

TWIN COAST ARCHERS



January/February 2016

A special welcome to our New Members!

Thankyou to all who let me know of their successes. For those that do not know, Email me at stgd94@gmail.com with your archery related news/pics that you want to share.

Hunters: If you intend sending pics through of bowshot game, please ensure you select the most 'clean' pictures. I.e, ones with the least blood/dirt etc... on the animal. Thankyou

Tournament News

K3D - Round 1 Pine Ridge.

Congratulations to those who shot and felt good about their score. An accident occurred on the course which prevented a number of archers completing their round. The scores had to be taken then from the unmarked round only as that is the only round everyone fully completed. This put **Nathan** in 2nd place in Senior Mens Bowhunter Release division. His total score was however the top score in that division (and 2nd highest overall) tied with 3 others (all of which fully completed both rounds). **Benjamin** ended up in 3rd= place in the same division. He did however shoot the 2nd highest score in that division, by 2 points, and 3rd highest overall. **Samuel** tied in 1st place in the Junior Limited division, however he had one target to complete the round when the shooters were called off the course, his competitor finished his round completely. Basically, if Samuel had got to shoot the last target, provided he didn't miss, he'd be fair and clear the winner by at least a 16 point margin. Congratulations to the other Twin Coast shooters that shot a score but didn't make it into the top 3 in their division. It seems the shooting quality was quite high or the course was quite easy by the scores that were recorded.

Bowhunting News

Congratulations to Eli for getting his 1st bow-shot goat and his first bow-shot possum, Rebekah for her first hare (followed promptly by 3 others), Samuel for shooting his first grass carp and Nathan for getting his first Stag! Caleb also joined the ranks as a bowhunter when he nailed a sparrow as his first bowkill - great shooting. He also successfully stalked in close enough to arrow his first goat too. Last but not least, Jared also had success minutes into his first bowhunt by nailing a very respectable 20kg (gutted) billy goat. I was priviledged to be leading the hunt and I think it is probably the quickest '1st goat' I've ever seen anyone get. Congratulations Jared! Total tallies from New Years day – 29th February include: 20 Goats, 6 Rabbits, 115 Koi Carp, 1 Grass Carp, 7 Hares, 4 Turkeys, 2 Magpies and 4 Possums. Big Game - 2 Pigs from North Waikato for Sarah and a nice 6pt Red Stag for Nathan from Central North Island.

Club News

A club shoot and bowhunting educational course took place early in January. Both events were very successful - a quick run down below.

NEWSLETTER

The club shoot - got postponed the first time due to 20m visibility and a slippery course (nevermind, I went hunting instead and brought home pork). The next Saturday turned out a brilliant sunny day and so it went ahead. The course meandered in and around pasture and pine forest, with a few hills to negotiate with as well. The swamp proved a bit tricky for some - gumboots were recommended but reflecting on it, some may have been better off wearing waders. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves anyway.

The Bowhunting Education Course - this was an overnight event for Juniors in the club. 7 attended, namely: Tim, Matthew, Jared, Eli, Craig, David and Caleb. There was stalking skills to be practiced after the blood trailing set up. A bunch of us pretended to be goats (Rebekah and I were very 'intelligent' goats by using RT's though). If any of the 'stalkers' was noticeably seen moving, then they'd be sent back to their starting position. Meanwhile us 'goats' did various goat like things such as laying about in the sun on a hillside, getting up and moving around amongst the scrub, even bleating and running over to each other. A certain Eli put his thinking cap on after successfully 'shooting' Benjamin (who was supposed to be acting a billy goat), Rebekah and I were the dumb 'juvenile' goats that were bleating to each other as if we were lost (as well as using RT's to say who we could see and if they should be called up or not). Eli used this as the optimum time to 'call' Rebekah in by imitating a goat bleat. This was super smart thinking and Rebekah duly fell for the call. After pretending to shoot her also, she put on a fabulous display, as did Benjamin, of a goat dying :-). A lot of fun was had with this. Matthew proved a very sneaky stalker and used good tactics, covering a lot of ground without us noticing at all (we even started desperately looking for him). Other bits and pieces were covered and after dinner it was time for a possum hunt and the Grand possum plucking challenge. Tim clocked the best time for this challenge and so took away the \$20 H&F voucher. A late night (or early morning to be more precise) was had by Eli, Jared, Matthew, Tim and myself, not to mention Dad also (our pick-up man so we didn't have to walk all the way home again). Jared, Matthew, Tim and I slept outside and I had to resist getting up in the early hours of the morning when I heard a possum growling not far away. To save disturbing everyone else who was sleeping in the living room, I had to sleep with my gun by my side as going to lock it up would have meant waking people. A gun you think, why not bow?? Yes, Possums way up big trees are a bit hard and expensive to get with a bow and one needs possums for a possum plucking challenge...

The following day, a certain four-some (not including Eli who got a presumably good sleep indoors) were a bit slow to get going. But nevermind, after breakfast the quiz came out. There were 30 questions regarding all sorts of hunting scenarios. Jared got the most right with 24. After the quiz, there was a tape fence obstacle set up that the young men had to negotiate with all their hunting gear on + bows in hand. This was just to raise awareness of what catches when you are in tight bush. I was told I had to complete it too rather than just amusing myself watching others from the sideline. So I grabbed my bow and hunting belt. I think the youngsters learnt a trick when in the spur of the moment it occurred to me I should put my belt under my shirt rather than over it. Cameras and knives tend to hook on things, but they can't when covered. After some shooting and what not, it was lunch time. This also meant the goat bleating and possum hissing competition. All 7 competed. Rebekah and I were the judges in a different room and each person had a number assigned to them by someone else. We called the number and that person (unidentifiable to us) would do their best possum hiss and goat bleat imitation. As it turns out, Eli and Craig tied. We had them both replay and Craig just came out on top. We scrambled to think of a different prize as it was going to be a goat hunt, but Craig at the time wasn't drawing enough to kill a goat. A koi carp bowfishing trip was awarded instead. He has since taken that up and had success (more on that in the next newsletter). Then what everyone was waiting for, the goat hunt was to take place. Groups were assigned and sent out. Kate and Benjamin took Tim, Matthew and Craig into the forest nextdoor to us where Benjamin successfully arrowed a goat after calling it in. Dad took David and Caleb stalking goats just over the way from our place. They had an absolute blast and showed some great hunting skills and got very close to a mob.

Caleb commented something about it being a good thing he didn't have his bow, or else he'd be having to carry a goat up the steep hill :-). Priceless! Meanwhile, Rebekah and I took Eli and Jared to Tauhoa. Jared didn't have hunting arrows, so Eli was the only shooter besides ourselves. The long and short was we had good success, with Rebekah shooting a big bodied billy goat, Eli nailing his first bow-shot goat (a proud moment to be alongside him for sure) and myself shooting 2. We were late home, but Eli and Jared's parents didn't seem to mind too much and there were plenty of stories to be told and smiles all around. A great event for sure.

Story Page - please do send me an archery related story and it will likely feature here, otherwise you are stuck with my stories.....

2016 Carp Shooting - Samuel Orchard

When Nathan came into the room to wake me up I was already half awake. I looked around the room with blurry eyes.

By the time we got down to Huntly I was still half asleep. Nathan and Benjamin hopped quickly out of the car to unhook the boat from the trailer. I stepped out and took a look at the lake while stretching my stiff legs. I was expecting the lake to be a little bit smaller than this.

After unhooking the boat and pushing it out, Benjamin got the bow fishing bow ready while I picked up mine. I fitted the arrow to the string and waited up the front ready to quickly shoot if I saw a carp.

I shivered with excitement and couldn't wait to start shooting. We had spotted a few big ones spawning but they got spooked by the boat.

Nathan started the motor. We started across the lake.

The wind blew into my face and I yawned. We slowed down as we got closer to the other bank. I got ready to jump out but there weren't really any carp around so we started off again.

As we approached the bank, we spotted a few medium sized carp close to the bank. I drew back ready to shoot. Nathan drew back too. The carp were close up to the bank, in slushy mud. They were quite still but were slowly swishing their tails. One was a blacky, brown colour and the other was orange with a few dark spots.

I couldn't keep my arm from shaking with excitement. "Now" whispered Nathan. I released my arrow. It flew straight over its back. I missed. I quickly wound my arrow back in and put the arrow back onto my bow.

We beached the boat then started along the bank. I missed my next few carp then hit one. I quickly pulled it into the bank then pulled my arrow out of it. I was ready to keep going. I shot a few more carp out of that part of the channel then walked along the bank towards where Nathan and Benjamin were shooting more carp.

"Wow! There were lots of carp!"

When we had shot all the carp we could see we picked them up and dragged them back to the boat where we put them in a barrel. We quickly ate a muesli bar each then started up the boat motor again.

We stopped in another part of the lake and shot a few more fish.

As we rounded the point of the next bay, I could see several more carp sun bathing in the mud. As soon as I jumped out of the boat I shot a carp which I quickly put in the boat then walked along the bank a bit further, shooting as I went. By the time we had shot all the carp in the channel, I was up to 21 carp. Over all we had shot about 70 carp. We ate a quick lunch before heading out to shoot more carp.

We went into a secret spot of Nathan's for carp, and they dropped me off to walk along the bank. As soon as I jumped out into the muddy water, I saw a carp fin. Without much thought, I quickly shot at the carp that belonged to that fin. As I pulled it in, I realized I had shot a grass carp. Wow! I showed Nathan and Benjamin the carp, then carried it up onto the bank. It was pretty big.

In the next 15-20 minutes, I shot ten more carp to add to my numbers. By then we were almost sinking the boat with the number we had, so we motored back to the boat ramp. Over all we had shot 116 carp. I shot 32 of them and an 8.4kg grass carp.

~Samuel~