

Tuggeranong Archery Club 20 year Anniversary

As we get closer to the 2023 AGM we look back at how far the Tuggeranong Archery Club has come in the last 20 years.

The archery club was registered in 2003 with 25 members and has grown to just on 320 members including 100 Bhutan archers and about 25 SCA members. Some of the original members are still active in the club today.

The club started with nothing but a hand full of targets butts and plastic covers. All the timber frames were put against the fence and covered up with plastic when they were not being used.

In 2003 Members set about making Tuggeranong Archery Club what it is today. The first thing that was needed was a shed, so we put in for a grant hoping to get the money to buy the shed. We were successful in getting that initial grant and that inspired us to apply every year since then for ACT and also federal grants. That green shed is still with us today on the far side of the main range.

As we were shooting on grass we decided we needed some pavers to keep ourselves and our gear up off the muddy/dusty ground. So we put in for a grant to get them and the members laid them over a month.

Looking to the future we thought we would like to have an indoor range and shelters over the paved area so we set about getting another grant for a hall and shelters. This took 6 years of hard work by two of our members which came to fruition and the club was now on its way to being one of the best in Australia.

Over the 20 years the club has obtained many other grants for improvements and equipment as listed below. A scrubber to clean the floor was needed as it was costing \$220 /month to hire one. Then we won a grant for the disabled toilet on the main range which is located next to our original shed. Next came new timing lights for competitions on the indoors and main range. This was followed by the first aid kit and defibrillator. A Kabota mower was bought with a grant from ACT government and that has allowed us to keep the outdoor ranges neat and tidy. It was decided to replace all the indoor lights with LEDs as well as those under the shelters in order to minimise energy use and save the club some money. Even so this month's electricity bill was \$890.

The electrical security fence and gate came next. Tar sealing of the carpark and a replacement industrial front door for the hall was completed with a federal government grant in 2020. Security cameras outside and inside were installed in 2021. Our latest grants this year have bought timber for shelters on the Bhutan ranges (these have been completed already) and a new Kabota 4 in one tractor with slasher attached which will make mowing the trails on the field course much easier and also help move the field target butts. As you can see getting these grants has given us a lot of money to be able to afford all the assets we now enjoy.

The hire of the multifunctional hall to other sports, archery memberships and the "come and try" provides the money to pay our bills including insurance (\$40,000 for building and assets and public liability), electricity (\$890/month), gas (\$60/month), telephone/internet/debit machine(\$110/month), ADT(security company- \$40/month), poo carriers (to empty disabled toilets -\$170/fortnight), Canberra fire fighting (monthly inspection of fire equipment as mandated by ACT government -\$499/quarter), JJ Richards (rubbish removal-\$245/month), cleaners (\$25,000/year), accountancy fees (\$1,200/year)

Licence and lease fees(\$400/year) and sundry other maintenance costs. We also pay GST and membership fees to archery Australia and ACT archery.

Along with the improvements from the grants our members have also contributed a lot of time and energy to improve the club. Initially we laid the pavers on the main range area and built two field courses. Over the years our volunteer members have built 139 target butts using rags/carpet/waste plastic as filling. These 139 butts can be seen on the main range, the "come and try", the two field courses and the Bhutan course. The butts are maintained by the Tuesday group who do small maintenance work every Tuesday morning. The ranges are also mowed by a volunteer member. All of the committee members are also volunteers as are the canteen group and Coaches. Other members help out on a specific project basis rather than every week. Without the countless hours donated to the club by our many volunteers the archers would not be able to enjoy their sport.

The club ran the 2012 /2013 nationals while the hall was being built. With one member project -managing the building of the hall and another member in charge of the setting up for the nationals it was a hectic time. We had to construct all the competition target frames (that are still used today for tournaments) buy all the equipment, make all the signage, get the foam butts from BCE and other companies. We had to get target faces from overseas. After many sleepless nights and countless hours of work from many volunteers we pulled it off and have since run many other functions including field and disability archery nationals, the indoor nationals (yearly) QREs and Invictus sports days.

In 2015 the Hockey Club in the adjacent enclosed sports ground wanted to build a child care centre so we had to put in an earth berm behind the "come and try" for safety. We decided we would put in one behind the main range as well. Hockey never went ahead with the centre but we got two berms and kept all of the land we currently occupy. The total land is 28 hectares divided into 3 lots: Field and Bhutan's and Clout. These three are licensed by the ACT government. The main range, "come and try" range and the car park are "under leased" from Sports and Rec who hold the main lease. The hall is sitting on a 3rd block which has a licence from Sports and Rec. The men's shed is paying us rent to use their part of the hall and paying some of the insurance costs. As you can see it takes a lot of work just to look after the club.

This year the hall has nearly reached its full rental capacity with Trampoline, Floorball, Table Tennis, Fencing, Pickleball, Indoor Bocce, Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Rugby League, Ready Steady Go, Badminton, Unicycle Hockey and Rhythmic Gymnastics sports all using the hall and keeping the members who look after bookings very busy. The new computers and office printers help with the booking process.

Over the years the club has produced a number of very good archers that have represented Australia in international field, target and indoor archery competitions. Three of our members have competed at the Olympics. Some of the junior archers were able to train at the AIS alongside the junior members of the AIS squad.

To all our members please come along to the AGM and learn more about the club. You will not be asked to do anything but if you want to volunteer to do something the club will help match your skills and interests to activities that will benefit the club and give you great satisfaction. Suggestions for improving club facilities are always welcome as grants are available twice each year-one from the federal government and one from ACT. What is your vision for Tuggeranong Archery Club for the next 20 years.?

The first 2 pictures below are on the first day we were at the club in Feb 2003 and the 3rd and 4th pictures are taken on 10/9 /23 so you can see what it was like then compared to what it is today.

Good shooting and stay safe

Kevin Watts

Treasurer

Tuggeranong Archery Club