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Heaven and hell
in one hunting trip

Western billies and high country fallow

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▼ INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

ABA MEMBERSHIP FORM	98
ABA Shop	68
ABA Youth Story Writing Competition	13
ABBEY ARCHERY	02, 100
ABBEY ARCHERY	63
ABBEY ARCHERY Photo Competition	37
ACTION GRAPHICS	83
AFRICA'S BOWHUNTER AND ARCHER	76
AMSO 128	16, 71
APEX HUNTING	57
APEX HUNTING	99
ARCHERY ACADEMY	07
ARCHERY ACTION – Deadlines	05
ARCHERY ACTION Gold Pen Award	18
ARCHERY ACTION – Subscriptions	31
ARCHERY ADDICTION	69
ARCHERY ALLIANCE Shoot Calendar	96
ARCHERY ALLIANCE OF AUSTRALIA	77
ARCHERY ESSENTIALS	56
AUSBOW INDUSTRIES	32
AUSSIE TARGETS	10
BCE TARGETS	12
BCY BOWSTRING	17
BENSON ARCHERY	50, 51
BOWCRAFT ARCHERY	85
BOWHUNTERS LODGE	21
BUSH BOW 3D TARGETS	09
DARRYL REEKS ARCHERY	02
DOCTARI SAFARIS	90
EAST COAST ARCHERY SUPPLIES	12
FULL DRAW ARCHERY	87
FULL FORCE HUNTING	55
HIGHLAND ARCHERY SUPPLIES	26
LAKESIDE ARCHERY SUPPLIES	12
MARSH INSURANCE BROKERS	34
NORFOLK ISLAND TRAVEL CENTRE	48
NORSEMAN TRADITIONAL BOWS	41
NORTH COAST FIREARMS	84
NORTHERN BROADHEADS PHOTO COMP	46
ORTECH INDUSTRIES	53
OZHUNTING AND BOWS	20
PACIFIC BOWHUNTING SAFARIS	45
POLLARD INSURANCE	09
PRIMITIVE ARCHER	97
QLD BOWHUNTING SAFARIS	08
RAZOR EDGE BROADHEAD SHARPENER	39
TASCO SALES AUSTRALIA	44
TASMANIAN ARCHERY SUPPLIES	43
TEN ZONE ARCHERY	49
3DAAA	59
3DAAA MONEY SHOOT (Sth Tweed, NSW)	60
TOBAS ARCHERY	39
TOOWOOMBA ARCHERY SUPPLIES	54
TOWNSVILLE GUN SHOP AND ARCHERY	27
TRADITIONAL ARCHERY AUSTRALIA MUSTER	35
TROPHY BOWHUNTS AUSTRALIA	03
TUSKER JUNIOR PHOTO COMP	47
TUSKER TROPHY OF THE MONTH	11
URBAN ARCHERY	41
WFAC 2018 Expressions of Interest	18

WHAT'S ON

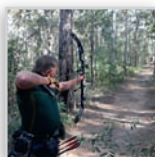
SNSW Branch ABA/3D Shoot Campbelltown	95
SNSW Branch ABA Titles Southwest Slopes	95



September-October 2017 • Volume 43 No. 1

▼ REGULARS

5	Editorial
14	ABA newsletter, Game Claimed listing, TBA column
32	Around the Trads
37	Photo Competition entries
40	Traditional Trails
46	Game Claimed pictorial
61	Roy Rose meanderings
74	Out of the Box
84	Products
88	Outside the Zone



▼ FEATURES

6	Hog deer ... heaven and hell in one hunting trip	Troy Morris
22	Australian IFAA Championships	Jeanette Dowd
38	Boolaroo Bowmen 25th anniversary	
48	Plan an archery holiday at Norfolk Island	
52	Western billies and high country fallow	John Teitzel
59	3DAAA report—Hinterland Field Archers	
64	Lessons from Ishi	John Barlow
70	The old adage	Jyri Iivonen
78	Principles of pouches	Tony Jensen
91	Making jerky	Alan Madden



COVER PHOTOGRAPH

◀ Carol Teitzel with a white goat (123 3/8pt) taken during a hunting trip in western New South Wales. See story, *Western billies and high country fallow*, on Page 52.

Photo by
JOHN TEITZEL

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Even if you're not one to read the magazine from cover to cover, please read Mark Burrows' Bowhunting Division Report in this issue, starting on Page 14.

If you have ever faced another person and been stumped for positive things to say about your hunting, once you've read this report you can at least explain the economic benefits you are bringing the country from the activity.

The report touches on the NSW Economic Impact Study on Recreational Hunting, and the figures may surprise you. Game hunting is responsible for 860 jobs in NSW alone and accounts for the spending of much-needed money in regional areas. Just in NSW, seven non-metropolitan Local Government areas have reported that hunters spend \$1 million or more in a year in their regions. Some regions have reported that hunting is worth more than double that amount to them. When you add it up, the amount is astounding. Recreational hunting apparently accounts for well over \$1 billion to the economy and as many as 11,500 jobs. Of course, rifle hunters are responsible for a great deal of this, but bowhunters are sharing in the spend.

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE		DEADLINE
Vol 43 No. 2	November-December	1 October
Vol 43 No. 3	January-February	1 December
Vol 43 No. 4	March-April	1 February



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We already know that every feral animal a bowhunter accounts for is one animal less for property owners and conservationists to worry about. It's good to know we are also helping to keep the regional economy afloat.

And now, to announce our winner. Congratulations to David Luxford for writing the story which has won this year's *Archery Action* Gold Pen Award. The story was *Sharing the Spirit of the Hunt* and was a tale of travels, mateship and the joy of seeing a good friend win the coveted Trophy Bowhunters Australia annual award, Bowhunter of the Year.

The Gold Pen Award prize is an amazing red deer hunt donated by Mick Baker at Trophy Bowhunts Australia—and of course a gold pen!

We would also like to highly commend two offshore stories—*Aussies in Africa* by Kev Windle (superb photos!) and *Antelope Adventure*, which was Adam White's story about his hunting trip in Colorado, USA. And back home, it was good to read the *Ladies' Maiden Hunting Trip* as told by Allan Driver and *Hunting the Gulf with Murphy* by Graham Newell.

Jenel Hunt
Editor

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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All expressions of opinion in Archery Action with Outdoor Connections are published on the basis that they reflect the personal opinion of the authors, and as such are not to be taken as expressing the official opinion of the publishers unless expressly so stated. Artemis Productions accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any opinion or information, or the reader's reliance upon it, contained in this magazine.

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

Hog deer ...
HEAVEN AND HELL
in one hunting trip



TROY MORRIS

Dean Cunningham (front left) who took a hog deer stag on the first day of hog season 2016—also on his very first hog deer trip—with David Luxford (right) and (back, from left) Doug Bourman, Cheryl Morris, Troy Morris and Michael McCormick.

Heading east across the paddock from Perth, we had our vehicle loaded up for another year pursuing the elusive little hog deer of Victorian's east coast. This year we had Doug Bourman back for another crack after enduring a tough season, Dean Cunningham was on his first hog deer hunt, David Luxford was back to man the stands and my wife Cheryl was the fourth hunter of the crew for her first crack at taking a hog deer. I was the fifth wheeler of the crew, and was planning to assist Cheryl as she endeavoured to harvest her first deer.

The sleepless night of March 31 was finally over and daylight slowly smeared itself across the tea-tree-thickened bush. Cheryl and I were tucked high up in our stand in a small clearing at the head of a thick bush-choked gully. Anticipation was quickly replaced by nerves and excitement when two does and a spikey suddenly emerged from the tree lining and fed around our stand. Cheryl was fascinated as she watched these great little deer go about their business totally unaware of our presence in the treetops. Movement off to my left caught my attention and I watched two stags walk towards our stand. One of the stags was a good mature stag supporting a good 12-inch set of antlers and the other stag had an eight-inch set of antlers. The bigger stag veered off in to

the bush just before he reached our shooting path. We could hear him rubbing trees directly in front of us while the smaller stag now fed with the other deer in front of the stand. At one stage, the smaller stag was almost straight under the stand at six metres from us. Cheryl was jumping out of her skin wanting to take the smaller stag. I made her hold off in the belief that the bigger stag would stop rubbing trees and would come out to feed with the others. Well, didn't that blow up in my face as the wind swirled around and in a blink of an eye all deer were gone.

I had a quick realisation that this was not me hunting but Cheryl ... and she wasn't happy. To her, that was her trophy and it was now gone. One thing we do as bowhunters is that we often hold off for that bigger trophy to present and then regret our decision. It was a lesson learned for me, but what a way to start the trip.

Back in the stand that afternoon, we only had one doe and her calf come in to feed and as darkness settled in a small spikey appeared from nowhere and mingled with the other deer. On the way back to camp Cheryl and I discussed how special and peaceful it was to watch mum and her calf go about their business that afternoon. I am so grateful to be finally sharing this experience with my wife, who has spent many years listening to our stories and now

could see it for herself.

On arriving back at camp, we were greeted with great news—Dean had shot a good stag in the final hour of light that afternoon. Mick and Dean had given the stag an hour after the shot before they went to retrieve it. They returned with a very impressive 13-inch stag and one very excited and grateful bowhunter. Dean is one of the nicest guys you will ever meet and in his own relaxed way he told us the stag came in to the stand and he shot in the big bit (straight through the chest) and that was that. Dean keeps things simple and doesn't overthink the process; something we all can learn from. Well done, Dean.

The next morning we moved to a different stand. We had only just settled in our seats when a doe and three-quarter-grown calf came walking down the game trail to feed below the stand. A spikey soon joined them and they milled around below us for about 30 minutes. Suddenly the small spiker tucked his ears back and crept off into the tea-tree then with a bark crashed off through the bush. I assumed he had winded us and as I hit my wind buffer, to my surprise a nine-inch stag appeared 50m down on the track to our right and slowly made his way toward the stand.

Cheryl's eyes lit up as the stag moved around our stand and I gave her the thumbs up. To my surprise, she was very calm as we waited for

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Dean Cunningham.



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the stag to present broadside. Like a dress rehearsal the stag turned broadside and opened his chest cavity up as he brought his front leg forward and quietly fed. I had the video recorder running and my binos locked on his chest as Cheryl fired the bow and the stag disappeared into the thicket. Because of the speed the stag travelled from the impact area I couldn't make out the exact arrow placement, but I thought it looked good.

After giving Cheryl 10 minutes in the stand to calm down, we went and inspected where he had entered the bush line. There was no sign of

blood so I called Mick for a pick up and we went back to camp to review the video footage in slow mode on the TV screen. Disbelief and disappointment are the only words I can find to describe what we saw: The shot was at the perfect height but the stag's reactions to the bow shot was amazing. As the arrow descended towards the stag he was already dropping his chest to the ground, his chest hit the ground and the stag pushed completely sideways as the arrow penetrated the top of his skin above his chest. The whole hunting crew were in disbelief of the stag's reaction and now I had Cheryl ques-

tioning herself on the dreaded bow-hunters' morals. Cheryl had trained all year for that shot, shooting out of tree stands, aiming low behind the leg, arrow after arrow. There was only one way to resolve this and that was to get back in the stand.

That afternoon we moved to one of the front stands as the easterly winds settled in early. The afternoon was long and we only saw a couple of hinds moving through the long grass for the rest of day. Both Doug and David had plenty of action that afternoon but darkness finished their hunt with no shots taken. Still, the sightings of good stags had them pumped and ready for the next day.

Day three saw a quiet morning in the stands with no movement of any game or even native wildlife. We all headed back to camp for an early lunch and to catch up on some shut-eye before an early afternoon in the

stands. Cheryl and I headed to one of the back stands around 2pm and it wasn't long before I had glassed several different does and one very impressive stag as they moved through the long grass over a period of an hour. The big stag was trailing a doe around as she moved through the long grass throughout the afternoon about 400m out from the stand.

With my focus on the large stag in the paddock, I didn't see a hind move in front of us. Cheryl gave me a nudge to get my attention as an 11-inch stag appeared from nowhere and was now milling around in front of us between 16m and 20m. Cheryl got ready to shoot as I focussed the video camera and took a distance reading on the stag. I whispered to Cheryl, "Eighteen metres," as the stag turned quartering away. Cheryl drew the bow and locked in and I focussed on the video LCD screen

as she released. Everything happened quickly but the stag was still standing there. I leaned forward and viewed the stag with my binos: He was looking around wondering what the noise was that had spooked him. Surprisingly, I could see the arrow nock under his chest buried in the grass. This time Cheryl was totally shattered and we sat not talking. The deer finally decided something wasn't right and moved off, I was hoping to give Cheryl time to gather her thoughts and relax but this wasn't going to be the case. The big stag and his doe were now making their way in our direction. I turned to Cheryl and told her to nock an arrow as the doe and her big stag was coming in slowly towards us. Thirty minutes later the doe approached first, followed by her big fella, I didn't tell Cheryl how big he was but she had a good idea by my reaction that

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he was good. The stag was now in front of our stand. He took a while to relax and now finally fed by himself broadside at 20m. Video camera and binos were locked in on the stag's chest as Cheryl settled at full draw. Crack! The stag sprinted off through the long grass and disappeared. I caught a flash of him as he entered the safety of the tea-tree wall on the opposite side of paddock. As soon as I looked at Cheryl I could see she was broken. To me the shot had

looked good but I wanted to get back to camp and analyse the footage just to be sure. I didn't call up for a ride back to camp ... instead we decided to take our time and walk back as we discussed what had unfolded in the stand and I got Cheryl to talk.

Once back, the first thing was to review the first stag from the afternoon. To say the hunting crew all sat in disbelief would be an understatement—the footage revealed that the stag had ducked the shot. The stag dropped fully to its right side as the arrow sailed over its back. The arrow placement had been at the perfect height but the deer was no longer there. When I viewed through my binos after the shot, the stag had been in the same place but looking around to see what had spooked him and I could see the nock under the stag's chest in the grass. From that I thought Cheryl had shot too low ... how bloody wrong was I! When we viewed the footage for the big stag, we could see the stag dropped only slightly and the arrow impacted high behind the shoulder into the back-strap area just above the chest cavity. I had told Cheryl to hold a little higher because of what had happened on the first stag and now I was kicking myself for not getting out of the stand and reviewing the footage of the first stag that day as this would have seen the arrow hit the right spot on the big stag. You can always say and do a lot of what ifs and could haves but at the end of the day we got handed a hard lesson. Regardless, Cheryl was not in a good place and the hunt had taken its toll on her. To her credit, she was going to get back in the stands to give them another crack the next day, but only after we had a good follow-up of the big stag just to make sure it was fine. We managed to track the stag for about 500m from where it entered the thicket of the tea tree before the blood sign stopped and

the stag showed no sign of slowing down. We were all comfortable that the stag was fine and would be back out chasing does by end of the week.

That afternoon, Mick went with Cheryl in the stand and I headed out for an early afternoon in the stand by myself with no real intention on shooting a deer. I had only just got organised in my stand, sat down and took my first look around when to my disbelief I saw a stag making his way across the paddock. He was moving fast, cutting through the long grass straight towards me. I had no time to get my binos on him—he came in and trotted straight past my stand then propped, turned and slowly pranced back in towards my stand. He was spooked and didn't look like he was going to settle. My mind was already made up as I drew the bow and locked the pin on his chest and as he came into my shooting window I released. The stag spun and sprinted off until tumbling over 50m from the stand. I wasted no time in getting out of the stand as the blood trail from the stand was a telling sign. I decided to get the stag out of the area straight away as the afternoon was still early and I didn't want to spook any other deer. I was back at camp with a stag in the ute within an hour of leaving camp that afternoon. I had mixed emotions once back at camp. Doug and David were in day four with no stag on the ground and Cheryl had been through the hog deer horrors. I didn't realise that Cheryl and Mick had watched the stag get shot from their stand and they couldn't believe how or why the stag was so spooked.

Cheryl and Mick had no deer come in that afternoon, David called late for a pick up and returned with a nervous story. A stag came in just off dark; David didn't muck around and put an arrow tight behind the leg. The stag veered back behind the stand

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and out of sight. David was confident of the shot, but the burden of a long night was on his mind.

The next morning Cheryl, Doug and I headed to the back stands as the rest of the crew went to recover David's stag. We didn't last long in the stands—the anticipation of not knowing if David had found his stag had got to us. When we arrived in the paddock we were greeted by David, who was overwhelmed with emotions and relief after just finding his stag. The stag had gone down 70m from arrow impact but had disappeared in long grass. It had taken three hours to find, as the stag had only bled internally.

The rest of the morning was shared together with great friends as we took photos and celebrated another magnificent hog deer stag harvested by David.

That afternoon the hunting gods finally aligned and Doug triumphed.



Troy with his unexpected stag.

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TUSKER TROPHY OF THE MONTH

Best Trophy Taken

Taken with a Tusker Head, Recognised by ABA

Grahame Duff, Uralla Bowmen, Fox 11 pts Provisional Australia Record



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First Kill or FKOS

Taken with a Tusker Head, Recognised by ABA

Kristan Bell, Mt Isa District Bowhunters, Boar, 34 2/8 pts Australian Women's Record



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BEST GAME NOT TAKEN WITH A TUSKER

Dean Klienitz, Independent, Fallow Deer, 212 2/8 pts RC



WINNER Packet of TUSKER BROADHEADS

After Doug had spent a long day in the stands, a big stag cut through the deer run in the fence and came marching in to Doug's stand just before darkness started to settle in. The stag turned broadside at 16m metres and Doug wasted no time putting an arrow through its vitals. Doug watched the stag expire a little over 50m from the stand. What a cracker of a stag—14in long and one of the heaviest antlered hog deer stags I had seen. Two seasons and approximately 80 hours of sitting in tree stands had finally paid off!

The last two days saw Cheryl and me put in long hours in the stands, but the deer movement had dried up and no shot opportunities were presented. We suddenly had the realisation that the hunt was over.

To my surprise the challenges, disappointments and lessons of the hunt made Cheryl more determined to come back and harvest one of these unique Australian deer.

The final total was two trophy and

two record class hog deer between the five of us. Doug's stag went Best of Species for 2016 in ABA.

It was a great trip with the best of friends, and to share this experience with Cheryl made it even more special to me. The trip had laid down more challenges and learning experiences than I ever could have expected. One thing was certain: There would be a lot to keep me thinking about hog deer until the next April rolled around.

The writer of this story
wins a threepack of
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David's hog deer.

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Doug Bourman's stag made the Best of Species for 2016.

Youth Story Writing Competition 2017-2018

The Australian Bowhunters Association is interested to hear from you!

We are offering an opportunity for the youngsters of our sport to submit a story on their experience in archery and have the opportunity to win! How did you get involved in archery? What has been your most memorable event? What do the other kids at school think of your choice of sport? Are you a bowhunter? Let us know via a story.

The Competition Details:

- The competition is open to all cubs (up to and including the age of 12 at the time of submission)
- Stories should be no longer than 250 words long • One entry per cub • Open to financial ABA members

Competition winners will receive:

- The story writer cub will win a \$100 archery shop voucher • Their club will receive a new set of targets of their choice from Action Graphics
- Any entry, including the winning stories, has the chance of being published in an edition of Archery Action (upon permission from parents or guardians)
- Any entry for Archery Action is welcome to accompany the story with a suitable photograph, minimum 1MB file in size (upon permission from parents or guardians)
- Entries open from August 2017 and winners will be announced at the 2018 National Safari in Alice Springs

How do I enter?

Cubs or clubs are to submit their entries direct to Amanda Skinner, National Treasurer via email amanda-skinner@bigpond.com
All entries will be confirmed upon receipt - Any questions, please contact Amanda Skinner on 0438 573 792 after 5pm weekdays.





Australian Bowhunters Association



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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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South Australia	Brett Raymond	0418 810 598
Western Australia	Ken Neil	0418 926 862
Tasmania – see Victoria		
Trophy Bowhunters of Australia	Ralph Boden	(02) 4392 6810

BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Vice-President Bowhunting)



TBA Muster

Don't forget the TBA Muster is on September 9 and 10 at ABA Park, Mudgee. Guest speakers will cover a large range of hunting topics. There will be something for new and old bowhunters alike. There will also be a 20-target 3D round available. No prizes, no divisions—just the opportunity to test your bowhunting gear in a hunting environment.

Re-accreditation

On the weekend of May 18 and 19 2018, the Bowhunting Division will be conducting our four-year cycle of re-accreditation for Branch Measurers and BPC officers. Branches need to make sure they have someone available to take on this very important role. My hope is that

we maintain a percentage of current officers as they are an important part of helping out the new officers during this training weekend.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those members who have given their time, and continue to do so, in the operation of these positions. It is the grass roots of what we do and without your support we would not operate as effectively.

NSW Economic Impact Study on Recreational Hunting

The New South Wales Game Licensing Unit has released a study into the Economic Impact of Recreational Hunting in New South Wales. This report is significant in that it shows a positive effect hunting has on that State. Some of the more notable findings were:

- Game hunting (deer) alone is worth \$119M per year to the NSW economy and is responsible for 860 jobs (to put that in perspective it is double what the Bathurst 1000 or the Tamworth County Music Festival bring to the State).
- The figure for all recreational hunting is even more startling—207,000 non-game recreational hunters are worth as much as \$1.36B per year to the economy and support more than 11,500 jobs.
- Hunting is a great driver of tourism, more than a quarter of hunting in NSW is conducted by interstate visitors.
- While the majority of hunters live in large urban areas (Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong), hunters spend a lot of money in regional areas. The spend in the Tamworth

region, for example, was \$2.6m, with seven non-metropolitan Local Government Areas recording a spend of \$1M or more.

Hunting has a deep value in our society, culturally, socially and from a conservation outlook ... this report builds on the Victorian report from 2014 which showed that game hunting is worth \$439M a year to the State and once again makes it crystal clear that hunting is also critically important economically. Hunters from around Australia could use these figures as an indicator of what could possibly be happening in their State as well.

These are important findings and I would urge all members to get familiar with the key points and use the findings as a conversation starter with your non-hunting friends and family or when promoting hunting in any forum. The full report can be viewed on the NSW DPI website. We all need to take on the role of ambassadors for hunting; to continually leave this to someone else will be to our detriment in the long run.

Victorian Crown Land Submission

Several months ago, I submitted a submission to the Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee in regard to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into invasive animals on Crown land.

This inquiry found that there is a lack of robust data about the extent of the invasive animal problem and the effectiveness of different control methods. Some work is

Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

Species	Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Boar	Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29	25
Goat	James Finlay	151 2/8	110	95
Buffalo	John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Camel	Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Fox	Dave Parker	10 15/16	10 2/16	9 3/16
Cat	Tim Pitt-Lancaster	8 5/16	7 10/16	7
Red Deer	Dan Smith	315 3/8	200	175
Fallow Deer	Jason Robinson	264 5/8	190	150
Chital Deer	Dan Smith	204	160	140
Hog Deer	Stephen Tilley	111 7/8	70	55
Sambar Deer	Dean Scott	203 5/8	162 7/8	140
Rusa Deer	Jay Janssen	236	170	150
Shark BHFF	Barry Feeney	35 2/8	28	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	9 1/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

Women's Bowshot Records

Boar	Kristan Bell	34 2/8pt	2017
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Emma Johnson	87 2/8pt	2015
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 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 6/8pt	2016
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell	25 4/8pt	2016
Shark BF	Lynda Fell	23 5/8pt	2000
Stingray BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986

currently under way to improve their understanding, but the results are not yet available. They stated that further work in this area would be important for future policy development.

This inquiry focussed on the role of shooting for the control of invasive animals, particularly the role of recreational hunters. There was general agreement that recreational hunting cannot manage Victoria's invasive animal problem by itself. However, it may be part of the solution in some circumstances, if the hunting effort can be focussed at particular times and places and integrated into a broader control program involving multiple methods of animal control.

This report considers in more detail when and how recreational hunters can be most helpful in terms of animal control. However, there was broad agreement among submitters and witnesses to this inquiry that recreational


hunting cannot remove enough animals by itself to manage the invasive animal problems in Victoria. Nonetheless, the evidence received by the Committee suggests that recreational hunting can be an effective part of programs involving multiple control methods for certain species in some circumstances, if the hunting effort can be focussed at particular times and places.

The results of the enquiry are certainly not spectacular and in the end I do not know if there was a great deal achieved, certainly not on behalf of bowhunters. But we will continue to throw our hat into any ring that may have a positive result for bowhunting in general. It's a case of letting those in authority know that we exist; and while we don't make a lot of noise, we are here.

You can find a copy of the full report and a summary booklet on the Committee's website which can be found at <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/enrrdc/article/3002>.



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Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award	FK/FKOS	Size
B Darby Knudson	Mt Isa District Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	RC	FKOS	195 7/8
B Tony Locke	Mt Isa District Bowhunters	Chital Deer	RC	FKOS	176 1/8
B John Teitzel	Independent	Fallow Deer	TC		184 5/8
B John Teitzel	Independent	Fox	TC		9 14/16
B John Teitzel	Independent	Fox	TC		9 7/16
B John Teitzel	Independent	Cat	TC		7 1/16
B Mitch King	Townsville District Bowhunters	Fox	TC	FKOS	10
B Toby Gall	Mackay & District Bowmen	Chital Deer	TC		152 4/8
D Thomas Buxton	Grange Bowmen	Red Deer	GA	FK/FKOS	147 3/8
D Thomas Buxton	Grange Bowmen	Fallow Deer	RC	FKOS	219 7/8
D Thomas Buxton	Grange Bowmen	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
D Thomas Buxton	Grange Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	TC		101 2/8
E Chris Kendall	Manning District Field Archers	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
E Scott Fenton	Sapphire City Archers	Fox	TC	FK/FKOS	9 4/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 7/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 3/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 14/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		10 7/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 5/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 5/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 4/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	RC		10 3/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 6/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		10
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 14/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 4/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 6/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		10
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 15/16

E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	10
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	RC	10 7/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 4/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	10
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 15/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 9/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 14/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 11/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	PAR	11
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 10/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 5/16
F Robert Mihalyka	Independent	Fox	TC	9 5/16
F Robert Mihalyka	Independent	Fox	RC	10 6/16
F Robert Mihalyka	Independent	Goat	GA FKOS	0
F Jason Lesnik	Independent	Fox	TC	9 3/16
F Jason Lesnik	Independent	Fox	TC	9 12/16
F Jason Lesnik	Independent	Fox	TC	9 11/16
F Jason Lesnik	Independent	Fox	TC	9 8/16
F Peter Moore	Orange & District Bowhunters	Goat	TC	105 2/8
G Colin Brownlie	Independent	Fox	RC	10 7/16
G Chris Bourne	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Hog Deer	TC FKOS	59 2/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 7/16
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Goat	TC	104 7/8
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 6/16
H Wayne Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Pig	GA FKOS	0
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Fox	RC	10 4/16
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	RC	110
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	RC	114 2/8
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC	104 7/8
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC	100
H Anthony Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC	101 3/8
I Dain Hastwell	Silver City Archers	Goat	RC FKOS	123
I Dain Hastwell	Silver City Archers	Pig	GA FK/FKOS	0
I Dain Hastwell	Silver City Archers	Fox	GA FKOS	0
I Damion Horner	Playford District Field Archers	Pig	GA FKOS	0
I Damion Horner	Playford District Field Archers	Goat	TC	97 2/8
I Damion Horner	Playford District Field Archers	Fox	GA FKOS	0
J Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	Goat	RC	123 5/8
J Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	Goat	RC	116 3/8
J Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC	108
J Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC	10
J Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	Red Deer	GA FKOS	0
J Adina Wilde	Western Plains Archers	Goat	GA FKOS	0
J Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Red Deer	TC FKOS	195 2/8
J Angus Officer	Western Plains Archers	Red Deer	GA FKOS	0
J Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Fallow Deer	RC FKOS	193 6/8
J Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Goat	RC	117 5/8
J Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC	100 4/8
J Cheryl Morris	Western Plains Archers	Shark	GA FKOS	0
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	GA FKOS	8 9/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC	9 5/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC	9 12/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC	10
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Goat	GA FKOS	0
J Josh Matthews	Western Plains Archers	Shark	TC FK/FKOS	27
J Josh Matthews	Western Plains Archers	Scaled Fish	GA FKOS	0
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC	9 7/16
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC	9 7/16
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC	9 15/16
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Hog Deer	TC FKOS	67 4/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Sambar Deer	GA FKOS	0
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Hare	GA FKOS	0



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All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition

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The 2018 WFAC is scheduled to be held in South Africa. Anyone who would like to express their interest in attending, please contact team leader
Mike White
0418 514 841
email
white3317@gmail.com



Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



Q & A

I've seen a patch that features three arrows and I've been told it is a TBA patch. What does it signify?

You become eligible to wear the Three Arrow Chevron when you are a member of the Australian Bowhunters Association who has claimed three different species at Trophy Class level with the bow and arrow. This means you have become a Senior Member of the Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club. Each arrow represents a Trophy Class animal. As you take more Trophy Class animals, you can add an arrow for each species.

How do I get the patch?

Each species of game claimed must be recognised at Branch level by your Branch Field Representative, who forwards the information for national recording. You will receive a letter in recognition of this and once you have this letter you are eligible to obtain the patch from the ABA Shop.



For more information, see the ABA website, www.bowhunters.org.au, under the Quick menu link at the left of the page, "TBA Info Booklet".

Welcome to TBA Nicholas Moloney

Hi Nick. Where do you live, and how long have you been hunting?

I live at Emerald in Central Queensland. I grew up on a property and I used to be right into archery when I was younger. I used to hunt then, although I wasn't a member of ABA. When I left St George, where I grew up, I sold all my archery gear. This was my first hunting trip since I came off the property, so it was my first kill and first kill of species since I've been in the ABA.

How long have you been an ABA member?

About three or four years—this time. I was actually in the ABA at St George when they started a club up there, but it didn't last. I didn't keep up my membership, which is a pity. I'd love to know what my ABA number was back then! But I only become a member again when my young son got involved in archery which got me back in.

What sort of bow do you use?

I went to my first comp and made A Grade and I've been there ever since,

Bowhunter Unlimited A Grade. I used to shoot barebow years and years ago, with wooden arrows, but these days I prefer sights and I use a rangefinder when I hunt. The bow I used to take my first goat was a Martin Cougar Magnum set at 66lb.

Are you a member of an archery club; if so what one. Do you hold a position in the club?

Yes, I'm in the local club. I'm Range Captain. It's good; I enjoy it. The guys who shoot the range enjoy the ranges I build. I set the shots up like hunting style shots. I like to have a bit of grass—I don't like having mowed fairways to the target. A lot of the time I don't make the distances that long, but if there's a bit of long grass here and a log there it seems to trick people up and make the targets look further away than they really are.

How often do you get to go hunting?

As I said, this was my first trip. I have done a second trip this year—to Weipa—but I didn't have much success: Too much grass, and I was out at the wrong time of the year. I was after pigs and I saw heaps of pigs but there was nothing really big. I don't shoot an arrow just to kill—I want to get a big animal. I went for three weeks but never fired an arrow. Still, I got plenty of fish and had a good time.

When I went on the first hunt in southwest Queensland in January and got my big goat, I had my son with me. It was Sam's first bowhunt and I watched him get his first kill. He got a goat and a pig on the same trip. I got more pleasure out of that than out of getting my own animals, really. I took two record glass goats on that trip but watching him stalk and do everything he was taught was actually the highlight of the trip. Sam has been State Champion for the last two years running, so he shoots quite well.

Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?

Having a good first trip has encouraged me to take up more hunting, but of course it's a matter of getting the time. I have a mate in Charters Towers and I'm going to go and see if we can get a chital deer. I've never had much to do with deer, but other hunters reckon they're pretty hard.

Do you have any hunting goals that you would like to achieve (Bowhunter Awards etc)?

Not really, I just like going bush and spending time with my son and my mates. If I take an animal that's good but I'm not really driven to be Bowhunter of the Year or anything like that. It's more a personal thing for me—the pleasure of just being out in the bush with people I like.

How much did you know about TBA before this?

I used to do measuring when I was at the club in St George so I did know about it.

The TBA Committee congratulates you on your achievement, Nick.

Nicholas Moloney—Record Class goat, 119 4/8pt.

Nick's story:

It was my first hunt for a very, very long time. It was out near Bollon in southwest Queensland. I was there with David Brewer and my son Sam.



Bowhunting achievements

as at August 1, 2017

Master Bowhunter Award for those obtaining 300 points or better in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula):

Graeme Duff	530
Tyler Atkinson	370
Helen Duff	300

Trophy Bowhunter Award for those obtaining 200 points or better in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula):

Nil at this time

Bowhunter Award for those obtaining 100 points or better in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula):

David Rethus	190
Ben Ireland	180
Lloyd Scott	170
Ben Chambers	140
Neville Ashton	120
Daniel Ferguson	100
John Teitzel	100
Jason Lesnik	100

Bowhunter Royale

Nigel Morris
Peter Moore

Bowhunter Imperial

Nil further since last report

Bowhunter Supreme

Tyler Atkinson

Senior Member of TBA

Chris Bourne

Members admitted to TBA Club

(membership granted after the taking of an ABA member's first Trophy Class or better animal)

Thomas Buxton
Scott Fenton
Dain Hastwell
Josh Matthews

We actually camped in the old shearing quarters. We had swags and could have pulled up to camp anywhere—we have solar panels and are pretty self sufficient—but the property owner offered us the old shearers quarters so that's what we did.

The day I took the goat we went out early where we knew goats were coming in. We'd walked a couple of mornings before and no big billys had come in, but this day we decided to go an hour earlier, so we went out in the dark so we could walk in and sit and wait for them.

When we got near we could see goats moving off and Dave thought we'd missed our chance but I said I'd have a look anyway. I cut through the scrub towards the boundary fence. There was a division fence

and an open clear paddock. There was a blue billy with big horns and I put in a stalk on him. I got within 60m and would have cut him off before he got to the boundary fence except for a little nanny and kid feeding towards the boundary fence between him and me. She didn't see me but I had to wait for her to move off and by that time he had beaten me and had gone through the hole.

I went up near the hole and looked back. The other goats had split and were feeding on the other side of the timberline. I stalked in and saw a massive white goat but he was out the front of the mob and I was behind.

There were about 20 goats; lots of nannies and kids. I had to work around them to get to the front and

I nearly got sprung by an old nanny and kid—she was looking at me stomping her feet but trotted off and the other goats followed her. The big billy was still there, though.

I skirted around the edge of the pine trees and the leader of the goats came and started eating on a bush so I ranged the bush and sure enough the big fellow came out and started nibbling. He was broadside 42m away. I released the arrow and he didn't take another step. He just dropped.

I took two goats that trip. The second one was record class too, about 113pt. It was going to be Sam's goat but he'd forgotten his release aid so I got to shoot it. But neither of them had horns as big as the blue billy.

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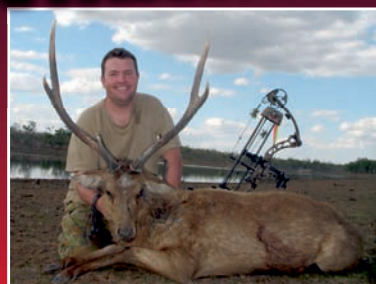
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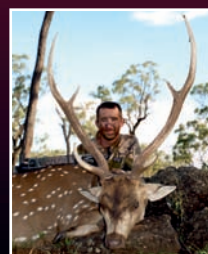
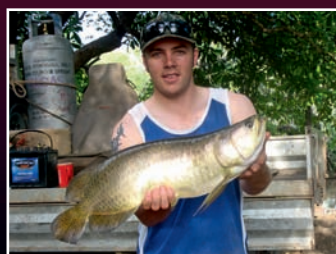
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Record-breaking **2017 IFAA** *Australian* *Championships*

JEANETTE DOWD

There couldn't have been a better description for the weather than the old Queensland Tourism saying, "Beautiful one day, perfect the next" when the Renegade Bowmen hosted the 2017 IFAA National Championships in June. Last year at Mudgee the hills, cold, wind and rain got to competitors and it showed in the scores. This year, the mostly flat ground and fantastic warm weather saw personal best scores and 26 national records broken over the five days.



Two of the 132 competitors.

Competitors had the choice to shoot either five or three days (the best three scores were submitted) but the rounds had to include one animal, one hunter and one field round. There were 132 competitors all up, with 104 shooting five days and 28 opting to shoot the three days.

IFAA is all about endurance, keeping focussed for all four arrows at the 28 targets. By the end of the five days some archers were happy it was over but some would have loved to shoot for a few more days.

It was so great to see so many archers leave the range with smiles on their faces after each day's achievements.

Perfect 560 animal rounds were shot by seven arch-

ers—Tony Evans, Brad Stephan, Tony Hester, Justin Olexienko, Ashley Johnson and not to be out done by the men, two of our lady archers Rebecca Darby and Shayna Antonio also shot perfect animal rounds.

Acting Ipswich Major Paul Tully and Councillor Kerry Silver opened the competition. They were very impressed with the club and how people of all ages enjoyed our great sport.

Our days would begin with a caffeine fix from the coffee van, some practice to warm up our muscles then Jeff Bell the Senior Vice-President of ABA would inform us of the day's procedures and also announce the national



At the Opening Ceremony.



Acting Ipswich Mayor Paul Tully and Councillor Kerry Silver were there on the picture-perfect opening day.



On the course.

records that were broken the day before. Surprisingly there were quite a few each day.

The most noticeable two new national records were in the Cub Girls Freestyle Unlimited Division. Young Amber Reinbott from the DDFA club shot a 557 hunter and 551 field. ... pretty impressive seeing the rounds are out of a possible 560. Most archers can only dream of shooting that well! It will be interesting to see in the future if any cub can beat those scores.

The top overall score of the competition of 1672 out of a possible 1680 was shot by Justin Olexienko. This is the ninth time he has been awarded IFAA National Champion

in Men's Freestyle Unlimited—a pretty big achievement and one of which he is justly proud.

The Branch teams event was a win/win/win for Queensland with South East Queensland placing first, Central Queensland second and North Queensland third. No one could remember the last time North Queensland had placed in the teams event for IFAA.

In a few of the divisions the scores were so close and after tallying up the three days there were only a few points in it.

In Men's Bowhunter Unlimited A class there were only two points between first and second with Bradley Stephan



Some of the competitors get warmed up.

coming out on top over Damien Ormiston.

Four points were the difference in Ladies Freestyle Unlimited A Class between Rebecca Darby and Shayna Antonio.

Veteran archers Tony Evans and David Rowson, shooting in the Veteran Freestyle Unlimited Division, had a great game against each other with only five points' difference at the end. They shot very well and both would have placed in the top six in the men's adult division had they competed in that.

The camping ground was full of laughter each after-

noon as archers caught up with old friends reminiscing about past Nationals that they have shot together, while others were making new friends. Having competed in many Nationals over the years, I personally find it fantastic to see the regulars who turn up each year to enjoy their archery.

Renegade Bowmen did their best to feed and entertain the 132 competitors and their families. They had The Dog House van out one night and delicious wood-fired pizzas from Roam'in Pizzas for two of the nights. Entertainment included Round 2 of the State of Origin on the

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big screen where Queensland managed to take the win in the dying minutes of the game to the delight of all the Queenslanders who were watching.

Renegades also celebrated their 40th anniversary on the Saturday night. There were photos from over the years, a birthday cake which was cut by one of our founding members Denis Vince and his two granddaughters. Denis is the only founding member who still regularly shoots at the club. Denis was awarded life membership many years ago. Live music entertained the crowd late into the night.

There is a lot of work put in by the host club to run the Nationals. Renegade Bowmen president Peter Judge and club members put on a great event and should be congratulated and thanked for all their hard work.

These events could also not be possible without the great organisational skills shown by the ABA National Executives so on behalf of all the archers who attended we thank you.

If you missed out on these Nationals, start getting organised for next year's IFAA National Championships to be held at Alice Springs.

Results IFAA Nationals

Cub Girls Barebow Compound

1 Marnie Little 1419

Cub Girls Freestyle UnLimited

1 Amber Reinbott 1666

2 Claire Thurtell 1191

3 Emily Thurtell 965

Cub Boys Barebow Recurve

1 Ryan Carlson 1237

2 Lachlan Carlson 345

3 Andre Carlson 314

Junior Girls Freestyle Limited Recurve B Class

1 Jaymie Wood 1463

Junior Girls Freestyle UnLimited B Class

1 Georgina Graham 1580

2 Lily Quirke 1494

3 Julia Clements 1468

Junior Boys Bowhunter Recurve B Class

1 Cody Carlson 901

Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited C Class

1 Joel Halls 1327

Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited B Class

1 Jayden Foster 1494

2 Hayden Ormiston 1044

Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited B Class

1 Joshua Ford 1512

2 Aidan Young 1412

3 George Stokes 1360

Young Adult Womens Bowhunter Compound B Class

1 Josie Hughes 1166

Young Adult Womens Bowhunter UnLimited B Class

1 Nysha Willaton 1442

Young Adult Mens Bowhunter UnLimited A Class

1 Nate Chandler 1620



On the practice line.

Young Adult Mens Freestyle UnLimited A Class

1	Peter Hearne	1628
2	Hugh Fabbro	1589

Professional Mens Unlimited

1	Randall J Wellings	1622
---	--------------------	------

Veteran Ladies Longbow

1	Joy Wood	598
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Veteran Ladies Barebow Recurve

1	Dorelle Fox	1053
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Veteran Ladies Bowhunter Compound

1	Liz Guthrie	1246
---	-------------	------

Veteran Ladies Freestyle UnLimited

1	Marie Hulbert	1575
2	Fenny Thompson	1541

Veteran Mens Bowhunter Recurve

1	Timothy Stone	642
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Veteran Mens Barebow Recurve

1	Gary Waller	1256
---	-------------	------

Veteran Mens Bowhunter Limited

1	Mario Semeia	1395
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Veteran Mens Bowhunter UnLimited

1	Mark Burrows	1597
2	Jeffrey Jennings	1552
3	John Scott	1501

Veteran Mens Freestyle UnLimited

1	Tony Evans	1640
2	David Rowson	1635
3	Dennis Carson	1634

Ladies Bowhunter Recurve C Class

1	Zoe Halls	799
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Ladies Bowhunter Recurve B Class

1	Annette Christensen	909
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Ladies Bowhunter Compound A Class

1	Susan Green	1087
---	-------------	------

Ladies Bowhunter Limited A Class

1	Joanne Bogie	1507
2	Donna Smit	1440

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited B Class

1	Evette Terras	1469
2	Cassie Reinbott	1464
3	Angela Murphy	1398

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited A Class

1	Jeanette Dowd	1571
2	Donna Ormiston	1565
3	Katie Mann	1531

Ladies Freestyle Limited Compound B Class

1	Denise Stevenson	1421
2	Annette Stevens	1410

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited B Class

1	Lucy Berwick	1531
---	--------------	------

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited A Class



On target.



Happy 40th birthday, Renegade Bowmen. Cutting the cake is a founding member, Denis Vince, and his two granddaughters.



1	Rebecca Darby	1645
2	Shayna Antonio	1641
3	Tracy Redgrove	1603
Mens Longbow C Class		
1	Les Heiman	630
Mens Bowhunter Recurve C Class		
1	Dirk Craigie	400
Mens Bowhunter Recurve B Class		
1	Mouse Wondrock	1310
2	James Judge	1159
3	Todd Carlson	1137
Mens Bowhunter Compound B Class		
1	Peter Stefanini 1181	
2	Bruce Meier	1161
3	Craig Smith	782
Mens Bowhunter Compound A Class		
1	Alvyn W Bell	1466
2	Peter Judge	1406
3	Jason Chandle	1361
Mens Barebow Compound A Class		
1	Jeff Bell	1431
2	Jason Tilgals	1323
3	Peter van der Molen	1199
Mens Bowhunter Limited B Class		
1	Joe Copas	1369
2	Brett Willaton	1349
Mens Bowhunter Limited A Class		
1	Troy Hughes	1498
2	Kevin Dowd	1438
Mens Bowhunter UnLimited C Class		
1	Dean Thurtell	1505
Mens Bowhunter UnLimited B Class		
1	Nathan Butterfield	1545

2	Riaan Krause	1529
3	Mark W Iselin	1500
Mens Bowhunter UnLimited A Class		
1	Bradley Stephan	1625
2	Damien Ormiston	1623
3	John Hester	1607
Mens Freestyle Limited Recurve B Class		
1	Christopher Major	1425
Mens Freestyle Limited Recurve A Class		
1	Liam Mowbray	1552
Mens Freestyle Limited Compound B Class		
1	Michael Grallelis	1354
2	Allan Hall	1268
Mens Freestyle Limited Compound A Class		
1	Stephen Barratt	1558
2	Trevor Aldred	1522
Mens Freestyle UnLimited C Class		
1	Patrick Moss	1416
2	Brett Paddison	645
Mens Freestyle UnLimited B Class		
1	Helmut Lener	1573
2	Craig Culpan	1571
3	Malcolm Clements	1567
Mens Freestyle UnLimited A Class		
1	Justin Olexienko	1672
2	Benjamin Pavitt	1649
3	Ashley Johnston	1647

Branch Teams Results

Adult

1

South Queensland Branch 6349

Bradley Stephan 1625 1 50 1675

Justin Olexienko 1672 1 50 1722

Peter Judge 1406 2 30 1436

Alvyn W Bell 1466 1 50 1516

2

Central Queensland Branch 5855

Rebecca Darby 1645 1 50 1695

Damien Ormiston 1623 2 30 1653

Todd Carlson 1137 3 10 1147

Mouse Wondrock 1310 1 50 1360

3

North Queensland Branch 5621

Gary Waller 1256 1 50 1306

Shayna Antonio 1641 2 30 1671

Katie Mann 1531 3 10 1541

Dorelle Fox 1053 1 50 1103

Junior

1

Central Queensland Branch 3845

Cody Carlson 901 1 50 951

Lily Quirke 1494 2 30 1524

George Stokes 1360 3 10 1370



Branch teams event winners.

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Around THE TRADS

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

Sue Wallace

✿ I wrote this on ozbow.net after I'd seen the photos on the Facebook page of the Hunter Valley Field Archers, who are in Newcastle, and held The Gathering over June 10 and 11: "It may have been cancelled—still, 60 or so people turned up and some even camped. There were travellers from as far as Melbourne through to far northern Queensland. From the photos, it looks like the club improvised and set up a field course in one 'paddock'. Well done, Hunter Valley, for making the best of a rather soggy situation and looking after the archers who were there." It was also the 10th year since The MV Pasha Bulker ran aground on the reef at Nobbys Beach, Newcastle during an east coast low.

✿ The winter weather on the Cooloola

Coast was fabulous for the mini-trad shoot at Chevallan Archery Park, Gympie on the weekend of June 10 and 11. Quite a few Brisbane archers had bailed mid-week due to the damp and cool weather, but even though there was a smaller group of archers than originally anticipated, we had a bloomin' marvellous weekend. A lot of us arrived on Friday, making it a very sociable day.

Despite the Friday afternoon drizzle, a few of us were playing a rather strange skittles game in the gravel carpark, much to the amusement of the onlookers. Saturday morning was a little misty and a couple more archers messaged me there was a change of plans, so we all decided to head out before lunch and did the 30-second speed round, popin-

jay and clout. By then the sun was shining high in the sky and a slight breeze was blowing—just enough to add to the challenge of the clout range. We then enjoyed a bite to eat, sausage-with-extras sizzle, and continued in the afternoon doing the one-minute hunter round, the moving target, and we included shooting some of the field course on the way back to camp. Saturday evening's meal, followed by a dessert of sticky date pudding, was most enjoyable.

Sunday morning dawned with clear sunny skies and a couple more local archers joined for the day's activities of the 20 3D-target field course which included four gamble shots, the one-minute hunt round and the rolling disks.

Presentations were done just after the barbecue hamburger lunch to allow the Brisbane travellers a chance to get ahead of the traffic. We now all look forward to the two-day shoot in July.

✿ The Norfolk Island 3D International was held from July 3 to 6. For those who have not been to this shoot before, you fly out from Brisbane or Sydney and are greeted at the Norfolk Airport by some of the archers from the club. They hand you information regarding the upcoming shoot which includes an itinerary and venue for registration held on the Sunday evening which includes



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Turkey at Norfolk's Gun Club.



Bear shot at Norfolk Island



Through the tube at Jules Shield Shoot.

an Island Fish Fry. The 3D international events were: Monday morning shooting on course 1, comprising 20 3D targets in the shadows of the trees. This included a rather realistic dinosaur set amongst large yucca-type plants and two bears, (one with his head in a garbage bin). On Tuesday morning, shooting was on course 2, comprising a different 20 3D targets out in the open ranging from a lion standing proudly in the middle of the field to a carp just on the side of the waterhole. That scene was complete with fishing rod, chair, esky and empty beer bottles. There had been an incident on one of the days where the police had been called, as a tourist had seen a large cat in the paddock. Yes, it was also a target!

On Wednesday morning, the first course was shot again. Archers came in for lunch and a quick muster was held to reallocate groups

then the second course was shot. On Norfolk, the group members are changed at every round, so you meet quite a lot of archers and do not often shoot with the same people. All groups consist of a combination of compound shooters and traditional archers, the theory being all groups will finish and be back at around the same time. There is only a small number of archers on Norfolk Island and my goodness they put in some great shots, with both the courses being changed, either by shoot position or target placement for the all-day Wednesday event. So each course is unique. Well done to all the archers from the Norfolk Island club.

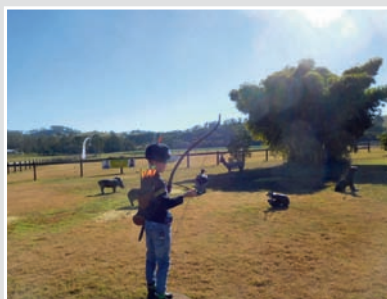
For those also competing in the trad events, there was archery on the golf course Monday afternoon using flu flus to shoot each hole. With the wind prevailing straight off the ocean, making 'par' was going to be a stretch, at the best of times!

When you were finished you could relax at the clubhouse verandah with a cool beverage, watching the others finish. The golf course, which is beside the cemetery, was quiet due to a funeral to be held later in the afternoon. One of the customs on the island is to close the golf course on a funeral day, so we had to be quiet and respectful once the cars started arriving. To shoot on the golf course, archers pay the required green fee. The 'green' is a red flag in a very small circle beside the golf green. A twist to the rules is that if you land in the bunker, the whole group has to shoot out of it, using the wrong hand. Now that's another story.

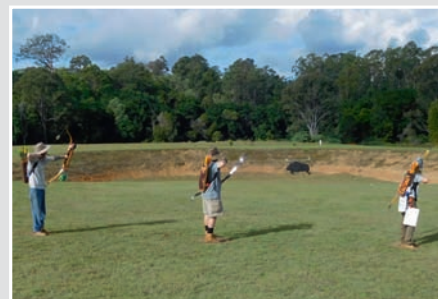
On Tuesday afternoon following a casual drive out to the Gun Club, there were 10 3D targets placed around the cliff edge. The view behind most of the targets was magnificent, hopefully not too much of a distraction. Then a quick drive up the



The 'toot' shot.



The 3D speed round, Chevallan.



Chevallan moving target.

road there were 10 more 3D targets set in the paddock around the quirky Bedrock Café.

With the afternoon activities complete, archers could indulge in a cup of tea, cappuccino or even a home brew beer taking in the stunning views from the outside deck.

Thursday morning was back at the archery clubhouse. There was a small shoot fee to pay, with the event having a very interesting twist for the 20-target range. White pegs with fluoro tape had been superimposed, off to one side, near the red shoot peg on field course 1 in the shade. The scoring was roughly based on a Fred Bear round. A positive score for an A and B shot, and a negative for rest of body, and a miss with many a negative score coming in. The bow bird scoring was a 10 for a hit and a -10 for a miss. Shooting into a rather strong head wind, as you can imagine, there were not many hits. The speed round also returned many a negative score, possibly more due to the smaller targets used in a rather darkish area ... very sneaky. A great time was had by all, with much laughter being heard. Thanks must go to Mark and Maura Harvey for setting up the properties on the island for the trad archers to shoot on. I believe Mark already has properties lined up for next year's trad and all the events will probably be different again. Even with all the archery events there is

still plenty of time to take in the magnificent sights and all the interesting history of Norfolk Island.

✿ At the Lakeside Bowmen Club the Jules Shield Trad shoot was held on July 22 and 23. This shoot is held in memory of one of the member's sons, so, as I haven't been to the Lakeside club before I decided to travel down just for the Saturday. There were quite a few who had camped overnight Friday, and there were many day trippers arriving on Saturday morning to join them. I headed to the practice butts for a couple of shots to warm the shoulders up as it was a little on the chilly side.

Following the muster we set out to do the 20-target 3D two-arrow field course. We started on the third target and walked on from there. On the course there was a lying down bear, the large hard-headed cane toad sitting on a branch some distance from the ground. Another two targets had the pegs almost side by side, so you shot one pig on the water's edge, with the other on the bank. Another had two numbers marked on the tree, the group had their shots down to the first target, and then just as you got close to the target there was another peg to shoot the next target. A wilderbeest in slight downhill position was rather misleading when judging the distance. Overall the course had some really well thought out placements.

Novelty events were held on Saturday afternoon. The moving target was set in the field course not far from the club house, so if it was busy you could continue and come back later. The 30-second speed round was set in a large U-shape down the fenceline at the roadside, so you could watch the cars drive past while you waited for your turn. The stalk-and-hunt round, off to the side of the camping group, was timed at one minute. You walked along a track where the shoot peg was visible, and the target had to be located before you could shoot. I believe not everyone found all seven targets.

There was one other 'target' to shoot at before you left the field course—it was the qualifier for the Hot Shot round which was done, even though some of us did not return for the 2nd day as there were things to do for the trad shoot coming up the next weekend. All in all, it was a most enjoyable day.

✿ One could not ask for any better weather leading into the weekend of July 29 and 30 for the Chevallan Archery Park Birthday Trad Shoot, so named, as it is the owner's birthdays soon, plus five others who were also there, had celebrated during the month. Two of the archers had travelled from Newcastle to do both the Jules Shield and Chevallan weekends. There were others from

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Entry is available to all TAA members and the shoot will be conducted according to TAA equipment and shoot guidelines. Copies are available on the website. Cross participation under the Archery Alliance guidelines will be accepted, but no awards will be given or recorded by TAA.

Date: Saturday/Sunday 7th and 8th October 2017

Gates open on Thursday 5th October. No access for competitors is available prior to this date.

Gates close on Monday 9th October.

Address: ABA Park Upper Piambong Road, Mudgee

Directions: From Mudgee take the Castlereagh Highway towards Gulgong for 12.5 km and turn left into Lesters Lane and continue 3.7km to a T intersection and turn right into Lower Piambong Road for 2.1km until you come to Upper Piambong Road on your left, take this turn and continue 6 km 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.

To enter please complete this form and email to: Membership Officer: hndpender@bigpond.com or mail to: PO BOX 927 Morayfield QLD 4506

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COMPETITION EVENTS: • 20 Target 3 arrow Field Shoot • 20 Target single arrow Field Shoot • Speed Round • The Hunt
• Rolling Disks • Running Deer

NOVELTY EVENTS: • Axe and Knife Throwing (ABA Rules) Male and Female over 16yo.
• Wand Shoot (TAA Postal Shoot Rules) . Divisions: Male, Female, Junior and Cub.

Toowoomba, Kingaroy, the Gold Coast and Brisbane, through to the Wide Bay region. Following a chilly night, we arose to a slight fog on Saturday morning, clearing to be another glorious day. Once they had enjoyed breakfast in the sun, some chose to loosen up the muscles on the practice range. With the muster out of the way, it was time to get on with the events. For Saturday there was the choice of the double-ended clout range, where one had to remember to take one's bow down to the other end in order to shoot back again. While at the popinjay it was discovered that when it is autumn, if shot mid-morning you were looking directly into the sun, so it was best to have some sunglasses! The 30-second speed round had six targets, the rolling disk and the moving target. There were 25 3D targets on the field course, shot with two arrows per target. Targets 24 and 25 were placed before Target 1 just to make everything more interesting. Once the groups had completed the field course there was a new event at the end of the range. The hunt round targets had two different plate covers. Saturday's event on these targets was to be shot from the blue peg. It was untimed and you only shot one arrow at each target. The scoring was 10 for an A, 5 for a B ... good so far... but the -5 for the rest of body did cause a small stir! The scoring was based on a Fred Bear Event and simulating hunting, so a wounding was penalised. It definitely made you focus more intensely.

All 3D field course scores needed to be in by 3.00pm so the Mystery 10 could be organised. For this shoot, we were looking for 10 scores with the smallest variation in total. Finally it ended up being 30 points and did include a few of the top archers.

This event is sponsored by Wes and Kaylene Farmer of Tom Grady Real Estate and is held on the 30-second speed round with the prize being a set of one dozen handcrafted arrows. All you have to do is hit the fox within the metal frame of the A/B zone and you can then go on to shoot the rest of the targets for the remainder of the 30 seconds. This is very easy to type, however when it came to my turn to shoot at the fox, I missed with my first arrow by a smidgeon, closely followed by a second arrow which also wasn't in the metal frame, and then the giggles set in as I tried to nock my third arrow, so as you can imagine that was the end of my attempt to claim the prize. This was all much to the amusement of those watching my complete loss of composure. The handcrafted arrows were claimed following the first round by Tim Lewthwaite who kept his head to get more scoring arrows away. Those watching us shoot were enjoying crackers, cheese and dip under the gazebo. It was a very social occasion. By then it was starting to cool off and dinner would not be too far away.

It was cool again overnight and the morning dawned with the promise of another fine sunny day. There was no muster on the Sunday and once breakfast was complete archers headed to the practice range to warm up and get ready for the day's events. These were the rolling disk, the 3D speed round, the 25 3D field course and the one-minute hunt round, shot from the orange pegs. With the course layout at Chevallan, it is easy to walk past targets that have groups on them until there is a clear one. These skipped targets are then picked up on the way back to camp. All the activities complete, we had lunch, followed by the raffle draw and presentations.

For one young lad it was a really big weekend. He had never been camping before and was so excited about trying archery he even decided to leave his iPad at home. Being 9 years old, that was a big decision.

Many thanks to all who joined in with the relaxing weekend activities, good food and good company. We now look forward to the next mini-trad shoot at the end of August.

✿ Traditional-only shoots confirmed for October and November are Hunter Valley Charity Shoot in NSW and Chevallan Archery Park including Trophy Takers Awards in Queensland on September 30 and October 1, Manning Valley Bowhunters Taree on October 7 and 8, Traditional Muster at ABA Park Mudgee on October 7 and 8, Coffs Harbour Trad Shoot on October 14 and 15, Bill Baker Memorial Shoot at Barambah on November 4 and 5, one-day trad shoot at Sunshine Coast Bowmen on November 12.

✿ Reports from North Burnett Field Archers, Golden Triangle Archers in Dunolly, Silver City Archers Broken Hill, Townsville Bowhunters, Bega Asian Experience, Chevallan Archery Park, Mallee Sunset Mildura, Swan Hill and Wisemans Ferry Memorial Trad Shoot will be in the next edition.

Further information and available flyers for the Traditional Shoots can be found on the following websites:

Ozbow: www.ozbow.net > Traditional Archery Events > Calendar
Wallace Woods: www.wallacetrad-woods.com > Shoot information (link to flyers)

Chevallan Archery Park: www.chevallanarcherypark.com – for Traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, African 3D targets, archery medals/medallions.

Traditional Archery Australia: www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org > Shoot Information – (link to flyers)
 See you 'round the trads.

Entries PHOTO COMPETITION



*Day's end on Safari,
Rhonda Pitt.*



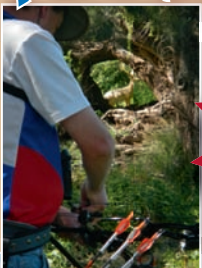
A bowhunter and a painted sky, Rob Mihalyka.

Successful whistle, Jason Lesnik.

Reflections, Rachel Joy.



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BOOLAROO BOWMEN

*Celebrate their quarter century
with novelty shoot*

On Sunday July 16, the Boolaroo Bowmen celebrated 25 years as an incorporated archery club by hosting a novelty anniversary shoot. To carry on the 25th anniversary theme, our resourceful and inventive range captain came up with a 25-target

range that included a combination of 3D, IFAA, paper and traditional targets, as well as some moving targets and speed targets to make the trad shooters feel at home.

We were blessed with a day of perfect weather that saw a total of 103

archers take to the range. An enthusiastic mix of senior, junior and cub archers from throughout the Branch met with some of our current, veteran and founding members to enjoy a day of friendly competition. We were especially pleased to have archers from as far afield as Gunnedah, Quirindi, Gloucester, NSW north coast and the central coast make the considerable effort to help us celebrate. We also acknowledge the huge turnout by other local archery clubs which helped swell the numbers.

All shooters on the day received a specially commissioned 25th anniversary embroidered patch which we hope will be a pleasing memento of the day. With some inventive and unconventional scoring, certificates were also presented to archers who scored best—or otherwise—in their shooting divisions. Our special thanks go to Branch score recorder,



Brian Taylor, who offered to use the branch scoring program to help determine the winners.

With the generous support of many local businesses, we were able to offer an excellent raffle with prizes suited to all visitors. We were especially lucky to have a hunting compound bow donated by Lakeside Archery as a special prize. Other generous prizes were donated by Abbey Archery, BCE Targets, Benson

Archery, Deadly Hunting and Outdoors, Lakeside Army Disposal, BCF, Big Fella's Bowstrings and Bunnings to name a few.

Boolaroo Bowmen has a long history of archery in our area of Lake Macquarie City (Newcastle). The club meets at Fassifern oval where we have an enthusiastic and dedicated membership who work hard to promote archery as a family friendly and personally rewarding sport. This is

borne out by the large number of family groups that have joined the club.

The day proved to be a great success, and was made so due to the hard work of our members, who spent many weekends grooming the range, improving facilities, arranging raffle prizes, devising the targets, catering the lunch and making visitors feel welcome. But mostly it was a success because so many fellow archers helped us celebrate.



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Nick Lintern

TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Hello to all readers and welcome once again to Traditional Trails. The weather is starting to warm up as spring is in the air and that makes for great conditions for shooting.

One of the great things about the tri-lam English longbow that we are building is that the weather won't affect it too much. There will be a degree of poundage drop-off in the hot weather and a degree of increase in the colder weather, but it will stay reliable. A self-yew English longbow for example, really doesn't like the hot weather, so not only are we creating a fast, effective hunting or target bow, we are also creating a reliable one in most weather conditions.

With that said, I'd still avoid 40-degree weather with any wooden bow.

How to build an English longbow

Part 5

At the end of our previous column, we had our stave removed from the hotbox and form and we had it roughed out and the back all prepped and burnished. Next we will be shaping the belly and starting to tiller our bow.

The next job with our bow is to take the squared-off and tapered belly and give it the rounded or stacked arch shape that makes an ELB an ELB. The best way to achieve that is to use your block plane first, then a spoke shave and eventually a scraper. To do this, clamp your bow in a vice with the belly facing up and using your block plane carefully and

evenly plane off the two corners. You will not be able to plane into the area of the handle as it climbs too steeply from the belly to the middle of the handle. In the previous article, I gave dimensions for the thickness at the start of the handle. From here, to complete the handle, you can either join these lines straight across through the handle for a work-through-the-handle style bow, or draw angled lines out to the full width of the stave to create a handle 'bulge' for a slight non-working area (more on this shortly). We'll leave that area for now. When planing these two corners, don't take too much off. You

probably want the planed off area to be about 3/8in to 1/2in at most. The stave is wider at the handle than at the nock so there will be more rounding work to do there as you proceed.

Now you should have five surfaces instead of three on your bow's belly. Next, plane off these edges and so on until you have an arched shape starting to occur. The idea of using a plane at this point, rather than going straight to the spoke shave (which is designed to round timber) is to keep your belly shape as even as possible. A small plane will stop you from going up and down as you shape the belly which can cause hinge points. Watch out for your grain direction. Hickory is tough stuff with a strong interlocking grain that can be murderous to work and your plane may gouge into the grain, so set your plane fairly shallow and change planing direction if you need to. Grain has an 'arrow head' appearance to it as it tapers. If you work *towards* the arrow head you should be okay with no gouging. Because we didn't need to follow a growth ring in our belly stock (because we backed our stave) the grain might be a bit 'swirly' rising up and down a bit and that may mean planing in different directions according to the grain. When I make up staves for beginners, I try to get as clean and straight a piece of belly stock as possible to minimise tillering challenges.

Anyway, back to our belly rounding task. Once we have the planing achieved, we can go to the spoke shave and complete the rounding process.



Use your spokeshave to complete the rounding of the belly.

Again, set your spoke shave shallow and be aware of grain direction. Experiment with different directions if it wants to bite in too much. At this point, we need to decide what type of handle style we want to go with. We want our bow to ultimately 'come round compass' at the completion of the tillering process, but it is okay to have a slight non-working section in the handle area. I aim for an area about 6in in total that doesn't move. This makes for a nicer shooting experience.

There are two main tiller styles for longbows. One is D tillering. This means that the bow has a flattish, non-working handle section such as an American semi-longbow, and the other one is a C-tillered bow. A classic C-tillered bow works through the handle and is typical of classic English longbows. We can however, build an in-between tiller style and that is what I am aiming for in this ELB we are building. This style of in-between tiller was made popular in Victorian times by an English bowyer named John Buchanan. These 'dips' into the handle area became known as Buchanan dips.

So at this point, as I use the spoke shave to round off the limb, I also round the limb into the deeper grip section creating a smooth, round, even and gradual transition into the handle. This requires patience. I then generally use my scraper to really round off the belly and get everything smooth and even. Look down your limb. If it looks nice and even in its arch and taper, we can move on to floor tillering the limb before proceeding to the other limb.

Tillering Stage 1

What we are doing in the tillering process is teaching the wood how we want it to bend. We want our limbs to bend evenly. We want to maintain string alignment and ensure our top limb is slightly weaker than the bottom. And we want to do all this

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while maintaining the draw weight we want. It really is like stalking in on the final result. It takes skill and patience. The first step is:

Floor tillering

Floor tillering is the start of the tillering process. For those readers who followed the osage bow build-along, you will have read about this process already but it doesn't hurt to hear it again. Floor tillering is simply placing the limb tip on the floor and with one hand on the other limb's tip. Then place your other hand on the grip area and apply downward pressure and, while looking down the limb, observe how the limb bends. Using a pencil, mark any areas that are stiff or weak and work them accordingly to get the limb to bend *evenly* from tip to dip. If you see a weak spot or hinge in the limb, you will have to remove wood from either side of the hinge area. Stiff spots are easy to rectify by simply removing wood from the stiff area.

Floor tillering is also used to get the limb somewhere near the weight we are after. For example, if you go to floor tiller, and the limb won't bend at all, naturally you need to keep reducing wood until it does. Be mindful though, don't go too light at

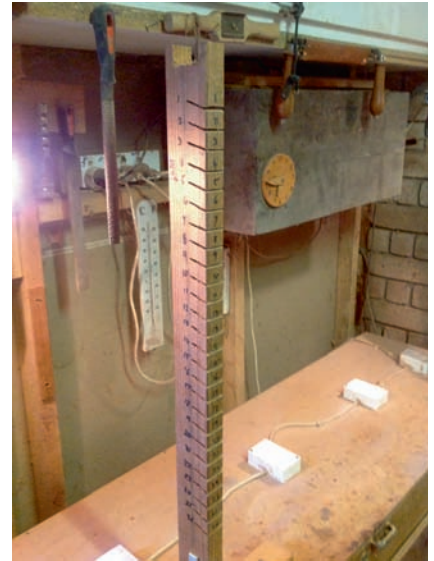
this point. You will need a fair bit of excess weight to work with as the tillering proceeds. The idea is to get in the ballpark of weight needed so that as you tiller you don't end up with perfect tiller and then still need to remove 25# which means re-tillering and the earlier tillering efforts become almost pointless. If you followed the width and thickness chart according to weight required in the previous article, you should be pretty right on for weight after shaping the belly. Remember, with all tillering stages, whatever errors there are at any given stage, if they aren't dealt with, they will still be there at the next stage, so be accurate.

Once you are happy that the limb is bending nicely along its length, proceed to the other limb and shape it and floor tiller as with the first one. Try and get the stiffness of each limb as equal to each other as possible. This will eliminate uneven pressure in one limb causing the other to bend too much too soon. As the wood starts to bend, the cells of the belly wood start to compress and the cells on the back wood start to stretch. We want this to happen as evenly as possible to prevent overstraining any part of the bow unevenly.

Now on to the next stage of the tillering process:

The tiller post

To take our bow from the floor tillering stage to brace height, we make use of a tillering post. A tillering post is simply a piece of timber, around 4in by 2in and about a metre long. This has diagonal cuts made in the 2in side that are 1in apart (*see photo above*). The top of the post has a U-shaped cut in it to receive the bow. Mine has a tee-shaped piece on the base so it will stand on its own and I can stand back and look at the bow. To proceed, we need to cut tillering nocks into the bow. Clamp the bow



Tiller post.

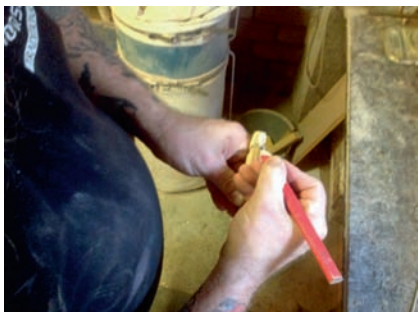


Filing in your tillering nocks.

into your vice so the side of the bow is facing up. Now, using a 1/8in to 5/32in chainsaw file, file in a shallow groove approximately 45 degrees angling down from the back to the belly (obviously) and starting at a point about 1/2in down from the tip. (These tillering nocks will be replaced by horn nocks later on. We don't fit horns this early on as we don't know enough information at this point as to the bow's final thickness and which end will be the top). Now unclamp the bow and using a pencil, draw lines around from your groove to the other side of the limb. This will mean when you file in the other side, if you follow your marks it should make the two grooves parallel with each other. *Don't* file through the back at all, just the sides. Once this is done and you have both sides of the limb filed, observe your grooves to make abso-



Floor tillering.



Transfer your nock groove to the other side of your limb with a pencil.

lutely sure they are even and parallel to each other. If they aren't, work them until they are. This is critical. If they are not even, the string will place uneven pressure on the limbs and will build in twist to the limb. Even if you don't build twist into the limbs, you will tiller the limb to be straight as you believe it to be and then later on when the horns are fitted and they *are* straight, a misalignment occurs, so be accurate with your tillering nock slots. Once both limbs are filed in, we can proceed to the tiller post.

The next thing we need is a tillering string. A tillering string is a heavy string (usually 18 strands) that is longer than the bow's unstrung length by at least 8in. This means it will be more than strong enough to cope with any bow on the tiller, plus its length means it can sit in the bow's tillering nocks and hang loosely down ready to be pulled into one of the tiller posts grooves. In this way we can *slowly* add tension to our limbs and tiller as we go.



Bow on the tiller with the tillering string ready to work.

So, place your bow onto the tiller post with the back facing up. Make sure that the centre of the bow's handle is sitting in the centre of the tiller post. We want the pressure applied to the limbs even in relation to the working centre of the bow. Place your tillering string onto the nocks of your bow and push down on your tillering string to get the limbs to bend 2in or so. Now lock the string into the appropriate groove and have a look at the limbs while the bow is held there.

A great tool at this point is a makeshift bendometer. To make one, simply get a piece of straight, flat and square timber that is about 6in long by 2in across and about 1/2in or so thick. Now drive a screw through the middle so it just protrudes out the other side. This can then be adjusted



Using your bendometer.

by means of a screwdriver. To use it to help you assess your limbs, set it to a point where the screw is hardly protruding then put the timber block up against the bow's belly. Run the timber along the bow's belly as it sits in the tiller and look for the point on the belly that has the largest gap. You then adjust the screw so it just touches the belly at this point. This will mean that the outside edges of the block and the screw all touch the limb at that point. Now check all along your limb with your block by sliding it along the limb. Anywhere that the screw scratches the limb is an area where wood needs to be removed. You can do this without the screw as well. Just observe the amount of gap you have at any given point between the middle of the



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block and the belly. So, once you have marked the areas where wood needs to be removed on both limbs, look down the end of your bow and see how it looks. If it appears to be sitting *high* on one side (*see photos*), this means that side is too stiff and is causing a misalignment in the bow. Mark that side of the bow with your pencil. Now, once you have assessed both limbs, remove the tillering string and take the bow back to your vice. Now remove wood from the marked areas with your scraper. Don't overdo it. When you remove wood for your belly adjustments, take it from that side of the limb where you marked the high side.

This will mean you not only



Using the scraper to make tiller adjustments.

rectify the stiff areas but rectify the misalignment as well (*see photo*). I have marked the area in the photo in red to show where to remove wood from to rectify misalignment. If there is no misalignment, then simply remove wood evenly across the bow's width. Remember, when you are tillering there are a number of factors being worked on at once. Once you have made your adjustments, return the



This is a bow showing misalignment. Remove wood from the area shaded in red to rectify this.



This is how your bow should look on the tiller on the end view if there is no misalignment

bow to the tiller and place the tillering string back into the nocks. This time, exercise the bow by pulling it past the notch you were in previously by an inch or so many times. After 20 or more pull-and-ease-off actions, lock the bow into the notch below the one you started in. This flexing of the limbs is an ongoing part of training the limbs.

Now assess the limbs exactly as before. This process continues until you reach the amount of flex in the limbs that equal a brace height of around 5 ½ in to 6 in or so. Once you feel you have this depth, you can check by running a stringline between the nocks as the bow is held in the tiller and look at the distance between the string and the handle. This is also a great way to see if your limbs are evenly balanced. You don't



The bow starts to bend on the post.

want one limb massively stiffer than the other. When you feel the limbs are aligned well, bending evenly and balanced reasonably well, it is time to go onto the next and final stage of tillering. Be thorough and don't rush. There is no race. If you have badly missed something it is really going to come back to haunt you at the next stage as we are about to string the bow and really put some load on it.

In our next instalment we will finish tillering this bow and get to the most exciting part of our build—test shooting it.

I hope you are all still with me, as always any questions can be emailed to norseman_longbows@hotmail.com.

Until next time, keep traditional.

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JUNIORS

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Plan an archery holiday on Norfolk Island



Around 120 enthusiastic Australian and New Zealander archers recently joined with local Archery Norfolk Island members for a brilliant week at July's Norfolk Island Travel Centre 3D Archery Championships with Traditional Archery Shoot.

Over the past 15 years Norfolk Island Archery has built a reputation for not only organising a solid week

of archery competition, but also offering a wonderful, family friendly event that makes for a great holiday. As Karen from Avoca NSW commented, the week is: "well organised, friendly, efficient and just a great way to enjoy your favourite sport on holiday".

Norfolk Island as an archery destination is something very special, with the field being described by

G.M. from Kirrawee as "perhaps the finest field in the world, it is certainly the most enjoyable I have had the pleasure to shoot".

In 2018 Norfolk Island Archery will once again welcome back old archery friends as well as first time competitors by offering 3D and traditional shoot events for adults, juniors and cubs. To ensure all the family can



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compete the event has been timed to coincide with school holidays in July 2018.

A holiday on Norfolk Island offers so much. Aside from competing you'll have time to soak up the sheer beauty of this small Island showcasing cliff-top panoramas, coral reefs, rolling green valleys, brilliantly clear star-filled nights and of course the iconic Norfolk Island pines. Some of the activities that explore the island's environment include 4WD tours; bushwalking, garden and bird tours; fishing, kayaking and snorkelling trips. There are numerous tours and museums to take in the island's layered history and heritage including Polynesian seafarers, two convict periods and the current settlement by descendants of the Bounty mutineers and their Polynesian wives. A spectacular golf course is located in



World Heritage-listed Kingston.

Eating out on Norfolk Island introduces you to the taste of fresh, seasonal and locally grown ... as that is all the Island has ever had! A sunset Fish Fry on the cliff-top will present you with a very hard to beat combination of sweet flavours and ambience, gained from eating fish very likely caught that day and served overlooking priceless water views. Throughout Burnt Pine there's a choice of club restaurants and bistros for great value kids and adult meals, and you'll often find local entertainment on as well. The cafés serve delicious meals from breakfast through to afternoon tea and in the evening you can choose from a number of inspir-

ing restaurant locations and menus. Eating one of the island's famous coconut, passionfruit or lemon pies will bring you the flavour of traditional Polynesian-influenced foods.

The Norfolk Island Travel Centre has been the proud major sponsor of 3D Archery on Norfolk Island since the championship's inception. They have excellent value holiday packages that use their group airline buying power to bring a best-priced flight, accommodation and car hire package.

For more information, contact Jannise at jannise@travelcentre.nf or on freecall 1800 1400 66. Website: www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com.

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JOHN TEITZEL



The drought was in full swing and the signs of it were more evident the further west we travelled.

My wife Carol and I were heading out to a remote property in western New South Wales to hunt feral goats and then going north to the New England area to hunt fallow deer.

As we pulled up beside the shearers' quarters, we were greeted by a nice big gust of hot wind filled with red dust. This was one of many dusty clouds to invade our camp over the next seven days.

After getting set up, we headed up to the house to catch up with the owners and get reacquainted over a cold beer and a glass of wine. Things had been tough with the lack of feed for the stock so Peter had been thinning the goats out. With the price being so good, it was well worth the effort to muster a few.

The next morning I was up at the house early and headed out with Pete to pick up a few truckloads and bring them back to the yards for transport. It was around a 40-minute

drive in the old truck to where they had a trap yard set up on one of the water troughs and was no surprise to see around 300 goats of all sizes lying around in the shade. Loading was quite easy, just push them into a small holding yard and up the ramp, a few of the bigger billies would get their horns caught in the rails but with some encouragement would soon be aboard the body truck. Peter said between them, he and his neighbour had sent 13,000 goats in the past eight months.

The following day we headed out to try find some trophy billies to hunt. This property was red sand country with mulga scrub and gidgee with some flood country, covered in clumps of lignum which the goats and pigs love to eat and use for cover.

We were soon on foot following an old water course dotted with stagnant pools. There was plenty of pig and goat sign about and it was not long before the scent of billy goat was in our nostrils.

As we slowly picked our way through the lignum, I spotted a small

group lying under a tree. There was one really good white billy among them so Carol stalked in the rest of the way by herself.

She used the available cover to her advantage well and was soon in to around 15m off the mob. She patiently waited until the biggest goat stood and presented a clear shot, meanwhile I was getting some action photos. The next thing, the bow was at full draw and a carbon arrow tipped with a Tusker Spirit as on its way, passing through the goat's vitals. The goats erupted and the big fellow only made around 20m before dropping. "You little beauty!" After some congratulations, I got my tape out of my pack and measured the spread at 42 inches.

With the horns off, we headed back to the ute and on the drive back, in the distance, I spotted a big old billy dragging the chain behind a reasonable size mob foraging in the gidgee. After parking in the shade, I had my longbow in hand and was in hot pursuit. I closed the gap quickly using the sparse trees for cover and

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Carol's white goat was a beauty and measured 123 3/8pt.

soon found the old goat, now resting in the shade at under 20m. I picked a spot and released the arrow which passed completely through him. He stumbled and was down in metres. The billy had a nice set of even horns which later measured 113 2/8pt.

The next day was taken up with a bit of fence repairs and some work to one of the cattle troughs way out on one of the back blocks on the boundary. We drove past a huge deep waterhole which had plenty of goat sign around it so the plan was

to hunt it the next day when the goats came in to water.

With lunch packed and a cold drink in the car fridge, we headed back out and pulled the ute up in the shade a few hundred metres downwind of the waterhole. We glassed the area—there were some goats and a few small mob pigs moving around on the banks but nothing worth shooting so we just waited to see what transpired. Later, a mob of cattle came in to drink and behind them two huge billies trotted down to the water's edge. The slightly bigger one of the two would have had a spread of at least 47 inches and we could hardly contain ourselves, but no sooner they had a drink than they were gone at a trot back into the mulga scrub, never to be seen again. Bugger!

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This big old billy had nice even horns.

After an hour or so I spotted a big old lone billy feeding in to the water, so we made a plan to be in position for a shot before he got there. The plan worked to perfection and using the odd tree and the bank for cover, we were in a good spot with the breeze in our face. All we had to do was wait, and it wasn't long before the old black billy was feeding broadside at under 20m. Carol wasted no

time putting another Tusker Spirit through his chest and the old goat just let out a cry and collapsed. What a beautiful trophy; wide twisty horns which later measured 124 1/8pt.

Over the next couple of days, we shot a couple of pigs, saw a few camels and had a feed of yabbies from one of the dams as well as doing a bit of socialising with the owners.

Then it was time to head north to

do some sightseeing and get to the next property and do some scouting before the fallow rut started.

It was now the last week of March and we had our van set up just outside the house yard. For the next couple of days I drove and walked all the known fallow hotspots to see what scrapes and rubs were about and true to form, the sign was good. I had found some good rub trees made by

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Carol's black goat ... 123 1/8pt.



First the cat, then the rabbit.

big mature bucks. Unlike the western country we had just come from, the New England area had experienced a brilliant season, and the grass in some places was shoulder height.

One afternoon I had a whistle for a fox in the gully beside the old shearing shed. No foxes came but I must have stirred things up as I saw some movement under the shed. I sneaked in and saw a reasonable size cat stalking a rabbit. The rabbit went down a warren and the cat was intently crouched watching the hole. With plenty of cover and lush grass to stalk on, I closed the gap to around 6m and let him have a Tusker Stealth broadhead. A 1m leap in the air and quick 15m dash and it was all over, but before I even moved a rabbit appeared to see what was going on and then he also copped an arrow for his troubles.

It was around April 10 before the deer started grunting. I was checking some of my favourite haunts and heard a faint grunt in the distance, so I quickly made my way to the spot and glassed the area.

There was a reasonable-sized buck holding one doe and four other does were in close proximity. Although the grass was quite long there was not much other cover in the gully, so I thought I would try something which has worked for me before (by accident), I let one of the does see me from a distance and after a while she started moving off



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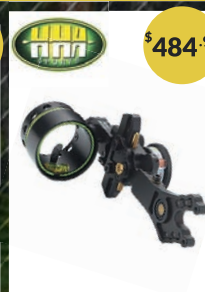
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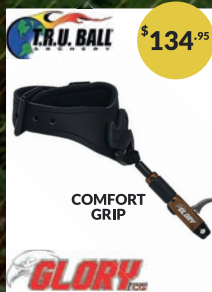
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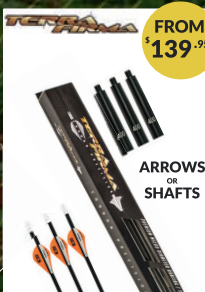
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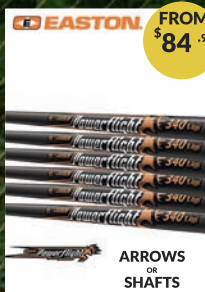
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The writer of this story wins a pack of three **BONECRUSHER BROADHEADS** compliments of

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John's trophy class fallow.

and then the others followed her. All the while the buck was trying to keep his hot doe in one place and then of course as usual they all took off in different directions. (When this happens, the buck sometimes loses his doe.)

I quickly made my way down to where he had been and got set up with my back to a big tree for cover and rattled a pair of old antlers. Sure enough, over the hill he came, trotting in to about 6m before realising all was not right. He propped and turned broadside. My longbow was at the ready and the carbon arrow flew true and passed completely through his chest before he knew what was going on. The fallow buck made a quick dash before expiring. What a great trophy with the longbow, and an exciting hunt.

I spent the next two weeks hunting every nook and cranny for one of

those big bucks. Even though I had a few stalks, every time I got within bow range one of the does would bust me, and the game would be up.

On the last morning, I grabbed my spinning rod and headed down to a small creek to try for a rainbow trout, I spooked and lost a couple of good fish around 450mm but did manage to land one small fish which I photographed before releasing it back into the stream. It was my first ever rainbow trout.



Well and truly rubbed!



Caught and released.



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More than 100 archers attended the 2017 Hinterland Field Archers 3DAAA sanctioned shoot in July.




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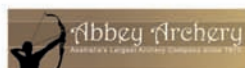


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Entry - Family \$105, Adults \$45, Junior \$30, Cubs Free. Scoring 10,8,5,0

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Pre-nominations open September 10th and closes November 20th

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More information - Robert Vayro

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to the set-up. Congratulations to all trophy winners as well.

The canteen staff did an amazing job of keeping up with the demand for the large range of excellent food and beverages—the hot soup and the roast beef and gravy rolls were particular favourites.

The Top 10 Aided Shootout went to Jason Van Hass (Brian Baker took things a little too easy by taking a seat for his shot.) The unaided division went to Steve Williams.

If you weren't able to attend this year, don't miss out next year.



*At the
Hinterland Field
Archers shoot.*



ROY ROSE

Meanderings

CHOOSING AND SETTING UP YOUR RECURVE BOW



Many aspiring archers come to our sport via club come-and-try programmes where the recurve bow is the usual introductory choice. Those who join as a result also primarily continue their association with the Olympic bow. Quite often, sadly, these prospective achievers are somewhat left to their own devices unless their club has a knowledgeable and proactive coach.

Consequently, it has been my experience as a long-term scribe, observer and seminar presenter, to find that a sizeable majority have scant know-how when it comes to setting up and tuning their equipment.

The steps in recurve bow set-up and the subsequent tuning process are not essentially complicated but each stage is important and must be addressed in order to attain scoring success.

Every archer, whether a recurver, a compounder or a longbowman, and whether a world champion, a club stalwart or a newcomer, shoots his or her bow with the same objective in the mind—to hit what they are aiming at. If your bow is incorrectly set up and untuned, then your chances of attaining any repetitive accuracy are totally jeopardised.

So in the first of a series of articles, I will take read-

ers through the eight basic steps that the newcomer to the recurve ranks needs to address, not only telling how, but equally important, explaining why.

The first and foremost decision for the novice recurver is the choice of bow. This does not essentially have to be a big brand name, as a number of leading manufacturers produce quality models, some at a very reasonable price.

The factor to be assessed is bow length. Target recurve bows used in competition come in three lengths: 55in, 68in and 70in. If you are a male archer less than average height or the vast majority of female shooters and have a draw length of 27in or less, then your ideal length will be a 66in model. Male recurvers of average height and taller ladies with a draw length around 28 inches or a touch less or more, require 68in limbs.

The above average height archer whose draw length is in the 29in-plus region should select a 70in model.

An important consideration is the fact that the draw length of a newcomer will increase in the first few weeks of shooting as their line improves at anchor, so if on the borderline the longer limbs should be the option to accommodate their draw length upgrade when purchasing.

So why is limb length such an essential first-up decision? If an archer with a short draw draws a 70in bow then the recurve potential of the limbs is minimised and the full power capacity of those limbs is not being utilised. On the other hand, if the tall archer with the long draw length chooses a shorter limb, then two negatives come into play—firstly, excess curve-back of the limbs and a nasty angle at anchor will incur unnecessary finger stress and secondly a lesser prospect of a fluent release.

So having made the correct limb choice, we now add the string to the bow. String length measured as a brace height from the horizontal line of the throat of the grip out to the string, needs to be in a specific range in order that the efficiency of the limbs is maximised. Brace height too short, which means string length is too long, causes slap on the limbs upon release and a noisy bow. A high brace height will mean the string is too short, and once again, the potential curve of the limbs is being impeded. Recommended brace heights are 8in to 8 1/2in for 66in bows, 8 1/2in to 9in for 68in bows and 9in to 9 1/2in if your bow is a 70in model. Elite recurvers will experiment within these ranges to ascertain where the bow is quietest and performs best.

Often the manufacturer's string, which comes with the bow, is inclined to be a little long rather than a little short, and the brace height can be raised by putting twists in the string to obtain a more efficient reading. With our bow strung at a serviceable brace height, and before we commence to add accessories, we need to address tiller.

Tiller is the distance from where the limb joins the handle section out horizontally to the string, top and bottom. Because we draw the bow to anchor with one finger above the arrow, which often is not in fact, taking a major share of the draw weight, and two below if the tiller distances are equal, then logically the limbs are not arriving—and subsequently, departing—in sync. In order to nullify this situation, the tiller distance on the bottom limb must be less than the upper, an adjustment around three-eighths of an inch needs to be made. Once again, elite recurvers in the tuning phase will obtain a definitive tiller adjustment where the aim is steadiest.

Our next trio of steps involves the placement of the arrow rest, the cushion plunger and a nocking point on the string. The riser, or handle section, has a threaded hole into which the plunger is screwed, and the arrow rest likewise has a circular hole to accommodate the protruding plunger section. Each of these needs adjustment. The cushion plunger first needs to be set to a medium tension, the exact amount of spring tension will be ascertained during the tuning phase. With the correct spined arrow, that tension will be neither soft nor hard, in that final tuning process, so a medium setting is a logical set-up pressure. Now how far the plunger should protrude from the riser becomes our next mission. We know

the arrow on despatch is going to ride along the plunger and depress it to a degree, so our next task is to place an arrow on the string, on the arrow rest arm, against the plunger and by aligning the string with the mid-point of top and bottom limbs adjust the plunger in or out so that the arrow has around three quarters of its diameter outside the string line. This allows for the arrow to ride into line when we address the tune. We now need to turn our attention to the arrow rest arm. It needs to be marginally at an uphill angle, so our arrow will sit against the plunger button and not fall off the rest as the bow is drawn. Secondly, we need to trim off any excess of the arm which is sticking out wide of the arrow so as to obtain maximum clearance when we release. In that slight angle raise of the rest arm, we need to be sure the barrel of the plunger is set down the centre of our arrow shaft.

We now have our rest prepared for action and our cushion plunger positioned ready for tuning and set at a tension which we will finalise when we tune. Next we put in place an approximate nocking point, which like our plunger will be positioned exactly when we tune. Once again, we are aware that our nocking point, unlike on the compound bow which is serviced by a one-point release off a loop, is going to be above square, and a rational placement is about 1/4in-plus. The tune will reveal the exact amount, but this is a feasible starting point.

The prospective competitor now needs to introduce three other attachments, a sight and extension, a stabiliser set-up and a clicker. Care must be taken to be certain your sight bar is parallel to your string, so that you are not having windage alterations at different distances. The clicker assures you of a draw check, a tension check and a shot trigger and is part of every leading recurve archer's armoury worldwide.

Stabilisation also uniformly consists of a long front rod, around 5in longer than your draw length and dual V-bar rods under half your draw length. Your recurve bow is now set up, and what you now require is a set of matched shafts spined to your bow poundage and arrow length.

The leading arrow manufacturers provide an arrow chart with poundage in 5lb increments vertically, and inch-by-inch arrow lengths horizontally. By matching your bow weight with your draw length, you will identify a box of arrow selections where spine will be in harmony with your bow, and depending on your finances, you can make an appropriate choice.

At this point, your bow is in reasonable shape to provide you with acceptable shooting potential, however, your nocking point and plunger tension are only close approximations and the final phase is tuning to exactly determine each of these critical necessities for optimum accuracy.

Next time, I will take you through the tuning procedures which the world's best embody in their quest for perfect scoring.

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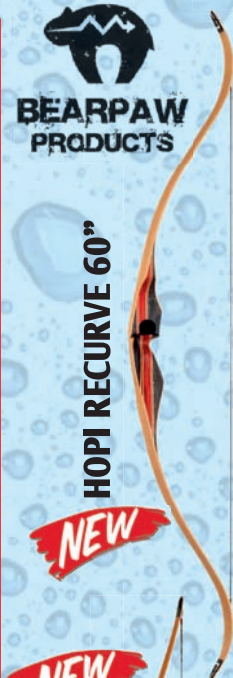


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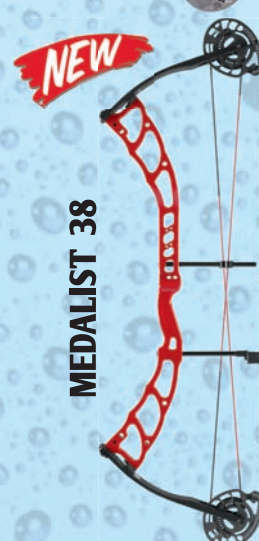


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LESSONS from Ishi

On a rocky hillside the bowhunter sat motionless. Huddled between two manzanita bushes he was nearly invisible. His bronze-coloured skin and jet black hair blended into the shade created by the bushes. His otter-guiver, filled with arrows, lay next to him and his juniper wood bow was held securely in his hand, an arrow nocked on the string. Wild yellow-breasted finches flew so close to him that he could have reached out and caught them with his bare hands. The sun would begin to drop soon and he knew that as it did, his chances for success would increase with each passing minute.

Slowly, he began to make a sucking like sound as he placed his lips to the back of his hand. If a deer was within the sound he was making, it would come to him. His years of experience had taught him that. And the shot would be close ... hopefully within feet.

He heard the animal before he saw it. And when the wind blew strong enough in his direction, he smelled it as well. The soft dainty sounds produced from a hoof walking on dry ground became louder and he readied himself. He continued to make the beckoning sound by sucking on his hand, but now much softer, knowing that if he was too loud, the deer might spot him. He raised himself on to a knee and brought his bow up as well. He could see the legs of the deer now, moving through and around rocks and brush, still moving in his direction. He began to tense and slowly drew his bow as the deer stood loyd away, bobbing its head trying to determine where the sound had come from. The arrow made little sound upon release but there was a soft thump as it buried itself into the animal. The deer turned and ran. And in a moment the bowhunter heard the unmistakable sound of it falling into the dry brush. Tonight, he would eat.



John A. Barlow

On a clear winter's day, after snow has fallen in the nearby mountains, I can look northward from my home and see Mount Lassen. Below it, in the oak-clothed manzanita-covered foothills, flows Deer Creek—the birthplace of Ishi, the last, wild, native American Indian. It is a land I have bowhunted. It is a land that I love. To the west of it, travellers speed north and south along Interstate Highway 5 never knowing how close they are to the land that holds so much history. For you and me who bowhunt, it is a deep and passionate history. It is hard not to think of Ishi when we think about the history of bowhunting. Bowhunting organisations are named after him. Awards given to exceptional bowhunters are named after him. I cannot think of the Pope and Young club without thinking of Ishi. His influence runs deep in our sport. While there has been a great deal written about him and his people, little has been written about him as a bowhunter ... which is how he survived.

His bowhunting methods and philosophy are as useful and applicable today as they were then ... no matter what kind of bow you shoot ... and no matter where you live.

Ishi's bow

In her wonderful book, *"Ishi in Two Worlds"*, Theodora Kroeber describes Ishi's feelings for his bow. "He loved his bow as he loved nothing else he owned." It was everything to him. It helped to protect him and his people. It helped to provide food so he and others could eat and

live. He touched it only with respect and ceremony. And why not? Without it he became vulnerable to his enemies and starvation. The proper way to store it was to lay it down—never standing it on its limb tip which would have made it weak. He was careful not to let others touch it. He



Ambushing game animals was Ishi's favoured bowhunting method.



Bowhunting near a water source is a productive way to harvest game animals.



Using natural camouflage like shade helped Ishi stay concealed.



Using the scent produced by natural vegetation helps conceal the human scent.



Letting bowhunting clothing air out allows it to smell more natural.



It's best to use as much of the harvested game animal as possible.

kept it wrapped or covered with buckskin or a mountain lion tail. Because he made it himself, the many hours of labour helped to bond him to it. In many ways, it became an extension of himself. Maybe that is the true reason he loved it so much.

My friend Dave Cade has an old Bear Alaskan compound that he loves. And while he does not shoot it anymore he almost always speaks about it in reverent tones. It hangs over his desk in his house on a pair of mule deer antlers that the bow helped to harvest more than 30 years ago. It is not the most beautiful bow he owns, but it has special meaning to him. One bowhunting writer described a bow as nothing more than a tool ... not some kind of magical piece of wood with mystical powers. I have to agree to some extent, yet when I draw my recurve back and place an arrow exactly where I want it to go, and I feel that rush of joy, my bow feels like it is more than just a tool. And then, like Ishi, it becomes an extension of who I am.

Calling and ambushing game

There is magic in the word 'stalk' in bowhunting. Read enough bowhunting magazines or watch enough bowhunting videos and you will hear the word repeated often, especially if the hunting is done in country that is open and free from trees or thick vegetation. It is the

act of moving within shooting range of one's quarry without being detected. It is a technique that lends itself to the sport of bowhunting. For most of his bowhunting, Ishi called or decoyed game to within shooting range. Making sounds with his mouth, or using the head of a deer from an earlier harvest, he brought his quarry in close. He did it with deer, rabbits and bear. And while that type of bowhunting may not be useful in every bowhunting situation, it does have some advantages. Some game animals will come to a call. Some will not. I have used calls and had luck with them. But I have also watched game animals run to parts unknown when I have used a call to try to lure them in. I will have to admit that there is nothing like luring a large-bodied animal like an elk or bear into shooting range using a call or even smaller game like rabbits. Perfecting the art of calling can certainly add to the bowhunter's arsenal.

Ambushing means lying in wait. In these scenarios it is the game moving to the hunter. Ishi was successful by waiting at waterholes along highly used game trails, especially those trails that crossed or intersected. Like every good bowhunter, he was extremely patient and did not rush things. His shots were often very close, and he waited for the game animal to pass by him before shooting so he would not be seen. I have also found that the majority of my closest encounters with game animals have come in a ambush bowhunting situation. It can be a very productive way to bowhunt.

Waste nothing

Ishi used the entire game animal and wasted little if anything. Not only was the meat used for consumption, but also the hide, hooves, antlers or horns and even bones were used. In many areas here in the United States, you will be fined and given a citation if you pack out of the bush the antlers or horns of an animal before you pack out the meat. Yet even then only certain parts of the animal have to be packed or brought out in compliance with game laws. I see some hunters packing out just enough of the animal to be compliant while leaving other parts to the local predator population. It may take extra effort and time but the meat often left on the rib and neck bones can make excellent stews and soups. If you are a skilled tanner or know someone who is, hides from game animals can make excellent rugs, quivers, or a multitude of other useful things. Again, be sure to check your local game laws before going into the bush with your bow.

Scent

There has been a plethora of information written about controlling your scent while in the process of bowhunting, and rightly so. Most of my close range

encounters over the years while bowhunting have been spoiled by the animal smelling me first. Ishi took the issue of scent seriously as he bathed or sweated to help remove his odour from his body. He washed out his mouth and ate no fish or used tobacco.

Controlling your scent can be difficult, especially in warm weather where human sweat is just a part of moving around in the bowhunting woods. In most, if not all of my back country mountain bowhunts, I have tried to be near water; not just for drinking, but also to bathe each day during a bowhunt, to wash the body odour away.

Soap can smell worse than body odour so I refrain from using it, letting the stream or lake water cleanse me. After washing my clothes and letting them air dry, I will often rub them with vegetation common to the area. Some trees and other plants can put off odour that is common for game animals to smell. In many of the areas I bowhunt, pine trees are abundant. Their needles can be pulled off quite easily and rubbed over one's clothing. The needles often have sap on them that is produced by the tree and will stick to clothing helping the bowhunter to smell like the tree and not a human.

In drier climates like desert terrain, sage grows in great numbers and can be used in the same way. I like to break off a few pieces of sage and put it in my pockets. Its odour can last for days.

But above all, always be aware of the direction of the wind. Ishi would not hunt any area unless the wind was right, blowing his scent away from the game



Ishi protected his bows by keeping them covered. The modern bowhunter can do the same.



A longbow case made out of buffalo may be a little overboard ... but it works.



Ishi used his hands and grass blades to produce sounds that would call in game. Today there is a variety of commercial products to produce calls.

animal he was pursuing. No matter how odour free a bowhunter thinks he or she is, if the wind is taking your scent to a game animal instead of away from it, the animal is going to smell you.


Ishi's shooting ability

In his book, "Hunting With The Bow And Arrow", Saxton Pope describes Ishi's shooting range between 10yd and 50yd. Any further than that and Ishi held off shooting until he could get closer. As Pope wrote in his book, "Like other archers, if Ishi missed a shot he always had an excuse." Hollywood often portrays ancient American natives and other peoples as being excellent marksmen with the bow and arrow. But like modern users of the bow and arrow I am confident there were plenty of times when the arrow did not hit its target, whether man or beast. Pope writes that he could shoot as well as Ishi on targets, but Ishi could surpass him at shooting at game.

"Small game like quail, Ishi could hit with regularity up to 20yd. And I have seen him kill ground squirrels at 40yd, yet at times, miss a 4ft target. Ishi explained that the bright coloured rings on a target diverted his attention. He was right."

Ishi's bowhunting philosophy

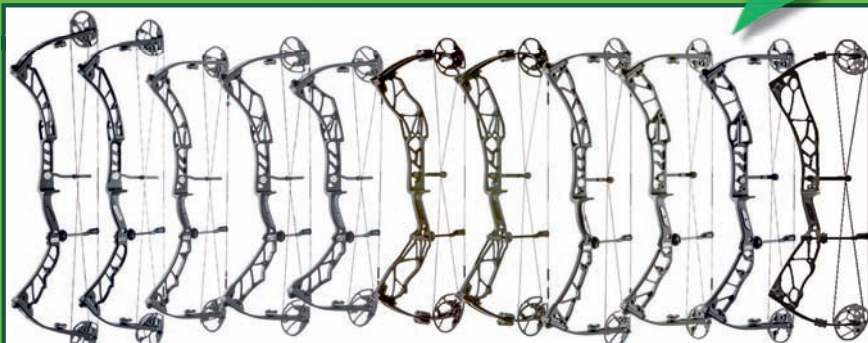
Ishi bowhunted to live. He did not just live to bow-hunt ... though I am confident, like you and me, he loved it with a passion. The sacredness of it to him is evident by the way he built his bow and how he treated it. The care he took of his arrows. His care of the animals he harvested by using as much of them as possible. Nothing wasted. The meticulous preparation for a hunt. It was a way of life for him. A good way of life. If the future of our sport is to continue perhaps there are some things we can learn from Ishi to help our sport grow and flourish.

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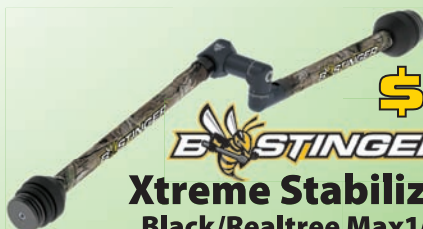
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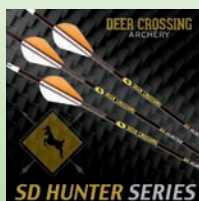


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by JYRI IIVONEN

An ideal natural hide.

It's said that the early bird gets the worm, and clearly there's something in it as the adage has stood the test of time. On previous outings I'd arrive at a good spot just too late or I'd walk past it only to look back, flat footed, stuck out in the open unable to backtrack without being seen, staring in total dismay as chital deer fed along the area I had just moved through, only to see them hit my scent trail and go on the alert. This time, I was planning a pre-dawn excursion to try to be in the path of where they might travel through for a change.

I was also going to try out a new strategy—although when you think about it was not that unusual a tactic.

An old saying my parents had told me years ago was echoing in my thoughts ... loosely translated, it was: "Why confront the billows and raging wind of the open ocean when you can often catch fish from close to shore?" Having seen most of the deer activity around the homestead on previous hunts, my plan seemed simple enough.

Setting off for deer, not fish, obviously, I stepped away from my car as quietly as possible in the dark. I had asked if it would be alright for me to drive past the homestead pre-dawn to find an ambush point for a try at the early shift. So, tiptoeing through the rocks in the faint moonlight trying hard not to trip (though I man-

aged to clip some larger rocks with my boots), I saw a group of station horses looming out of the darkness to check out what was coming their way. They broke away, stomping their hooves and trotting off, rattling my nerves. They pulled up about 50m away, gently snorting in turn their dislike of the intruder. Luckily they didn't carry on too much and allowed me to pass. Walking on, I noticed movement in front of me so I paused to strain my eyes and made out the form of a rabbit bumbling off. I was after larger prey and didn't even consider the tiny prize (though last year in almost the same spot I got a fat little rabbit during one of my 'bit-too-late-after-sun-up' hunts).

Crossing the drying reed-lined creek, trying to step on grass clods and rocks at the cattle crossing, I managed to spook a pair of kangaroos whose loud slapping jumps annoyed me no end, making me mumble out loud, "Great," to myself and no one else, "Why not let off some fireworks while you're at it?" glaring at Skippy and friend as they moved off.

I sat down hoping to see if there would be any deer at first light, only to have the same pair of kangaroos playing, slapping and clawing at one another 40m or so away. I enjoyed the spectacle. Cattle grazing way out on the plains were now showing up clearly above the waist-high grass in the quickening light. The wind was barely moving, and a quick puff of the powder bottle showed a very slight drift to the southwest.

Becoming restless as I knew the wind could start to swirl in these conditions, I decided to carefully get off the log and have a glass around, a fortunate move as it turned out for I saw a string of deer way off, about 500m away ... but they were filing off in the wrong direction.

My heart sank and I started to wonder if this day was going to be like those other fruitless days. Suddenly my thoughts were interrupted, because on further inspection, I saw that closer in there was a smaller group feeding my way. They were about 200m away and although they were barely recognisable dark silhouettes under a large tea tree, I knew those shapes weren't horses or poddy calves, as one at least showed antlers. As my spirits lifted, I realised that if I hadn't moved, things could have turned out differently.

Hunching over, I scurried closer to the creek and set up next to some big trees with fallen timber tumbled and wedged between the upper branches. It made an excellent natural

hide. Shrugging off my day pack at its base, I knelt to lessen my form and sure enough, this smaller group was headed in my direction. On they came, silently feeding with heads snapping up to inspect for potential danger. Previously I'd bitten the bullet and bought the rangefinding binoculars, Steiner 8X30 LRF, and now I was reaping the reward of my investment as I ranged some trees on an open cropped grassy creek flat across the reeds in the direction from where I'd come from. It bothered me that my scent trail would eventually be crossed by the mob, as we all know what happens then! But I memorised these spots so that if the deer moved past that location my shot would come quickly without hesitation, hopefully before any of them had found my scent.

It wasn't long before the group of seven deer, were 140m off, but on my side of the creek! Arrgh! Now I had the worry that they would bump into me before I had a chance to even draw! Their behaviour was the usual nervous twitchiness as now they were getting agitated by the farm dogs chained up behind the stables barking as the landowner doled out the morning dog chow and their son called out to their poddy calves to come in for feed.

This actually worked to my advantage as the deer, being preoccupied with these noises (even though they were probably used to the noises as they doubtless heard them day after day), popped back through the reed bed to be screened by it, until they appeared right at the two trees I had ranged. The best buck of the two was standing broadside at what later would be laser measured at 35m and the does were twitching to every sound around them. A smaller buck appeared at the back of the mob closest to me at 25m on the edge of the water and a split-

second thought flashed through my mind that I could take this closer buck ... but the antlers on the first one looked better and if I'd hesitated it would have been one of the rifle hunters who visit the property who would take him out. I was probably not going to get a second chance.

This was no time to stall. I came fluently to full draw, placing my 35m pin on the lower quarter of the first buck's chest just up from his front leg, only to notice a small leafy branch at 20m just covering the vitals, so I carefully leaned across to the right a bit to clear the obstruction to make absolutely sure of a clean arrow flight path. I paused for a second, willing the deer to stand still which they all did, with some nibbling the cropped grass, and I committed to the shot. I heard the arrow strike with a shhhhk' and the little herd exploded into a full gallop. I lost sight of the buck at about 100m because of the terrain



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Jyri with his first chital stag.

and trees. I noticed he had run with his head and neck outstretched and down as opposed to the others with their heads carried somewhat higher.

Now the adrenaline hit me like a freight train. My thoughts were all around the place, from “What have I done?” to “Did I hit him good?” to negative thoughts that crowded my mind, spinning through an endless scenario of what might have (or might not have) happened.

I brought myself back to the present and the realisation that I really shouldn’t worry but have the attitude that I would just take it as it

comes. I was already kneeling, so I dragged my legs around to sit cross legged then leaned back against the tree as I quaked and shook for about 20 or 30 minutes. A little branch in contact with my left shoulder was wobbling with every shivering fit—maybe it was the slight cool of the morning and the adrenaline combined or maybe it was pure adrenaline, as it’s never really cool in north Queensland. Anyway, it was a good time to let the deer do what they had to do. So, all this time the does in the small mob were alarm calling. Early in the piece I tried to look through my

binos but gave up due to the shakes. But once I settled enough I could make out one doe staring at an area with big bug eyes and neck craned forward, every so often jinking away only to gingerly come back once in a while to look at the same spot. I didn’t want to assume the buck was down in that spot but it sure felt that way so I memorised the shape of the trees and shrubs near where she was standing for later reference. The scrub had fallen silent now the does had moved off and the only noises were those coming from the dawn chorus of Australian birds including

our magpies, crows, parrots and other smaller birds and the muffled sound of the farmhouse daily chores.

The sun was finally lighting up the shadows and I achingly stood up to allow the reptile in me to absorb the sun's warmth. I short-stepped carefully back down the cattle pad pausing here and there—looking left and right for anything else I might spook—and went back through the creek stepping on stones and clods to keep my boots dry. I moved to the impact spot, having used trees and branches to line up the direction of the shot from the natural hide and found my arrow only 3m from where I estimated the buck had stood. The arrow was covered in rich bright red blood but hardly any other blood was on the ground in the departure direction, which disturbed me. It brought back memories of unrecovered game from years ago. (Show me a person who has never failed and I will show you one of two things—a fibber or a person who's never tried anything.)

I walked 20m in the direction that the mob had departed then glassed but didn't see anything, so I started to move another 20m. Movement and the sound of rapidly departing light hooves caught me by surprise—back in the direction of my hide, a deer flitted through the trees to points unknown. This made me slow right down to tiny steps as I felt for twigs and rocks under my feet, hoping that I hadn't just spooked the deer I'd just hit. I raised the binos to see those trees I'd committed to memory where the doe had been nervously inspecting the ground, and then

panning down I made out the dark back strip, beautiful white dappling on the chestnut hide and the antlers. Inside my brain I was cheering, but I felt it improper to break the silence around me, although I'm sure I was quietly hissing "Yes! Yes! YES!".

I walked up, staring in amazement, and started to reach down to touch the antler but stopped my hand. Kneeling beside the deer, I put my palm on the buck's shoulder, within me quietly apologising and thanking the animal for this outcome. Now I clutched the antlers, admiring them, grinning so much my cheeks hurt.

I covered his eyes with tea tree branches so the crows wouldn't peck them before I got a chance to take my photos—the bush telegraph travels fast as the crows, kites and buzzards were already starting to circle. Jogging back through the rocks to the farmhouse, I caught sight of the owners preparing for work. After a cheery hello and a hearty handshake, I asked politely but with the biggest Cheshire cat smile, if I could borrow a quad bike to retrieve my first chital buck taken with archery equipment. They congratulated me and said, "Sure, but bring it into the cool room to hang overnight." I was brimming with joy.

After field dressing using a tree and a mini-pulley block to get the carcass on the rack of the quad and back to the cool room, I declared my hunt over and helped in the cattle yards for the rest of the day, moving calves and yearlings for branding and tagging. That night I slept well.

The next day, having hung the

carcass in the cold room of the station, I found while breaking down the carcass that the arrow had hit just an inch or two under centre of the left rib cage up from the leg and exited high on the right rib cage 4in low of the spine! Examination of the blade entry strike area showed one of the broadhead blades had cut the underside of a rib. With that you'd think the arrow would be deflected slightly downward but I can only surmise the buck started its duck or lunge and probably a veer away from the noise to the right and that's why I heard the arrow's strike so clearly passing through then exiting slightly high before his legs powered off to drive his body weight forward for his last sprint.

Many of my friends and relatives will enjoy this highly regarded game meat for months, I only give it away once I know for sure it'll be consumed and not just taken politely only to be discarded. I always ask this first and stipulate I won't give it to anyone who really doesn't want it. Up to now, no one has complained but have commented how much nicer it is to other breeds of deer they've tasted previously.

I've got a few recipes for venison, with schnitzel being up there at the top of the list. I really enjoy having small groups of friends over for dinner and have a quiet inner satisfaction that I really put in the effort to prepare this meal, from the ground up; paddock to plate so to speak.

I look forward to my next trip ... it can't come quickly enough.



The writer of this story wins a pack of three **BONECRUSHER BROADHEADS** compliments of

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OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Steadying your aim

For me, one of the most important parts of the shot process is a smooth and steady aim. If my bow isn't aiming well, or if I am moving all around the target, I find it very difficult to execute the shot correctly. In this month's article I will cover some of the basic techniques I use to completely reset my bow's hold and other ways I have used to get my bows aiming smooth and steady.



by STEVE CLIFTON

There is an urban legend in the archery community which says an experiment was done (using laser pointers) to measure how the top shooters in the US aim. It was found that all but one of the guys moved around the centre of the target during the shot. Accordingly, Chance Beaubouef (who has won Vegas a number of times) was the only shooter who had a dead steady aim—barely moving off the X at all.

What this means is that it is mostly normal for us to move around the target (in small amounts) while aiming, but what we don't want to occur is for the movement to be unpredictable. One of the most important things we can do to begin improving our shooting is to create a predictable aiming pattern, one we can rely on over and over, like watching the same TV show again and again.

The first thing I like to do to 'reset

my aim' is to rip all the stabilisers and weights off my bow and start afresh. One of the largest improvements you will get in your aim is getting your bow to balance correctly to your shooting form. The good (and sometimes bad) news is that this balance is completely a personal preference and there is no real right or wrong way to set up your stabilisers. If you look at the international stage, you will see compound shooters with V-bars, one





side pointed straight back, one out to the side, tons of weight stuck in all different place and so on. What matters the most is what makes the bow aim and shoot best for your style of shooting. I often switch between V-bars and a single sidebar before competitions as sometimes a stabiliser change can steady the shot up for how I am shooting at the time.

The first thing to do once all the stabilisers have been taken off is to determine how much weight is wanted out the end of the front stabiliser. If you have multiple length stabilisers, it is definitely worth experimenting with having a longer rod with less weight out the front and then trying the shorter rod with more weight as well. For me, I typically like to shoot a 32in Doinker rod with about 12oz of weight out the end. As a starting point I typically suggest for most compound guy shooters to start with 10oz of weight out front and tweak this as we move along the set-up process.

Once the front stabiliser is on and weighted up, we need to add a side-rod to help level the bow out more naturally. Very few people can balance a bow dead straight up and down just using their handgrip, and

if you are forcing the bow over with your hand then you actually end up adding torque, which is not good for consistency. On most bows there are several different places you can mount the side-rod; a common place these days is at the lowest hole on your riser. New Hoyts (such as my Prevail here) have a hole at the low point of the riser which allows for the bow's overall centre of mass to be lower which adds to increased stability. When it comes to the angle for the side-rod to be at, I am a big fan of a reasonably straight back and droop-

ing a little. Over the years I have shot every angle imaginable and I have found the most stable point for me is to have the side-rod at this point with a fair amount of weight which acts both as a side balance and a front/back balance. By adding balance for the front and back, we are able to create a stable platform that requires less energy and effort from us in order to stabilise which means we are able to aim much steadier and hopefully score better too! I suggest this as your first point of checking for improving your aim, experiment



and log in your diary what works and what doesn't; don't be afraid to try something new!

The next things I like to experiment with when trying to improve my aim is adjusting and changing my draw-stop pegs. One thing I have learnt in the 10-plus years I have been shooting my Hoyts is that a huge amount of forgiveness and accuracy can be gained out of adjusting the positions and the material of the pegs. Depending on the cam system that is on the bow, you sometimes have two pegs (like on the DFX cams that are on the Hyper Edge) or just a single one which is commonly found on the Spiral-X and X3 cams. I have found that for me, having smaller stops (the stock pegs that come with the cams are quite large) reduces the holding weight and actually makes the bow's back wall a bit softer. Softening the back wall up for me is great because I like to pull hard into the wall and if the wall is too firm (like with limb-stops), the more you pull means the more you are fighting a force with no give which leads to shaking during the shot. I have seen this with several people shooting with metal limb-stops and it can lead to instability while shooting. My suggestion to those shooters who are using limb-stops is to try wrapping the post with a rubber ring or even laying some soft rubber on the limb, which should soften up the wall and allow you to expand in the shot without fighting

the stop on the limb.

Another thing that has always helped me get back on track with steadying my aim is adjusting my draw length slightly to try optimising the position where my shot breaks. As I mentioned, I pull hard into the wall and being a few millimetres forward or back from the optimal position can be the difference between an aiming pleasure and an aiming nightmare. I can tell that my draw length is too short when I start noticing that my front arm feels really tight and the dot seems to 'jitter' around the target. This is a good sign that I am pulling way too hard into the wall and that I need to give myself a little more room to expand.

The opposite can also occur when the draw length is too long, and my front arm begins to ache from over extension and the dot seems to float around the bottom of the gold/target. In these situations, the easiest way to adjust the draw length is to either add a twist or two to each of the cables (this will lengthen your draw length as well as increase your poundage slightly) or to take twists out of the cables (which will shorten your draw length and lower your poundage). It can sometimes also be helpful to just adjust one cable to lengthen only one cam's stop position as the bow's timing may also need to be slightly adjusted. If you are getting good results out of tweaking the draw length like this, then I

suggest adding/subtracting one twist out of only one cable at a time and see how this works out.

Some of the last things that I like to experiment with when trying to get my aiming back on track is changing my anchor position with my release hand. There are two simple ways I like to do this, one by changing the length of my D-loop, the other is to try changing my release aid. The length of the D-loop greatly changes the position that your hand touches your face and if you have it too short you may end up having to move your head into awkward positions to be able to see through your peep. The length of the head on your release aid can also have a similar affect in that the shorter it is the closer the release jaw will be to your string. As I have mentioned in the past, adjust the length of your D-loop so that you can get your hand into a comfortable position, I suggest to most people to try get your knuckles just behind your jaw as this is a great place to anchor your hand and gives maximum stability during the shot.

Hopefully this can give you some starting points and ideas for things to change when looking at improving your aim. Remember it usually takes a combination of changes before everything becomes perfect, so as you adjust things take note of what you do so that you can always revert to your original set-up and start again if you need to!

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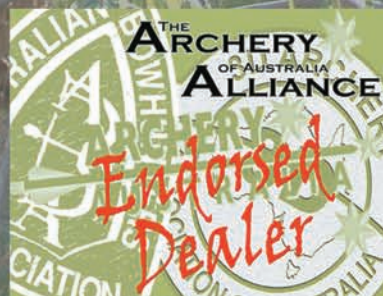
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- Practice is essential but NOT in a built up area unless it's a safe environment.
- NEVER fire an arrow in the direction of another person.
- Native animals such as kangaroos and birds etc, CANNOT be legally taken with a bow.
- Under some state legislation, it is an OFFENCE to be in possession of a bow whilst under the influence of alcohol.
- You CAN NOT shoot any arrow in a bow. They MUST be matched to the specific draw length & weight of the bow.
- NEVER fire a bow without an arrow on the string. The resultant forces could result in SERIOUS injury.
- Permission to hunt on private property SHOULD be obtained each and every time you visit the property.
- Some feral animals require a PERMIT to hunt them. CHECK your state legislation.



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Leatherwork Basics

Principles of pouches



TONY JENSEN

Almost every leatherwork enthusiast will at some stage make a knife sheath. It's one of those simpler jobs that you start with to develop your technique and then once you're up and going, and you expand your skill and knowledge base, then you can start showing off and customising your sheaths to accent the knives you carry. A good knife sheath will always get a comment from whoever sees it. Generally, if you wear it into town the comments aren't very positive, but around like-minded people and in the right context you will get the odd compliment or two!

There are a multitude of ways to make a knife sheath. Some people prefer to wet-mold their leather to fit their knife exactly, giving it a tailored look. Others might want a simple model because all they need is something to stop the knife losing its edge rolling around in the back of the ute.

Whatever your reason for making a sheath, you will be overwhelmed by the different styles and techniques out there. Google is a testament to that. If you Google 'How to make a knife sheath' you will literally receive hundreds of links, videos and websites and it simply becomes a case of choosing the one that you like.

The style of sheath that I will walk you through today is based on the Randall-style sheath and is probably the simplest knife sheath I've come across. I like to keep things simple; it generally means I make fewer mistakes! Normally the sheath is made with a belt loop but for this article I will use just a simple belt slot. The whole thing consists of three pieces—the backing piece that everything is stitched onto' the welt, which is the piece in the middle that stops your knife cutting through your stitches and also gives your knife the clearance to slid into your sheath; and the front piece which tops off the sheath.

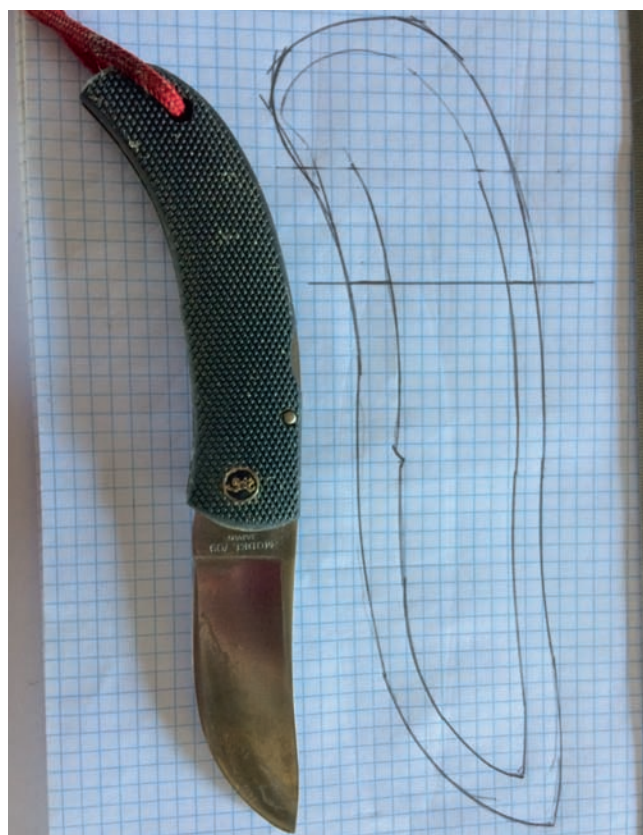
First off, you're going to need some good quality veg-tanned leather. I like to use skirting leather, normally around the 4mm to 4.5mm thickness for larger knives and thinner 3mm to 3.5mm leather for my smaller knives. Basically you can use whatever thickness you prefer. You may want to use tooling leather in order to add some patterns to your pouch, in which case you'll be using leather around 2.5mm thick. As long as the leather is good quality it doesn't really matter as long as it suits your needs. Try to avoid using chrome-tanned leather though, as the chemical tanning process can have a negative effect on the metal of your knife.

I like to start my process by tracing out a pattern on paper and then transferring that to cardboard to act as a template. Lay your knife onto a sheet of paper and trace

around its shape. The style of pouch you want will determine how you go about this part but for the Randall-style sheath I'll have to trace all the way around the knife.

Next, get a set of dividers and set them to approximately 10mm and trace around the knife again. This 10mm boundary will be the welt and is where your stitches will go. I normally place my stitches 4mm to 5mm in from the edge of the job, so by allowing 10mm, you're effectively giving yourself a 5mm buffer from the knife cutting through the stitches. You can make this welt wider or narrower, but I have found that 10mm is a pretty good compromise.

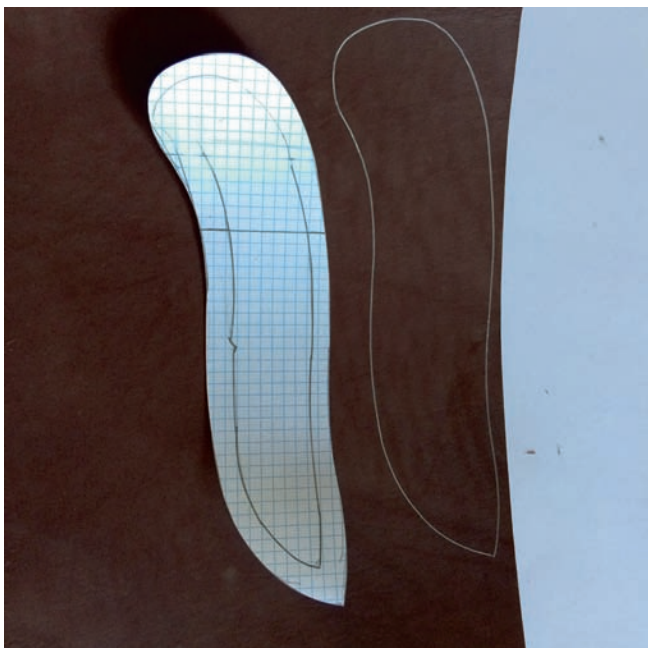
On your drawing, mark where your top piece will go. Some people like to have the top piece just covering the



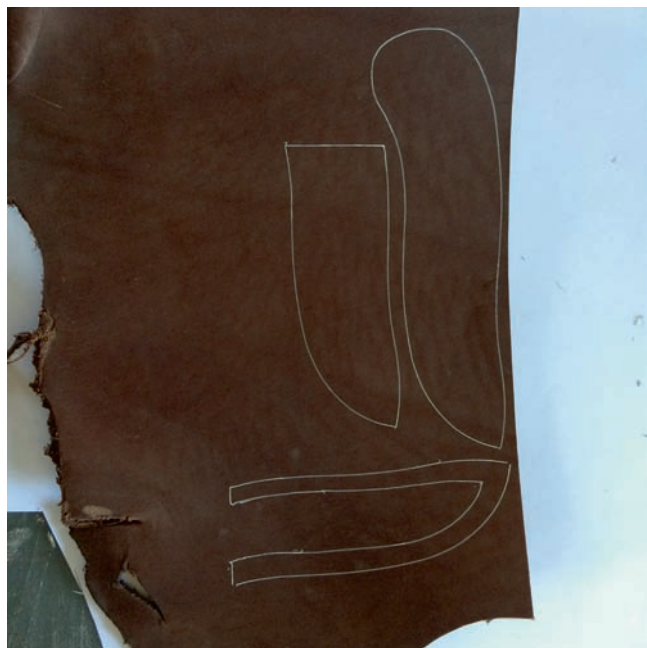
blade, while others extend it up to almost cover the whole knife. I like to make the top piece about two-thirds the length of the knife, that way I don't have to use a tang clip to hold my knife in. This system has worked pretty well for me so I'll continue to use it. But like I keep saying, do whatever works for you. If you want a clip then add one, it's up to you.

Cut out your outline and then stick it onto some thicker paper or cardboard to act as your template. It's always better to do your designing on paper first, rather than trying to draw your pattern directly onto leather because the more marks you make on your leather, the more confusing it becomes and the harder it is to remove them. Plus, cardboard/ paper is a heck of a lot cheaper than leather if you do happen to make a mistake.

Place your template onto your leather and carefully trace around it. I like to use pencil to transfer my patterns but to make it easier to see I've used a white gel pen. This first tracing will be the backing for your pouch.



Next, cut off the exposed handle section of your template leaving just the front piece. Trace around that front piece. Finally, take your scissors or Stanley knife and cut out the blade section from the top piece, leaving just the welt section of your template and trace that onto your leather as well. I know some people who will often use the same template for a series of knives that they have or they may just want to hang onto their original in which case, it might be a good idea to make a copy of your design before you start cutting it up. Now you have all three parts (*pictured on next page*) of your sheath. All you have to do is cut them out and stick them all together.



Take the backing piece and the front piece and lay them over each other. Align the edges as precisely as possible and then mark on your back piece the back of the front section. This will help you to identify how much room you have to make your belt slots. The size of the belt slots will be determined by the size of the hunting belt you have. Most standard belts are around the 35mm to 38mm width but webbing belts and the like are up to 50mm wide, so if that's the case, you may need to allow a little more leather at the top of your template to accommodate the extra belt width. Mark in your belt slots leaving at least 20mm between both slots for strength and at



least 10mm in from the edge of your backing piece. The slots should be 3mm to 4mm wide to allow a belt to pass through easily.



Use a hole punch to make the ends of the slots then use your knife to cut the straight lines..

Over the years, I have found that when I'm cutting out these belt slots, it's easier to start off by using a round punch and punching a hole at either end of the slot and then using my knife to cut out the straight lines, rather than trying to cut out corners, which invariably get overcut and make a mess of things. This way, the slots always end up with neat rounded ends.

Once you have cut out your slots, take the welt section and place it onto the backing piece. Match up the edges and carefully trace the outline. Grab your front piece and turn it over and trace the welt onto it as well. Tracing this part serves two purposes. Firstly, it helps when it comes to aligning all of the parts and secondly, when you apply your glue, you can get it into the parts that need it and avoid putting it where it doesn't need to go.

Take some 40 grit sandpaper and rough up the welt area that you marked on the backing piece that you have just drawn in. Roughing up this section will help the glue and the leather stick together. Often the finish applied to the top of the leather will prevent the leather from sticking together well, so roughing it up gives greater strength.



Roughen up the edges with sandpaper.

Now, it's time to get 'stuck' into it and grab your glue. Put glue on the roughed-up welt area on the backing piece and do the same to the bottom side of the welt. Allow the glue to get tacky on both pieces and then carefully align them and stick them in place.

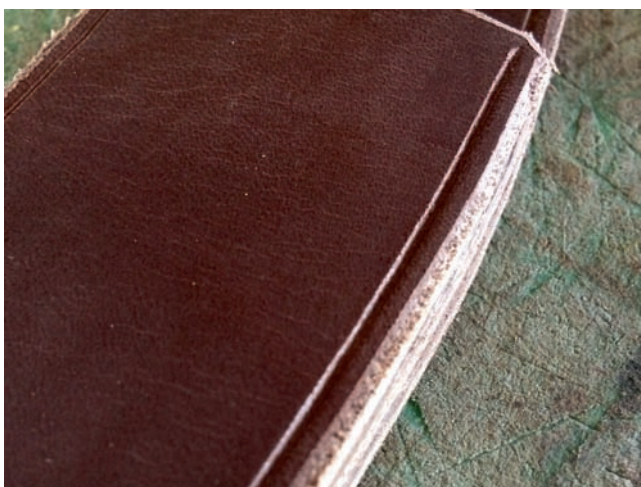
Grab your sandpaper again and this time, rough up the grain side of the welt and then apply a thin layer of glue to the surface of the welt and the welt area you marked on the underside of the front piece. Again, wait until the glue is tacky and then place the front piece onto the welt. Align the edges as best as you can. It won't matter if there are little over hanging areas or if the glue ran over the sides; we can tidy that up with a bit of sandpaper a bit later.



Wait until the glue is tacky before you place the front piece onto the welt.

Now, take a hammer and give the glued sections a gentle tap. This just helps the job to stick together and pushes out any air bubbles that might have been in between the layers.

Take your stitching groover and run a line around the outside of the pouch. As I said earlier, I normally like to leave 4mm to 5mm in from the edge for my stitching. Less than that and you can tend to cut through the sides of your job with your awl blade. Any more than 4mm or 5mm then over time the edges start to open up and that makes the job look a bit messy. But as I also keep saying, it's your call. You may even get excited and decide to put in two rows of stitching—one on the outside 4mm or 5mm in from the edge all the way around the sheath and then another line of stitching 3mm in from that just around the front piece. It's entirely up to you.



Mark the stitching groove before using your edger, otherwise it will be hard to gauge the distance.

Next up, take your edger and remove the edge from both the top and the bottom of the sheath. This gives the job a more finished feel and appearance. (If you like rough and rustic look, you might want to leave it on.) The reason I always set my stitching lines before I edge my job is so that I can get an accurate gauge for the distance with the edge on. If you take the edge off and then set your stitching groove, the groover sits 1mm to 2mm in from the edge against the new edge you created, meaning your stitches will be further in than you had intended.

Okay, time to get stitching. Once you've finished the stitching it's time to make the sheath look pretty. Grab your sandpaper and just rub it along the flat edge of your job to smooth out any overhangs or dried bits of glue. Once you've done that, grab a good quality leather dressing and a piece of canvas or old piece of jeans. I like to use a beeswax-based leather dressing for my work. It always softens leather nicely, offers great weather protection for your jobs and buffs up to a nice sheen.



Sand the flat edge to smooth off overhangs and dried glue then smooth on some good quality leather dressing.



After working in the dressing, draw your cloth down the edge, in one direction only, to burnish it.

Place a small amount of the leather dressing onto the flat edge of the sheath and work it in. Next take your cloth and draw it down the edge in one direction. It's important that you only work it in one direction because what you're trying to do here is burnish the edges so that they're smooth. If you go backwards and forwards, it tends to make the leather fibres stick up worse than a case of bed hair! With a bit of time and elbow grease (not an actual form of leather dressing!), you should finish up with a burnished edge that reflects like a piece of glass.

Congratulations, you've made it! Now that you have a basic understanding of the concepts and steps needed to make a knife sheath you can go ahead and change it around and adapt it to suit your needs. If you want to do some creative tooling for your design, then do all of that before you put it all together otherwise it makes a real mess of things. But otherwise good luck ... and enjoy your creative journey!

Pictured on this page: The finished article, ready for its knife. Slotted onto a belt and ready to go. An example of a knife sheath that can be made






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HOYT CARBON X-TOUR LIMBS

When Hoyt released their 2017 line-up in October last year, I jumped at the opportunity to purchase a set of the new bamboo core Carbon X-Tours. My F4 limbs from the 2010 release had served me well for nearly seven years, but it was time for an upgrade.

When I first found out Hoyt were bringing out bamboo core limbs, it was a no-brainer for me. I'm surprised other big manufacturers hadn't done this before. Bamboo is strong, light and pliable—perfect for a recurve limb. The X-Tours come in both the grand prix or formula configurations. They are pearly white on the front, with the usual Hoyt branding. And on the back is a raw carbon checker pattern. Shooting the X-Tours straight out of the box, my initial reaction was "Wow, that's fast!". The X-Tours are

smooth to draw, very stable to hold, and extremely snappy on release with minimal vibration—the perfect combination (in my opinion) for any recurve shooter, whether you're in a sighted or an unsighted division. What's more, they produce a very crisp noise on release.

I've been shooting the X-Tours for around about six months now, and have mainly only positive things to say. As someone who went seven years between limb purchases, I can honestly say there is a noticeable increase in stability and speed. If you're like me and have bung shoulders, an indirect bonus of this is you can drop your poundage a tiny bit without significantly affecting your recurve's trajectory. Will you see this increase if you're upgrading from last year's limbs? I'm sorry to say



Review by Liam Mowbray

that I don't have the answer, but my initial guess would be it may not be as noticeable. Probably the only real negative I have with these limbs is the pricetag. But hey, if you only buy limbs every few years then why not splurge a little and pay a bit extra for the quality? You know what they say, the poor man pays twice!

Overall, I'd say the X-Tours are a great investment for any intermediate to advanced recurver shooting sighted or barebow in IFAA, ABA, 3D or target competitions.





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PROTX KEVLAR ARMoured HAND GUARD

Archery is quite a safe sport in comparison with other sports. As archers, we always check our equipment before shooting and take all the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of ourselves and those nearby. But what about those times when something unexpected happens?

Say you're at the firing marker and you nock your arrow and draw the bow, you sight the pin on the target and ... the string breaks at full draw. The arrow is misfired, probably breaking into several pieces, and one of the pieces ends up penetrating your hand. First aid is needed, followed by an emergency hospital treatment. Alternatively you're at the practice butt and someone stumbles and collides with you just as you're at full draw. Other circumstances may cause a misfire and subsequent injury. The limb of a bow can break, an arrow can explode upon firing or the release aid can prematurely release the arrow.

Archers can now reduce the risk of serious bow hand injury with the ProtX Kevlar Hand Guard, and archery manufacturers, instructors and guides, can reduce their potential user liability.

The ProtX Kevlar Hand Guard has three layers of Kevlar covering the triangular area between the thumb and the first finger, which is where a misfired arrow will go when it all goes horribly wrong. In addition, the material on the inside of the ProtX Kevlar Hand Guard will assist you with reducing the torquing of the bow and if you prefer to be able to feel the riser in your hand there is a palmless style available.

The guard comes in three styles: Black, ASAT camo and palmless. It is available in Small, Medium, Large, XL and XXL. The price is \$45 (free postage and handling within Australia) and the product can be ordered from Alby Coleman at Bowcraft Archery, 4 Sarepta Court, Flagstaff Hill, South Australia 5159, by email at frogllion@gmail.com or mobile on 0419 002 468. For other information see the website, www.bowcraftarchery.com.au.



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The best things in life are still made by hand

Editor's note: This DVD came to our office along with a handwritten letter. So while it's not precisely a product review, it's a lovely story and we wanted to share it with you.

DVD—TRADITIONAL AUSTRALIAN BUSHCRAFTS

My name is Gary Sherwell. I have made a DVD for my 11 grandkids about bushcrafts where I show them a bit about bows, arrows, stringmaking, firemaking et cetera, in the hope that they find it useful and engaging.

They said they loved it, but they could be biased as I am their grandfather! I made the DVD because they now all live in Innisfail, Queensland. My wife and I live in Maffra, Gippsland Victoria.

We don't get to see or take them bush much anymore, so I made the DVD to keep them informed and show them anyone can do these bush skills if they put in the *time*.

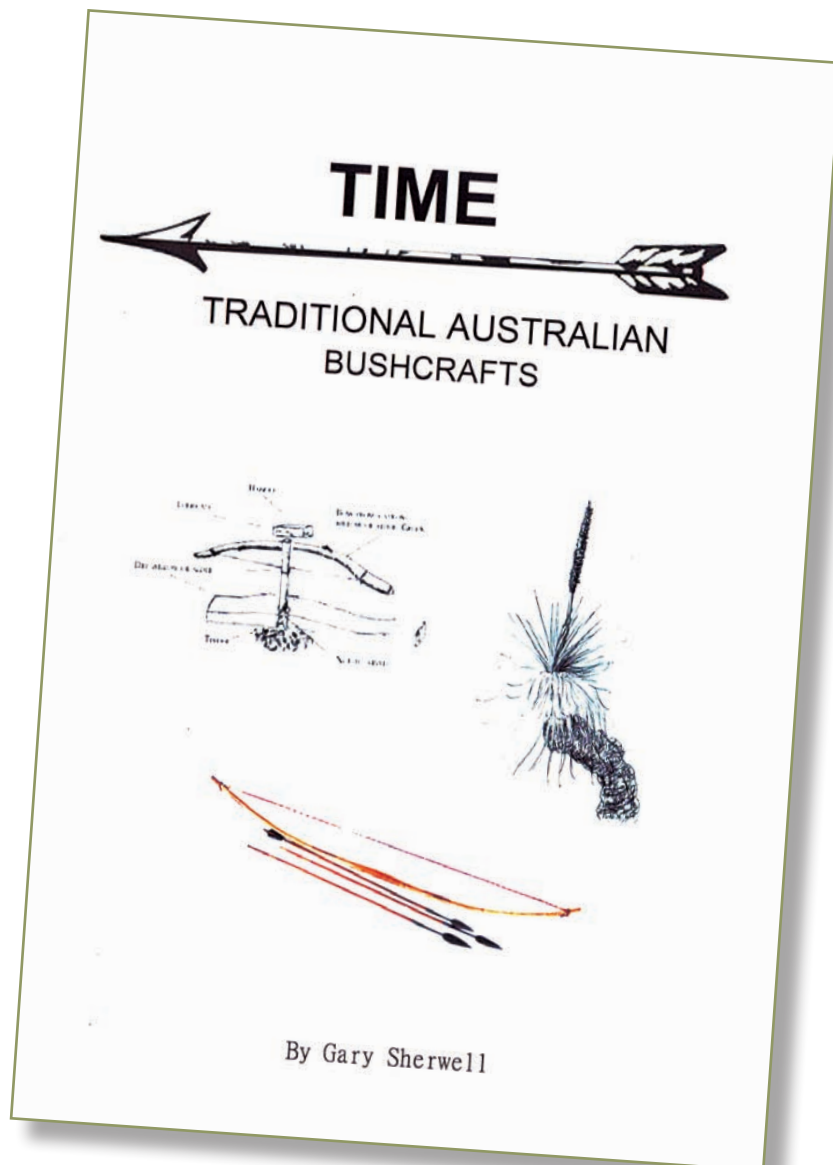
I grew up in Gippsland at Castleburn Creek on the Wonnangatta River 12 miles from the town of Dargo. I started hunting and fishing at a young age with my dad, uncles and grandfather: I was 5 or 6 when I shot my first rabbit with a .22 and caught my own fish. As a kid growing up in the 70s, I whittled bows and arrows from the willow trees that grew along the riverbank from the farm. They were crude but shot a stick, and I was hooked.

One day in 1971, I went into a sports store in Bairnsdale and they had a fibreglass bow hanging on the wall. I bought that little bow and some Port Orford cedar arrows.

I went around the farm trying to work out how to shoot this bow. I had a heap of questions to be answered, from how to aim to information about the sights.

I shot at cow dung pats, clumps of grass, leaves, old stumps and even rabbits.

Back in the 70s you could hit a rab-



bit with a stick, there were that many of them, but they were safe from my cedar sticks for quite a while. It took *time*.

I worked out a system that worked for me. I imagined an invisible tunnel from me to the target, put the target at the end of this tunnel and sent the arrow down the tunnel, and out the end where the target was, by pointing my bow arm at the target the arrow

would hit the spot ... or close to it.

I would pick another target and try to do that same shot again. It took *time*, but in the end I could pick a spot on the target, point to it with my bow hand and send an arrow down the tunnel into or close to the target I was aiming at. Look out, rabbits! I still shoot my bows this way today.

What started my interest in bows was the Phantom comic books that I

read. The Pygmy poison people had bows and arrows which they made out of the bush then used for hunting. As a 10-year-old, I was hooked on the idea!

Around 1972 or 1973, a camper came up and asked if he could camp on the river for a week on our place. Dad said to go for it.

It turned out that the fellow was into bushcraft. He had a book with him called, *"Bushcraft: A Serious Guide to Survival and Camping"* by Richard Graves. When the camper packed up his motorbike to go back to Melbourne, he gave the book to me as a present to our family for letting him camp at our place.

My brain went into overdrive. Every chance I had, I read and practised skills from within the pages of that book.

After school and when chores had been done, I would read under lamp-light or torchlight after the generator went out.

The book had chapters on rope and cordmaking, huts and thatchings, food and water, firemaking, knots and lashing snares and traps.

I read that book from cover to cover ... many times. I still use it today and am still learning about the bush.

All those years ago the environment I grew up in and then the book started me on the road to the love of bushcraft, bowhunting and having respect for animals and all that is in nature.

During school holidays, I would take off for a week into the mountains with a tarp for shelter, a couple of woolen blankets, a good knife, bow and arrows, fishing line, spuds and a bottle of cordial (and of course, my book.)

I would set snares and use a hand line in the river to get my tea. I would live on rabbit with spuds or fish and chips cooked on the campfire while I practised my bushcraft from out of the book.

Back in those days, you could live

off the land, with plenty of fish and rabbits around. The river had blackfish, gudgeons, eels and trout. You would always catch one or the other, but over the years the river blackfish and gudgeons have nearly been wiped out by trout being introduced into the river.

Nowadays it's harder to get a feed. Rabbit and fish are hard to come by now and if I catch blackfish or gudgeon now I put them back (but not the trout).

In the late 1980s I came across a book called *"The Bowyer's Craft"* by Jay Massey. I read that book from cover to cover many times too. It helped me with my bow and arrow making, but the wood in his book was from over in America so was no help to me. I went and got some willow, walnut, melaleuca and other bush timber that I found and with my machete and knife starting whittling bows out of them to the size in Jay's book. Some blew up after shooting; melaleuca and walnut stayed together. I shot them many times but over time they dried out more and became brittle.

The next ones I made I put oil on, and I am still shooting them today. In fact, I shoot them in my DVD, spine testing the arrows that I just made.

My selfbows are good for 20m shots so I have to put in a good stalk and get close enough for a good shot.

I have been reading *Archery Action*

since the 70s but have never joined a bow club because there were none where I lived (plus, I was too busy in my everyday life).

We took our four girls hunting, fishing, camping and bushcrafting all their lives plus some of our grandchildren.

I hunt and fish for groceries, as you cannot buy this in a shop (and if you could, it wouldn't be as good). My favourite animals to hunt for food are rabbits, goats and sambar deer.

I'm wondering if this DVD would be of interest to the readers of *Archery Action* and if the bushcraft in it could help them one day if they found themselves in a spot of trouble. It's my hope that my DVD will inspire and teach kids—or anyone—new skills and take them on a journey of learning, respect and love of nature ... the same journey I took all those years ago.

The reason I called the DVD *"Time"* was that it took a lot of time to learn the skills that I show in it. Of course, it also took time to make the DVD ... and it takes us back in time to our hunter-gatherer ancestors, without whose skills we would not be here today.

If you would like to buy a copy of the DVD, send \$30 to Gary Sherwell, 60 Alfred Street, Maffra Victoria 3860 or phone him on 0419 359 318.



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FULL DRAW ARCHERY

outside In the zone

Just my opinion

by Nils Spruitt

As an intricate part of the natural world, man is subject to many changes. In a past editorial I touched briefly upon this subject and how the ageing process often forces change upon us whether we like it or not. It goes without saying that ageing is a natural evolution of our very being or our very existence, if you prefer. We are all subject to, and linked in, with what is commonly referred to as a lifespan. Every living thing on this planet has one. Some are short when you speak in terms of actual time in existence, whilst others are quite lengthy. When you consider the fact that some insects only live for a handful of days, then the average lifespan of a human is relatively long. In fact I think we are about on par with an elephant in the natural scheme of things. At the extreme end of measurable lifespans are trees. Yes, trees are a living organism and the lifespan of some tree species is measured in



the hundreds of years.

Talking about lifespans, I would have to say I am heading rapidly towards the twilight of my own. I am not quite over the hill just yet but admittedly that hill is getting steeper with every passing year. I

try to keep relatively fit in that I play golf regularly, shoot my bows, work part time, walk my dog daily and generally I try to avoid the recliner unless there is something good on the television or it is night time. An integral part of good health and

ageing (according to the experts on television) is being careful about what we consume. When it comes to eating, I still prefer meat and three veg. I am no fan of the 'skim milk latte' age we seem to be living in. I do not have the slightest desire to modernise my eating habits. For example, I still enjoy bacon, eggs, mushrooms and corn fritters for breakfast whenever I can. My only allowance is that the eggs are now poached rather than fried ... no need to tempt fate too much.

I have always looked upon myself as a normal person—or perhaps that should read a 'run of the mill' type of guy. By this I mean, I have always worked for what I own, I am married and have helped with the raising of several children. I can still remember forgoing many a weekend's personal pleasures, particularly in the early years, to attend kids' soccer and netball matches. In the later years, I sat up more evenings than I can count and often until the wee hours, worrying until I heard the key being placed in the lock on the front door. I have also done my share of lecturing on the perils of drugs, alcohol and underage sex. I was never going to win father of the year, but I did what I could, when I could and in the best way that I could. So in this respect and all things considered, yes, I consider myself normal.

In the sporting arena, there are very few sports I have not played competitively over the years. While I have some sporting talent and have done reasonably well in one or two sports, I was never ever going to be good enough to represent the country on the world stage. I learned long ago to live with this and I am content with being simply competitive. I certainly set myself goals at whatever sport I

play, but they are realistic aims. My goal when I first embarked upon field archery, for example, was to be good enough to shoot A Grade and I achieved this, but not without a lot of work. I will never be a national medal winner, but somebody has to make up the numbers and if it weren't for people like me then the winners wouldn't look so good. When I look back on my life, there have been very few occasions when I didn't play sport, but those sports were only ever for recreation.

The one area of interest which has been a constant, is my love for the outdoors and animals in particular. I have always held the highest admiration for animals and throughout my life I have studied animals whenever and wherever I could. To this day, I still go bush just to watch animals go about their business and maybe take a photograph or two. This may sound strange coming from a man who has hunted almost his entire life, but it is true. Even in my youth I was never one for taking more than I needed. Tallies mean nothing to me and if anything, I look upon those who count hunting success by volume alone as persons who have no right being in the bush. I am a very strong believer in hunting ethics and having the utmost respect for the game we pursue. This is not a trait I was taught. I was born with it.

Over a lifetime, I have taken my share of game, but I have never once thought I was doing the property owner a favour. It has come to my attention of late that many of today's younger hunters actually believe just that. I have no idea where this concept originated from and it leaves me a trifle mystified. If anything, it is the

property owners who are granting the favour by allowing us to hunt on their land. It is certainly not the other way around. Perhaps, it has something to do with the concept of our game being commonly labelled as 'ferals'. I can see the headlines now 'Hero Hunters Cull Menacing Ferals' ... what a lot of rot.

Without exception, all of the game animals we hunt in this country were introduced. This is common knowledge, but can you for a moment imagine what hunting in this country would be like if we did not have these so-called ferals? I can tell you for certain that without these animals there would be no hunting in Australia. Gun and bow ownership would be strictly for those who want to shoot targets. Perhaps you should remember this the next time you want to slaughter every feral you encounter. By all means take what you need and if the land owner wants you to reduce a burgeoning population of whatever, then by all means do so, but be ethical about it. Wholesale slaughter is not something to be proud of.

Recently I saw the results of such an event organised by the NPWS on a very small pocket of rusa deer near where I live. These deer were existing in an isolated swampy area of a local national park and were venturing upon private land to feed at night. They were in no way competing with the local wallabies or any other native wildlife for food. The trouble was that one of the properties where the deer were feeding happened to be used for horse breeding and the smell and sight of deer jumping the fences caused a couple of the horses to panic and in doing so they were injured when they ran

into the fences. The owners caused a major stink over it and so the rangers had the deer culled which included does and fawns. They left them where they fell—which is how I come to know about it. I was both sickened and extremely angry about it. I am wondering what the unknowing local community would have thought had I gone public over the incident. In hindsight that is exactly what I should have done, but I can imagine my pleas would have remained unheard. Such is the state of our media. Who cares about a few deer?

The powers that be in this country will never permit proper game management of any introduced species. Deer are supposed to receive some form

of game management, but I feel this is in name only. The local incident with the NPWS proves this to me. It doesn't matter that these so-called feral animals have been here just as long as white man has. Nor does it matter that in some instances these animals have now become integrated into the local food chain and are a valuable food source for some native species. Take rabbits as an example. They are a predominate food supply for both our native predators (raptors included) as well as the introduced predator. If you remove rabbits from the food chain what will be the result? More pressure on the already threatened native rodents and small birds. I was astounded when I heard a new Calici virus

has been released. Are rabbits still that much of a problem? I know for certain they are not in plague proportions anywhere I hunt.

But that is enough soapbox rhetoric for now. I have had my say and I am sure there are many out there who disagree with me entirely. Each to their own and it's a free country ... or so the saying goes. I do realise some of what I say is hypocritical. Those who have known me a long time will probably be a little taken aback by my ramblings. There was a time when I thought differently ... on some aspects at least. But as I have aged, my opinions have altered. No excuse, but I refer you to the old adage, 'you can't put an old head on young shoulders'.

I have seen much in my time, but achieved very little. A room packed full of lifeless animal mounts is something I see now as pretty insignificant. I guess my priorities have altered in this regard. I don't hunt with a bow much these days and when I do I seldom make a kill, but I am very content with that. These days it is more about taking with a camera—and I obtain a huge amount of pleasure in so doing. I am not, and never will be, against hunting as long as the hunter holds a deep respect for the life of that animal. Ethics—without them we would be held contemptible by all and sundry. Until next time.



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Making JERKY



**ALAN
MADDEN**

Picture the scene: You sit down with some mates to have a few ales and someone brings out the biltong (also known as jerky). Wow, it goes down a treat. It might be out of a packet or, even better, homemade. Well, it's not that hard to make it from what you harvest out there when you are hunting; the meat from most feral and game animals can be used to make biltong.

You will need a dehydrator or a biltong box to do this.

You can buy a dehydrator from Big W and you will be able to make biltong overnight but you can also make your own biltong box in a few hours in your shed for about \$80.00 and a bit of scrounging around.

So I'm going to give you some directions on how to construct a box so you can make your own jerky.

First you need to decide on how big you want your biltong box. Mine is 600cm high x 400cm deep and 400cm wide.

I used 6mm ply from Bunnings and 30mm by 18mm batten material. I purchased three sheets 1200mm by 800mm and 9m of batten, two hinges and two double ball catches for the door.

I also purchased 1m of double core and earth wire and a plug for the light bulb. I had the bayonet fitting for the light bulb and purchased a 100 watt globe.

Also required is .5m of aluminium flyscreen material, one small squeeze tube of liquid nails and a small bottle of PVA wood glue.

You will also need a computer cooling fan and a 12 volt power supply. Now most people have an old unused computer in the shed or garage. You can utilise the fan from that, together with a 12 volt power supply from one of the kids' old toys. If you don't have these in your shed, you can purchase them from Jaycar.

If you want a window in the door like I did you will need some glass. This is the easy part—nip down to the local \$2 shop, Office Works or Big W and pick up an A4 picture frame—cheap as chips.

Okay, you have most of the materials on hand now.

For the rods across the top to hold the hooks (that would then hold the meat), I used broken carbon fibre arrows—yes, I finally found a use for all those broken arrows from the range!

I needed wire to make off-set hooks and used some stainless wire from my mig welder but most wire will do the trick, even paper clips make great hooks.

Now we start building the box. I guess I'm pretty lucky as I have air powered braiding and stapling guns so it makes work easier. But you



don't need anything fancy. If you have a small pin hammer and some pin nails you're set.

Starting with the back of the box, cut it to size 400mm x 600mm then attach battens to the extremities of the sheet to give a starting frame to work with.

Then cut the two sides to size and attach them to the back battens. The next step is to attach the batten frames to the sides (only the top, bottom and front, as the back has the side batten already).

Measure twice cut once, my Dad always told me ... so do this and cut your battens for both sides.

When attaching the battens, make sure you put some PVA wood-working glue on them.

Now you should have a three-sided box with battens on each edge, so you need to cut the top and the bottom from the plywood.

Use PVA glue on all areas that will be joined and place the base and top in place and attach.

You now have a box without a

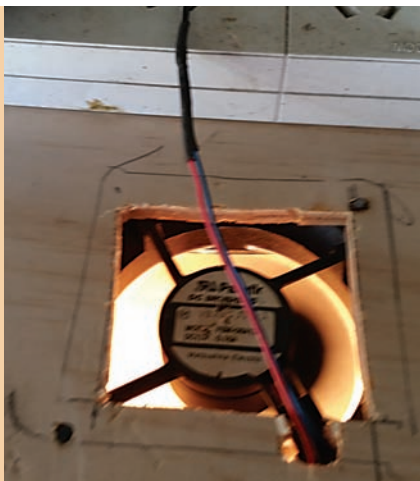
door ... forget about the door for the moment, as we need to put in the workings.

Measure the length on the side between the battens front to back. Cut one piece of batten to the length, work out how many supporting rods you want and measure equal distances along this piece of batten. Mark it in the centre of the batten, which should be 15mm, and drill a hole at each mark the same size as the rods or arrows you will use

The next step is to cut down the centre of this batten so you have two halves the same with grooves in them—this will stop the rods from moving when you place the meat on them.

You then attach these two halves to the side of the box 50mm down from the side top batten. Make sure they are level and square to each other.

In a biltong box, ventilation is everything, so you need air movement. For your air holes, from the bottom batten on each side,



measure 8mm up at each end on the inside. Drill a small pilot hole and draw a line. Now divide the distance between each hole so you can fit six 15mm holes along that line. These are your holes for air flow in.

Drill these holes in both sides.

For the exit air, do the same as the bottom holes but make them 20mm holes.

Once the holes are drilled, get a bit of sandpaper and sand the holes clean of shavings.

Now measure your gaps between the racks and cut a piece of flyscreen, put liquid nails on and around the holes and push the fly screen into place. This keeps pesky flies out.

Next is the heat source: You will need a standard bayonet light fitting, a metre of twin and earth wire and the plug you purchased.

Attach an extra piece of batten on the back wall at the correct height for the second screw for the light fitting to go into. Drill a 12mm hole for the twin and earth to go through in the centre of the back wall between these two battens.

Get an electrician friend to connect the correct wires to the light fitting for you (green earth, black negative, red active), do the same at the plug and attach the plug.

Mount the bayonet fitting to the back wall battens then put the bulb in.



Now you can fit the fan in the top: Mark the centre of the top and drill a small hole as a marker. Place the computer fan on the hole and mark the four mounting holes and trace around the outside of the fan.

Now mark 6mm in from this trace and mark a line around it. Drill a hole in a corner of the inside line large enough to get a jigsaw blade through.

Cut this area out, now sand it smooth, from the inside poke the wires for the fan through the hole and then cut a piece of flyscreen to the exact size of the fan and put a little Liquid Nails around the edge of the fan and place the flyscreen on it. Make sure it is tight and won't be hit by the blades. Now mount the fan to the top of the box.

Connect the wires from the fan to the 12 volt power supply. Now you have heat and air flow.

The next step is to make and mount the door.

Take the sheet of ply and cut to size to fit the front of the box.

Take the picture frame and

remove the back. Ensuring you don't drop the glass, fold the holding clips back down and run a bead of liquid nails around the edge of the glass.

Now your window is ready. To fit it, mark where you want the window on the door and cut out a hole the same size as the glass. (This will leave room for the wooden frame to be attached to the ply.) Put a small bead of Liquid Nails around the picture frame and attach to the door then nail in place.

Now fit the hinges to the box and then mount the door onto the hinges.

Follow the instructions on the ball catches and mount them to the box and the door.

To stiffen the door a bit, I put a batten down the side of the door on the same side as the catches. This also acts as a handle to open the door.

Your biltong box is now finished and usable.

Place your supporting rods on the shelf in the top ... and you are ready to make biltong.



Recipe



To make biltong, you will need the following ingredients and equipment. This recipe is for 2kg of meat—for large amounts, multiply the ingredients.

2 ½ tablespoons coriander seeds
1 ½ Tablespoons black pepper corns
2 teaspoon chilli flakes (optional)
200 grams dark brown sugar
75 grams fine sea salt
200 mil apple cider vinegar
80 mil Worcester sauce
1 ½ teaspoons bicarb soda



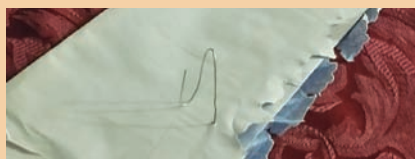
You will also need three dishes (one with a lid large enough to hold the meat).

Any lean meat will work. I prefer venison or store-purchased kangaroo, but lean beef is also good.

Cut your meat lengthways into strips about 1.5mm thick.

Toast the coriander seeds in a small frying pan until lightly toasted then coarsely grind them in a mortar and pestle or a spice grinder.

Coarsely grind the black pepper corns and mix with the coriander in one of the containers. Add the chilli, if you are using it, and set aside.



Mix the apple cider vinegar with the Worcester sauce in another container and add the meat strips and let sit for 30 minutes.

In the container with the lid, mix the brown sugar, salt and bicarb. After 30 minutes, take the meat out of the vinegar mix and roll in the spice mix. (Keep the vinegar mix—you will need it later.)

Once the meat has spices on it, place it layer by layer in the salt and sugar mix and ensure the meat is covered and packed into the sugar and salt mix firmly. This starts the second part of the curing.

Place the lid on and leave for three hours, after which time you will see that a lot of liquid has been drawn out of the meat (*see picture, bottom far left*).

After the three hours, take the meat out and shake the sugar/salt mixture off and then place in the vinegar mix and wash the meat. (This must be done or your biltong will be unbearably salty.) Now roll the meat in what is left of the spice mix.

You are now ready to hang the biltong. I made a little set of hooks from some wire but you can use paper clips as they are easy to bend into shape (*left*).

Put a hook in each piece of meat and hang in the biltong box. Make sure the meat does not touch the side or each other (*left*). Now turn on the light and the fan, shut the door and leave for two days. The biltong is ready when it's like a piece of old boot leather. Enjoy with your favourite ale!



What's On

Where applicable, please use this as your tax invoice:

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AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

ABA/3D Branch Shoot

Campbelltown District Field Archers

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October 2017

Saturday - 3D Round

8-8:30am Registration & Bow Checks
9am Muster & Start 2 Arrow Round
Lunch 1 Arrow Round
Presentations ASAP

Sunday - ABA Round

7:30-7:45am Registration & Bow Checks
8am Muster & Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round
Presentations ASAP

Fees: Single Day Only \$20 Single, \$40 Family

Both Days \$30 Single, \$50 Family (all fees include GST)

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

Facilities include: Camping, Showers, Toilets, Canteen

Evening meal available Saturday - for those who pre-book meals will be provided. Availability of meals is not guaranteed for those who do not book. Pre-book meals by emailing: alphamx35@yahoo.com

NO DOGS POLICY APPLIES TO THIS SHOOT

No Smoking on ranges while shoots are in progress. Guests are to use designated smoking area(s) during their stay.

Australian Bowhunters Association Inc. Southern NSW & ACT Branch Presents the

2017 Branch ABA Titles

Hosted by Southwest Slopes Sporting Field Archers

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September 2017

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

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

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

Facilities include:

Camping, Showers, Toilets, Canteen - Evening meals available Saturday

NO DOG POLICY APPLIES TO THIS EVENT

NO SMOKING ON RANGES WHILE SHOOTS ARE IN PROGRESS

THE LAST WORD

A couple of friends had offered two inexperienced hunters the opportunity to join them on a hunt at their favourite property. The company was good but the goats were being particularly unco-operative about being found.

The hunters consulted a local friend hoping that he would be able to answer the question about where the goats might be. He suggested his secret spot and the bowhunters obliged by hiking their way to the top of a particular hill to find this secret waterhole.

As they reached the top they surveyed the excellent view from their vantage point. Lo and behold, crossing the game trail below about 300m away, was a mob of about 50 goats. Bingo! In their excitement they raced down the hill together to follow the goats along the game trail they had taken.

A huge fallen tree blocked their path, but not to be deterred, one friend went to the left while the other fellow and two companions went to the right.

All of a sudden, the mob of goats came stampeding back down the path towards them! What?! No, the goats hadn't turned on the hunters, although that thought surely went through the mind of at least one of the men. About a dozen billies were clearly intent on having their wicked way with a nanny. The three hunters who had gone to the right found that the downed tree was blocking their shooting lane while the other man who had gone left, was clear!

While a billy was romancing the nanny, the hunter's arrow flew true and downed the billy. The next billy took his place and also fell to an arrow. And the next.

Then the nanny took the chance to break free and raced off through the scrub, the rest of the billies following in her wake. The hunters were left to survey the scene—three billies down in less than 30 seconds and only one hunter had used his bow.

It was a Three Billy Goats Gruff story that no one in that little hunting party will ever forget. And it just goes to show that sometimes it pays to go left when everyone else is going right.



SHOOT CALENDAR

September-October-November

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
September			
3rd	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	President's Shoot
2nd-3rd	Tully Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Invitational
2nd-3rd	Sapphire City Archers*	E – Branch	IFAA Indoor
2nd-3rd	Mallee Sunset Field Archers*	I – Branch	Traditional IFAA
9th	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters*	G – Branch	Branch ABA
9th-10th	SA Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA
9th-10th	Towers Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Invitational
9th-10th	Emerald Archery Club*	C – Branch	Branch ABA
9th-10th	Mornington Peninsula Bowmen*	Vic	State Titles
9th-10th	Wingen Matchplay*	NSW	3DAAA
9th-10th	Mount Petrie Bowmen*	Qld	SQAS Field
16th-17th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
16th-17th	Roma District Bowmen*	D – Branch	Gold Cup
16th-17th	South West Slopes Sporting FA*	F – Branch	Branch ABA
16th-17th	Bendigo Field Archers*	H – Branch	ABA
17th	Cape York Archers*	B – Branch	ABA
17th	Mackay and District Bowmen*	B – Branch	3D
24th	Twin City Archers Gippsland*	Vic	Field Grand Prix
23rd-24th	Diamond Valley Archers*	Vic	3DAAA
23rd-24th	Gladstone Field Archers*	Qld	3DAAA
24th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
30th-1st	Mount Isa District Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Invitational
30th-1st	Southern Yorke Archers*	I – Branch	Safari
30th-1st	Manning District Bowhunters*	E – Branch	State ABA
30th-1st	Cessnock Archers*	NSW	3DAAA
October			
1st	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	Presidents Shoot
1st	Bairnsdale Field Archers	G – Branch	IFAA Hunter
8th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
8th	Full Boar Archers	B – Branch	ABA
8th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
13th-15th	ABA National AGM (no shoot)	Qld	Brookfield
14th-15th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
15th	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
15th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	3D
15th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	3D
14th-15th	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	Yass Field
21st-22nd	Capricorn Field Archers*	C – Branch	State ABA

21st-22nd	Campbelltown District Bowhunters*	F – Branch	Branch ABA and 3D
21st-22nd	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen*	H – Branch	State ABA
22nd	Centenary Archers*	Qld	Memorial
29th	Sherbrooke Archers*	Vic	Target
29th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA

November

5th	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	Presidents Shoot
4th-5th	Uralla Bowmen*	E – Branch	Branch ABA
4th-5th	Silver City Archers Archers*	I – Branch	Branch 3D
4th-5th	Phoenix Field Archers*	G – Branch	State IFAA
5th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
5th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
5th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
11th-12th	Nambucca Heads	NSW	National Titles
12th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
12th	Full Boar Archers	B – Branch	ABA
12th	Archery SA*	SA	State Field
18th-19th	Renegade Bowmen*	D – Branch	Club Challenge
18th-19th	Eurobodalla Archers*	F – Branch	Branch ABA and 3D
18th-19th	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters*	H – Branch	ABA
18th-19th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
19th	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
19th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	3D
19th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	3D
25th-26th	South Tweed Heads	NSW	Money Shoot
25th-26th	Sherbrooke Archers*	Vic	State Field
26th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA

Black type shows ABA events, green type represents Archery Australia events and blue type denotes 3DAAA events, ABA national events are in red. Shoots marked with an * are cross-participation events




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Renewal ☐

New Member ☐

ABA Membership N°:

I, (full name) (M-F)

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

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

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

Email address.....

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

I am a member of (Club)

Signature of Applicant

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

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

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

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

Parent-Guardian Signature ABA Number if Applicable:

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

RENEWALS and/or Advance Memberships for existing members

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

New Members (12-month membership including joining fee)

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

PENSIONER DISCOUNT: Deduct 10% from fees listed.

Quote Pension Benefit Card Number:

All fees include GST

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

ASSOCIATION USE ONLY

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Signature

17/05/2017



APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE
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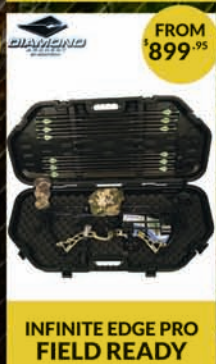
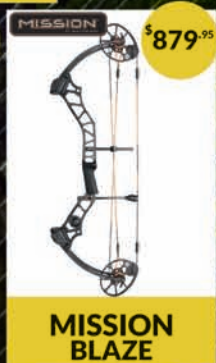
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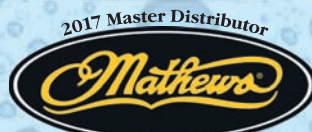
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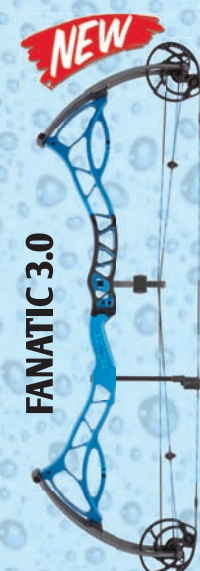
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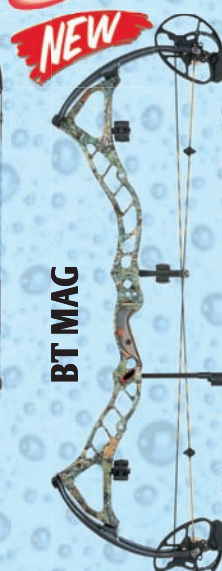
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