

September & October 2011 Rendezvous

We have been doing a few Rendezvous recently sometimes interrupted by family duties like the second birthday of my first Grandson and we also have since celebrated the arrival of my second grandson and I will have a new granddaughter for Christmas. Just as well the daughters are on the job, Debra is over the moon.

Taminick (NEML)

Late September 24th & 25th I went to the Spring Turkey Shoot at Taminick. It was as usual a good shoot and the weather held up OK. There was some excellent shooting among those who came along; regrettably numbers were down over past years which was surprising as it no longer clashes with the AFL Grand Final as it has in the past. Fewer than usual from interstate, perhaps it is because we are all getting older and less inclined to travel.

I missed the Sunday shoot for my grandsons' birthday but left our caravan at the range in the care of the stopovers for the annual Military Camp. When returning on Thursday to pick up the van, already the early arrivals for the Military Camp had nearly outnumbered the Turkey Shoot entries of the previous week.

Gunnedah Inaugural Rendezvous

I went from Taminick to the inaugural Rendezvous being held at the Nioka range near Gunnedah, this range shows great promise for many events in the future but a few trees would be nice. The range has stop butts out to over 1000 yards and hosts quite few long range shoots throughout the year.

Unfortunately the event was rather damp. 3" of rain between Wednesday and Saturday afternoon and the property owner said they had equalled their usual annual rainfall over the previous 3 weeks, he was very happy about that but it did make for sloppy conditions and make access somewhat interesting especially for those with tin tepees.

The first event of Saturday was a cut the log shoot which was said to be an event using "unprocessed paper" targets to keep some pedants in NSW happy, it seems that fun events cannot be readily approved in NSW, you have to shoot at structured targets, my team consisted of Jim Cross, Patricia Hanlon, Bill Knight and Graeme Forbes, we eventually split the "log" which was more like a chunk of heavy plywood to win.



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The next event was the “Farmyard” consisting of a series of metal gongs at various distances, a chook, rabbit, black cat, whisky bottle and a pig target, three of us equalled scores. Andrew Tuft, Ian Hanlon and myself, after a long shoot off I won the event in between rain showers, Driza-Bone was the dress of the day, too wet for



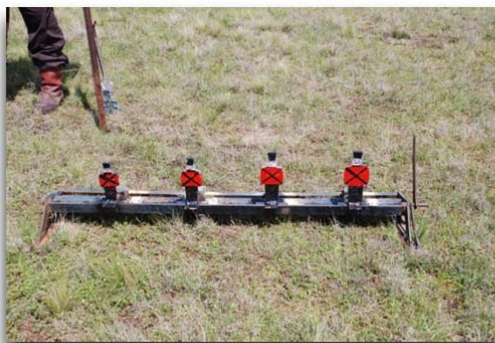
me to get into the buckskins!

Next was the “Two Dogs” shoot designed by Bill Daniels. The scenario was that the somewhat horny rear dog was attempting to “molest” the front dog so you had to shoot the rear dog without hitting the front dog, if you hit the front dog you had “killed” your favourite pet so had to retire from the event, there was a lot of sledging and laughter as quite a few shooters hit the front dog as the visible area of the rear dog was quite small, a very fine sight picture and a steady hand won the day with the event being won by Ian Hanlon after a shootoff with Richard Beck.



Next up was the Eureka Stockade won by Karen Cross shooting at very small “redcoats” with very limited time to shoot before they dropped behind the barricades.

As you can see these are small targets to hit in a 5 second exposure at about 40 metres or so.



Eureka Stockade Redcoats

Cannon was a challenge as with the very wet conditions it was shot from under a shelter otherwise loading would have been very difficult with rain running down the barrel and wet fuses etc, I won the cannon event hitting 2 out of 3 turkey targets at about 40 metres. The shelter was only a canvas roof so the noise wasn't any worse than usual



The line up of cannons and shooters, mine is the shiny one third from the back while the artillery men show off the fashion of the day.

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Perhaps the best event of the day/evening was a truly magnificent spit roast cooked to perfection by Paul, the property owner, included in the entry fee, the best meal I have ever been served at any shoot I have attended in the last 40 years , roast lamb, potatoes, pumpkin, peas and gravy served on china plates



The big black plate was warming the serving platters, with silver cutlery followed by a choice of three deserts with tea or coffee in china cups, Paul even washed the dishes afterwards, a big change from the typical sawdust sausage in a bit of soggy white bread that passes for a meal at many a shoot.

Sunday saw shotgun with some challenging target eventually won by Richard Beck but one notable was doing quite well with a matchlock.

I had to leave not long after this with a 15 hour drive to Melbourne due to other commitments; it was OK for the NSW people with a long weekend so I missed a few events.

The knife an hawk saw Ian Hanlon achieve something different, while practicing he threw his knife at the block while the hawk was still there, the knife went through the hawk handle much to the amusement of all present! You couldn't do it if you tried!

Overall the event was great, the eventual winner was Richard Beck and I would hope that the event grows in the future, it was a lot of fun and I would hope to return to the next shoot.

