



On target

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA 115 Apr 2025

April Holidays

Where did this month go? Public Holidays left, right and centre but nothing directly BRAA related to go to. This time last year we were flat out preparing to host the Inaugural Long Range Muzzleloading Nationals. This year we are turning blue from holding our breath for a new range. We hope everyone enjoyed their Easter break and were able to commemorate ANZAC Day.

We always have a very special dawn service at Bogan Gate, this year we heard some service stories of locals who had enlisted and gone above and beyond. One local was in the last unit to leave Gallipoli. We also had 12 riders re-enacting the 6th Light Horse Trundle Troop.



*Dawn service at Bogan Gate
Lest we forget*



Despite the lack of an organized BRAA activity this month, we have continued our black powder socialising with Bruce & Lynne calling in on their way from SA to Townsville. John arrived back at the BGGR and there was some business conducted with Bruce. John can now officially start dabbling in the art of black powder shooting with his new Sharps rifle

Shayne and Dan flew the flag for BRAA by travelling to Townsville at Easter to compete in the 50TH SSAA Muzzleloading Nationals (short range).

Shayne has long been in form for the shorter format and was hopeful of giving the Super Grand Aggregate a good ole nudge. Other familiar names from Long Range competing were Mark S, Anthony from QLD, Steve and Frank from SA.

The wet weather in QLD was making choosing the most direct route difficult as many roads were closed due to flooding. but everyone managed to find a way. All roads lead to Rome as they say.

Dan and Mark S travelled up together via Coonamble, Lightning Ridge, Dirranbandi, Roma, Emerald and Charters Towers. The country is looking really nice after all of the rain, the rivers are all still running bankers and the feed was long and green with cattle as fat as can be. Hopefully they will have another good year and the grain harvest is at least as good as last year. (Another busy season for Dan's road train)

Shayne took the "scenic route" via the Sunshine Coast as he'd never been that way before.

The Townsville range is a very nice range with excellent facilities and plenty of room for camping. The back drop is a very large mountain range and everything is lush and green. The temperatures were still pretty warm but it was the high humidity that knocked us inland dwellers around a bit.

Shayne competed in 31 of 32 events, a feat of endurance indeed, especially considering the heat and humidity. He did well in the pistol events on Friday and the various classes of rifle events on Saturday and Sunday, once again excelling in the off-hand events.

Monday was the 300m Class 3 in which he grabbed silver in very trying conditions. Shotgun events followed and watching him bust a winning score of 20 out of 25 clays with a single barrel muzzle-loading shotgun was great to see.

For the third year in a row he took out Grand Aggregate and Super-Grand aggregate just falling a few points short of breaking the National record. A trailer was almost needed to take home the medals and trophies won.

Short range isn't Dans forte' but he competed in a few pistol, military and class 3 events as well as the BPCR events. He picked up medals in the 100m and 200m benchrest as well as the 100m off-hand and coming 2nd in the BPCR aggregate with his CPA .45-90.



Shayne



Dan



Bruce



Mark

Following on from the Nationals, Shayne Mark and Dan travelled down to Clermont for a team training camp for the upcoming MLAIC Titles in the U.S.

Anthony joined us and organised the use of a range and some coaching from a member of the Australian Full-bore team, Josh.

Long-range muzzleloading is shot in a similar fashion to full-bore so Josh's inputs were invaluable.

Time was spent checking rifles and looking for improvements in sight alignment, bedding, bore-condition and slings.

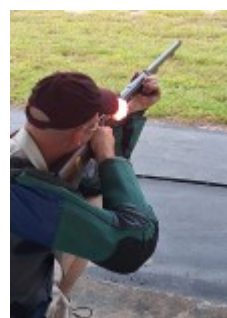
Checking for a "zero wind" setting was done as well as chronographing our loads. These clocked in around the 1350 to 1400 f/s range which is a bit higher than expected. Our shooting position on the mat was scrutinised and corrected.

Much needed coaching in teamwork and wind calling was also gone over. It was a bit of a back to basics for Mark and Anthony as they are both very experienced full-bore shooters but a lot was gained by Dan and Shayne. Much practice is needed and they will be shooting their Gibbs rifles at all BRAA shoots leading up to their trip to the U.S.

We had the use of one of the cameras that were trialled at Cooyal last year which saved us the trouble of having a target crew and gave instant feedback for the shooters.

Evenings were spent discussing ways to improve, loading and cleaning methods, what we needed to improve on and how to work as a team.

All in all, it was a very worthwhile exercise and many thanks to Anthony and Josh and to the local club for the use of their great facilities and range.



Anthony

*Photo credits
Michael Nicholas*

Secretary's Say

The Orana Range Complex is still pending and with recent resignations in SSAA NSW and the pending AGM this weekend, we are no further ahead than last month.

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.



Thanks to Gavin who collected some Buffalo trophies from Eric Johnston's wife Glenis, we hope to repurpose them into suitable awards.

With our limited bookings this year it would be great to see a big roll up at Nioka next month. We all need to shoot, it would be great to see everyone and it reduces the cost per person the more shooters we have. Hopefully there won't be too much mirage.



Secretary's Secretary's Say

It has arrived, we are now officially the recipients of a defibrillator. We thank the NSW Office of Sport and we sincerely hope we never have to use it. There will be some training to complete and ongoing record keeping and maintenance.

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Check your emails for information re *Trundle Bush Tucker Day*, it's a great day out.

Upcoming matches

May 16-18 Nowra Rifle Club Annual Black Powder Rendezvous Nowra NSW

May 24-25 BRAA @ "Nioka" NSW

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 800m

