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Archery Action

*Diesel fitter's good fortune
Australia Day hunt—a debt repaid*

Food safety in the bush

*Doing it tough
in the drought*



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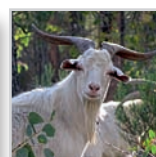
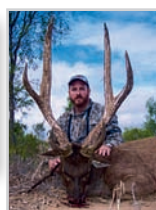
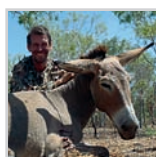
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◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Mollucan rusa deer in far north Queensland.

Photo by ERIC CREIGHTON

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Archer's Action Comment

There's an old saying that the more things change, the more they stay the same. With the changing of the guard as Eric Creighton retires from his position of Editor and I take over, there will inevitably be some alterations to the way things are done—not least that you have to remember to use the official *Archer's Action* email address to get your messages through to us—but I trust that in other ways it will be business as usual.

This is *your* magazine. Please continue to support it in any way you can. Take brilliant photos and send them in for consideration on the front cover or for the photo competition, send us stories about your hunts and report on the happenings at archery events.

For those who have interesting stories to tell and great photos to go with them but don't like the job of writing, please contact me so we can work out a way to get your story into the magazine without you having to do the mundane work. It doesn't have to be a full scale hunting story, either. A snippet of something funny that happened or

a lesson learned can be a great addition to the publication.

Anyone who has Eric's Optusnet address, from now on please only use it if you're sending personal emails to him. Anything *Archer's Action*-related should be directed to archeryaction@gmail.com or you can phone me on 0427 756 546.

Eric has always gone above and beyond the call of duty with this magazine, and indeed with everything he has ever done involving the Australian Bowhunters Association (and of course despite retiring from *Archer's Action* he remains the Executive Director of the ABA). The next magazine will see the changeover of editors and it would be a fitting tribute if for that issue we could feature comments from people who appreciate what Eric has done with the magazine, taking it from a 68-page newsprint publication to a full-colour 100-page glossy magazine with a fine reputation. Send an email with your short message of appreciation and farewell to archeryaction@gmail.com.

Jenel Hunt

archeryaction@gmail.com

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are welcomed by this magazine and articles should be addressed to: The Editor, Archer's Action, at the above address. The Editor accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Colour photographs or high resolution scans are suitable for publication. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your articles to enable notification of acceptance or otherwise and return of article if required. Photographs returned only if stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Emailed contributions should be sent in plain (editable) text only and any photos should be sent as separate attachments, not embedded in the story text.

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REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS
Out of the Box—Steve Clifton
Traditional Trails—Nick Lintern



A diesel fitter's **GOOD FORTUNE**

MICHAEL LUXFORD

“So you didn’t get a buffalo?” Neil asked. I couldn’t hide the disappointment in my voice when I replied. “No, didn’t even get an opportunity. But that’s how it goes sometimes.”

“Hmm, well maybe we can work something out. I’ve got an old grader that needs looking at. Can you be here tomorrow?” I could. So I left Daly River and headed to Katherine.

It’s definitely not a drawback being an experienced diesel fitter/diesel mechanic/HD fitter. Whatever you want to call the trade, it provides great opportunities in the bush. Nearly every station in Australia seems to have

a piece of broken machinery on it that needs repairing. Exchanging trade skills for a hunt is a win-win situation.

I rolled in late evening and we talked shop. The stockmen would recover the grader back to the workshop. Neil had another plan for me, and to my surprise it had nothing to do with repairing machinery.

At first light, the stockmen headed off to recover the grader, Neil and I jumped in the chopper and flew over where he’d later drop me off for a hunt—a remote spring-fed creek, now only a short series of small waterholes, only accessible by chopper. From the air we saw mobs of pigs sleeping under trees, scrub cat-



Donkey heaven

tle and donkeys. I was surprised at how little attention the animals paid to the noisy *white bird* roaring over their heads. I have to admit that I was damn excited! We headed off to a neighbouring station to collect some gear Neil needed.

The grader was washed and parked up when we returned. It took the rest of the day to pull it down. The task at hand complete, I took my sunburnt neck and busted knuckles to bed—the following day would be game time!

The sun had barely breached the horizon as the little R22 chopper warmed up. My pack was jammed under

the seat and my bow rested between my legs. I carried six litres of water and a tube strapped to my pack held six extra arrows. I was ready for a massive day in the late October sun. At 7 o'clock in the morning, the mercury was already touching 30 degrees.

From the air, we could see where donkeys were heading in to water and where pigs were laid up. Neil dropped me off at the far end of the spring. "See ya tonight!" he called through the headset. I gathered my gear while being blasted by rotor wash.

Because it was the dry season, the spring was broken into waterholes spread over about 3km. The plan

A big-bodied boar



The long-awaited donkey

was to walk the spring, loop back to the start, then rest before hitting it again in the afternoon. As soon as the chopper was out of earshot, I could hear donkeys braying. I checked the wind and started stalking along the creek. It wasn't long before I could see small mobs of donkeys walking in single file to water.

The sound of finches alerted me that I was approaching a waterhole. I nocked an 850-grain arrow, crept to the edge of the steep-sided bank, and peered over. I saw the far edge of the small waterhole first. I inched forward, scanning the waterhole. The contrasting colour of a massive-bodied black boar lying at the water's edge in

the golden sand right below me was like a beacon in the night. He faced away from me. He must have weighed well over 120kg. I could see big lip curl. I focussed where I wanted the shaft to exit. The 80lb Nitrum drew smoothly. The boar presented little resistance to my combination of equipment. He stood, walked in a circle and collapsed. He was easily the biggest bodied boar I'd ever seen. It was a great start to the day.

Continuing, I caught movement 30m ahead in the creekbed and saw some of the donkeys I had seen earlier. They were leaving the next waterhole, led by a jack. He left the pad through the creek and fed on shrubbery.

The others moved up the bank and out of the creek, feeding above the jack. I checked the wind, nocked an arrow and began cautiously manoeuvring around cover for a shot. The jack span on a dime and faced me. I was busted.

The late October wind had ruined the show, the same damning wind that had spoiled every stalk on buffalo at Daly River. I froze, waiting to see what he would do. The jack moved toward the exit of the creek, but stopped at the pad and turned for another wlook at me. As he stood quartering toward me, his giant ears and eyes locked onto the suspicious, malicious object, I came to draw and focussed on where I wanted the shaft to exit just right of his tail. The 200-grain Tusker spirit led the charge, powered by 80lb of Nitrum muscle. The jack spun around, bolted up the bank and stopped with the others. I could see the shaft exiting exactly where I wanted it to, only held in by the fletches. The jack locked his legs and stood firm. Blood poured from both entry and exit wounds. After 30 seconds, his strong legs couldn't stabilise the wobbly boot any longer and my longstanding dream of taking a donkey came to fruition.

Before approaching the donkey I checked the water-hole and saw the muddy back of a lone pig among some deadfall against the creek bank. I stalked in. As I was about to cross a sandy washout, I saw out of the corner of my eye a sow in the shade of a gum. I froze and watched her. Convinced she hadn't seen me, I eased backwards and took a wide arc around her using the creek bank for cover. I approached the deadfall and was again exposed to the sow. I could now also see the rest of the group. I drew back and kept inching forward, scanning the logs for the boar then saw him right below me, just 4m away, content in the mud. He erupted from the logs with splashes of water and sprays of bright red blood. The other pigs, stirred by the commotion, moved off. The 200-grain Spirit performed again. The boar spun around in circles in the sand 20m away then expired.

I went to inspect my trophy donkey. I was first impressed at the size of these animals. They are big. He wore a classic donkey coat, grey with the prominent cross on his back and proud mane.

Despite the incessant Territory heat, I decided to take his skin. It was a huge task on my own and sapped a huge amount of energy from me. I sucked half of my now-hot water as sweat flowed freely from my pores. When I'd finished, I lay the giant skin in the shade and kept on my merry way.

Donkeys continued to bray in the distance. Their calls carried much further than I ever would have thought and I saw them continually throughout the day. I sneaked

THE IFAA COLOUR ANIMAL ROUND

Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



around the many herds of scrub cattle to avoid spooking any pigs off water. I had many stalks on donkeys but they were alert as any deer. Getting to 60m was achievable but closing the distance to 40m with the 850grain arrows was hard in the open, dry country. I kept to my plan of stalking the creek.

The next few little waterholes didn't hold any pigs. I was surprised. I'd been told this was the only water around. I came to the conclusion that there probably weren't too many hogs living out here with such little resources. I came across a family group of pigs asleep in the sand under a tree adjacent to a small pool. I crept in to look for a boar. The sows were all big-bodied girls! Not being able to spot a mature boar, I moved on. When I reached what was clearly the end of the series of waterholes, I parked up and had a camp in the inescapable October heat. I woke with the sensation of being watched. I slowly pulled my hat back from over my eyes and looked to my left to see a small mob of donkeys only 25m away, checking me out. I didn't bother attempting to reach for my bow. It was nice to lie back and watch their movements, to observe the small idiosyncrasies that are donkey behaviour. When they moved off, I donned my pack and backtracked along the creek.

I came across the family mob again. They had moved into the water and looked to be joined by some others. Three very large pigs lay across the water from me. One I could clearly see was a big sow. The next had little in the jaw. The third was a wildcard. The pig's head was facing away and its backside was below the water line. Its body was big enough and had the build of a boar.

I decided that it was the one. The pig erupted from its cool resting place and sprinted for the scrub away from the creek. At the edge of the long grass 70m away, the pig stumbled and crashed. It was a massive sow.

In the oppressive heat, without water, I trudged my way to the pickup point.

The sound of the little helicopter was very welcome. It instantly brought relief to the heat and my thirst ... and the hope that Neil wouldn't mind me putting the donkey skin on the floor of the chopper.

Group 4



The writer of this story
wins a threepack of
TUSKER SPIRIT
broadheads





The wildcard ... a sow

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BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Vice-President Bowhunting)



2015 season Bowhunting Awards

The 2015 awards show a decrease in the number of claims submitted (1621) over the past two years. Claims comprised 425 Trophy Class, 100 Record Class and 1096 Game Award claims.

The Greater Victoria Branch submitted the largest number of claims with 389 (significantly assisted by Tyler Atkinson with 80 game award claims and Anthony

Atkinson with 82), followed by North Queensland with 264 and Northern NSW coming in third with 215 claims. Tyler's game award claims were nearly 300 less than he made in 2014 which helped in the overall decrease in claims compared to that year. However, Record Class and Trophy Class were still relatively high, being in the top three high-

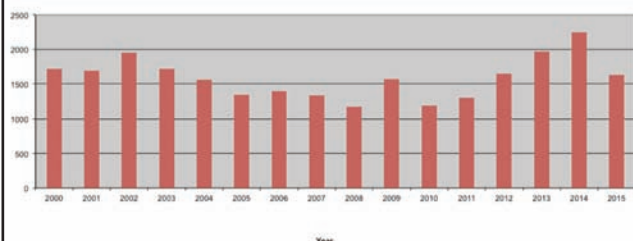
est of the past 11 years. Are hunters chasing better quality game and therefore making less overall claims? The overall quality of the Best of Species last year could confirm that assumption.

First Kill (57 claims) and First Kill of Species (182 claims) were down

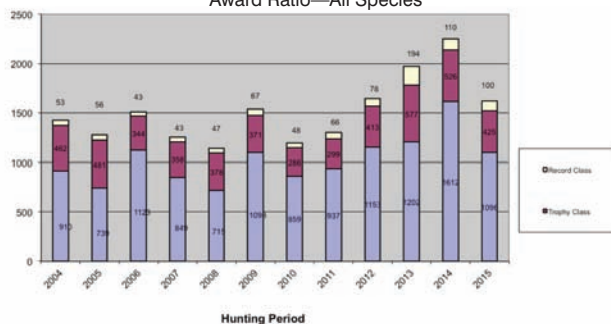
on 2014, with a total of 239 submissions. This was a little disappointing, as with the overall increase of our membership in recent times I would have hoped the FK and FKOS would have increased. I've said it lots of times over recent years: We need to be seen to be active in bowhunt-

ing and the best way to do that is to claim your game. Measurers and BPC officers need to be instrumental at club and branch level in encouraging new and old members alike to get their claims in, so please encourage all your members to claim all that they hunt.

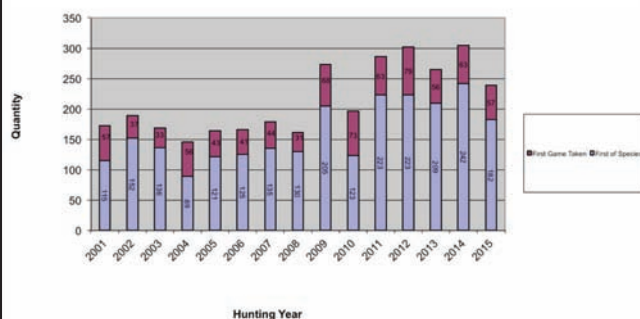
Annual Game Taken



Award Ratio—All Species



ABA Game Taken—New Game Taken



Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

Species	Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Boar	Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29 6/8	25
Goat	James Finlay	151 2/8	113 4/8	95
Buffalo	John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Camel	Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Fox	Dave Parker	10 15/16	10 6/16	9 3/16
Cat	Tim Pitt-Lancaster	8 5/16	7 10/16	7
Red Deer	Dan Smith	315 3/8	190 1/8	175
Fallow Deer	Jason Robinson	264 5/8	180	150
Chital Deer	Dan Smith	204	150 5/8	140
Hog Deer	Stephen Tilley	111 7/8	70	55
Sambar Deer	Dean Scott	203 5/8	162 7/8	140
Rusa Deer	Toby Gall	231 6/8	168 5/8	150
Shark BHFF	Barry Feeney	35 2/8	28	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	9 1/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

Women's Bowshot Records

Boar	Lynda Fell	32 2/8pt	1991
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Emma Johnson	87 2/8pt	2015
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 11/16pt	2000
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt	2014
Fallow Deer	Margaret Cowin	150 7/8pt	1997
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt	2010
Hog Deer	Nil		
Sambar Deer	Nil		
Rusa Deer	April Stoneman	180 3/8pt	2014
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell	23 2/8pt	2014
Shark BF	Lynda Fell	23 5/8pt	2000
Stingray BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986

TBA Bowhunter of the Year

The TBA Bowhunter of the Year was a very close event, with Graham McComiskie taking out the award with nine measurable species, two species ahead of Lloyd Scott and three ahead of Zebulon Jones, Marc Curtis and David Luxford. Graham is to be commended on his bowhunting record for the year having taken six Record Class and two Trophy Class in eight of his nine measurable species—a fantastic achievement. This is no mean feat as it doesn't matter where you live in Australia, to take nine measurable species in the one year means that as a hunter you have had to put in a supreme effort and cover a lot of this country. Congratulations, Graham, you are a worthy winner of this award.

Master Bowhunter

This award is presented to those bowhunters obtaining 300 points or better, in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter formula.

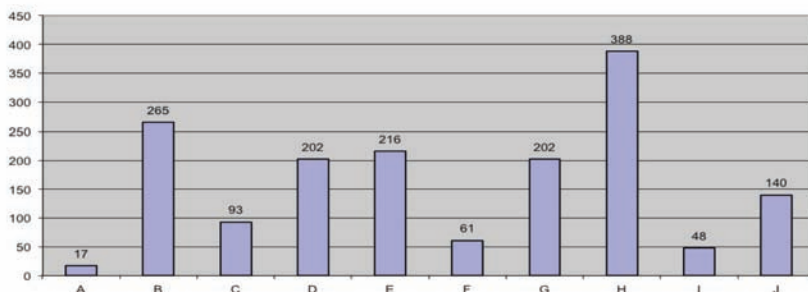
Graeme Duff 1010 (E), Helen Duff 680 (E), Lloyd Scott 580 (J), Graham McComiskie 510 (B), Marc Curtis 440 (G), Tony Lasker 440 (B), Bradley Seagrott 430 (H), Zebulon Jones 410 (G), Ernie Collett (B) 350; David Luxford 340 (G) and Rohan Walker 300 (A).

Trophy Bowhunter

This award is presented to those bowhunters obtaining 200 points or better (but less than 300) in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award Formula.

Michael Luxford (G) 240; Michael Murphy (J) 240; Stephen Fairbrother

Game Taken by Branch 2015



(B) 220; Toby Gall (B) 210; Troy Morris (J) 210 and Wade Bygrave (D) 200.

Bowhunter Award

This award is presented to those bowhunters obtaining 100 points or better (but less than 200) in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula.

Stephen Kidd (B) 190; Wayne Kruger (C) 180; Jamie Molloy (D) 180; Mark Burrows (G) 170; David Rethus (H) 160; Ryan Tatterson (G) 160; John Teitzel (H) 150; Tom Dennis (I) 140; William Ellen (G) 140; Benjamin Ireland (E) 180; Simon Bailey (J) 130; Peter Fryda (E) 130; Steven Lea (H) 130; Dale Winks (D) 130; Anthony Tatterson (G) 120; Murray Bridges (J) 120; David Pender (D) 120; Craig Rose (D) 120; Brett Allgood (C) 110; Luke Demmery (J) 110; Justin Eastwood (C) 100 and Jake Seddon (G) 100.

Australian Record

Rusa Deer
Toby Gall (B)

231 6/8pt

Overall TBA Bowhunter of the Year

Graham McComiskie (B) having achieved Master Bowhunter with nine measurable species.

Female TBA Bowhunter of the Year

Helen Duff (E)

Tusker Broadhead Trophy of the Year

Graham Otto (B) 32 6/8pt
Record Class Boar

Most Game Award Claims

Anthony Atkinson (H)—cleaning up the rabbit and hare populations with 82 game award claims.

All So Close Award

(just under TC): Dale Winks with a goat of 94pt and a feral cat of 6 15/16pt.

Overall Best of Species

Buffalo: John Teitzel (B) 104pt
Feral camel: Jamie Molloy (D) 30 12/16pt
Feral cat: Stephen Kidd (B) 8 2/16pt
Fox: Anthony Tatterson (G) 10 15/16pt
Feral goat: Edward Rowe (D) 133 3/8pt
Feral pig: Malcolm Meehan (B) 34 2/8pt
Chital deer: Phillip Winyard (D) 181 7/8pt
Fallow deer: William Ellen (G) 240 6/8pt
Red deer: Jackson Crick (E) 220pt
Rusa deer: Toby Gall (B) 231 6/8pt
Hog deer: Michael Luxford (G) 96 7/8pt
Sambar deer: David Luxford (G) 165 7/8pt
Shark BHFF: Graham McComiskie (B) 32 1/8pt
Stingray BHFF: Graham McComiskie (B) 9 6/8pt

Ladies Best of Species

Buffalo: Emma Johnson (B) 87 2/8pt
Rusa deer: Elissa Rosemond (C) 163 1/8pt
Feral goat: Jeanette Dowd (D) 112pt
Feral pig: Kamie Kruger (C) 30pt
Fox: Helen Duff (E) 10 7/16pt
Shark BHFF: Amy Standlee (B) 21pt
Stingray BHFF: Carol Teitzel (B) 6pt

Junior Best of Species

Feral pig: Kasey Meehan (B) 28 2/8pt
Fox: Jack Edwards (H) 10pt

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Buffalo: John Teitzel (B) 104pt.

Overall Best of Species



Feral camel: Jamie Molloy (D) 30 12/16pt.



Feral goat: Edward Rowe (D) 133 3/8pt.



Feral pig: Malcolm Meehan (B) 34 2/8pt.



Fallow deer: William Ellen (G) 240 6/8pt.



Red deer: Jackson Crick (E) 220pt.



Feral cat: Stephen Kidd (B) 8 2/16pt.



Fox: Anthony Tatterson (G)
10 15/16pt.



Stingray BHFF: Graham
McComiskie (B) 9 6/8pt.



Chital deer: Phillip Winyard (D) 181 7/8pt.



Shark BHFF: Graham McComiskie (B)
32 1/8pt.



Hog deer: Michael Luxford (G) 96 7/8pt.



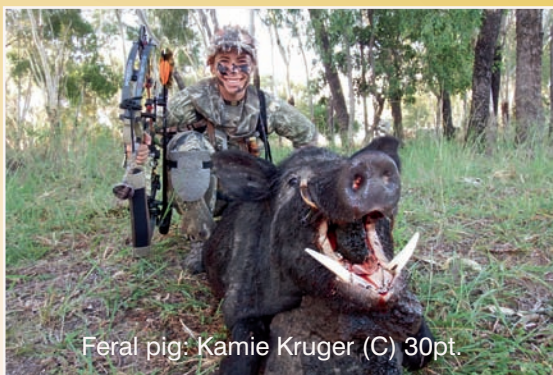
Sambar deer: David Luxford (G)
165 7/8pt.



Rusa deer: Toby Gall (B)
231 6/8pt.

*Overall
Best of
Species*

*Australian
Record*



Ladies Best of Species



Junior Best of Species



Feral pig: Kasey Meehan (B)
28 2/8pt.



Fox: Jack Edwards (H) 10pt.



T/C and upward and/or First Kill/Species

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award FK/FKOS	Size
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	25
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	28
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	26 2/8
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	25
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	26 4/8
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	25
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	30 2/8
B Mervyn Pollock	Towers Bowhunters	Camel	RC FK/FKOS	29
C Paul Withers	Moranbah Bowhunters	Goat	TC	104 3/8
C Paul Withers	Moranbah Bowhunters	Goat	TC	100 4/8
C Paul Withers	Moranbah Bowhunters	Goat	RC	115 1/8
D Ethan Wilson	Darling Downs FA	Rabbit	GA FK/FKOS	0
D Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters	Stingray BHFF	GA FKOS	3 6/8
D Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters	Hare	GA FKOS	0
D Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters	Cat	GA FK/FKOS	6 10/16
D Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters	Goat	GA FKOS	0
D Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
D Dave Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	98 1/8
D Dave Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	106 6/8
D Dave Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	103 4/8
D Bevan Blacklock	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	TC	99 1/8
D Oscar Sheppard	Darling Downs FA	Pig	GA FKOS	0
D Oscar Sheppard	Darling Downs FA	Goat	TC FKOS	103 6/8
D Gavin Muller	Charleville Field Archers	Goat	TC	112 7/8
D Aurianne Conway	Barambah Bowhunters	Hare	GA FK/FKOS	0
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley A	Goat	TC	107 7/8
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley A	Goat	TC	99 4/8
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 13/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 8/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 3/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 6/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 10/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 4/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Goat	TC	96 6/8
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Goat	TC	95 6/8
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 14/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 12/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	10 7/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 4/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	10
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 7/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 14/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 13/16
E Peter Bush	Namoi Valley Archers	Pig	TC FKOS	26 6/8
F Theo Vanderburg	Campelltown District FA	Pig	GA FK/FKOS	0
F Neville Ashton	Campelltown District FA	Goat	TC	109 2/8
F Tim Messer	Campelltown District FA	Goat	TC	96 1/8
F Scott Heiman	Independent	Scaled Fish	GA FKOS	0
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Buffalo	GA FKOS	64 4/8
G Ryan Schulback	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
G Ryan Schulback	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	GA FKOS	8 3/16
G Jamie Harrington	West Gippsland FA	Fox	RC	10 13/16
H Juan Maronian	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	GA FKOS	8 10/16
H Paul Mascoll	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Pig	GA FKOS	0
H Alain Gouault	Bendigo Field Archers	Hare	GA FKOS	0
H Tyler Atkinson	Independent	Fox	TC	9 7/16
H Tyler Atkinson	Independent	Fox	TC	10 10/16
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 6/16
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 12/16
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 4/16
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	10 4/16
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Scaled Fish BHFF	GA FKOS	0

H Davis Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Cat	TC		7
H Dylan Evans	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	GA	FKOS	8 4/16
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne Field Archers	Goat	TC		112 5/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne Field Archers	Goat	TC		108 5/8
J Luke Demmery	Western Plains Archers	Cat	GA	FKOS	0
J Luke Demmery	Western Plains Archers	Fox	GA	FKOS	0
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Pig	TC		27 2/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Pig	TC		28
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Pig	TC		29
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Pig	TC		26 2/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Pig	TC		26
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Pig	TC		25 4/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Pig	TC		27
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Stingray BHFF	TC		7 2/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Stingray BHFF	TC		8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Shark BHFF	TC		16 1/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC		107 6/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC		109 6/8

SYD GREEN MEMORIAL AWARD



Garry Pitt has received this year's Syd Green Memorial Award. Pictured is ABA President Mike White presenting the award to Garry.

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TBA PROFILE



Introducing Trophy Bowhunters Association Committee member



I'm Jamie Harrington, newly appointed secretary to the TBA Committee.

My interest in archery started at secondary school camp. One of the activities was archery and I scored a bullseye which the instructor duly noted down in his notebook. To be honest, it was pure luck and not skill that I hit the bullseye, but from then on I was hooked.

As soon as I had my car licence, I was off to buy a bow from Ron Tyrell at the Bow Hut. I was armed up with a new Hoyt Pro Hunter compound bow, complete with pin sights, no peep and to be shot with fingers. The bow looked good in my hand and fitted me like a glove, I was told. I could then be found at Diamond Valley Archers most Sundays and Wednesday afternoons after work. That was

27 years ago—how time flies.

I have belonged to a few ABA clubs over those years and for the past 10 have been a member of West Gippsland Field Archers. In competition I would class myself as an average A-Grade shooter in both bowhunter unlimited and bare-bow recurve. I try to attend as many shoots as I can as I believe this helps with bow fitness for hunting. My goals for field archery would have to be achieving Master Bowman scores in both these grades.

On the bowhunting side of my archery, I've been fortunate so far to claim seven of the 18 species recognised by the ABA. The species that I like hunting the most would have to be the fox and deer, specifically sambar as there is so much available public land to hunt them here in Victoria. I'd eventually like to shoot a representative head in all six deer species and work towards hunting other species on our list.

At present I hold the positions of field representative, measuring instructor and risk officer for Branch G, roles that I enjoy as it lets me give back to archery and the association that has given so much to me as a bowhunter.

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AUSTRALIA DAY HUNT

— a debt repaid



PHIL STEELE

“There are goats down there ... and a lot of 'em,” said Doug excitedly as he indicated past the open pasture immediately in front of us to where a small, lightly timbered valley lay nestled between two heavily forested hills. “You’re right,” I said lowering my binoculars, “but have a close look at them ... they all have brown faces.”

Indeed, they were goats, but not wild goats. These were Boer goats. In past hunts on this property, we had encountered these domestic animals many times but always near our campsite in the station shearing shed. This was the first occasion we had seen them ranging so far away from their regular haunts.

“Obviously the owner has put them out here for some reason,” I added. Doug didn’t reply at first and kept his glasses trained on the 60 or so white dots grazing about half a kilometre away. “Those few at the back don’t have brown faces,” he finally said. What! Binoculars back up, I searched the ground behind the domestic herd until I eventually saw what Doug had seen ... and he was right. There were at least six goats filtering in and out of the trees behind the Boers, and these animals were all white. From this distance it was hard to define detail but they did all appear to be nannies. Nevertheless, the circumstances called for a closer look and with that we shouldered our day packs and headed down into the valley.

The Australia Day weekend was upon us once again and in what has now become somewhat of a tradition, both Doug and I were hunting goats. This year however, we decided to try a different location. A change of venue and a change of luck—or at least that is what we hoped. Not that you would call our past experiences bad. Both Doug and I had reaped results but not when it came to bag-

ging or even seeing a nice big set of trophy goat horns. So we opted for somewhere different.

This was our third visit to this property and on past hunts we had encountered goats, but not in big numbers. Years of regular trapping and selling to the live goat market has put paid to the big mobs, at least for the time being. But with so much uncleared native forest combined with rough and tumble granite hills, there was no way every goat could be caught and sold. And besides, I think the property owner may have finally realised goats do a service by keeping the native bush in check. I had a sneaky suspicion that was why the Boers had been placed in this paddock. Regrowth on the rocky hill slopes was particularly thick and even more so where a fire had ripped through some sections a few years back. With no canopy, the scrub was growing unhindered and damn thick.

The search for a trophy billy was the *numero uno* reason for relocating our Aussie Day hunt to another property, but as far as I was concerned there was another—rabbits; lots and lots of rabbits. I am such a keen rabbit hunter that I prefer chasing bunnies with my 'curve more than any other game animal—and that includes goats. I will never be a candidate for the TBA Bowhunter of the Year or any other award, unless they decide to give an award for small game hunting, but even then, I miss way more than I connect with. Perhaps that is why I love it so much.

On this property, the area where we generally concentrate our search for goats (and the odd pig might I add) is well away from the established cony colonies. I count my blessings for this, otherwise I would find myself very much with a conflict of interest.

Unlike me, Doug is not a devo-

tee of small game hunting. Quite the contrary really. He finds the whole concept frustrating and devoid of fun, not to mention expensive due to lost arrows in the blackberry. I don't care much for tossing away \$15 or thereabouts every time I release an arrow at a rabbit and miss, but I will not let that get in the way of my thrill for the chase. Each to their own, but this early in the hunt I knew I had to show a little enthusiasm for the goats, just for Doug's sake. The rabbits would keep.

When we reached the Boers, we detected more and more feral goats spread out and partially hidden by trees. There were a couple of billies present including one I thought had a fair set of horns. Doug could not see this particular animal due to intervening scrub so I took my time evaluating its potential. I lost count how many times I glassed the billy but in the end I elected to pass. A really

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good trophy just slaps you in the face the moment you lay eyes on it. If you have to constantly re-assess every time the animal lifts its head then it is not as good as you think. I am a big believer in ground shrinkage.

We bypassed the domestic goats and made our way into the valley. It was cool in the shade and not at all unpleasant despite the intensity of summer. Obviously we were not the only ones who thought so because we encountered yet more goats in a short space of time. I am very much a fan of slow still hunting. You know the routine—take a few steps, stop and listen then repeat the process all over again. You will not cover much ground when you hunt this way, but gee whiz you certainly locate more game and quite often, before it detects you.

To prove my point, Doug and I slowly walked right past a sleeping nanny and kid who would not have known we were there had I not fumbled around trying to take their photo. Such close encounters are wondrous events and play a big part in why I hunt in the first place.

In time, we reached a point where the main valley intersects with a smaller offshoot. We had decided beforehand to take this intersecting gully when we reached it. This secondary vale would lead us around the base of the hill, up and over a low saddle and back to our starting point. Goats were seemingly everywhere. If we could not eyeball them, we could hear them up in the thick scrub. I must admit, it was exciting stuff because you just didn't know what would all of a sudden pop up with each and every step you took.

There were goats grazing on the long grass at the junction of the two dry streambeds. Apart from that one billy I had deliberated over, all the animals so far seen were nannies and immature billies. The make-up of this



Psst, Doug. Turn around! (Just kidding, he knew they were there.) This nanny and kid were sleeping when Phil and Doug sneaked up but woke up while Phil was fumbling around for his camera.

small mob was no different. As quietly as we could, we both dropped down towards the dry stream and in doing so disturbed a billy which had been hidden from us by the washed out bank. It was difficult to get a good look at him as he trotted off towards the rest of the group but I only needed one quick glance at his horns to know this was a rare beast. This billy's headgear looked more like a ram than a goat and for no other reason I knew we had to keep after this one.

I gave Doug the thumbs up but he wasn't as convinced. "Are you sure it was a goat?" he whispered to me. "Looked more like a sheep." "It was a goat and I have only ever seen maybe two or three others like it," I replied. "If you don't want it I will go after it." There was hesitation in Doug's eyes. At first I couldn't understand the reason but eventually I twigged. Doug has his heart set on a nice wide set of typical shaped goat horns and this animal was anything but that. "Are you sure it was a good one? I didn't get much of a look but the horns didn't look very

wide," he muttered, still unsure. "It is a shooter," was all I said.

I have only the one shoulder-mounted goat in my meagre trophy collection and it is a non-typical goat with horns which grow virtually straight up and back. They do not flare or curl in any way and even though they would not score much on the DS point system, I think they look great. As much as I admire the

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look of a wide flaring set of goat horns, I also very much like something non typical. In my mind, it sets the animal apart from all the others.

I was convinced the billy had only trotted off as far as the rest of the mob and was still concealed by the creek bank. My mind was already made up. If I could put myself in a position close to this billy, I would take the shot. Alas, it was not to be. The cunning old blighter had not stopped as I suspected and had slipped away from the mob and disappeared into the really thick stuff further up the slope. I can't recall ever seeing that happen before. As a rule either the entire mob takes flight or they simply stay put and try to work out what the problem is. Unusual goat, unusual behaviour.

It was pointless trying to pursue the billy as the slight breeze was fanning our presence straight up to where it had escaped, so Doug and I crossed the dry bed and worked our way up the secondary gully as planned. With the wind now in our faces, we did not have to go far before we encountered yet more goats and once again they were a mixed mob of nannies and immature billies plus half a dozen or so Boer goats. It was obvious the domestic animals were attracting the feral goats out of the bush. Both Doug and I have hunted this same valley a few times without ever seeing this many wild goats. It

occurred to me the property owner was possibly using the Boers as bait to lure the feral goats out of the bush so he could round them up for sale. Deep down I hoped I was wrong but I couldn't see any other reason for the domestic stock to be in this location apart from a bit of bush trimming.

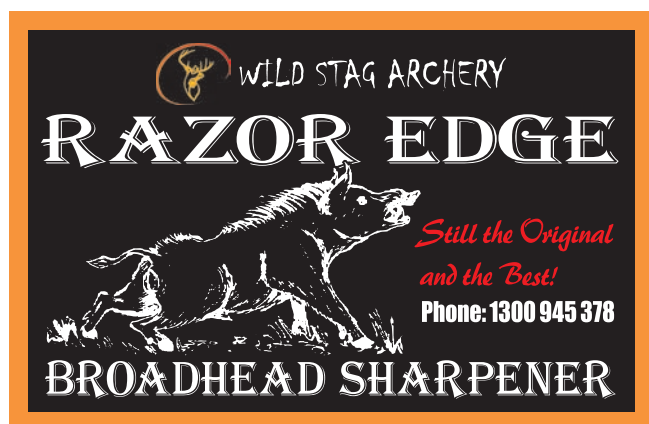
We made our way back to the starting point without eyeballing any more potential trophies. On the way back to camp, I made a slight detour just to have a look at my favourite rabbit patch and perhaps chance a quick shot before sunset. I was horrified by what I saw. Most of the blackberry was gone and everywhere you looked the ground was ripped up. It didn't take me long to realise what had happened and this was confirmed when I spotted about 10 dark objects moving about near a nearby dam. Domestic pigs! The property owner is also a pig breeder and he normally has them situated in two of the smaller paddocks close to the homestead. I guess he decided free range was now the way to go. It certainly works for eggs so why not ham? Free range and organic—the new age trend for the city folk (just fancy wording so they can charge a few dollars more, if you ask me).

One thing for sure, pigs certainly know how to thin down blackberry. At first I thought they must have been eating the noxious bush down to ground level, but upon closer inspec-

tion we found the pigs were actually rooting it up and in doing so, they were destroying the rabbit warrens contained within. I will be honest, a fleeting moment of murderous intent did pass through my mind when I glanced back at the swine but it passed. Nonetheless, I was pretty ticked off. As if rounding up the feral goats wasn't bad enough, now I had to contend with domestic pigs ruining my rabbit hunting. Selfish? You bet.

The 'ram billy' (Doug's nickname for the goat) was very much the subject of conversation that night over dinner. In the end I had Doug convinced we should search for it in the morning. I was confident the goat would still be in the immediate area and we would find him again if we put some effort into it. Sleep came easy that night but I was still piqued about the pigs. Nothing for it, I would just have to find another rabbit hot spot.

Morning saw us following the cattle fence up the hillside and above the valley where we'd hunted the previous afternoon. The faint breeze was finicky and in places it swirled around a bit but I knew the cool overnight air would shift predominately upwards as it warmed in the sun. Besides, the fenceline gave us a fairly easy access path to get above the thick brush I was sure the billy was utilising for shelter. There was no way we could quietly stalk the tangle of regrowth; it was just too thick.



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When we reached a corner in the fenceline, I spotted goats filtering through the scrub about 20m to our right. I did not know if these were the same goats the ram billy was running with or not and to make matters worse we were only getting a sporadic glimpse of hide and hair whenever an animal passed through a narrow opening. All we could do was wait and watch.

I have no real concept of how long Doug and I watched this mob for any sign of our quarry. Perhaps 20 minutes, perhaps longer—I wasn't really keeping track of the time. Patience is a virtue as the old saying goes, and in this case our lengthy wait paid off. We finally spotted him and even then it was only a quick glimpse. Had I blinked, I would have missed it, but it was enough. Yes, this was the mob and he was trailing at the back as most billies tend to do.

The mob was moving in the general direction of a dam situated at the head of the valley. I knew it was pointless two of us trying to tail them in the thick stuff. "Stick with the mob, mate, while I circle around the hill and back to the dam," I whispered to Doug. "If you get a shot, take it." Doug gave me the thumbs up and we parted company. I can't really say why I chose this option. I had in effect, handed Doug a real chance at nailing this billy while I basically put myself out of the hunt. I think about

it now and perhaps a quick scissors, paper, rock may have been called for under the circumstances but it was too late to contemplate such actions after the event so I strode off around the hill.

I saw goats on my circumnavigation but nothing worth a second look although I did contemplate trying to put an arrow into a brown and black nanny for both the meat and the skin. The nanny was feeding on the edge of the treeline, the same treeline I just so happened to be standing in. Directly in front of me I had an all-white nanny grazing only 10m away whilst the brown nanny was another 15m or so to my right. There were other goats but they were scattered about in the centre of the clearing. I had no intention of taking a shot at this distance.

When I gave away sighted compounds a couple of years back and took up recurve bowhunting, I lacked a lot of self discipline. The end result was many missed shots and two wounded goats I am sorry to say. I don't care about the missed shots but the two wounded goats (not mortally) did trouble me deeply—so much so I completely changed my approach to archery and bowhunting as a whole. I only now practise shots at 20m and have given up competition field shooting altogether due entirely to the distances you are expected to shoot at. In addition to this, I have also completely revamped my hunting style.

Now I feel confident in my ability to deliver a fatal shaft when required, providing the range is within my comfort zone. Before it was more a case of arrows in the wind so to speak and to heck with the distance. Heaven knows I still miss, especially rabbits, but I have come to terms with my limitations and I am completely at peace when I have to walk away from an animal because the shot was not right or too far. I am just happy being close to a game animal ... any game animal.

Once again, I don't know how long I waited for the nanny to make her move, but in the end she unknowingly moved further away and so did I. When I walked over the saddle and looked down into the basin below me, I could see a lot of goats grazing around the dam. Most were Boers but there were a few ferals among them. With binoculars I looked over the animals one by one but there were no trophy billies present. In the end I walked rather nonchalantly down the slope towards the watering hole. My plan (for want of a better word) was to sit off the dam and wait for Doug. I was kind of hoping he might push some goats towards me and who knows, perhaps even the ram billy. As you can see, I was still thinking about that goat and kicking myself just a little for being so generous in my actions.

I was not trying to hide my approach down to the dam and the

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feral goats mixed in with the domestics were quickly onto me. As I drew nearer they got nervous and started to make their way back into the trees. I was casually watching them when I spied Doug ever so slowly creeping up to a pile of fallen logs adjacent to a pad the bulk of the feral goats were utilising to flee the immediate area. I waved but he didn't respond which I thought was unusual at first, but then I saw why. The ram billy suddenly emerged from behind a small copse of trees and stood watching me. I hadn't been able to see it when I gave every goat the once over from the top of the saddle and now I was kicking myself for being so careless. Doug had obviously spotted the billy and he was doing his best to stalk in close but my appearance had put paid to that plan. Once again I was out of the game and so now was Doug ... or so it seemed.

There was 80m or 90m of com-

pletely open ground between the billy and me. No way on this earth could I even contemplate trying to sneak in and put myself into a shootable position. If Doug was going to have any chance at success, then my role now was to act as a decoy and pusher. It was all I could think of at that precise moment. Funny enough this was not something new to the both of us.

About 18 months or so back, Doug and I had been in a similar position with a mob of goats out west. Being the mate that he is, Doug generously gave up a shot and pushed the mob we had cornered on a river bend, back towards my position. In the end I arrowed the biggest billy for the trip thanks to his actions. I was indebted to him for this and now it was my turn to pay him back in full.

I was not entirely sure if Doug actually knew I was there or if he just had eyes for the billy. No matter, he soon would and so I started to just

stroll along heading in a direction that would put the billy between us. There were still a few stray feral goats hanging about but as soon as I started to move they trotted off towards the trees and ran right past the windfall where Doug was hiding. The ram billy kept glancing over at me and then back to the last group of nannies as they scampered past him.

I knew the billy would take off with them. His body language was so obvious and before I could take another two steps, off he scarpered and joined up with the small group of nannies. Their route of departure was the on same pad the other goats had taken and if my estimate was correct, they would pass Doug's position with only metres to spare. My job was done so I just stopped and waited. When the goats disappeared behind some brush, I heard the release of Doug's arrow followed by a faint grunt. Now we were even, I



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*Doug Cane with the trophy class 'ram' billy ... not a massive spread but a very nice non-typical set of horns.
The goat was taken with one shot on the run around 18m.*

thought as I strolled over to his place of ambush.

Doug emerged from the scrub with a big grin on his face. I didn't bother asking the question as I knew the ram billy was down. Right away he filled me in on what had happened after we split up. He caught up with the mob almost straight after we parted company and stuck with them through the thick stuff. At times the mob stopped to graze thus allowing him to close but at no time did the billy present a suitable shot. A few rear enders, but my hunting mate

knows better than to chance such a shot. Eventually the mob joined up with the Boer goats and settled down near the dam. That is where I came into the story. Doug had seen me walking down from the saddle and thought he had no chance now of closing in on the billy. However, when he saw the feral goats retreating back into the bush because of my appearance and on a pad running right past his position, he suddenly knew what I was up to. The rest is now, as they say, history.

The ram goat was lying dead in

the long grass near the dry creek. Certainly the horns did not have that wide spread you normally look for in a billy, but that was not the issue here. The deep curl was the real trophy and yes, there was a slight twinge of jealousy but I was real happy for my partner. Now we were even, I explained to Doug and he just gave me a look which read there never was a debt to be repaid. I always knew that deep down, but let's just say I felt better now I had reciprocated in kind.

For the remainder of our Australia Day weekend hunt we decided

to explore some new country which included a very long trek via a dis-used and overgrown fire trail deep into the thick bush country. We saw goats and had a very close encounter with a group of nannies and a couple of young kids. Let me just say, I could have reached out and grabbed one of the kids, they were that close. I get a real buzz out of being so close to game. Even though the property owner told us he had seen a mob of wide-horned billies last time he was out that way, we had no such luck. Then again the regrowth following the fire a few years back was so thick that you could walk within 20m of a goat and not even know it was there.

As for rabbits, I found a new hot spot and spent the last afternoon dodging snakes and trying my luck while Doug kept looking for goats. My first shot was on the money but things didn't quite go according to plan after that. On the positive side I never lost an arrow (much to Doug's surprise) and I had a great time. I always do hunting rabbits. I have yet to find a more pleasing pursuit. Frustrating at times, but totally exhilarating on the whole. As Doug always says to me, "Too small, too fast and too hard." Yes sir, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Phil's first shot was on the money. Bow used—a Samick Phantom with Beman arrows tipped with Apex Bone Crusher broadheads. Nothing flash, but a deadly combination on rabbits.



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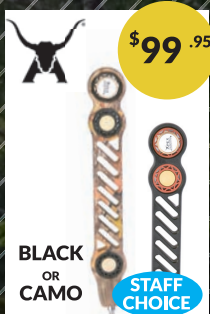
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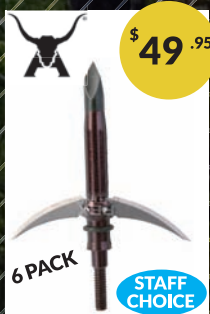
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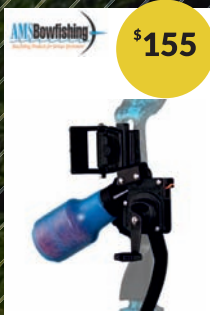
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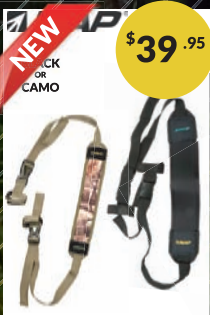
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Archery plus Norfolk Island holiday equals win/win

Australian and New Zealand archers are now making their travel plans so they can compete in the Norfolk Island 3D Archery Championships to be held on July 3 to 7. If you want to join them, there's still time to organise your trip and take part in this fabulous family week. This event regularly attracts around 70 competitors and definitely delivers a win/win as participants not only enjoy the

archery competition but also an excellent island holiday.

The local host club Norfolk Island Archery has some great on- and off-field activities planned to maximise this year's competition and fun. Chief of these will be a traditional archery shoot running each afternoon as a bonus to the usual competition. The aim of the traditional event is to give archers maximum enjoyment testing themselves

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And the winner is ...



Senior Vice-President of the Australian Bowhunters Association Jeff Bell presents Adam Storey with his prize.

with simple, uncomplicated and user-friendly bows and arrows. Travelling to various locations and properties, archers also gain rare access to some of the most beautiful, yet hidden properties around the island, giving a great opportunity for a very non-tourist-oriented view of Norfolk Island.

The 3D events are organised for all ages including cub divisions, adult compound, recurve and longbow. Taking advantage of the large feral chicken population, there's also a special chook chaser division—run chooks run! Conveniently held during school holidays, the Norfolk Island Championships are excellent for junior shooters to take part in their first international competition. This is an exceptionally friendly and safe place to holiday and event locations are very easily accessed. Accompanying non-shooting family and friends can join the week's social events including welcome and farewell activities.

As an event located on an island there is of course much to be enjoyed on the water, and among activities such as glass-bottomed boat rides, snorkelling and swimming, perhaps the best is fishing! Brilliant half-day boat trips nearly always return with a large catch of kingfish, silver trevally, amberjack or sweetlip (red throat emperor). The golf course is not only located on a stunning headland (watch out for the 4th as you hit

over a beach!), but in World-Heritage-listed Kingston. This is where you'll also find museums displaying the island's famous convict and Bounty heritages. There are many, many tours and activities to choose from that will keep the whole family happily entertained.

The Norfolk Island Travel Centre is the major sponsor for this event—and they have been since the event began 14 years ago. Locally owned and operated, they have special packages for travel from Brisbane starting at \$1049 per person and from Sydney starting at \$1099 per person for a seven-night twin-share stay. Prices include return economy class airfare (seat + bag) to Norfolk Island, airline taxes, meet and greet at the airport, seven nights twin-share accommodation, discount shopping card, complimentary miniature golf and complimentary A Walk in the Wild. Prices are subject to availability. For those participating in the competition, archery registration of \$100 per archer is additional to the above packages.

Without a doubt this is one of the best archery competitions—and holidays—you can have. You'll certainly score a win/win! Don't delay in contacting Kelly at the Norfolk Island Travel Centre on toll free phone 1800 1400 66 or email kelly@travelcentre.nf to receive a full information pack and make your booking. You can also visit the website at www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com.

14th Norfolk Island Travel Centre 3D Archery Championships

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Australian Open

Target Archery Championships



by Alison and Brian Hagaman



The Australian Open, the premier target archery event in Australia, was held at Samford, Queensland from March 4 to 6, with 128 of the top archers from across Australia competing.

Samford Valley Target Archers hosted the tournament which also was part of Archery Australia's series of Olympic selection events. Following the Australian Open there were a further three days of selection trials at Samford.

Australia has already secured three male places for the 2016 Olympics and Archery Australia hopes to secure a female place at the Oceania Qualification Tournament to be held in conjunction with the Oceania Championships in Tonga in April.

To accommodate the 128 entries, there were 50 tar-


gets on the tournament field placed at 70m for recurve archers and 50m for compound archers; a small contingent of archers with disabilities competed equally against the other archers.

Male and female archers competed in two bow type divisions, recurve and compound, and while only recurve bows progress to the Olympics at this time there are hopes that compounds will be competing in a future Olympics, perhaps 2020.

Archers at the Australian Open competed in individual competition and also in team matches where archers went head to head against each other in matchplay.

Friday was for registration and general practice and on the Saturday morning a 72-arrow ranking round

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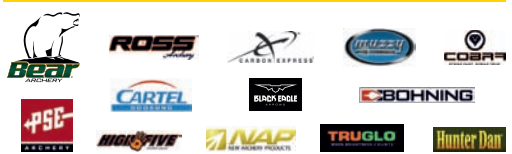
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was held; then in the afternoon a team matchplay competition where archers competed in teams of three with the team draw based on the individuals' ranking round performance.

On Sunday, individual elimination matches were held in the morning, again with the matchplay draw based on the individual ranking from the previous day, and this was followed by medal matches including the finals in the afternoon. Archery Australia sponsored \$9000 in prizemoney for the event. The table below shows the

medallists for the Individual Matchplay.

The Grange Company of Target Archers Inc moved from the Grange to Samford in 2009, and introduced the trading name Samford Valley Target Archers to reflect on the locality of the club; but its history extends back to establishment around 1947 in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. The club's membership has grown substantially since moving to Samford and is now around 250 members. The club is hoping to host the Australian Open again in 2017.

Individual Matchplay Medallists

	Recurve		Compound	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Gold	Ryan Tyack	Alice Ingley	Scott Brice	Sherry Gale
Silver	Taylor Worth	Ella Byrne	Marcel Verstegen	Rachel Morgan
Bronze	Matt Gray	Tayla King	Michael Brosnan	Madeleine McSwain



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Above: All lined up and ready to fire.

*Right: from top: SQAS President Alison Hagaman and SVTA President Brian Hagaman; Ella Byrne (SCAC) and Ali Clamback (LCA); Kynan Schilling (SVTA).
Eammon Marha (SOPA) and Jaymie Murray (SOPA).*

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A photograph of a spotted deer with large antlers in a field. The deer is facing right, and its antlers are prominent. The background is a grassy field with some dry vegetation.

Slow and steady
wins the race

ADAM WHITE

This photo by Dan Smith

Does it feel like you spook game too often while hunting? Do you hear the drum of your boots when you stumble over a log or rock? Do you hunt with a buddy who just wants to get there before you? If the answer to any of the above is 'yes', then you just need to knock it back a gear and slow things right down. It's amazing what you see, and what opportunities present themselves, when you really take your time while bowhunting.

The concept of 'taking your time' really hit home these last few weeks while hunting chital. We all know just how difficult these spotted ghosts can be to hunt at close quarters but just getting to that range can sometimes feel impossi-

ble. I'm going to veer off slightly here for a very brief moment, but please bear with me: I recently hunted with a good friend who is a rifle shooter. He is so used to taking shots from 200m plus, that anything inside 100m was on top of the animal or simply not

achievable. Don't get me wrong, he has taken plenty of quality game in his time, but it was his first round on the chital.

Long story short, after two full days of tramping around the basalt country he had decided that these



A good mob of mature bull thar feeding in a fairly obvious position...but can you spot the not-so-obvious bulls? You will if you sit and glass for long enough. There are nine animals in this photo.

things were just too flighty and they must have had some serious hunting pressure to cause their alertness not even letting him get within 250m. As bowhunters, we know this is not fact as we need to get our game identified at least 100m out, which is very achievable on our spotted friends, but how do we do that over and over?

After a brief discussion on the habits and haunts of these elusive critters it was decided that he come for a walk and hunt like a bowhunter. Well, what a game changer! We ditched his alpine boots with hollow soles that sound like a bass drum every step and replaced them with a soft sandshoe. He went from glassing ahead at 500m to glassing every shadow, dip, hill and creek bed from 50m out to 500m and wouldn't you know it, there were deer everywhere! Needless to say he got his stag on the first 'slow' hunt.

The drive home got us thinking and chatting about stalking and hunting in general and how often even as bowhunters we tend to rush the scenario we all live for, quite a strange thing to do considering how long we plan for that moment. Is it excitement of the hunt, or the fear of miss-

ing out on something that may be ahead and if we don't rush over the next hill we may just miss whatever it is? I'd say a bit of both, but in order to get within comfortable shot range we need to get a grip on these emotions and take our time. When I say 'we' I speak for myself as well. Having swapped completely from compound bow to traditional bowhunting with a recurve, I find this applies like never before, however I know a lot of bowhunters across the board who struggle with these issues as well, so I thought it a good time to put a few ideas on paper.

Know your game, know your terrain. Try not to achieve too great of a distance and too large of an area in a hunt if possible, instead, aim to do a smaller area more thoroughly. For example, if I come across fresh rub trees from stags, or fresh wallows from boars and there is good water, shade and or feed around, I pretty much stop, sit, listen and look in all directions for at least 15 minutes before moving on or entering deeper into the well used area. This may seem excessive but 15 minutes out of your day could change everything and often does. I'd say well over 50

per cent of the time, there is a critter very nearby—often bedded up and resting from the previous night's activities—why go any further?

The art of glassing, or using your binos to find game, varies amongst hunters. Some like to use them only for long range 'spotting' of animals so they know which direction to hunt towards, others including myself, tend to use them nonstop all day, every day while hunting. If you think you see something, have a look, you probably did. Don't wait until you're 100m away and tell yourself, "I thought I saw something, and there it goes."

In order to glass effectively, you need to really take your time and hunt slowly to enable your brain to work out where you need to focus your binos. If you look at a shady patch of scrub from 150m it can look just like that, take another look from 20m on and it can change dramatically ... all of a sudden there is an ear flicking or a piece of antler moving. Be suspicious of everything, but move slowly while you do. Even if you spot each other, sit down and blend in with your camo and just wait, quite often you will win the waiting game and the

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critter will lose interest and resume whatever they were doing before you came on the scene.

Be patient. I like to pick a tree barely 20m in front of me, walk slowly to it then glass everywhere, all over again. I seriously cannot remember the last hunt this slow and steady method has not paid off, at least setting me up for a stalk. Here's a great example of glassing when thar hunting in the New Zealand alps, we glass for literally hours, sometimes a full day before we head up the mountain to try for a stalk. Why? You need to get a feel for where/how the bull is hanging out and behaving before you commit to a huge climb only to spook the mob. Sure I want to race up and try and fling an arrow, there

will always be another stalk, right? Maybe so, but if you take your time and plan after you have carefully watched, the chances of actually setting up for the shot are much, much greater.

Slow is smooth, smooth is fast. This is one of the best sayings of all times, in my book. Move slowly ... all the time. When you're sitting on the hillside taking a breather, having a snack, or taking a swig from your camel back, just remember life carries on in the scrub for everything else. Move slowly like you are being watched because you very well could be. The same goes for when you nock an arrow, don't rush it, remember the saying—SISSIF—(slow is smooth, smooth is fast). The slower

you go, the less chance you have of fumbling and dropping the arrow on your riser making the loudest unnatural sound you can remember, which of course the monster boar will have heard as well ... *see ya!* Or even worse, you're all set to draw, you've done everything right to this point but you need to move for a better angle so you rush to the other side of the tree, or step too quickly ... bye bye 12-point red stag.

It's mentally tough to put this one into action but try think of this next time if this sounds like you. You have made it this far without being spotted and the animal is relaxed doing its thing so what's another 30 seconds to get set up correctly?

How fast do you walk? Try this



Pick a good camo that suits the terrain you are hunting, settle in, get comfy, and just glass. You will find a lot more than you first think.

for a test: get your hunting buddy to walk in front of you at their own pace (don't tell them what you are doing) now you slow down to half their pace and see how far they get in front, it actually gets frustrating to see and hear them move compared to your new stealthy slither! I guarantee you will see more than them.

On this recent chital hunt, I was carrying my recurve bow. I knew it was a hot spot for stags from the fresh rubs so I just moved low and slowly from bush to bush glassing. I hadn't covered more than 500m in a few hours when all around me deer

started to appear, mid-morning! And it was hot. As they moved, I moved when I could. I ended up in a dry creek bed for some cover, removed my shoes and inched my way towards where a stag had chased a hind in cycle around an hour prior. It seemed like no time at all but it was actually over three hours, but as I stayed put and watched everything around me, the same stag chased the same hind towards me and I ended up taking a shot from inside 10m. Yes I hit the stag fatally, but no I haven't found it yet ... it happens. The moral of the story is that if I had

just tramped through that well used area, the opportunity would never have presented itself.

The topics of stalking and hunting create an infinite number of conversations and opinions throughout the hunting world. These are just a few thoughts put together by a few keen hunters, but they work ... most of the time. Find someone you know that is successful in their methods and pick their brains for a bit on how/why they do what they do. Or, give some of the ideas suggested in this article a go; you will be pleasantly surprised at the results if you just take your time.



After locating a freshly used wallow in 45-degree heat, Adam simply waited it out, and not 20 minutes into the wait along came this boar. He obviously never made his next dip.



Brock Walsh certainly applies the slow and steady method. He took this boar asleep in his bed from 15m ... something which is not possible if you are tramping through the bush at full noise.

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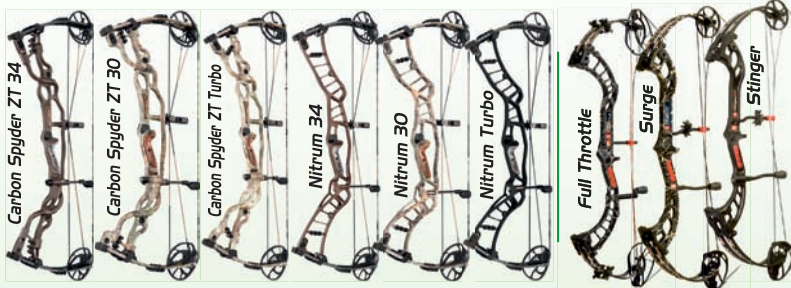
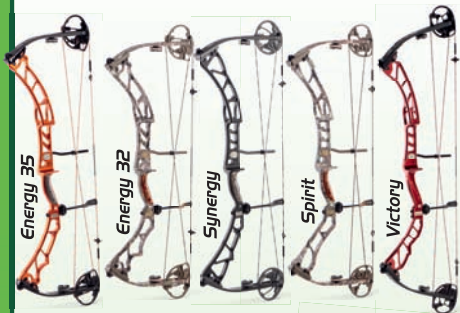
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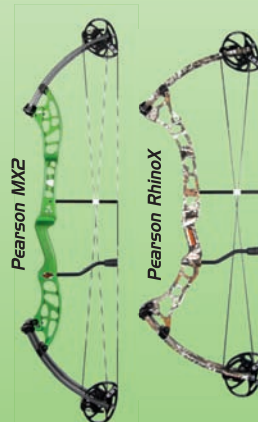
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Around THE TRADS



To receive trad shoot information direct, email a request to:
swallace@wallacetradwoods.com

Sue Wallace

* The February weekend shoot held at **Chevallan Archery Park** was only momentarily interrupted on Saturday afternoon when some rain attempted to dampen our enthusiasm. So we gathered under the waterproof shade sails and enjoyed some afternoon tea before continuing with events once the rain stopped. On Saturday we had a 25 3D target field course, the speed round, running pig, a double-ended 160m clout, plus the popinjay made its debut. It has been engineered rather cleverly so with the flick of a handle, the 'targets' can be reset with ease. Sunday saw us shooting the rolling disks, the hunt round and also the field course.

* Three weeks later, we were trav-

elling down to the **Wisemans Ferry Trad shoot**. This year it was held the first week of March and 100 archers enjoyed the weekend. This particular shoot is the meeting place for many who have travelled far and wide. There were 12 archers who travelled down from Queensland, one had travelled from Cobar, a large contingent from Shellharbour/Illawarra, six from Victoria, one from South Australia and two made the annual pilgrimage all the way from Germany. Despite the weather being unseasonably warm, we had the target event, clout, popinjay, speed round, running pig, hunt round, rolling disks and the field course—all of which were shot twice over the weekend. The challenge round was shot early

on Sunday morning. There were 10 targets set up and you were allowed three arrows onto the course. If you had all three remaining at the last target you could shoot them all. This year this event was won by a first timer. To say this gent was chuffed would be an understatement.

* The following weekend was the **Inaugural Albury Trad Shoot** and seven of the Queensland archers travelled down following the Wisemans shoot. We had been advised the campground was cosy, and with all the very warm weather we found the grounds were really dry as well. There were about 50 archers for this event, with only three coming up from Melbourne. We were allocated to groups and given a target



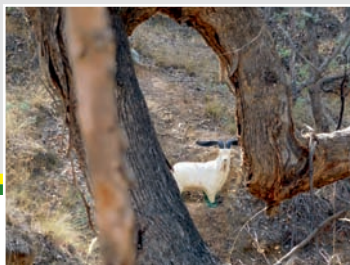
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number and sent off to shoot the first 15 targets of the field course, then advised to come in for a break then finish the remaining 15 targets which found us back at lunch time with the day's events over. There were some hand-painted novelty targets to be found amongst the 3D targets. Much much later in the afternoon there was a long distance flu flu target event and an elimination running target event, however due to the lateness not everyone was able to compete. On the Sunday morning the field course was shot again. Some ideas were forwarded in relation to running

additional events to the field course for their next year's shoot.

* Trad shoots confirmed for June/July are Chevallan Archery Park, Hunter Valley Trad Shoot, the Caboolture Corral, Jules Shield at Lakeside Bowmen and a bonus of the Traditional Shoot section of the Norfolk Island 3D International.

* Reports from the North Albert Trad Shoot, Gladstone Bowhunters and the Barambah Trad Bash, all held in Queensland, will be in the next edition.

You will find further information and available flyers for the traditional

shoots at the following websites.

www.wallacetradwoods.com > Shoot Information – (click on link to flyers)
www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org > Shoot Information – (link to flyers)
 Traditional Archery Australia Closed Group is also now on Facebook.
www.chevallanarcherypark.com – for traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO approved African 3D targets, Customised unique archery medals/medallions. www.ozbow.net > Traditional Archery Events > 2016 Calendar.

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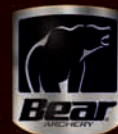
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Diamond Valley Archers – Southern Series 2016



Diamond Valley Archers leads the shoot calendar with our first event on the weekend of February 27 and 28.

Despite being a busy time of year, the planning was in place and the courses were mapped out on paper. Then as the days moved closer, paper plans moved to actual setting of the courses and the walk-throughs.

The day arrived all too soon and in a very short time the members were turning up, excited about the event ahead.

The weather put on its finest and

sunshine and blue skies created an expectation of some good shooting.

Saturday saw the archers take to the range early after a few spot checks were done. Our course is set across a gully and the ranges are set across this landscape, which creates interesting shot placement—even close targets can be deceptive.

The local wildlife was present too. Two very friendly ducks were there as we entered the course and kangaroos sat in the shade and watched with seeming amusement as we moved through the ranges.

While the cubs enjoyed the challenge, the course was certainly a long one for them. It was a credit to them all that they shot all 30 targets.

Shot placement was the key as we did not want to max out ranges, and even experienced archers realised they could miss the 10 on relatively close targets that appeared to be too far or at times too close.

The feeding deer in the creek bed with the archer taking the shot from uphill and through a window created naturally from natural flora in the area made some think twice as they

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placed themselves for the shot.

Moving down the course was the treestand shot on a bedded ram where balance and concentration were required.

Next was the crocodile set across the creek bed and shot from uphill. That made the shot look like it was at max, but was it? Most felt a sense of relief if they heard the familiar thump of a target being hit, others saw/heard their arrows to their surprise sail over its back and into the bank behind.

For the last few targets, we could hear the immortalised words of “I think I’ll go home now” come across to keep the humour up as we moved across the ranges.

Day one saw archers return to the clubhouse for lunch and refreshments.

The DVA team was already heading out after a quick lunch to re-lay the ranges for the next 20 targets. With a mixture of duties, the team was working on different tasks at different targets, and this makes for the different shots we get across this challenging terrain.

Tammy and Adam have a bet going on regarding who gets the better score on the Saturday and they then have to do something different. Well, this weekend Adam lost (again). Last time he had to wear a pink tutu for the Sunday event, and this time it was a nappy! Well, it’s all part of the fun, but it is hard to concentrate when you are trying to give archers directions about the courses when you have an archer in nappies standing there—entertainment plus! Not sure what will take place at the next event.

Sunday saw another great day for 3D archery—it was slightly overcast with a light breeze and the temperature was in the mid-20s.

By 9.00am, the ranges were again buzzing with archers as they made



their way to the ranges, some still remembering how the walk the previous day had tested their stamina.

The new ranges had changed targets, pegs and distances ... or were they? The turkey, now under 10m, saw archers rechecking their ability to shoot at this distance. Some cheered while others gave the turkey colourful new names.

The leopard in the creek bed created shadows and spots that had archers seeing a few more spots than were on the leopard. As with each target there were once again moments of surprise and relief as archers took on the challenge of the ranges and the targets set out by the rangesetters.

3D archery, while creating an atmosphere of competition, also creates one where great discussions take place across the ranges. This can be seen as archers joke with one another from target to target and discuss all manner of things—new shoots coming up, past ones and their current shooting ability.

All too soon it was finished and we gathered for presentations. Discussions had already started about



where the next event would take place and how archers would meet there again.

Thanks to the Diamond Valley Archers team for planning and setting up the event, and as always thanks to all the competitors who came along.

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Department of
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DPI NSW ILLEGAL BOWHUNTING STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUP

meeting outcomes

Scott Heiman
(ABA Representative)

The ABA was recently invited to attend an Illegal Bowhunting Stakeholder Focus Group sponsored by the NSW Government's Department of Primary Industries' Game Licensing Unit. We welcomed the invitation. It's always better to be part of the solution rather than standing on the sidelines and being left to react to the outcomes of initiatives involving hunters.

It's a well-known fact that some sectors of the NSW Government have been looking at regulating bows for at least 10 years. This has been due for many reasons including:

1. Increased regulation of firearms after Port Arthur;
2. The rise in bow-related crime;
3. Recent media coverage of native species being shot with field-tipped arrows;
4. The capture by authorities of poachers utilising bows on public lands; and
5. Complaints by private landholders of trespass/poaching on their lands by 'bowhunters'.

The Illegal Bowhunting Focus Group was attended by NSW Government Departments such as Forestry, Water, NPWS, DPI, LLS and other agencies such as RSPCA, NSW Farmers and AHOs including ABA. The focus group was convened after a successful investigation into illegal pig-dogging and the implementation of the Responsible Dogger campaign which also involved hunter interest groups.

ABA was the first speaker after introductions, where we affirmed that "ABA is concerned about the rise in bow-related crime and wants to help fix the problem because law-abiding ABA members are impacted by these criminals."

We went further by informing the Focus Group of our 7500-plus national members including in excess of 2000 from NSW and the fact that 45 per cent of ABA members hold a Bowhunter Proficiency Certificate (BPC). Finer points of the breakdown of our membership, BPC training and proactive actions of the Archery Alliance of Australia were discussed including its endorsed dealer program.

The day progressed with all stakeholders providing their perspectives in turn. This was followed by messages that reinforce what we already know about rogue elements of society. Reports were given about damaged fences, instances of trespass and farmers' frustration by the lag-time between a report of illegal hunting and police responses. Examples of 'show pigs' being shot on studs and deer being targeted on deer studs were given to demonstrate the depths to which some poachers sink.

There were also some informative statistics from NSW police regarding incidences of reported illegal hunting. While these numbers do not differentiate between bow-related crime and others, the growth was nevertheless interesting:

<i>Illegal hunting</i>		
NSW District	2014	2015
Northern	50	61
Southern	131	203
Western	393	622

Meanwhile, cases of trespass on rural properties also increased:

	2014	2015
<i>Trespass</i>	252	321

NPWS reinforced that recreational hunting was illegal in all parks whilst the NSW Department of Forestry wanted to remind participants of the fact that target shooting was not allowed in State Forests. So, even though you may have booked a permit to hunt in a designated forest, it's illegal to practice on a 3D cube at your camp ground! Forestry went on to provide statistics on illegal hunting in State Forests.

<i>Illegal hunting activity</i>	%
Pig Dogging	85
Firearms	10
Bows	5

That said, all concerned parties agreed that no one really knew the number of illegal incursions by bowhunters onto public or private land because their progress is generally so quiet. Indeed most evidence came from reports of a stray arrow having been located, or the carcass of a beheaded trophy animal, days—if not months—after the fact.

And this was the overriding point. While members of the public reported animals shot by naïve bow owners and children using field tips (such as kangaroos and ducks), no real quantifiable information or statistics were available by any attending stakeholder about the extent of the problem regarding illegal bowhunting/poaching with a bow, though all had to admit it did happen.

There will be another Focus Group meeting (most likely in June) to continue the risk analysis and to conceive an information and education campaign for responsible bowhunting. This approach may even include a 'Dob in a Poacher' campaign while the DPI reinvigorates its 'Shut the Gate' program to illegal hunting. 'Operation Hilux' is another initiative where your

vehicle will be confiscated when found illegally hunting.

Despite the interest in ramping up public education, don't be surprised if in the next year or two you'll require a licence to hunt in NSW. The issue has attracted so much attention in the public domain that it seems inevitable. So, to maximise the capacity for our national representatives to make fully informed contributions to the ongoing discussions around regulating bowhunting, you may want to send discussion points through to National via your clubs.

Alternatively, try to nip it in the bud by proactively dobbing in a poacher through the 'Shut the Gate' program or through Crime Stoppers. Inaction will only increase scrutiny and regulation in the future. And besides, it's not 'dobbing' to report someone who's committing an offence. If left unchecked, these people may ultimately undermine your way of life.

For more information or to make a report, phone 1800 SHUT IT (1800 7488 48) or go to:
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/community-awareness#Shut-the-gate-on-illegal-hunting>

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PLANET ARCHERY



Nick Lintern TRADITIONAL TRAILS

I hope you all had a good Easter and found time to shoot some arrows. I want to take this opportunity to really thank Rob and Di Mackenzie for hosting another awesome traditional archery weekend on their property; a great time was had by all. It is really great the number of traditional archery events that are being run all over the country now. Barely a fortnight goes by without another event being held somewhere in Australia—a telling statistic as to the increasing popularity of traditional archery. Congratulations also to John Macdonald and Steve Wallace on receiving their TAA achievement medals; very well deserved. We are really homing in on completing this Osage flat-bow odyssey we have been on. I know from many emails and calls that many of you are finding this very helpful and that really drives me on to putting all this in Archery Action in as much detail as possible. Our next stage is to continue through our tillering processes and get to finally shoot the bow.

How to make an osage flatbow

Part 5

Tillering Step 2—using the tiller post

Way back in article one of this osage self-bow series I showed a picture and gave a brief description of a tiller post. Well, it's now time to use it. Before we can proceed here though, we need to do one more job with our bow. We need to file in some tillering nocks. For this bow I am not going to be utilising overlays of any kind. We are keeping this bow very simple for the purity of a self-bow. Osage is so tough it can still handle modern string materials without any issue, even without tip protection in. Even if we were using

overlays of some kind, we would still utilise tillering nocks and then finalise the overlays once we had established that our bow was tillered correctly and to the desired weight.

To file in tillering nocks, clamp your bow so that one limb is protruding above your bench by about a foot or so with the side of the limb facing up. Now, measure down about 5/8in and make a mark on the *backside* of the bow. Now using a square, scribe a 45-degree line down the side of the limb towards the belly of the bow. Now, file a shallow groove, about 3/4 of a file thickness deep, with your 1/8in chainsaw



Filing in tillering nocks.



Bow on the tiller post



Bend meter

file on *top* of the line you drew.

Now unclamp the bow and, holding the nock end at eye height, transfer the lines of the bottom of the nock groove on both the back and belly around to the other side. Now you can accurately file in another groove on the other side which should be parallel to the first groove. This is critical. Your nock throat must be parallel, or there is a chance you will twist your limb. Hold the bow up and cast your eye down your nock throats. If they are not parallel you can adjust them till they are. Now repeat for the other end. We will worry about final detailing of the nocks when we are sure that our bow is finished right where we want it.

The other critical item for this stage of tillering is a tillering string. A tillering string is quite long—normally around 80 inches or so. This is

so you can have the string sitting in the bow's nocks and still have some length hanging down. Try to go with a Flemish splice. These strings are stronger and more flexible in the loop, making their use much easier. If you aren't confident in making a string, there are many string makers who will make one for you, myself included. If you do need one made up for you, email or call and I'll look after it for you. They need to be quite strong as early tillering normally means the string is copping quite a bit of weight. I would go at least 15 strands of dyna 97 or similar or 18 if going with Dacron (B50).

Now, on to the tiller post. You want your tiller post on a firm, flat surface and at a height that puts the bow's handle at about eye height. Next place the bow's handle in the notch at the top of the tiller post and

then place your tillering string on the nocks. Now pull down the string until the limbs just start to bend and lock in the string into one of the posts notches. Pay attention to which notch you went into. We will be wanting to go a little further each time we make an adjustment in order for the alteration to 'register' in the wood. Now you can stand back and have a look at how your bow is bending.

If you have been able to get your bow quite flat and true with the steaming process, you can use a little gadget called a bend meter. They are very useful and are very easy to make. Grab yourself a block of timber, approximately 6in long and about 1 ½in wide and ¾in or so thick. Once this is done, take your bend meter to your bow on the post and place it against the belly side of your bow. Observe the gap between

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the middle of the block and the limb. Now simply drag it along the length of each limb and see if the gap changes at all. If it closes up you know the limb is stiff at that point, if it widens you know it is weak at that point and so on.

Some bowyers like to put a small screw into the block that will be adjustable according to the degree of bend that you have and it will leave a little scratch where the limb is high. I personally like to use my eyes. Mark the limb accordingly with a pencil where work needs to happen and do the same on the other limb. This gadget will not work if the limb is really up and down, basically a character stave, perhaps one that hasn't been steamed into a flattish profile. In this case, use your eyes. This is why for beginners you want the flattest stave you can use—much easier to tiller!

There are two phenomena to consider in your limbs. They are hinges and stiff spots. Stiff spots are simply

areas that are not bending and are easy to fix by weakening them slightly. Hinges are weak spots that are over-bending. These are rectified by removing wood from *each side* of the hinge. Of course this means that each side of a hinge is therefore a stiff spot.

Prior to taking the bow off the post to do your adjustments, look down the ends of the bow. This technique will tell you if you have any twist in your limbs and tell you where to adjust them out. It is much easier to remove twist early on than waiting till the bow is strung and the bow has learned to have the twist. When looking down the ends, if there is one side of your limb sitting *higher* than the other, it means that side needs to be reduced a little. This occurs as the limb has denser grain on that side. If this is the case, mark that side of the limb so that you know it is the stiffer side and make your adjustments on that side of the bow's belly.

In the event that the limb was already pretty even according to your eye and the block-of-wood bend meter, then reduce the limb evenly all the way down, favouring taking more off the stiffer or higher sitting side. Generally at this point you are using your scraper to make these adjustments. Remember, we do not want a dead flat belly here, but a very slightly stacked belly. The mid-limb will be a tad higher than the outer edges of the limb. This accommodates tillering much more so than trying to scrape on a dead-flat belly. Also this makes rectifying alignment issues a little easier as well. That said, I have tillered many a bow dead flat, but experience has shown me that a very slightly stacked belly is a better bet with wider flat bows when using osage. Some white woods won't like this treatment, but with osage it is better in my experience.

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Bobbin or spindle sander.

some wood when making your adjustments and not just your pencil marks. Progress slowly though—don't take too much off the area and create an opposite problem to the one you are trying to fix. When you have made the necessary changes, return the bow to the tiller post and exercise the bow by pushing down on the string 20 or 30 times or so to a depth of about two notches past the first notch you locked in. This will help the cells in the wood to react to the changes you have made.

Now, lock the string in down *one* extra notch (not more than one notch, but it will have to go down a notch to stretch and compress the fibres and get the wood to react to your changes and to progress the bow towards brace height). Again now, assess your limbs. Did the areas of concern get rectified? Did the twist (if any) get sorted out? If not, back to the vice and have another go. If all looks okay then proceed down another notch and look again. Stand back and assess with your eyes how it all looks as well as using your bend meter. As the tillering proceeds, exercise the bow.

As mentioned above, every time I make an adjustment I push down on the tillering string 20 or 30 times prior to locking it in to my next notch. You need to get the wood to register your changes. You are training

the wood, teaching it what you are wanting it to do. Also, as you work, you will have to also work your fade-outs into your handle. One of the easiest ways to shape the fade-out curve is a bobbin or spindle sander (*see photo*), but as most of you may not have one of these, a farrier's rasp and a lot of sweat will do the job. Once the basic shape has been achieved, your scraper will suffice to reduce the curve as is needed with the tillering process.

Be very careful not to remove too much wood in the fade-out area. A near handle hinge is very difficult to fix. Rather, work the curve of the fade-out into the handle evenly and over the area you have allowed for the non-working section of your riser. It will slowly change as the limb loses thickness, but just adjust it as the tillering proceeds. Make sure the non-working section is not more than what you want. Ensure the limb is bending into that 8in or so that constitutes the handle/riser area.

Once you feel that the bow is looking good and is in a notch that might be holding the limbs close to brace height, grab yourself a builder's line and tie it from nock to nock as if it were a mock bow string (*see photo*). Now measure the distance to your handle. If it is somewhere near to 5 ½in to 6in, you are nearly ready to string your bow ... I say nearly, because you also need to assess if the curve on both limbs is even. One limb should not be a lot weaker than the other.

Stand back again and ensure that the bow looks like it has a nice, *balanced*, even curve. Be 100 per cent honest with yourself. Don't be too keen to string your bow if all is not quite right. But if all looks okay you are ready to get a string on your new bow. At this point, your bow shouldn't really be showing any excessive set or string follow—only a slight amount. If there is considerable

set at this point, your stave is still too high in moisture content and will need more drying before you proceed. Proceeding on a high M/C stave to the next phase of tillering will result in a massive amount of string follow and poor performance.

First stringing and final tillering

We are getting to the exciting phase now. The first thing we want to do is work out the correct string length for our bow. Generally, the correct length string for a straight end longbow is around 3½in to 4in shorter than the bow's nock-to-nock length. So 64in for a 68in bow et cetera. However, for your first stringing, go for a slightly longer string to give you a lower brace height. You don't want too much strain on your bow yet.

I like an initial brace height of about 4in. The reason is that even though we have done a good job with our tillering to date, once the bow is strung, things really start to happen. Better to be on the safe side. With that in mind, grab your string that is about 2in or so shorter than your bow's nock-to-nock length and using a cup-style stringer, string your bow. Stand away from it and have a look. How good a job did you do? Is the alignment good? Is the balance okay with both limbs being fairly even? Ultimately we want one limb slightly weaker than the other but for now if they are very close that's fine.

In the event that the balance is way out, unstring her quickly and work on weakening the stiffer limb. If the alignment is way off, do the same after marking the side you need to weaken. In this case it will be the side with the larger amount of limb showing either side of the string. This is why we don't go straight to a full brace height string. The load is minimal on a lower brace height string. In the event your bow is so overweight you can't even string it, you will have

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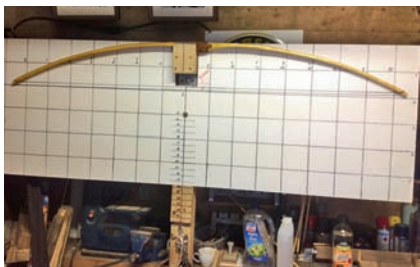
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Bow on the tiller board.

to continue scraping and using the tiller post until you can. It should be heavy though—within reason, but on the heavy side. We need the extra weight to make adjustments with and also realise that the bow will start to set as tillering proceeds. As it settles in, you will lose quite a bit of poundage, so stay safe on the higher side.

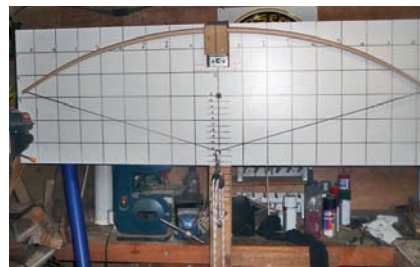
If all looks good, we are ready to proceed to the next stage. There are two ways of proceeding from here. One is to use a tillering rig (see photo). This is basically a board with a grid comprising of 4in squares, and a pulley and rope rig to exercise the bow while you stand back and look at the limbs moving, and the other method is to simply use a mirror. Either way, don't forget we are stalking in on both the draw weight and the balance and alignment as well as a nice even curve.

The next step is draw the bow a few inches and observe the bending of the limbs. If using a gridded background and a pulley rig, use the grid to assess the limb's evenness. If using a mirror, it's a by-eye thing.

Simply stand in front of a full length mirror and gently pull the bow a few inches. Mark any areas that need attention, then unstring and scrape. Restring and recheck. Remember, each time you will need to draw the bow a little further. Once the bow is starting to approach 12in to 14in of draw, I like to check the bow's draw weight. With a draw-checking scale, draw the bow about the length you have tillered to and see what she weighs. Never draw the bow past about 10# over the draw weight you are intending for the completed bow. If you are aiming for 50# @ 28in for example, and the bow reaches 60# at 12in, don't go any further until you have done more reduction work.

There are two reasons for this. Firstly, taking the wood past the intended draw weight puts unnecessary strain on it and is potentially asking for trouble and secondly, even if trouble doesn't result, you are overworking the fibres and I feel that in extreme cases, the bow may lack performance when it has been overstrained needlessly.

We continue to proceed in this way until the bow comes around to the perfect curve and alignment is about 10# heavy. Also we want to be at a full brace height at this time as well, say around 6in or so. At this point, if using a gridded background, place the braced bow on the rig and measure the distance between the



Exercising the bow.

string and the bow's belly at each 4in increment and compare one limb to the other. Ultimately, we want one limb to be about 3/16in weaker than the other at *each* 4in point.

If using the mirror technique, measure along your bowstring and place pieces of masking tape at each 4in increment, then accurately mark the 4in marks on with a biro. Then measure to the bow's belly in the same way. If there is a variation to the 3/16in, minor adjustments will be necessary to establish this. The top limb being weaker than the bottom one is called positive tiller, the bottom being weaker is called negative tiller and the limbs being dead equal means neutral tiller. The reason we need the 3/16in weaker top limb is easily understood this way: Measure from your nocking point to your bow's top nock, then from the nocking point to the bottom nock. You will see that the distance to the top nock is smaller than the bottom, therefore we need the top limb weaker to balance out this lack of equilibrium. With this achieved, the limbs' timing will

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be correct. Your limbs should return in perfect timing, eliminating hand shock. In the previous article on bow tuning, I covered this in some detail.

Next we need to leave the bow strung for several hours. I do this, because self-bows will still settle in long after we have completed our tillering. I generally leave self-bows strung for many hours and draw them fully on and off throughout those hours. I am wanting any changes or settling to register while the bow is still 10# or so heavy so I can then adjust as necessary.

On my tiller rig, I will draw a self-bow hundreds of times to try to settle them in before they leave my workshop. I use a 3in or so wide hook on my tiller rig rather than a narrow hook, to better replicate the actual pressures on the limbs caused by the thickness of your fingers as will be experienced in shooting. If just using a narrow hook, the bow will



Checking the string alignment.

almost certainly alter its characteristics once the wider pressure of your fingers in a glove are applied through shooting. Even with this degree of thoroughness your bow can still settle as it shoots in. A self-bow is not really shot in and 'stable' in its draw



Bulbous handle shape.

weight and tiller until after 2000 shots or so. The more we can pre-empt the run-in process, the more chance we have of the new bow not losing poundage or going out of tiller.

When all seems stable and the tiller balance is correct, the alignment spot on, and the draw weight about 10# over, we are ready to finish the handle. The first job is to mount your bow, strung and belly side up in your vice. Looking down from the end, line the string up perfectly in the middle of the limbs and mark the centre of the bow's handle in two places. I prefer to mark the handle at about two inches each side of halfway. This

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will assist you in getting your handle in the absolute centre of the bow.

Back in the earlier articles I discussed the laying out of a bulbous type handle. If you were working with a drier stave you may have already partly cut this shape into your handle. If so we are just going to finalise this. If not we will need to cut this shape in from scratch now. Of course as I mentioned in the earlier article you can go with any handle shape you like, but I personally find this design works quite well for an osage flat bow.

As a reminder of the bulbous handle design, I have included the photo of the template I use for this handle style. If your handle was roughed out already, now you will need to complete the handle by

rounding everything out evenly so it fits nicely in your hand. At the narrow throat of the bulbous handle—the area where the arrow will pass—we want the width to be about 5/8in in total. While this may seem narrow, it is more than strong enough due to the handle being quite deep at this point. If we go much wider than this, in other words going a long way from centreshot, getting your arrow spines tuned in becomes more difficult and more sensitive as can be the case with English longbows.

Use a combination of rasps, files and scrapers, then finally coarse grit sandpaper (80 grit), to achieve this final shape. If you haven't yet shaped your handle at all due to your stave being green before the steam bath, you will need to mark centre on your bow's back. Do this with a long steel rule or straight edge. Then lay your template on the handle area and mark it out. All the dimensions for the template are laid out in a previous article (*How to make an osage flatbow Part 3*). Ultimately, we want the handle area nicely rounded so it sits in your hand comfortably. The photos will show the final shape I prefer for this style of bow.

When you feel you have the handle/riser where it feels right, I next like to check on the bow's overall balance and feel. With the bow strung, place your index finger under the middle of the handle and find where the bow

wants to balance. It should sit perfectly balanced, both left to right as well as side to side. This, in tandem with the 3/16in positive tiller will mean the bow should be hand-shock free and shoot beautifully and not move in your hand at all when you shoot. With all my bows, glassed as well as wooden, I work very hard on this.

Now comes the exciting part: Shooting your new creation for the first time. This is obviously the ultimate test. Grab some correctly spined arrows and set a nocking point about 3/8in up from where you want your arrow to pass, say about 2in up from the handle's centre. With the bulbous type handle there is no arrow shelf as such. I actually apply one later, but for now just grip your bow so that your hand is in the correct position and just shoot off your hand. How did she shoot? Was there any hand shock? If you have been accurate in all the procedures up till now, I reckon you will be happy with the shootability of your osage bow. There may be some tuning considerations, but as long as all is pretty good, I then go on to finish the bow.

That will do us for this edition. In the next edition I will wrap up this bow-making odyssey with looking at finishing the bow.

Any questions can be sent to me on norseman_longbows@hotmail.com or 0243 294 074.

Until next time, keep traditional.



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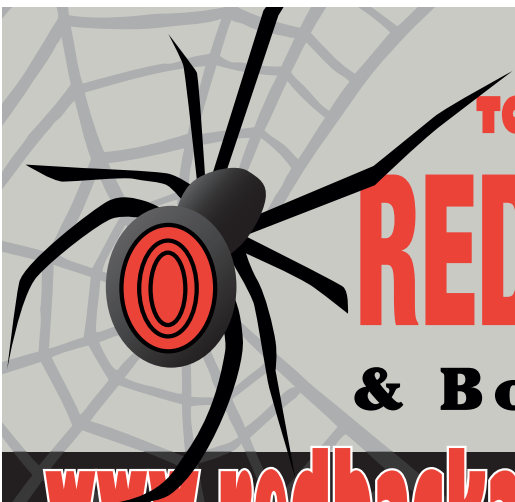








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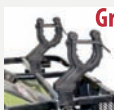
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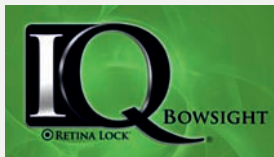
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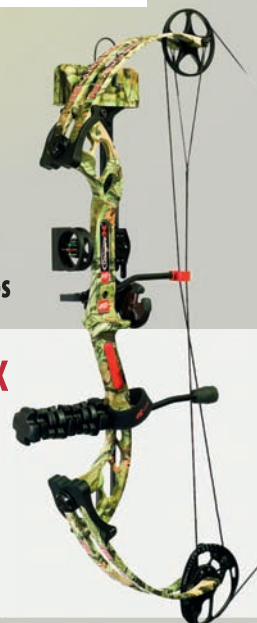


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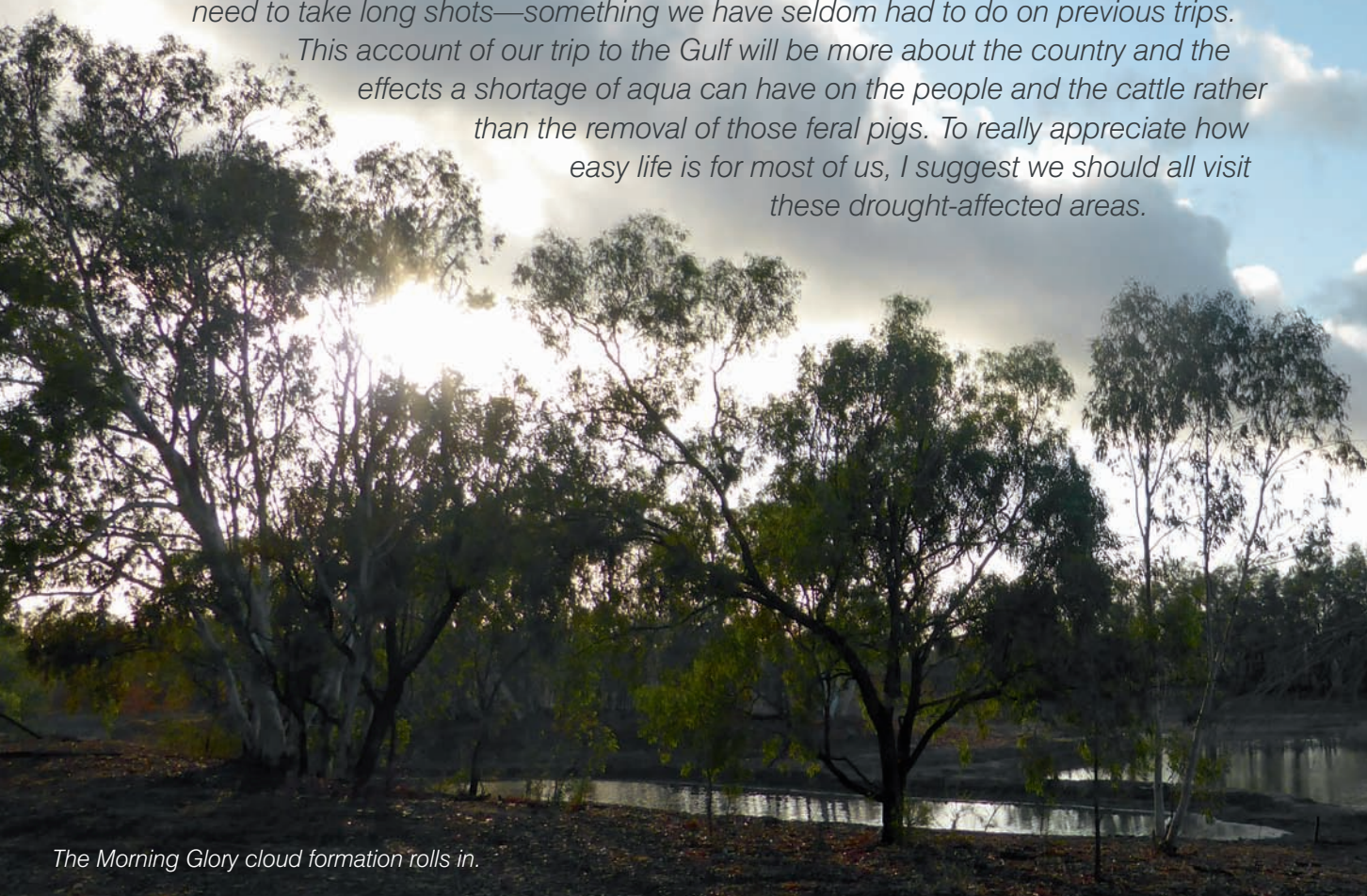
DOING IT TOUGH *in the drought*



Graham Newell

My old mate Alan 'Robbo' Robertson and I knew from my phone calls to the two cattle stations in the savannah country that the hunting was going to be different this year; how different and challenging we were yet to discover. Both station managers' comments prompted us to spend time working on 35yd to 55yd shot accuracy in anticipation of the need to take long shots—something we have seldom had to do on previous trips.

« This account of our trip to the Gulf will be more about the country and the effects a shortage of aqua can have on the people and the cattle rather than the removal of those feral pigs. To really appreciate how easy life is for most of us, I suggest we should all visit these drought-affected areas.



The Morning Glory cloud formation rolls in.

The roadkill of mainly roos with some pigs and sheep from Blackall to Winton was just staggering; at one stage near Longreach we counted at least 10 carcasses between the white posts (both sides of the highway), many fresh and some old.

The country from Blackall to Cloncurry was like a moonscape in places—absolutely *no* grass at all and not much stock—but surprisingly the stock we did see seemed to be in reasonable condition and some had calves at foot.

One property I visited in early September south of Longreach had

sold or relocated all of the 9,000 cattle so as to try to preserve the land; a cattleman with no cattle is like a bikie without a motorbike ... a sad sight indeed.

On the Winton to Cloncurry road we even saw a herd of some 50 camels, domesticated we believe.

The first day we travelled from Brisbane (leaving home at 2.00am) to Winton, some 1,345km in 15 hours plus the next day's leg of 800k to the first station; this was to be my 21st consecutive trip to this property near Burketown.

I said it was going to be tough to get amongst the hogs; well, on our

first day of our six-day hunt, we met the new bore-runner (a person who keeps the water pumping out to the cattle watering troughs) and he had, that very day, shot five pigs as he did his run to check the water. A shotgun was the weapon of (mass) destruction—he had indeed made it tough for us bowhunters to surprise the feral hogs.

Maybe we are getting too old for this 'sport' but this year the millions and millions of cattle flies, the tons of bulldust and the heat had us questioning our sanity daily. We also felt we would need to take longer shots due to a lack of cover on the

approaches to the small watering holes and dams.

Over the next five days we did manage to remove the small number of seven pigs. In 2014 I removed 17 on my own over five days, but under very different circumstances. All was not lost, as we both still had a couple of excellent stalks and positive outcomes.

The stalk

One such event occurred as we approached a burra (a small dam next to an above-ground dam called a turkey nest). The pigs were laid up under some gum trees getting the benefit of the north-easterly breeze. I did manage a long stalk of 60yd to get within 20yd. It was difficult to

determine if the bedded pigs were sows or boars, so it was the biggest which got the Zwickey broadhead in the vitals. The shot was only 'okay' but after a follow-up arrow, the boar was down. It was a good size but not big in the hooks area, so only photos were taken.

The water turned red

We then headed to a series of small lagoons, a spot where we 'always' get quality and quantity pigs. Robbo was no sooner out of the truck than he spotted a boar coming off the water after an early soak and mudbath.

It all happened so quickly (as usual) that Robbo's first arrow went

under the pig's nose. The boar stopped to look around (a fatal pause) but by then the second killer arrow was into his lungs. The boar staggered past me into the water to lie down; the water was now crimson with his blood and soon Robbo had his boots off to recover the boar. A good set of hooks were removed (out in the blazing sun) after the photo shoot.

The long shot

Sometimes you have to take a chance as it is presented; this occurred as I walked ahead leaving Robbo to remove the hooks on his earlier kill. About 150yd ahead, I spotted a good-sized boar in the muddy lagoon, ears twitching rest-





lessly. This would have to be a long shot. I covered the ground to within 70yd of him; he was still visible in the wallow. The boar was broadside with his vitals exposed for the moment.

With an almost total lack of cover and still in a crouched position, I slowly began the stalk. I got to within 38yd and came to full draw, still crouching, then slowly stood up and set my 40yd pin low on the pig's double lung region.

I steadied, waiting for a lull in the strong northerly, then released.

The outcome was pleasing—the boar only travelled about 45yd before staggering and going down for the count. At least in these dry, grassless areas the pigs are easier to spot and recover. It was a good feeling indeed. Photos were taken along with the hooks; unfortunately I did not notice the left one had the tip broken off, but that's fine.

The 'routine' kills

The next four consisted of the routine spot and stalk. On two occasions I had to drop all my gear to slip under a barbed wire fence, crawl some 15yd over hard rocky and dried black soil mud ground to nail the pigs—one a huge sow and the other a smaller boar.

Robbo found good cover on one waterhole to be able to 'walk'

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to within 10yd of a small boar and another time the pig walked up to his spot only to meet the Piledriver and Zwickey combination coming the other way.

We learned that we had to take the 30yd-plus shots as I had personally blown three good possible kills by trying to get too close too quickly in the very light tree/grass-covered terrain.

I took my Huntsman recurve to over 13 turkey nests (usually 15yd shots) over two days for not a single shot: The bore-runner had done the damage, as these spots had been very productive for us in the past.

On our last morning the famous and spectacular Gulf Country Morning Glory cloud formation appeared out of the east as if to say farewell. We said our goodbyes and headed out the gate to our next challenge.

Breaking new ground

We travelled to a property some three hours' drive away which has as its western boundary an escarpment that is the NT/Queensland border; this was to be our first time on this cattle property.

The approach had us excited because some 80km from the station's front gate we saw several herds of feral horses, brumbies—fair game, I was told. We did notice the property had very few wallabies/roos in residence; perhaps they are smarter than us humans.

This property was not as drought affected as our first stop. It had reasonable supplies of water and grasses, the cattle looked good and many cows had recently arrived calves on the teat.

The station's graded 'roads'—



and I use that term generously—were corrugated, rocky, sandy, bulldust hell to navigate. We came close to being bogged in the deep sand on the roads—how the Nissan Pathfinder held together and got us home I do not know.

This is different

We found after a chat with the manager's partner that the watering of the cattle is from creeks, dams and soaks most of which have little approach cover. The station manager had only been on the property for seven months so he too was still working out what was where. The point was also made that the pigs were bigger and numerous ... which both proved correct.

Our first day

We drove some 12km west from the homestead to then walk along a slowly drying creek and within five minutes we had both spooked several good-sized boars. The ground-cover of fallen trees, flood debris and washouts was a little different to what Robbo and I were used to. In fact I almost stepped on a big boar, missing him by less than a metre—he was startled and so was I! I just had not seen him, he eventually bolted into the thick low scrub opposite the creek.

Lucky me ... or unlucky hog

On my way back to the Nissan I spotted a nice boar slowly walking towards me some 50yd or so ahead (the breeze was in my favour). Arrow knocked, I waited until he was 15yd away quartered on and still walking at a steady pace. I released the arrow, but had not given him enough lead—the arrow was too far back and only hit part of the lungs. He ran some

50yd past my position then stopped and hung his head. I waited five minutes then slipped in behind him to put the second arrow through both lungs, and this time he was down in a flash. Excellent long hooks were taken, along with the usual photos.

We next drove over the 'road' towards the northern watering spots; as we did so we drove past a soak formed by water coming to the surface from an underground spring covering an area of approximately 60m x 60m. To our surprise there were four or five hogs in the mud and water not 10yd from the road. I turned the vehicle around and 'ambled' back past the now alert hogs, to a spot some 80yd downwind. Robbo was up; he slowly stalked in to the soak and noticed a good boar asleep in his wallow, which we had not seen from the road. Robbo got to within 20yd and drove the arrow through the boar's vitals to exit the front left side. Great shot, and good hooks.

Two good hogs down on the first

day, we thought we had hit the feral pig motherlode ... but not to be.

We ended up almost bogged in the sand on several occasions, travelled into areas devoid of animals, got bushed (as distinct from lost) and used the Nissan as a scrub-clearing machine on several occasions. Our map supplied by the manager was, sadly, not current.

We'd been told the pigs were big and we soon agreed. One hog was so big Robbo wanted to get a saddle on it as it flashed passed him. But they were not only big, they were smart as well. We did note the big boars seemed to bed in spots where they could see their surroundings and that they were also quite alert.

We had several occasions where for no reason apparent to either Robbo or me (the wind was in our favour), the family groups usually containing a couple of big boars and/or sows would up and run off the water before we could close the distance to within bow range.



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Even though we did manage to put down a couple more pigs, we felt like newbie pig hunters. We also know we have much more to learn on how to successfully hunt this property not only for the feral pigs, but also the wild dogs and brumbies.

We covered most of the property where roads existed, mapping on our GPSs all the waterholes, dams, soaks and creeks ready for 2016.

The joys of hunting

Despite the frustrations we experienced, the days where fun (well, most of the time) the evenings with the property managers, a few rums, bourbons and beers (definition of a *few* is up to you) are always excellent exchanges.

If you have not been on a northern Australian cattle property, you all need to just to see and feel how special these pioneers really are—they are truly great, tough, caring sincere people who love a chat ... and a beer or six.

One of the station workers had a 'pet' sucker pig and he told us it was earmarked as the Christmas dinner

on a spit, but we thought it unlikely as the guy was a real softy.

Our accommodation was in air-conditioned rooms off from the main homestead on both stations; a small respite in this tough country. Yes, tough, I know!

The essentials

Because the country was so dry and hot (days of 38 degrees to 42 degrees were common), we had a 'must have' list, namely camel-

backs with water, GPS, radios (UHF), E-perb, car fridge (cold drinks once back to the vehicle), wide-brimmed hats, quality knives and of course the hunting tools (bow/arrows et cetera).

Our food was prepared back in Brisbane—We cooked the steaks, chops, sausages then cryovac them into meal-sized bags, then froze them all. This way we had quick, quality meals each evening (we used tinned vegetables with each meal), sometimes sharing with the property managers.



gear used

Robbo and Graham both use Mathews compound bows set at about 65lb with five-pin sights and Piledriver carbon arrows with 136-grain two-blade Zwickey broadheads up front. They have spare broadheads in their packs (and arrows in the truck) and the usual quality knives and diamond sharpeners.



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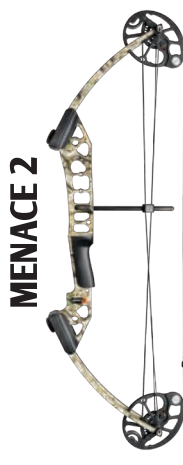
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FOOD SAFETY

in the bush

SCOTT HEIMAN AND TOM CORNELL

At last year's TBA Muster, Tom Cornell gave a food safety seminar that was well received by the gathered hunters. Camp food safety is an aspect of camping that most of us have thought about from time to time, but few of us probably pay sufficient ongoing attention. When Scott's five-year-old was diagnosed with salmonella last month, having been exposed to unwashed veggies from a supermarket, we figured it was a good time to document some of our collective observations about food safety around camp, so we put our heads together. We reckon that our combined 30-plus years cooking for and teaching Field Hygiene in the military and a further 80-plus years bush camping means we've got something useful to contribute to the readership in this space.

Before we get into some tips and tricks for keeping you and your family safe and healthy on your next trip away, it's probably worth reflecting on what we mean by food poisoning. Food poisoning is a general term that refers to a range of symptoms caused by eating or drinking contaminated food or drink. Primarily this contamination is caused by food being prepared in an unhygienic manner. Prime culprits include dirty utensils and dirty food preparation surfaces. There's also the contami-

nation caused by germs spread by a cook who's ill or who doesn't maintain appropriate sanitary standards. Then there are the risks of contamination from incorrect food preparation (for example, undercooking meat) or storage (for example, incorrect temperatures).

With so many potential sources of food poisoning, we probably shouldn't be surprised that there are an estimated 4.1 to 5.4 million cases of food poisoning in Australia each year according to the Food Safety Information Council. That's one in four of us heaving over the porcelain sometime during the year ... not a pretty thought.

When we camp, the risk factors of food poisoning are often amplified depending on how well we practice food hygiene outside the comfort of our usual home surroundings. For example: are we washing our hands after nature calls? Are we keeping food surfaces free from old food scraps and flies? What do we do when the food in our Esky starts to

Make your camping experience as safe as possible



A food-grade multi-purpose cleaning agent is a must at your camp.

Birds can spread salmonella.

de-frost earlier than we expected or we have leftovers from a few nights ago? Do we throw it away or do we use it anyway because there's not much else to eat around camp?

Most of us are seasoned campers, so there should be few surprises about what food safety risks we might encounter while we're away. For example, if we know we're going to be relying on an Esky full of ice to keep our consumables cold, we shouldn't fill it with fresh meat and then wonder why, as the ice melts, there's raw blood floating around the beer bottles we've stored alongside. It's not rocket science.

A dose of food poisoning is guaranteed to put the kybosh on a hunting trip, but there are plenty of things we can do to prevent it. A lot of this boils down to common sense, so have a think about the points raised below. Most likely there are a few pointers that you've overlooked in your time, or haven't given the attention they warrant.

The importance of food temperature

Bacteria grow quickly in a temperature range between 5°C and 60°C. This is known as the food temperature danger zone. This means we need to keep our refrigerated food at 5°C or below (bacteria don't grow at temperatures below 0°C). Bacteria die at 76 degrees, so when cooking or reheating foods, we should bring it up to steaming hot—not just ready to eat—and then keep it above 60°C.

To be sure that they're safe to eat, chicken, stuffed meats, sausages, liver and minced meat (like hamburger) need to be cooked to the point that the juices run clear. That means there's no hint of pink in the centre. (Steaks, chops and whole

pieces of meat can be cooked to preference).

Remember—if perishable food has been in the temperature danger zone for two to four hours, consume it immediately or throw it out.

Think ahead

Dry or tinned foods: These foods are easy to store in a tucker-box and are less susceptible to variations in temperature than fresh foods. But many of these foods require safe water to rehydrate them or to cook them thoroughly, so they're less useful if we expect our water sources to be unreliable.

Fresh foods: Eskies or fridges can prolong the life of fresh foods while we're on the road but if we plan to travel with raw or cooked meats, poultry, dairy foods and eggs, we need to ensure we've got a reliable refrigerator and that we aren't simply relying on ice for cooling. If we can't maintain a temperature of 5°C or below, we shouldn't take these foods with us in the first place.

Once we decide to take fresh items with us, we have to think about which ones might be our best camping choices. For example:

- Boneless cut steak—cooks more evenly and is easier to stir fry with less handling
- Chicken pieces—smaller pieces like legs and wings grill faster and easier
- Smoked bratwurst—has a longer storage life than 'normal' sausage and can be boiled or grilled
- Tomatoes—roma type last longer and are tougher when in the fridge/esky
- Lettuce—iceberg and romaine hold up better in the fridge/esky
- Cheese—the harder the block, the longer it lasts. Soft unmaturred cheeses don't last long.



Cleaning your fridge off grid will help maintain your health.



Don't leave kitchen gear out overnight.



Some fresh food choices last better than others, so shop wisely.

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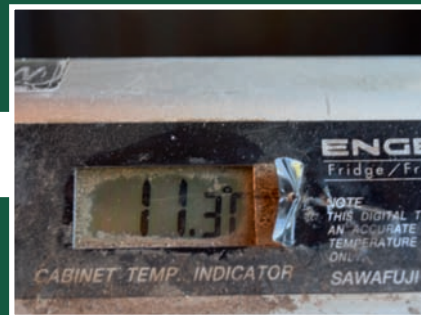
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Washing your hands is fundamental in food safety.



Whether you're skinning, caping or preparing lunch, it's a good idea to glove up.



Keep your fridge below 5 degrees C to avoid food poisoning

Car fridges and electric coolers

Portable fridges and electric coolers are now mainstream but they don't all perform equally well. A quick read of performance comparisons that you'll find in recreational outdoor magazines supports this point. Some models have problems maintaining a set temperature in the face of variations in environmental conditions. So if we aim to travel into the scrub and we're expecting hot days and cold nights, we need to test our kit's capabilities before we set off.

Other points to consider include:

- Electric coolers are not refrigerators (which have a compressor) and have a limited cooling capability (usually about 15 degrees C

to 30 degrees C below the environment temperature). They're good for short periods of storage in hot weather or while you're in transit ... and not much else.

- It's a good idea to keep an eye on your fridge's thermometer. Large deviations from your set temperature are a clear warning that there's a problem.
- The trouble with electronic appliances is that they need electricity. Make sure you have a reliable power supply (which may require an alternate battery and/or solar re-charging).
- Take care to routinely clean out the bottom of your fridge so you don't inadvertently create a petrie dish of bacteria at the bottom of it.
- The larger the volume, the more energy it takes to cool down a

fridge and to maintain the temperature. Multiple smaller fridge/freezers may be more suitable.

Icebox tips

- Pack as much as you can in a frozen state to help keep the other foods cool. Eat them as they thaw out.
- Consider using separate iceboxes for food and drinks as the drinks Esky will be opened more often.
- Fill any empty space in your icebox with frozen bottled drinking water. The fuller the cooler, the longer it will hold its temperature.
- Don't use loose ice unless foods are stored in waterproof containers otherwise you'll find ice slurry

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cross-contaminating other foods.

- Ensure you package any raw meat and chicken in leak-proof containers and place them on the bottom of the icebox well away from ready-to-eat food.
- Try to travel with at least two sets of freezer bricks and/or gel packs. Keep one in the icebox while the other is refreezing in your powered freezer, then rotate them as one defrosts.
- If you cryovac your foods and double bag them, you can use them as ice bricks too. When you want to cook the food, transfer the bag into your icebox several hours in advance; That way the cryovac-packed food helps cool the icebox while it gently defrosts.
- When you arrive at your camping site, get your cooler out of the vehicle and into the shade as soon as possible. You may also like to cover your icebox with a

wet towel to promote evaporative cooling.

- Don't pack food if it's just been cooked and is still warm. Ice-boxes can't cool food enough to prevent bacteria growing, plus you're likely to start raising the temperature to the detriment of the other food stored.

Camp hygiene

- Wash your hands prior to (and during) food handling.
- If there's not enough water, use disposable wipes or anti-bacterial gels.
- Keep utensils used for preparing raw foods well away from ready-to-eat foods.
- Wash all kitchen gear thoroughly in between uses.
- Cover food and store food off the ground to protect it from insects,

animals and dust.

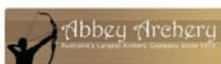
- Don't feed the animals and keep your campsite clean. Birds and animals can be a source of food poisoning bacteria so don't leave food, dirty utensils, food scraps and rubbish lying about to attract them.
- Keep food scraps and rubbish in a bin or bag that can be sealed adequately so that flies and animals can't get to it.
- If there's no designated rubbish point, take your rubbish with you when you leave.
- Don't contaminate the local waterways by tipping your washing water and other waste nearby them (keep at least 50m away).
- Select a latrine site carefully: Make sure it is at least 50m from campsites and any water source.
- Bury food waste a minimum of 300mm below the ground surface.

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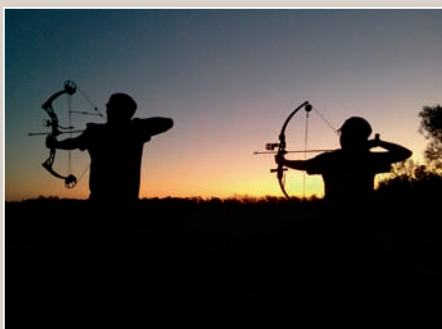
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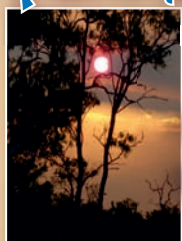


Top, from left: Miles to Nowhere, Tom Mitchell; On the wing, Matt Kelly; From the battlements, Paula O'Donnell.

Bottom, from left: Silhouetted, Rodney Everett; Taking a dip, Dave Pender, The waiting game, Will Ellen.



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ABBEY ARCHERY

Giant range of stock plus shooting range, repair workshop and more at new Sydney premises



Abbey Archery has a brand new Sydney store and warehouse. The new premises are just over the road from the old store in Castle Hill—but that's where the similarity ends.

The old store had become very cramped and a large amount of stock had to be stored at a separate warehouse. The new purpose-built archery store has a huge showroom and has been laid out to give customers a fresh and exciting shopping experience, including two shooting lanes.

Other features include dedicated online order processing and fulfilment areas, service, repairs and warranty workshop, customer lounges and a large special and bulk stock product display area.

Five wide aisles make it easy to browse the store in comfort to look at the huge range of archery supplies including more than 300 bows. The foyer is a good place to meet friends and even have a coffee while you wait for your partner to finish shopping.

The landmark archery store is now the largest retail, online sales, wholesale, despatch and fulfilment operation in Australia, New Zealand and Asia, sporting more than 750 square metres of retail and wholesale space.

This store has been in the pipeline for a number of years and a huge amount of work has gone into the new store to make sure it can deliver the best archery shopping experience and the best products possible.

The new address is Unit 7, 15 Carrington Road, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154.



CARTEL HAWK TAKEDOWN BOW

The Hawk takedown recurve bow is a relatively new arrival on the market for long-time archery equipment giant, Cartel. It's been aimed clearly at a more 'traditional' archery market and I was given the opportunity to test and review the Hawk for John McDonald of AMSO 128, a local Cartel Archery dealer.

This bow comes to the market with a price point that shouts entry-level equipment, and amazingly has a recommended retail price of \$198. But I was soon to find out that there's a lot of value and surprises on offer.

John sent me a Hawk in 40lb so I could use it on the field course and in hunting. But archers can choose draw weights in 5lb increments from

30lb to 60lb in left- and right-hand risers. The bow is Korean made and boasts laminates of diamond wood and maple in the riser and limbs. The limbs are finished with a low-satin-to-matt-black fibreglass and make a versatile 62in bow.

The takedown system is simple but well made and utilises a single allen key limb bolt to locate the limbs with the aid of the metal limb pockets. I was struck by just how well this bow is finished, a fluent radial shelf, no production-looking glue lines in the laminations, lovely rounded shape transitions and an impressive clear finish.

Now I draw a recurve to 29¹/₂in, so the thought of a shortish 62in bow usually has me thinking of limbs stacking in weight as I approach my longish full draw, but the Hawk surprised me again. I'm not saying that as I settled in to full draw there was no stacking at all, but wow, this little entry level bow just extended itself well into the more experienced archer's peripheral and felt consistently smooth right out to almost 29in draw.

I didn't shoot the Hawk off the shelf, which is certainly an option; instead I shot a simple stick on rest and found the bow

shot and pointed very well. It grouped my lighter carbon target arrows well,

just loved a heavier arrow and broadhead set-up and was great with still heavier wooden shafts too.

I enjoyed shooting this bow on the target range and also practising with carbons and broadheads.

I can easily see this bow in hand, fox whistle screaming, while over-looking some nice black-berry-choked gully.

The Cartel Hawk would suit any archer wanting to explore a more traditional style of shooting and would serve them well for a good long while. Available from AMSO 128 and most Cartel archery dealers, mine will be with me on my next fox-whistling trip and will certainly see the field range again when I feel like some extra fun.



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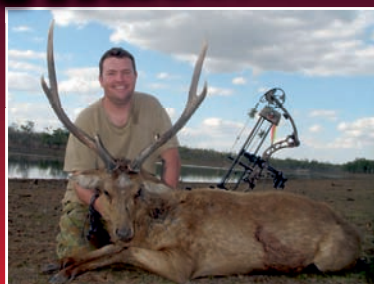
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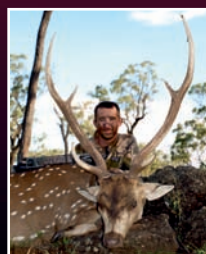
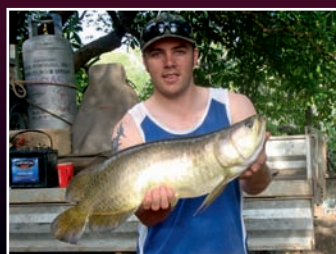
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OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Tuning the new Hoyt Hyper Edge DFX Cam

I was pretty excited when Hoyt first announced the new Hyper Edge bow. This year's short ATA bow comes with a new preloaded limb design, as well as new DFX cams and Zero Torque cable guard system. All of these new additions are things I have been quite interested in trying for some time now, so it was good to see them all combined into one bow. This month I will discuss some of the tests I have done with my Hyper Edge, and the various tuning methods I have found to work well and get my groups tighter.



by STEVE CLIFTON

The very first thing I noticed about the Hyper Edge was the decrease in string angle (at full draw) compared with my Pro Edge Elite. Due to the new preloaded limbs not flexing as much as the previous limb designs, the result is that at full draw the ATA is around 3in extra, meaning that the bow now feels more like a 37in-39in ATA bow to shoot. As I have shot the Pro Edge Elite for the past few years, this change in string angle has taken me a little bit of time to get used to, however I feel that I am able to keep my head more straight (and not angled down slightly to look through the peep) which could lead to a more consistent anchor.

Another major change made is the adjustable grip-angle system that is found on other bows Hoyt make. The one thing I loved about my Pro Edge Elite was that the grip was angled in slightly, giving the bow a more natural feeling than previous models. With this new system, shooters are able to change the angle to suit their style of shooting. I have tried the various different angles, and have found that the simple two-degree offset works best for me.

DFX CAMS AND TUNING

I have spent dozens of hours over the past few weeks tuning this new DFX cam system and along the way

I have made some pretty interesting discoveries. When testing new bows, the first thing I like to do is get the bow's tiller even at top and bottom and ensure that the cams are timed so that both pegs touch the cables at exactly the same time. This usually is how many of my bows are set up to shoot as they group the best this way. However with this DFX cam, I have found my best groupings have been when the cams have been slightly out of sync, with the top cam hitting about 2mm to 3mm before the bottom one.

I also have spent some time trying different combinations of the various sized pegs and have found that the bow feels best for me with small Spiral-X pegs on the top and bottom. By using the smaller pegs, I have been able to over-rotate the cam so that the holding weight has been reduced, which for me feels great. This was one of the biggest improvements I made to this particular bow as I like to hold around 12lb to 14lb, whereas originally it was set around 15lb to 17lb.

Another benefit of using the smaller stops and the cam timing that I noticed is that the wall is now softer than before, which suits my current shooting style. My style is such that when I get to full draw, as I begin to aim I like to expand about 1/4in so

that my push-pull is quite solid and locked in. When I do this with a firm wall (and timing set even) I find that my dot moves around the target a little more as I am struggling to get the right balance of draw length and wall softness.

Another benefit I have found is that my grouping has also improved due to the cams being tuned this way. I have found that on occasion, I pull either too hard or not hard enough when at full draw, which can influence where the arrow lands on the target. By changing the timing you can also change the nock travel of the bow, which depending on your shooting style can influence how the arrows group at the target.

The next thing I spent some time experimenting with is the new limb stop. The new DFX cam has the ability to have the two cable stops, as well as an extra limbstop—adding a much firmer wall than can be achieved using cables alone.

I will start with the positives of using the limbstop. For shooters who like to pull softly into the wall, that is, those who command shoot (punch) or rotate the hinge (with very little push-pull), they will love having the limbstop on.

I found that when I was punching my thumb trigger with the limb stop on, the bow aimed and grouped

amazingly, almost tempting me back to the dark side. Even when I shot my back tension 'hinge' trigger with the limb stop on, I found it to be a great addition, as long as I didn't pull too hard into the wall. This is the one drawback I have found with using the limb stop with how I shoot. As I mentioned before, I like to expand quite a bit when I aim and execute, and when I had the limb stop on I found that pulling hard against the limb actually made my aiming move around more, of course due to the wall's inability to absorb the pressure being forced into it. Currently, the limbstop is still a work in progress. I am sure I will be able to get it working for me and get extra points out of it, and I have some ideas around how to achieve this, so will report back once more testing has been completed.

OTHER TUNING

As always, I stick with my typical settings when setting up my new bows. For example, the tip of the arrow rest blade is about 1/4in below the centre of the rest mount hole, the bottom nock point is level with the tip of the blade, and around a 30-degree blade angle to ensure that the fletches clear the blade without being influenced as they pass over it.

Something I have done some experimenting with (more than usual) is with stabiliser set-ups. Due to the design of the new limbs and riser, I have found that using a stiffer front stabiliser actually has made the bow aim better as well as feel nicer after the shot. I have been using my 32in Doinker platinum for the past few days and have found that it aims really well with more weight added to it than I would shoot on my longer 34in rod. Shooting a shorter rod with more weight has the added benefit of shooting great in the wind as there is less stabiliser to be influenced, as well as more weight making it



harder to push the shot around.

I have also tried a variety of sidebar combinations and have found that having one 14in sidebar, mounted off the front stabiliser hole and with 10oz of weight works best for me. I have also spent a bit of time shooting the bow with V-bars and again have found that mounting these off the bottom hole was the best way to shoot them. I prefer shooting the V-bars for indoors as with the lack of wind I am able to create a really steady bow without worrying about having external influences interfering with my shooting.

Overall, I am really excited to get out on the range and spend some time tuning this bow further. After recently coming back from our New Zealand National Championships with multiple gold medals (shooting my Pro Edge Elite), I was hesitant to change anything as I have been shooting some of the best groups in a very long time. However after playing with this new bow some more I am sure I will be able to carry over my recent successes and even improve on them over time.

As always, if anyone has any questions feel free to contact me on steve.archery@outlook.com.







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Traditional READS

The giant Kodiak bear sways from side to side as he walks along the shoreline. His muscles, visible under the heavy coat of brown fur, ripple as he moves. He is silent. The giant paws, laden with thick padding, absorb any noise from the rocks.

The archer awaits his arrival. Hidden behind one lone rock, arrow nocked on the string of his bow, he is ready to draw the recurve and release the razor tipped shaft into his quarry. For a moment the archer loses sight of the bear as he moves between the rock and the water. But then he is there, stopping for a second, looking at the hunter and at his gun carrying companion, trying to determine what they are. In an instant, the archer is at full draw and the arrow is on its way. The bear explodes, this time running as quickly as his giant body can move. The arrow has found its mark, buried deep behind the animal's front shoulder. There is the sign of weakening hindquarters and ebbing strength as he runs. In less than a minute after the bear is hit, he is down. The archer and his companion measure the distance of the shot. Twenty five feet. Had the bear turned on the two men it is unlikely that even the gun would have been enough to defend the archer and his companion from the 810 pounds of muscle and claws.

Though the above account is written in my own words, it is from a story written by Fred Bear. Yet every time I read it, I feel as though I am there with him on a cold beach in Alaska, knowing that death is so near. The wind. The smell of the quarry. The feel of

the string of the bow as the archer comes to full draw. I have read this account many times over the years and I can honestly say there has not been a time when it didn't quicken my heart with excitement. Therein lies the power of the written word.



John A. Barlow

THE ADVENTURES OF FRED BEAR

First put together in book form in 1976, *The Adventures of Fred Bear* came together from the many years of the great archer taking field notes from his hunts across the world. From Alaska to Africa, from India to the Arctic, Bear recorded in great detail a day-by-day log of his adventures. This is not a book on how to shoot a traditional bow as much as it is on the hunts themselves. Filled with real-life descriptions of hunting with a bow and arrow, the book describes the joys as well as the challenges of bowhunting.

The book could also be described as a journal because of the way the author dates each entry. Because of that, at least for me, there is a realism in his writing. As Bear describes each day that he hunted, the reader



The Adventures of Fred Bear, taken from his years of field notes.

quickly becomes aware that hunting with a traditional bow is not an easy task. The book is filled with entries where the bowhunter comes across few, if any, in the way of game. There are blown stalks and unyielding weather that keeps Bear and his companions in their tents for days. It does tell the story of bowhunting as it really is. While there are pictures of camo-clad bowhunters, the majority of the black-and-white photographs show bowhunters dressed in the camo of yesteryear—wool and flannel shirts of plaids and checks. It is also a book of camaraderie and sharing the many adventures of bowhunting with friends.



G. Fred Asbell's books are informative as well as entertaining.

HITTING 'EM LIKE HOWARD HILL

There are a few men who have accurately carried on the tradition of Howard Hill more than John Schulz. Having had the opportunity to have been mentored by the great archer when they were but young men, John Schulz and his brother Dan became astute students, spending hours with Howard Hill and being taught the Hill style of shooting the longbow. In his writings, Schulz describes the 'absolute laws' that Hill reinforced regard-



Hunting the Hard Way by Howard Hill is probably a book you will not want to loan out. This guy is the master!

ing form in shooting the longbow. Few authors can say so much by saying so little, but John Schulz has done it with this book. Not quite 45 pages in length, the author touches on nearly all aspects of shooting the longbow while stationary as well as at moving targets. There is a chapter on stalking and tracking in addition to a chapter on the history of many of Howard Hill's accomplishments and several accounts of Hill's most remarkable shots. This is a must read for anyone picking up the longbow.

ISHI IN TWO WORLDS

On a clear day I can look northward from my home and see Mount Lassen, a dormant volcano running

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Beginner's Guide to Traditional Archery includes great advice for the beginner and the advanced archer.

Ishi's history tells how he loved his bow as he loved nothing else he owned.

along the southern most part of the Cascade Range. While not as large as its bigger brother, Mt Shasta, Lassen nevertheless makes me think of America's last wild Indian, Ishi. For it is there, along Lassen's steep slopes and the hills below that the Indian Ishi lived and bowhunted.

This is a history book of Ishi and his Yahi people. It is also a history of Ishi and his love affair with his bow. As the book's author, Theodora Kroeber records, "Ishi loved his bow as he loved nothing else he owned." The ancient black-and-white photographs show Ishi fishing and bowhunting along Deer Creek, making bows and arrows and calling game in close. If you have a passion for archery history, this book should be in your library.

HUNTING WITH THE BOW AND ARROW

Written in 1923, *Hunting with the Bow and Arrow* by Saxton Pope, is a wonderful book that covers many of the bowhunts of Pope and his friend Art Young. Here Pope explains in great detail his relationship with Ishi—along with how to make a bow and arrow, how to shoot and the principles of bowhunting in general. While each of those subjects pulls the reader deeper into the book, it is Pope's accounts of his dangerous hunts that keep the reader glued to the pages. Along with then noted guide and naturalist Ned Frost, Pope and Young, with camera in hand, go after some of North America's most dangerous game. The writing is fast and exciting and has an English flair to it. Many of today's bowhunting writers could benefit by adopting Pope's style as a wordsmith.

The pictures of Pope and Young with game are not unlike the bowhunting success pictures of today. They are, however, the only pictures where the dress code is formal, showing the hunters in ties as they harvest game.

HOWARD HILL HUNTING THE HARD WAY

This is one book of which you will not, after reading it, ever lend it to a friend for fear of never getting it back. Unlike other books which pass on the great archer's style and techniques second hand, this book, written by the master himself, leaves little doubt on how to shoot and hunt with the longbow. Hill's writing is direct and while there is a hint of confidence in his writing, there is also the calming feeling of humility in his words.

This is a must read for any hunter, and will more than likely keep you up for the better part of the night. There are chapters on bow making, arrow making, and one on making a

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bowstring. But it was his chapter on shooting the bow that I have read and re-read many times that has helped me the most in my quest to shoot the longbow proficiently. To be honest, seeing Hill dressed in buckskins in some of his success photos is somewhat refreshing compared to many of the camo-clad bowhunting pictures of today. There are no wasted words in this book and certainly no fillers as the author teaches his students in clear, easy-to-understand vernacular. It is almost impossible not to feel the longbow in your hands as you stroll through the writer's words. When I am going through my feelings of PBD (Post Bowhunting Depression), I pick up this book.

INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING

There are actually two books in G. Fred Asbell's short series on instinctive shooting: *Instinctive Shooting* and *Instinctive Shooting II*. Over the

There has not been a time when this account didn't quicken my heart with excitement. Therein lies the power of the written word.

years since these two books have been published, I have found myself quoting the author more than once when it comes to explaining how to shoot a traditional bow and how to do it correctly ... and I believe the reason is that no one does it better.

The two books, which are brother and sister to one another, are user friendly in the extreme. Not only does the author explain to his readers the

correct way to set up and shoot traditional equipment, but also what troubles follow those who do not. Sometimes we know we have done something wrong in our shooting but we do not know what it is. Asbell unlocks the mystery on bad shooting and easily explains the remedy. When I read his first book I became hooked and immediately found improvement and the ability to put arrows where I wanted them to go.

Instinctive Shooting II unlocks the mindset that must take place when it comes to shooting traditional bows. Only Asbell can compare a longbow to a beautiful and mysterious woman. "Easy" he says "to fall in love with, difficult to understand, and impossible to ever fully possess." Can anyone really say it any better?

The pictures and illustrated support are excellent and easy to understand. Asbell has a sense of humour



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The magazine you are holding in your hand contains a wealth of archery wisdom.

about him and actually makes light of his human weakness, which is refreshing. I believe I could sit around an evening campfire with Asbell and feel very comfortable and at home. His books radiate that sense of feeling.

STALKING AND STILL HUNTING

This is not a book about shooting a bow, but a book about bowhunting on the ground and how to get close to animals. While still another book by G. Fred Asbell, I was hesitant to buy it when I first saw it advertised because there have been so many books written on this subject. My



No matter where you hunt in the world, you can gain insight from those who have gone before you.

personal library is filled with how-to-get-close-to-game type of books that recommend stripping down to a buckskin loin cloth and stalking barefoot or using mud and tree limbs in your hair as camo. This book, however, is different. Asbell's pictures actually show bowhunters wearing clothes. If you like to stalk game ani-

mals or use ground blinds versus getting in a tree, this is a good book to have.

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO TRADITIONAL ARCHERY

Another little book that says a lot. I wish I had had this book as a teenager back in the 1960s, but I am guessing its author, Brian Sorrells was nothing more than a twinkle in his father's eye at the time. This is a simple, bare-bones type of book on setting up a traditional bow, selecting the proper weight and spine of arrow and how to shoot a traditional bow properly. A great book for the beginner, as the title mentions. I have found it to be a great reference book as well. If over the years you may have forgotten how to set up a bow or how to select the right arrow, this is the reference book you want. His explanation on bare-shaft tuning is excellent. Sorrells writes from his years of shooting and hunting with traditional bows. The picture support is well done, with clear, easy-to-understand images.

While there are countless other books, this is just a sampling. You can find many of them on Amazon.com or they can be ordered through Abbey Archery in Australia.

While bowhunting and shooting our bow never seems to last long enough, we can continue to enjoy the magic and beauty of our sport, through the written word.



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June 8 to 13 IFAA Field Archery Championships 2016

To be held at the National Field Venue
ABA PARK, Mudgee, NSW

Timetable: Muster for each day at 8am sharp
 Wednesday 8/6/16 Nominations and Bow Checks from 2pm
 Thursday 9/6/16 28 Targets Field/Hunter
 Friday 10/6/16 28 Targets Hunter/Field (afternoon Bow Checks)
 Saturday 11/6/16 28 Targets Field/Hunter
 Sunday 12/6/16 28 Targets Hunter/Field
 Monday 13/6/16 28 Targets Animal followed by presentations

Competitors have the choice to shoot either 5 or 3 days with the best three scores submitted but must include 1 Animal, 1 Field and 1 Hunter, which means that some competitors may not wish to arrive until the Friday afternoon.

Nomination Fees:

Adult, Young Adult, Veteran \$45 three days and \$60.00 five days;
 Cub/Junior \$35 three days and \$50 five days; Family \$125 three days and \$160 five days

Nominations closing date: 27 May 2016

A \$10 late fee will apply to nominations received after this date

Last date for Grading is 22 May 2016

Send All Nominations To:

The General Secretary,
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Or on the ABA Website

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ABA Park address is 600 Upper Piambong Road, Piambong

Directions:

From Mudgee take the Castlereagh Highway towards Gulgong for 12.5km and turn left into Lesters Lane and continue 3.7km to a T intersection and turn right into Lower Piambong Road (gravel road from here on). Follow Lower Piambong Road for 2.1km until you come to Upper Piambong Road on your left, take this turn and continue 6km until you find the gated entrance to ABA Park. All turns will be sign posted. If coming from the North (Gulgong) after 16km it will be a right hand turn into Lesters Lane.



2016 IFAA Field Archery Championships - NOMINATION FORM

Tick only if for Professional Divisions: ☐
 Professional Purse \$100
 in addition to listed nomination fee

Print SURNAME and FIRST GIVEN NAME	ABA #	Male	Female	Professional	Veterans Open (55+ yrs)	Adult	Young Adult	Junior	Cub	Freestyle Ltd	Freestyle Unltd	Bowhunter Ltd	Bowhunter Unltd	Bowhunter	Barebow	Longbow	Compound	Recurve	Historical Bow	Classification	Fees

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outside In the zone

change ... is it an age thing?

by Nils Spruitt

As we progress through life, we are constantly faced with change. To some the very concept of change is daunting. This is particularly so when you refer to both the physical and mental transformation we all experience as we grow older.

Take the so-called 'midlife crisis' we men seem to be subjected to as a perfect example. I know I went through one. My personal crisis was the classic buy the Harley, revert back to wearing tight jeans and a T-shirt, work out four times a week and all in a vain attempt to hang onto what had already been inevitably lost. Thankfully, it did not last all that long ... although I still do love the Harley.

When you sit down and think about it, changes occur all around us all of the time and are constant. The impact some of these changes have upon our lives are so minute they come and go without us even realising it or at least giving them much thought. Mornings change to night, days change to weeks, seasons change. It is a never-ending cycle and let us not forget changes in our weather patterns and global warming.

Most of us don't really pay much attention to the things which are beyond our control. Maybe we are all just that little bit selfish about such matters. It's the old cliché, if it doesn't concern me then I am not interested, but as we age we undergo changes

both in body and mind and these changes do directly influence our thoughts and actions. It is a certain.

What was once important to us as individuals, quite often holds very little significance 10, 20 or 30 years down the track. It is easy to put some of these attitude changes down to the fact we are simply getting older, but sometimes I feel this is just a cop-out. For example, when we were kids we all enjoyed climbing trees. I know I did and I was without fear. Now, as a much older kid, I get a tremble in my legs just standing on the second rung of a step ladder. None of us likes to admit to getting older, but our actions and thoughts tell us otherwise. (And so too does one quick glance in the bathroom mirror.)



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But it is not all doom and gloom. Ageing and the subsequent changes it brings to both our body and our overall conduct, does not mean we are only a hop, step and a jump away from an aged care facility.

I like to think as we grow older we get smarter. Maybe this very thought process is because I am now considered old by those who are still young. That could well be correct, but when you think about it why do you need to climb a tree in the first place unless of course you have erected a tree stand? The big question is, do you really need to use a tree stand? The same result can also be achieved with a ground hide if you put some thought and effort into it. For sure you have to be more vigilant about wind direction, but just as many game animals are taken from ground hides as from tree stands.

When I look back at what I have done in my life to date and at the various phases that have all come and gone, there are a couple of obvious standouts from a change perspective. The first is my preference now for personal comfort. As a mature gentleman, I no longer relish the concept of roughing it. There was a time when a sleeping bag and a ground-sheet was all the camping equipment I needed and my meals were comprised of lightweight, reconstituted mush served from a satchel. Thankfully, no longer. A comfortable

stretcher (with mattress of course), a pillow and a subzero rated sleeping bag have now become mandatory on any hunt irrespective of the duration. As far as provisions are concerned ... fresh meat and three veg if you please, not to mention bread, cereal and fruit. Occasionally, I do lower my standards a little and eat from a can but only if I am feeling a trifle lazy and have dessert to follow.

There are other modifications I have made as I age and these are to be expected. Steep hills immediately come to mind. If given a choice I will now walk around them rather than over them and I no longer shoot bows of a heavy poundage. These reversals I put down to age. It would be spurious of me to deny this. My greatest diversion from the past however, is my preference now for small game hunting and in particular, rabbits.

Many years ago it was all about deer. I lived and breathed deer hunting with just a bit of pig and goat hunting thrown in for good measure. I have long lost count of how many times I travelled interstate to hunt the various deer species, but the number is considerable. Along the way I hunted with quite a few like-minded characters. Some were good hunters and some were outright scoundrels who had scant regard for the law and absolutely no ethics whatsoever. Deer stalking can do that to people if

they are not careful.

I enjoyed success, well sometimes, but more often than not it was all about following one dead end lead after another. Deer numbers were not nearly as prolific back then as they are now. For example, to hunt the reds you travelled to the Brisbane Valley. Fallow were more widespread and you could hunt them in Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales or just over the border in Queensland although not with a bow as far as Tassie was concerned. Any thoughts of hunting chital meant a long drive to northern Queensland and as for rusa, well, best leave that one alone.

These days the bulk of my little forays into the bush are in search of bunnies. I still undertake a few hunts each year in pursuit of goats and the odd pig, but its rabbits I really lust after ... in a non-sexual way of course. I do count myself fortunate in that of the three goat-hunting properties I have up my sleeve, two of them also house very huntable populations of rabbits and I chase them with much fervour. And I never feel 'outbowed or outhunted' if Digs nails a nice billy while all I have to show for my efforts is a cottontail or two—quite the contrary really.

As for deer, I do still think about them, but not with the same zeal I used to. At the very zenith of my deer-stalking days all I ever talked



about or even thought about was inches, points and palm widths. My social graces had diminished to a point where I drank beer no less and smoked cheap cigarettes. To say I was at a low point in my life is an understatement. Now it's more about curried rabbit casserole over a fluffy bed of Basmati rice, a smooth single malt with ice and a fine cut Virginian Cavendish in a walnut bowl ... an overall improvement, as I am sure you would agree, and I owe it all to the humble rabbit.

However, this road to salvation has not been without a few potholes. In the beginning I hunted exclusively with a sighted compound, but it did not take me all that long to realise a bow with sights was not for me. You see, I never was that great a shot utilising a sighting system even with a rifle in my hands, but on the other hand, I have always been pretty handy with a shotgun. To my way of thinking, a traditional bow and a shotgun are not all that much different. Both require a simple point and shoot policy (or instinctive shooting if you prefer). The only problem with this theory is a shotgun shell, as you well know, has multiple projectiles with which to cause a fatal injury to your quarry whereas the arrow is but one. Subsequently, it goes without saying that I miss far more bunnies than I hit, but I would not have it any other way.

My infatuation with the bowhunting of rabbits has become so bad of late that I have even ceased shooting competition field archery for fear of it contradicting my hunting. Long have I thought shooting ABA field courses was a good means of practising for hunting purposes and even more so if the targets were 3D. Now I am not so sure. My problem is I am competitive by nature so to be successful in the ABA round, the shooter must possess an ability to hit targets

out to 48m—not all that difficult with a sighted bow, but not an easy thing to master with a recurve bow unless you spend an inordinate amount of time practising long shots.

This is counterproductive to hunting. When you decide to hunt with a traditional bow, you also have to learn discipline. I know we have all done it at some time or another, but no traditional bowhunter worth his salt should seriously contemplate taking a shot beyond 30m and even less if your bow is of light poundage. This takes discipline—and heaps of it—but better to let an animal escape unscathed than cause one to suffer an agonising wound. With my bows I will not shoot beyond what I calculate to be 25m. I don't use a rangefinder so this precise figure is not written in concrete, but I know when the shot is too far.

But back to field shooting. I found I was spending far too much time at each practice session trying to hit Group 5 targets with some degree of consistency instead of concentrating on being competent at the closer targets. I have now completely abandoned what is considered the norm when it comes to practice for field archery and have come up with a little scheme of my own based upon my desire to hit nothing other than a rabbit. It is quite simple really and makes for perfect rabbit-hunting practice. I use empty plastic milk containers—it doesn't matter if they're three-litre or two-litre containers. This basically means low cost targets are readily available in any household.

My sessions all start with the placement of two or three containers at various distances up to 25m and I situate them out in the open and not in front of target butts. You don't generally find a rabbit sitting in front of a target butt so I see no reason to place my plastic 'rabbits' in front of one as a safeguard. I then

proceed to shoot at them with blunt-tipped arrows. I use blunts because they pull up quickly should I miss and that of course is a given. It is not as easy as it sounds and for that fact neither is rabbit hunting. To be in any way consistent requires a good eye and rock-steady form. Anything other than an arrow fired with perfect form will result in a miss.

I should mention that I do not use blunts for hunting purposes even though many do and they are marketed as small game takers. I have used them in the past but with very mixed results. I have had kills, but not nearly as quickly or as cleanly as does a sharp broadhead through the vitals. The ABA policy is to use broadheads and I agree with them in this regard.

It is still early days yet so I cannot give you precise figures pertaining to my new practice method. That said however, my results on a hits-per-shot ratio is improving and my last hunt yielded two rabbits instead of the usual one if I was lucky. You will notice I have so far failed to mention the dozen or so shots where I failed to connect, but in my defence two of these would have been sure-fire hits had I not been stringjumped. Nevertheless, there is still much room for improvement methinks.

As I progress further along life's path, I have no idea what if any further modifications I will voluntarily or involuntarily make as far as hunting is concerned. However, I do know that if transforming me into a small game hunter is an age thing, then I say, bring it on. My big test will come one day when I am faced with a shot at either a big 12-point red or a rabbit. Which one would I choose? Don't scoff, because it has already happened, but in this case it was a young seven pointer and I chose the rabbit. I of course missed ... but that, like growing old, is a given. Until next time.



2016 World Field Archery Championships



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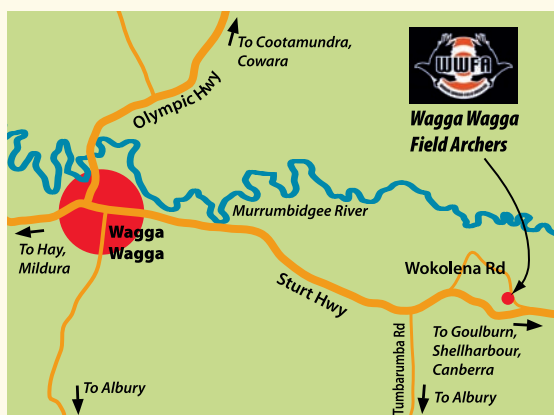
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Timetable:

23 September
24 & 25 September

26 September
27 September
28 September
29 September
30 September

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Opening Ceremony
28 Field Targets
28 Hunter Targets
28 Animal Targets
28 Field Targets
28 Hunter Targets
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Closing date for nominations: 02 September 2016

Nomination Fees:

Adult/Young Adult/Veteran: \$180Aud
Junior/Cub: \$130Aud
Family: \$450Aud
Awards Banquet (per person) \$50Aud
Professional Purse:
\$150Aud in addition to listed nomination fee

Note:

Junior: Under 17 years as at first day of competition
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2016 World Field Archery Championships: Nomination Form

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Print SURNAME and FIRST GIVEN NAME		ABA #																					

Your Branch

Please tick for information sought in each box

Nomination Fees:

Adult/Young Adult/Veteran: \$180Aud

Junior/Cub: \$130Aud

Family: \$450Aud

Awards Banquet (per person) \$50Aud

Professional Purse: \$150Aud in addition to listed nomination fee.

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Or email: eurobodallaarchers@gmail.com /
Eurobodallaarcherssec@gmail.com

NO DOG POLICY APPLIES TO THIS SHOOT

What's On

Where applicable, please use this as your tax invoice:

Australian Bowhunters Association TM

INCORPORATED (Inc in NT No AO1978) GST INVOICE GST ABN 79 750 431 225



Australian Bowhunters Association Inc. Southern NSW & ACT Branch Presents the **2016 Branch ABA Titles** Hosted by Campbelltown District Field Archers Inc. Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 July 2016

Saturday

8-8:30am Registration & bow checks
9:00am Muster and start 3 arrow round
Lunch Start 1 arrow round

Sunday

7:30-7:45am Registration & bow checks
8:00am Muster and start 3 arrow round
Lunch Start 1 arrow round
Presentations ASAP

Fees: Both Days: \$30.00 Single, \$50.00 Family
One Day: \$20.00 Single, \$40.00 Family (all fees include GST)

To pre-nominate: Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628
or Email: branchscores@gmail.com

For further information:

Rob Messery - Club President - 0438 930 707

Facilities include:

Camping, Bush Showers, Toilets, Canteen and Saturday night meals
All ABA members welcome, the range is situated between Camden and Picton on
Donalds Range Road

NO DOG POLICY APPLIES TO THIS EVENT

Southern NSW & ACT Branch Presents

2016 State ABA Titles

Hosted by

Forbes Lachlan River Archers Inc

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 August 2016

Saturday

8-8:30am Registration & bow checks
9:00am Muster and start 3 arrow round
Lunch Start 1 arrow round

Sunday

7:30-7:45am Registration & bow checks
8:00am Muster and start 3 arrow round
Lunch Start 1 arrow round
Presentations ASAP

Fees: Both Days: \$30.00 Single, \$50.00 Family
One Day: \$20.00 Single, \$40.00 Family (all fees include GST)

To pre-nominate: Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628
or Email: branchscores@gmail.com

For further information:

Rod Burke - Club President - 02 6851 1027

Facilities include:

Camping, Bush Showers, Toilets, Gentle but challenging courses, Canteen and
Saturday night meals

NO DOG POLICY APPLIES TO THIS EVENT

Branch B Safari

4th and 5th June 2016

Hosted by

Towers Bowhunters



Saturday (Nominations close 9am)

7:00am Breakfast
9:00am Bow Check
9:30am Muster
10:00am Round 1 Start
12:00 Lunch
1:00pm Round 2 Start
Afternoon Novelty Events
6:30 to 7pm Dinner

Sunday

7:00am Breakfast
8:30am Muster
9:00am Round 3 Start
11:30am Lunch
12:30pm Round 4 Start
Presentations will commence ASAP after
scores have been finalised
*Times are a guide only and are subject to change

Shoot Fees: Adult - \$25.00, Junior/Cub - \$15.00, Family - \$50.00

No Dogs - No ABA Card No Shoot.

Please forward nominations to: amywoodfield@bigpond.com
or Post to: Branch B, P.O. Box 1854, Aitkenvale, Qld. 4814

Mackay & District Bowmen Inc

INVITATIONAL SHOOT

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd July 2016

Saturday

8:00am Muster
8:30am Bow Check
9:00am Assembly
9:15am 3 Arrow Coloured ABA Round
Morning Tea Break 1 Arrow Coloured ABA Round
Lunch Break 3D Round

Sunday

8:00am Muster
8:30am Bow Check
9:00am Assembly
9:15am 3D Round
Lunch Presentations

Fees: Family: \$50, Senior: \$25, Pensioner: \$20, Junior/Cub: \$15

Nominations to be in by June 26th 2016 and include full name, DOB, ABA number
and bow division. For all late nominations there will be a \$5 late fee per person.

To nominate or for further information contact: President - Mick Beard
Ph: 0439677293 or Email: mackayanddistrictbowmen@gmail.com

Facilities Include: Camping, Hot Showers & Toilets.

Meals and drinks provided at minimum cost. Free meal on Friday night.



SHOOT CALENDAR

May-June-July

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
May			
1st	Archery SA – Athelstone	SA	Target
1st	Canberra Archery Club	Canberra	Target
2nd	Great Southern Archers	SA	Indoor QRE
6th	Diamond Valley	Vic	Indoor QRE
7th	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A – Branch	ABA & 3D
7th	Eden Field Archers	NSW	Field QRE
8th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA
8th	Mackay District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
8th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
14th	Great Southern Archers	SA	Field QRE
14th-15th	Southwest Bowmen*	J – Branch	ABA & 3D
14th-15th	Townsville District Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Invitational ABA
14th-15th	Border Bowmen*	I – Branch	ABA
15th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
15th	Mount Isa Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
15th	Liverpool City Archers	NSW	WA Field
21st-22nd	Capricorn Field Archers*	C – Branch	State ABA Titles
21st-22nd	Southwest Slopes Sporting FA*	F – Branch	Branch 3D Titles
21st-22nd	Colac Otway Archers *	H – Branch	ABA
21st-22nd	Lake Macquarie Field Archers*	NSW	3DAAA
22nd	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	3D
28th	Illawarra Archers	NSW	Field QRE
28th-29th	Renegade Bowmen*	D – Branch	TBA
29th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
29th	Northern Archers of Sydney	NSW	Junior Target
30th-1st June	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters*	G – Branch	State IFAA Titles
June			
3rd	Diamond Valley	Vic	Indoor QRE
4th-5th	Towers Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Branch B Safari ABA
4th-5th	Manning District	E – Branch	ABA
4th-6th	Greenough Archery Club*	J – Branch	Greenough Open
4th	Eden Field Archers	NSW	Field
5th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA
5th	Mackay District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
5th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
5th	Canberra Archery Club	Canberra	Target
6th	Great Southern Archers	SA	Indoor QRE
8th-13th	ABA Park Mudgee*	E – Branch	National IFAA Titles
11th	Canberra Archery Club	Canberra (Yass)	Field
11th-12th	Mallee Sunset Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA & 3D
11th-12th	North Rivers Field Archers*	NSW	State of Origin
12th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
12th	Mount Isa Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
18th	SQAS Short Range Championship	Samford Qld	Target
18th-19th	Caboolture Corral*	Qld	Traditional
18th-19th	Saxon Archery Club*	C – Branch	Branch ABA Titles
18th-19th	Grange Bowmen*	D – Branch	TBA
18th-19th	West Gippsland Field Archers*	G – Branch	ABA & IFAA

18th-19th	Eurobodalla Archers*	F – Branch	State 3D Titles
18th-19th	Liverpool City Archers*	NSW	Short Distance Target
19th	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A – Branch	ABA & 3D
19th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
20th	Great Southern Archers	SA	Indoor QRE
25th	Great Southern Archers	SA	Field QRE
25th-26th	WA Field & Bowhunters Club*	J – Branch	State IFAA Titles
26th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
July			
1st	Diamond Valley	Vic	Indoor QRE
2nd	Eden Field Archers	St.Marys SA	Field
3rd	Canberra Archery Club	Canberra	Target
4th	Great Southern Archers	SA	Indoor QRE
2nd-3rd	Mackay District Bowmen*	B – Branch	Invitational ABA
2nd-3rd	Hinterland Field Archers*	Qld	3DAAA
2nd-3rd	Roma District Bowhunters*	C – Branch	C v D Challenge
2nd-3rd	Macleay Valley Archers*	E – Branch	Branch Titles ABA
2nd-3rd	Bendigo Field Archers*	H – Branch	Invitational Trad
3rd	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
3rd	Phoenix Field Archers of Sale	G – Branch	ABA
7th-10th	Fred's Pass Field Archers*	A – Branch	Branch Titles
9th-10th	Southern Yorke Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA & 3D
9th-10th	Diamond Valley Archers*	Vic	State Titles
10th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
10th	Mount Isa Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
16th-17th	Campbelltown & District F A*	F – Branch	Branch Titles ABA
16th-17th	Mt Clay Archers*	G – Branch	State 3D Title
16th-17th	Western Plains Archers*	J – Branch	ABA & 3D
17th	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A – Branch	ABA & 3D
17th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA
17th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
17th	Gympie Field Archers	C – Branch	Invitational IFAA
23rd-24th	Pacific Bowmen*	D – Branch	TBA
23rd-24th	TBA	TBA	National Indoor Titles
24th	Boola Valley Field Archers	G – Branch	IFAA
31st	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
31st	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	3D

Black type shows ABA events, green type represents Archery Australia events and blue type denotes 3DAAA events
Shots marked with an * are cross-participation events



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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Preferred method of receiving

Archery Action

☐ digitally online

☐ hard copy (mailed)

Post completed form to:

General Secretary ABA

PO Box 227

Aspley Qld 4034

Phone (07) 3256 3976 Fax (07) 3256 3985

ABA Membership N°:

Renewal ☐

New Member ☐

5/11/2015



I, (full name) (M-F)

of (street # & name) (town-city) (p-code)

Postal address (PO Box #)..... (town-city) (p-code)

Phone number Date of birth/...../.....

Email address.....

do hereby wish to make application for membership of the Australian Bowhunters Association Inc (ABA), and if accepted, do undertake to conduct my/our membership in accordance with the Constitution, Rules, Policies and Code of Ethics of the ABA. Additionally, I/we acknowledge that Field Archery and Bowhunting are shooting sports conducted in the natural environment which can impose inherent risks and this application is made in full recognition of the Association's requirement for responsible and ethical behaviour. I/We undertake to do all in my/our power to preserve the good image of the sport and ABA. I/We understand that members breaking the Code of Ethics and/or ABA's regulations may be subject to sanctions as per the Constitution.

I am a member of (Club)

Signature of Applicant

I enclose the required fees of \$.....

I, the applicant above, also wish to make application for membership of ABA (Inc) on behalf of the following persons, who are members of my family and reside at my address:

Full Name of Applicant	Male-Female	ABA Number	Date of Birth
.....
.....
.....

I am prepared to accept the responsibility for the above applicants who are under the age of 18 years, until they attain such age.

Parent-Guardian Signature ABA Number if Applicable:

The Australian Bowhunters Association Inc reserves the right to refuse, suspend or terminate the membership of any person whose conduct contravenes the Constitution, Rules and Policies of Association of the ABA. Failure to provide information sought or supply of incorrect information may result in application being rejected.

RENEWALS and/or Advance Memberships for existing members

	12 months	3 years in advance
Adults	\$65	\$185
Juniors-Cubs	\$45	\$130
Families	\$140	\$390

New Members (12-month membership including joining fee)

Adults	\$90
Juniors-Cubs	\$70
Families	\$185

PENSIONER DISCOUNT: Deduct 10% from fees listed.

Quote Pension Benefit Card Number:

All fees include GST

Note: Dates of birth must be shown for all persons listed. Club name must be shown. **Family membership applies only to parents and their children under 18 years of age.** Separate single membership must be taken for children over 18 years. Couples without children under 18 years also pay separate single membership. In the case of family renewals, state ABA membership numbers. If insufficient space, use additional form.

ASSOCIATION USE ONLY

M'ship #s Allocated

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Signature

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