

An even earlier history of the Canberra Archery Club

The following traces the history of archery in Canberra, as seen by the Canberra Times newspaper. Publication dates are in [square brackets].

In June 1948, an advertisement was placed in the Canberra Times seeking those interested in archery. Mr Roberts does not appear in later articles about the club.

RESIDENTS of Canberra who are interested in the sport of Archery are invited to submit their names and addresses to Mr. D. C. Roberts, 97 Canberra Avenue, Griffith, Canberra, A.C.T.
[22 June 1948]

On 5 March 1949, the following notice was placed in the Canberra Times. York Park was to become the home of archery in Canberra for a few years.

EXHIBITION OF ARCHERY

To-morrow afternoon at York Park, opposite Hotel Kurrajong, an exhibition of archery will be given by Mr. R. Rutherford, of Sydney, a past president of the Australian Archery Club.
[5 March 1949]

By May, the Club had a venue for shooting – York Park and participating with other clubs

CANBERRA GUILD OF ARCHERS

The guild has several new members and practice shoots, held each Sunday afternoon at York Park, continue to attract public interest. Clout and target shooting are particularly interesting.

The guild has just received an invitation from the Archery Association in Sweden to join in an international mail tournament to be held in June. Canberra members will compete.

Top scorers of Sunday's shoot were Messrs Wein, Burroughs and Riley.

More members are needed so that a target house can be erected near the shooting ground. [24 May 1949]

The Club started small with two targets being used. The results of an afternoon shoot were published on Tuesday 31 May 1949.

CANBERRA GUILD OF ARCHERS

Target practice at York Park on Sunday afternoon revealed progress being made by archers.

An Olympic round of 15 ends (six shots each end: at a distance of 30 yards, resulted in scores being: Wein 542, Neilson 435, Riley 219, Flinn 152 (4 arrows) and Mathieson (junior) 119.

Next Sunday two targets will be in use for the advanced archers and beginners.

Intending members will be given free instruction.

A more substantive article appeared on 13 June 1949.

CANBERRA ARCHERY CLUB ACTIVE

Although at present there are only 10 active members, archery is becoming a popular sport in Canberra. Yesterday a crowd watched archers of the Canberra club fire at their targets on the grounds opposite Hotel Kurrajong.

An official of the club said that a membership drive would commence next week and it was hoped to enrol about 50 members. At present there are no lady members but a section will be formed to cater for them.

Archery is one of the oldest sports, and requires long training before proficiency is attained.

Several members of the Canberra Club make their own arrows. Each arrow is made to suit the requirements of the individual archer.

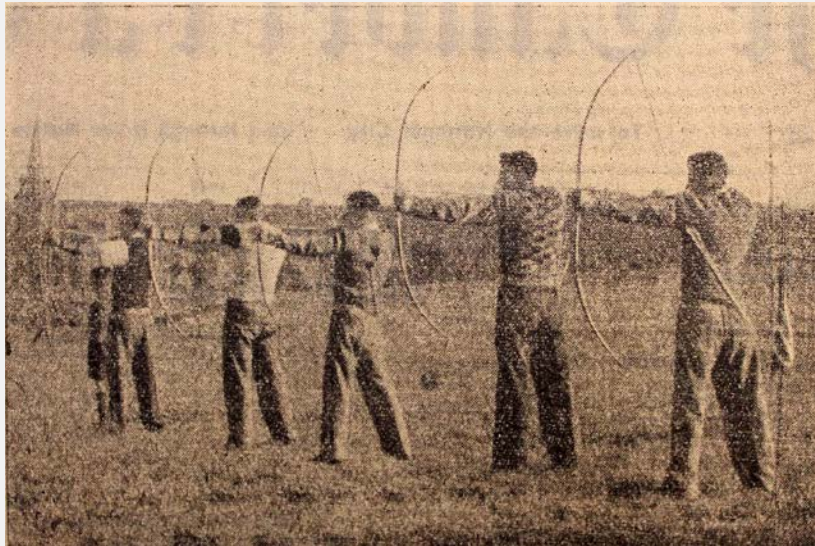
The club is negotiating with the Department of the Interior for a temporary lease of the grounds opposite Hotel Kurrajong. If the application is successful the club will seek permission to build a club house.

Star member of the team, at present, is M. Wein, who can score a "bull" almost unerringly at 40 yards. Youngest member is John Mathieson, who yesterday plugged a "bull" from 30 yards. He normally fires from the 20 yard mark. [13 June 1949]

The grounds opposite the Hotel Kurrajong is York Park. Later articles show that this area became the site for the first archery club in Canberra.

A month later the following photo was published showing archers shooting at York Park.

Canberra Archers on the Target



From left to right: John Mathieson, R. Burroghs, W. Riley, R. Cross, M. Wein and M. Flynn, members of the Canberra Archery Club, "sight" the target in a practice shoot at York Park. [13 July 1949]

This photo includes the first reference to the Club's current name "Canberra Archery Club", however this is probably journalistic licence.

In the top left of the photo is the spire of St Andrews Presbyterian Church.

York Park in 2015



The Foreign Affairs building to the left makes it difficult to get the same location as the 1949 photo

On the social scene, the Club organised a Ball at the Albert Hall

Archery Ball

Targets and archery tackle will be on display and information on the sport will be supplied by members at the first annual ball of the Canberra Guild of Archers at the Albert Hall on Saturday. Cups for dancing competitions have been donated by Mr. Max Flinn, of Mugga Way, and will be presented by Mr. Allan Fraser, M.P.

Mr. J O'Halloran and Miss Moya O'Neill will give a dancing exhibition. [17 August 1949]

CANBERRA GUILD OF ARCHERS

Hitting the Bulls-Eye of Entertainment

DANCE

Albert Hall, To-night

POGSON AND LAWLERS' BAND TICKETS 3/-

Late Busses. Competition for Cups

[20 August 1949]

The Canberra Guild of Archers was the formal name for the first archery club. Its exact date of commencement is not known. The following notices in 1949 indicate that the club was established in 1948 or 1949.

CANBERRA GUILD OF ARCHERS

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Hotel Civic on Monday evening, 26th. September, at 8 p.m. An invitation to be present is extended to all people interested in Archery. Phone B223. [23 & 26 September 1949]

CANBERRA GUILD OF ARCHERS :

At the first annual meeting of the Canberra Guild of Archers, the following, office-bearers were elected: Patrons: Messrs. R E. Sidridge, A. D Fraser. M.P., W A. McLaren, L Morris, I. A. Smith, Dr. D. Wearne, Dr. T J. Kighan; President, Dr L. W Nott; vice-president, Mr J. Mills; hon. treasurer, A N. Hunter; hon secretary; Val D'Outre; committee Messrs M Flinn, T. Longstaff and Dr. Norris; field Captain, R. Nielsen; chief instructor, R Burroughs; liaison officer, M Vein, groundsman R. Cross.

The annual report-revealed increased membership, and the financial statement showed a credit balance after all commitments had been met. Additional equipment is to be purchased for the use of intending members and visitors during, the course of instruction.

It is hoped to complete the building of the Target House at York Park during the coming week-end.

Plans for the future envisage the inclusion of women archers, junior club for boys, and mail tournament with interstate and overseas clubs. [29 September 1949]

By 29 October 1949, the Guild had completed the Target House. While the article mentions the National Champs, no Canberra archer attended. It was not until 1964 that Canberra Archers shot in the National Championships.

CANBERRA GUILD OF ARCHERS

The national championship of Australia is to be held at Melbourne from November 12 to 18.

Junior and senior events for men and women are, to be programmed.

Competitions comprise target, flight and clout shooting. Archery is booming in Melbourne where there are approximately 35 clubs.

The Canberra Guild has completed the building of the target house at York Park and shooting will be resumed at the week-end.

American rounds of clout shooting will feature on the programme.
[29 October 1949]

York Park was the site of the first archery club in Canberra. Today, this area is parkland, car park and the Department of Foreign Affairs.



On 15 December 1949, the club was recommended to receive a government grant subsidy for youth development.

Grants Recommended A.C.T. Organisation for National Fitness

The A.C.T., National Fitness Advisory Committee, yesterday recommended to the incoming Minister for Health that subsidies from the annual A.C.T. grant be made available to the Canberra Swimming Club, the Y.M.C.A., the 'Y.W.C.A., the Boy Scouts' Association, the Girl Guides' Association, the Canberra Women's Hockey Association, the Canberra Women's Basketball Association, the Australian National Football League, and the Canberra Guild of Archers. [16 Dec 1949]

We then skip to May 1950 where the Guild put on a shooting exhibition at York Park.

Target Shooting by Archers

A large number of spectators watched an exhibition of target and clout shooting given by the Canberra Guild of Archers at York Park last Sunday.

Highest score for target shooting over ten ends was recorded by Rob Neilson, who also recorded the highest score in the clout shooting.

A weekly competition of 15 ends of target shooting for a steel arrow trophy will commence next Sunday.

It is hoped to arrange a mail tournament between an Adelaide Club and the Canberra Guild in the near future. [3 May 1950]

CANBERRA GUILD OF ARCHERS

A GENERAL Meeting will be held at the Hotel Civic on Tuesday, May 23, at 8 p.m.

An invitation is extended to all interested in archery to be present.

LEWIS W. NOTT,

President. [20 May 1950]

In May 1950, the Club's program involved clout shooting at York Park. As they were shooting Clout rounds, this indicates that the archery range must have been of a reasonable size.

WEEKEND SPORT

Sunday

Archery Clout shoot at York Park, opposite Hotel Kurrajong. [27 May 1950]

As happens in Canberra, people arrive and leave. Mr Morris was one of the 7 club patrons elected in 1949. Night archery is probably indoor archery.

Guild of Archers

Members of the Canberra Guild of Archers presented Mr. and Mrs. Len Morris with a record of their signatures at their last meeting.

Mr Morris, who is a patron of the Guild, will leave Canberra shortly.

He has presented a target and trestle to commemorate his association with the organisation.

A mail tournament with the Adelaide Archery Club will be conducted by the Canberra Guild on June 18. The Adelaide Club is one of the most modern in Australia and has popularised night archery, which the Canberra Guild will attempt to introduce to Canberra. [31 May 1950]

The club's first postal shoot was held on 18 June 1950 with the Adelaide Archery Club.

MAIL CONTESTS FOR ARCHERS

Members of the Canberra Guild of Archers will compete with the Adelaide Archery Club in a mail tournament to-morrow.

The four best results by Canberra archers in an American competition over fifteen ends will be sent to the South Australian Club.

Adelaide, will send their four best results to Canberra.

The Canberra shoot will be carried out in York Park, opposite the Hotel Kurrajong to-morrow afternoon. [17 June 1950]

On 18 July 1950, the club was referred to as the Canberra Archery Club. This may be just the newspaper using a common name for the Guild.

Archery Handicap

Scores in a single American Round competition conducted on a handicap basis by the Canberra Archery club on Sunday were: R. Cross . 485, M: Flinn 470, T. Longstaff 525, R. Neilson 485, D. Perron 475, C Winter 503. [18 July 1950]

WEEK-END SPORT

SUNDAY

Archery

Target and Clout shooting at York Park. [12 August 1950]

WEEK-END SPORT

SUNDAY

Archery

Beginners' class at York Park.

Also target shooting [2 September 1950].

The club was active in promoting archery in the community, particularly with the YWCA. In the following articles the club is again referred to as the Canberra Archery Club.

Y.W.C.A. NOTES

On Thursday night, September, 21, at 8.30, six members of the Canberra Archery Club will give a demonstration of archery to members of the Thursday night club. An invitation to attend is issued to interested, young men and-women. [13 September 1950].

WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING

Night Archery

Night archery will be demonstrated in Canberra for the first time to-morrow night.

The exhibition has been arranged by the Canberra Guild of Archers, and will be held in the gymnasium of the YWCA at Civic.

Two teams of three shooters will take part and will explain the fundamentals of the sport.

Night archery is practised extensively in other parts of Australia. [20 September 1950]

INDOOR ARCHERY AT Y.W.C.A. DISPLAY

The first demonstration of indoor archery in Canberra took place at the Y.W.C.A. last night, watched by approximately 40 members of the business girls' club and the fencing class of the Association.

An earlier proposal for a demonstration at Albert Hall had been prevented because it was considered dangerous.

For more than a hour after the exhibition members of Canberra's youngest' sporting organisation, the Canberra Archery Club, practised under novel conditions in the gymnasium.

Half the lights were turned out to leave the marksmen firing from the shadow to heavy targets against the far wall. Steel shafted arrows nicked across space from lemon wood and steel bows to plunge eight inches through the targets.

The practice was watched by the patron of the club, Mr. Alan Fraser.

Onlookers were introduced to the sport, both by demonstration and explanation of the equipment, scoring and technique of shooting. Several said later they intended learning more about the sport. One of the archers said that night archery has considerable possibilities, especially in hostels, but the authorities frowned on it. . Lack of a suitable hall is the main drawback, he declared.

A shooting match at the conclusion of the demonstration resulted: Wein 383 points, Longstaff 379, Flinn 344, Winter 339, Perrott 333, Cross 04. [22 September 1950]

The 1950 Annual General Meeting of the club was held on 23 October 1950.

CANBERRA GUILD OF ARCHERS

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Hotel Civic on Monday, October 23, 1950, at 8 p.m.

Annual Report and Election of Officers.

An invitation is extended to all interested in Archery to be present. L. W. NOTT, President.
[17 October 1950]

The 1951 Chamber of Commerce (Jubilee) carnival was held at the Acton racecourse on 21 April 1951 with archery one of the exhibition events.

An exhibition' of Archery will be given, by the. Canberra Guild of Archers, and local model plane enthusiasts will fly their miniature models. [4 April 1951]

ARCHERY DISPLAY AT CARNIVAL

The Canberra Guild of Archers will give a demonstration of archery at the Jubilee Festival to be conducted by the Canberra chamber of Commerce; at the Acton Racecourse on Saturday. [18 April 1951]

Archery Resumes.

Members of the Canberra Guild of Archers resumed shooting at York Park last Sunday. Victorian champion, Mr. Lindsay Davis, attended the shoot and gave a talk on the finer points of archery.

The guild will give an exhibition an exhibition of archery during the Jubilee carnival at the Acton racecourse on April 2. [11 April 1951]

Then there was no further mention of archery in the Canberra Times until 1962. The Canberra Guild of Archers appears to have folded during the 1950s.

Research and editing by Stuart Atkins – 2015

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*Canberra Times Articles provided by the
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