

Archery Action

September October 2021

*The changing landscape
of hunting*

*A stag hunt
to remember*

Know your KNOTS



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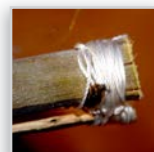
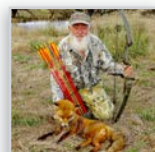
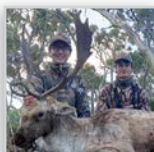
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◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Jett Harch celebrates his first bowshot deer. See his story, *A stag hunt to remember*, on Page 32.

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It used to be that engineers were the only ones famed for having a Plan B, but since the advent of COVID-19 we're all more aware that our original plans may turn out to be unworkable. We need a Plan B, even if that plan is only how to go about the cancellation of an event we have organised. The coronavirus era has made us realise that at times we must be able to change direction midstream. We need to have a combination of flexibility and strength to get through with our mental health intact. And extra toilet paper, of course. Mustn't forget that.

Archery is a bit like life, isn't it? You can't take on more than your optimal draw weight and expect to feel in control, although you can work to strengthen yourself to deal with greater weight. You need to have a schedule in place to learn new skills and to practise them. You also benefit from having people around you to advise on how to get to the next level of



ability. That usually comes from being willing to try something different—being flexible enough to change—and to stay with it long enough to see if it will work.

Looking ahead, the next magazine—the November-December issue—will be a printed publication. We're calling it our 'yearbook' because we are gathering some of the stories from throughout 2021. For those who have read the digital flipbook from cover to cover, do not despair—there will be new copy as well. I'm hoping you will consider it a collector's edition and that it will join your favoured publications as a keepsake.

Keep an eye out for your magazine in the post (we post it in Brisbane in early November but sometimes it takes quite a while to get out to the more remote locations) and tell any archery-minded friends who are not members of the ABA that copies will be available from newsagencies. If you want a second copy for yourself you can buy it from a newsagent or, later, from the ABA (cost of magazine plus postage).

And on to my own Plan B. Despite my original intention to retire after this magazine, I am pleased to announce I will be here to oversee the exciting preparation of our *Archery Action* yearbook.

Jenel Hunt
Editor

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE	DEADLINE
2021	
Vol 47 No. 2 November-December	1 October
2022	
Vol 47 No. 3 January-February	1 December
Vol 47 No. 4 March-April	1 February
Vol 47 No. 5 May-June	1 April
Vol 47 No. 6 July-August	1 June
Vol 48 No. 1 September-October	1 August

(November-December issue = printed yearbook)



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FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

are welcomed by this magazine and articles should be addressed to: The Editor, Archery Action. 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 return of photographs if required.

Emailed contributions should be sent in plain (editable) text only and any photos should be sent as separate attachments, not embedded in the story text.

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REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS
Traditional Trails—Nick Lintern
Bushcraft and Survival—Scott Heiman

Staving off disappointment with a **LAST-MINUTE TRIP**



by DAVE PENDER

This particular hunting trip came about purely because of disappointment. Let me explain.

Earlier in the year, Albert Agale made contact to let me know he was in the early stages of starting Walkabout Hunting and Fishing Safaris in the Cooktown region. My mate Barry and I had previously hunted with Albert on a buffalo hunt some years earlier, so I knew Albert ran a good camp. After a few phone calls I had Barry lined up and also a young bloke by the name of Scott. Scott had recently joined our archery club and was keen to go hunting.

All was set for our trip to happen in May, but with

two cyclones in a month up north washing out tracks and making it impossible to gain access to our hunting area, the trip had to be postponed until late in June. Oh well, these things happen.

Then there were even more storms up north so the trip was postponed again, this time to late July/early August. That created a problem for Scott, as he would be starting to build his family home at that time and he had booked the contractors already. He would have to leave his trip until next year.

I felt bad for Scott. He'd been so excited about going on his first hunting trip. So I did what any good hunting mate



Scott with his First Kill.

would do—I contacted one of my hunting properties and was able to line up a trip to Cunnamulla at a time that did suit Scott.

Scott was more than happy with that, so with gear packed we headed off at lunchtime on the agreed Friday, stopping at 9.00pm on the side of the road for a sleep.

We arrived at the property around 10.00am. The owners Sam and his wife let us know about areas where they had come across pigs. They also told us they'd had 30ml of rain the previous week so it would be a bit wet in places.

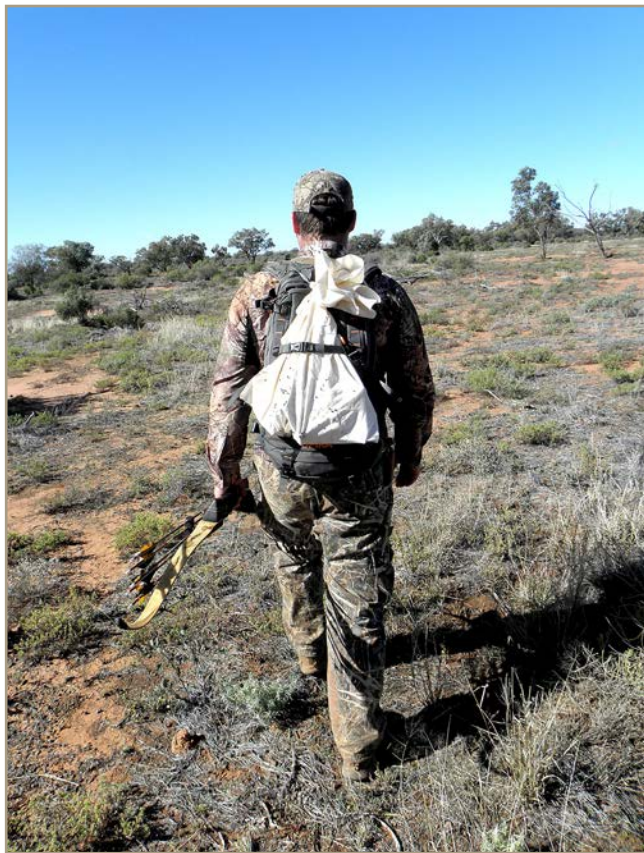
We headed to our accommodation, driving through mud and waterholes on the way. By the time we made it

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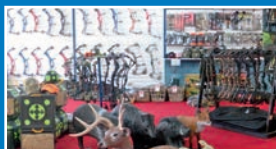
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to the shed, there was thick mud over the car and trailer.

After setting up camp, we prepared our gear and headed out to what I call Tricky Bore. As we got out of the car, Scott said "You had better get the tyre plugs out." I had a stick in the wall of one of my brand new tyres. Tyre plugged, we headed off again and found plenty of pig tracks and poop but no pigs.

We decided to return to camp and thought that if we followed the property owner's quad bike tracks we'd be able to tell if the track was too wet for the vehicle. How wrong we were! We were driving along hugging the fenceline track, when suddenly the car just went sideways into the table drain.

We spent the next two hours putting branches, logs et cetera under the wheels ... to no avail. By then, the car was down to the subframe. It was going nowhere. It took us two-and-a-half hours to walk back to camp.

We had a quick tea and hit the swags. The car would have to stay where it was for a while. Sam the property owner had gone to town and would not be home until Sunday afternoon, plus it was a two-hour walk to the main homestead, so we would leave it till Monday morning. (I hate asking property owners to pull me out of bogs.)

We hunted from the shed on both Sunday and Monday, finding tracks but no pigs. Afterwards, I walked back towards the homestead and Scott decided to walk up a creek back towards the bogged car. He came across a mob of 200 or so goats which were out of bounds for us, so he took some photos instead and worked out which ones would be of good size.

Sam was at the homestead when I arrived so he took me out to pick up my car. I can tell you I was incredibly happy to have my car back on the road!

Scott and I spent some hours digging mud out of the front end, eventually removing the tyres to get the mud out of the rims. After a lot of hard work, we were back in business and could go searching for game again. Well, not that afternoon as we were too tired.

Tuesday saw us up at the top end of Tricky Bore. The westerly wind was cold and very strong so I advised Scott we would not find much out feeding in these conditions as they would be lying-up in a spot out of the wind with the sun on them.

We slowly made our way up the dry creekbed, rounded a bush and ... bingo, there was a pig, not 12yd ahead. I stopped Scott and motioned to him to duck under the overhanging tree. The pig was sound asleep and with the windy conditions I was not concerned that the pig might hear us. Scott ducked down under the tree and took the shot. It was perfect—behind the rib on the right-hand side and exiting on the left-hand side between

the shoulder and neck then digging into the ground (which was the only thing that stopped a complete pass-through).

Quick as, the pig was awake and up and looking at Scott! Then he just trotted off, going about 70yd. I could see by his gait he would not be going far. It was the first animal Scott had ever shot at and he held himself together to take the shot. Mind you, the adrenaline soon kicked in with a bit of shaking and stuttering and nonstop talking!

After high-fives, lots of back-slapping and shaking of hands, we made our way over to his First Kill bow-shot feral pig. His 55lb Black Widow recurve with carbon arrow and the ever-reliable Outback Supreme broadhead had done the job. Scott had spent hours practising his archery and it all came together when it counted. We set the boar up for photos (plenty of them) and took some video while removing the jaws so he had a how-to record of the job. Both tusks had chips in them but still measured out at 23 points. The pig would have weighed approximately 60kg or 70kg, so not a bad start to his hunting career. A few beers were drunk that night in celebration.

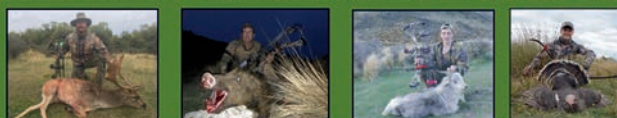
The next day we covered the last section of Tricky Bore, walking for four hours and not seeing anything. When we got back to the car I decided to stay there while Scott went for a quick walk in the other direction. He had only been gone five minutes when I heard him on the radio saying, "I just smoked—" then all went quiet. I grabbed my backpack and headed in his direction. It turned out the batteries in his radio had died. He had seen two boars walk out of the creek and had taken one of them. The boar only travelled 2yd before going down. The second boar walked a further 25yd and stopped so Scott let an arrow loose, only to have it fall short. Naturally, once that happened the pig was gone, never to be seen again.

When we got back to camp, I found I had staked another tyre so the decision was made to head for home two days early. Had the week gone well? I would say yes: Scott achieved what he set out to do for the trip. He took his first and second kills, stalked in on goats just for practice, had a great time in the bush and learned a lot of the little things that go with hunting. Would I go hunting with this young man again? Yes, in a heartbeat.

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



One down. (The other one got away.)



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COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

The protocol for contacting officers 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.

If you have any queries for National Officers, please direct your communication to the National Office (contact details as above).

AFFILIATIONS

BOWHUNTING: WORLD BOWHUNTING ASSOCIATION
FIELD ARCHERY: INTERNATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION
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WEBSITE <http://www.bowhunters.org.au>

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



BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Allan Driver

Vice-President Bowhunting Division



A big thank you

I would like to start off this report by giving our heartfelt thanks to Brett Raymond, the South Australian Branch Controller, who has been representing ABA in a response to the South Australian Government regarding a bowhunting review that has been taking place over the past four months.

Brett went out of his way to find the necessary information on areas where the SA Government were raising questions in relation to bowhunting. With the help of learned others, he put in a great response to them.

The SA Government has come back to Brett asking for more information

and the National Executive is now working on a further submission. Hopefully things will go into our favour as a bowhunting organisation.

Although our general members may not know it, these sorts of situations often arise in other States also. Behind the scenes, the National Executive and others are being called upon to act and respond to such issues. Your help in matters such as these is always welcome to keep bowhunting available to all of us.

News from Kangaroo Island

A recent newspaper article that I read refers to Kangaroo Island and

the feral pig problem they are having right across the island. The authorities are about to start a culling program to eradicate as many if not all feral pigs as they have done with deer, goats, foxes and cats.

They are to implement a baiting programme with special feedlots stationed around the island. They will use a peanut-flavoured poison that makes the pig drowsy then sends it into a deep sleep from which it doesn't wake. This shouldn't affect other animals.

They have been using thermal imaging from a helicopter to gauge the whereabouts of feral pigs, which is proving very successful.

The Government is spending

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	Peter Griffiths	114	86 4/8	80
Camel	Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Fox	Graeme Duff	11	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	Darryl Bulger	276 4/8	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	20	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	7 4/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

Ladies Best of Species

Boar	Kristan Bell	34 4/8pt	2017
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Christie Pisani	87 4/8pt	2017
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 14/16pt	2016
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	Elissa Rosemond	275 2/8pt	2021
Fallow Deer	Elissa Rosemond	205 7/8pt	2019
Chital Deer	Elizabeth Proctor	161 3/8pt	2019
Hog Deer	Cheryl Morris	60 5/8pt	2018
Sambar Deer	Nil		
Rusa Deer	Elissa Rosemond	197 6/8pt	2020
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

\$2.6 million dollars over three years to achieve this goal. Some National Parks officers/hunters are using their knowledge of the terrain and night thermal scopes to take out pigs also.

Plus, there will be hunters doing their bit on farmers' land. If there are any ABA members on Kangaroo Island they should endeavour to get involved in the programme.

Re-accreditation time

Re-accreditation of all Branch Measurers, Bowhunting Proficiency Officers and Coaches is in the pipeline for May 2022 in Queensland.

Notifications have been sent to all Branch Controllers to raise awareness to find members to be put forward for the respective roles.

It is very important that all Branches send someone to this accreditation course as they are the responsible people to train each club in the Branch.

All clubs need qualified people to help out their members.

Get out and hunt!

Our previous magazine had a report on Dan Podubinski, the Bowhunter of the Year.

It was a great write up of what he has achieved and there were some top photos. He is already putting in many fine claims for this year and other ABA hunters are also sending in their claims to get into the running for the next Bowhunter of the Year award. So please keep getting out and about, looking for those game animals to claim.



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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Award	Game	FK/FKOS	Size
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	RC	Fallow		199 4/8
B John Teitzel	Independent	RC	Goat		116 2/8
B John Teitzel	Independent	RC	Fallow		211 6/8
B John Teitzel	Independent	TC	Fox		9 5/8
B Michael Picot	Independent	RC	Goat		135 3/8
B Toby Gall	Mackay District Bowmen	TC	Pig		28
B Toby Gall	Mackay District Bowmen	TC	Chital		140 3/8
B Toby Gall	Mackay District Bowmen	RC	Fallow		212 7/8
B Toby Gall	Mackay District Bowmen	RC	Fallow		222
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	RC	Red		212 4/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	RC	Fallow		224
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	TC	Fallow		182 7/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	TC	Pig		26 2/8
C Mitchell Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	TC	Fallow	FKOS	177 5/8
D Scott Mckay	Grange Bowmen	GA	Goat	FK/FKOS	0
D Colin Ross	Darling Downs Field Archers	TC	Red		187 6/8
D Jett Harch	Darling Downs Field Archers	GA	Pig	FKOS	0
D Thomas Buxton	Grange Bowmen	GA	Goat	FKOS	88 6/8
D Thomas Buxton	Grange Bowmen	RC	Fallow		196 5/8
D Darren Askin	Independent	RC	Goat		110 7/8
D Damien Norris	Renegade Bowmen	TC	Fallow	FKOS	189 5/8
D Jack Winks	Renegade Bowmen	TC	Goat		102
D Jeanette Dowd	Renegade Bowmen	GA	Red	FKOS	90 4/8
D Kev Dowd	Renegade Bowmen	GA	Fish	FKOS	0
D Kurt Teitzel	Renegade Bowmen	GA	Red	FKOS	167 6/8
E Darcy Galliano	Namoi Valley Archers	TC	Fallow		174 5/8
F Stephen Robinson	Capital Field Archers	GA	Rabbit	FKOS	0
F Stephen Robinson	Capital Field Archers	TC	Fallow	FKOS	150
F John Calleja	Shellharbour Field Archers	RC	Fallow	FKOS	237 4/8
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunter	RC	Goat		116 7/8
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunter	RC	Fox		10 3/16
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunter	TC	Hog Deer		67 7/8
H Jason l'Anson	Independent	Cat	TC	FKOS	7 8/16
J Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	RC	Goat		125 1/8
J Dominic Neeson	Western Plains Archers	RC	Camel		31 1/6
J Dominic Neeson	Western Plains Archers	TC	Camel		28 10/16
J Dominic Neeson	Western Plains Archers	RC	Camel		29 8/16
J Dominic Neeson	Western Plains Archers	C	Camel		28 9/16
J Dominic Neeson	Western Plains Archers	RC	Camel		29 13/16
J Dominic Neeson	Western Plains Archers	RC	Camel		30 7/16
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers	TC	Fox		9 14/16
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers	RC	Fallow	FKOS	203 5/8
J Angus Officer	Western Plains Archers	GA	Rabbit	FKOS	0
J Angus Officer	Western Plains Archers	TC	Fox		9 14/16



Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



Bowhunting achievements to end July 2021

Bowhunting opportunities fall victim to travel restrictions

The current travel restrictions have put a stop to a lot of bowhunting activities, so we currently have no new TBA member to introduce for this issue of *Archery Action*. I know from my own local area that everyone's trips have been put on hold. With the penalties for breaking the travel restrictions, it's just not worth it.

For those of you in areas where you can get out and about, get into it now as you just don't know when things will shut down again.

Special Mention to Dan Podubinski for his effort in achieving the TBA Bowhunter of the Year award for 2020; a good effort in a year of restrictions.

Remembering the TBA Tent

What's the story with the TBA Tent? Why is it no longer on display at the National Safari? We get asked this question quite a bit, so here's the answer. The last time it was displayed was at the Mallee Sunset

Field Archers Mildura 2012 National Safari. Unfortunately, several storms blew in and the marquee being used to house the display was launched 50m into the air as it was caught up in a whirlwind—along with many of the items on display—only to land tangled up in some trees 100m down the track. The marquee and most of the displays were salvaged and the display was fixed up as best as it could be. The next day, another storm came through and this time the marquee and some of the display items were destroyed. The marquee was beyond repair and retired to the skip bin.

It was also noted that displays for the TBA Tent had dwindled over the years; in particular the craft section. This also brought about the change to the TBA Bowhunter of the Year Award.

There was a plan to put up a bowhunting display at the World Bowhunter Championships (WBHC) that was going to be held at Mildura if the shoot was to go ahead in Australia. Obviously, that won't happen now.

Master Bowhunter

Dan Podubinski 380

Trophy Bowhunter Award

David Luxford 290

Bowhunter Award

Tyler Atkinson 190

Daniel Ferguson 130

Toby Gall 130

John Teitzel 120

Benjamin Ireland 110

Elissa Rosemond 110

Peter Griffiths 100

Bowhunter Royale

Jack Winks

Bowhunter Imperial

Nil further since last report

Bowhunter Supreme

Nil further since last

Senior Member of TBA

Nil further since last report

Members Admitted to TBA Club

(membership granted after taking first Trophy Class or better animal)
Nil further since last report





Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



TBA Muster

This used to be a regular event, but there are no immediate plans to hold a Muster at present. This is not to say that we won't do another type of bowhunting-orientated event in the future, perhaps with a different format. The work involved in members transporting valuable trophy mounts for display is very time consuming and the thought of damage to some of these displays is not an issue we want to address.

I would like to thank all the individual members who have helped with previous Musters and kindly donated their own personal time,

effort and expense and their generosity in passing on their knowledge and skills for these events.

Bowhunting Proficiency Certificate

The current BPC manual is still an excellent source of information for people who wish to take up the challenge of bowhunting, however the BPC manual and tests do need to be updated to come into line with current hunting technology and various government requirements. We're working on that.

Members should also be aware of the rules and requirements of the local government areas that they hunt in.

Accreditation

Next year is a reaccreditation year for all Measurers and BPC Club Reps as well as the Branch instructors. Anyone who is interested in taking on these positions, please nominate via your club executive. There are certain requirements to hold these positions.

Check your gear

While most of us are in lockdown, it is a good time to get all your bowhunting gear up to scratch and ready for your next trip ... whenever that might be.

Ralph Boden

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Overall Best of Species

Bowhunting Awards 2020 season update



feral pig

Toby Gall 33 6/8pt.



stingray BHFF

Toby Gall 7 7/8pt.



feral camel

Dominic Neeson 31 1/16pt.



Colour and pageantry at Australian-Tibetan Archery Competition

After missing out on their annual celebration and archery event last year due to the dreaded COVID-19, Tibetan members of Boolaroo Bowmen were able to bounce back this year with an even bigger and better event than in previous years.

The grounds at Boolaroo Bowmen were awash with colour and pageantry for the 2021 Australian-Tibetan Archery Competition. The day was specifically chosen as it marks the 14th Dalai Lama's 86th birthday anniversary, which is a significant date in the Tibetan community.

Archery is the national sport of Tibet. In ancient times, bows and arrows were the weapons of choice used against foes or for hunting. Since the adoption of Buddhist practices centuries ago, the Tibetan nation has refrained from taking lives or causing the suffering of other beings. As a result, archery became a sport that recruited shooting



Words and pictures

Stephen Heusz

talent and promoted settling of disputes through sporting competition.

Competitors came from Newcastle, Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the ACT to take part in the day, which began with a Sacred Wood smoking ritual and was followed by singing and dancing presentations by members of the Tibetan School of Newcastle.

The day also featured excellent traditional food and ceremonies befitting this important cultural event, with special guests from the Tibetan community. Dignitaries present included Representative of H.H. the 14th Dalai Lama, Kungoe Dhonjoe Karma Sangay Lak; Current Upcoming Tibetan Parliament Member, Mr Dorang Tenzin Phuntsok; Secretary of Tibetan Community of Australia, Mr Gotsang Nigan and the Vice-President of Tibetan Community of Sydney Mr Migmar Tsering.





Following the formalities, a number of archery events were held, including district, group, and individual archery competitions.

All of the archery events involved shooting barebow over 85m. Compound, recurve and historic bows were used with carbon, aluminium or even timber arrows. One of our Australian members of Boolaroo Bowmen, John, was presented with a traditional Tibetan costume so that he could compete with the Newcastle Tibetan team.

Whilst the focus may have been on the competition, friendly rivalry involving laughter and good-natured jibes were the order of the



day. Shooting styles were interpretive rather than formal. As long as the arrow made it as far as the target, all was good. It was a bonus to actually hit the target. Scoring a point resulted in much celebration and cheering.

Members of Boolaroo Bowmen worked hard behind the scenes to make this happen for our Tibetan members and we were amply rewarded when we witnessed the success of the day. It has been our pleasure and honour to be involved in this event and allow fellow archers to enjoy their sport in their own particular way.

Next year's event is already in the planning and looks to be even bigger and better.



The changing landscape of hunting ...



by GRAEME DUFF

When you've been in a certain situation for a long time, you can't help but feel as though it will always be that way. Then—seemingly overnight—everything changes. Well, sometimes hunting's like that.

We've had obstacles that have made us at times question ourselves and seriously wonder if it's really worth it to go hunting. Drought that goes on year after year, the shock of wet weather, disease and death of feral game, lockdowns that keep us at home ...

Still, as mature-aged people, Helen and I know that change is inevitable. So despite the obstacles, we attempt to embrace the challenges. We count our blessings that lockdowns have (up until now) been minimal for us in comparison to our southern counterparts. We celebrate that the most devastating drought in living memory has come to an end and we are ever so grateful to receive good rain. This in turn promises to bring things back into balance for the primary producers who have endured so much.

As for disease and death in our feral populations, last year I estimated that the fox population in our general hunting area had been decimated to the tune of 75 per cent or thereabouts. Despite having hunted at a reduced level this year, my findings substantiate this claim. With respect to the much reduced frequency of hunting, that is attributed to rain events which are seemingly too numerous to mention. What a change! It only seems a short time ago we couldn't get a single fall of beneficial rain. There is no way I am

complaining, because seeing livestock doing it tough over the entire area which we hunt was very depressing.

Now we have the opposite. And while property owners are more than willing to grant us permission to hunt feral game, we have (on their recommendation) cancelled intended bow-hunts due to the large volumes of water flowing down gullies, creeks and sometimes rivers too.

Some of our prime hunting areas have relatively flat ground, making travelling treacherous. Respect for landowners is of paramount importance to us, so we prefer not to take our 4WD and quad bike into wet paddocks where we might get bogged or leave unsightly vehicle tracks which are visible for some considerable time.

Helen and I have had to be patient but have seized the opportunity to hunt when conditions are favourable. Of late, this has resulted in very infrequent hunting, but we've made the best of it and enjoyed our time in the great outdoors. Apart from encountering very lush long green grass the likes of which we've seldom seen before, observing nature at its best has been thoroughly rewarding.

Our first hunt this year saw Helen and me carefully stalking a pig which was at times obscured by long grass. There was only one avenue of approach, which took us along the

shallow side of a dam where there was pin-reed about 30cm high. The advantage of moving slowly meant that both of us came within 5m of a buff-banded rail. This colourful (and usually very twitchy) waterbird wasn't unduly startled by us and gently waded out from us in the shallow water before flying off to pick at vegetation on the dam bank. Sometimes these encounters allow you to get a photo, but not this time.

Moving further around the dam, I drew to within 8m of the sow as she was feeding. She was despatched fairly quickly but we had to flatten the grass down so a reasonable photo could be taken (*facing page*).

A memorable hunt we had in April was on a very calm and cloudy day. We were interested to see if there was a trophy billy in a mob that was slowly coming out of a rocky, heavily timbered mountain. Through our binoculars, we could see maybe 30 goats very slowly coming out of the steep country at a considerable distance from us.

These goats will not tolerate anything that looks or sounds like a quad bike. Having been targetted by people who want to round up and sell as many as possible, these animals are on high alert. Hoping the almost non-existent wind would not give our approach away, we left the Quadrunner about 2km away from the goats.

The walk was fairly solid, as from where we started our approach the ground was all uphill. After a number of stops (so I could catch my breath), we made it to a scrubby outcrop of rock to the southern side of where we anticipated the group would feed on their way down the wide, lush gully

system. This gully was situated by a very long steep spur which was well vegetated with Port Jackson fig trees, box trees and a lot of large granite rocks and ledges.

Having settled in this scrubby outcrop, we glassed the goats as they meandered down the big gully

system. Helen and I thought a billy with a brown skin and what looked like longish V-shaped horns might go Trophy Class.

Only after the entire mob of maybe 60 goats (many more than our original estimate) had passed by at 300m, we decided to come down out of our



One of the pleasures of hunting ... photographing the wild side

Observing native wildlife is certainly good therapy for anyone who enjoys life in the great outdoors. We were having a break when under a gum tree we looked up and saw a couple of musk lorikeets on a branch. They tolerated us for long enough that Helen had a chance to take a photo. They may have had a nest in a hollow nearby.

On a hunt during one of the warmer months, we encountered a green tree frog on a large leaf of dockweed. It was too good an opportunity to miss for a green-on-green image. The same can be said of a bearded dragon that was lying perfectly still on the ground in the hope that we didn't notice it.

Echidnas are one of our favourite animals to quietly approach and photograph. One has to approach them very quietly as any vibration on the ground will make them dig in for protection. A pair of echidnas that were probably approaching their breeding season provided us both with a number of photos. There is a great deal of enjoyment to be derived from wildlife photography, albeit in an amateur capacity. Unfortunately, to be able to take quality photos of the many species of birds I know and see would require more sophisticated photographic equipment than I own, or would wish to carry when bowhunting.

hide and hopefully follow up on them without being seen.

Having walked to almost where the goats had passed, Helen said, "Look, there's another mob coming down the mountain." We both quickly glassed this new mob and I said to Helen, "There's a really good one in this mob."

Purely at a guess, I would say there were as many goats in this mob as the one that had passed through 20 minutes before. The problem was that the goats were walking down into a very slight breeze and we were in a bad position should they pick up our scent. The best decision we could come up with was to go back to our scrubby outcrop, sit it out and hope that the new mob followed the same path as the first mob.

On getting back up to our original observation point, the first thing I had to do was catch my breath. About another 20 minutes passed and this mob came down, luckily not exactly where we had been earlier.

We know what even a slight breeze can do to wreck a hunt so we watched as they slowly went past. Fortunately, none of them picked up our scent and when we thought they were in slightly scrubby ground we slowly left our position. Just prior to this we were of the opinion the good goat we had glassed would be of better quality than the brown billy we'd observed earlier.

We had only just left our position and walked maybe 30m when Helen said, "Stop, there's a white nanny goat looking at us."

We froze for quite some time and the switched-on nanny ran to catch up with the tail end of the mob. This concerned me, as a goat than runs with some urgency usually has a domino effect on the other goats and before you know it, they're all running.

That's about where we lost sight of the mob. Helen and I walked down the southern edge of the gully and hoped we would see at least some of the sec-

ond mob, including the billy that had looked quite good.

This long and high spur had another gully running off it and Helen could hear the bleating of some of the younger goats. A little disappointed, we decided to climb a spur that was an offshoot of the main ridge. This was steep. I told Helen I'd go up to a dead tree I could see at the top of the spur and have a look. I felt sure the goat I wanted would be there. With a quick look through my binoculars, I spotted him. He was some 130m down in the grassy gully feeding by himself.

Helen stayed back about 30m at a good vantage point while I carefully stalked down to a large gum tree with a huge fallen branch between the goat and me. The breeze was still practically non-existent so I used my smoke-in-a-bottle to check the airflow direction. Having made it to the big branch that had fallen from the tree, I was able to use a section of it as a seat—and I needed to sit down as getting there had been somewhat fatiguing.

There were two young white nanny goats closer to me than the billy and I had to be careful not to alert them. Sitting on the log, strategically placed so another limb on it was above my head slightly, was of great help in concealing me.

Many times I leaned left or right to see if the big billy was coming my way. He was coming and feeding as he went ... but painfully slowly. At the pace he was coming, I thought it would never eventuate.

Things started to go wrong, I thought, when one of the nannies decided she was going to head around the big gum tree and then to the log where I was sitting. This was going to be game over. She did see me, gave a quick snort and ran directly at right angles to the track I'd reckoned the billy might take (if he ever made it at all). Here, luck went my way. She ran about 20m without disturbing the

other white nanny between the big tree and the billy goat.

Eventually, after what could have been 40 minutes, the billy ever so slowly came up to the big gum tree and I couldn't see him at all. Had I got up and moved from my seated position, I was looking at failure for sure.

Again, luck came my way as he came to the right side of the big gum tree and paused to scratch his rump with one of his long horns. I seized the opportunity and stood up slowly,

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coming to full draw with my Darton Apache barebow. A 15m shot saw the wooden shaft, tipped with a Tusker Delta broadhead, pass through both lungs. He expired within seconds and it didn't appear as though any of the other goats some distance away noticed or really cared.

Helen's vantage point was a real good one as she witnessed the entire unfolding of the hunt. After taking photos and removing the head, I was well pleased with the measurement of 110 2/8pt.

It had been some years since I had taken a feral goat of that quality. The previous memorable goat hunt was when I took what I considered to be a very bowhunter-wise old billy back in

August 2005. He had horns measuring 115 2/8pt. We had seen this goat on five occasions on a mountain far bigger and steeper than the one I've just described. He too was taken with my Darton Apache barebow. I know people think of me as a fox hunter, but I always jump at the chance to take other recognised game including pigs, feral cats, rabbits, hares and the occasional deer.

In June this year I took a reasonable dog fox. As mentioned previously, the fox population is nowhere near what it was prior to the drought. Hot dry conditions caused the death of the majority of foxes in our area due to mange.

This hunt in June was on a new

property in our area but the owner warned us to be extremely careful as the topsoil was absolutely saturated due to the wetter than usual winter. On stepping out of the 4WD it was abundantly clear that the low-lying areas were not good places to be walking as cattle tracks all individually held water. Our best move was to go up into the grassy hills where a fox would most likely camp away from the wet lowlands. This initially was a good move as just prior to my selecting a large box tree from which to whistle, Helen spotted a fox some distance down the hill. It was on the move and had obviously seen us before Helen saw it. Therefore no amount of whistling would entice the wised-up fox back so we decided to push on.

Having hunted properties around the newly acquired one over the years theoretically meant there should be no shortage of foxes. Many stands and attempts were made to bring a fox in, but to no avail.

About midday, at a stand in an area where I felt certain there'd be a fox, I had yet another attempt. At about the time I was becoming convinced this stand was going to be as fruitless as the 10 or so previous stands, a vixen slowly materialised. She came down over a series of steep banks (made from previous earthmoving jobs years ago) then froze in front of me about 25m. No amount of enticement worked and she turned and ran back in the direction from which she'd come.



Now ... and then



This year's goat measured 110 2/8pt. The 2005 fellow (right) was 115 2/8pt.

This type of behaviour has been very prevalent this year as they have been very touchy. Similar behaviour patterns have been seen regarding rabbits when their numbers are severely depleted. I guess this is nature's way of ensuring the survival of the given species when the breeding stock is only small.

Later in the afternoon, after many more attempts at whistling for a fox had produced nothing, I told Helen I'd go down to the creek running through the property and have one more try. I selected a dead apple-box tree to stand by and commenced whistling.

About eight minutes passed and I thought I was just blowing my fox whistle for the fun of it. I took the arrow off my bowstring and put it back in my hip quiver. Having taken no more than three steps away from my stand, I spotted a dog fox slowly coming down the bank on the other side of the creek. Quickly I moved back to my stand and gave a very faint whistle in the hope he could find a place to cross as due to the flow of the water crossing the creek might be impossible for him.

In front of me was the creek bank, which was about an 8m drop to the water. Here I momentarily lost sight of the fox. I had to anticipate where he might come from over the bank—if

at all. As I was at full draw, he luckily appeared exactly where I had hoped he would. At a reasonable walk he came to me front-on then turned slightly to my left, giving me a perfect opportunity at 7m.

The Tusker Aztec did its job and the fox turned and ran back over the bank of the creek from where he'd come, crossed the creek and attempted to go back on the precise track along which he had come. I was astounded that he made it that far. He rolled sideways down the grassy bank on the other side of the creek and expired. He would later measure 10 3/16pt.

Later that evening as it was getting very overcast and cold I did whistle up a dog fox for Helen but it came from about 50m to our stand in a very hesitant manner. This fox used knee-high grass to approach us and about 20m away from us he decided to leave despite the fact that he had neither seen nor winded us.

Due to the ongoing wet weather, we've only been out hunting once since that day and found what few foxes we saw to be very cautious indeed.

We're now at the foxes' normal shutdown period (and we're also in our own 'shutdown'!) so when that has finished hopefully we'll go for another hunt for feral goats or foxes.



This fox was a fine fellow ... much healthier than many seen in recent times.

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



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Nick Lintern

TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Welcome! As I sit down to write this, it really seems like the world is slowly losing its mind. In my life-time, I've never seen such radical impositions on folks' lives. These are certainly worrying times. I hope many of you are still able to get out and shoot at your clubs or hunt. Get some good clean air in your lungs and enjoy life. The good news is that here at Norseman things are operating as normal, so we're still here for all your traditional archery needs.

In this article, I want to cover something that I realise I haven't ever written about in any detail: grip styles. Now, at first this may seem like a fairly innocuous thing, but believe it or not, the grip design/style on your longbow or recurve will make a very notable difference in several aspects of your shooting. This subject also morphs into riser styles and shapes and the effect that has on arrow flight, arrow spine selection and tuning.

Getting a grip on grip and riser styles

To start off with, let's look at the different handle shapes and then we'll look at how they affect shooting. I'll add plenty of pics to the article so you can clearly see what I mean by each grip style. The first and most common with an American semi-longbow is the straight traditional grip. This grip is dead straight when viewed in side profile and in cross-section is like a flat oval shape (almost like getting an empty toilet roll and slightly squashing it).

Next is one of the most popular grip styles on any traditional bow: the pistol grip. In fact, on most longbows

the more correct name is a semi-pistol or locator grip. This is due to the longbow having a shallower handle/riser section thus leaving no depth for a deep, recurve-like, pistol grip. Some hybrid longbows like the Norseman Goshawk or Fox Crown bows have the same depth of handle as a recurve and as such can have a deep pistol grip, but in the main, on longbows, it will be a semi-pistol grip. The last grip style which is probably the least popular, but most definitely my favourite, is the dished grip. Basically it is a standard traditional grip with a 1/4in or so dish, halfway down the

handle. While that may sound weird, I'll get to the wisdom of such a grip style shortly.

Now, let's look at the various benefits of each style. Bear in mind they are all good, and personal preference will determine which you choose. That said, there are some realities of each one.

Firstly let's look at the straight traditional grip. When you hold this grip you have almost no choice but to heel the bow (*see photo below*). That means the large fleshy part (adductor pollices) of your hand, just under your thumb, will be pushing against the handle as you shoot your bow. This is good shooting technique for traditional longbows in any case, so no negative there. There are bow-making secrets of how to balance a bow so that the correct part of the hand sits in the right part of your grip. I have shot bows with this traditional grip style for 30 years. This is an excellent grip style and is very flexible in that it allows you to move your hand a tad here and there as necessary to accommodate awkward shots. Although you should *always* generally keep the grip the same for every shot, by that I mean always grip it in the same position for repeated

accuracy, that bit of flexibility is quite useful. It means you can turn the bow slightly in your hand if necessary for really awkward hunting or field shots. With the traditional straight grip, as with all the grip styles, you want the arrow to sit as close to the top of your hand as possible (*see photo below*). A well designed bow will have the rest cut in so that the arrow sits no more than an 1/8in or so above your hand. This closeness will mean that if you lay the bow over to shoot or are forced by scrub et cetera to keep the bow totally vertical, the arrow will shoot exactly the same. To prove this, think about this: many old-style recurves (and some recent ones as well) had those mongrel stick-on rests. They sat sometimes as high as 1in above your hand, so when you would cant the bow over, the arrow would push massively to the right (for a right-handed archer or left for a lefty). This is a lot to adjust and allow for. If the arrow is right on your hand, this variation is almost non-existent. Most experienced archers—especially hunters—took those sticky rests off and shot their bows off the shelf. Target shooters are really the only ones who wouldn't do that as they always keep their bows perpendicular. So, with your



Straight traditional grip.

traditional straight grip, one of the great advantages is that you can grab your handle any way you are comfortable, but always try to grip it as close to the rest as possible. The only real negative is the muscle under the thumb I mentioned earlier will be squashed to some extent against the handle. This style of grip will require some practice to master, but is well worth the learning for the benefits it offers.

This is probably a great time to look at the dished grip. The dished grip has all the advantages of the straight grip plus one huge advantage: The adductor pollices muscle doesn't get squashed against the handle as the mid-area of the grip is 'dished out'. This not only adds to the comfort of the grip, but adds a 'locator' benefit as well. As I mentioned earlier, gripping the bow in the same place every time is very important, and this grip encourages that. At the same



Heeled grip, used for straight or dished grips.



This is how close you want your hand to your arrow shelf or rest.

time though, the dished grip still allows for some hand adjustment for tricky shots as necessary. This is my absolute favourite grip. After shooting the traditional straight grip for three decades I finally decided to modify one of my bows into a dished grip bow and see how it felt. In short, I saw the wisdom in the design immediately. It in no way impeded my flexibility of grip and was comfortable and added grip location as well to boot. Great

design. But, again, you must heel the bow. A well designed dished grip will bring your hand right under the arrow as I mentioned earlier. Because the dished grip locates your hand, it then becomes critical that it is designed so that hand location right under the arrow is achieved.

Last but not least, the semi-pistol grip. Obviously as the name suggests, this grip will position your hand as if you were holding a pistol. Your wrist

is far less in the 'heeled' position and is more in the forward position with the index finger knuckle much lower than is the case with a heeled grip. The amount of this forward wrist position is achieved by the design of the grip. Most longbows have a riser/handle depth of maybe 2in maximum, so there is only so far the grip can be dished. It will be a grip that sits somewhere between heeled and high wrist position (*see photos, next page*). This is more accurately called a locator grip, simply because it 'locates' your hand comprehensively on the handle. It does this more than the dished grip by quite a bit. The positive of this grip style is that it is easier to be consistent in hand placement and thus easier to learn to shoot. However, as is always the case with design, there is a trade-off; and that is that the grip is not as flexible on shot angle variations. By that I mean, if you are forced into a really awkward shooting position, you really can't adjust your hand position much so that leaves a lot to allow for when making this shot. It's really quite a contrast to a straight or dished grip where, due to the flexible hand position, there's not much correction needed. In the case of deep risered bows like recurves and many hybrid bows, the pistol grip can become very



Dished trip. The line in the background gives a good idea of the extent of the dish.

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Semi-pistol grip.

deep. There are basically three wrist positions of the full pistol grip: High, where the wrist is on the same plane as the forearm, low, which is what we have already discussed above, and mid-wrist, which is halfway between the two. This is mainly a question of personal choice and most will pick one of these based on their wrist structure and what they like the feel of. But basically, the higher your wrist cock is, the more difficult it is to allow for awkward bow angles. To expand on that: if you have a handle that has a high wrist position and you need to

The full pistol grip; most common on recurves.



lay the bow horizontally, you will need to make conscious adjustment to your aim, where you wouldn't with a dished or straight grip. Most mass-produced recurves are made with a mid-wrist pistol grip as this will suit 98 per cent of archers. Truthfully, with practice, and assuming you have no wrist issues, no carpal tunnel syndrome et cetera, you can teach yourself to shoot with any of these grip styles. My advice is go for whatever you find most comfortable and if you are new to archery and are wanting to shoot a longbow, I would recommend the dished or straight grip



Low grip position.



High grip position.

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as you will benefit from the flexibility they offer. Also, if you go for a straight traditional grip but can't get your head around it, it can easily be made into a dished or semi-pistol grip. If you go with semi-pistol, obviously going back to a straight grip is not possible as the timber is gone! If you are coming over to the 'light side of the force' and dumping the 'dark side' of compounds, you may want to go for the semi-pistol as it will be an easier transition.

The last thing to look at with your grip is whether or not you want a leather wrap. My overwhelming advice is *yes!* (If you are going for the deep recurve pistol grip then no, I wouldn't go for leather as the grip itself minimises slippage.) Just as the other grips allow for great freedom and flexibility in your shots, they also mean that without leather your hand can slip around when you don't want any movement. So on semi-pistols, dished grips and straight traditional grips, I definitely use and highly recommend a good high quality suede wrap, hand laced and securely glued on. Again though, it's a personal choice.

Rest and riser considerations

When we look at the arrow shelf and riser or sight window design, there are a few things that will make a big difference to your shooting. Let's just look again at the mass-produced bows.

They all have flat shelves because they employ those rotten stick on-rests so the shelf becomes irrelevant. But for bows that are shot off the shelf, as I believe field and hunting archers should always be, then you want a radiussed shelf. In other words, the shelf curves in an upward arc being highest in the mid-area and obviously lower at the ends. This doesn't need to be extreme but it allows for minimal drag on the arrow as it slides along. It also gives added feather clearance. The riser should also radius. At the front



Radiussed riser.

of the bow, it can be slight, but at the belly side of the bow it should be quite radiussed to allow for the archer's paradox. This also means the arrow's drag is again minimised through less contact with the bow and as the arrow flexes on its journey through the bow, that bit of radiussing gives greater clearance for an arrow as it bends. These two design factors will help to not only get good arrow flight in general, but also be more forgiving of a bad release. A bad release will often cause the arrow to wave around more as it journeys through the bow. The extra room at the belly side of the riser will allow some extra play in the event of a less-than-perfect release. The other benefit is you will have greater flexibility in arrow spine selection (although that factor is only slight).

Two questions often arise: Why are longbows not fully centreshot? What is the benefit/difference with various levels of centreshot? There is one fairly simple answer to both questions: The more centreshot a bow is, the more touchy it is. You actually do want some side pressure on your arrow. So if we look at the two extremes—an English longbow, shot off the hand and obviously with no shelf, so nowhere near centreshot; and a full centreshot bow where the shelf

is cut so deep that the arrow literally sits straight through the bow with zero side deflection at all. The English longbow will be very critical of spine variations and will require a slightly lighter spine to enable the arrow to bend sufficiently to get around the bow. The full centreshot bow can have quite a bit of spine variation as there is no bow to get around, so the shaft can be significantly stiffer. The problem that arises with the full centreshot bow is that when there is a lack of side pressure, if your release is anything less than perfect, that arrow has nothing to 'guide' it or stabilise it whatsoever. Every full blown target archer who will be shooting an Olympic target bow will have a full centreshot bow. But there will be a Berger button or some degree of packing, taking the arrow effectively off centreshot. This provides stability as I mentioned and thus forgiveness of human error. The adjustable buttons can aid in tuning as the side pressure can be made to fit your arrow preference, shooting style et cetera. With our traditional bows though, that have no adjustment, it's simply a matter of playing with your arrow spine till you find the perfect stiffness for your bow, head weight and shooting style. To that end, the ideal amount of centreshot is around 1/8in off centre. Then there is a leather rest applied. This is ideal. It provides great stability but also allows for some flexibility in spine selection.

So that covers in some degree of detail the ins and outs of grip and riser design. I hope that helps you choose the next custom bow with more information.

Once again, we are very busy here at Norseman and we're open and ready to look after all your traditional archery needs. Give us a call on 0243 294 074 or email: norseman_longbows@hotmail.com with any questions you may have.

Until next time, keep traditional.



Women in ARCHERY

Anika Drosd

Anika Drosd, aged 35.

How did you start in archery?

Ryan, my husband, bought me a bow for Christmas in 2018. I started in February 2019 and soon became addicted.

Number of years involved in archery?

Two years.

Local Club?

Lake Macquarie Field Archers and Port Stephens Archers.

What type of archery do you do?

3D archery.

Do you hunt?

I have just started hunting. We had our first hunting experience with Ben Edwards and Belinda Robinson from Naptyme Archery last year. It was the most amazing experience and I can't wait to get into it some more.

Favourite archery memory?

Winning the Top Ten at Milbrodale in March 2020.

What appeals to you about archery?

I love the idea of being out in the bush with great people flinging arrows.

Are any family members involved in archery?

Yes, my husband Ryan.

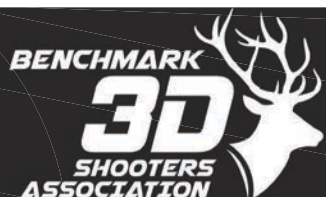
Bows: First bow: Diamond Medalist 38. Current Bow: Athens Archery Peak 38 at 45lb 28.5 draw length with Big Fella bowstrings and shooting the Naptyme Archery Platinum Pro series 600s.

Great achievements inside or outside of archery?

I used to play off a handicap of 2 in golf and managed to get a hole in one when I was 14.

Sponsors:

Last year I was lucky enough to be asked to be part of the Big Fella Bow Strings team by Tim Richards and Naptyme Archery (Ben Edwards). It definitely helps when you get to shoot the quality equipment that these guys produce.



Benchmark 3D Shooters Association is keen to help promote women in our sport—from the good sport who helps unstintingly at the club through to the top-level archer. If you know someone you think should be featured, please contact us.

Email: Benchmark3DArchery@gmail.com Phone: Robert Vayro 0438 997 638



Branch E IFAA Indoor Titles

Manning Great Lakes Field Archers have had more than their share of challenges over the past few years but their unstoppable drive has seen the club rise from the ashes—quite literally.

That was never more evident than during the Branch E IFAA Indoor Titles hosted by the club on July 17

and 18. The club was a victim of the wide-ranging bushfires in late 2019. Totally destroyed in the blaze, infrastructure and ranges have had to be rebuilt, piece by piece. Club secretary Mick Rowsell said it had been a long road but that the club had been determined to put itself back on the map. Along the way, COVID closures

have put some pretty big blips in the progress.

“This was our first major shoot since the bushfires and I won’t lie, it’s been a big job getting ready for a Branch event,” he said.

“But we were keen to put it on and show people that we’re still alive.”

More than 40 shooters participated in the two-day event, and most of them came from other clubs to support the shoot.

Despite a brand new shed and kitchen, the club was still working at reduced capacity but made it happen anyway. With the donation of a stove and oven, the kitchen was under way. “

“We were very grateful to get a couple of grants so we could rebuild the shed, but we couldn’t do everything at once as we were basically starting again from scratch,” Mick said.

It was even worse than starting from scratch, really, as some almighty blackened, mangled messes had to be

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Some of the indoor action at Manning.

cleaned up before they could begin the giant task of rising from the ashes.

Manning is a pretty strong club, but—as with almost any organisation—a few loyal and dedicated members have done the lion's share.

Mick said the power was next on the list, as the club had lost generators and machinery in the fire. A generator has been donated but there's work to do to get it up and running. Solar panels are on the cards, and there's grant funding but it won't cover all the expenses so they're still gathering as much money as they can for the project. He said one of the club members was a plumber, who did as much as he could to get that side of the work done.

The shower block still needs plumbing and electricals, but people

who camped had their own showers and it was a case of 'on with the show'. Other visiting archers stayed in nearby motels.

Meals were prepared, the indoor range was set up for the usual IFAA format and the shoot was deemed a success, although the wind at times made it challenging for the shooters (the area was open on two sides)

"We have two outside ranges up and running—we managed to get them cut in pretty quickly. It was very barren straight after the fire, but because there's no longer any canopy we've had an amazing amount of undergrowth come up. There are a lot of places that are incredibly thick and overgrown because of that."

Club members are hoping to have an invitational event in November.





A STAG HUNT *to remember*

JETT HARCH

Ever since I first got serious about archery, I have wanted a big set of antlers on my wall. But I hadn't ever hunted deer or even had a block I could hunt on. Well, this year that was about to change.

In March, my uncle invited me to go and hunt on his red deer block. I couldn't have been more excited. We got to the property and had a quick afternoon hunt, walking a couple of hills and regularly glassing the opposite hills.

After I had been doing this for a while, I eventually picked out a small red clump under a tree on the opposite hill. We looked at the red clump for a bit, but we put it down as a fallen branch with dead leaves. Well, that

was until it moved, and antlers were identified!

We quickly dropped lower on the hill we were on to get out of sight. There was another hill between ours and the one the stag was on so we moved quickly. Eventually we got to the bottom of the hill where we had seen the stag was feeding and we spotted a fawn halfway up the hill. This put a spanner in the works, as my uncle reckoned there would be does somewhere close. As we were glassing around trying to find any more deer, when my uncle said, "Don't move!" I ever so slowly looked through my binos and focused in on a doe only 60yd from us. She had sneakily come

through the lantana and was looking directly at us. She gave a small snort and stiff-leggedly walked off.

We gave her a minute to forget about us then cautiously moved on towards the stag. Suddenly, about 10 does jumped up out of a lantana bush halfway up the hill and took the stag with them as they disappeared. Although the outcome was a bit disappointing, it couldn't stem my excitement: I had seen my first red deer in the wild!

The next day we walked a few hills and came across plenty of rub trees and fresh sign. My uncle reckoned one particular hill always had good stags on it and plenty of rubs. Well, he

wasn't wrong about the rubs! We saw rub after rub after rub. One rub was about a foot taller than me and I was 6ft at the time at the bottom of the tree was a pile of sawdust. The ground around it looked like the surroundings of a drop-saw in a school woodwork room! A big stag had obviously been giving this tree a flogging.

I thought there was a good chance that a stag would come round here with all the rub trees around. So, I stayed on this side of the hill and my uncle kept working his way along the ridge. To cut a long story short, I didn't see a single deer, but my uncle got his first stag, and that's his story to tell so I will leave that part to him. I did, though, help pack out some meat. I had a back leg and both back straps in my pack and my uncle had the skull and a back leg. Both packs would have been around 20kg or 25kg. Let's just say I was quite happy when we saw the car.

Sunday was our final day and we would be leaving about lunch time. We had a nice walk along some burnt country where my uncle found a small shed that looked very similar to his stag only smaller. We kept going but came across some cattle, so we decided to turn around. Back at the car we spotted some does working a flat not far away so as it was my turn for a shot, I made the decision to drop down into a creek out of sight and get in front of them. My plan was to ambush them as they went past. The plan went very well, and we made our way to the top of a hill that the deer would feed across.

I got up there and couldn't see the sneaky buggers. I looked for a while but gave up, thinking they must have somehow busted us and taken off. I met up with my uncle again and he was also unsure about what might have happened, so we put our packs on again and went to leave. Then I saw a weird shaped log on the flat so

up came the binos. The binoculars revealed that yes, it was just a log ... but next to the log were deer! So back to the hill we went, and then we waited. We sat there for about an hour as the deer slowly fed towards us. Everything was looking good, and they were about 20yd from the bottom of the hill when they either caught some movement or scent and they took off.

So close, but not close enough. That was the end of that hunt. No deer for me but it was great seeing my uncle get his first stag and for me to see deer in the wild.

Fast forward to May and I was once again on my way with my uncle to his deer block in the hope that this time I would be successful. We arrived at 3pm Friday but my uncle needed to quote on a shed so we wouldn't be hunting straight away. Then our plans changed. The owner wasn't home yet, so we could go hunting immediately after all. We geared up and drove over to a paddock called the hill paddock. We shouldered our packs and headed up to the hills, covering some good ground and slowing as we approached a dam. We were just about to crest a rise when my uncle called to stop. Two does and a fawn were 100yd away. My uncle said I could have the stalk, so I very slowly started crawling towards them. I was going really well and had closed the gap to 40yd, but one doe got a bit suspicious of the new little detail in its surroundings. A small swirl of the wind had the does moving off 50yd. Then they looked around. I was thinking, "What the?" and looked to my right to see three stags coming onto the flat next to the dam! A spiker, a double 2 and a double 4. They then moved to the does and were never seen again.

That was Day 1 done and dusted, and I already had experienced a good stalk and seen some nice deer.

The next day we woke early to a very fresh morning. We geared up



(With apologies to Shakespeare) ... ay, there's the rub.

and made our way to an area where my uncle had been chasing a good stag. We walked for a while, not seeing much sign. Then the wind swirled around and three does ran off. It was the only time that morning the wind had swirled and had been just when we were close to some deer. Typical!

We kept walking and started to make our way towards a flat where the deer liked to feed during the middle of the day. We got there and my uncle decided he was a bit tired. He lay down and was asleep within a few minutes. After looking around for a while, I started to get a bit drowsy so I also had a quick nap. We both woke up feeling good and moved off again. We spotted a lone deer feeding on a hill, so we dropped out of sight and popped up again only to have lost sight of her.

My uncle reckoned she had just bedded so we again sat down in the shade to wait her out. We waited for about an hour with my uncle again taking the opportunity to have another sleep. After a while he woke again and asked if I wanted to go for a crawl. So off I went, slowly crawling towards where we had last seen her. I got to where she had been and couldn't see anything. I thought she was gone so I

made my way back to my uncle and we shouldered our packs and headed over the hill she'd been on so we could look on the other side.

Sure enough, we got halfway to the top and my uncle said, "There she is." And there she was indeed, 100yd further along the ridge looking right at us. I felt like an idiot and regretted the missed opportunity.

As the day went on, we just kept walking and walking. We eventually got back to the car and opted to go back to the hill paddock and sit off the dam where we had seen the stags the previous day. Well, that was the plan anyway! We got to the dam and spotted a spiker over the other side down near a gully about 200yd away. We slowly started to make our way over to him. As we got closer, we saw more deer, as well as a fence. Yes, he was over at the neighbour's. We couldn't go over there but we saw they were feeding along the fence so we kept in line with them hoping they would at some stage cross over to our side. Eventually they got to a hill and start feeding around. Two of the young stags in the mob started to spar lightly. While the rest of the deer fed around the other side of the hill away from us, we quickly made our way around to the top of our hill hoping that they might feed around the hill and come to us.

Well, that's exactly what they did! We were glassing and trying to see if they were going to feed around when my uncle said, "Get down!" The deer were already coming through the fence into our paddock. A doe and her fawn were leading the mob. The doe was coming straight at me! She got about 5yd from me and I was unsure what to do but my uncle said not to move. The doe got a bit suspicious and veered slightly past me and stopped around 10yd away. Then she caught a bit of our scent but luckily, she ran past us and all the other deer kept coming.

There was a 3x4 in the mob that

needed to be culled so my uncle, being very nice, said it was my shot. As the stag came past, my uncle said to draw. He pulled the stag up with a "mewww!" and indicated 20yd. I sent my arrow through the stag—a perfect release (I use a back tension release) and the arrow flew straight through the air and hit the stag right in the magic triangle. Well, I thought that was where it hit. The deer ran off and my uncle told me the shot had been a bit high. I got a bit nervous then but I was still high on the adrenaline of having shot the stag. The double 4, along with the other young stags in the mob, ran to the top of the hill then looked down at something. They started to make their way away. My uncle was going to try to stalk them to get the 4x4, but for some reason the stags turned around and headed straight along the fence towards him. The two young stags went past first, and my uncle got his stag.

I decided to have a look for my stag and was almost at the top of the hill when I remembered I didn't have my bow and should go get it in case I needed it. So, I went back and grabbed my bow, meeting up with my uncle to congratulate him on his new PB stag.

Then it was time to look for my deer. We set out for the top of the hill where we'd last seen him. I got to where I had turned around to get my bow and saw a smear of blood on the grass. I followed the trail with my eyes and then saw my stag piled up under a lantana bush, stone dead! I yelled out to my uncle and met with him with handshakes and man hugs. We then inspected shot placement and the entry was about 2in higher than optimal, but the exit was perfect—a double lung shot. My stag had only gone 40yd. I couldn't have been more excited. My deer actually ended up being a 4x5, we had originally thought it was a 3x4 but two little points on the brow tine brought it up to a 4x5.

We positioned him for photos then



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went down and did the same with my uncle's stag. We then each went to our own stags and took the heads, and I took a back strap which I wanted to try eating. We then packed out of the hill at night, which was a very memorable experience.

The next day we came back and took some more meat; I took a front

and back leg, and my uncle took two back legs. We returned to camp and packed up. After we had packed up, we cleaned up our skulls better and my uncle discovered he had left his good knife back on the hill. So while he went to quote on a shed I went back to my stag and got his knife. I called my good mate on the way up as I didn't

have my bow. (It had been packed by then.) And of course, I saw deer! It was bound to happen.

Well, that was the end of the incredible hunt where I got my first deer. I couldn't have been more excited, or more thankful for being invited to hunt. It's now my new favourite hunting memory!



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BACK TO BASICS

It's driving me knots

You don't need basic bushcraft and survival skills every day ... or do you? Just think of the last time you tied a knot. Doing up your shoes. Braiding your daughter's hair. Attaching a piece of twine to hold up a tomato plant to a stake. While you may tie knots routinely in your day-to-day life, tying the correct knot for the application and doing it properly is an essential survival skill.

Unfortunately, the speed of development—combined with our thirst for the easy option—has degraded skills that were once commonplace in society. Once upon a time, there was a bundle of 'paramatta' rope in the back of the ute and almost any bloke over the age of 15 could tie a truckies' hitch. These days, however, ask around

and you'll find that most people have either never heard of it or have forgotten how to do it. Why? Because of ratchet straps, fast-clips and similar gizmos. Even a task as simple as tying your shoes involves selecting the right knot. If your laces come undone, you're probably tying a granny knot

bow instead of a reef (or square) knot bow. The two are similar but not the same. Or how about your mate whose hooks come off the line every time he hooks a fish? (Or maybe you have the same trouble.)

Whether you're tying your laces, fishing, or securing a load, the standard



If you can't tie knots, tie lots!



Grab a few books on tying knots.

alternative to tying a proper knot is to tie lots! Lots and lots of granny knots or incorrect half hitches, all of which will loosen over time and become useless ... and even potentially dangerous. After all, without the capacity to tie a decent knot in a survival situation, how are you going to make a robust shelter, raft or traps and snares?

Consider these scenarios. You're bowhunting and your string snaps or your limb breaks. You're in a remote area and in need of food. This is the

time you'll be wishing you knew how to create a simple snare-noose. Or how about a situation when you've become lost bushwalking and find yourself facing a night in the scrub all alone? Your shelter-making efforts will certainly benefit from an ability to tie a clove hitch.

Now let's make the situation worse. Let's say you've now been lost for days with no prospect of a rescue party any time soon. Your bow is broken and you've run out of arrows.

So, you want to tie on your fletches with paracord and make a self-bow. If you don't know how to tie the right knots, your fletches will come off and the bowstring will release itself.

Regardless of the likelihood of any of these scenarios, you shouldn't have to think too hard to find a reason to learn how to tie knots. This is a simple skill to acquire, not a mystic art. There are numerous books and websites available that will give you the good oil, and we encourage you to look for



An indigenous workshop showing how to make a rope from tree bark.



There's nothing mystic about it. You just learn the skill, then it's as easy as braiding your daughter's hair.

one that appeals to you. For example, sites like www.animatedknots.com have videos, tutorials and step-by-step guides on how to tie a myriad of knots.

When you start reading about knots, you'll find that everyone has an opinion about which ones are best. That's because the knots people will recommend depend on their own experience of knots and the context in which they use them. So, there are knots for fishing, for climbing, for horse handling and for surgical purposes, among many others. On our kitchen

cupboard doors, we have two posters with 17 different fishing knots between them—including their pros and cons.

There are enough different types of knots out there to drive you knotty! So, let's look at our pick of the best five basic knots that you should know, as a starting point, for a survival situation. These knots are the most commonly used, and that's because they'll help in the majority of situations you may face, use the least amount of line, and are the least complicated. There are many others, so discover your own

favourites. If you hunt in mountainous areas, you might like to focus on climbing knots whereas, if you hunt close to the ocean, you could focus on fishing knots.

Before we go to specific knots, let's talk terminology. When we talk about the running end of cordage, it means the end of the rope that is used to tie the knot. This end is also sometimes referred to as the working end. The rest of the rope is the standing part. 'Running end' and 'standing part', okay?

Now, let's tie some handy knots!



Reef knot



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A reef knot can also be referred to as a square knot or a Hercules knot (from the Greeks—it's been around that long!)

So, to tie a reef knot, you go: left over right and under, right over left and under; right? Then why is that so many people get it wrong and end up tying a granny knot instead? (A granny knot is less secure than a reef knot).

It's because the only difference between a granny knot and a reef knot is that in the reef knot you use the same running end to cross over the second piece of cordage (to form the first half knot) as you use to cross the cordage a second time to complete the knot.

Use a reef knot to tie two lengths of the same-sized material together. But don't trust it with critical loads. It's good for bundling things together because you can tension the rope a little during the first part of the knot tying. It's also frequently used as a suture and ligature knot by doctors and nurses. Tying bandages together such as a triangular sling is another common use for a reef knot. Why? Because the knot will lie flat against the skin.



Figure 8 loop

The figure 8 knot is a stopper knot (at the end of a rope) and is easily untied. However, you can adjust it to make a loop or what's called 'on the bight', and this makes the knot more versatile. To do so this, make a loop in the cordage, pass the loop behind the standing end and pass it over, and through, the opening beside the running end.

The Figure 8 loop is a very efficient and strong knot because it forms a loop in the rope which will not draw tight. This loop can be used to hold loads, secure a mooring or as a loop over the body for lifting or dragging. It's also good for adding additional hooks on a line or to assist in tensioning a line when you don't know how to make a truckies' hitch. In addition, you can use a figure 8 loop on the end of a fishing line to tie on a hook, lure or fly. But don't make the loop too big or the hook will snag on the line during casting.

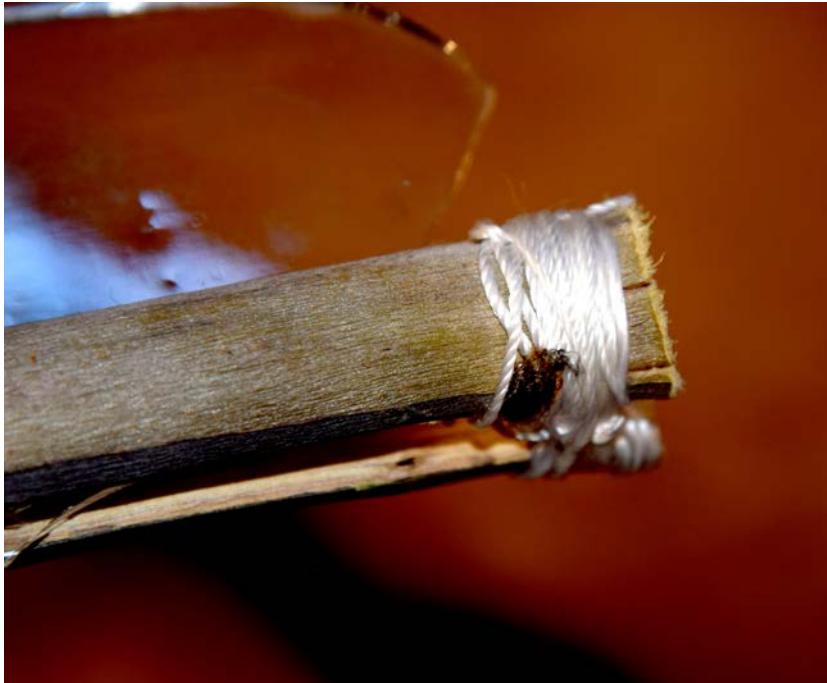


Improved clinch knot

The improved clinch knot is classically used to attach a hook to a line. To tie it, simply thread the end of line through the eye of your hook. Double back, making five or more turns around standing line. Bring the running end of line back through the first loop formed behind the eye and then through the big loop. Pull on the running end to tighten down the coils, sliding them tight against the eye.

The more pull that is applied, the harder the knot turns into itself, increasing the strength of the connection. Interestingly, you should wet the line before tightening it. This is because, as you cinch it, heat is generated due to the friction, and this can weaken your line. The first clue you'll have is when your line breaks later when you're attempting to reel in a fish. You can also use this knot for attaching an anchor to rope, or for tying up to a pole or tree.

Clove hitch



A clove hitch is two successive half-hitches around an object such as a post or pole. To tie a clove hitch, pass the running end of the rope around the pole. Then pass the rope over itself before passing it around the pole a second time. Then thread the running end under itself and pull tight.

In a survival scenario, you can use a clove hitch to attach your shelter to a tree or when creating a raft. You can also use it to tie your boat/canoe to a tree or exposed root. It's commonly used to start a lashing, binding one thing to another such as a shelter frame or to bind a split wooden shaft to create a spear or fix an arrowhead. You can strengthen it by adding further half hitches. This knot can also lead you into the wonderful world of lashings, whipping and splicing of a rope ... but we will leave that for another day.

Snare noose

A snare consists of a noose attached to a strong anchor point such as a tree or shrub. The noose is placed on a track or pad or over a burrow. As an animal moves through the noose, the line will tighten around its neck. The more the animal struggles the tighter the noose becomes.

If you're using cordage on a trigger snare, you could use the figure 8 loop, or another knot called the poacher's loop. However, if you're making a more passive simple snare, you're better off using wire with a snare noose. The reason is that, if you use the figure 8 loop knot and cordage on a simple snare, animals

will simply gnaw on the rope to gain their freedom. Alternatively, the snare may loosen when pressure is released (for example, if the animal moves backwards).

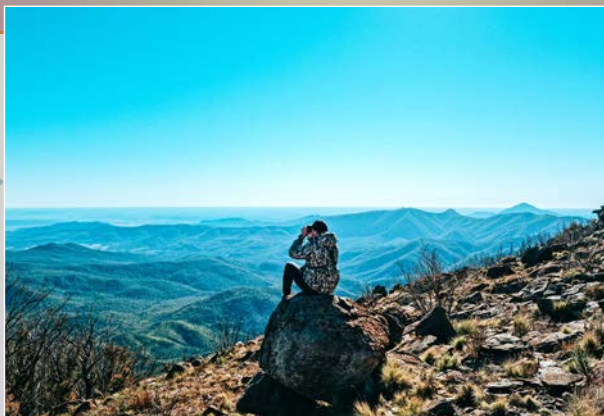
To make a snare noose, simply twitch the wire on itself to make a loop; then twist the loop itself to make a second loop. It's a loop within a loop. You then feed the standing end through this second loop to make your noose.

As the snare is tightened, the wire bights on itself, creating more friction. As the animal pulls, the noose gets tighter, but it will not slacken when the pressure is released.



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2021 fallow

Surely a message of good luck ...a rainbow breaking through the cloud.

The buck stops here ... at last

TYLER ATKINSON



Over the past couple of years, I haven't had the best of luck with fallow bucks during the rut. This year I was hoping and praying things would turn around.

My year didn't start off great, with more close calls and missed opportunities than I would like to admit. But I was still persisting and pushing as hard as I could. With two weeks off work, I was well into my break and I had organised a little trip away with a good mate to check out a spot we thought might be pretty good. We had a full day and a morning to hunt before Dylan had to be back in town for work.

The first morning we woke up

before first light to a buck going off his head not too far away. We got our stuff together and headed off down a track to try to locate him. We had both guessed he was about 500m away and set off. Well, we were only 100m down the track when he started up croaking again—beside us.

We had both guessed that one real bad! He was only 100m from camp so we had to double back and pick a different line to get the wind right. We started to close the gap and got in to approximately 40m before laying eyes on him. He was hot on a doe and chasing spikers away at the same time.

We played cat and mouse for a

little bit before he took off chasing a spiker and circled around behind us to catch our wind. That was all over as quick as it started but it really had the blood pumping for the day that was to come. The rest of the morning was pretty uneventful. We made a number of stalks in on croaking fallow bucks but couldn't manage to close the gap and get eyes on anything before they ended up blowing out, never to be heard of again.

Nearing midday, we decided to head back to camp for a meal and a bit of a break. We cooked up some lunch and shot arrows at a 3D target for a couple of hours and then it was time to head off for another bit of a look around. We were headed for a spot a couple of kilometres from camp. The area looked to be a bit more open and did not have as much undergrowth. It looked like there were a number of grassy flats, in contrast to the thick

cover where we'd hunted that morning. It took us a while to get over there as we had to circle around a bit just to make the wind right and the walk a bit more comfortable.

There was some thick scrub to push through to get close to a point where it looked like it was going to open up. We really weren't seeing much sign at all, although we also realised the ground we were in wasn't really great for holding sign anyway.

We broke through into the section we'd been aiming for—a large, almost broadhead-shaped patch of thinner bush approximately 1km long. We had entered at the point; at the wide end it would have been roughly 300m wide. We had a couple of hours before the darkness would set in so there was no rush at all and we could work this area very slowly.

We slowly skirted the edge of the thicker undergrowth till we found a half

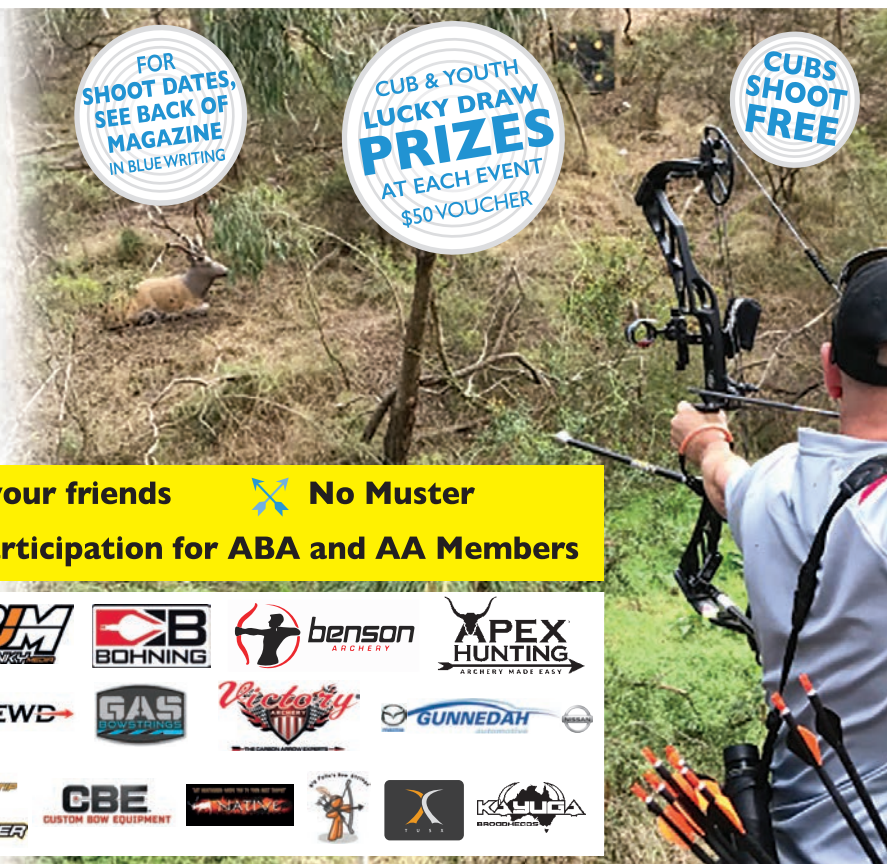
decent game trail leading in through the flats and started walking along it. It wasn't long before we started to see some fresh droppings, the odd rub tree and beaten up bushes.

Ever so slowly moving along, we soon spotted a yearling doe just feeding away, completely unaware of our presence. We stalked in, just messing around to see how close we could get, until we ran out of cover at 20m. We took a little bit of video before backing out to leave her undisturbed.

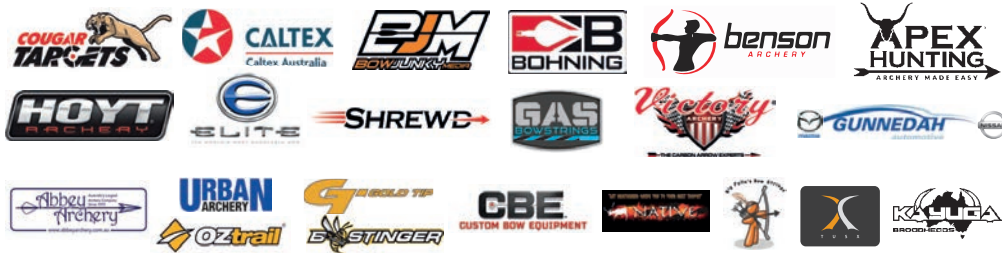
Back onto the game trail and it was only minutes later that we both heard a thrashing sound. It took us a little bit to identify it over the sounds of the wind in the trees but soon enough we both agreed that it sounded like a buck working a scrape. We made a plan to move in. The amount of noise the wind was making made a great cover and should mean that the deer wouldn't hear us.



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We swiftly made our move and everything just fell into place. I made the right calls of which bush to go around and the direction of approach was perfect. We first laid eyes on the buck at about 50m after a stalk of about 150m. He was doing exactly as we had thought, thrashing up a shrub and flicking dirt everywhere as he worked a scrape. There was a large tree between him and me, which made a perfect cover to close the gap a little further. At this point, I was honestly a little narrow minded and didn't check the surroundings for any does that might have been in and around him, but luckily nothing spooked before the shot to alert him.

I reached the large tree and managed to get a range on him at 36m. It was a shot that should be pretty straightforward and that I could make time and time again. But on animals there's always a tendency to lose it a bit and things can go south pretty quickly. Still, I was confident in making the shot and I was soon slowly shuffling my way to the right

to get clear of some branches and get a clean arrow path. Meanwhile the buck was still working the same spot. As soon as I hit a clear spot the buck shuffled around a little bit from the quartering-on that he was to a perfect quartering-away shot and as soon as he did that I had my bowstring hitting anchor. A couple of deep breaths and my 30m pin settled high in the lungs, allowing for the 35m shot to drop in to the centre of the vitals. Within moments the shot broke and we watched the arrow sail perfectly into the back of the ribcage and to exit the off-side shoulder. With a jump and a buck, the fallow took off and instantly disappeared behind the large growth in front of us.

A fist pump from me and a bit of a celebration and we were soon up to look at my arrow and see what the blood trail looked like on the ground. I was confident on the hit but wanted to see how I would go following the blood trail. Well, that only lasted about 5m and I soon gave up on that idea because I couldn't make out any of

what Dylan was seeing. Colour blindness is a real killer when it comes to this part of bowhunting!

I left Dylan to blood-trail and I took off up ahead on what looked like his running marks. I walked out 50m to the direction he'd headed and started to work a fan. Only seconds into that, I spotted him piled up only 60m from where he had been hit.

A quick shout out to Dylan and he came up to me as I was dragging the buck out into some open ground to do some admiring and take some pictures. We got him all set up and took some photos then were soon onto breaking him down. For an animal that didn't smell too bad at all, once we started to break him down there was a real stench to him. But a couple of days of hanging and all that will go away. A couple of hours later, we wandered back to camp with some sore shoulders but still wearing big smiles.

It had been a really exciting moment, breaking a run of bad luck and getting a buck on the ground with the bow again this year.



Tyler (left) with his friend Dylan and the fallow buck that ended a run of bad luck.

C Vs D

Friendly rivalry as Branches compete for supremacy

It was a weekend of friendly rivalry when two Queensland Branches met for an archery battle that has become an annual clash for supremacy.

The C Versus D Shoot has been going on for years. This year it was Branch D's turn to reign supreme, but they had to wait to enjoy holding the trophy aloft because Branch C attendees forgot to bring it to the meet!

The weekend was held at the

Darling Downs Field Archers in the Toowoomba district. With hills that are more like long gentle inclines (in contrast to some of the other ranges in the Branch), the ranges are enjoyable to shoot. It was, however, quite windy which added a challenge and a chill factor!

Muster was at 10am on Saturday, after which about 80 shooters did their three-arrow and one-arrow rounds.

Teams were picked from Saturday's

scores for the C Vs D competition.

The Darling Downs club catered meals. About half the competitors camped at the clubgrounds and on Saturday night the campers enjoyed chatting around fire drums dotted around the campgrounds.

Branch C shooters came from Emerald, Rockhampton, Wide Bay, Gladstone and Bundaberg while Branch D was represented by all but two clubs in the Branch.





With thanks to Tony O'Reilly for supplying information and images





2021 Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club Invitational

Despite its small membership of just 21 (including three juniors and three cubs), Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club showed its big heart and wide welcome when its 2021 Invitational Shoot in mid-August attracted 74 shooters.

The weekend kicked off early, with a meal donated by local businesses on Friday night.

Saturday was filled to the brim. There were three rounds to be completed—a three-arrow round and two one-arrow rounds. As if that wasn't enough for one day, additional events included knife and axe, V-shoot, metal pig and 100m goat.

Then it was time to channel the sun and surf (at night!) with a beach-themed get together. Many shooters joined in the fun, sporting fun beachy outfits as they enjoyed a meal prepared by the club.

Sunday had a three-arrow round followed by raffles and presentations.



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Around THE TRADS



*To receive trad shoot information direct, email a request to:
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✱ It was unfortunate that the Victorian border closed the day before the White Rose Birthday Trad Shoot was to be held at the end of May. All the preparations and hard work done to the new course location was for naught. Travellers from Queensland and NSW were fortunate to hear the news of possible border closure before transiting into the State.

✱ The Jules Shield Trad Shoot was held one weekend late also because of COVID-19. There were limited restrictions in place in southeast Queensland. We arrived on Saturday morning. There was only one campsite set up before us and we wondered if it might be a very small turnout, but cars soon started filling the carpark.

The format was changed slightly

to become a two-arrow walk-up which was one arrow from the red peg, one from the green peg on one of the 15 3D target courses and a one-arrow only from the red peg on the other 15 3D target course, with novelties as well. There was also a gamble shot on each course where you got double points if you went for the longer distance, or normal points at the shorter distance.

Our group decided to start at the beginning of the green course. The Lakeside club always put the targets in brilliant shooting positions, and this course was no exception. Doing the walk-up shots just made it a little more challenging. There was a leopard, baboon, an anteater that we thought looked like an oversized Jurassic bilby, a large grinning bear that just needed a cap to look groovy, a zebra, turkeys

of all shapes and sizes, a blue dodo, plus many more. Some were even hidden in the grasses. Our group shot the two-arrow walk-up on the green range first, which included shooting the moving target, also found on this course. Then we moved on to do the one-arrow round on the red range at the intersection, and made our way back through this course to camp. For those who haven't done a trad shoot, the moving target is a five-arrow event, one arrow shot from each of the plates in different positions for each run of the target.

The wind made itself felt very early in the morning and there were small branches and debris falling everywhere.

The rolling disc, situated up from the practice butts, was a very quick



Queensland Titles at Chevallan.



Jules Shield Trad Shoot

Sue Wallace

mover due to the inclination. Once this was complete, we moved on to the 60-second hunt round. This was a set of seven targets set along a path where you could start at one white peg at either end depending on if you were left-handed or right-handed. All the targets were set out really well, with the hardest part being able to remember which animal you may have missed and where the arrow went. I glanced one off the side a tree just behind one of the targets, and despite my best efforts the arrow was not to be found.

The Lakeside club always puts on a great traditional shoot, with the 3D targets set in quite realistic positions; this also includes the targets on the two speed rounds. The club also had great support in the kitchen.

So, a big thank you to the range captain and all his helpers, to all those who worked in the kitchen, and also, a big well done to the score recorder. It was a great shoot which in the end had about 60 archers attend across the two days.

Mark your calendar for either of the shoots at the ABA Lakeside Bowmen Club next year, the Kurwongbah Open and the Jules Shield.

☼ As the weekend of July 17 and 18 approached, all we could do was keep our eye on the news. A lockdown in

Sydney meant a few archers weren't able to make the trip north to the TAA Queensland Titles being held at Chevallan Archery Park in Gympie.

The forecast was for a fine yet cool weekend, with possible showers on Friday. The heavens did open briefly that afternoon.

Saturday morning dawned clear and cool. Leslie White, the TAA Secretary, officially welcomed everyone.

With more than 75 archers on the course, there were bound to be a couple of hold-ups but even so things went well. The format for the State Titles was a three-arrow walk-up with adults shooting one arrow from three different pegs, juniors shooting one arrow from the second peg and two from the third peg, while cubs had their own peg for all three shots.

The 60-second hunt round, which consisted of seven pigs, was between targets 19 and 20. You started at a point (depending if left-handed or right-handed) then shot each pig from a different peg. Time permitting, you walked swiftly back to each peg for another shot at each pig until time was called.

Chef Tom was in charge of the barbecue steak, which was served with pasta salad, garden salad and potato bake. Dessert was cheesecake with ice-cream, cream and custard.

After dinner a lot of folks gathered around the various fires for music and conversation.

Sunday had a light lazy breeze. There was no muster, so groups went out at their leisure. The field course was a one-arrow round only, with adults from the first peg, juniors from the second peg and cubs from their peg. There was also a moving target.

Perry Jackson, the TAA National Traditional Skills Officer and Colin Gare, of Outlaw Bows (a traditional bowyer and craftsman), had set up a table displaying many of their wares. They answered many questions from archers as they perused the items.

Presentations and an enormous raffle were held after an early lunch. The final presentation was a special plaque presented to Gary and Tamara as a thank you for holding the event at Chevallan Archery Park.

☼ Trad shoots confirmed for October-November (at time of writing): HVTa Charity Shoot Newcastle NSW October 2-3, TAA National Titles SW Bowmen WA October 9-10, Two-Day Campout Chevallan Archery Park Qld October 16-17, Trad Tourney Qld October 23-24

I look forward to seeing you 'round the trads.

**GAME
CLAIMED**



This page, clockwise from top: John Teitzel, RC goat 116 2/8pt; Kev Dowd, stingray BHFF; Jeanette Dowd, stingray BHFF; David Hampel, fish BFFF. Facing page, clockwise from top: Thomas Buxton, RC fallow, 196 5/8pt; Damien Norris, TC fallow 189 5/8pt; Graham McComiskie, red deer.



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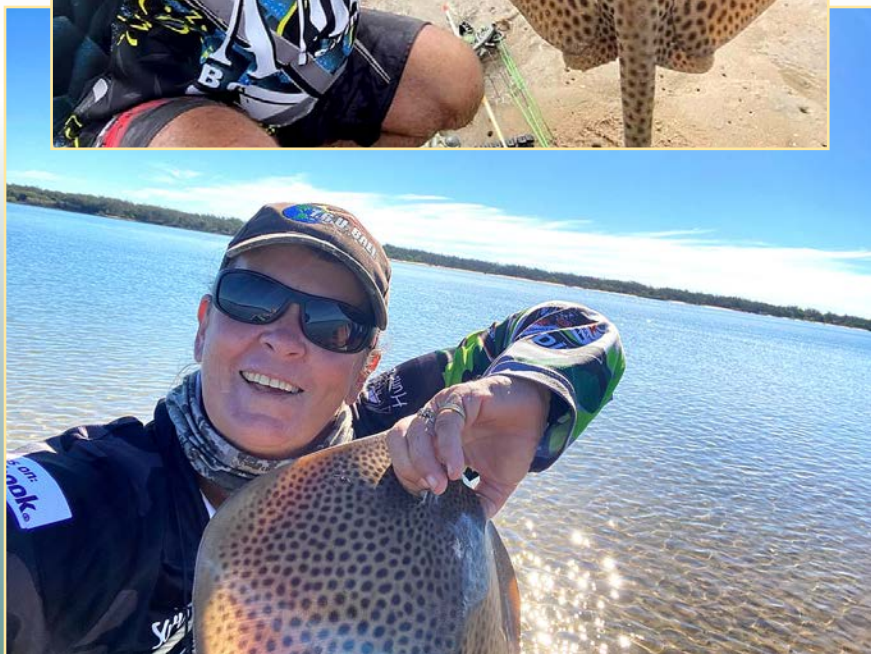
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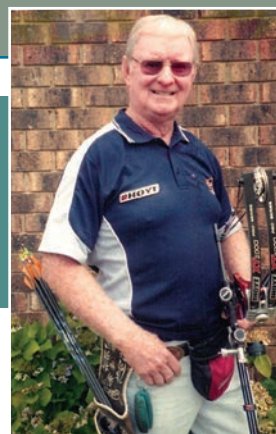
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ROY ROSE

Meanderings



Stabilisers—how they work and which ones to choose

Stabilisers are, of course, an integral part of the set-up of both recurve and compound bows in today's competitive archery environment. The long, front rod stabiliser came into its own during the sixties and seventies, along with dual short rods that the Hoyt recurve bows of that era made popular. Stabilisation today is far more intricate and varied, and considerable attention is paid by top level archers as to how their bows are set up.

In general, and for some decades now, the stabiliser set-up on recurve bows has been very uniform with a long front rod, a V-bar attachment encompassing two short bar rods angled back from the riser.

Compound stabilisation has been much more varied, with the majority of professionals utilising a long front rod and a shorter angled back rod, most often attached to the lower screw in position on the handle. A number of the elite prefer to attach the shorter rod on the same level as the long rod, rather than in the lower option and a lesser few actually opt for a low V-bar set-up with dual short rods, once again angled back.

The leading question however, for the newcomer to the competitive

arena, is what specific role does stabilisation play in the scheme of bow set-up and function?

There are two specific roles which are provided by stabilisation. The first is to maintain a positive level of steadiness during the set-up of the shot and the subsequent execution. The second is to minimise (and transfer away from the riser) the vibration which is inevitable when the release occurs.

The basic quandary that results is that the stabilisation that fits one does not work well for the other, so a choice has to be made by the archer as to which functions best for him or her.

If the competitor is seeking to downgrade vibration as the primary goal, they then will look to keep their stabilisation less heavy with fewer added weights. Unfortunately the bow then tends to not hold quite as steady during the aiming part of the shot. These shooters also, as a result, often use a rod which is not at the very high end of stiffness.

The other alternative is to employ a very stiff rod system to which considerable weight can be added, in fact often as much as the archer is physically capable of holding at

full draw. So the aiming steadiness is enhanced but the negative is that vibration levels are going to occur more in the feel of the execution.

Elite recurve archers and professional compounders have to make this choice, and the differences can be stark.

The leading compounder Mike Schloesser has enormous amounts of screw-on weights on his stabilisers and many of his compatriots also favour this set-up. He also favours the front bushing to angle out his long side rod rather than the lower setting. Perennial champion Dave Cousins also favours this front bushing attachment at the same point as his long front rod.

So with these parameters in mind, how does the club shooter ascertain a positive starting point? It would be nice if one had access to a whole bunch of rods and weights to experiment with, but this unfortunately is not the reality so some basic guidelines as to stabiliser lengths is a positive starting point.

Compound archers most usually shoot a front rod just a little longer than their draw length, in the region of 30in-plus for most male shooters and a little less for the average

Talking about bow torque

One of the most important aspects of tuning for a compound bow, and one which all elite pro-shooters and hunters utilise, is bow torque. If the grip on your bow shifts even marginally left or right, the bow will torque, and without adjustment for this contingency you will experience left and right shots.

Clearly for our top level shooters, where really tight grouping is imperative, bow torque can spell disaster. Their thinking is always that if they are going to make an inferior shot, they want to only 'miss small'. A bow not set up definitively for bow torque can really make an archer miss big.

The process is relatively simple and requires positioning of your sight (or your arrow rest) in such a way that a torqued shot still lands in very close proximity to a well released arrow.

There has always been a theory that the distance you extend your sight, if adjusted specifically, will allow you to left or right torque your grip but still have the arrow join the others in the 10 ring. Most pros, however, prefer to adjust the positioning of their arrow rest in preference to fiddling with a sight

extension which can mess with your peep set-up. So, how does this work? Well, the archer shoots at a close range target, usually indoor distance, with a conventional indoor face. With your normal conventional grip and with a sighted-in mark, an arrow is shot into the central gold. Then by deliberately torquing the grip left and then right, two more arrows are also executed. These arrows, unless your rest happens to be perfectly located, will land left and right of the initial shot.

The next step is to move your arrow rest position back towards you. The movement needs to be just a millimetre or so, as tiny increments make a considerable difference.

Once again, shoot your first arrow as previously, and then a left torque and a right torque arrow. Check the new positioning. If the two wide arrows are now moving closer to the first to form a tighter group, then make a further minimal adjustment and repeat the process until all three shafts group tight on the target.

If the movement of the arrow rest back towards you is not enhancing the group, then obviously start

moving the rest forward, towards the target, and repeat the three shots until the deliberate torque of the bow produces that tight group you are seeking.

You now have an arrow rest placement which, if you inadvertently introduce a negative torque into your grip, will allow you to still just 'miss small' and not forfeit unnecessary points.

For pros, missing small still means a maximum score result and for you it can minimise the potential for a wide scoring arrow.

This arrow adjustment is not a lengthy or complicated procedure and can guarantee you bonus points if you happen to introduce any unwanted torque. It's very important to understand that the rest is moving either towards you or away from you, not left or right.

Careful attention to a repetitive grip on the bow normally takes the chance of torque out of the equation. Sometimes, however, especially when a shot hangs, torque can occur. By utilising the above procedure, you give yourself every chance to 'miss small'.

female shooters. The side rod can vary depending on draw length. The average is around 12in, once again up to 15in if your draw length is excessive and a little less if you have a smaller draw length.

For the recurver, once again the norm for an archer setting up an initial attempt is a front rod around your draw length and with your V-bar short rods around 10in.

Finally, as regards choice, you need to decide which pattern of stabilisation is your preference—whether to opt for a really stiff front rod to which

considerable weight can be added or the less stiff rod alternative which will give a better dampening effect.

Clearly these choices can make decisions, particularly initial ones, less than foolproof, and as is often the case with bow selection and its components, experimentation must be undertaken to arrive at what best suits your form and execution.

In general, if you work on a system where your long rod is close to your draw length and your side rods around the 10in mark, then this is a good ballpark place to start.

Your added ounces of weight will be determined firstly by which option you choose, and secondly if it is the really stiff front rod and considerable weight, just how much you are physically capable of managing over a duration. Simply having the desire to match the pros with prodigious screw-on weights is not the way to go.

If you are an archer who is a prospective compound or recurve competitor, I hope these basic explanations will provide a sensible and feasible starting point, and I wish you every success.

Outside In the zone

For better or worse

Despite the heading, this is not some satirical look at the sacred vows of marriage. While I have spent almost my entire adult life enduring matrimonial bliss, I have also spent a lifetime collecting thoughts and experiences about bows and the people who shoot them. I really should tell you about it ... if not for entertainment reasons, then just so the thoughts will not bother me as much any more. Kind of like cleansing one's soul, if you get my drift.

A few years back, I was watching a man at our local archery club struggling to put together a take-down recurve. I walked over to him to see if I could help in any way and I noted the bow was a brand new American Blacktail. We got it together and in a way of explanation he told me that although he had purchased the bow several years before, he had never used it before. I knew that he did a lot of hunting so I asked him what he used. "Mostly my custom-built Raven and sometimes a Black Widow," he replied. Much to my surprise, he turned out to be a terrible field archery shot. (Almost makes me feel a trifle religious, that does.)

The best field archer I ever saw (using a traditional bow), was an immigrant South African who was holidaying in our local area and turned up at the range one Sunday

by Nils Spruitt



for a shot. I had a brand new longbow at the time and I got the feeling that he was keen to try it out as he only shot recurves and had never tried a longbow before. Well, that's what he said. As is tradition, a small group of us meandered over to the practice range to loosen up a bit prior to the start of competition. After a dozen or so shots at varying distances I let our budding South African friend have a go with the longbow. He fired four arrows with my bow and scored with each arrow on a Group 3 target. He

then fired four arrows at a Group 4 target and put in a very tight bunch with three in the A zone and one just outside in the B. All of us were gobsmacked, but the best was yet to come. He asked Bob, one of the other shooters, if he could borrow his Bear take-down for a try. Before any of us could say that Bob was left-handed, he grabbed the bow and released another four arrows at a Group 3 target which all fell into a scoring zone. Some people are just naturally talented, I guess, while the rest of us can only dream about it.

One of the best shots with a modern compound I ever saw was by a middle-aged chap from somewhere up north who turned up at one of the district shoots I attended. I had never met him before or seen him since, but his legacy still lives in my memory. It was a standard ABA shoot over two days and I was lucky enough to be part of the four-man group this chap had been teamed up with. In short, no matter what the distance, irrespective of the target or the conditions, this guy seldom missed the A zone and he shot without fuss or fanfare. It didn't bother me one iota as I was not shooting in his class (literally or metaphorically), but it goes to show you that some men are just more equal than others.

One of the best recurve bows

I have ever owned was a cheap Chinese copy which I bought at a garage sale only because it was dirt cheap. My reasoning behind the purchase was to sell it at the club and turn over a quick dollar. I hated the look of it and I genuinely disliked the feel of it. Thankfully, it wasn't a take-down so had no moving parts to have to piece together. The riser wood looked like packing crate and while the sight window was cut to centre, it did not appear to be even. I shot it for a couple of months only because I could not find a buyer any sooner. In the end I sold it to chap who wanted a bow for his teenage son and I lost \$10 in the process. So much for my entrepreneurial skills.

When I started with this bow my average for a round of ABA was 488. On my last shoot with the 'ugly stick' I shot 536 and my average had grown to 512. Its one and only redeeming feature was its uncanny ability to hit what you wanted to hit. I am at a loss to explain it, but if you're a die-hard field archer you will understand why I sold it. If you are not, then you will never understand. I think it was Mark Twain who once said 'few men can stand prosperity'. It's comforting to know I am not in the minority.

The best boots I have ever owned were given to me as a gift from an American mate of mine who sadly is no longer with us ... and neither are the boots. These boots were made by the company Timberland, but the model escapes me. They were high top, all leather and when I say leather I mean quality leather and not the rubbish they make boots with nowadays. I wore them everywhere. From the tops of the high ranges above the Clyde river in New Zealand to the vast lignum swamps in the far west of NSW. They were comfortable and as waterproof as quality leather can be with the help of a little Dubbin. Unlike most of my footwear which I

retire for various reasons, these boots were one of the very few that actually retired on me prior to being resoled. Isn't it always the way? I never have had much luck with apparel and when I do luck onto something like these boots, for example, they don't last. It is one of life's little injustices.

One of my most delightful days ever was spent hunting rabbits with a champion IFAA field archer. I can't say we were good mates, more like casual friends. He had forgotten how many medals he had won during a long period at the top of his game. I, on the other hand, had it still fresh in my mind that the week prior I had missed more targets in one round of IFAA than he had missed all year. I guess you could say my confidence level for our little venture was not high.

On this day however, he was just not with it, to put it in simple terms. Of course he bagged a couple of bunnies, but brother, I was something else. To this day I still cannot understand it, but whenever I took a shot, something fell. Testament to his character, he never made any excuses for himself and was free flowing with praise for my bowmanship. On the way back home, he did offer to take me for a round of IFAA at the local range the very next day. Needless to say, this was an offer I found very, very easy to refuse. The sun just doesn't shine on my backside all that often or that warmly to have it taken away in such a short space in time.

Of course, for every day you have like that you have to pay a price ... and pay I did. I recall a goat camp with a few like-minded acquaintances. The first night around the camp fire our host for the evening, who also happened to be a good mate, took great delight in boasting what a dab hand I was with a traditional bow and I of course went along and actually contributed to the embellishment. (The whiskey helped.)

"Certainly not a Conway or a Fenton," I rather offhandedly emphasised, "but I can hold my own in any hunting camp." After all, I had my favourite bow and my ever reliable Beman shafts. Sadly, somehow I had left my ability back at home. It was dreadful. It was humiliating, and even worse, it was remembered. Fortunately for me, I never did see the other chaps again, but every time I run into my host mate at a gathering, he takes great delight in telling all and sundry that I am certainly not a Conway or a Fenton. Fame is not all that it is cracked up to be.

For better or worse ... and all the in between. The hard times, the funny times, the jokes, the sweet times and the memories. Perhaps for better or worse is not really an apt description. It is more about being there and contributing to a part of something entrenched within our make-up. A picture, if you like, hung in our memory where we can see it when we want to.

There really isn't any better or worse to most of us hanging around waiting for deer to saunter past and that's the way a lot of others see it too. I don't suppose you could call standing for hours in a blind 'hanging around' any more than you can say the same of watching your hands turn blue in an alpine chamois camp. A lot of people wouldn't call it fun either, the way we do. I must admit, I sometimes wonder why I spend so much time either being there or wishing I was.

I think all of us go looking for a lot of things in life, not the least of which is an experience, an excuse if you like to try out an old story or to create a new one. To really look into the other side of not only our friends, but at ourselves. All of us, I think, like to laugh inwardly or outwardly at the worst of it and always with the best of it. Personally, I prefer my life that way.

SHOOT-CALENDAR

September-October-November-December



Date	Host Club	Branch	Shoot Description
September			
4th - 5th	Southern Yorke Field archers *	I	ABA / IFAA
5th	Mackay District Bowhunters	B	ABA
5th	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
5th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
5th	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters *	G	ABA
11th	Great Southern Archers *	SA	GSA Unmarked Field
11th - 12th	Towers Bowhunters *	B	ABA
11th - 12th	Gloucester District Archers *	E	ABA Branch Titles
11th - 12th	Caboolture and District Bowmen *	Qld	3DAAA
11th - 12th	Mornington Peninsula Bowmen *	Vic	3DAAA
12th	Full Boar Archery	B	3D
12th	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters *	G	ABA
12th	SOPA *	NSW	QRE
12th	Archery SA *	SA	State Field
11th - 26th	Australian Indoor IFAA Mail Match * *		Organised by Branch G
11th - 17th	Dead Centre Bowhunters *	A	NT Titles 2021
18th - 19th	Full Draw Field Archers *	C	Branch ABA Titles
18th - 19th	Campbelltown District Field Archers *	F	3D / ABA
18th - 19th	Bacchus March Bowmen *	H	ABA
18th - 19th	Mallee Sunset Field Archers *	I	State ABA Titles
18th - 19th	Peel Archers *	J	3D / ABA
18th - 19th	Dubbo 3D Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
19th	Hinchinbrook Archery Club	B	ABA
19th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club	B	ABA
19th	Mackay District Bowhunters	B	3D
19th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	3D
19th	Paringa Archers *	Tas	Paringa Northern Clout
25th - 26th	Roma and Districts Bowmen *	D	Branch D Gold Cup
26th	Full Boar Archery	B	ABA
26th	SOPA *	NSW	QRE
October			
2nd - 3rd	Renegade Bowmen *	D	Qld State ABA Titles
2nd - 3rd	Northern Tablelands Archers *	E	3D State Titles
2nd - 3rd	Cessnock Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
3rd	Mackay District Bowhunters	B	ABA
3rd	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
3rd	Bairnsdale Field Archers *	G	ABA
3rd	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters *	H	IFAA
9th - 10th	Silver City Archers *	I	State 3D titles
10th	Full Boar Archery	B	3D
10th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
10th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
10th	SOPA *	NSW	QRE
16th - 17th	South West Slopes Sporting Field Archers *	F	3D Branch Titles
16th - 17th	Lilydale Bowmen *	H	ABA State Titles
16th - 17th	Gleneagle Field Archers *	J	ABA State Titles
16th - 17th	Ipswich Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA
17th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club	B	ABA
17th	Hinchinbrook Archery Club	B	ABA
17th	Mackay District Bowhunters	3D	3D

All shoots must abide by COVID-19 government requirements in your State/Territory. Please check with your local archery association to make sure your event will be going ahead.

18th	Great Southern Archers *	SA	GSA Indoor 3
23rd	Lismore City Archers *	NSW	QRE
23rd - 24th	North Albert Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA
24th	Dead Centre Bowhunters *	A	ABA
24th	Fred's Pass Field Archers *	A	ABA
24th	Full Boar Archery	B	ABA
24th	Townsville District Bowhunters *	B	3D
24th	SOPA *	NSW	QRE
30th - 31st	Gympie Field Archers *	C	3D
30th - 31st	Hinterland Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA

November

6th - 7th	Manning District Bowhunters *	E	ABA
7th	Mackay District Bowhunters	B	ABA
7th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
7th	West Gippsland Field Archers *	G	ABA
13th	Full Boar Archery	B	ABA
13th - 14th	National Championships *	NSW	3DAAA
13th - 14th	Burnie Bowmen *	Tas	Northern Championships – Burnie
14th	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
14th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
14th	Murray Mallee Field Archers *	I	ABA
14th	SOPA *	NSW	QRE
20th - 21st	Granite Belt Bowmen *	D	Branch D Club Challenge
20th - 21st	Capital Field Archers *	F	3D / ABA
20th - 21st	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters *	H	ABA
21st	Dead Centre Bowhunters *	A	3D
21st	Fred's Pass Field Archers *	A	3D
21st	Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club	B	ABA
21st	Hinchinbrook Archery Club	B	ABA
21st	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	3D
21st	Archery SA *	SA	State Target
28th	Full Boar Archery	B	3D
28th	Mackay District Bowhunters	B	3D
28th	SOPA *	NSW	QRE

December

4th - 5th	Macleay Valley Archers *	E	Shooter of the Year
4th - 5th	Snowy Mountains Bowmen *	F	3D / ABA
4th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	TDB Christmas Breakup
5th	Mackay District Bowhunters	B	ABA
5th	Boola Valley Field Archers *	G	ABA
5th	SOPA *	NSW	QRE
11th	Towers Bowhunters	B	Christmas Breakup
11th - 12th	All Clubs Email Match *	I	ABA
12th	Full Boar Archery	B	ABA
12th	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
19th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club	B	ABA
19th	SOPA *	NSW	QRE

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Post completed form to:
Office Manager ABA
PO Box 152
Redbank Qld 4301
Phone (07) 3256 3976

Renewal ☐
New Member ☐

ABA Membership N^o:

or email to:
officemanager@bowhunters.org.au



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)

I agree my contact details can be provided to form a contact list to be used within the Australian Bowhunters Association only.

If you do not agree, tick this box: ☐

I agree for photos to be taken and used for promotional purposes by the Australian Bowhunters Association.

If you do not agree, tick this box: ☐

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

Signature of Applicant

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	\$75	\$205
Juniors-Cubs	\$50	\$145
Families	\$160	\$435

New Members (12-month membership including joining fee)

Adults	\$100
Juniors-Cubs	\$75
Families	\$205

PENSIONER DISCOUNT: Deduct 10% from fees listed.

Quote Pension Benefit Card Number:

All fees include GST

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

ASSOCIATION USE ONLY

M'ship #s Allocated

Receipt Number

Computer Entered

M'ship Forwarded

Card Number ↓ NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print)

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

Expiry Date (mm yy)

Signature

APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE
AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION™
INCORPORATED (Inc in NT No A01978C) GST TAX INVOICE GST ABN 79 750 431 225

