for scrap, thank you Luke, another job off the to do list.

With the usual catch up over a BBQ steak and a cold beverage, everyone eventually made their way to bed. Overnight was lovely and cool if not a bit windy.

Saturday was cool to start and with the traditional bacon & eggs and coffee downed, everyone assumed the position. We started our official 2025 calendar off on the 300m diamond with 3 convertible sighters and 10 scoring shots.

Ken B and Luke leapt out of the starting gates to hit and keep all 3 sighters on the way to possible scores of 10. Ken H kept 2 for a 7, Jim S kept 2 for a 10, Gavin started fresh for his 10. Welcome back Peter, nice 8 to start and Shayne and Dan donned their jackets to shoot muzzleloaders for a 9 and 7 respectively.

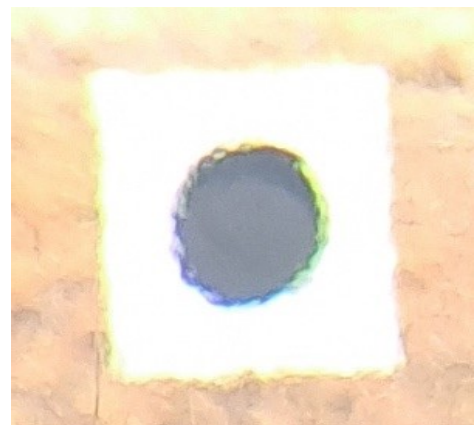
Conditions were reasonably stable but warming as we moved onto the 500m diamond. Paul, Ken H and Gavin started strong but Peter hit 6 in a row on his way to another 8. Dan & Shayne made the most of their effort getting up and down with the muzzleloaders to each score 10.

Lunch was next on the agenda, a chance to cool off and rehydrate before we moved down to the 800y marker.



800 yard target

Now this distance in the heat of the day was possibly a tad silly but we pressed on. Luke had to go home at this time so we were down another. The wind was a breeze but the mirage nearly made the spotters cross eyed. The target rang out like a church bell when hit but the black centre looked like a spinning circular saw blade through the spotting scope.



Again we were shooting 3 convertible sighters and 10 for score. Top score at this distance was 8, nice calculation by Jim to keep 2 hits and 1 miss for his 8. Gavin hit 8 as did Dan, Shayne and Paul right behind on 7. The radio and flasher were invaluable as shots weren't able to be seen. As much as we were enjoying the shooting, as soon as we finished we bolted for the shade. After a relax we held a pistol match.

While the pistol match was underway, Dan took the opportunity to run visitor Eric through BPCR reloading. Eric and his daughter Gabi had made the trip to have a look at BRAA and had been watching closely all day. Thanks to everyone for welcoming our visitors.

With 5 of Dan's 'start here' loads, Eric took to the line with his "new" Sharps rifle, to have a go at 300m. Miss, but close, adjust, miss, closer, adjust, hit, Hit, HIT! We all cheered. Eric seemed happy. With a big smile, information overload, some notes and a shopping list, Eric & Gabi headed home. Hopefully a new member in the making.

After refreshing showers and dinner, most opted for an early night. We weren't as match fit as when we were shooting every month.

Sunday was promising be warmer so after breakfast we moved up to the 900y for 5 sighters and 15 scoring shots. We started just after 9 in warm and still conditions.

Shayne and Dan in their jackets were really feeling the heat. Ken B had produced an umbrella which reminded Paul he also had one. The scorer thanks you for the shade you shared between shooting and ROing.

Various sighters were kept. Paul was having trouble with his set trigger but soldiered on for a cracking possible. Gavin hit 14, closely followed by Peter on 13. Ken H asked when he hit his first shot if it really was him and finished on 10, as did Ken B and Jim. We finished the distance and made the decision to retreat under cover and cool off.

We then decided to shoot our 1000y from the covered firing line which made it 1100yards or there abouts. We agreed to reduce the shots from 15 to 10 for score. No one had a setting but it was preferable to siting in the baking sun. Conditions were tough, the mirage rocketed right to left with the occasional stall, boil or switch. Shot calls were either "not seen" or "somewhere", best we could manage in the conditions. A flash of dirt was as a good as a hit. (At least it was seen)

In the first detail no one wanted to keep their 5 misses so all started fresh. We all cheered as Shayne landed his first of 2 hits. In the second detail, Paul was the only one to hit sighters so he took the 2 hits & 2 misses on his way to the equal top score of 4. Peter also hit 4. Everyone hit at least 1 and it took everyone on scopes to find shots. The bottom of the left hand post was popular. Despite the joy of actually hitting the target we were all pleased it was over. Di had dropped in chocolate cake and we all needed a sugar hit and a cold drink. Paul also called in while we were shooting.

Thank you to our ROs, spotters & target crew. We chatted over lunch while the scores were tallied. We then held our presentation and one by one we finished packing up and headed home.

Name	300m ◇	500m ◇	800y ■	900y ■	1100 y	Total	Place
Peter	8	8	5	13	4	38	2nd
Ken B	10	3	6	10	3	32	
Jim S	10	7	8	10	2	37	
Gavin	10	7	8	14	1	40	1st
Shayne	9	10	7	7	2	35	
Paul	4	6	7	15	4	36	
Ken H	7	5	2	10	1	25	
Dan	7	10	8	8	1	34	
Luke	10	5	-	-	-	15	

Ken B and Luke earned a Nioka Cold Bore award for hitting their first shot of the day on Saturday at 300m. Shayne hit his first at 900 on Sunday and also earned one. Matt has different coloured awards for the different distances. Something to aim for. Thanks Matt, great idea.





RO Paul, rather fetching attire



Dan



Shayne



Ken B



Luke & Gavin



Gavin



Sunsafe Ken



Paul



Jim S



Shady Shayne, great idea



Ken H



Patient Peter



The Feb Crew

Special Presentation

After each BRAA weekend we make a list of ideas and things to do for the next month and beyond. This has been on the list for some time.

We have heard tales over the years related to military service of some of our members. They speak of things unfamiliar to civilians, in code style jargon, maybe not classified but foreign to the uninitiated. The rules, the chain of command, the uniform, the food.



With Gavin shooting the top score this weekend it seemed the appropriate time to “award” him a special prize.....a C Ration Pack!!!



Secretary's Say

Our packed container has been picked up from Cooyal and is waiting patiently in Dubbo for the Orana Range Complex to officially open so it can be delivered. We have a hand shake confirmation that we will be able to utilise the range pending it's final council approval. There has been a huge amount of work done and infrastructure built. However it isn't ready to host a State or National event so we will need to roll up our sleeves and supplying some sweat equity. It isn't the Cooyal Links....yet.

A reminder to all about attendances, the reporting year finishes 30th June which will be here soon enough. With pistol attendances, if you have BRAA as your primary club and are shooting elsewhere, that is fine but the onus is on you to report those attendances to BRAA so we can report your compliance.

Once again we are thinking of our members having health issues.

Thank you to those who ordered a Cooyal book, your prompt payment was welcome. We have gifted some, we hope the recipients are enjoying them. We can order more if anyone would still like one.

Our heartfelt condolences to Mark and his family on the passing of his mother Dorothy.



Secretary's Secretary's Say

Thank you everyone for a great weekend. It is so good to be back on the line. It was great to meet Janette finally. I believe we have decided to have a range visit at Dubbo on Sunday 16th March. Details will be emailed.

Dan and I will be attending the vintage tractor pull on Saturday 15th. Everyone is welcome to make a weekend of it. Camping is available on site at the Trundle Showground or at the Bogan Gate Game Ranch. (Our place) We'll head to Dubbo first thing Sunday.

We can arrange another weekend if this one doesn't work for the range visit.



Wanted

- ♦ .22 Converter Liner for a .45cal BPCR Contact Daniel

For Sale

- * S & W model 19 4" .357 mag
- * Contact Gavin

Upcoming matches

Easter-SSAA Muzzleloading Nationals
Townsville QLD

October-SSAA BPCR Silhouette
Nationals SA

MLAIC Long Range Muzzleloading
Worlds Championships Raton NM USA

Long Range BP afternoons at Nowra Rifle Club on the Fourth Sunday of the Month, paper targets, 300m to a max 800m

