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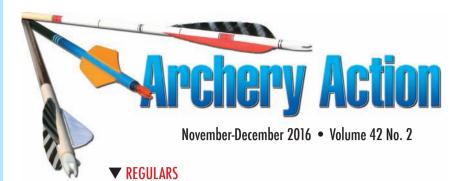






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■ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Kev Windle with a 30pt boar.

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I have just returned from the ABA Annual General Meeting in Brisbane and have been impressed all over again by just how much work goes into making this association successful. It's so much more than the parent body of some Aussie clubs where people fling a few arrows on weekends.

There are governmental meetings to attend to keep the bowhunters' point of view to the fore, major archery events where the presence of members of the National Executive is expected, regular National Executive meetings and a few dozen Branch meetings in the space of any given year.

Paperwork and manuals have to be kept up to date for proficiency courses, coaching workshops and measuring education sessions. Myriad day-to-day tasks go into keeping the 7500-member-strong group running smoothly.

Then there's membership in the Archery Alliance of Australia and everything that entails. And don't let's forget all the amazing work that has gone into ABA Park, the association's property near Mudgee.

The vast, vast majority of this is done by volunteers.

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

Vol 42 No. 3 January-Febru Vol 42 No. 4 March-April

January-February 1 December
March-April 1 February

Vol 42 No. 5 May-June 1 April



Some of these people virtually live and breathe ABA and endeavour to make every decision work for the betterment of the association.

So next time you're at the club enjoying your favourite pastime or you're out in the bush where we are still free to shoot feral animals with bows and arrows, spare a thankful thought for the behind-the-scenes work that goes into your national association.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ...

This magazine rolls off the presses in late October for an early November delivery to newsagencies and subscriber postboxes around the country. Lead times for magazines being what they are, I'm writing this in mid-October and feeling like I've jumped the string because I'm thinking about Christmas. Even so, I've noticed that retailers have beaten me to it and that Christmas stock has already started to appear on the shelves.

All the best for the festive season from those of us involved in the preparation of *Archery Action*. And if Santa still visits your place, I hope he leaves you something special under the tree—and that he bought it from one of the wonderful advertisers who support this magazine all year round. See you in 2017.

Jenel Hunt Editor



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FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

are welcomed by this magazine and articles should be addressed to: The Editor, Archery 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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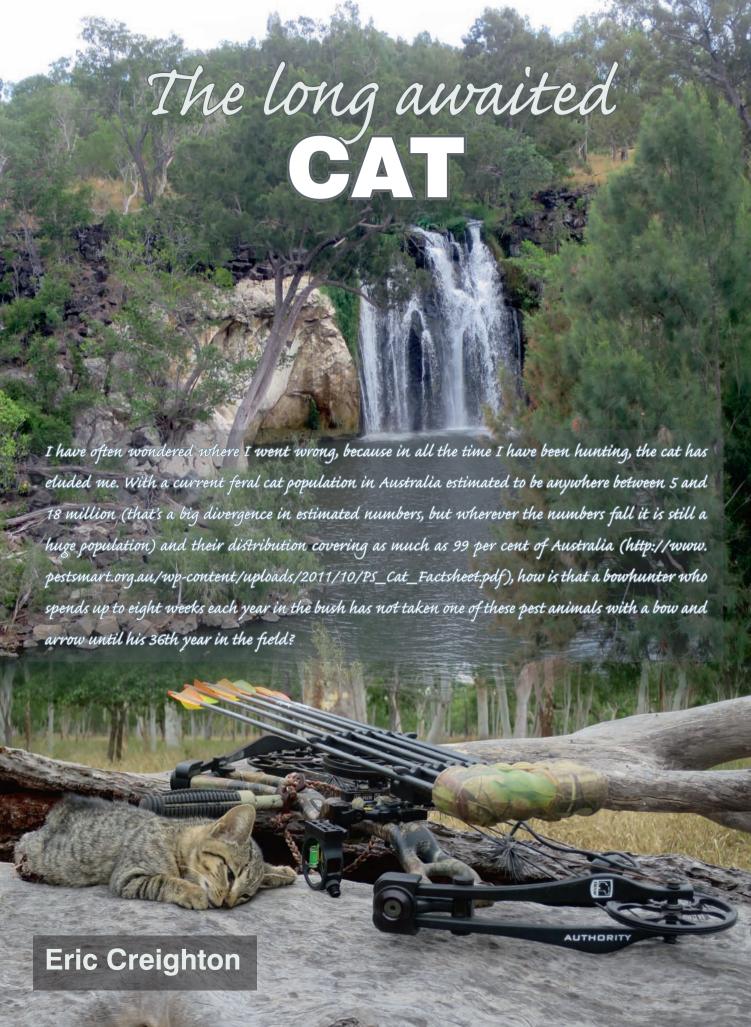
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n my early years in the Northern Territory, I spent far more of my time than was prudent out and about with my bow. For four years in the early 1980s while living in Batchelor (90km south of Darwin), I would be out in the bush as much as four times a week.

Yet in all my bowhunting years I have only twice had the opportunity to take a shot at this pesky feline and in both cases the feral was on the move and a Port Orford cedar shaft out of my Bear Custom Kodiak take-down recurve failed to meet its mark. While it's true that I have come across plenty of cats in the field, it has usually been when I was in a vehicle very early in the morning heading out to a hunting spot or on the way home from hunting and in most cases it was dark or very close to it. I have rarely come across a feral cat while hunting despite always checking out hollow trees that would provide a likely dry area for the animal to hole up during the day while not devastating our native wildlife.

Things were to change in June of this year when Graham Newell and I headed to Toomba Station northwest of Charters Towers on a chital deer hunt. This was my second trip to Toomba after completing a product review two years earlier (published in the November/December 2014 edition of *Archery Action*) in which I stated I would go back on a paid hunt and here I was again doing just that. On my previous visit I had taken a representative trophy class chital which unfortunately was not found until after the 24-hour claimable deadline despite the fact that both Dan Smith and I had frequently been within 10m of where the animal lay.

On this trip we were guided by Daniel Ferguson who frequently managed to get two old fogies in for shots on good stags. I had one great opportunity at 44m but managed to clip a sapling about a metre in front of the stag, sending the arrow spiralling into the air and harmlessly over the back of the great antlered stag.

My only other opportunity was on a hind at 40m but my release aid decided in that moment that the sweat and wear over three years was enough to make the leather give way at half draw and smack me in the face—no major damage was done and fortunately there was a back-up

release in camp a short walk away.

Out on my own on the last day of our stay at Toomba, I had been dropped off by Daniel at my preferred hunting area and I had a walk of 3km back to a vehicle that had been left on the access road to the station. Two minutes into the walk, I spotted a large fallen tree that looked like a great spot for a cat to take up residence and as is always my practice, I took the time to check it out. Circling in, I spotted the lower half of a tabby covered by some dead branches and clearly not aware of my presence. At 20m I drew back (new release aid!) and pinned the animal through the hip area (all that I could see) taking out both kidneys which resulted in a very quick demise of this menace of the bush. Pictures taken, I continued my walk back to the pickup vehicle and despite the fact that the cat was not fully grown, he became heavier with every step I took.

He was not a trophy class animal but I can say that I was particularly chuffed to have taken my ninth feral species with the bow and arrow.







Australian-Bowhunters Association

AFFILIATIONS

BOWHUNTING: FIELD ARCHERY:

WORLD BOWHUNTING ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT

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PROTOCOL

Please note that National Officers are not to be contacted with questions that should go through your club. The protocol is: Member speaks to relevant club officer. If the club officer cannot answer the query the officer passes it to the Branch representative who then contacts the relevant National Officer if required.

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BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows (Vice-President Bowhunting)



MND

I would like to dedicate the week's column to those who have, or have some connection to. Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and specifically to my brother-in-law Jeff, who lost his battle with this debilitating disease in the early hours of September 20, 2016. He left behind my younger sister Kim, and two kids Jess and Sam, an extended family, and many, many

friends. This is a totally crap disease for which there is currently no cure.

Illegal Bowhunting Stakeholder Meeting

Since the start of this year, we have had three meetings with the New South Wales DPI in relation to illegal bowhunting in NSW and what can be done to stop it. These meetings have been attended by representatives from the DPI. Game Licencing Unit. Department of Justice, NSW Animal Advisory, Local Land Services. Forestry, NSW Farmers Association, Aust. Conservation Hunting Council, GameCon NSW. Water NSW Police, RSPCA, Traditional Archery, Archery Alliance, Archery Australia, 3DAAA and the Australian Bowhunters Association. All these groups were invited by the NSW DPI, so you see that they are taking this problem very seriously.

All the representatives had an opportunity to give their ideas on how we could go about fixing the problem and there were many ideas. As you can imagine, the pro-hunting groups had one idea and the anti-hunting groups other ideas. Everything from stricter penalties, barcoding arrows, registration of bows, more licences, restricting sales, education, training, compulsory shooting sports membership and much more was covered. There have been reports in previous *Archery Action* issues cov-

ering most of what has transpired.

I can report at this stage there is no intention to introduce arrow or bow registration or archers' licences. These would take legislative changes and that is not going to happen ... at this point. But who knows the thinking of governments? The best we can do is to not give them any reason to go down that path. After the first two meetings, there was a strategy forming and it was up to the DPI to go away and come up with a plan. The basis of this plan was unfolded to us at the latest meeting in early September.

This certainly wasn't going to be a straightforward process and would have to go down at least two paths. The first would be to directly target the hard-core illegal hunter who just happens to be using a bow because of its effectiveness—not only in the taking of animals but also in its ability to be quiet and discreet in the process. These people have absolutely no concern or regard for regulations, laws or property. They would be highly unlikely to be swayed

by any form of education. The DPI, Police and all other outdoor-related departments are working together to catch and convict as many of these people that they can. They are constantly improving their approach and soon it won't be a matter of if you get caught, but when. As law-abiding bowhunters we need to help out the authorities in this area. If you see any illegal bowhunting occurring, report it immediately. This is not a 'dobbing in' process. What you will be doing is helping to maintain the viability of law-abiding bowhunters to be able to continue what we enjoy doing.

Some of this came to fruition a few months ago when a couple of illegal bowhunters were tracked, caught and arrested just south of Sydney and had just over \$20,000 worth of equipment confiscated. As stated before, the serious serial offender will only take notice if they are arrested and stand to lose large sums of money and potentially face jail time.

The second path is the new person, the novice, both young and old. These people will be the main

Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29 6/8	25
James Finlay	151 2/8	113 4/8	95
John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Dave Parker	10 15/16	10 6/16	9 3/16
Tim Pitt-Lancaster	8 5/16	7 10/16	7
Dan Smith	315 3/8	190 1/8	175
Jason Robinson	264 5/8	180	150
Dan Smith	204	150 5/8	140
Stephen Tilley	111 7/8	70	55
Dean Scott	203 5/8	162 7/8	140
Jay Janssen	236	168 5/8	150
Barry Feeney	35 2/8	28	15
John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Barry Feeney	11 3/8	9 1/8	6
Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10
	Michael Dacre James Finlay John Lopes Kimberley Nicholas Dave Parker Tim Pitt-Lancaster Dan Smith Jason Robinson Dan Smith Stephen Tilley Dean Scott Jay Janssen Barry Feeney John Van Den Heuvel Barry Feeney	Record Michael Dacre 37 2/8 James Finlay 151 2/8 John Lopes 108 2/8 Kimberley Nicholas 32 6/16 Dave Parker 10 15/16 Tim Pitt-Lancaster 8 5/16 Dan Smith 315 3/8 Jason Robinson 264 5/8 Dan Smith 204 Stephen Tilley 111 7/8 Dean Scott 203 5/8 Jay Janssen 236 Barry Feeney 35 2/8 John Van Den Heuvel 51 6/8 Barry Feeney 11 3/8	Record Class Michael Dacre 37 2/8 29 6/8 James Finlay 151 2/8 113 4/8 John Lopes 108 2/8 86 4/8 Kimberley Nicholas 32 6/16 29 Dave Parker 10 15/16 10 6/16 Tim Pitt-Lancaster 8 5/16 7 10/16 Dan Smith 315 3/8 190 1/8 Jason Robinson 264 5/8 180 Dan Smith 204 150 5/8 Stephen Tilley 111 7/8 70 Dean Scott 203 5/8 162 7/8 Jay Janssen 236 168 5/8 Barry Feeney 35 2/8 28 John Van Den Heuvel 51 6/8 41 4/8 Barry Feeney 11 3/8 9 1/8

Bowshot Records Boar Lynda Fell 32 2/8pt Goat Katherine Agale 127 1/8pt Buffalo Emma Johnson 87 2/8pt Camel Christie Pisani 30 7/16pt Fox Helen Duff 10 14/16pt Cat Lorga Hopkins 7 12/16pt

Women's

Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 14/16pt	2016
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	Emma Johnson	195 6/8	2016
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

1991

2010

2015

target. The DPI is putting together a program of education and awareness and is going down several avenues. They will be putting together a giveaway pack containing a line of educational and awareness goods. This will be predominately made available for shooting shows.

They will also be producing an educational and awareness booklet. This will be made available to archery retail outlets and clubs in NSW. The idea is to hand it out to prospective new bowhunters. The booklet will be somewhat along the lines of our BPC manual, but nowhere as in-depth.

The DPI will be promoting this program through clubs, social media, taxidermists and hunting guides ... anyone who has something to do with bows and arrows. They will also be making hunters aware of any online hunting courses. Remember this is only a NSW operation not a national one.

The NSW DPI is to be congratulated on this and all archery associations should support this initiative. The DPI has shown confidence in the legal bowhunter and archer. They have chosen to work with user groups to help control an element of bow users that have the potential to wreck things for everyone. As legal bow-and-arrow users we need to back them all the way and support this commitment.

The launch of this program is scheduled within the next six months. I will keep everyone up to date as I become aware of all the details.

A bad look

During the last DPI meeting, I sat next the NSW chief RSPCA officer. After the meeting he showed me an arrow he had retrieved from the side of a rusa stag, along with several photos he had taken. It wasn't a good look. This deer was found in



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

Bn	ch/Hunter	Club	Game	Awar	d FK/FKOS	Size
Α	Bradly Hawkless	Freds Pass Field Archers	Scaled Fish	GA	FK/FKOS	0
Α	Bradly Hawkless	Freds Pass Field Archers	Buffalo	GA	FK	0
Α	Bradly Hawkless	Freds Pass Field Archers	Stingray BHFF		FK	6 4/8
Α	Gareth Elliot	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	TC	FK/FKOS	25 4/8
A	Gareth Elliot	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	TC	FK/FKOS	25 2/8
В	Nick Bell	Mt Isa District Bowhunters	Cat	RC	FKOS	7 10/16
В	Richard Morrison	Mt Isa District Bowhunters	Cat	TC	=1400	7 2/16
В	Emma Johnson	Mackay and District Bowmen	Rusa Deer	RC	FKOS	195 6/8
В	Jay Janssen	Mackay and District Bowmen	Rusa Deer	RC		236
В	Stephen Kidd	Mackay and District Bowmen	Stingray	TC		8
В	John Mitchell	Towers Bowhunters	Pig	TC		28 4/8
В	Mitchell King	Townsville District Bowhunters		GA	FKOS	0
В	Mitchell King	Townsville District Bowhunters		RC		88 6/8
В	Mitchell King	Townsville District Bowhunters		RC		87 4/8
С	Brett Fittock	Capricorn Field Archers	Fallow	TC	FKOS	159 3/8
С	Elissa Rosemond	Capricorn Field Archers	Fallow	GΑ	FKOS	0
С	David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Camel	TC	FKOS	27 7/16
С	David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		104 7/8
С	Mitchel Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Rabbit	GΑ	FKOS	0
С	Paul Wither	Moranbah Bowhunters & FA	Rabbit	GΑ	FKOS	0
С	Craig Byrne	Wide Bay Archers	Buffalo	RC	FK/FKOS	87 6/8
С	Kamie Kruger	Wide Bay Archers	Hare	GΑ	FKOS	0
С	Wayne Kruger	Wide Bay Archers	Chital	TC		140 2/8
С	Wayne Kruger	Wide Bay Archers	Chital	TC		147 4/8
С	Debbie Manfred	Independent	Goat	GΑ	FK/FKOS	0
D	Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters & FA	Pig	GΑ	FKOS	9 4/8
D	Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters & FA	Pig	TC		27
D	Neale Cantrill	Grange Bowmen	Fallow	GΑ	FK/FKOS	0
D	Shane Allan	Grange Bowmen	Fox	TC	FKOS	10 4/16
D	Shane Allan	Grange Bowmen	Fallow	GΑ	FKOS	0
D	Dave Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC		105
D	Heather Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC		111 4/8
D	Brendon File	Pacific Bowmen	Goat	GΑ	FK/FKOS	85 3/8

a national park with an arrow hanging out the top of his shoulder, still alive, but not in very good condition. He was put down by the officer. The arrow was a quality 300 spine carbon with outcert and had a top-of-the-line broadhead attached. It was unlikely to have been shot by a novice. But it was shot from someone who either can't shoot straight, shot too far, or just plainly took an unethical shot.

The problem here is all bowhunters are then looked at in the same light. It is this sort of activity that will probably get us in the end. The people who do these things don't care about anybody or anything but themselves. They don't care how this affects future bow ownership or future hunting possibilities. They are already breaking the law. If bow ownership gets tough they will just possess one illegally. Do you think that it would worry them?

We need to stop these people and the best way to do that is for all of us to take some responsibility. If you know of anyone hunting illegally then report them. They are making things worse for responsible bowhunters and will doubtless continue to do so.

FOCUS YOUR SIGHTS

-|-

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has the latest on access to public land, safety, education programs and native game bird hunting opportunities in NSW.

Your game hunting licence includes \$20 million public liability insurance.

We use your game hunting licence fees to combat illegal hunting and to fund research into game and feral animals.

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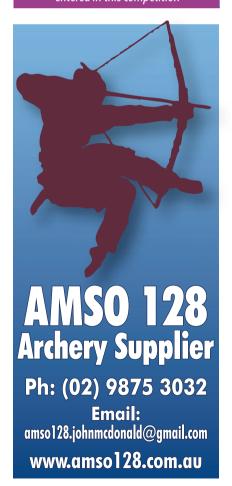
Submit your story and photos to the Gold Pen Award competition until the end of June 2017 and be in the running to win a red deer hunt with Trophy Bowhunts Australia valued at \$2000 and a gold pen as well as the writer's fee you receive

Send your entries to

when your story is used.

Archery Action Gold Pen Writers' Award, PO Box 638, Stanthorpe, Qld 4380 or email editor@archeryactionmagazine.com Subject: Gold Pen Award entry

All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition





Graeme Larkings 107 4/8pt TC goat.

D Brendon File Pacific Bowmen Goat TC 104 1/8 D Brenton Mitchell Renegade Bowmen Fox TC 10 E Gary Ashworth Independent Fox TC 10 E Gary Ashworth Independent Fox TC 13/16 E Peter Fryda Dubbo & District Field Archers Fox TC 191 7/8 E Charles Gardner Sapphire City Archers Fallow Deer RC 191 7/8 E Charles Gardner Sapphire City Archers Fallow Deer RC 191 7/8 E Graeme Duff Uralla Bowmen Fox TC 96/16 E Graeme Duff Uralla Bowmen Fox TC 915/16 E Graeme Duff Uralla Bowmen Fox TC 91/16 E Graeme Duff Uralla Bowmen Fox </th <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>							
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A few years ago a person wanted to try archery so he went out, purchased a bow and set up a target in his backyard. He tried to draw the bow, struggling with it for a while. Eventually he drew the bow, with the bow pointing upwards. He released the arrow and it travelled over two houses and dropped down right alongside a lady hanging out her washing. This is a true and documented account. How lucky was this lady going about her daily routine? This incident could have had a horrific outcome.

In my own Branch the increasing number of archers air drawing has been noticed. This is often caused by archers pulling too great a draw weight. Coaches and Field Archery Instructors need to be extra vigilant in looking out for archers who use this unsafe practice. Apart from the obvious issues, a premature release while the archer is wobbling around, bow up in the air, creates a safety risk to other archers and anyone else in the vicinity.

There are other concerns as well. If your draw weight is too high you run the risk of injuring yourself by overextending your muscles, overstretching tendons or damaging your shoulder rotor cuff.

Male archers are the group most likely to offend. There is a lower percentage occurrence in women and children. Please remember that young bodies are still developing so extra caution should be taken.

Too high a draw weight will also interfere with your form, may cause injuries and could even cut your time short in the sport. How often have you heard, "I can't shoot today, my shoulder's too sore."?

Chapter 4. Page 13 in the new Field Archery Instructors Training Program Manual is a must-read

COACHE CORNER

with TOM CORNELL

Actina National Director of Coaching



as it is an excellent guide on how to check draw weight. I recommend that all Coaches and FAI's read this important document and urge all those assisting archers to familiarise themselves with the content of the chapter. Should you notice an issue in this regard, and there is a problem, it will guide you in rectifying the issue. Of course the easiest solution is to wind the poundage down. Following this very easy and commonsense practice will ensure that the sport doesn't lose membership through injury.

At the end of the day, speed is no substitute for accuracy and safety.









report by
BRUCE KELLEHER

ABA National Communications Officer

photos by

ANDY McDONALD

and

DEBBIE THOMPSON

egistrations and bow checks opened on Friday to a bright sunny day after a couple of days of steady rain beforehand. The Wagga club had the grounds looking great and Tom Cornell and his band of helpers had the practice butts running smoothly.

Many of the international competitors had already arrived, while some of the Australians were doing detours to get here as there has been widespread flooding across the north of the State. What is it with IFAA and rain?

On Sunday afternoon, all competitors and visitors met at Robertson Oval in Wagga Wagga for the opening ceremony. The Army Band entertained us as we were waiting for the formalities to begin. All nations' representatives marched in, with the army band playing the national anthem of each nation to the applause and support of eager spectators. For me, this was a highlight of the event and something I will never forget, being with my fellow Team of Nations squad members at the front of the Australian competitors.

ABA Senior Vice-President Jeff Bell acted as Master of Ceremonies for this event and introduced IFAA Vice-President Steve Kendrick and Wagga Wagga Mayor Rod Kendall









to welcome the competitors. When the formalities were over we celebrated with a sausage sizzle so the competitors could mingle, make new acquaintances and renew old friendships. We were entertained by Jason and Chloe Roweth, who added an Australian musical flavour to the event.

Monday morning saw all the competitors at the muster point checking their groups ready for the first day of the competition. With final preparations made, Steve Kendrick and Tony Hartcher gave final instructions and we were off and running. A total of 570 eager archers headed off to the four courses—Red, Blue, Green and Black—to commence the field round.

Volunteers took on the job of range marshals leading the competitors to their respective targets for competition to begin. Special mention should be made of the many volunteers who looked after the cub groups, manned the practice butt, helped with bow checks and helped with the myriad of jobs that made the event as successful as it was.

All archers were off the courses by 5.00pm. Trevor Pickett and his helpers processed the scores. With the scores posted, it was time to reflect on the day's events while partaking in a relaxing beverage.

The Wagga club had organised a coffee van to be on-

site and this was very well received by all who indulged. The club also organised lunches to be out on the ranges for the competitors on a presold basis and this seemed to work well.

Tuesday saw the competitors rotate onto the next course and, again, competition was under way. At the end of the day, scores were tight at the top of most divisions with competitors eager to get in to the animal round and a shorter day on Wednesday with some archers showing some wear and tear after 224 competition arrows shot on the previous two days.

Wednesday was a beautiful sunny day after the threat of rain and the day's events were completed in beautiful weather conditions. But that's where things started to turn nasty with the threatened rain arriving overnight.

It continued to rain all night and Thursday morning saw competitors going through their archery kit preparing for a wet day. Archers arrived at the muster point to be advised that the day's shooting would be postponed by an hour for an assessment to be made of the ranges. There were concerns on the Red, Blue and Black courses with regard to safe footing and slippery conditions.

After the allotted hour we all mustered again to be informed that the events for the day had been cancelled. Archers mingled around the muster area and all were in agreement that the courses, especially the Red course, would be treacherous.

Most took advantage of the extra rest day to head to town and do some chores and shopping with many archers hitting the outdoor stores looking to update their waterproof gear. Wouldn't you know it, a couple of hours after the shoot was called off the sun came out! All looked good for a day of archery on Friday to finish off the event.

But it wasn't to be. On Thursday night the rain came back with gusto and most awoke on Friday morning to the realisation that the event was over. The ground was wetter than Thursday and the water was flowing faster down the creeks. We all mustered again, many without bows, just their umbrellas, to the news we had all expected; the

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Marsh Advantage Insurance is a leading provider in insurance broking across Australia, and supports the Archery Alliance with insurance and risk solutions.

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MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES



shooting component of the event was over. It was with a heavy heart that Steve Kendrick made the announcement. I would say that more than 90 per cent of the archers were in agreement with the decision, especially those on the Red and Black ranges.

Many took the opportunity to start packing up camp in case the weather continued to worsen.

Presentations were brought forward by an hour and we all gathered at the Mater Dei Primary School hall where tables were set ready for the banquet and presentations. In the Team of Nations event, New Zealand took gold, USA silver and Australia the bronze. The scores were very tight and who knows what may have happened if all five days of archery had been completed.

Special mention should also be made of the official photographer, Andy McDonald, who was appointed by the National Executive. Everybody was keen each night, to check out his latest offerings.

The photos Andy took of the event can be viewed at the website, www.archeryphotography.com.





CUB GIRLS BAREBOW RECURVE		3 Skylah Van Der Veen	South Africa	1541	2 Heather Campbell	Australia	601
1 Talia Langton Australia	1362	JNR BOYS LONGBOW	CLASS A		VETERAN LADIES BOW	HUNTER UNLIMITED	
2 Rose Innes Australia	1263	1 Caleb Anderson	New Zealand	468	1 Karen Keating	United States	1456
3 Jade Thomas Australia	861	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R RECURVE CLASS C		2 Sue Bisbee	United States	1394
CUB GIRLS BAREBOW COMPOUN	D	1 Callum Berry	Australia	636	3 Helen Thomas	Australia	1351
1 Josie Hatch Australia	1426	2 Joshua Hartley	Australia	142	VETERAN LADIES FREE	STYLE UNLIMITED	
2 Marnie Little Australia	1317	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R COMPOUND CLASS C		1 Diann Benson	Australia	1568
3 Nellie Canning Australia	1258	1 Connor Sticht	Australia	605	2 Marie Hulbert	Australia	1531
CUB GIRLS FREESTYLE LIMITED I	RECURVE	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R COMPOUND CLASS B		3 Fenny Thompson	Australia	1520
1 Olivia Witherow Australia	1520	1 Brodie Hatch	Australia	1148	VETERAN MENS LONGE	30W	
CUB GIRLS FREESTYLE UNLIMITE	:D	2 M. Walker-York-Moore	Australia	1104	1 Bruno Rouschmeyer	England	903
1 Amber Reinbott Australia	1620	3 Kameron Rowntree	Australia	736	2 Bernd Schmidt	Germany	854
2 Ella Tilbrook Australia	1377	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R COMPOUND CLASS A		3 Geoffery Blake	Australia	778
3 Isabelle Holmes Australia	953	1 Kurt Waldron	Australia	1359	VETERAN MENS BAREE	30W RECURVE	
CUB BOYS BAREBOW RECURVE		2 Dylan Evans	Australia	1351	1 Gary Waller	Australia	1182
1 Jamie Hatch Australia	1487	3 Jack Lebner	Australia	666	2 John Tulloh	Australia	793
2 Hugo Lobb Australia	1472	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R LIMITED CLASS C		VETERAN MENS BAREE	30W COMPOUND	
3 Ryan Carlson Australia	1141	1 Logan Starke	New Zealand	866	1 Frank Burdi	United States	1492
CUB BOYS BAREBOW COMPOUN	D	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R LIMITED CLASS A		2 Jeff Bell	Australia	1416
1 Connor Starke New Zeala	nd 1419	1 Samuel Orchard	New Zealand	807	3 Alec James	England	1254
2 Seth Harris Australia	1342	JNR BOYS FREESTYLE	LIMITED COMPOUND CL	ASS A	VETERAN MENS BOWH	UNTER RECURVE	
3 Mason Sticht Australia	1269	1 William Shaw	South Africa	1344	1 Mike Savage	New Zealand	1237
CUB BOYS FREESTYLE LIMITED F	ECURVE	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R UNLIMITED CLASS C		2 Peter Shumack	Australia	748
1 Szebasztian Szabo Hungary	1537	1 James Terras	Australia	1085	VETERAN MENS BOWH	UNTER COMPOUND	
CUB BOYS FREESTYLE LIMITED O	OMPOUND	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R UNLIMITED CLASS B		1 Gary Burns	United States	1392
1 Kalon Sheerin New Zeala	nd 1459	1 Clayton Hillier	Australia		•	United States	1234
2 Patrick Innes Australia	1338	2 Andrew Syme	New Zealand		3 Ronald Williams		1181
3 Harrison Miller Australia	1100	3 Marcus D'Alessandro	Australia	1471	VETERAN MENS BOWH	UNTER LIMITED	
CUB BOYS FREESTYLE UNLIMITE	D	JNR BOYS BOWHUNTE	R UNLIMITED CLASS A		1 Frank Smith	United States	1489
1 Tyrell Rapana New Zeala	nd 1656	1 Nate Chandler	Australia			New Zealand	1449
2 Bailey Cox New Zeala	nd 1576	2 Luke Agnew	Australia			Australia	1294
3 Nicholas Scarlett Australia	1567	3 Ethan Wilkinson	Australia	1445	VETERAN MENS FREES	TYLE LIMITED RECURVE	=
JNR GIRLS BOWHUNTER RECURY	/E CLASS C	JNR BOYS FREESTYLE	UNLIMITED CLASS C				1477
1 Hannah Morrissey Australia	540	1 Joshua Ford	Australia	1303	2 Walter Koch	Germany	1410
2 Mikayla Harris Australia	514	2 Mitchell Timmis	Australia	1203			1389
JNR GIRLS BOWHUNTER COMPO	UND CLASS C	3 B. McAllister-Gibbs	Australia		•	TYLE LIMITED COMPOU	
1 Tilly White Australia	790	JNR BOYS FREESTYLE	UNLIMITED CLASS B				1457
JNR GIRLS BOWHUNTER COMPO	UND CLASS B	1 Liam Robinson	New Zealand		VETERAN MENS BOWH		
1 Lily Canning Australia	1070	2 Nathan Ball	Australia			New Zealand	1558
2 Bella Little Australia	834	3 George Stokes	Australia			New Zealand	1552
JNR GIRLS BOWHUNTER COMPO	UND CLASS A	JNR BOYS FREESTYLE	UNLIMITED CLASS A		,		1518
1 Josie Hughes Australia	872	1 Jaxsen Wells	Australia	1596	VETERAN MENS FREES		
JNR GIRLS FREESTYLE LIMITED F		2 Bernard Mentz	South Africa		1 Brian Miller	Australia	1608
1 Zara Langton Australia	798	3 Hugh Fabbro	Australia				1603
JNR GIRLS FREESTYLE LIMITED F		VETERAN LADIES LONG			3 David Rowson	Australia	1600
1 Jaymie Wood Australia	1249	1 Joy Wood	Australia		PROFESSIONAL LADIES		
JNR GIRLS BOWHUNTER UNLIMI		VETERAN LADIES BAR			1 Linda Lainchbury		1641
1 Julia Clements Australia	1313	1 Dorelle Fox	Australia		PROFESSIONAL MENS		1011
2 Lucy Jefferis Australia	1091	VETERAN LADIES BAR			1 Peter Bourke	Australia	1551
JNR GIRLS BOWHUNTER UNLIMI		1 Gaynor Boyd	Australia		YA LADIES BAREBOW (
1 Nysha Willaton Australia	1408	VETERAN LADIES BOW			1 Natasja Pinches	England	357
2 Georgina Graham Australia	1241	1 Elizabeth Guthrie	Australia		,	R UNLIMITED CLASS B	
JNR GIRLS FREESTYLE UNLIMITE		2 Helen Campbell	Australia 826		1 Jolien Els	Namibia	1389
1 Lily Quirke Australia	1361	VETERAN LADIES BOW			YA LADIES FREESTYLE		
JNR GIRLS FREESTYLE UNLIMITE		1 Lana Lynde	United States	1291	1 Jessie-Rose Walklate		1549
1 Aimee Faul Australia	1619		STYLE LIMITED RECURN		2 Molly Pigott	Australia	1479
2 Madeline Boyle Australia	1560	1 Lynn Walter	United States		YA LADIES FREESTYLE		0
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1 Abigail Denton New Zealand	1537	3 Annette Christensen A		897	3 Peter Rogers	Australia	529
YA MENS BOWHUNTER UNLIMITED CLASS C		LADIES BOWHUNTER CO			MENS LONGBOW CLA		
1 Kristopher Weeden Australia	961	1 Rebecca Hatch A	ustralia	1201	1 Allan Driver	Australia	588
YA MENS BOWHUNTER UNLIMITED CLASS B		2 Jeanette Robben Austra	alia	1152	2 Adam Murray	Australia	513
1 Andre Lea Australia	1255	3 Libby White A	ustralia	1101	3 Peter Dever	Australia	444
YA MENS BOWHUNTER UNLIMITED CLASS A		LADIES BOWHUNTER LIN	MITED CLASS B		MENS LONGBOW CLA	SS B	
1 Benjamin Orchard New Zealand	1560	1 Sindy Avard A	ustralia	1223	1 William Van Oosten	Australia	908
2 Adam Leigh Australia	1536	2 Edna Aitchison A	ustralia	1218	2 Juha Juvani	Finland	901
3 Ethan Wilson Australia	1534	3 Raylene Starke A	ustralia	1212	3 Rodney Moad	Australia	871
YA MENS FREESTYLE UNLIMITED CLASS B		LADIES BOWHUNTER LIN	MITED CLASS A		MENS LONGBOW CLA	SS A	
1 James Cameron New Zealand	1507	1 Kelly Eagleton U	Inited States	1432	1 John Collett	Australia	939
2 Brendan Freeman Australia	1435	2 Joanne Bogie A	ustralia	1401	2 Cyrille Leveque	New Zealand	934
YA MENS FREESTYLE UNLIMITED CLASS A			Inited States	1284	3 Darren Day	New Zealand	923
1 DeVilliers Duvenage Australia	1629	LADIES FREESTYLE LIMIT	TED RECURVE CLASS	S B	MENS BAREBOW REC	URVE CLASS C	
2 Carl Jones New Zealand	1615	1 Gabi Wadle G	Germany	1346	1 Shane Walker	Australia	685
3 Peter Hearne Australia	1613	2 Wendy Gorton A	ustralia	1140	MENS BAREBOW REC	URVE CLASS A	
LADIES LONGBOW CLASS C		LADIES FREESTYLE LIMIT	TED RECURVE CLASS	S A	1 Jeremy Hurburgh	Australia	1354
1 Anne-Marie Corgat Australia	485		Vales	1378	2 Bruce Kelleher	Australia	1217
2 Tammy Richards Australia	470	LADIES FREESTYLE LIMIT	TED COMPOUND CLA	SS C	3 Vaughan Anderson	New Zealand	801
3 Tracy Hickey Australia	297		ustralia	1371	MENS BAREBOW CON		
LADIES LONGBOW CLASS B			ustralia	623	1 Jay Podubinski	Australia	1067
1 Lesley Sleight England	875	LADIES FREESTYLE LIMIT			MENS BAREBOW CON		
2 Christine Skubish United States	873		ustralia	1417	1 Earle W Bateman IV		1504
3 Renae Skubish United States	721	LADIES BOWHUNTER UN			2 Florian Laurens	France	1439
LADIES LONGBOW CLASS A			ustralia	891	3 Charles Pinches	England	1350
1 Ulle Kell Estonia	981	LADIES BOWHUNTER UN		001	MENS BOWHUNTER R	•	1000
2 Claude Rouschmeyer England	424		ustralia	1482	1 Craig Rowntree	Australi	662
LADIES BAREBOW RECURVE CLASS C			ustralia	1443	2 Dirk Craigie	Australia	568
1 Nicole Ashton Australia	740		ustralia	1417	3 David Hartley	Australia	502
2 Bobbie Tulloh Australia	571	LADIES BOWHUNTER UN			MENS BOWHUNTER R		002
LADIES BAREBOW COMPOUND CLASS A	071		South Africa	1578	1 Todd Carlson	Australia	1215
1 Karen Pinches England	1298		ustralia	1558	2 Karl Peck Australia	Adottalia	1141
LADIES BOWHUNTER RECURVE CLASS C	1230		ustralia	1550	3 Dennis Bryce	New Zealand	1128
1 Shirley Preston Australia	797	LADIES FREESTYLE UNLI		1000	MENS BOWHUNTER R		1120
2 Georgia Taylor New Zealand	695		ustralia	1327	1 Alan Eagleton	United States	1412
3 Zoe Halls Australia	691		ustralia	1305	2 Kel Ormiston	Australia	1271
LADIES BOWHUNTER RECURVE CLASS B	031		lew Zealand	1264	3 Michael Wondrock	Australia	1131
1 Glen Allen Australia	1042	LADIES FREESTYLE UNLI		1204	MENS BOWHUNTER C		1101
2 Toni Ormiston Australia	1033		ustralia	1564	1 Mike Parker	Australia	1350
3 Joanne Cochrane New Zealand	939		ustralia	1558	2 Adam Lebner	Australia	1224
LADIES BOWHUNTER RECURVE CLASS A	939	•	ustralia	1549	3 James Dowson	Australia	1093
	787	3 Kathy Hodgman A LADIES FREESTYLE UNLI		1349	MENS BOWHUNTER C		1093
	101		ustralia	1632	1 Wade Hudson	Australia	1449
LADIES BOWHUNTER COMPOUND CLASS C	836	,	australia	1612	2 Matt Hatch		1449
1 Corrie Canning Australia		,				Australia	
2 Kimberly Songberg Australia	789		lew Zealand	1601	3 Alvyn Bell	Australia	1430
LADIES BOWHUNTER COMPOUND CLASS B	1050	ADULT MENS HISTORICA		005	MENS BOWHUNTER L		1.450
1 Jacqueline Canning Australia	1056		inland	935	1 Dean Sheerin	New Zealand	1450
2 Rachel Joy Australia	941	2 Lutz Koschoreck G	Germany	767	2 Daryl Venables	Australia	1442







3 Nelson Mann	Australia	1430	1 Malcolm Gorton	Australia	1359	2 Damien Ormiston	Australia	1606
MENS BOWHUNTER L	IMITED CLASS A		2 Michael Grallelis	Australia	1327	3 Terry Bassett	New Zealand	1597
1 Mike Lainchbury	New Zealand	1523	3 Denis Holden	Australia	1269	MENS FREESTYLE UN	ILIMITED CLASS C	
2 Troy Hughes	Australia	1468	MENS FREESTYLE LI	MITED COMPOUND C	CLASS A	1 Shane Gibbs	Australia	1299
3 Kevin Dowd	Australia	1379	1 Bob Gentry	United States	1581	2 Ross Marafioti	Australia	1270
MENS FREESTYLE LIN	MITED RECURVE CLASS	С	2 Steve Barratt	Australia	1543	3 Richard Weeden	Australia	1186
1 Mark Dickinson	Australia	1224	3 Trevor Aldred	Australia	1510	MENS FREESTYLE UN	ILIMITED CLASS B	
MENS FREESTYLE LIN	MITED RECURVE CLASS	В	MENS BOWHUNTER	UNLIMITED CLASS C		1 Dan Podubinski	Australia	1588
1 Ken Thompson	Australia	1398	1 Brendan Miller	Australia	1420	2 Jeremy Croft	New Zealand	1576
2 Ralf Ehwald	Germany	1376	2 Tim Barron	Australia	1386	3 Stefan Voggenberge	r Austria	1561
3 Stephen Harrison	Wales	1326	MENS BOWHUNTER	UNLIMITED CLASS B		MENS FREESTYLE UN	ILIMITED CLASS A	
MENS FREESTYLE LIN	MITED RECURVE CLASS	A	1 Darren Everett	Australia	1525	1 Justin Olexienko	Australia	1660
1 Stephen Florence	New Zealand	1586	2 Lamont Terras	Australia	1523	2 Shaun Pratt	Australia	1653
2 Liam Mowbray	Australia	1486	3 Martin Clifton	Australia	1523	3 Matt McDougall	Australia	1651
3 Jarryd Greitschus	Australia	1470	MENS BOWHUNTER	UNLIMITED CLASS A				
MENS FREESTYLE LIN	MITED COMPOUND CLAS	SS B	1 Bradley Stephan	Australia	1611			

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The transition from using the wheelie bow to the recurve was now well under way although not as easy as I would have thought, or liked, with quite a few animals going about their usual routine not having a clue that 550 grains of arrow had just flown by. After hours upon hours of relentless practice involving hundreds of arrows, a few deer and hogs had been accounted for so I figured it was time for me to test this equipment on what I consider to be a tough local customer, the scrub bull. Like any other critter when hit correctly, it will go down quickly and without much fuss. The trick is to get that arrow in the sweet spot from inside 20 yards. Doing that with a stick, a string, no sights—just instinct—may be easy in theory, but we all know what can happen when a harmless scrubba stalk goes bad.

his was to be my first trad hunt for a scrubba, so I figured the smart thing to do was to hunt some relatively thick country with plenty of cover to use for my possible stalk ... and to use as an escape plan if things went south. High in the ranges of far north Queensland there are pockets of no man's land where some rather large bovines have been completely forgotten about for many years, with their age and size an obvious result of

this neglect. To be honest, this made me a little nervous as I was heading in.

Six months previously, a mate Andre from NZ had taken his first bowshot scrubba in the same country and he got a beauty, so this was also to be a recovery mission for the scrubba's head. I had my brother-in-law Ryan with me and he was armed with his compound bow in case there was the opportunity to hunt a second bull, or





The skull from Andre's successful hunt.

to back me up! To access this country we needed more than just the conventional 4x4 so we opted for the Polaris side-by-side to make easy work of the rugged terrain.

Loaded up, we started the uphill grind. After reaching the highest point of the range an hour or so later, we sat and listened for the sound of a lone bull offering his challenge to another. The huge valley systems make it easy to hear and locate one of these beasts for guite some way. however after 20 minutes of dead silence, we decided to go in anyway, at least to check for sign and recover Andre's bull skull. We sidestepped until we had a cool, gentle, high mountain breeze in our face and headed into the valley until we found the familiar well-worn pad used by most traffic in the area. It led us above a rocky watering hole which had some sign, although not as much as I had been hoping. Still, it was coming out of wet season so there was plenty of ground water around. We eased along the pad glassing up down, left and right, as the bulls here will not bolt straight away but stand motionless and watch you, and if you don't pick them they will blend right in and frighten the b'geezuz out of you when they finally break cover.

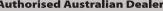
A half hour later we had seen nothing and we were getting close to Andre's bull on the GPS. It seemed a bit odd to me that we hadn't had a single encounter. I would have expected to have seen a mob or even a single younger bull. The bulls in this area are quite territorial and when one is removed another usually takes its place so the odds of another being here were pretty good. We were almost ready to go and retrieve the skull when I noticed a recently bashed sapling on the pad up ahead; I knew it was the work of a solitary bull so we sneaked in for a closer look. The pad ran along the high bank of a trickling creek, which up ahead was about to branch out





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to the right. These confluences often make for some luscious feeding areas so we did the obvious thing and crept along very slowly, checking every shadow and likely spot. They revealed nothing except the usual rock wallaby and goanna.

On the pad in front of us was a termite mound standing 5ft tall, and 3ft wide. With the recurve I always carry a practice arrow so seeing that there wasn't much happening I thought I'd have myself a practice shot. Guessing the mound to be around 25 yards, I aimed and released. Not bad, about an inch low ... good enough, I thought. I walked forward to retrieve my arrow, peered ahead on the trail and there below the tall grass I saw the white tips of a large set of bull horns. I couldn't make out his color or size yet or which direction he was facing, just the tips at around 40 yards. I turned to face Ryan, my bulging eyes saying all that was needed at the time so we slowly melted to the ground and made a game plan.

It was simple: I would sneak forward until in range, and if I knelt down that was the signal for Ryan to take a shot from 40 if he had the opportunity. I nocked the Axis 340 spine with my trusted 170gr Northern Bull-Dozer up front,

took a deep breath and planned my stalk in my head. In front to the left at 10 o'clock was a clump of younger trees that should get me to around 25 yards for a shot. There was nothing beyond that except a grassy runway for the bull should he decide to take that option. I was on all fours sneaking towards the clump when I saw a huge brown mass emerge from the grass looking towards but not at me ... uh oh, not cool. Most scrubbas by now would have bolted, but I don't think he knew what we were so he decided to hang around to make sure. Ryan was out of sight and ready to shoot back to my right, it was just me and the bull now. As I stood up behind the clump he detected my movement then turned to face me, and on high alert. My number one rule for hunting scrubbas is: If he knows you are there, it's game over. I don't know what it was that pushed me on this hunt but I think it was the sheer size of the bull—he was massive. I wanted that bull with my recurve! I was well hidden but my cover had been blown by my movement. I eased into shooting position and waited, there was no shot, not front-on with this weapon, I needed a better angle. By now he was starting to get frustrated, huffing and puffing and hoofing at the



ground like a rutting buck on a scrape, and as he made more of a fuss he was slowly turning clockwise, exposing his huge body. All of a sudden there was shoulder, then ribs, and right at the sweet spot was a small black scar high and back, giving me a focal point for the giant lungs. I remember thinking, "Okay, well, here goes nothing!" I didn't even look back at Ryan as he knew the signal and I hadn't dropped so it was game on. I went through my usual shooting routine of: relax; stare, anchor, release, and the 550gr arrow hit maybe two inches low of the scar. What happened next blew me away.

The arrow looked as if it had only penetrated maybe 250mm. This made me turn and look at Ryan as if to say, uh oh, this is bad city. The huge bull turned away from me and ran into the creek not 10 yards from where he stood. Then there was silence. I was looking and listening desperately for the bull, or at least expecting some sounds of thrashing around or something!

Nocking another arrow, I eased forward looking for confirmation of my situation, good or bad. There he lay stone dead, maybe 20 yards from where he had been shot, and there was blood everywhere. What the hell had just happened? Well, the scalpel sharp 170gr hit him bang on for a lung shot, but it also sliced through the aorta that fed the lungs full of fresh bright blood from the heart. This was evident upon the scene—he had bled out in less than 10 seconds and it was over just like that. I have never seen a bull die that quickly, ever. After a quick high five and a WTH just happened we admired the age and size of the old bull, did the photo thing and removed the back straps even though we knew they would be terrible and tough, it was at least some effort not to waste the old beast. We have named this grade of beef 'Dragon Beef' from the old bulls in the area, simply, it's really bad!

For me this hunt wasn't about just killing a scrub bull; it confirmed that I could confidently take on whatever animal I wanted to with my new bow of choice. That doesn't mean I'm cocky or think it's going to be a walk in the park. Hunting with a recurve is certainly the hardest challenge I have ever taken up, with frustration and disappointment dogging my steps far more often that I would like.

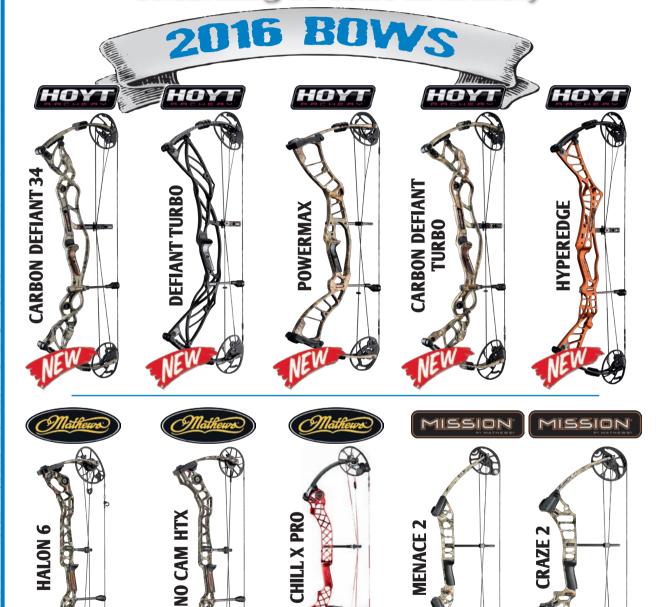
But it's a fascinating journey and I'm willing to persist as the reward of taking such great trophies is quite a remarkable feeling of achievement.



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3DAAA Queensland State Series

Caboolture and District Bowmen

Caboolture and District Bowmen, located just south of the beautiful Sunshine Coast in Queensland, held the last 2016 Queensland State Series Shoot in September. The shoot was held off club grounds with some challenging courses set by our conniving and devious band of rangesetters ... but perhaps not as conniving as they thought, with a few 100s being shot over the weekend. About 80 shooters attended the event and came from as far away as Emerald.

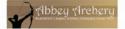
Roma and also of course all of our southern States. It was great to see some familiar faces and some new ones as well, young and the young-at-heart and some from other archery affiliations.

The club's band of helpers (including some youth members) started work on the courses on the property at Moorina weeks before the shoot, plotting and scheming, dreaming to not have any of those perfect 100s shot. Much preparation is needed for these such events, particularly



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when the shoots are held off club grounds, from the cartage of targets, whippersnippers, chainsaws, eskies, tables, chairs, toilet facilities, shade gazebos, barbecue, urns, pie warmer, water, food, beverages ... you name it!

The courses set for the Saturday and Sunday were implausible and challenging and received many comments —it seemed the courses certainly created some enlightening shooting, testing the archers' skills no matter what discipline they shot. Targets were shot uphill, downhill, across gullies, in among the lantana, in the timbered scrub and some even out in the open—it made you wonder what the next target was going to be as you progressed through the ranges.

While the courses garnered all the attention on the field. food was high on the agenda once the bows were put away. A scrumptious array of food was provided in the canteen. Cathy and her band of helpers did a magnificent job with the food and drink arrangements and we were completely spoilt, especially with the 'gourmet' hot dogs served up on Sunday and also with the eskies stacked with plenty of cold drinks all weekend.

As for the shooting, there certainly were many great scores shot, with three archers shooting two 100s for the weekend. The courses were a combination of long and short shots, a good mix-they got you thinking and you had to be on your game. Three courses were set for the Saturday and then two were created for the Sunday.

Code:

Saturday was a sunny day, making it a pleasure to be in the undulating hills and bushland, doing something we all love ... but Sunday was a different kind of day, with the traditional style of weather that Caboolture turns on at times—rain. Has there ever been a major shoot at Caboolture when it has been dry all weekend? It didn't stop us, although the rain certainly made things more challenging. Apart from a few slips in the muddy trails, there weren't any major accidents.

The Top 10 shoot-offs were held on Sunday prior to the presentation with the unsighted being won by Bernadette Teelow and the sighted being won by Brett Pirlo. Well done and congratulations to all of the placegetters in their respective divisions and everyone else who shot in the competition. Thanks for attending our shoot, it was a pleasure to have you there and hope that you had a very enjoyable weekend of shooting.

The club has always had a reputation of generating a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and is always very welcoming to all ... a club certainly to visit whenever you're next in the neighbourhood.

See Page 81 for the report on the shoot at Mountain View Archers. By the time this magazine goes to print the Coffs Coast Archery Club shoot will also have been completed and the only remaining shoot for the year will be the 3DAAA Nationals at Nambucca Heads NSW (November 12-13).



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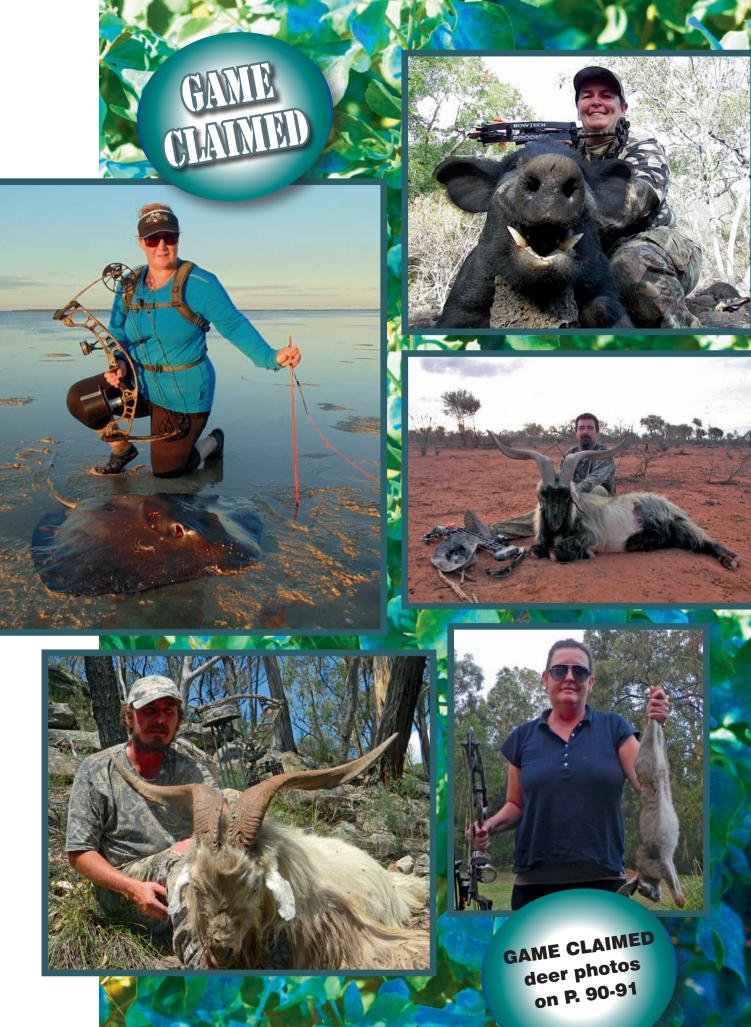
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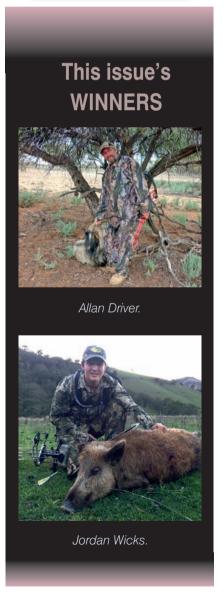
Facing page, clockwise from top right: Jeanette Dowd with boar, Rob Messer 111 5/8pt TC goat, Leanne Williams with rabbit, Tim Messer 91 6/8 TC goat, Cheryl Morris 7pt TC stingray.





This page: Neville Ashton 109 2/8pt TC goat (top) and Theo Vanderburg with his first kill pig.

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Nick Lintern ORAD ON ATARAMS

Hi to all our readers and welcome to another instalment of traditional trails. The weather is starting to warm up again and the year's traditional shoots are winding down. In the previous issue I started looking at various aspects of bow performance and where and how to improve a bow's performance. Leading on from that article, I now want to have a look at force draw curves and see what we can learn from the information they give us ... and see what they can't tell us.

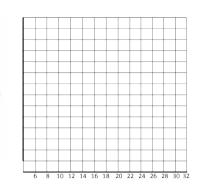
Bow performance

Understanding force draw curves

This information will hopefully be of use to all readers, even if you aren't interested in making a bow. I hope this will help you understand what is being shown when looking at bow reviews et cetera as force draw curves are often used in this area. I am not sure how far back these graphs go historically, but it is at least a century. I have books that are 100 years old that show them so they've been around a while. It is very simple to draw and use and gives us some good information on how our bow is drawing and how it is storing energy.

How to draw your graph

Our force draw curve graph is simply a vertical axis and a horizontal axis



Draw Length in Inches

with draw weight in pounds shown in increments up the vertical axis and draw length in inches drawn along the horizontal axis.

How to use and plot your graph

The best way to plot your graph for any given bow is to have a pulley-style tillering rig which is used for selfbow



Tillering rig with bow at rest.



Tillering rig with bow at full draw. To plot your graph, write the poundage at every 2in increment.

tillering (see photo above).

Place your bow in the cradle at the top of the tillering rig, then hang your bow scale from the bowstring and attach your pulley to the scale. Our tillering rig has measurements on it in inches so as we stand back and pull on our rope we measure the pounds pull of the bow at each inch increment. So you would measure the weight at say 8in then back off the draw and write down the weight and then draw to 10in and write down the weight and so on until you reach your desired draw length. If you don't have such a rig (which most don't), not to worry. All you need is a hand-held-type bow scale and draw check arrow and an assistant. Now simply draw your bow with the draw check arrow and scale and have your assistant tell you when you reach each increment, then back off and read the scale. Then simply plot your graph with dots at the correct points according to your readings and then draw a line through those points.

The results will hopefully look like the results in Figure 1a.

Interpreting the graph

The graph in example 1a shows a nice steady increase in draw weight throughout the draw up to 28in. After that we see that the bow is starting to stack a bit. The line on our graph is starting to climb sharply. That means that the bow used in the example graph is correctly designed for a 28in draw archer. The bow is the correct length and is storing energy nicely up to the 28in draw mark. The bow in the graph

is not designed to be drawn past 28in so it is now starting to stack at the 29in to 30in mark and is not storing energy well past that point, but has maximum load storing to that 28in point. Next, If we look to Example 1b, which is the same bow as in Example 1a, you will see that the area under the line has been shaded in. This can be viewed as the stored energy area. So we can see from this that the bow used in the first example is well designed and is storing energy nicely and evenly right up to the 28in mark.

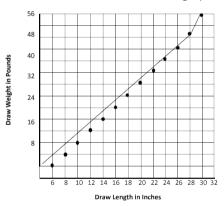


Figure 1a

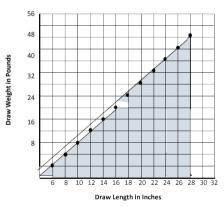


Figure 1b





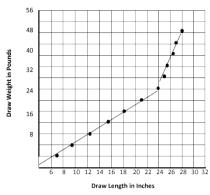


Figure 2a

Now let's look at Example 2a. It looks very different from example 1a. The bow measured here is building nicely up to 24in but then climbs dramatically after that. This bow will be very short and would be ideal for an archer with a 24in draw because it is working well up to 24in. Beyond that, it is stacking terribly. In Example 2b, I have shaded the area under the line again as I did in the first example and we can see the loss of energy due to the bow's stacking. The dotted line shows how the first example bow was working out to 28in. So we can see how the large difference in stored energy is. This points out clearly how important it is that the bow be designed to fit the archer's draw length if we are to maximise the stored energy of any given bow to the archer who shoots it. The longer the draw, the longer the bow must be to truly store energy right through the draw. You can also see here that if you plotted a heavier poundage bow or a longer draw bow or a combination of both on the graph how much extra energy is being stored. Consider an English war bow. Let's say that our bow is 120# @ 32in—a bow typical of our ancestors war bows. Plot that bow on the chart and you will see a massive amount of stored energy. In order for that to work the bow that well though, it must be at least 72in long or longer or stacking and energy loss occurs. Example 2a also looks a little like a bow that has excess string follow. String follow is

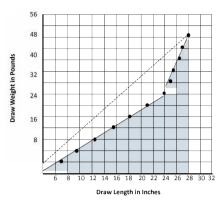


Figure 2b

when an unstrung bow is still curving towards the archer. If this condition is mild, say around 1in to 11/2in, it is actually quite desirable as it sweetens a bow's shooting characteristics. A bow with only this much follow will typically show a force draw curve that is pretty much like the one in Graph 1a. But if it gets beyond 11/2 in it will start to be quite doughy or soft early in the draw. This will present a bit like Example 2a (not quite that aggressive, but similar). It would map more like a symmetry reverse of 1a. Again, we can see here the loss of stored energy. This is why bowyers go to so much trouble to avoid excessive string follow. I like my bows to show no more than 1in of reflex, or 1in to 11/2in of follow. This keeps them in the nicely balanced zone.

Now for Example 3a. This bow looks different again. Its weight climbs sharply at the outset and then settles off toward the 28in mark. This is an example of early string weight in a bow. Many bowyers and archers highly prize

early string weight in their bows-and with good cause. If we look to Example 3b we can see how much extra energy the early string weight bow is storing. Again I have added example bow 1a in a dotted line to show the difference in stored energy. Shorter bows which are designed to be drawn 28in without stacking, such as deflex/reflex longbows and recurves, will usually display this quality due to the way their limbs work. The string angle to the limb at rest (brace height) is very low, or in the case of a recurve, touching the limb. This means they can be drawn 28in without the string angle to the limb exceeding 90 degrees. These bows are a little stiff to get moving but smooth out later in the draw. So what's the catch? Well, once again, everything in design is a trade-off. Once again there is the issue of balance. It is never good to have a bow out of balance. There is rarely any such thing as something for nothing in the design world. If we pick up performance in one place, we will generally lose something somewhere else. In my estimation and experience, the bow in example 1 is the best allround bow. It will store energy well and punch an arrow with great force but still be gentle and forgiving to shoot. At the end of the day some folks find the trade-offs of the shorter style bows desirable and acceptable. as long as we understand what those trade-offs are and don't convince ourselves (or worse still, convince oth-

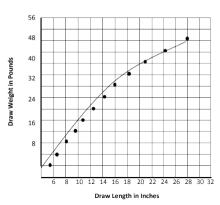


Figure 3a

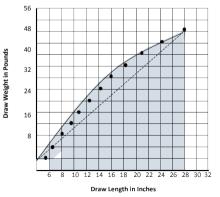
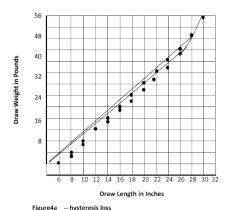


Figure 3b



ers) that there is no side effect.

Another good way to view this information is this: A nice straight line diagonally across the graph is a balanced bow. There is an even amount of area under and over the line. The area below the line as we have discussed, is the stored energy. I like to think of the area above the line as the stability area. If we climb into that area and gain more energy we are likely getting that from a design imbalance that costs stability. Likewise, in the

case of an excessive string follow bow, we have a large amount of area in the stability area of the graph, but have therefore chewed into the power or stored energy zone. This leads to our next topic.

What our graphs can't tell us

Having established that our force draw curve is an excellent tool for easily seeing how well designed our bow is for a given draw length and for showing energy storage, we now have to understand the limitations of the information on this graph. The graph cannot show us how nice a bow is to shoot ... or how forgiving and stable. Of the three examples given Number 3 is going to shoot the fastest. It is clearly storing more energy. Now for the bubble to burst a little. Example 3 is a shorter bow. This means finger pinch. No matter how well the shorter bow is designed and won't stack and stores more energy, it is still a short bow and the string angle to the fingers is steep. This means a good release is more difficult to achieve. Next a recurve has wide, thin limbs and of course radical curving at the ends. These style limbs twist and contort very easily and if the bow is shot with a poor release (and due to the finger pinch we just discussed, this is highly likely) arrows will get away all over the place! One final thought on the early string weight bow as well. This bow is really accelerating right at the end of the shot which means your bow hand has to be absolutely still, as follow-through errors are going to be accentuated. In other words if you twitch the bow hand even slightly, the negative result on your accuracy will be strong. A good example of this is a flight bow. A flight bow would have a tremendous force draw curve in terms of energy storage. but you wouldn't hit the broad side of a barn with one. The designers of flight bows don't need to consider stability at all of course as these are purpose



built to throw a light arrow a long way and that is all. Example 2 is a rotten bow all out if you draw more than 24in!

What else don't the graphs tell us?

The graphs also don't take into account the speed with which the limb responds. So two bows may show the same force draw line but one is a lot faster through the chronograph. This can be due to limb materials: Bamboo for example, is very light and carbon strips have a very fast response rate as well as being light. So there is less drag than with other materials. Also some woods are quicker responding than others and there is even variation within species! To date, I have made over 450 bamboo-cored bows. They are all great to shoot and fast, but some are really fast. So natural variation in materials is something else our force draw curves can't show us.

Finally

Well, we have had a hard look

at some serious mathematical approaches to bow design here. These design factors are undoubtedly useful, but always remember that the ultimate bow is always one that shoots well. There are many folk out there who love to quote mathematical equations and engineering theories, but many of them have never put those theories to the ultimate test-practical usage. If a bow was designed on paper to be the ultimate bow it may be a pig to shoot. In fact many years ago a friend of mine who is also one of Australia's finest bowyers contacted an engineer friend who had no archery knowledge, but was a top-class design engineer, and asked him to design the ultimate bow. Utilising all his knowledge he came up with a bow on paper that the bowyer then made. In terms of raw power and speed the bow was frightening. But it was completely unshootable. This bow was so twitchy and sensitive even the greatest archer could not hit a target! This made me realise two thingsfirstly that shootability has to come first and secondly that experienced archers make the best bowyers! For those readers who would like to make a bow, as you progress through your bowyery experience, keep accurate notes. Write down everything—even things that seem unimportant. Those notes will serve you well in the upcom-

Well that about wraps up our twopart look at bow performance. I hope vou all found it helpful and informative. Hopefully it will help you make informed equipment choices and better understand the data shown by force draw curves in bow tests et cetera.

In our next edition we are going to start on our next bow-building project: a tri-lam English longbow.

As always, any questions can be sent to me at: norseman longbows@ hotmail.com.

Until next time, keep traditional.



Entries PHOTO COMPETITION



Sary Widgington. Deer landscape,



Peaceful NT scene, Debbie Larkings.



Bowcycle adventure, Mitch Warren.



Team Hughes, Cindy Hughes.



Staying warm with archery, Scott Heiman.



Shooting off the tower Wendy Farrugia.

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Around THE TRADS



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The weekend of August 13 and 14th saw 75 traditional archers, some from Victoria, many from Queensland, come together to shoot in the inaugural Memorial Shoot at Hawkesbury Field Archers, Wisemans Ferry, to honour our friend Andy Firth, with shoot fees being donated to one of the charities Andy favoured. We had the two 3D triple-pegged field courses, the 30-second speed round, 60-second hunt round, six-position moving target and the clout range was open with a small bale placed in the centre. Some people scored, most of us did not-we just enjoyed the events. It was great to see so many of the target archers from the Sydney Bowmen Club enjoying their first traditional shoot.

This event was open to all comers with any trad gear combination. There was no catering at this shoot, and Saturday evening saw some using the cottage facilities to prepare their meal and then all eating together under the big marquee, also enjoying some battered fish one of the archers had caught and cooked up for all and sundry to share. Once dinner was finished we were then entertained by Bella and Beebs (Belinda Knipler and Michael Castley) a local pair of singer/guitarists, who were extremely good, singing cover versions of Aussie hits from the 70s and 80s. We raised a glass or two in Andy's memory following a special Nordic tale told to us by Nick Lintern. Many stories were shared, laughter abounded and a few tears were shed. With the event being so successful it was decided to hold this as an annual charity memorial event around the second weekend every August.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert McKenzie for allowing all of us to come together to enjoy the camaraderie of the weekend. There were many new traditional participants who will be returning for this event again next year.

- The following weekend found 38 archers at the inaugural North Burnett Field Archers Trad Shoot, held on grounds in Gayndah Queensland. The weather for the weekend was rather warm for winter. I believe the field courses were compact, with many well placed 3D targets making for some very interesting shots between trees, plus the novelty events, including the speed round, rolling disks and a moving target. There was an interesting flu flu event where one had to shoot through a triangular hole, which I'm told is a lot harder than it seems, and a rather unforgiving steel goat. The club would like to say a special thanks to their members and volunteers for the time given and to all who donated raffle prizes.
- Over the weekend of August 27 and 28 there were three trad shoots being held. One was the inaugural shoot at Broken Hill, NSW. The following extract I have taken from a review I received by one of the weekend participants: What a time we had, and all involved are to be congratulated for one fantastic event. On Saturday the Kings Round was shot from different distances, with the score system being reversed for the second arrow set. There were many interesting targets including a shark target, a dry dam with sandbag nests containing eggs, candles in the wind, apple tree of knowledge, and a Popinjay with four headless rubber chooks. There was a 'hunters' round of 3D targets plus the older style paper targets near each other. On Sunday, we formed groups of four to six people, called ourselves tribes with various names such as Mongrels, Saxons and Celts. First we played archery poker, then went on to do the 'hunters' round. We finished at lunchtime, then had presentations. There were archers from Toowoomba, Kingaroy, Hunter Valley, and Blayney. All in all it was a great shoot, and it will be on







Bega.

North Burnett bear.

Relaxing around the fire at Wiseman's.

again this time next year. Well done to the crew at Silver City Archers.

Another event on the same weekend was the Asian Experience Traditional Archery shoot held at the Bega Valley Archers' home ground at Bemboka. This event is to give traditional archers the opportunity to shoot styles of archery practiced in Japan, Korea, Bhutan and Mongolia. Most of the targets were at much longer distances than traditional western archery. In keeping with archery customs from some Asian countries, this was a team event rather than individual, with archers cheering on their team-mates and joining in on some friendly sledging of opposing teams, providing a fun and enthusiastic atmosphere. The following extract is from one of the weekend participants, this was also her first experience at a Traditional shoot.

The warm up round eased us in gently with the Japanese event being a fan-shaped target with a score zone of 50mm diameter, shot from a distance of 20m. From here things got even more interesting. The Bhutanese round saw us shooting at targets about the size (and shape) of a small surfboard with a score zone of 300mm diameter from a distance of 70m. This round also had the extra novelty of some interesting terrain seeing arrows flying from a hilltop over a gully with the targets situated much lower than the archers (and a rocky rise behind the targets to claim a few sacrifices to the archery gods). The Mongolian shoot brought out the best in team spirit (and per-

haps the worst in jokes) as archers shot from a simulated horse at three targets in a fan layout at an approximate distance of 30m. This round saw some very impressive shooting with archers being faced with the challenges of targets at less than ideal angles, although I'm sure most of us were quite happy that our horse remained stationary. The best (and most daunting) was saved for last with the Korean round challenging archers to shoot at a distance of 145m (yes, you read that right) and the slightly shorter range of 115m for those with lighter bows. To see scoring shots over such a distance with traditional bows was truly impressive. Although this event was open to any traditional style bow, there were a variety of Asian bows in use which gave a great opportunity to compare different bows and see them put through their paces. The weekend was concluded with the presentation of beautifully designed certificates for each member of the top three teams. Our generous hosts, James and Pam Murray, put on a fantastic event with many of their own special touches added making for a highly enjoyable and memorable weekend. With plans already underway for additional challenges representing archery as practiced in different Asian countries, the next event promises to be even bigger and better.

At the Townsville Bowhunters in northern Queensland, the shooting programme for Saturday consisted of a



first round of running pig then a 20 3D target one-arrow field course in the morning, first speed round and second round of running pig after lunch with two fun shoots held after dinner. Sunday, the second speed round was followed by the 3D one-arrow field course. It seems to have been well attended, with their Facebook page having many photos from those enjoying the weekend activities—another successful weekend for traditional archery.

- On September 3 and 4, Mallee Sunset Field Archers held their annual traditional shoot at Mildura in Victoria. I believe that the weather this year wasn't quite as cool (no sub-zero temps), and the rain and wind held off until late Saturday afternoon when most of the archers had done the day's events. These included a 20-target one-arrow field course made up of a combination of 3D and novelty targets, along with two speed rounds, clout, popiniay, rolling disc, sand shoot and a flying dragon. On Sunday a different 20 targets were shot in the morning in the twoarrow field course and this was followed by the Bundy Bear event, which was won by a visiting Queenslander. The numbers were a little down on last year with archers from Toowoomba, Hunter Valley/Sydney, a good contingent from Albury, plus Melbourne, Broken Hill, South Australia and Dunolly Archers, some of whom were also travelling on to the Swan Hill shoot the following weekend.
- I believe rain greeted the travellers camped on Thursday evening at the inaugural Swan Hill Trad Shoot held on the weekend of Sept 10 and 11 and attended by archers from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The rain was followed by storms on Friday, which made the ranges a little boggy, as you can imagine. It did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who were attending, and they were rewarded with dry shooting days. Some even found another use for the humble plastic bag-to keep the shoes and socks dry—as in some places the water was apparently ankle deep ... definitely gumboot terrain.

There were many targets placed there-and-about which was made more interesting with their new water surroundings. Novelty events included 30-second and 60-second speed rounds, the wand shoot, running goat, rolling disks with, I'm told, a very annoying magpie swooping as the shots were being taken. There was also the clout event, a challenging moose set at 100m for adults, and juniors shot from 50m with bonus scores marked on the ground. Those who did attend said they would be back again next year, so keep an eye on the calendar as there could be three trad shoots in a row again in 2017 ... a travelling trad archer's dream come true!

- At the time of submission there are no trad shoots being held over the December-January period. I am currently putting the 2017 trad calendar together and will have confirmation for shoots being held in the months of February-March 2017 for the next magazine.
- Reports from the Hunter Valley Charity Shoot (NSW), Coffs Harbour (NSW), inaugural Granite Belt Bowmen Stanthorpe (Qld) plus Suncoast Bowmen one-day Trad Shoot (Qld) will be in the next issue.

You will find further information and available flyers for the traditional shoots at the following websites. www.wallacetradwoods.com—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 archery medals/medallions www.ozbow.net > Traditional Archery Events > 2016 Calendar

Wishing you all the best for the festive season, and I look forward to seeing you 'round the trads in 2017.





Norfolk Island gears up for 15th 3D Archery Championships

f you haven't heard the buzz about Norfolk Island's annual 3D championships, it's time to sit up and take notice!

In 2017, Archery Norfolk Island will host its 15th annual event which has a rock-solid reputation for great archery and family fun against a backdrop of amazing island scenery and history.

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The 3D course itself has earned plenty of praise, having been described as the best 3D field ever seen by many of this year's 70 or so competitors from Australia and New Zealand. Add in a bonus traditional archery shoot offered each afternoon of the comp and you have a really special week of archery on offer. The traditional shoot happens at properties across that island, offering access 'behind the hedges' to some of the island's most beautiful, vet hidden properties.

The 3D events are organised for all ages including cub divisions, adult compound, recurve and longbow. Well timed for the winter school holidays, this is an excellent event for junior shooters to try their hand



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at an international competition. The island itself is a friendly, safe environment and easily accessible via a two-hour flight. The organising club is extremely family friendly, and non-shooters are welcome to take part in the week's social events including welcome and farewell activities. The competition is organised so that the archery can be enjoyed along with all that a holiday on Norfolk Island has to offer—fishing, golf, a World Heritage-listed area, snorkelling, glass bottom boats, walks and shopping.

The locally owned and operated Norfolk Island Travel Centre is the major sponsor for this event. In 2017 the event runs from July 2 to 6 and there are special packages for travel from Brisbane starting at \$1029 per person and from Sydney starting at \$1079 per person for a seven-night twin share stay. The prices include return economy class airfare (seat +



bag) to Norfolk Island, airline taxes, meet and greet at the airport, seven nights' twin share accommodation, car hire for seven days, discount shopping card, complimentary miniature golf and complimentary entry to A Walk in the Wild. Prices are subject to availability. For those participating in the competition, archery

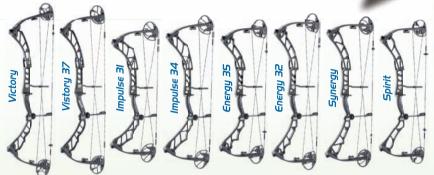
registration is additional (price TBA) to the above packages and includes four competition days and social functions.

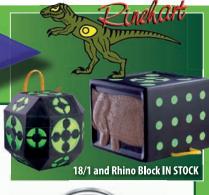
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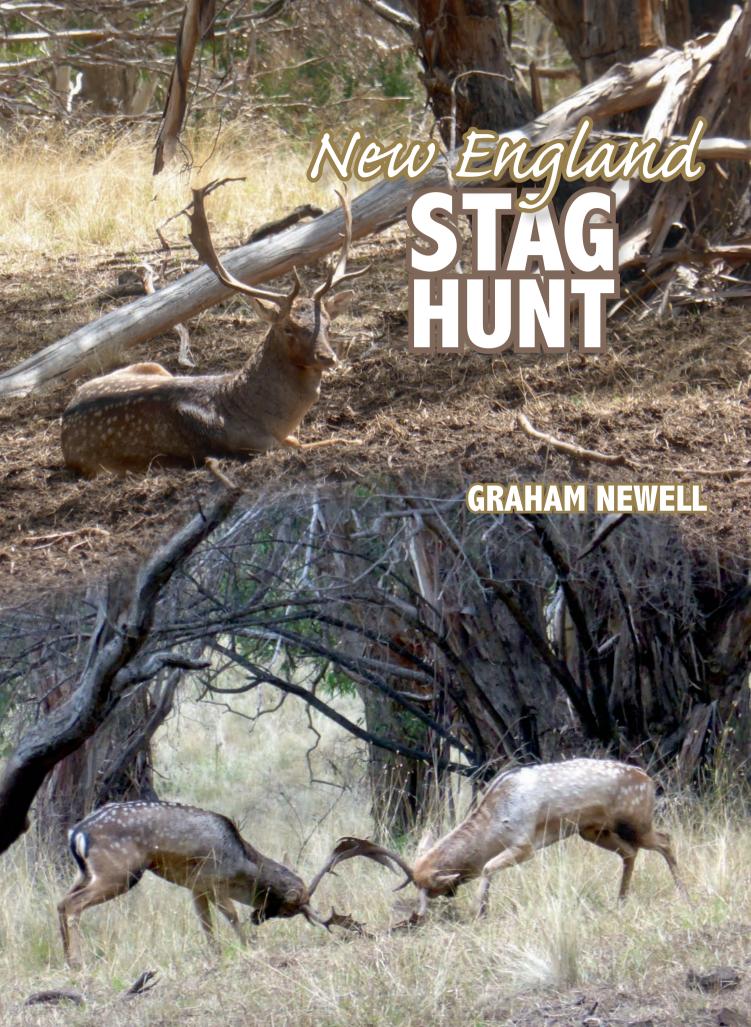


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For some people, the trophy is the destination—the reason for hunting, the be all and end all. For us, bowhunting is about the journey—the preparation, the learning, the excitement and the great bush experiences. It's not all about the trophy class claim. Well ... maybe sometimes it is.

y old mate Robbo and I made the usual trip to the New England property in March this year, fully aware that the fallow numbers—does, spikers and stags-would be down. The commercial harvest by rifle shooters had seen more than 1,100 taken off the property over the past three yearssignificant indeed. So our trip was to get agreement to a 'cease-fire' for March and into the mid-April rut period, and thankfully this was successful. We also wanted to scout the areas to check numbers (very scarce indeed), repair the accommodation (hut) and do some PR with the owner and manager (this went okay as well). Then we went home and prepared for our hunt.

So here we were on April 9 on the first day of our hunt, and it rained. We considered this a lucky break, as it put a stop to any poachers or neighbouring rifle deer hunters and also softened the ground for stalking. There was a downside, of course. It

meant we had to drive out through the scrub as the track was too slippery and boggy to use. We also had to walk into the areas to hunt, which meant a 6km or 8km round trip each day for five days.

The country was typical New England ranges with gullies, steep hills and thick brush. Some of this country had been cleared —not helpful to a spot-and-stalk bowhunter!

The month before this hunting trip I had been out to set up two cameras in areas we thought the deer would frequent. We viewed these on our second night. We had 1,027 photos on one and about 50 on the second. I'm not sure why the big difference. Perhaps it was the location or even a camera malfunction. We found the results interesting, with some excellent heads and very poor stick-heads plus a few does and spikers, however not the numbers we had hoped for. These cameras were purchased from Aldi at \$129 each, which I thought was good value.

For the first time in years, we did not get up at 4.30am in order to be at one of the hunting spots at first light. Instead we rode in (more like walked the 3km or so) in full light. I headed for an area we dubbed the Honey Spot due to the historical fact that stags had congregated in numbers in this area of about 100m by 150m. In past years we had seen 25 or more stags chasing 60 or so does—sadly, not this time.

I could hear croaking from 600m away but not the numbers or volume of yesteryear.

The walk/stalk was uphill (with several rests, of course) and mostly in the open so I approached via a shallow gully, which hid me from most of the deer.

At 80m from the deer, I could make out six stags chasing 20 does, so I dropped my backpack, belt and binos, keeping only my rangefinder and Mathews bow of course.

The belly crawl took 15 minutes and when I was 40m from the closest

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deer I propped behind a substantial gum tree. With so many sets of eves I was cautious about poking my head around the tree let alone nocking an arrow. Another 10 minutes passed and I knew it was now or goodbye deer and you guessed it, it was goodbve deer. What great eves they have! As one, they departed down the hill to safer territory.

Frustration is a familiar place we bowhunters go, and I was feeling it as I walked back to gather up all my discarded gear and walk slowly back up the hill. But not all had gone south! One nice stag was on the top of the ridge, only about 60m away and oblivious to my presence. I started to get into my stalk/stagger mode however not 30m to my right I saw another stag watching me and he was a beauty ... but he turned and strolled away. Neither of these stags was croaking.

I was able to use a huge gum tree to conceal my approach from the stag still on the ridge. He was looking around-wondering. I guess, why he had the rutting area all to himself.

I got to the cover and sneaked a peek around the tree; he was peacefully looking away from my position, unconcerned at the departed deers' haste to leave.

I ranged him at 31 yards, but would you know it he decided to bed down. Now I could not see his vitals for the high grass and he was facing in my direction. I did note his left side antler with a nice palm but the right side was obscured.

With arrow nocked I waited behind the tree but with one eye on his flicking tail because I reasoned when he decided to stand and have another look around I would be ready. I also knew I would have to expose my position to him to get a shot. For over 20 minutes I checked and doublechecked both him and the range at 31.6 yards.

The moment arrived I saw the

movement, he stood and would luck have it (mine, not Mr Stag's) he turned and walked slowly to my right, as I preferred.

I immediately went to full draw, the stag saw the movement and stopped to look, and before he could decide I might be dangerous. the arrow hit both lungs, maybe an inch or two high but as he bolted I saw the blood gushing out not 20m from the position of arrow impact. The stag travelled another 25m or so then fell, rolling down a steep slope for another 20m.

The successful outcome was a real relief as in 2015 I, along with Robbo and Jon Matsen, had had a very unsuccessful deer hunting season with not a kill between the three of us. Photos taken and head removed plus one leg for meat for the manager, I loaded up and walked the 4km out to the 4x4. Now that load for this old bloke was tough but enjoyable.

I had planned to hunt another two days with the compound (and get another stag of quality) then bring out the Huntsman recurve. The plan did not eventuate because I was too selective several days in a row and had a couple of shots I should not have (missing the stags completely thankfully) ... and worse still, not taking a shot when I should have, especially on the last day.

On the last day, I was back in the same rutting area at early morning and had a great even-palm-headed chocolate-coloured stag at 35m but he was heavily quartered away. It was too risky for a shot, so I decided to wait until he was better positioned and that happened as I was looking at a second stag entering the area. Then it was all too late, for as I came to full draw the stag moved behind some overhanging branches and slowly walked away unaware of the escape he had just had. My only wish is that he sires heaps of offspring this season.



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So that was the hunt. But of course, it's not just about hunting. We all know the time spent with other bowhunting friends during a hunt benefits us all, we continue to learn so much, in some cases how to drink more rum (or bourbon in my case) but mainly the art and skills need to have a successful hunt.

I really enjoy the bush, the peace and quiet, the birds and animals that live out there and I have been known to spend hours in a strategic spot just waiting (often fast asleep, correct Robbo?).

On my way out I called on the property manager with the usual 'rent'—a 1.125 litre bottle of Bundaberg Rum (his second for 2016)—and booked 2017 for April 10 to 20 and suggested that he could give the commercial rifle hunter a holiday for a year. Maybe we will have a small win.

Graham uses a Mathews Helium compound bow (he says that like him, the bow is getting old) with Gold Tip shafts 300s (10.9 grains per inch) with either a stainless steel three-blade Montex or Tusker Spirit at 125 grains.

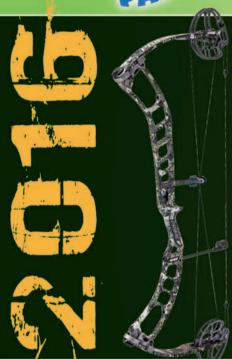


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- Brace Height 6.75"
- · Mass Weight 4.3lbs
- Draw Length 26" 30"
- Draw Weight 40, 50, 50, 65, 70 lbs

\$1449 (Starting from in Camo)





Defiant 30

FPS (ATA) 331

Weight - 4lbs

Brace Height - 7"

Axle-Axle - 30.5"

Peak Draw - 40, 50,

60, 65, 70, 80 lbs

Draw Range - 25-27", 27-29", 29-31"

Starting \$1349 from Was \$1449

Hunting Shafts

Carbon	Express Predator 2	\$85/doz
Carbon	Express Mutiny	\$99/doz
Carbon	Express Piledriver Hunter	\$149/doz
Carbon	Express Piledrive PTE	\$149/doz
Carbon	Express Maxima Red	\$199/doz
Easton	Bloodline	\$130/doz
Easton	Axis Black	\$149/doz
Easton	FMJ Black	\$175/doz
Easton	r FMJ Dangerous Game	\$199/doz
Victory	VAP Elite Series V1	\$239/doz
Victory	VAP Sport Series VA	\$189/doz

Carbon Express Nano Pro	\$519/doz
Carbon Express Nano XR	\$399/doz
Carbon Express Nano Pro X-treme	\$519/doz
Carbon Express Medallion XR	\$139/doz
Carbon Express X buster	.\$179/\$95Doz/6pk
Carbon Express CXL pro	\$240/doz
Carbon Express Maxima Blu RZ	\$199/doz
Easton X10 Protour	\$519/doz
Easton ACE	\$439/doz
Easton Carbon One	\$144.95/doz
Victory VAP V1	\$209/doz

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Bear Cruzer RTH

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Brace Height - 6.5"

Axle-Axle - 32"

Peak Draw

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Draw Range - 12"-30"

Let Off - 75%

\$649



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Traditional

Myth: Widely held but false belief or idea.

John A. Barlow

Myth: Game animals are everywhere

I had always wanted to bow hunt in the State of Idaho. Finally, that day had arrived. I had drawn an elk tag and was excited as I made the 14-hour drive with my small son Jake to a small town on the western border of Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone is known for its thousands of game animals, especially elk, and we would be bowhunting just outside its border on public land. I became even more excited when, on our first evening in camp, a large bull moose appeared, moving his massive antlered head from side to side as we watched him from a safe distance. Signs along the roadway warned drivers of crossing game animals. Some signs warned of grizzly bears that were in the area. With 14 days to bowhunt, I was confident I would harvest an elk. This would be a bowhunt of a lifetime.

My contacts in Idaho assured me the area was full of large mature bulls. And because I would be bowhunting in the rut. I would hear bulls

bugling and be able to call them in. I was a good caller and felt, given the chance, I could do that. But after 14 days we had not heard a single elk bugle, and had failed to even see one. Jake and I had hunted hard, leaving our camp well before sunrise and not returning until well after dark.

As we made the long drive home, I pondered in my mind what I had done wrong. I came to the conclusion that I had not done anything wrong. The elk just were not there.

Ask any serious elk bowhunter what is a good State to hunt elk in. and Idaho would be mentioned. Most would say that elk numbers are high, especially outside Yellowstone.

But the fact is that while elk may be there at times, they are not there all the time. Lewis and Clark, the famous American explorers, made that discovery while on their way through Montana's Bitter Root Mountains. They and their companions almost starved to death because of the lack of game animals to provide them with food. However, ask a bowhunter about the bowhunting in Montana and he will tell you how great it is. And I am sure it is, at times. Game animals are not everywhere, only in certain locations, and those locations frequently change.



Myth: I can hit game animals but not targets

There may be some truth to this thought ... so it may not be a complete myth. In most bowhunting scenarios, the hunter is alone when he shoots at an animal and may be more relaxed than when shooting at an archery range where people might be watching. Even when bowhunting with a companion, it is most likely that your shot will be taken without anyone looking. If you miss, unless you tell, no one is going to know. So there may some truth that shooting at game animals is easier for some, so they may shoot better. Shooting in competition at a range or similar might be a little more difficult with people watching. There may be

more pressure. And when you shoot poorly, onlookers will notice. The game animal you shoot at is not going to care or notice that you have missed. He will only think about your shooting ability if you hit him with your arrow. But even then, he will only know that something has happened that he, or she, does not like. Most good traditional shooters that I have known who shoot at targets can shoot at just about anything and be fairly consistent, be it paper or a live game animal. If you are having a problem shooting at paper, try a shooting session going solo (without anyone watching). I think you will be pleasantly surprised at how well you shoot.

Myth: I need a heavy pulling bow to harvest game

This is another false belief that we are finally putting to rest ... and I think the debunking of this myth has come about from the increasing number of woman and youth in our sport. Success pictures abound featuring women and youth with game animals taken with lighter weight bows-both traditional and more modern. Bows in the 40lb to

Ethical bowhunters always follow game laws.

Topographical maps are a great resource for finding game-rich areas (the maps can also be viewed on many phones for quick reference).



45lb range are becoming popular for women and young people and there are increasing numbers of low-50lb bows being used by men.

It is shot placement and sharp broadheads that bring animals down. Shooting a bow one can comfortably pull back and aim is far more important than shooting a heavy weight bow that the shooter struggles with. My nephew Mike Wheable recently brought this point home during an elk hunt in his home State of Nevada. Mike had just gone through surgery to re-attach a tendon in his finger on the hand that holds his 70lb Hoyt Spider. Finding it very painful to shoot, but not wanting to miss the opening day of his elk bowhunting season, Mike did some adjusting on his wife Rebecca's Hoyt compound at 40lb and journeyed forth. At 20yd, the arrow Mike shot at the cow elk did a complete pass-through. He is now calling his wife's bow, The Pink Monster.

With advancements in materials and limb designs, lighter bows are increasing in speed as well as in kinetic energy. Going with a lighter weight bow may be a happy surprise in improving your accuracy.



Myth: Other bowhunters are better than me

Truth be told, you are probably much better then you think you are. Bowhunting success is relative. What is success for one may not be for another. And be careful in trying to compare yourself to others. In most cases, that will only bring frustration.

Back in the early 1980s here in the United States, many of the popular bowhunting publications featured three bowhunters that I took a special interest in. Two bowhunters were from the eastern part of the country and one lived not too far from my home in California. It seemed no matter what bowhunting magazine a person picked up, there was at least an article about one of them and their accomplishments. Pictures filled the pages in magazines of them and of their recent harvests, which were nothing less than spectacular. It seemed there were trophy animals taken on every bowhunt. They became popular speakers at bowhunting events and seminars. They became well sponsored by some of the leading bow companies. They seemed too good to be true. And guess what, they were. As time and bowhunting seasons passed, their illegal and unethical bowhunting methods came to light.

In much of the world bowhunting success rates on most game animals measures less then 10 per cent, meaning for every 100 bowhunters only 10 are successful. In my home State, the success rate on deer is just 3 per cent. For every 100 bowhunters

in the field only three will bring home an animal.

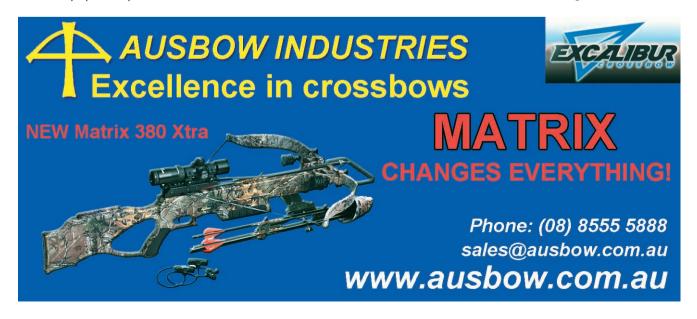
There are some very dedicated and successful bowhunters in our ranks who do it the right way—the ethical way. What has always been refreshing to me is that most of these types of bowhunters go about their business quietly and humbly, without pomp and circumstance. We know very little about them because they choose not to be known. Just because you may not bring home an animal after every trip into the woods, or maybe even in the entire season,



Even lighter weight bows can take down game with a sharp broadhead and correct arrow placement.



A custom bow can be a thing of beauty, as well as a very functional hunting tool.





Even a factory bow, like the one on the left in this picture, can be very beautiful and also a top performer.

A rock-solid bow arm helps to compensate for a bad release.

does not mean that you are less of a bowhunter. In many ways, you may be a better bowhunter than the rest of us. All it means is that you are getting closer to your goal.

I recently became aware of a young man living in another State who bowhunts with a bow and arrows made by himself by hand. You will not see him on the cover of a magazine. He says little about himself and his accomplishments even though they are many. He feeds his young family with the game he harvests with his self-made bow. His barn is filled with trophy heads that he keeps hidden there rather than adorning his living room walls. He is soft spoken. Though his bowhunting talents are many, he will only say that he has been very lucky in his bowhunting pursuits. To me he is one of our sport's greatest ambassadors. His soft and quiet demeanour, his knowledge and respect for the animals he pursues. is refreshing and gives me and many others the confidence that our sport has a bright future.

M.R. James, the founder and onetime editor of Bowhunter Magazine, once made a very thoughtful observation when he said that making a bowhunting harvest with a typewriter key was far easier then using a bow and arrow. Remember when you read something that sounds almost too good to be true ... it just may be.

Myth: A higher priced bow would help me shoot better

There are some great traditional bows out on the market, both custom made and factory built. The makers of these works of art are nothing less than geniuses. In most cases the bows are worth the price they sell for and will serve the buyer well with many years of happy service. Some that I have seen are worth displaying in your home like a piece of fine art. They are that beautiful. It has been my experience, however, that it is the shooter who makes or does not make a bow shoot well. Of course there are many factors like arrow spine, draw weight and the shooter's own style of shooting but when it comes down to it, the individual holding the bow plays the biggest part in where the arrow goes. Whether the bow is expensive or not, it can't shoot itself and the shot will not be good unless the shooter has become proficient through practice.

What makes many traditional bows expensive are the exotic woods and care in the detail. Yes, some of that detail might make the bow shoot guieter, more centreshot and have less stacking, all which play a role in good performance. Yet most good traditional bow shooters can pick up just about any bow and shoot it well. The key for the beginner is to find something in the middle of the spectrum; a bow that will perform well without the price tag that comes with the extra beauty. Learn to shoot it well and someday you may want to spend the extra money on a real looker. Just remember, the animals do not know the difference.

Myth: I need a perfect release to shoot well

What you need is a rock solid bow arm. The release has been given so much attention because if it is bad, the bow arm often moves up, down or to the side and that's the direction the arrow will go. I am a big fan of a good release as it can aid in the process of keeping the bow arm still—yet I have seen traditional shooters who have a less-than-perfect release yet shoot successfully because they have a solid bow arm. You may be one of them. So continue to work on having a good release, but concentrate on the bow arm more, and I believe your shooting will improve.

In speaking of our sport, Fred Bear once wrote, "We lose ourselves in the thing we love, we find ourselves as well."

And that is not a myth.



MATHEWS

Introducing Mathews' 2017 target bows

Sparta, Wisconsin: For more than 20 years, Mathews target bows have been a fixture at the podium of archery competitions. For 2017, Mathews is introducing two extremely accurate target platforms—the Halon X Comp and TRX.

Mathews Pro Staff Manager, Derek Phillips said he was excited about the line-up. "This is hands down the most complete line of target bows we've ever offered and I fully expect to see Team Mathews topping podiums next year," he said.

"Whether you're pounding X's on a Vegas face or competing on the 3D course, this target line-up provides the perfect option for any archer."

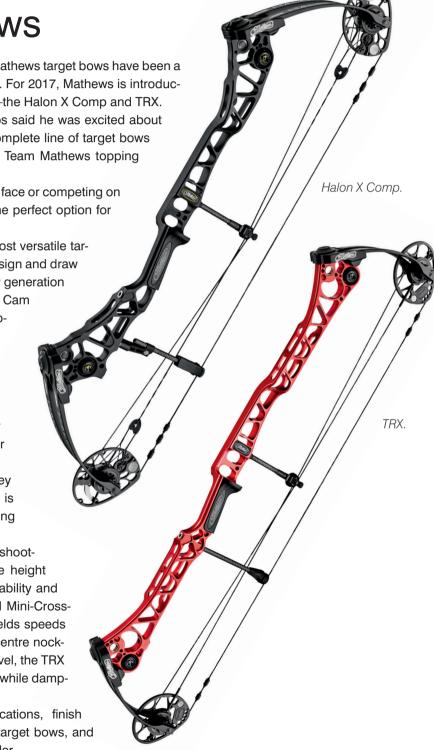
The 2017 HALON X Comp is Mathews' most versatile target bow to date with a 37-inch axle-to-axle design and draw lengths ranging 26in to 32in. It features a new generation of the perimeter-weighted Mini-Crosscentric Cam and the highly efficient AVS technology to produce speeds up to 330 feet per second. A true-centre nocking point ensures straight and level nock travel, further enhancing shot-to-shot consistency A 7in brace height provides unmatched forgiveness.

IBO National Champion Chris Hacker complimented Mathews for listening to their target shooters.

"We wanted a longer HALON X, and they delivered," he said. "The HALON X Comp is the toughest, most accurate and most forgiving bow yet."

The all new TRX is built with the indoor shooters in mind. At 40in axle to axle and brace height variations of 7in and 8in, it offers superior stability and forgiveness on the line. The newly designed Mini-Crosscentric Cam, paired with AVS technology, yields speeds up to 332 feet per second. Featuring a true centre nocking point to ensure straight and level nock travel, the TRX provides consistent accuracy shot after shot, while damping technology reduces post-shot vibration.

Go to Mathewsinc.com for full specifications, finish options, and more information on the 2017 target bows, and try them for yourself your local Mathews retailer.



Safai 2017



BE THERE FOR
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Incorporating Bowhunter and Sighted Championships and 3D Championships

To be held at the National Field Venue ABA Park, Mudgee, NSW 14 to 17 April 2017

All ABA members are cordially invited to compete at the 2017 National Safari Championships.

Nomination Fees:

ABA Adult \$45 Jnr/Cub \$35 Family \$105 3D Adult \$50 Jnr/Cub \$40 Family \$135

Closing Date for Entries is Friday 7 April 2017. **No late entries will be accepted.**

Last date for grading is Monday 6 February 2017.

All archers under the Archery Alliance of Australia are invited to attend.

Timetable:

Muster each day at 8.00am for an 8.30am start

Registration and Bow Checks - Thursday 13 April from 9am and Friday 14 April from 7am

ABA - Friday 14 and Saturday 15 April (3 and 1 arrow each day)

3D - Sunday 16 and Monday 17 April

Camping:

Camping is ample at the range; anybody wishing for offsite accommodation can obtain further information from the ABA website.



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.

Champion of Branches Team Competitions will be running for both National Championships and teams must be registered prior to Muster for each competition.

Note:

All nominations must be completed online at www.bowhunters.org.au and be paid for at the time of registration.

Nominations will close on Friday 7 April and no late nominations will be accepted.



Australian Archery Hall of Fame

Twenty five legends of archery have already been inducted into the Australian Archery Hall of Fame, witnessed by guests and archers from all disciplines of the sport. The 2017 and eighth Induction Dinner promises to be a great night celebrating the achievements of three more remarkable Australian archers. You are invited to join in the celebrations in Brisbane in March.

The Saturday evening Induction Dinner on March 4 will honour the service and contributions to the development of archery nationally and internationally of Roy Rose, Madeleine Ferris and Edna Gaisford.

The dinner will be held in conjunction with the 2017 Australian Open (March 3 to 5) to be hosted by Samford Valley Target Archers, allowing many of the archers attending this event to also have the opportunity to be present at the dinner to honour the induction of their fellow archers. The venue for the Induction Dinner is the Gavthorne RSL Club located at 534 Samford Road. Mitchelton, Queensland. Entry to the Club and parking is via Tel-Kebir Street and directions to the venue can be obtained through the website: www.gaythornersl.com.au

Dinner bookings at a cost of \$40 per person can be made through the link (below), also available through the websites of the four national archery associations.

Induction dinner proudly sponsored by Abbey Archery



https://eventdesq.sportstg.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&EventDesqID=20748&OrgID=8452





Roy Rose: Administrator, Archer and Writer

Roy has been and continues to be in his 76th year the nation's most prolific archery writer and correspondent with well over 1000 published contributions to the world's major archery magazines since the late 1960s.

During his long career he has also been a very successful tournament archer, an engaging and informative seminar presenter (both

here in Australia and in the USA), a long-term worker and office bearer for the Gold Coast Archery Club in Queensland and for the past decade vice-president of the Western Valley Archery Club in the ACT.

His archery career commenced in 1963 with the Scimitar Barebow Archery Club at Currumbin on the Gold Coast and by 1966 his scoring had reached national levels and he was the recipient of State medals in the open barebow class.

With the advent of FITA in the late 60s, he switched to a sighted recurve bow and joined the Gold Coast Company of Archers. With the instruction of legendary shooter and coach Bernie Adams, Roy became an immediate success, establishing State field records and taking out numerous target and field SQAS championship medals. In 1970 at the State indoor titles he established an Open Men's National record. At the Sydney Nationals that year he placed in the top six behind some of our nation's greatest archers including Hans Wright, Bernie Adams and Graeme Telford.

In the international postal double FITA in 1971, with entries worldwide, Roy took the silver medal behind Bernie Adams, the reigning national target champion.

By this time he was already a regular correspondent with top professional archers in the USA, Jim Ploen, Vic Berger, Cliff Necessary and Frank Gandy and began his writing career with the famous Shooting Lines, Australia's first nationwide archery publication edited by Alex Barter.

In 1973 Roy toured the USA on a six-week journey as the guest of Wing Archery's Jim Ploen. During this visit Roy did daily promotions of

the forthcoming World FITA Target Championships to be held Down Under, along with coaching seminars, shooting exhibitions and competing in tournament events.

He appeared with Olympic gold medallists from Madrid 1972, John Williams and Doreen Wilber and made such an impression that he was invited by the editor (Glen Helgeland) of Archery World magazine to become a regular contributor.

Roy's six-week trip was filmed and remains an intriguing insight into the styles of the world's best shooters of that era as well as presenting some of the first pictures of the advent of the compound bow into top tournament events. Wing archery, Roy's sponsor, produced one of the very first tournament model compound bows, designed and shot by the USA's leading shooter, Frank Ketchum. Wing presented Roy with that model which was undoubtedly one of the first to be seen in Australia.

Around 2000 Roy started a decade-long association with Arlyne Rhode's highly successful magazine The US and International Archer, reporting in each edition on the major FITA and World Cup events as well a series of instructional and profile articles.

Upon his return to the shooting line in 2000, his major tournament victories as a Master and Veteran recurve archer were: gold in field events in the 2002 World Masters FITA and IFAA Championships plus bronze medals in the FITA target and the indoor championships. At the 2003 AA Nationals held in Brisbane Roy won both the target and field events and in that year and the two following established eight national



and tournament records including a 1252 FITA round and a 284 Indoor FITA. From 2001 to 2004 he set over 40 SQAS records in target, field and indoor.

During this time Roy also commenced writing a series of articles for Australia's largest circulation and longest running archery magazine *Archery Action*, which continued for almost a decade firstly with the late editor Syd Green and then with the following editor Eric Creighton. It is significant that all Roy's article submissions to various archery magazines were contributed—at his insistence—free of a publishing fee.

For the past three years however, Roy has been working profession-

ally with James Folkard the editor of *Bow International* and *The Glade*, the United Kingdom and Europe's top archery publications, as a regular correspondent.

In 2004 Roy and his wife Robyn moved to the ACT to be closer to family and he switched successfully to the compound bow ranks, winning numerous target, field and indoor titles in the veterans division as well as attaining his 1300 FITA Australia Star.

In 2008 Roy was invited by the founder of the Australian Archery Hall of Fame to become its founding executive vice-director. During his two years in the position he was instrumental in the group's estab-

lishment as an integral part of the national archery landscape.

It would be an understatement to say that Roy's articles have been read and enjoyed by millions of readers over the past half century. Thousands of potential young archers have been influenced to take up the bow and arrow through his writings and many hundreds more have benefitted from his informative seminars.

His competitive career, while very successful, may not compare to the greats of our sport, but it is a combination of his contribution to the sport over many areas that make Roy Rose a worthy inductee into the Archery Hall of Fame.





your browser to get all the info and fill out your

entry form for 2017.

Madeleine Ferris: Archer and Administrator

Madeleine started archery in late 1976 along with her husband Noel after he picked up a South Barwon Archers flyer from a sports store in Geelong. Within half an hour of her first session she was totally hooked on archery and on the following Saturday had purchased her very first bow, a second-hand Bear recurve. As a beginner, Madeleine had to shoot two 500-plus scores (5-ring scoring) at 30m, and she was on that beginners' line for what seemed like forever while Noel cruised through to the Intermediate round and then on to the main senior shooting line. It must have been this somewhat dubious start (she later learned that the Club Recorder hadn't even recorded her scores for the first few months because she didn't think she would last) that made her determined to be the best archer that she could be.

She entered her first tournament soon after moving on from the beginners' line and in the next year at her first and only Nationals as a Recurver, won the silver medal in the Clout event! Unfortunately her FITA target scores still languished around the 850 to 950 mark and it wasn't until



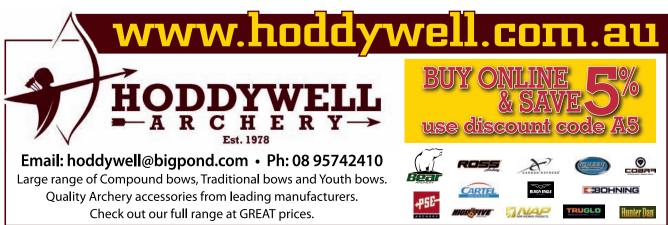
1980 that she was able to claim her official 1000 FITA Star (and 1100 FITA Star in 1984). Madeleine's club had a field course just outside Geelong on a property called the "Dog Rocks", and once a month they would shoot there. This started a lifelong love of field archery. She shot recurve for around nine years and attended just about every tournament in Victoria. For quite a while, every fortnight or so Madeleine and Noel would travel three hours each way to Frankston for coaching with Hans Wright, who they cannot thank enough for giving so much of his time to them and other aspiring archers.

In 1985, Madeleine had a bit of a personal crisis and just stopped shooting after the first end during an event. It was at this time that she took up the new-fangle-dangled compound bow she had seen a few archers shooting at tournaments. After the first six arrows (free at last of being a 'slave' to the clicker but still working out what to do when she got to full draw), she just loved the compound bow and literally took to it like a duck to water. Madeleine won her first Nationals in 1986.

In 1998 Madeleine returned to Queensland and since 1990 when FITA first recognised the compound bow in field archery, she has represented Australia at approximately 18 target and field world championships and/or world cup events, competed in five IFAA world championships and in numerous other international events in target, field and 3D.

It wasn't an easy road, working full time, training after work and all weekend, having at times multiple 'jobs' on the SQAS Management Committee, and devoting an increasing amount of time to her ageing parents, but with Noel's help she was able to follow her dreams.

Training for field was rather involved with no suitable courses around, so they would look for a property with lovely steep ter-



rain, set up a couple of butts, then she would shoot them from wherever Noel told her to (no such thing as gauging—and they didn't put faces on the butts anyway, just an aiming dot). She would do that just about every weekend for months leading up to a championship event.

Madeleine can remember details of just about every world championship she has attended and they all have their highlights and also their 'moments'. The championship she most remembers is the 1999 World Target Championships in France where she progressed through the matches into the top eight. The finals were held in a purpose-built grandstand with two targets placed under a large arch at 70m, a massive screen located off to one side, with cameras, timing gear, and other paraphernalia just in front of each archer (in fact, everything that's the norm for this sort of event nowadays). Madeleine stayed on the practice field until the match before hers had started, when Jim Larven came to fetch her so she could see how it was all done! Although she lost her quarter-final match, she decided that she absolutely loved the whole experience and wanted

to try to do it again. Many people came up to Madeleine afterwards to congratulate her and to ask for an autograph, which she found astonishing at the time, but also very nice. Unfortunately she wasn't able to get into the top eight again, but that didn't stop her from trying.

Madeleine's philosophy in archery has never been focussed on scores or on winning—all she wanted to do was execute one perfect shot, and then try to repeat exactly how that felt. When you add terrain, distance, weather/wind et cetera. and you get all those elements of the shot right too, that's the icing on the cake for her.

Having said that, at the AA Nationals in Brisbane in 2004, Kelly Weston and Madeleine had what would turn out to be an epic championship. Madeleine won the target event by one point, the field event on a countback, and the gold medal in the Matchplay event, during which it came down to a 10 versus a 9 in the last arrow of the last end in the match. She remembers that on that day at least she was absolutely and totally in control of her emotions and in the execution of that last shot.

During all her years in archery, Madeleine shot target, field, indoor, clout, ABA, IFAA and 3D and loved each and every type of event. She loved the variety that archery offered which not many sports can do. These days her bow poundage is down to 38lb, and while it will probably continue to go down in future years, she hopes to continue in the sport, even though she only shoots a few SQAS tournaments each year.

Madeleine has joined the Darling Downs Field Archers (the local ABA club in Toowoomba) and is again enjoying shooting IFAA and 3D with them and she hopes to do some ABA paper rounds as well.

Madeleine's competition days may largely be over, but she is still trying to improve—or should that be maintain?—her technique every time she shoots, tweaking things here and there to adapt to her changing body (all the usual stuff—less strength, more arthritis, neck stiffness, deteriorating eyesight).

Madeleine has had to pull back from most of her involvement with SQAS management over the past couple of years, but hopefully she will still be shooting for many years to come.



Edna Gaisford: Archer. Administrator and Coach

Edna's early sporting experiences included swimming competitively (with a preference for the longer freestyle events) and gymnastics as part of a display team. However, after marriage and children she tried her hand at archery and fell into place with a sport that has become her life for 50 years.

Edna has represented WA in State teams at national championships 25 times. She also holds all club and state records in barebow field archery as well as holding Australian records in that category.

Her ability as an all-round competitor saw her win all the State events in the one vear-indoor, target, freestyle field, barebow field, clout and flight.

Competing in 36 national championships since 1967. Edna has been National Barebow Champion 28 times and runner-up seven times and as recently as 2010 finished third in the open barebow event. She twice placed third in National Target and was National Clout Champion in 1982.

Edna was selected in Australian Teams for six world field championships, which saw her compete in New Zealand in 1980, United Kingdom in 1982, Norway in 1990, Netherlands in 1992, Slovenia in 1996 and Canberra in 2002. She was also nominated three times as WA Sportsperson of the Year and was assistant manager to the non-funded Australian touring team to the first Seoul Cup in Korea.

Edna was a co-founder of two archery clubs in Western Australiathe Fremantle 'Y' Bowmen 1964 (later to become the Bowmen of Melville (1969) and the Baldivis Archery Club



(1975). This latter was established on her family property that was purchased for the purpose of establishing an archery complex. The 48 acres embraced all facets of the sport including an indoor venue and hosted several visiting international archers and teams. An archery park was later added to promote the sport to the general public. The Australian team for AOTAC in Perth 1988 was housed at the Gaisford residence and the 1999 World Championship selection shoot was conducted on these arounds.

While living and working in New Guinea, Edna aided in the rejuvenation of the Port Moresby Archery Club (1971-1973) and the re-establishment of the Archery Society of Papua and New Guinea.

From 1967 through to 1969, Edna was the Archery WA member on the Archery Australia Council that operated with the Archery Australia Board.

Edna was elected as the National Recorder in 1972 and held that position for 13 years until 1985. During this time Edna presented the Archery Association with a new system and presentation of the Australian records. As National Recorder Edna attended National Annual General Meetings quite often to the detriment of her shooting performance due to the lateness and quantity of meetings during the tournament. Edna was also the ASWA State Recorder from 1967 to 1971 and the Society Olympic Representative on the WAOC for 15 years. Further she was the Treasurer on the organising committee for Senior and Junior National Championships held in WA and Treasurer of the Organising Committee of AOTAC in 1988. She also held the position of Treasurer for the Baldivis Archery Club for 30 years.

Edna was a member of the inaugural coaches meeting in Melbourne in 1978 that was instrumental in setting up the National Coaching Programme.

She qualified as a Level One archery instructor and Sports Federation examiner and followed later with the Level Two coaching qualification. She has coached at club, camps and at high schools.

Edna became a qualified judge and took on the position as State Judges Chairman, a position she relinquished after two years, preferring to pursue her shooting career.

Five times nominated as WASF Sports Star of the Year, Edna was named as Western Australia's 'All Time Great in Archery' during the States 150th Year Celebrations.

Edna was a volunteer as a scorer at World Championships in Canberra 1977, Adelaide 1987 and a volunteer in the archery hospitality tent in Sydnev 2000.

Edna is a Life Member of the Baldivis Archery Club and the Archery Society of Western Australia (Archery WA) and holds the Archery Australia Silver Plaquette and the 2000 Australian Sports Medal. She was awarded Life Membership to Archery Australia in 2009. She continues to work for her club and archery as a whole.

OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Key aspects of the anchor

In previous articles I have discussed some of the foundation form attributes that need to be given priority when trying to make improvements to your shot. In this article I will briefly cover some key aspects of the anchor and then cover how I like to develop a plan to work on changing form or trying new techniques out.



by STEVE CLIFTON

ANCHOR

One of the most overlooked pieces of a shooter's form seems to be the anchor of the shot, however to me it is one of the most important things to get right when shooting a bow. When I talk about anchoring I like to include everything from the D-loop, release choice and position of the hand and string on the shooter's face. Getting a consistent anchor is something I spend a lot of time working on as by being a few millimetres out at this end can lead to centimetres at the target, which can cause us a lot of frustration!

Starting at the string, the first thing needing to be considered is

the D-loop length and material that we use. I have covered this in previous articles, but I always recommend to shooters to use a D-loop which is long enough to barely influence the string if torqued by variations in the shooter's release aid angle, but short enough to keep the trigger hand in the right position on the face. Another really important consideration when setting up a D-loop is the material it is made from, as if using a really stiff material you can actually end up twisting the string with only small variations in hand position (due to the material's inability to absorb any twisting). I personally love BCY's 1.6mm material as it is thin enough to allow me to twist my hand around

and barely influence the string, as well as having great gripping strength to avoid rotating around the string and losing its relative position to your peep. I also always measure my D-loop's internal measurements, keeping this around 22mm (as I have found this to give me the perfect balance of the above).

The next important thing to consider is the release hand's position on the face. Now this varies greatly between archers and can also be influenced by the bow's ATA. As a general rule I usually suggest to new shooters to have the forefinger's knuckle just behind the jawline as a starting point for shooting a compound bow. For most people, having



this set-up works well and allows for the string to be in the right places on the face to minimise any further face contact with the string. If required, the hand can come forward a little (to get the string in the right position on the face), however I wouldn't ever go behind this (using a hand held release aid) as this can lead to great variations in anchor and loss of stability.

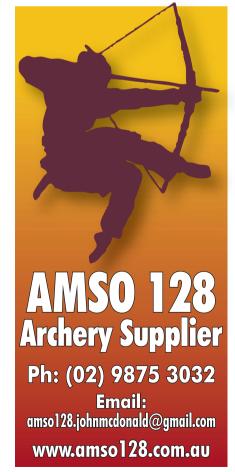
Once this is set up, it is important to see how the string sits on the face.

Ideally we want to have as little string touching the face as possible as this contact can be inconsistent and lead to variations in the shot. When I am shooting short ATA bows, like the Hoyt Hyper Edge, the most comfortable place for me to anchor is actually midway up my cheek with my knuckles resting on my jawline. As you can see in the pictures, the string runs along my check line but barely touches at all. You will also see the string finishes at the tip of my nose,

barely making any contact at all. The last key point that I will discuss here is that I always recommend to shooters that the string should be at the tip of your nose, rather than to the side of it. There are several reasons for this, however the most important for me is that it allows for my head to be angled slightly off centre, creating a more stable platform for my release hand to rest against. This increases my chances of making consistent shots, which is the key to all archery!

PURPOSEFUL PRACTICE

When I go out to practice, I don't just go out to shoot arrows, I go out to find where I can improve on my shooting and focus on making changes. Purposeful practice is an idea thrown around in coaching and I really think this is what separates







the average shooters from the top shooters. When you are purposely practising, your practice sessions are designed for your improvement and you have a goal for each practice session. Rather than just going over to the range to shoot arrows for the sake of it, purposeful practice helps you fix your imperfections and allows for real improvements to be made.

Several key things are required when wanting to turn a 'regular' practice session into a productive session with a purpose, and really they require no extra effort at all! One major point is that you need to keep a shooting log of your practice sessions. It is extremely important to keep track of all equipment changes as well as the form alternations as when changing things, if they don't work out, you have an exact reference point to go back to. Building on this, when I am making changes

to my form, I like to get my shooting buddies to film/photo me with my phone so I can review the media later. Most people would have heard of a great app called 'Coaches Eye'; this is one of the best resources we can use in sport as it allows you to draw lines (good for showing alignment) on images/videos as well as slow the films down to individual frames which can be analysed closely to find small issues that might be occurring.

Another important thing to incorporate into practice sessions are training-specific goals. These aren't your long-term goals (ie, shoot a 560/1400), but short-term ones such as 'Remember to pull hard into the wall' or 'Keep my front shoulder low as I draw'. These are what you are aiming to work on during your practice session and give the overall session some direction. Without having a training-specific goal, you really are just out there shooting arrows

for the sake of shooting arrows. At minimum, if you don't have any training goals for a particular day, at least keep track of your scores (make sure you shoot scored rounds), as this will make you try a little harder and can even draw your attention to parts of your shooting you might not have noticed that require some improvements.

It can take a lot of time and effort to change old habits into new ones. but if you see potential in making a change, stick with it! Time and time again I see people go back to their 'old style' of shooting because it's easy and is what they have done since they started ... but this doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement! If you are struggling with some aspect of your shot, try something new and give it at least a couple of weeks of testing and adjusting before changing back or trying something new.



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THARGO 2016



I rolled the Hilux to a stop 300yd from the dam, grabbed my bow and backpack and started in. As I came over the dam wall, I was amazed to find only a bit of slurry in the bottom of the dam along with a couple of dead kangaroos that I guess had become stuck in the mud trying to get a drink. The property owner had told me they had had 20mm of rain a month before so I was surprised there had not been any runoff. There was a small feeder dam with a pipe running in between. As I came over the feeder dam wall there where roos everywhere—the dam was three quarters full but not quite up to the pipe. I just stood looking around and I could see a couple of wallows that looked quite fresh. I looked to my left and thought I saw movement; possibly an ear flick.

y mate Noel and I had arrived at the Thargomindah property the previous day. We would be staying for two weeks caretaking for the owner while he went to Mount Isa to visit his mum. Gear packed away and a good night's sleep saw us get away at first light. We set up a blind for Noel and one for me but after an hour of no action I decided to check another dam to see if any goats were watering there. Oh, back to the ear flick.

I slowly brought my binoculars up and at 18yd all I could see was the boar's face, his eyes where wide open but he didn't seem perturbed. I don't know why he didn't know I was there. (Later looking from where he was lying, I realised he would have only seen me from the chest up). From where he was lying I could put an arrow down through his ear and it should take out his vitals. I slowly nocked an arrow and pulled back with minimal amount of movement and settled the 20yd pin then touched the release. The arrow flew true. He roared and came running directly at me, stopping at 4yd, then turned and charged into a tree, hitting the nock and driving the arrow in a further 10in. He took one more step and fell over. Walking over I could see he had some good tusks and later measured 28 4/8pt. Wow, couldn't be any better, one-and-a-half hours into our first day and I had a trophy class pig.

I headed back to Noel stopping a short distance out and gave him a call on the UHF to check before driving in but all was well. He said some goats had come in but no trophy class billies so we decided to go for a drive to see if we could find some. We came across some small mobs but no good ones, so headed back to camp when we spotted a good billy feeding 80yd off the track. The wind was right so Noel grabbed his bow and stalked in to about 40yd. Then the goat must have realised something was going on and stopped feeding and started watching Noel. I was in the car watching through my binoculars when Noel took the shot. Unfortunately, the arrow clipped a branch on the way through and shot over the back of the goat. Needless to say the goat took off with Noel in hot pursuit. As Noel did not have his backpack I grabbed mine and my bow and started following. Ten minutes later Noel came back and said he had had another shot but missed so was heading back to find his arrows.

I headed off in the direction of the goat and found him not 100yd further on feeding again. I ranged him at 40yd and took the shot, hitting him behind the ribs and with a shot that exited in front of his shoulder. He measured out at 108 4/8pt. Heading back to camp I was quite happy with myself.

The next day we drove the waterholes looking for a good pig for Noel (still chasing his first TC). The first half a dozen spots had fresh wallows but no pigs. We headed to little creek I knew had a leaking pipe feeding from it



The first boar.



Dave's first goat.

that had maybe 300yd of water and a lot of shade so we parked the Hilux and started our walk up the creek. I left my bow in the car so there was no doubt who was taking the shot. Halfway up the creek I grabbed Noel's arm and pointed to a good boar laving on the edge of the water. I could only see half of him as the other half was underwater. The wind was right so Noel inched his way across the creek and got to within 20yd. Just as he was pulling back, an old man roo standing in the creek some 40vd further on spooked and took the pig with him. We checked out the rest of the waterholes and found some we hadn't known about ... but no pigs.

The next day we travelled out the back of the property and found a trough that had about 300 goats, some drinking while others lay around. Noel stalked in and was able to take a good billy, great, he was off the mark. The rest of the day was fairly guiet so it was back to camp. The next day would see us doing the trough run just to make sure there was water for the cattle and that everything was working. That run would take about six hours to complete and bring us back to the trough with all the goats. We set up a blind for Noel, hoping a pig might come in to feed on the goat that Noel had taken previously. Upon my return, Noel said that plenty of goats had come in but he'd seen nothing worth taking. The big billies had stayed back in the bushes and didn't come in for a drink so Noel was going to come back the following day.

The next day Noel took the property's old Hilux, packed lunch and water and headed out to the dam. I did the rounds of the waterholes. I pulled up at the old shearing shed and had a quick look around as quite often I have found rabbits lying up in the shade. Walking into the shed, I saw a snakeskin on the ground. I picked it up—the sheer size of it had me looking over my shoulder, because it would have wrapped around my wrist. It was a brown snake skin and would have to have been at least 8ft long. I didn't want to meet him anytime soon. To cut a long story short, I spotted a rabbit, shot him and got out of there quick smart.

I arrived back at camp about 2.00pm and was having something to eat when Noel turned up. I could see by the smug look on his face that he had taken something good. He pulled horns from the back of the ute and they were good—real good. Running the tape over it, I measured 112pt, his best goat ever, so he was pretty chuffed. He must have been happy as he had one



of my rums that night to celebrate (despite the fact that he doesn't drink). Well done mate, now to get you your first trophy class pig!

The next day Noel went his way and I went mine. I pulled up 200vd from the trough and could see guite a few goats milling around. I stalked in to about 30yd of a good-sized billy and waited for a good shot. He turned side on and my arrow was on its way—but it was a tad high. The mob ran off with mine in tow but he only travelled 100vd before lying down. By the time I reached him. he had expired. He measured 102 2/8pt. Noel arrived back at camp and said he had only seen a few goats but nothing of size. It was getting close to the end of the trip and we had not seen many pigs—I must have been arsey the first day.

I took a last drive out to the back blocks while Noel stayed back and sorted out his gear. I sat back off the trough watching goats come and go. A good mob came in and it was hard to tell how good any of them were as they were milling around. A big white one stepped out to the side and as he looked at me I knew he was mine, close to the magical 40in. Stalking in to 30yd, I took the shot. He ran 40yd and went down. He measured 113 6/8pt. Record Class. Woo hoo!

Dick, the property owner, came home the next day so I was able to run through a few things with him. Then we packed the car ready for an early start the next morning. Well, it had been a great trip with a great mate and good game. Don't you just love it!







A 100pt goat.



Dave with a 102pt goat.



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Hontside In the zone

Morning on green

by Nils Spruitt

love the first cup of strong tea in the morning. There's nothing like it, in my opinion, and I cannot think of a better way to start the day. In fact, I am not so sure I could face the day without a cuppa. That first bitter taste across the palate followed by the overriding sensation of a sugar hit. It really awakens the senses like nothing else I have ever experienced. You can feel your whole body coming to life as it struggles to cast off the heavy cloak of sleep. It begins with a warm glow in the stomach which slowly radiates around your highway of arteries until even your fingers and toes seem to tingle and buzz with the prospect of a new day about to unfold. Yep, I love a good cup of sweet tea in the morning ... and the second one is just as good.

For more years now than I can remember I have been an early riser. Even on my days off at home, I still celebrate the dawn with the aforementioned pot of tea. It has become not so much a habit, but more a daily ritual and I savour that moment every day. I cannot imagine my life being any different.

On this particular morning, I was up and about earlier than usual. From the open doorway of the big shearing shed where we were camped, I could see nothing on the horizon but inky blackness. There wasn't even the faintest hint of the approaching dawn. Digs was still asleep. The slow rhythmic sawing of wood emanating from the dark pile tucked into a corner which was my hunting partner, oversized sleeping bag, air mattress and pillow, belaboured the point. There was no need to disturb him just yet.

His plan for the morning was different to mine. Digs was in search of bigger game and he was on a mission. Late the afternoon before, his methodical exploration of the broken country in the backblocks of the property had yielded results. He had twice encountered goats in the thick native forest and had even sneaked up onto two fallow does, but

what he was really searching for was a good boar—and he had been successful.

The boar he encountered was a loner as most mature boars are, and Digs had caught it dead to rights when it emerged from the thick cover of a side gully into some semi-open country. Just eyeballing the boar was a real bonus as this was not what you would call prolific pig country. There were the odd one or two about and this boar was not the first pig we had seen, but such a sighting is rare. To put it in better perspective, even the pig doggers rarely have success in this area ... which pretty well sums it up I feel.

Digs timed his stalk to perfection but for some reason he chose to stop rather than close right in. The boar had no notion of the danger it was in and was happy enough just mooching about here and there. Even to this day, Digs still cannot offer a valid reason why he chose this option. The boar was in range of his sighted compound but only just and this proved to be his undoing. That and the rising excitement he was starting to experience. Already he could visualise the boar's head gracing his bar room wall; a real no no but haven't we all fallen for that at some point in time?

A complete audit of the events after the fact, has convinced me Digs took a reading with his rangefinder not off the feeding boar, but from a large boulder a few metres behind. It's very easy to do when your hands are shaking as Digs admitted to. The overall distance was not unreasonable—certainly not when you read some of the distances sighted compound hunters regularly take game at, but a false reading at just under 40m, even if out by only 2m or 3m, is a recipe for overshooting or undershooting ... and that is exactly what happened.

Despite his shaking hands, Digs felt the release was good and the arrow flight perfect. The only trouble was that instead of striking the boar in the vitals as intended, the shaft passed just over the top of its shoulder before disintegrating on the rockface behind the boar. Game over.

Digs was one very despondent hunter when he trudged empty-handed back into camp and I felt sorry for him. I know just how much he wants to put a nice trophy boar on the wall but you can't skin 'em before you hit 'em.

But that had been the previous day and now my sympathy was very much waning. The constant buzz from the corner was annoying to say the least. How a human can make such a cacophony of alternate sounds in their sleep is beyond me. I am quite sure he was doing his best to rewrite the 1812 overture in D minus and with the cannons. Wotcha mean I should have said D minor? It was no minor sound, believe me. For a brief moment. I did look mischievously at the bucket of water near our table but tossing the lot over him would only have been a waste of precious water.

In the end, I took my fourth cup of tea for the morning out on the landing to await the sunrise. No doubt I was going to pay for this over-indulgence of cha in the next two or three hours but for now it still tasted good.

There was movement in the gloom of the predawn as a few farm animals moved about just beneath the landing. I could see lights on in the distant homestead and I briefly wondered if our host was also enjoying a strong cuppa. I bet his wife wasn't rattling the tin roof like my hunting partner was. No, I am sure she would be up and cooking breakfast for her husband and family. Bacon and eggs with two slices of thickly buttered toast per person, I bet. The very thought had me salivating. It would certainly be a lot better than a crunchy oatmeal bar which would be my only sustenance until lunchtime.

Do city people still do fry-ups for breakfast these days? Probably not. I think such high fat, low fibre breakfasts have all been quashed by the fitness-crazy generation and their subsequent health fads. If you believe the TV commercials then breakfast these days seems to be more about a bowl of dried fodder fit for a horse and a glass of pulpy green matter. Perhaps you might live a year to two longer if you eat this for breakfast every morning, but is it worth it? A life without a good hot fry-up every now and then is a life not worth living in my opinion. And besides, I take pills for my cholesterol.

Apart from the occasional squeal of domestic pigs in the nearby pens and the belly rumblings of 50 or so Boer goats camped under our shed, all was quiet. Have you ever noticed how silent it is before the dawn? No noise at all with the exception of Dig's snoring and the farm yard animals. No birds chirping, no foxes barking, no frogs, crickets or cicadas humming away. Nothing but silence. It's as though every thing wild is holding its breath in preparedness for the coming of daylight. Why, even my own breathing was calm

and shallow at the very thought. I can sort of understand why the Druids and the Pagans worshipped nature the way they did. The natural world is truly something to behold.

Eventually my reverie was broken by the distant calling of a rooster from its pen. This was almost immediately followed by the rousing of a few local magpies then a kookaburra or two. Sunrise was imminent. It was time for me to make a move.

In the dark, I grabbed my bow, quiver and backpack from the hooks near the door and glanced over at the even darker pile which was my hunting mate. The heap was silent at long last and I momentarily thought about sneaking off and leaving it that way but I just couldn't do it.

"Digs ... wake up! I'm going,". I said, turning on the light. "Good luck with the boar and if all else fails, shoot the big one in the pen. It has good hooks!" There was movement in the pile and something not quite intelligible was uttered which I took to be "Thanks and good luck". With that I swept out the door, down the steps and marched off to the green.

The green is a nickname I have given to a small shallow basin situated between two rises only about half a kilometre from camp. It is cleared ground but with isolated stands of blackberry and a few small granite outcrops. The slope is covered in pasture but the grass is cropped so short it



resembles a bowling green (hence the name). Not all of it, mind, but especially so in and around the briar. The culprits are not cattle, not sheep and not an overabundance of kangaroos. The bowling green shortness is due entirely to rabbits ... and a heck of a lot of them.

By local standards, this particular property is about average in size and as is the norm, about half of it is cleared grazing land while the rest is still native bush. Digs and I have hunted here a few times, mainly concentrating our search around the grazing land and subsequent bush fringe. On other parts of the property we have encountered a few rabbits here and there but nothing I have ever seen can match the green. I have no idea why the rabbits are so prolific in such a small area. The terrain all looks identical to me but obviously there is something about this little patch which is ideal for them.

I am not sorry. As a small game hunter at heart, I think it is wonderful ... but so many ears and eyes amassed in one tiny piece of land, does make it hard to hunt. The absence of cover other than the clumps of blackberry and a few low rocks only adds to the problem.

The sun was still behind the hills but there was sufficient light to see by. I was still 200m or so from the first black-berry and already I could see rabbits running around just about everywhere I looked. With my binoculars I counted eight feeding on the dew-covered grass in front of the closest briar patch. By the time I had halved that distance the number was down to five. All I could do was just keep going and see what would happen. At 40yd, I was down to two and by the time I was in comfortable recurve range there were none.

That is hunting on the green. I was not all that frustrated because I knew from past experience that my best chance (and often only chance) was to assume there was still a bunny or two feeding on the opposite side of the blackberry. More often than not this is how it works for me. No doubt there would be some who would question my approach and cannot understand why I don't try to crawl in nice and

close. A good question and my answer is simple: Old guys don't crawl.

With an arrow now nocked and my entire body over-flowing with anticipation, slowly ... and I do mean slowly ... I inched my way around the blackberry clump. There was a rabbit there alright but it was onto me and gone in a flash. With that I exhaled and relaxed. Disappointed? A little perhaps, but there were still plenty of blackberry patches to go so the same practice would be repeated until I either tired of the chase or scared every rabbit underground (which is how it normally pans out). Win or lose, success or failure, none of this is important to me any more. I am just happy being there.

I had taken only two steps when I spotted yet another rabbit which had been tucked in tight behind the briar. This bunny was head down feeding and I was presented with a quartering-away shot. The bow was up and I drew back the string to anchor.

At that moment the sun finally presented itself above the eastern hills and the land was suddenly awash in bright light. All around me birds began to rejoice in an endless variety of songs which was so melodious and wondrous to the ear. Across the green, tiny beads of dew on the broadleaf grasses were instantly transformed into a million sparkling diamonds which so greatly enhanced the kaleidoscope of colours now before me. It was breathtakingly beautiful to behold. Yes indeed, so happy to be here and with that the arrow was gone.









t was just the other day I was giving my 'man cave' a tidy-up and was sorting out good arrows from bad arrows-the difference being less about their condition and more about their ability to regularly find their way to the target!

Digging through my arrow boxes. I came across arrows in various states of disrepair. Some needed fletches or new nocks, some needed a dab of paint or superglue and some (after a flex test) were destined for a new life as plant stakes in the garden.

Looking at the arrows around me, I suddenly became aware of just how much my preferences in gear had changed over the 15 years I'd been involved with archery. To my left there was a small group of aluminium arrows that marked my introduction to the sport and that had managed to survive several previous culls. I remember holding the arrows in one hand and my newly purchased

Golden Eagle Extreme in the other as I walked around the snow-laden yard of our neighbour in Northern Canada looking for Horseshoe rabbits to shoot at. Back then, I knew very little about what it took to be a successful bowhunter—only that I had the gear to make it happen. That afternoon I managed to bag a dozen rabbits and also broke or bent all six of my heavy shafted Easton 2219 shafts. I also found out later that three of the rabbits were actually family pets that ran wild with the native rabbits. This later point left neighbourly relations colder than the hard-packed snow in the yard for a brief time.

A day or so later, I was the proud owner of my first dozen Easton 2315 shafts. Promising to be faster and lighter than my first shafts. These arrows boasted a camouflage decal and fluorescent green-and-orange four-inch vanes which would become the standard colour for most of my later arrows. These new arrows claimed my first ever mule deer doe and then, arriving back in Australia, my first ever pigs and red deer.

It wasn't long before I was riding the wave of support for carbon arrows and soon left my aluminium arrows behind ... or just pulled them out occasionally to shoot stumps or rabbits where I knew my carbons wouldn't be able to stand up to the punishment. Even after my transition to traditional archery, I still couldn't bear to part with the superior performance and reliability of carbon arrows and took my first trad game with a high-tech recurve and carbon shafts and later added deer, rabbits, buffalo, scrub cattle and brumbies to the list. But as I became more and more involved with the traditional archery movement, I made the switch to wooden shafts and I must admit, I have enjoyed every moment of it.

I have always made up my own

arrows, often just buying the bare shafts and gluing in the inserts and nocks and fletching them myself. I get a lot of enjoyment out of being able to individualise my own gear. making a statement as subtle as fluorescent vanes or as bold as candy-cane stripes that glow in the dark (yes, that is one of mine!). A good hunting mate of mine, Ben, who I have written about many times. would always refer to my taste in arrow design as 'gaudy'. I would take that as a compliment and used it to spur myself on to think of other colour and fletch configurations.

Finally though, as my eyes sweep across the collection of brilliant, broken, borrowed and banished arrows around me I can now say that I have settled on my style. It's not as gaudy as I believe my arrows once were and the design is less about finding them when I lose them. (We all know that short of attaching a homing beacon, you will never find an arrow that doesn't want to be found but funnily enough, you will always find someone else's 'unfindable' arrow when you're looking for yours.)

My style is more about reflecting my personality and making the arrows odd enough that hopefully nobody else wants them, which works for me because many of my arrows end up in the grass so if I can get as many back as I can I'm saving monev.

But even this strategy has an unforeseen flaw. At the last trad shoot for the year I was one arrow down after shooting under a target and was hopeful it would turn up before we left. Just as I was losing hope a 12-year-old girl came strolling towards me with my arrow in her hand. My heart leapt at the return of the prodigal arrow, but sank as I watched the girl turn around the corner to head for her camp. A quick whistle and conversation soon

had my arrow back but it was a bit touch and go there for a minute as she didn't want to give up her prize. Eventually peace was restored to the universe and I could go home happy.

What does it say about my personality and personal style that my arrows don't appeal to anyone but 12-year-old girl archers? Well, I'd rather not dwell on it. But what I will do is walk you through the process of how I set up my wooden arrows. Now, there is bound to be some out there who won't necessarily agree with aspects of this 'how-to' but remember, this is what works for me and if you have a system that works for you then don't change. But please, have a read and I hope you enjoy!



Depending upon your skill level, you can either plane down your own shafts or you can buy them readymade from a retailer. I really like douglas fir shafts because they're durable, reliable and don't seem to warp like Port Orford cedar shafts I've used previously. I would normally buy the shafts from the USA but in an effort to support local businesses I called Sue and Steve Wallace from Wallace Woods who have been turning out quality arrows for many years and placed an order for two dozen hoop pine shafts. Australian hoop pine shares many of the same characteristics as douglas fir so it was an easy substitution.



With a pen or a pencil mark, on your shaft the grain of the wood. Sue and Steve take care of this for you but I find it helpful to mark it on the bottom of the nock as well; this will



make sense later on. The reason it is important to mark the grain of the wood is so that if the shaft fails when you release and the arrow splits, having the grain on top means that the arrow will splinter up and away from your hand rather than laterally into your hand. It's never happened to me but the fact they warn against it means that it has happened to someone. What's that old saying? An ounce of prevention ...



Take your shafts and with a damp cloth wipe them over to remove any sawdust that may still remain on the shafts from milling. Once they are dry, you can now start the process of dipping your shafts.



When I first started making my own wooden arrows I used to use a spray-on clear varnish but I found that it left too many streaks and runs which left uneven areas so I splurged and bought a dipping tube. In all honesty, they aren't that expensive



and make the job so much easier.

Using a clear outdoor varnish, I dip all of the arrows and stand them up to let them dry. Drying times vary but I normally allow 12 hours between each coat.



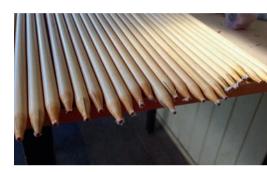
After the initial coat, I take each shaft and using some 3M steel wool I sand down the shafts to remove any of the small imperfections. I wipe the shafts down with a dry cloth this time and dip the arrows a second time. When the second coat is dry, I'm ready for my colours.







Before I start putting on my colours, I like to take a small candle and on the nock end where I have marked the grain of the shafts I rub a small amount of wax onto each. The reason that I do this is so that the paint won't stick to the wax and when it comes time to glue on my nocks I can still see my marks.







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Now just paint your shafts whatever colour combination you like. Again, you could use separate dipping tubes or sophisticated arrow spinners for intricate detail but for this step I use spray paint. Initially I apply an undercoat of white primer and then let it dry and give it a light sanding. After that I use a combination of fluorescent pink and vellow stripes to finish the shafts off.



After the shafts are dry, I give each shaft another light sand and wipe over with a dry cloth before dip-



ping each shaft another four times in the clear varnish, again leaving 12 hours between each coat. Six coats of varnish may sound excessive, but in actual fact, the amount of varnish vou're putting onto each shaft is quite low and given that my arrows spend a lot of time on the ground. I like to have as much protection as I can. The first two coats seal the shafts and the four additional coats seal the paint.



It's time to put on your nocks. With a rag or some fine sandpaper, you should be able to remove the wax and paint from the nock end of your shaft without too much drama to locate the grain direction mark you made earlier. Using this mark, I take a pencil and make a mark on the shaft in line with the original mark to help me position the locator on my nock.

When gluing on my nocks I use Super Glue gel because it gives me 20 to 30 seconds to play with before it sets and doesn't run like conventional Super Glue can (although regular Super Glue will work fine).









Once the nocks are in place, you can start fletching. I like to use a conventional BPE single arrow fletcher. It may take a little longer to make up a couple of dozen arrows but I don't mind. As the Dalai Lama said, "It's the journey, not the destination". You can use whatever glue you like but what I have found works exceptionally well on wooden shafts is Loctite 406. This stuff bonds to anything and sets quickly so I normally leave each feather about one minute before I take off the clamp and set up the next feather.

Just another handy hint-something that I have started doing in recent years is to take some bow wax and run a thin layer over my fletch clamps where they come into contact with the glue and on the top of the glue bottle itself. If you're like me and a bit clumsy with anything intricate, this is a godsend. I tend to get glue everywhere, but by putting the wax down first, glue that ends up in the wrong place does not need to be chipped off but can be simply wiped off with a cloth.



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After the arrows are fletched, I like to add a dab of glue to the front and the back of each fletch just to make sure it's held in place. It might be overkill but it has worked for me so I'll continue doing it.

Once the arrows are fletched, it's time to add your points. Depending upon whether these arrows are going to be target or hunting arrows, you'll put on either target tips or broadheads. To do this I like to give the inside of the tips a cleanout first to remove any of the manufacturing oil left over that might prevent the glue from working properly. So with a cotton bud and some acetone I give each tip a quick clean before gluing it on with a two-part five-minute Araldite.

After everything is said and done, the proof of the pudding is in the eating so after checking the glue has set and the fletches are right, I like to shoot all of my arrows to look for any faults and once I'm happy, I'm done.

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Mountain View Archers host long weekend getaway

This year, archers were treated to a change of pace for their October long weekend getaway. Mountain View Archers were lucky enough to secure the shoot date, which has been a favourite among members in the past. Taking on the iconic shoot may have seemed an intimidating task, but MVA tackled the challenge.

The event drew more than 80 shooters— a solid turnout considering that the IFAA World Titles were on up until the Friday before the weekend. Some dedicated archers undertook the long trek from Wagga Wagga to Wingham, and those who couldn't missed a fantastic event.

Saturday's weather was predicted to be fine, but a large storm system just down the coast threw a spanner in the works. The morning began with a light breeze which escalated to moderate winds in the afternoon. This may have encouraged archers to move a little faster on range, with most groups finishing nice and early, leaving plenty of time for the novelty

events held afterwards.

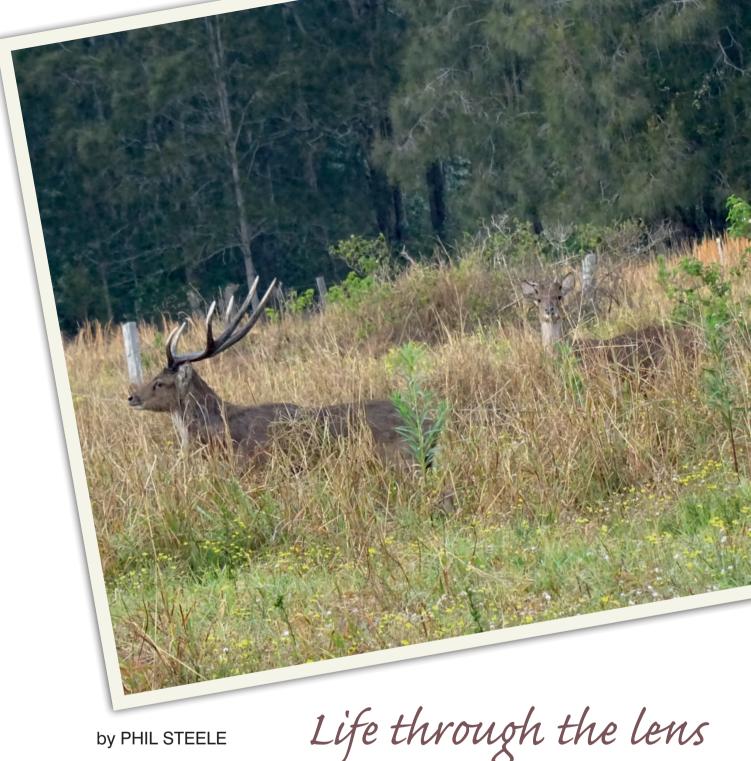
The ranges set by MVA were exceptional, with some very challenging shots. When it's your first target and most of your two minutes is spent standing on the peg, scratching your head, you know it's going to be an interesting weekend. More than one shooter headed out after the day was finished to search for wayward arrows.

The Top Ten was held on Saturday afternoon. It was happy days those involved—the coastal winds had died down, although the afternoon sunlight left something to be desired. In the running theme of the weekend, the shots set were challenging even to the most experienced of our top shooters. Despite making everyone wait all day for his return from range, Skippy Shorten still couldn't manage his long anticipated win in the Top Ten. Instead, the honours went to Ben McCulloch. Congratulations, Ben. (Better luck next time, Skippy!)

After a night of festivity, many forgot to turn their clocks forward an hour for Daylight Savings time, making for a slow start on Sunday morning. It wasn't all bad newsthe weather conditions for shooting had improved exponentially, making for a perfect day on range. If people thought that they'd gotten the hard ranges out of the way on Saturday, they were most likely wrong: All five ranges were a trial of their own.

Although archers may not have walked away from the weekend with dazzlingly high scores, they will hopefully have walked away with a sense of accomplishment. The ranges were not only challenging, but also enjoyable, and MVA is to be commended for putting on an extraordinary weekend. This concludes all State Series shoots, with the only shoot remaining on the 3DAAA calendar being the National Titles at Nambucca Heads on the weekend of November 12 and 13. We hope to see you all there for another phenomenal event.





by PHIL STEELE

ust over three years ago I travelled to Namibia, Africa for an eight-day bowhunting safari. It was the trip of a lifetime really, and as part of my hunting gear, I packed pocket-sized digital camera. There's nothing unusual about that, as I think just about every hunter packs a camera whenever going bush. The trouble was, I failed to use it when I should have. Sure. I

ended up with the here-l-am-with-adead-so-and-so and that's-me-withthe-stupid-grin type of pictures. I would estimate about 90 per cent of hunters shoot pretty much the same with their respective cameras, but what I failed to do was capture a detailed photographic record of the entire trip. I never took a solitary picture of the countryside, the people I met and of course, the actual

animals themselves. I regret this deeply now and can honestly say, if I had my time over it would be different.

On that hunt I was indeed privileged to witness numerous warthogs drinking at waterholes right on first light, not to mention loads of elusive antelopes and of many species, from awe-inspiring kudu bulls right down to tiny duikers. I saw



them all, but not a single picture did I take. In conjunction with the big game species, everyday I bore witness to a myriad of small animals like meerkats plus flight after flight of brightly coloured birds, and all putting on various displays only metres from me. I can still remember it, but as time marches on these memories will slowly recede until I will be left with only the basics. Believe me, it happens. Namibia 2013 was not my first hunt in Africa. I hunted in South Africa back in 1993 ... or was it 1994? You see, I can't even remember the year let

alone the finer points of the trip! Photographs captured during our bush adventures are a permanent reminder of a precise moment in time. They are keys which will unlock the subconscious recollections of events past. Without them, most of our smaller memories will



regress as we ourselves grow older.

Upon my return from Namibia, I took it upon myself to try a little bit harder when it comes to having a first-class photographic record of my various sorties into the bush even if it meant forgoing an occasional shot opportunity with the bow. Great intentions, but alas, I lack the artistic integrity to capture really great photographs. It is just not in me. I simply cannot look at something and think, "Wow ... this will look great as a photograph". It's not so much a failing as the complete absence of natural ability. Some have it and some don't and I personally don't believe it can be taught to any satisfactory degree.

On the other hand, my hunting mate Doug Cane is the complete opposite. Unlike me, Doug does possess some artistic flair and a photographer's eye. I have seen Doug capture some magical moments from even the most mundane of subjects. I am at a loss to understand how he does it and no matter how hard I try, I cannot duplicate his efforts.

This is the main reason why I decided to start shooting wildlife with a camera instead of trying and failing to make moss on a log look like a tiny forest, just to give you an example of what a real photographer can do. Even in the field of wildlife photography I suppose it would help greatly if I did possess some creative mastery, but when it is all said and done I am not trying to sell photographs to National Geographic or win Wildlife Photographer of the Year. I simply want to capture wildlife with a camera as a supplement to my hunting trips.

As a hunter/photographer, I don't have the luxury of sitting for days on end just to capture that once-in-a-lifetime image. I have to take it as it comes, more or less.



I have no control whatsoever with the subject's position, lighting or location and as a photographic nimrod, this suits me fine. What I didn't know when I embarked upon this journey was how addictive it would become.

As I have already hinted, I am not a photographer per se. I am not even a good amateur photographer. I don't really understand the workings of a camera and have no real clue as to aperture settings, ISO rating and the like. It is all double dutch to me. I could sit here and Google search a few big words and photographic phrases to impress and make it look like I know what



I am doing, but that would be a lie. All of my photographs are taken with the camera on the auto setting. Of late I am experimenting with manual actions, but when it comes to capturing a rare opportunity such as a big trophy animal or even a tiny robin, at this stage I don't want to take the risk of ruining the picture and so I shoot on auto.

About 12 months ago, I purchased a new Sony pocket digital to replace my original camera. The old number just did not have the zoom capacity I needed in order to shoot wildlife in detail. Nothing looks worse than a small dot in the middle of the screen which is supposed to represent your focal target. Wildlife being wildlife, rest assured not every animal you want to capture is going to let you walk right up to it. This is where I can see a common denominator between hunting with a bow or with a camera. Both require stalking skills if you want to be good at either and both can have high levels of frustration.

My new Sony has an amazing



zoom and for quite a while I tried shooting subjects on maximum magnification. They all looked great on the camera display but when I downloaded the images onto the computer they were never sharp or clear. It was even worse if I shot my images with the anti-shake mode activated ... the photos were pixelated to the point of being ruined. This was very disappointing and as I said, not always apparent until I viewed the photographs on the computer. It took me a while to realise that to achieve clear pictures with near to maximum zoom on my camera is virtually impossible without the aid of a tripod. At a pinch, I have used tree limbs, rocks and even my backpack to brace the camera and sometimes it works. but for the minor inconvenience a lightweight, collapsible tripod is to carry, the benefit far outweighs any negativity.

If I am forced to shoot without my tripod-which is often-then I resist the temptation for extreme close-ups and just go with about half zoom. The subject animal may not fill the frame as well as I would like but at least I stand a decent chance of it being focussed and besides, a lot of great wildlife shots are not all-screen fillers. One of my personal favourites from my meagre collection so far, is a rusa stag standing with a young spiker. I shot quite a few pictures of the big stag in close-up and some are very good in my opinion, but my preference is the image showing both deer. Besides, if your target is focussed crystal clear

then you can crop the image and delete any unwanted dead ground when you are back at home.

At one point about six months ago, I tried carting around a decent Nikon SLR with a long telephoto lens. This was a disaster. Having my bow in hand, day pack, binoculars and a whopping great camera dangling around my neck was all too much. I firmly believe if you want to shoot wildlife with the best photographic equipment you can buy, then you will have to drop the actual bow hunting side of things altogether. I couldn't make it work. I even tried carrying the camera in my daypack but this defeated the purpose, as the camera was never handy to grab when I needed it. Besides, a really top quality lens suitable for the job is cost prohibitive. I tried with a budget priced 300mm lens and the results were poor. In the end, I went back to my pocket digital. The quality of the image may not be as quite as good, but I can live with that. I think you have to compromise somewhere if you still want to hunt.

So why wildlife photography? Why not just simple memento-type pictures like campsites, vehicles in a bog, hunters with their quarry



and that sort of thing? I still do take a few snaps of subjects like these. but as I mentioned earlier, without that eye for the unusual, the end result is, to me at least, uninspiring. As a regular contributor to this magazine and the author of hunting stories, I fully understand the importance of depicting the outcome of a successful hunt pictorially, but a magazine jammed full with photographs of dead game is, excuse the pun, lifeless to me. I prefer to have a balance with my stories if possible and a picture or two of live game gives a more rounded presentation.

Besides, I really enjoy the challenge of trying to capture good stills of wildlife ... so much so that I think on any given hunt I spend more time behind the camera than I do drawing a bow these days.



From my own perspective, I found I have reached a point in my life where I sometimes think, I really don't want to try to kill that animal. I know there are many who would scoff at this, but judging by some of the other wildlife pictures I see published with stories from other hunting authors, perhaps I am not alone. I will probably always hunt

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and kill game with a bow. It is just in me to do that. I will take the odd trophy here and there and I will eat a bit of what I kill, but more often these days I just want to put a really great picture of a rabbit, fox, goat or a deer on my wall. I feel they supplement my meagre trophy collection very well and I am fast becoming addicted to wildlife photography.

I have no preference when it comes to subject matter. I will try to photograph all manner of wildlife including reptiles, birds, native species and of course feral game animals. My favourite would probably be rabbits, but of late I have started hunting with a fox whistle and with surprising results. I can see me very soon leaving the bow leaning up against a tree and shooting a few unsuspecting reynards with the camera. Already, I have regrets for not yet doing so, but it will happen. So far my biggest photographic coup would be the rusa stag I already mentioned. I am no expert but it is my belief this animal has antlers which would place him in record class as far as ABA is concerned and I was within effective bow range. Believe it or not,

(it is true), I actually had to yell out to him to lift his head up out of the long grass so I could photograph him and he is a genuine wild stag, not a farm or game-park animal.

I was extremely excited with this capture. That evening I uploaded a couple of the frames onto my facebook page and the ensuing comments I received were to be expected. Quite a few congratulations from friends, but there was one comment about how good the head would look on that respective person's wall. Personally, I thought the head looked pretty good right where it was ... attached to the animal's shoulders.

I have a long road yet to travel with regard to wildlife photography. I am still quite adept at snapping away only to find I end up with a lot of pictures of backsides and animals with their heads down eating, but I am learning. Who knows, perhaps one day I will abandon the bow altogether and just shoot everything with a camera. I know a few old, experienced hunters who have done just that and I respect their beliefs, their ethics and their decision.

To me, hunting with a bow or shooting with a camera is pretty much the same experience but as they say in the movie credits, 'no animals were harmed in the making of this' when all you're hunting for is a good image.

For a hunter like me who respects and admires all creatures both great and small, this love affair with the camera could well be the catalyst I need to change direction entirely. Time will tell.

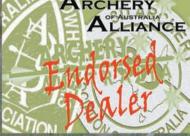


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- Some feral animals require a PERMIT to hunt them. CHECK your state legislation.

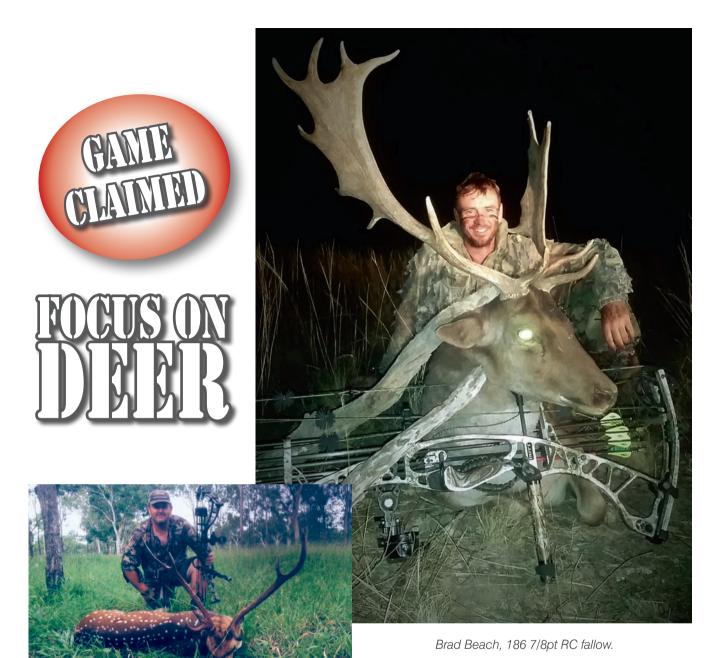
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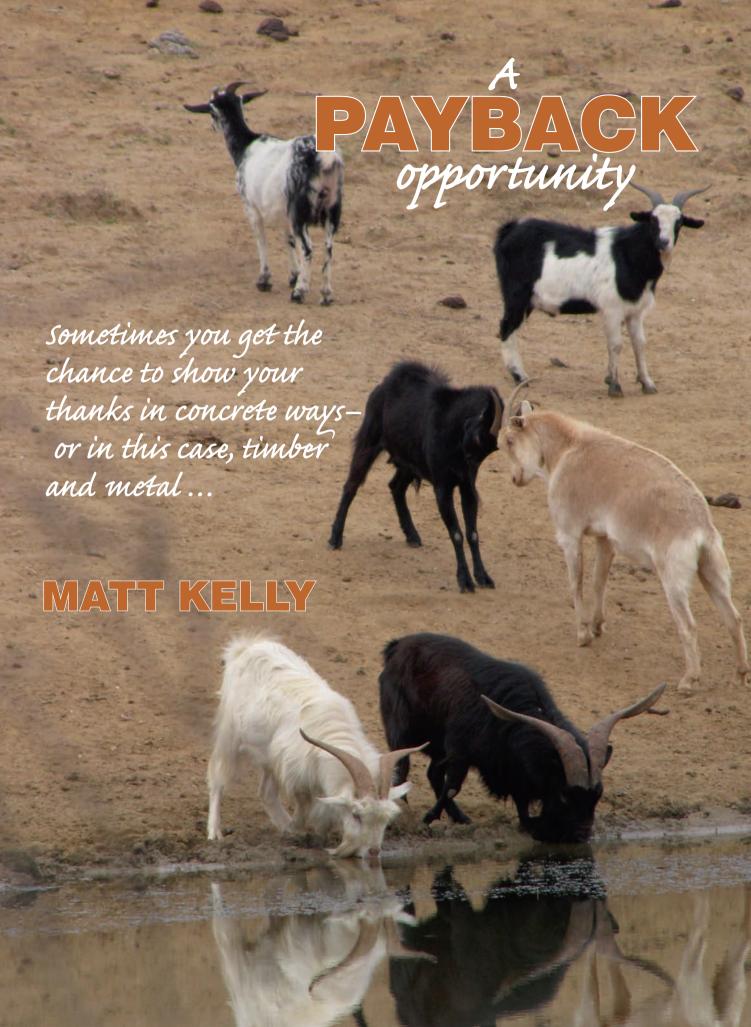
Toby Gall, chital.



Kevin Dowd, chital.









oing back a couple of years, I had the good fortune to again hunt on Angledool Station with two old hunting mates. By old, of course, I mean friends of many years—we're just about ageless. We have been hunting this property for more than 20 years and have become good friends with the owners Norm and Rose Philp.

I had flown from Darwin to Brisbane to meet with Eric Creighton and travel out to Longreach where we were to meet up with Tom Mitchell who was travelling down from Cairns. We always meet at the Lyceum Hotel, quite appropriately, as loosely translated from Greek the name means a meeting place. We have often shared a few beers and like the ancient Greeks have become involved in deep intellectual discussions. On this trip, we all arrived before lunch and after picking up a few additional supplies we headed out to cover the last 84km to the property. It always whets the

hunting appetite when we townies get off the sealed road.

This was to be a quite different hunting trip for us as it was to be combined with a couple of projects aimed at payback for the owner's long sufferance of our regular trips to their station. Norm and Rose had recently decided that enough was in fact enough and they were passing the baton to their daughter Mary and her husband Wade to take over the running of the property. The retiring couple were going to stay on for five years to gradually wean the younger generation into what was required to manage the business. The end result was that Rose and Norm were to move to the cottage and Wade and Mary were to take over the big house ... but the cottage required work.

This is where Eric's previous life trade skills took over—a floor sander and tiler by trade, he offered to sand and plastic the floors of the cottage with the assistance of Tom. (I was to

hold the tools and fetch the coffee). Additionally, the old chip heater at the shearers' quarters had given up the ghost and Tom offered his engineering experience, gear and tailormade parts to install a donkey hot water system with Eric's assistance (I was commissioned to hold the tools and fetch the coffee—again.)

The first five days were full on and there was no time for hunting, but the results of our efforts were incredibly satisfying. The cottage was sanded and three coats of plastic applied, the donkey was installed with great results (hot showers) and some other minor plumbing work was completed.

With our tasks at an end, it was time to take to the game trails. Over dinner the previous evening Norm had told us that the neighbour was mustering goats on his property and would more than likely push some of the animals onto his paddock that bordered the neighbours.

Bone tired after carrying all



The payback ... beautifully finished floors and a new donkey.



those tools (and coffees) for Tom and Eric, I still managed to crowbar the two of them out of their beds before dawn the next morning. We headed out to a dam that would be the central spot of our hunt as there was plenty of scrub and bush cover for further stalking if the dam offered

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nothing. We arrived just on daylight and prior to preparing ourselves for the hunt, we walked up to the rim of the dam to the sight of a great billy bedded halfway down the bank. Tom was more prepared than Eric or me so he took the stalk around the lip of the dam and came up over the edge and was presented with an easy 15yd shot which he executed to perfection—all within five minutes of arriving at the dam.

We returned to the vehicle and picked up camera and horn removal gear, but not our bows, then approached the rim of the dam again only to be confronted by another excellent billy coming in to water. It was Eric's turn this time and he backtracked to pick up his bow and skirted the dam below the bank only to find the billy and his girls were already departing the scene. We watched Eric prop and anchor at about 40vd and take out the billy through the heart—another great trophy and only 10 minutes had passed since our arrival. What a great start to the day.

Once the horns were removed and photos had been taken, we headed out separately, each following a different animal pad away from the dam. There were plenty of quality goats to be seen, but they were very skittish as a result of the mustering on the adjoining property so there was no further success that morning.

I joined up with Eric to begin the slow walk back to the vehicle. All of a sudden, we could distinctly hear what sounded like a rabbit in distress. As it turned out, the source of the squealing was Tom blowing on a button whistle and although it was a very convincing distress sound it was also optimistic considering the last fox spotted out here was in 1963. As it turned out Tom had come across the new

curse of the bush, three feral dogs meandering in to the dam for a drink. Eric and I approached the lip of the dam to find two of the dogs beating a hasty departure after a quick drink. No time for a shot and as they had winded us, no chance of following them up and no sight of the third dog.

In all the time that we have hunted this property these were the first feral dogs that we had seen, but the owners later told us that they and their neighbours had been spending more of their time attempting to keep the numbers down.

The following day we headed to a different section of the property and I dropped Tom and Eric off at different areas and they were to walk back to a dam where I would leave the vehicle and undertake some quality, lone hunting time. I had no sooner arrived at the designated dam when I spotted a small mob of goats meandering off unaware of the trouble that was coming their way. Quickly preparing myself for the stalk I headed off to find that the best of the billies had lagged behind the mob and was peacefully feeding when he took a nicely placed arrow through the lungs from my ACC longbow. He was my first Trophy Class goat in a very long time.

Returning to the dam, leaving photos and trophy removal until Tom and Eric returned, I spotted another small mob congregated at the top of the dam embankment. Stalking around under the cover of the pushed-up earth, I managed to get within 20m before I was exposed to view. The shot was taken and another double lung shot the result.

When Tom and Eric turned up they were totally impressed with my hunting, stalking and accuracy. Well, maybe not. All I got was a "Not bad" from them. Photos were taken





Eric took this beauty.

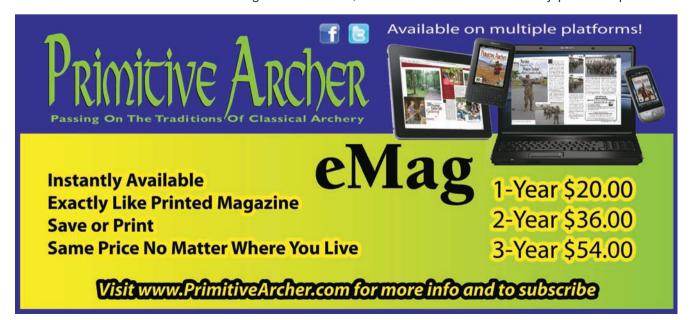
Matt's trophy class billy.

and the carcass closest to the dam edge was dragged further away from the dam wall ... and therein lies a mysterious tale and we were given good reason to recall the disappearance of one of the dogs on the previous day.

We don't usually go back to the same place two days running, but due to the drought, this part of the block had been destocked and the low level of water in the dams had encouraged the pigs to come in to the dams to feed off the numerous goat carcasses. Leaving Eric to walk the walk. I drove to the dam and after parking the ute, stalked over to the carcass of the goat I had shot the previous day, disturbing a very lucky cat on the way. After all my years in the bush one would think that I would have learned to move quietly and more alertly.

After the encounter with the cat, I skirted the dam wall to the spot where we had dragged the carcass. Not only were there no pigs feeding on the carcass, but no carcass

either! In a forensic mood, I examined the area. There were no drag marks apart from those we had made ourselves in moving the carcass-no bones, flesh remnants or hide and no evidence whatsoever that there had been a carcass there not more than 24 hours earlier. A wider search around the area also provided nothing to show what had happened to the goat. Did a mob of pigs in a uniquely co-operative mood pick up the goat and move it to a faraway pleasant spot in the







Matt with the goat that disappeared.

cool of a shady tree to devour it at their leisure? Hardly.

There was no way I was going to tell the other two of this mystery. I could imagine their ridicule ("Twit, you were on the wrong dam," came to mind). While I was refreshing myself with a large drink of water mixed with a little hops, Eric turned up. To cover the possible egoshattering discovery of the carcass, I mumbled that I would check on the cat that was last seen heading

for a pipe that connects the overflow to the dam. Casually tripping over old fencing and windmill parts, I stumbled off while keeping a sly eye on Eric. It wasn't long before he yelled, "Yah bloody goat's gone!" ... ever the one to quickly detect the obvious subtleties in the landscape, our Eric.

The owners, when questioned, said that they had not been in the area and we decided that the cause of the disappearance was going

Tom's TC goat.

to remain a mystery. A dead goat does not just get up and walk away and this goat was definitely dead! It makes me a bit nervy now when I'm out there by myself near a creek called Wolf and I hear the creak, creak, creak of a disused Southern Cross in the distance.

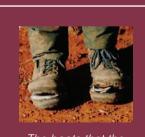
Me, worried just because a creek is named after an animal that we don't even see in Australia? Of course not! Just excuse me while I turn a little to glance behind me again ...

THE LAST WORD

One day, a hunter got lost and walked for miles and miles trying to find the way back to camp. Then, a stroke of luck—the hunter was fortunate enough to be picked up by a fellow in a council truck. This good Samaritan brought the hunter back to camp ... and then stayed

for several hours, relieving the group of all their supply of alcohol.

The moral of the story is: When hunting, wear boots that are not near their use-by date ... and always hide at least some of your alcohol. Oh, and try not to get lost in the first place!



The boots that the hunter was wearing.

Archery Alliance of Australia









SHOOFCANENDAR

November-December

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style	
November				
1st-2nd	Mendooran Archers*	E – Branch	Branch Titles	
4th	Diamond Valley*	Vic	Indoor QRE	
5th	Eden Field Archers*	St Marys SA	Field QRE	
5th-6th	Phoenix Field Archers of Sale*	G – Branch	State ABA Titles	
5th-6th	Yorke Peninsula Field Archers*	I – Branch	Branch Titles ABA & 3D	
6th	Archery SA*	SA	State Target	
6th	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	Presidents Shoot	
6th	Archery NSW*	NSW	State Clout	
6th	Mackay & District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA	
6th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA	
6th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA	
12th-13th	Nambucca Heads*	NSW	Australian Titles	
13th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA	
13th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA	
19th-20th	Saxon Archery Club*	C – Branch	Invitational	
19th-20th	Renegade Bowmen*	D – Branch	ABA	
19th-20th	Lithgow Valley Archers*	F – Branch	ABA & 3D	
19th-20th	Western Melbourne Field Archers*	H – Branch	ABA	
20th	Archery SA Field Championships	SA	Field	
20th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	3D	
20th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA	
26th	Great Southern Archers*	SA	Field QRE	
27th	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A – Branch	3D	
27th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA	
December	•			
2nd	Diamond Valley*	Vic	Indoor QRE	
3rd	Eden Field Archers*	St Marys SA	Field QRE	
4th	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	Presidents Shoot	
4th	Mackay District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA	
11th	Mount Isa Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA	
18th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA	

Black type shows ABA events, green type represents Archery Australia events and blue type denotes 3DAAA events

Shoots marked with an * are cross-participation events

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Preferred method of receiving Archery Action digitally online	ng	Post completed form to: General Secretary ABA PO Box 227		Renewal \square New Member \square
hard copy (mailed)		Aspley Qld 4034		New Member 🕳
,		Phone (07) 3256 3976		985 mbership Nº:
I, (full name)				(M-F)
of (street # & name)		(town-city	/)	(p-code)
Postal address (PO Box	#)	(town-city	y)	(p-code)
		Date o		
if accepted, do undertake and Code of Ethics of the sports conducted in the n full recognition of the Ass in my/our power to preser Code of Ethics and/or AB	to conduct my ABA. Additional atural environmociation's require the good im A's regulations	r/our membership in accor ally, I/we acknowledge tha nent which can impose inh irement for responsible ar nage of the sport and ABA may be subject to sanctio	dance with the C it Field Archery a nerent risks and t nd ethical behavi . I/We understan ons as per the Co	
ram a member or				. (Club)
			licant	
I enclose the required fee		e application for membersh	hip of ABA (Inc.)	on behalf of the following
		and reside at my address		on behalf of the following
Full Name of Applicant				Date of Birth
attain such age.		ty for the above applicants		the age of 18 years, until they
		serves the right to refuse, susp Rules and Policies of Associa		the membership of any person
		result in application being rej		
				ASSOCIATION
RENEWALS and/or Adva	ance Member	ships for existing memb	ers	USE ONLY
		years in advance		M'ship #s Allocated
Adults Juniors-Cubs	\$65 \$45	\$185 \$130		
	\$140	\$390		
New Members (12-mon	h membershi			
Adults	\$90			Receipt Number
Juniors-Cubs	\$70			Communitary Employed
Families	\$185			Computer Entered
PENSIONER DISCOUNT:				M'ship Forwarded
Quote Pension Benefit Ca	rd Number:	All fees include GST		
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applies only to parents a for children over 18 years	nd their childre . Couples withe	en under 18 years of age.	. Separate single s also pay separ	e membership must be taken rate single membership. In the
Card Number ↓ NA	ME OF CARD	OHOLDER (print)		

Signature



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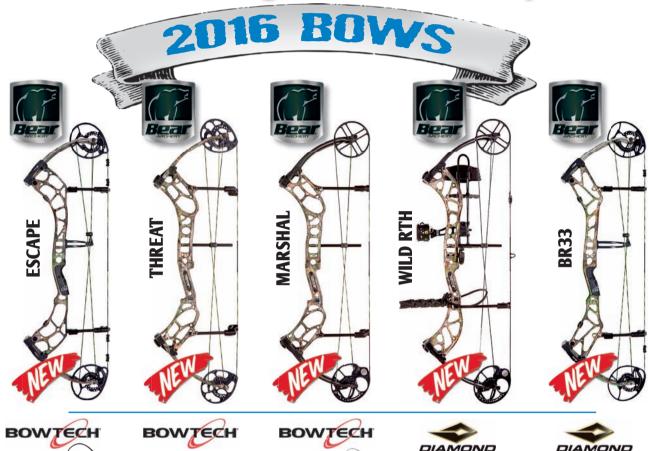
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ATOMIC PACKAGE

