

# SAMFORD VALLEY TARGET ARCHERS

Newsletter of the Samford Valley Target Archers

(ABN 63 639 289 573)

[www.samfordarchery.org](http://www.samfordarchery.org)

Newsletter No. 32

Let's call this edition the -

**70th Anniversary Edition!**

because, in January/February of 1947, the Grange Company of Archers came to life. This archery Club, with name changes along the way, is the oldest, continuously operating, archery Club in Queensland.

**Happy birthday to us!!!!**

This is also the last Newsletter before the 2017 Australian Open Archery tournament.

At this point, mid-February, we have in excess of 122 archers registered, with two groups from Malaysia, an archer from New Zealand, and a registrant from Iceland (it seems). This makes it a truly "International Event", so Welcome!, Hello Bro!, velkomið!, and Selamat dating! to all of our visitors.

We hope you enjoy the experience, and "May your arrows fly straight!"

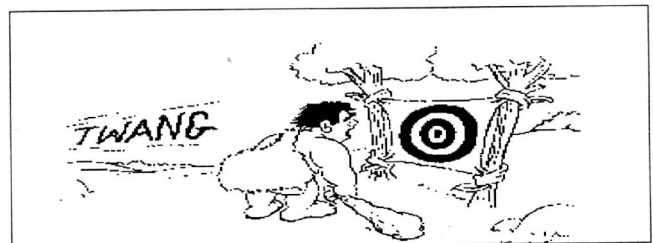
To mark the Anniversary occasion, and because of the

February, 2017

## 2017 Australian Open

**Tournament**, and because a number of people liked the historical bit in the last Newsletter, what follows is the (slightly edited) text of a presentation to the Royal Historical Society of Queensland in June last year at a seminar entitled "A History of Sport in Queensland"

"**The person** (or persons) who invented the bow (and the arrows to go with it) must have met considerable disbelief - "Wot - you'll catch a squirrel with that?" - "How the hell do you hope to damage the Ogg clan with that thin thing?"



*Now what's he invented?*

Nevertheless, the bow and arrow appeared in many parts of the world - "British Isles", Continental countries, Asia, the Americas, Africa, Himalayan areas and Papua/New Guinea,



Kuka Kuka  
tribesmen in  
Lae, 1965

and the islands of the Torres Strait. The oldest known “English longbow” was apparently found in a bog in Scotland in 1991, and was dated to 3 - 4 thousand years B.C. Bone arrow points dating back 61,000 years have been found in South Africa.

These areas would seem not to have been connected by the Internet, or even easily by travel. Whether the word spread gradually, or multiple inventors came up with the idea, somewhat simultaneously, in many different, unconnected areas will never be known. It appears that, despite the use of bows in Papua/New Guinea and the Torres Strait, archery never made its way to the Australian Aborigines. There is, however, a letter to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald in 1886, by H. Stuart Russell, recounting an incident in 1842 when he observed a group of aborigines whose children were playing with small bows and arrows. The location was north of Jimbour station on the Darling Downs, an area then relatively unexplored.

I have not found a reference to whoever brought the first archery equipment to Australia. It's unlikely to have been the convicts, though it could have been members of the military on those boats, and a reference in the National Library of Australia apparently refers to officers of the First Fleet practising archery at Sydney Cove in 1789, but the more affluent later immigrants would also have brought archery equipment.

Initially, as equipment required maintenance or replacement, when there may have been few, or none, with the required skills, archery probably suffered a slump in usage and popularity.

Mentions of archery in the newspapers of the early 1900's mostly concerned descriptions or discussions of archery in Britain, such as in the Brisbane Courier, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1904 - regarding the Midland Counties Tournament.

In “Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Review”, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 1848, the

author bemoaned the fact that there was considerable apathy in Australia in the promotion of callisthenic exercise, and suggesting archery as an answer. An article in the Bundaberg Mail (4<sup>th</sup> October 1923) questioned whether the sport of archery would ever be revived.

There is one mention, in the Telegraph (of Brisbane) in 1907 of a boy who was fined five shillings (and five shillings damages) for breaking windows with a bow and arrows.

According to a paper by Rhys Williams, the earliest attempt known in Queensland to organise archery as a sport, was by Mr W.H. Glissan in Toowoomba, who used his garden for archery.

Archery in New South Wales and in Queensland in these early days appears to have interested women more than men.



Mr Rhys Williams, of Salisbury in Brisbane, had been making bows from Queensland timber since at least 1932.



Rhys Williams

Some enthusiasts had also sourced equipment from Mr William Low, bow maker to the Royal Company of Archers (also known as the King's Bodyguard of Scotland). This equipment arrived in Brisbane on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1932.

In 1939 archers were joining in regular shoots in Salisbury and formed the Brisbane Archery Club, later re-named the Queensland Company of Archers. Ron Tucker, a member of the Club at Salisbury eventually left and, in 1947, founded the Grange Company of Archers.



Ron Tucker

The Grange Club (through several name changes) remains the oldest continuously operating archery club in Queensland, and is today, possibly the largest.

Archery golf was frequently practiced - often in North Queensland, but elsewhere, and indoor archery, at night seemed to be popular in Townsville.

(Lismore Northern Star Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 1926 - contains a description of archery golf)

Of course, boys being boys (especially when unsupervised), accidents did occur.

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 1919 and Brisbane Courier Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June 1920 indicate various injuries to children - usually involving eyes.)

And I know of one occasion in the 1950's of a boy who received a wound in his leg from an arrow.

In the 1940's to mid 50's Mr. Arthur Rigby was making bows - principally from acacias and some other wattles. Rigby



Arthur Rigby

attended the Salisbury Club and was also frequently at the Grange.

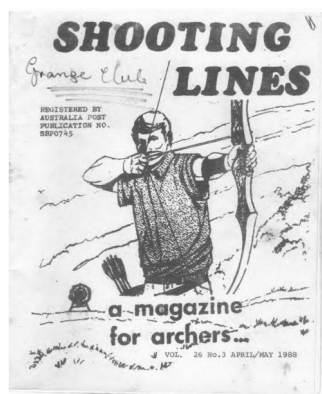
Archers (one, to a few devotees) were based in many towns, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, and Sandgate - and there was quite a proliferation of groups in North Queensland. Cairns was busy, and Townsville featured actively.

A PI News Pictorial in 1939 about Sydney archers stimulated contact between Queensland, and New South Wales archers. In May 1940 Jack Thompson from Sydney came to Brisbane and joined in shoots at Salisbury. He was interested in Queensland timbers for use in making bows, but he also mentioned that Mr. Richard (Dick) Rutherford, a journalist, was publishing an archery magazine, and the publication, "The Australian Archer", was regarded - at least by Rhys Williams as a "fine Publication".

However, due to the war years, restrictions on paper, and, undoubtedly, a limited circulation, the magazine folded in 1943.

The magazine was able to encourage a communication between archers throughout Australia, in New Zealand and other overseas countries - especially the USA. However, before it folded it raised the idea of an Australian Archery Association, and offered a draft constitution.

Individual Clubs now tend to produce their own Newsletters (if at all). "Shooting Lines" was a reasonably long-lived attempt at an Australian archery newsletter.



Archery Australia now publishes an on-line news reasonably frequently.

The lack of easy access to English manufactured bows during the years of the Second World War also stimulated interest in the search for Australian timbers that could be used to manufacture bows. Saffron Heart, Spotted Gum, Burdekin Plum, Green Satinheart, Black Wattle, and Brigalow had been suggested in 1940.

In March 1947, Cairns archers urged that an Australian Archery Association be formed - Sydney and Brisbane clubs were not very responsive.

A Townsville archery club was formed by Mr Trotter and other Townsville archers in August 1947, and Cairns and Townsville archers formed the North Queensland Archery Association on October 24, 1947, with a sense of frustration about the

southerners - not much has changed, North vs. South.

A Cairns Championship meet in November 1947 awarded a trophy donated by Mr. W. A. Collins, the Mayor of Cairns at the time.

After representations from Western Australia (by Mr Laurie Drake) and from other Eastern states, a meeting was held in Sydney in January 1948, and the Archery Association of Australia was formed. (In 1993 the name was changed to Archery Australia Inc.)

Mr. R.L. Rutherford (Sydney) was President, Mr. L. J. Drake of Western Australia was Secretary, and Mr Rhys Williams (of Brisbane) was one of the Vice-Presidents.

In June 1947, an International contest, arranged by the Sandiviken Archers of Sweden was held. Teams from seven European countries, Australia and South Africa, took part. This was a postal shoot. The Australian team of four archers took fourth place - Mr. Ron Tucker of the Grange was a member of that team.

Postal tournaments, where archers shoot at their home grounds and results are collated at a central point, have occurred for many years. 1948 was an especially active year for postals, organised by the new Australian Archery Association. The first National (archery) Championships were also organised by the AAA, and held in Sydney, in late 1948.

SQAS now has a postal competition, called the Silver Arrow which is held each year between clubs in its area in the disciplines of target, indoor, field, and clout archery. Archery Australia, with the advent of digital technology, has just introduced a National Club Challenge, where archers will shoot a requisite 72 arrow tournament, and scores will be available almost instantaneously on a programme called Archers Diary throughout Australia for affiliated clubs.



On 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1948 the Archery Society of Queensland was formed, largely due to the effort of Noel Gomersall of the Wynnum Archery Club. The North Queensland clubs of Townsville and Cairns declined to affiliate. The North Queensland Archery Association maintained that the state should have two Regional Governing Bodies (RGB's), for geographic and climatic reasons. The Australian Archery Association finally agreed. The dividing line is set at Rockhampton, Rocky being in the North Queensland camp.

The Archery Society of Queensland was re-named the South East Queensland Archery Society (SQAS) and now controls south of Rockhampton and into Northern New South Wales.

These Regional Governing Bodies - throughout Australia - come under the governance of Archery Australia.

The Queensland Company of Archers from Salisbury, very important in the archery of Queensland, moved to Anzac Park, Toowong around 1948, but finally disappeared.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's two-piece steel bows became common, although longbows and recurve bows (which were constructed of laminations of wood, fibreglass, etc.) were in use. Wooden arrows were still in use, but steel tubular arrows were also sold. Steel arrows were good, more uniform than wooden shafts, though tending to be heavy, and could shatter or bend (usually shatter) on hitting solid objects. Alloy arrows came a little later. Modern arrows are aluminium alloys, wooden (for the traditionalists), pure carbon, or carbon/alloy constructs.

In my experience the Imperial rounds - distances measured in yards, and shooting at a 5-ring target (scoring 9,7,5,3,1 out from the centre) were maintained into the 1960's, although FITA (Federation Internationale de Tir a l'Arc) rounds with distances in metres and 10-ring scoring were becoming the

preference of the more elite archers. (FITA was the World governing body of archery, and has now changed its name to World Archery). 10-ring targets and range measurements in metres are now standard - although the method of measuring the strength (weight) of a bow is still measured in pounds, and arrow lengths measured in inches, in Australia and much of the world.

Archery clubs are formed by a collection of enthusiasts. Sometimes the enthusiasm lasts and the club prospers and grows. Many times, because of the amount of work required to maintain targets, etc., the smaller groups fail, or internal squabbles split the membership. Whilst I have no knowledge of causes in the case of the Brisbane clubs, the Grange Bowhunters (at Albany Creek), and the Mount Petrie Bowmen (at Belmont) are the product of off-shoots from the Grange Company of Archers.

The current situation in Queensland in terms of numbers of clubs is:-

#### **Archery Australia affiliated -**

North Queensland clubs - 7

South East Queensland (and Northern New South Wales) - 11

**Australian Bowhunters Association - 33**  
(arranged in 3 districts)

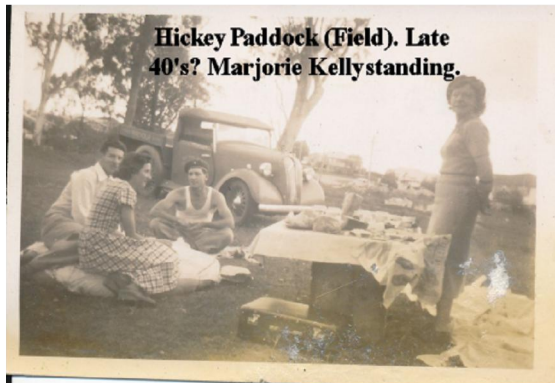
**3D Archery Association of Australia - 7**

Clubs that permit crossbows (which require Category M licence from the police) - 6 clubs (slides of club names)

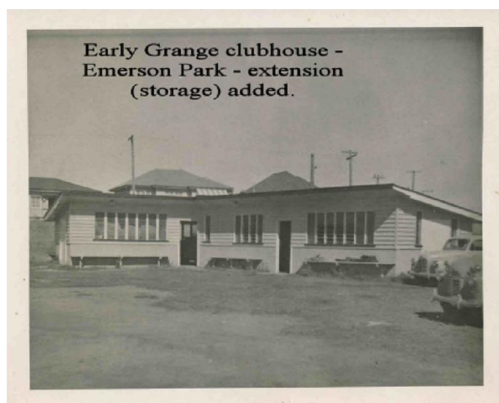
I will now move my attention more towards the Grange Company of Archers, the group with which I am more familiar.

As previously stated the prime mover in the formation of this club, in 1947, was Mr. Ron Tucker, although obviously other people were involved. At this point, a lot of early material relating to the first years has not been found.

However, the Club was allotted an open ground called Hickey Paddock (which had been a cow paddock) in The Grange suburb of Brisbane. It is now called Lanham Park



This was used for some time, but the Club finally negotiated to move to the area of Emerson Park in late 1951/ early 1952.



The lease was granted for five years at a cost of five guineas per year, provided that the Club took out a one thousand pound public risk policy, and undertook to spend three hundred pounds on improvements in the first two years, and not less than two hundred pounds for the next three years.

In addition to Ron Tucker, a major influence on the Grange Company of Archers was Mervyn ("Merv") Kelly. I have not so far established when he joined the Club, but he is listed as President and Treasurer in the Club Gazette of February 1954 - when Ron Tucker is also mentioned as a Life Member.



Merv was very much a fixture at the Grange. When I was a new Uni student, he taught me the beginnings of archery, and in fact he instructed our current SVTA Club President, Brian Hagaman, when he took up the sport.

Other names which recur many times in the history of Brisbane (and Queensland) archery are Tom Hannay, Mary Hais, Lou Steffens, Wally Marshall, Hilary and Shirley Chessher (husband and wife), and Terry Donovan.

Tom Hannay OAM, joined the Grange Company in 1947, whilst a student (in physiotherapy) at Queensland University - after leaving the RAAF.



Tom Hannay and Merv Kelly

He remained a member of Grange until 1964, when he joined the newly established Mount Petrie Bowmen (at the Belmont shooting complex). Tom remained a member of Mount Petrie for 42 years and was highly active in the club and the administrative side of archery in the state and the nation. He was awarded an OAM in 1983, and was a life member of the Grange Company of Bowmen, the Mount Petrie Bowmen, the South Queensland Archery Society, and Archery Australia. He died in 2005.

Hilary and Shirley Chessher were heavily involved the Grange Club and in the administration of archery in Queensland, especially during the 1982 Commonwealth Games, when archery was held at the Murrarie sports grounds.



Shirley was a competitor (as was Terry Donovan) and Hilary was involved in administration. Hilary was awarded an MBE in 1986 for services to archery.

Terry Donovan ( a member of the Mount Petrie Bowmen, and Secretary of SQAS) is one of 29 Australians who have competed at the Olympics since 1972. She has been in 3 Olympics (and many other international tournaments). Simon Fairweather was the Gold Medal winner at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and Tim Cuddihy of Toowoomba was Bronze Medal winner at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Taylor Worth (a member of the Mount Petrie Bowmen) competed in the 2012 London Olympics (with Elisa Barnard), and with Ryan Tyack (of the Sunshine Coast Archery Club) looks likely to go to the Rio Olympics this year. (Which they did, and with Alec Potts, gained a Bronze Medal in the Team Matchplay - Ed.)

Robin Hood - real or legend - has always attracted interest. A promotion for the film edition of 1923 featured some brief lessons for pupils of Brisbane's Normal School. This version starred Douglas Fairbanks as Robin Hood.

In addition, Grange Club was presented with the "Robin Hood Shield" in 1953, by Hoyts Theatres and RKO Radio Pictures.



This was probably as a result of promotional work by some Club members for the Disney film "The story of Robin Hood and his Merrie men", when Richard Todd starred as Robin Hood. An anecdote says that one of the Club members, Lou Steffens, encouraged by the audience and Merv Kelly, on the stage of the theatre, shot at an apple on the head of a William Tell (?) effigy. He hit the apple with his first - and only - shot.

The Robin Hood Shield was for annual Competition for Club Champion - the first occasion it was shot was on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1953, when it was won by Wally Marshall.

In the 40's and 50's members of the Club used to go to fetes and various locations and put on displays of archery. One mention of the attendance of members at a fete is the Centaur Fair held in New Farm Park on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1948. Apparently Club members dressed in medieval dress and put on a display of archery.

Another display was held in King George Square in September 1952 for the Youth Fitness and Health Week displays. In a display of insouciance spectators lined up beside the shooting area, which was reduced in range to 20 yards to lessen the chance of stray arrows.





There is also a photo in the Club records of what appears to be a night shooting demonstration on the diving platform of a swimming pool. What, why, where and when is not explained.

There are four types of bows allowed in Archery Australia rules. They are:-

Longbows, Recurve bows, Compound bows, and Crossbows

The more recent history of archery is difficult to illustrate since I have not yet found material which might be available. (History is not history until it's 50 or more years in the past?).

The Grange Company of Target Archers moved to the Samford Parklands area in January 2009, and took the trading name of the Samford Valley Target Archers in 2012.



With the support of the Queensland Government and the Moreton Bay Regional Council improvements to the facilities have been quite rapid and the Club recently (March 2016) held the 2016 Australian Open archery tournament with 128 archers from around Australia participating.



Since this is a discussion of the history of various sports, I must make a reference to football.

According to an article in the Townsville Daily Bulletin of 20<sup>th</sup> October 1953, football began in 500BC when the Greeks of Sparta played a game involving kicking a ball.

The Romans adopted the sport some centuries later to toughen the soldiers. However Caesar Augustus regarded the sport as “too gentle a method of training centurions for war” and therefore “a waste of time”.

Football made its way to England in about the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The game became so popular that it was interfering with the national (and compulsory) practice of archery, so King Henry II abolished the game. This remained so for about 400 years, but in the reign of James I, when gunpowder became used in warfare, he approved of football as “a clean and manly sport”.

I can attest that football remained some hindrance to archery even up to 2008. Valleys Rugby League Club grounds lay at the down range end of the Grange Company of Target Archers at Emerson Park. People coming and going to and from football frequently walked across the range area ignoring the fact that there were arrows in use about 200 metres away, despite waves, calls, whistles or shouts. Certain “pleasantries” were frequently exchanged.”



**There, that filled up some space,** now back to the more mundane Newsletter.

### **Emergency Contact Numbers**

We had an incident recently when a member was taken to hospital, but his vehicle remained on the grounds for a couple of days, because we had no emergency contact number. Our membership application does not currently have a section for contact numbers, but having joined, it is possible to go on-line to the Archery Australia site and add an emergency contact. All members should consider doing this - nothing in life is certain!

### **MEMBERS - We need Help!**

Although the new system of supplying a set of arrows to new members should reduce the equipment maintenance work load, we will still need to maintain the Club equipment (arrows, bows, strings, etc).

To do this we need people willing to learn the jobs and to **reliably** perform them. It's not a particularly difficult job - in small amounts.

With four people signed on, that's 1 week per month of volunteer service to the Club - with eight people signed on, then it's 1 week per two months.

### **PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING.**

### **This bit is particularly for the newer members.**

Although it doesn't matter THAT much when you're shooting an OzBow round, it is a good idea to get into the habit of filling out your score sheets correctly. That means look carefully and fill out the areas that seems to need some information - like, your first AND second name, the distance being shot, what your six arrow scores were and the

running total, the addition, and whether you have qualified at that particular distance.

This is GOOD training for when/if you graduate to looking for a handicap score or entering more formal competition - if you don't completely complete the scoresheet you will be called back to do so (at the very least) or worse, your score may be ignored.

**Because of the change in policy where new members will be issued with a set of six arrows,** it's probably not a bad idea to repeat the information in the last Newsletter about checking arrows.

**So, everyone, how do you know whether an arrow is safe to shoot?** When you are walking back from the target after scoring check your arrows for damage. Check every time irrespective of whether your arrows missed the target or not, or hit the frame, or if you hear a crunch when yours or other's arrows went into the target. Get into this practice whether it is club equipment or your own. For safety it is the archer's responsibility to check each time that the arrows are OK. What do you need to check for?.....

- that there are no broken nocks; examine them closely looking for any cracks or indents in the plastic nocks, replace then if there is any sign of damage. Look for longitudinal cracks as well as lateral cracks. (If you have pin nocks you may have to replace the pins also if they are damaged or scored).
- that the nocks are not loose. Do not shoot arrows with loose nocks.
- that the arrows are not bent, it is a good idea to spin then to detect any wobble. Do not shoot bent arrows.

- that the points are still fully in place (and that a point is not missing or left in the target - yes points do sometimes come out). Never shoot an arrow with a loose or missing point.
- that arrows are not cracked or split or splintered (pay particular care if you have carbon or carbon/ aluminium composite arrows - carbon splinters are dangerous). Check all arrows including wooden arrows closely. Never use cracked or damaged arrows.
- that fletches are sound - a loose or missing fletch will affect the accuracy.

### Trent Carberry has put a deal of thought into “Youth Squad Training”

with the idea that the younger archers (especially those who aspire to greater things in archery) would benefit from extra training in techniques, how to deal with various shooting situations, and perhaps introductions to different archery styles.

One of the difficulties with this idea is that the younger archers **are not turning up, or if they do, they are late - the start time is 9.00 am on the selected days, once a month.** Is there no interest in this concept?

The next Youth Squad morning is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> April (no, not an April Fool's joke) because the Australian Open eliminates the March one. **Parents, young archers PLEASE get to the Club in time** - we can't stand to see Trent cry.

**There will be a couple of new notices (what a novel idea!) near the Club bows, and**

**arrows.** The advice relates to the arrows which should be used with bows of particular bow weight - and is in line with the concept of correct spine of arrows for the bow in use. New archers (and some of the more long standing ones) have

difficulty telling a 1516 arrow from an XX75, so we've tried to make identification a little simpler - **please follow the directions these notices give.**



The early Grange Company of Archers badge.

**Well, that's the end of this one - good shooting to all archers, especially those in the 2017 Australian Open.**

**(Footnote - Taylor Worth, Alec Potts, and Ryan Tyack - the Bronze Medal-winning team from the Rio Olympics have all registered for the Open.)**