

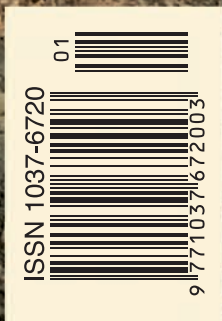
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The beginning of the end of the drought



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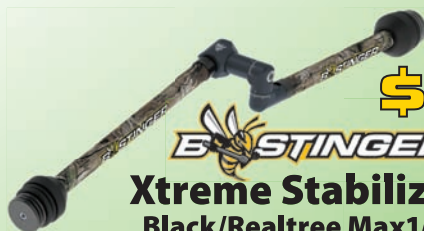
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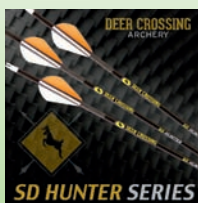


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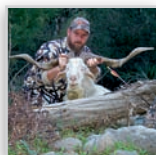
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◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Christie Pisani with a buffalo taken on a recent hunt in the Northern Territory. See Page 49 for her Ladies Best of Species buff taken on the same trip.

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Another year looms before us, filled with shiny promise. There's something about a new year that gives us fresh hope, renewed energy and a positive outlook on life. Maybe that's why we're inspired to make so many resolutions!

This year may be quite a challenging one in many ways, especially for the ABA which is in a period of change—people leaving senior positions, others replacing them, new people learning the ropes. It can all be hard to navigate. Think of all the things that can happen. Personal aggrandisement. Personality clashes. The irritation of having to do work not in your own field of responsibility because someone else is coasting along. All the problems that you get in life, basically. But the one certainty I have is that if we are all here for the betterment of archery and to safeguard the future of bowhunting, nothing can derail us. If we can keep those two shining values at the forefront of our minds, we will make valid decisions and handle any challenges with fortitude and grace.

Speaking of fortitude and grace, I'm going to see if I can show some of that myself with this next topic. I have been asked to print a retraction. It's about a story that appeared

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Vol 43 No. 4 March-April	1 February
Vol 43 No. 5 May-June	1 April
Vol 43 No. 6 July-August	1 June



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PO Box 5124 Brendale Qld 4500

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in the previous issue of Archery Action, *Break O'Day Invitational, seven years in the making*. In it were the words, "We promoted the event heavily on Facebook and rang all the clubs in Tassie to encourage participation."

But someone from the Eastcoast Field Archery Club in St Helen's—the very same town as Break O'Day Field Archery Club—rang me to say their club hadn't been contacted about the shoot and they wanted a retraction. I don't know about you, but I wondered if there was more to the story than I was being told. It always sounds like politicking when something like this happens, and let's face it, we don't join archery clubs to play politics or stir up the waters. Our archery family should be a merry little band of men, women and children. I can think of three possible scenarios—a simple omission, a deliberate slight or a phone call made to someone who didn't pass it on to the club as a whole. I can't claim to be omnipotent and know the answer, but I can tell you this: The Eastcoast Field Archery Club person who rang me said he wanted everyone in the ABA to know that Eastcoast is a really friendly club and if you're in Tasmania any time, they'd love to see you.

Jenel Hunt
Editor

FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

Alan Robertson

It has been a long struggle. For the past two years, I have battled with the dreaded target panic.

Everyone has advice and I have taken it all on board and worked with it. I have shot at close targets. I have closed my eyes. I have reduced the poundage on my bow.

Rhys Aizlewood spotted me out at the range one day where he saw that I couldn't even bring my bow to bear on the 10-yd target without hitting the release aid trigger and driving the arrow into the ground at about five yards. I think it shocked even him as I have been shooting bows for over 25 years.

Rhys said, "I can fix it," and suggested that I spend a long time just drawing my bow and then not firing the arrow but letting the bow down, until I became used to putting the pins on the target and relaxing.

It sounds simple ... but this for me was a lot easier said than done. Initially I had to grip the release aid with all my strength behind the trigger and concentrate like mad so as not to just hit the trigger. For months I did this, just drawing the bow back, gripping the release aid and trying to get those pins on the target.

It slowly got easier and eventually reached a stage where I could draw the bow, put the pins on the target,

and then, even relax my hand, and take my hand off the release aid. I would then just let it hang on my wrist, all the while keeping the pins steady on the target before letting down the bow. Then I'd start over again.

I became very good at doing this and for over a year walked around the range with my mates and while they shot targets, I just pretended. I would line up just like them, draw

the bow, place the pin on the target, relax my trigger hand and remove my grip from the release. I would take the shot in my mind before letting down the bow without actually taking the shot.

As you can imagine, I copped a lot of good-hearted ribbing from my mates about having "the quietest bow around" or that "you should ask for a reduction in your membership



THE BEGINNING OF *the end of the drought*



fees as you don't cause any damage to the targets".

In all seriousness, I had to question my own sanity as time went on as no matter what I did I could not progress from this stage to actually shooting an arrow. No matter how relaxed I became not shooting, and then letting down, as soon as I decided that I would actually shoot an arrow, my mind went back into

overdrive, and I was back to the old panic and hitting the trigger.

Many times I decided that this was stupid and that I should just give up. I even started buying rifles in anticipation of going back and once again becoming a rifle shooter. Like a lot of archers, I had come into the sport after a lifetime of shooting firearms and had never completely left my love of firearms behind. I had, how-

ever, now been involved with archery for a long time and didn't really want to leave it, and my archery friends, behind.

Archery for me had now become much more a matter of keeping up my social contact with the sport and dreaming that one day things would come good as quickly as they had gone downhill.

In January 2017 and old friend of mine (Allan Bowman, Editor/Owner of *Bowhunting Down Under Magazine*) happened to be up from Victoria and was visiting the Grange Club to catch up with friends and have a shot. I knew Allan had, in the dim distant past, also struggled with target panic. He was sympathetic to my situation. He took one look at what I was doing and said, "I know just what you need to fix that."

Allan told me that there was a new release aid just being released in the States that was exactly what I needed to progress to actually shooting an arrow. The release was being put out by Tru Fire and was known as the Panic X. Eager to try anything, I immediately got on the internet and found the Panic X and paid the money. It was disappointing to find out that even though the release was being listed for sale it was not yet available even in the States.

I had no alternative but to wait and went through three expected release dates before finally receiving my Panic X around May this year. I had been hoping I would have it in time to sort out my problem before the fallow rut, but it was not to be.

If you have target panic, this release will at first blow your mind as your head will still want to hit the trigger, causing you to flinch and jerk everywhere. But no matter how hard you hit that trigger, it will not release. The only way to release an arrow is with a very slow steady trigger pull with *no* sudden movement of the trigger finger.

This Panic X release changed everything with my target panic. I simply could not hit the trigger, so if I wanted to shoot an arrow I had to really concentrate on my trigger pull.

My long-term hunting mate Graham 'Stumbles' Newell one day suggested that he would like to go out and have a look at Birdsville as he had never been there. He intended to go with his long-suffering wife Carolyn but was uncertain whether or not she would want to go. I let him know that if Carolyn was not keen I would tag along as I hadn't been to Birdsville either and we would also be visiting a couple of hunting properties on the way. As it turned out, Carolyn opted out so it was up to me to fill in. (Sometimes you just have to do these things to help a mate out.)

With my target panic now somewhat under control, I hoped I would have the opportunity to break my bowhunting drought as I had not claimed any bowshot game for two years.

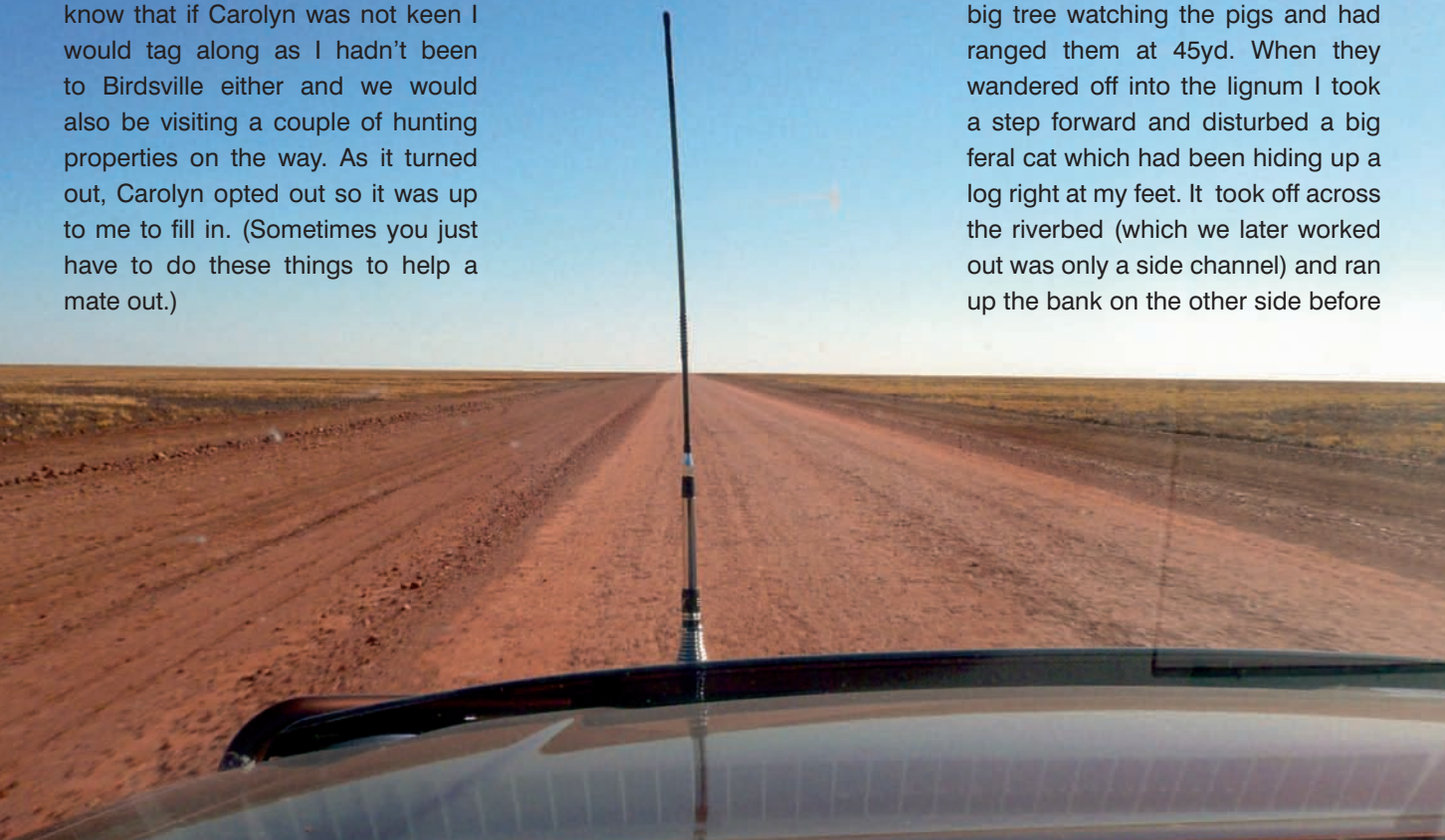
Graham was keen for me to score something (anything for that matter) to get my confidence back up and I was very keen to have a go. Game was scarce as one property had been shot out in the previous 12 months with over 5000 pigs being chopper shot from the lagoons and watering points. We came across piles of pig bones at the end of lagoons where the pigs had been caught and wiped out ... good for the property owners but not for aspiring bowhunters.

We finally found a lone pig at the edge of a river with me on one side and Graham on the other. I stalked in behind the pig. I wish I could say all went well, but it didn't. I drew back at about 10yd and held the pin in tight behind his shoulder and—you guessed it—hit the trigger. Of course, with the Panic X, nothing happened.

I then proceeded to verbally abuse myself as my friends know I do when this happens in an effort to calm myself down. After about six attempts I finally managed to squeeze the trigger all the way and the arrow was on its journey. Unfortunately so was the pig and it had moved further along the river so I missed completely. The pig eventually got sick of me mucking around and decided to swim the river to the other side where it ran straight into a bowhunter who could actually shoot and was quickly dispatched by Graham. So much for my first attempt at returning to bowhunting!

Later on in the trip and on a different property, we were again walking down a river one on each side when I heard boars fighting and tried to radio Graham to let him know he had pigs on his side of the river. I could see the pigs through the lignum wandering around but was not sure where Graham was and did not want to cross to his side of the river. I tried to explain to him where they were but he was nowhere to be seen and eventually the pigs disappeared.

I had been standing under a big tree watching the pigs and had ranged them at 45yd. When they wandered off into the lignum I took a step forward and disturbed a big feral cat which had been hiding up a log right at my feet. It took off across the riverbed (which we later worked out was only a side channel) and ran up the bank on the other side before





pulling up right on the edge of the lignum. I don't know why it stopped but I ranged it at 40yd and it was right out in the open. I thought, "I can do this," as I had quite comfortably been taking shots like this at the range. The only problem would be if I could contain my urge to hit the trigger and just squeeze it.

I drew back my trusty Chill R and placed the 40yd pin easily on the chest of the cat. I thought just for an instant that all I had to do was squeeze the trigger and all of a sudden the arrow was on its way. The cat leapt about 3ft into the air and took off into the lignum. The shot had felt good and had gone off at the first attempt so I fully expected to find the cat dead just in the lignum.

What I found was my arrow covered in blood for the whole 28in and a heap of blood where the cat had been—but no sign of my cat or

any more blood. I radioed Graham to let him know what I was up to and said I was going to stay there and look for my cat. I started working out from where I had hit him but could find no sign of any further blood or the cat.

I was becoming a bit frustrated as this was my first kill of anything with a bow for a couple of years and I knew the cat was well hit.

Eventually I returned to where I had hit the cat and started looking for

sign all over again. "Eureka!" I finally found a solitary drop of blood about 25yd away and once I had found that drop continued to follow a very good blood trail along a bit of a depression through the lignum until there he was, curled up under a lignum bush stone dead.

I was one happy bowhunter! All the work to fix my target panic was paying off and I was well on the way back. This was to be a big turning point as I now had renewed confidence that I was beating this thing and it would only continue to improve.

For those who have a similar problem to mine (I don't believe you could ever be as bad as I was), don't give up. You can get out of this dreaded disease. With me, it's all in my head and the Panic X release provided a physical aid that overruled what my head was making me do.





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I still can't get the arrow away first time every time but it now goes off first time about 90 per cent of the time. A side benefit is that with all my efforts at trying to fix my target panic I am now a much better technical archer than I ever was. My technique, which I never really thought about before (I

just shot arrows), well let's just say I now have some form in how I shoot and I actually think about the process before I shoot. I am slower in the process but much more accurate.

I would like to thank all those who helped me on this journey which thankfully is nearly over and I can

foresee a day where I can just turn off the Panic X and make it operate like an ordinary release. If I then start drifting back to my dark ways, I just need to turn the function back on again to remind me of what I should be doing. In the meantime, it's back to bowhunting!

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

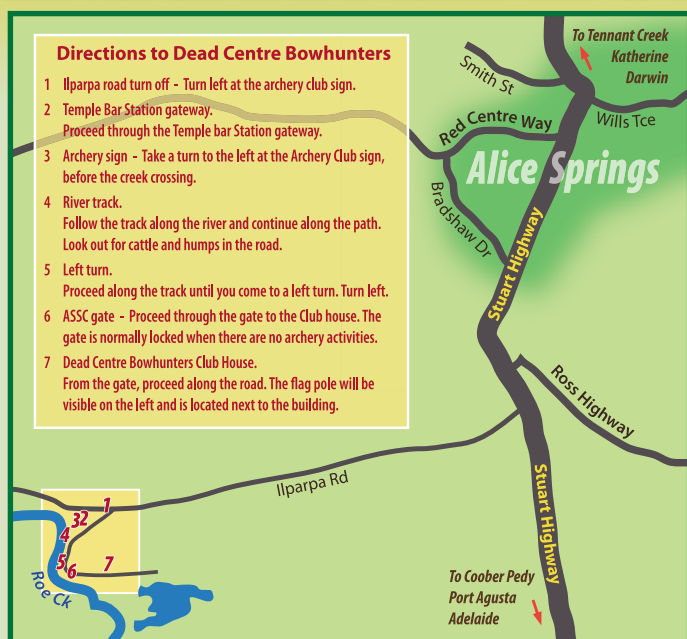


Alan Robertson with the cat that ended his bowhunting drought.

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To find the course drive south out of Alice Springs through Heavitree Gap. 2kms south of Heavitree Gap turn right onto Ilparpa Road. 7.7kms along Ilparpa Road, turn left at a T-junction sign posted "Archery Complex". Follow the signs for 2 kms to the club's camping and parking areas.

Timetable:

ABA/3D Muster 8am each day

Thursday 29 March - Registration for all events and bow checks

Friday 30, Saturday 31 March - consisting of 3 and 1 arrow each day

Sunday 1, Monday 2 April - 3D followed by Presentation Monday evening

IFAA Muster each day at 8.00am

Tuesday 03 April - Registration for IFAA and bow checks / Rest day from shooting

Wednesday 04 April - 28 Targets Field/Hunter

Thursday 05 April - 28 Targets Hunter/Field (afternoon bow checks)

Friday 06 April - 28 Targets Field/Hunter

Saturday 07 April - 28 Targets Hunter/Field

Sunday 08 April - 28 Targets Animal followed by presentations

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

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

Nomination Fees:

All nominations must be completed online at www.bowhunters.org.au

Nominations will close on 12 March 2018 and NO late nominations will be accepted.

ABA	Adult \$55	Jnr/Cub \$45	Family \$125
3D	Adult \$60	Jnr/Cub \$50	Family \$135
IFAA	Adult, Young Adult, Veteran \$45 three days and \$60 five days;		
	Cub/Junior \$35 three days and \$50 five days		
	Family \$125 three days and \$160 five days.		

Closing Date for entries is 12 March 2018.

Last date for grading is 26 February 2018

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

Camping: Camping is ample at the Range, anybody wishing offsite accommodation should go to www.centralaustralian tourism.com. Definitely, NO DOGS allowed.



Australian Bowhunters Association



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PROTOCOL

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

NATIONAL OFFICERS

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Jeff Bell 0429 358 636
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT (Acting)
Mark Burrows (03) 5625 2390
VICE-PRESIDENT, BOWHUNTING (Vacant)
VICE-PRESIDENT, FIELD (Acting)
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Central Queensland	David Brewer	0411 156 428
South Queensland	Brett Willaton	0448 811 623
North New South Wales	Peter Stubbs	(02) 6743 1559
South NSW and ACT	Rod Moad	0417 695 316
Gippsland, Victoria	Tim Opie	0418 177 054
Central and Greater Victoria	Wendy Gallagher	0429 959 402
South Australia	Brett Raymond	0418 810 598
Western Australia	Ken Neil	0418 926 862
Tasmania – see Victoria		
Trophy Bowhunters of Australia	Ralph Boden	(02) 4392 6810

BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Acting Senior Vice-President)



Situation vacant—VP Bowhunting

At the last ABA national election I did allude to the fact that this term would probably be my last as VP Bowhunting. I have been in this role now for 10 years and 8 years before that as Assistant and then National Measurer. Well, the time has come early. Due to the resignation of two of our current National Executive, things have changed. Jeff Bell has stepped up to President (Acting) and I have stepped up to Senior Vice-President (Acting). I see this as an opportunity to get some young blood into the Bowhunting Division with the advantage that I will still be there to help out. So if you are interested in the job and want to have a talk about it, please contact the office, the National President or me.

AGM Bowhunting Technical Committee and TBA meeting

As per the usual practice, the full minutes of this meeting have been forwarded to all Branch Controllers and Field Representatives for distribution. An overview was at the end of the National Minutes printed in the previous *Archery Action*. By now, everyone should be aware of what was discussed and voted on at that meeting. However I would still like to cover some of the major points here.

As a reminder, the Bowhunting Technical Committee is made up of all the associated hunting departments, which include national representatives from the Measurers, BPC and TBA Branch departments along with all the Branch Field Representatives and any BPC officers who are available to attend. So any decisions are made with a great cross-section of your representatives and with the best interests of our members in mind. If you haven't seen a copy of the full minutes and wish to get a copy, email VP Bowhunting via the ABA's website and I will forward a copy.

Bowfishing for carp in NSW

The NSW DPI carp bowfishing trial was completed at the end of June 2017. The DPI was generally very happy with the results, especially as there were no incidents of any sort. A survey was forwarded by the DPI to all trial participants. The results of the survey, along with the knowledge collected by the DPI over the 18-month trial, was correlated and put to the appropriate NSW Government Minister. At the time of writing the results of this are not in but it does look fairly promising.

Re-accreditation Measurers and BPC

This is another reminder about the program. It is scheduled for May 18, 19 and 20. Please make sure you have people to take on these roles. This is a very impor-

tant part of the Bowhunting Division. Branches will be greatly disadvantaged by not having these people. All current accreditation ceases at the end of 2018.

Electronic game claiming

There was discussion on the ability to implement game claims electronically. It is my ambition to eventually have game claims as a full electronic process interacting with the whole software system that will eventually run our association. This includes taking a picture with your mobile device and sending the claim through. The National Executive is currently researching this process.

In the meantime, it is possible to download the claim form from our website and email the completed form with pictures to your Branch Field Rep who can then forward this to our General Secretary.

Australian records

There was a question from Branch C asking whether we should be looking at investigating all new Australian records. There was a fair bit of discussion on this. It was generally decided that our system relies on an honesty system and felt that if something wasn't right then that member's peers would by default be the investigators. As a result, we decided that no further action would be taken at this stage.

Banteng Branch J proposal

Branch J submitted a proposal to add banteng to our game list. There was in-depth discussion on this matter. Banteng are generally beyond the budget and means of most of our bowhunters and are only available from a small area in the Northern Territory, that being Coburg Peninsula. Their habitat is on Native lands and can usually only be hunted via a hunting outfitter. All our other listed species are still available to the individual if they put in the time and groundwork. As a result it was decided not to pursue banteng inclusion at this stage. The BH

Major prize draw

at the
2018 National Safari
at Dead Centre Bowhunters
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At the presentations for the 3D Competition, a random draw will be conducted to determine the winner of seven nights' twin share accommodation provided by Fletcher Christian Apartments and seven days' hire provided by Eldoo Hire Cars. Prize is non-transferrable and valid for 2018 Norfolk Island Archery Championship travel dates only. (Flights not included.)

Division believes the current species list is adequate and we have in place overall species awards that reflect this.

Ladies Bowshot Records—Ladies Best of Species

The wording, and understanding, of this list has been a contentious issue for some time. Ladies bowshot records are *not* Australian records. They are specifically the best game shot by the ladies. This award was introduced some time ago to show appreciation for the women who got out there and went bowhunting. Ladies could—and currently do—have game in both lists, but it is only the overall list that receives the bonus points for Australian Records. Any hunter—male, female, junior or senior can hold an Australian Record. There is no discrimination: It is purely a hunter-based award. It was therefore decided that we change the name to be Ladies Best of Species and change this accordingly in *Archery Action*.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and prosperous year. Keep hunting, and keep getting those claims in.



John Doe, game claimed, pig.

Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

Species	Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Boar	Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29	25
Goat	James Finlay	151 2/8	110	95
Buffalo	John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Camel	Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Fox	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	28	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	9 1/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

Ladies Best of Species

Boar	Kristan Bell	34 2/8pt	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	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt	2014
Fallow Deer	Margaret Cowin	150 7/8pt	1997
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt	2010
Hog Deer	Elizabeth Proctor	11pt	2017
Sambar Deer	Nil		
Rusa Deer	Emma Johnson	195 6/8pt	2016
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell	25 4/8pt	2016
Shark BF	Lynda Fell	23 5/8pt	2000
Stingray BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986



President's Report

Welcome to 2018! I sincerely hope that you and your family had an excellent Christmas and that the new year is full of promise and excitement. It is refreshing to begin each new year with a positive outlook and the hope of good things to come.

Since I took over the President's chair late in 2017, there have certainly been significant changes in our Association's administration and, like the new year, I hope that this signifies a time of promise, growth and exciting things to come.

While I have been an ABA member for more than 25 years—I think it's actually about 31 years—there will be many members who have not met me or don't know anything about me. That's okay, hopefully we will get a chance to meet at some time and we can trade archery stories, both new and old, around a campfire.

I thought this might be an opportune time for me to give a little background about myself so that you have an understanding as to who is leading the Association.

I'm a 'schoolie' by trade, 35 years as a primary school teacher, 20 years as a full-time teaching Principal, and now enjoying semi-retirement (although how I fitted in all that I do while I was working full time is beyond me!).



My archery history can be traced back to the very early days of West Gippsland Field Archers in Drouin, Victoria. I have been a member there for more years than I care to remember. As with most people, as time progressed I felt that I needed to contribute back to the sport that was providing me with so much. After some time in club administrative roles I progressed to Branch Secretary, Branch Controller and was then elected to Vice-President Field Division for the start of 2000. I have served on the National Executive ever since.

I enjoy all forms of archery but have a particular love of the IFAA games and have been lucky enough to represent Australia in every WFAC since 1998 (except for Namibia in

2008) and have been on the Champion of Nations team five times.

A barebow/bowhunter by preference, I have stuck by the finger release method of archery, even when I hunt. And I enjoy a trip away pitting my skills against game and feral animals whenever I get a chance which, of course, is never often enough.

The shoes I fill as President are massive ones and I follow in the footsteps of some very worthy people who have done much for the ABA. Mike White's resignation late last year was due to ill health and I am pleased to report that Mike has recovered significantly since he vacated the chair. His legacy, among many, was the establishment of ABA Park at Mudgee and he, and all the members, can be proud of the facilities there. I just hope that the legacy that I leave the Association is as long standing as Mike's has been.

I like to think I'm a pretty easy-going bloke (some say I get a bit grumpy at times but I think we're all afflicted with that malady occasionally). I'm readily approachable and am a good listener—I certainly love to hear a good story. So the next time you see me at a shoot, say G'day. I look forward to meeting you.

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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award FK/FKOS	Size
A Shane Argent	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	TC	28 2/8
B Stephen Kidd	Mackay District Bowmen	Goat	RC	125 4/8
B Stephen Kidd	Mackay District Bowmen	Goat	TC	101 6/8
B Mervyn Pollock	Towers Bowhunters	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
B Aaron Kilcullen	Mackay District Bowmen	Stingray	GA FK/FKOS	0
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa Bowhunters	Pig	TC	28 4/8
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa Bowhunters	Pig	TC	25 2/8
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa Bowhunters	Pig	TC	28 2/8
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa Bowhunters	Pig	TC	25 4/8
B Garry Pitt	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	26
B Garry Pitt	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	25 4/8
B Dan E Smith	Townsville Bowhunters	Rusa	RC	222 3/8
B Dan E Smith	Townsville Bowhunters	Camel	RC FKOS	29 6/8
C Flynn Moore	Gympie Field Archers	Chital Deer	TC	151 3/8
C Flynn Moore	Gympie Field Archers	Pig	TC	26 4/8
C Flynn Moore	Gympie Field Archers	Pig	RC	30
D John Mahoney	Roma & District Bowmen	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	77
D Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Pig	TC	25 6/8
D Tony Sullivan	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	54 5/8
D Alan Robertson	Grange Bowmen	Pig	TC	26 4/8
D Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Pig	TC	25 6/8
D Brad Seagrott	Independent	Fallow Deer	RC	208 7/8
D Brad Seagrott	Independent	Goat	RC	110 2/8
D Brad Seagrott	Independent	Goat	TC	106 5/8
D Brad Seagrott	Independent	Goat	TC	97 4/8
D Brad Seagrott	Independent	Goat	TC	97 6/8
D Brad Seagrott	Independent	Fallow Deer	RC	174 7/8
D Peter Robinson	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	TC	25 4/8
D Peter Robinson	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	TC	26 6/8
D Barry Clarke	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	105 1/8
D Barry Clarke	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	103
E Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District Field Archers	Fallow Deer	TC FKOS	155 7/8
E John Timbrell	Central Coast Moonterra	Rabbit	GA FK/FKOS	0
E John Timbrell	Central Coast Moonterra	Goat	RC FKOS	133 7/8
E Shane Dupille	Dubbo & District Field Archers	Fox	RC	10 2/16
E Shane Dupille	Dubbo & District Field Archers	Cat	RC	7 10/16
E Peter Fryda	Dubbo & District Field Archers	Cat	TC	7 9/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 4/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 7/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 14/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 14/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 11/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 10/16
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC	120 1/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC	114 2/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC	110
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC	102 7/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC	103 4/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC	97 6/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Pig	TC	26 2/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Pig	TC	26 4/8
F Sean Micallef	Campbelltown District FA	Goat	GA FKOS	0

F David Longmore	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Fox	TC	9 11/16
F Jared Ashton-Hay	Independent	Goat	RC	117
F Jared Ashton-Hay	Independent	Fallow Deer	GA FKOS	0
F Jared Ashton-Hay	Independent	Rusa Deer	GA FKOS	0
F Jared Ashton-Hay	Independent	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers	Camel	RC	31 11/16
G Tim Vandenbelt	West Gippsland Field Archers	Cat	TC	7 8/16
G Zeb Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 9/16
G Zeb Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 8/16
G Zeb Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Sambar Deer	TC	143 3/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	TC	154 4/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	TC	187 7/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	TC	174 3/8
H Alain Gouault	Independent	Red Deer	GA FKOS	0
H Alain Gouault	Independent	Fox	TC FKOS	9 13/16
H Alain Gouault	Independent	Pig	GA FKOS	0
H Brian Oliver	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
H Steven Lea	Bendigo Field Archers	Cat	TC	7 5/16
H Steven Lea	Bendigo Field Archers	Goat	RC	110 2/8
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Cat	TC	7 10/16
H Wes O'Brien	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	0
I Hazel Kirlaw	Yorke Peninsular Field Archers	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	0
I Brett Raymond	Yorke Peninsular Field Archers	Goat	GA FKOS	57 4/8
I Brett Raymond	Yorke Peninsular Field Archers	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
I Brett Raymond	Yorke Peninsular Field Archers	Pig	GA FKOS	0
I Brett Raymond	Yorke Peninsular Field Archers	Cat	GA FKOS	6 10/16



Graham Wienert TC boar, 26pt.



Submit your story and photos to the Gold Pen Award competition until the end of June 2018 and be in the running to **win a red deer hunt with Trophy Bowhunts Australia valued at \$2000** and a gold pen as well as the writer's fee you receive when your story is used.

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editor@archeryactionmagazine.com
 Subject: Gold Pen Award entry

All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition

World Field Archery Championships

The 2018 WFAC is scheduled to be held in South Africa. Time is running out to express your interest in attending.

Contact

Tony Hartcher

email

hartch6@bigpond.com

Bowhunting achievements

as at January 1, 2018

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

Graeme Duff	580
Tyler Atkinson	500
Helen Duff	380
Toby Gall	330
Luke Sampson	310
David Rethus	300

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

Darryl Bulger	230
David Brewer	200

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

Bradley Seagrott	190
Ben Ireland	180
Lloyd Scott	170
Stephen Fairbrother	160
David Pender	160
Neville Ashton	150
Ben Chambers	140
Dan Podubinski	140
Dylan Evans	120
Marc Curtis	100
Daniel Ferguson	100
John Teitzel	100
Jason Lesnik	100

Bowhunter Royale

Nil further since previous report

Bowhunter Imperial

Nil further since previous report

Bowhunter Supreme

Shane Dupille

Senior Member of TBA

Steven Lea

Members admitted to TBA Club

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

John Timbrell



Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



Welcome to TBA

John Timbrell

Hi John. Where do you live, are you in a club and if so do you have a position, and how long have you been hunting?

I live on the NSW Central Coast and I am a member of the Central Coast Moonterra Archers. I don't hold any position in the club but am very happy to help out as required. I enjoy the challenge of shooting the ABA field course as it's good practice for hunting with the bow. I am a keen fisherman but in the past 18 months have taken up archery for the purpose of practising for bowhunting.

How long have you been an ABA member?

I joined ABA only last year on the recommendation of Ralph Boden who suggested that by joining the local ABA club I would meet other people who are interested in archery and bowhunting. This proved to be very true and I have picked up a few good tips from some of the members at the club.

What equipment do you use (compound/recurve/longbow)?

I currently have two bows, A PSE EPIX at 70# which I use for target and for hunting I use a Bear Escape at 70#. I shoot bowhunter unlimited class. When hunting I have a rangefinder but do not always use it.

How often do you get to go hunting?

Not enough, is the short answer! Through the archery club I met up with another new member and we booked a property to spend a week in northern NSW. As this was our first trip it was a bit of a learning curve on the bowhunting side of things with regard to working out the property and what was there. After this, I went away with Ralph Boden and he put me on to a place where there were plenty of rabbits. I managed to nail my first rabbit with a bow, which was quite a challenge. After this trip I went back to the first property that I had hunted on and managed to take my first goat with a bow. I did not realise at the time what I had achieved in taking this goat but when I returned to the coast and showed Ralph what I had taken he was impressed—very, very impressed! He said to me, "Congratulations! I think you will struggle to find another goat like that in a long time." (I think he was very envious.) The goat measured 133 7/8pt with a spread of 47 5/8in.

Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?

After the first trip I was a bit frustrated at not being able to beat all of the elements involved in hunting such as the weather, wind and location. This made me more enthusiastic to get out and practise the art of stalking game. After going away with Ralph and chasing rabbits and the odd feral cat, my confidence was up which assisted me in taking my RC goat. Like most hunters, I am always looking forward to getting away whenever I can for a hunt.



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

I am keen to take a deer for the meat. After the TBA Muster at Mudgee I was given some venison from the butchering demo and really enjoyed the feed. I'm sure as I continue along I will pursue more challenges.

Did you know much about TBA before this?

Not much, only what Ralph and Gary had told me at the club but I had not taken it all in. I understand a bit more now and no doubt will learn a bit more as I go along.

The TBA Committee congratulates you on your achievement, John.

John Timbrell with the goat that gave him entry into TBA. It had a spread of 47 5/8in and measured 133 7/8pt—record class!



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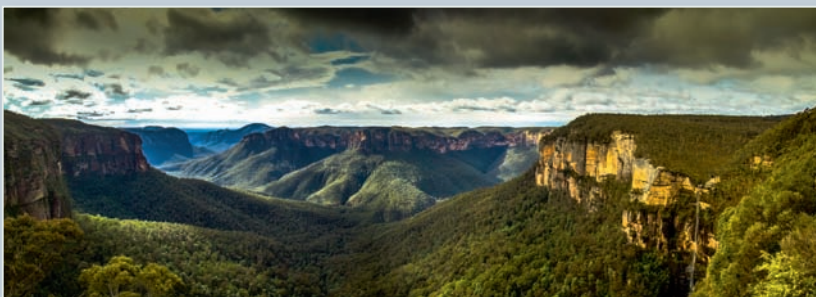
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Entries PHOTO COMPETITION



*Time for a break.
Rebecca Gordon-Smith*



Last wild place. Peter Kornek.

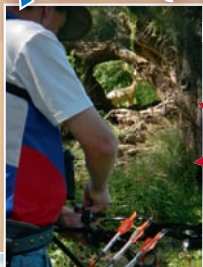
*World class view at Wagga Wagga.
Mikayla Harris.*



*Gulf country freshies pack into a
waterhole. Graham McComiskie*



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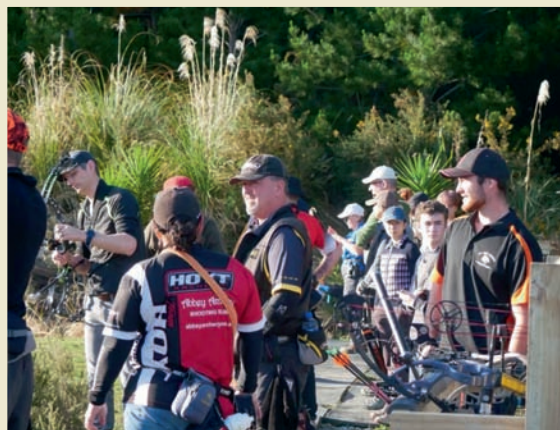
Chital Deer - January to May from \$2500 (5 days) includes a stag and unlimited does.

Buffalo - June to August (6 days) fully guided hunts, POA.

Wild Boar - August to October from \$4000 (10 days).

All prices are a guide only as people require different options so please call for a quote. Hunts are all inclusive except: Alcohol and Trophy Fees (Trophy Fees on application) Indemnity Waiver to be signed at pickup. Special Hunts are available from time to time so if you are flexible you can get a great deal on some hunts. All you have to do is get on the emergency list and you are notified every time a special deal comes along.

Report:
Jeanette Dowd



2017

**PACIFIC REGIONAL
FIELD ARCHERY
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

New Zealand

ABOVE:
*The competitors.
The practice range.
The medals.*



Jeanette Dowd.

The Aussies.



Sixteen Aussies from around the country travelled over the Tasman Sea to compete in the 2017 Pacific Regional Field Archery Championships in New Zealand. Once the Aussies stepped off the plane, they couldn't believe how green the countryside was.

Mount Tiger Archery Club in Whangarei was the host club. Although they are a small club they certainly put on a great event which ran smoothly. The club promised great weather and their promises come through with only a little rain in the middle of the animal round. The area had plenty of rain the few days

before the event so some spots were still muddy and slippery.

The club is situated in the middle of forestry; the canopy above made some targets very hard to see and the hilly conditions challenged some shooters.

Tim Stone, the IFAA representative, declared the three-day competition open on the Thursday.

This year it was decided to resurrect the Trans-Tasman Cup, which was a competition between the two countries back in the 1990s. It was jokingly commented that they found the cup in someone's back shed. Even though Australia had

won the cup at some stage, only the Kiwis' wins were engraved on it. It's amazing what a chisel and paint can do. Steve Barrett, our ABA rep, helped choose our Aussie team of 12 competitors.

The Mount Tiger club has one 28-target range with the clubhouse in the middle so it was very easy to stop halfway at the clubhouse for lunch. Burgers, muffins and slices were on offer from the volunteers who opted to stay behind instead of shooting.

Day one was the field round—nerves and the up-and-down shots got to some of us but for others all the practice and preparation paid off,

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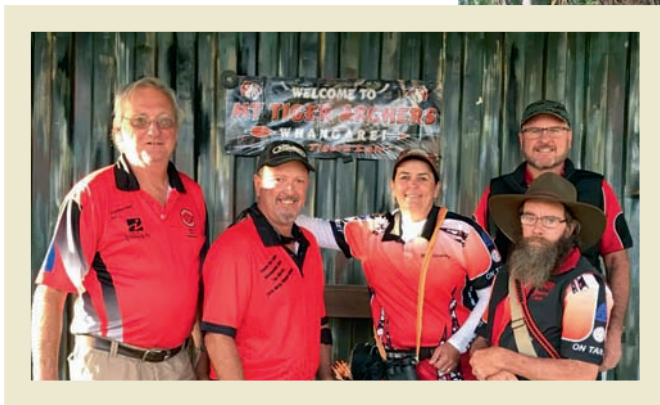
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The contingent from the Renegade Bowmen.



Scoring on the range.



On the range.

with nine PRFAC records broken.

Day two was the hunter round which saw the scores a little higher as some of the competitors got used to the course and conditions. Six PRFAC records were broken. On the Friday night the club organised a banquet dinner in the heart of

Whangarei. It was a great night with the archers relaxing and enjoying a meal with new and old friends.

Day three was the animal round. Four perfect rounds of 560 were shot by Gerry Newman, Stephen Watkins, David Cross and young cub shooter Sophia Redgrave.

All archers finished the animal round in record time and scores were tallied. In the Men's Bowhunter Unlimited division two archers, Darryl Mills and Nick Redgrave, were tied for second place on 1561 as well as in the Ladies Freestyle Unlimited division Leah Huff and Erean Gamble

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It wasn't all archery. There was a chance to see some of the sights as well.

were tied for second place on 1601. A shoot-off was organised with each archer shooting one arrow at the 60-yard target and closest to the middle wins. The rest of the archers gathered to watch and you could feel the excitement. Darryl and Leah took the second place spots.

Presentations were organised, with Tim Stone handing out the PRFAC medals. Thirteen Aussies brought home medals and the Kiwis won the Trans-Tasman Cup.

Overall Tournament Champion went to Ladies Freestyle Unlimited shooter Linda Lainchbury with a

1643 out of 1680. It was great to see a lady take out the top score.

All of the travelling archers enjoyed the hospitality of the Kiwis and got to see some of the famous sights around Whangarei including the Whangarei Falls, Kiwi North, beautiful beaches and scenery. A few even extended their stay and saw more of the breathtaking sights that New Zealand has to offer.

IFAA is an International sport so if you have ever wanted to experience archery at different countries around the world, give IFAA a go. There are lots of ABA clubs here in Australia

with a IFAA range to give it a try. The World Field Archery Championships is being held in South Africa in 2018. Let's get practising.



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2017 TAA MUSTER

*&
Inaugural National Traditional Championships*

by Scott Heiman

For us, it was the third trip to ABA Park in seven months! For others, it was a long road to Mudgee, with attendees travelling the length and breadth of the land to get there. Toxophilites from WA, Victoria, Queensland, ACT and NSW gathered at ABA Park to attend the first Annual Muster for Traditional Archery Australia in October.

Over the years, there have been many attempts to get an association up and running for traditional archery and in the past last three years, Traditional Archery Australia has made great progress with achievements including its incorporation, gaining national recognition through the Archery Alliance of Australia and a representative on the Alliance board. TAA also has a representative on the Board of the Australian Archery Hall of Fame.

As it's the association's purpose to promote and protect traditional archery in all forms—including hunting, field and target—TAA responded to calls from within their own ranks to hold a National Muster and Australian Traditional Championships. Negotiating with the Australian Bowhunters Association for use of the new ABA Park at Mudgee in Central West NSW, the National Executive used the opportunity to give its membership a treat with a two-day archery event and held its Annual General Meeting at the same time. What better way for the

“*Stalk softly and carry a bent stick.*

– Unknown

for their own personal satisfaction. So it was a pleasure to see the range packed full with archers sporting quivers brimming with Port Orford cedar, bamboo, northern pine and reeds. There were even some crafted from pine pallets!

Most competitors arrived on Friday before the action began. A free sausage sizzle kick-started the camaraderie around the fire pit and there were friendly smiles all round as old friends reacquainted and new ones were made.

The following morning when the hooter started off events, everyone seemed to be in a good frame of mind.

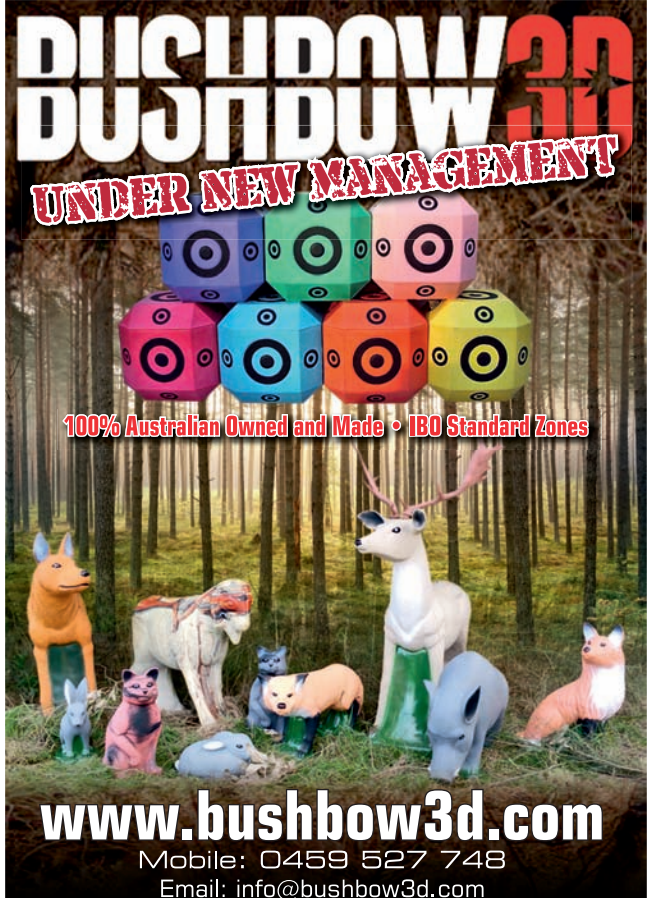
It was clear that members of the National Executive and their families had spent the past week at Mudgee setting up the ranges. And the result was magnificent. The 20-target three-arrow round included a running pig (at target 9) and the separate 20-target one-arrow round established the main rounds which were interspersed with a number of novelties. The scores from the novelties were included in the overall score. These rounds consisted of

“*Forget the last arrow—only the next one counts.*

– Unknown

Executive to hear from its members than to have everyone in the same place? It was the perfect opportunity for individuals to be heard as TAA is not a governing body as such but exists to raise the profile and image of traditional archers throughout Australia.

As is often the way with traditional archery events, the shoot was kept simple. Men, ladies, juniors and cubs shot in longbow, recurve, historical or hybrid divisions. All attendees knew that this was an event where only users of wooden arrows would have their scores registered. While TAA welcomed others with alloy or carbon arrows for fellowship and to get a sense of what TAA offered, these participants would need to maintain their scores simply



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Facing page:

Top: Blakey dishes it out to the swine at Hog Hollow.

Bottom: Shooting at the running deer.

“ *Nothing clears a troubled mind better than shooting a bow.*
– Fred Bear



Morning muster.

a running deer, rolling disc, hunt and speed rounds.

Meanwhile, axe and knife contests were run as separate events under the watchful eye of the renowned Blakey. Additional non-scoring events included Hog Hollow, a swine-infested wallow and an accuracy gold-coin-donation shoot-off where the winner would take all! There were no shoot groups, with competitors free to choose their own adventure with fellow archers of their own selection. With groups of mates scoring each other, the principle of honesty was at the forefront. And this is how it should be. After all, in a trad environment a cheater is as about as obvious as a fart in a car.



Glenn, from the South Coast TAA club, shows how it's done.

Out on the ranges, it looked like Bushbow 3D Targets had sponsored the event! In fact it was more the case that Keith Speight had donated his personal collection of targets, probably moulded when he still owned the company, to ensure there were more than enough targets to keep participants occupied for the entire weekend.

After a weekend where the Mudgee granite took its toll on more arrowheads than their owners would probably like to admit, there were still plenty of smiles by the end of the competition. The tribulations endured by some archers made

“ *The history of the bow and arrow is the history of mankind.*
– Fred Bear

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“ *A single arrow is broken easily. A quiver of 10 is not.*

– Japanese Proverb



Miss, and she be sunk!

for lively conversation during the extended raffle draw.

The TAA Muster at Mudgee shone a light on the opportunities available for archers who favour a bent stick over cams. And there's plenty of support available for those who want to pursue this style of archery. TAA have developed equipment guidelines to assist any club or association that might wish to use them for their own members. TAA also have its own affiliated clubs including members who enjoy the same insurance coverage as other Archery Alliance members. Further, TAA has



Rebekah Murray-Smith at the rolling disc.

started bow-making workshops, reintroduced the Arrow Craftsmanship Awards, and introduced the TAA Medal. The Medal recognises archers who have achieved in and/or contributed to the development of traditional archery within Australia over many years. So if you know someone who has developed and promoted traditional archery through their craft skills, coaching, management and or high level skills within traditional archery, visit the TAA site to find a nomination form for the award.

While TAA only runs the annual TAA National Muster, that's not your only chance to experience trad. If you visit the TAA site, you'll find the shoot calendar for trad shoots across Australia. If your club would like to have their trad shoot listed, contact TAA.

“ *God was with the lad, and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer.*

– Genesis 21-20



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Jack Blackadder makes his attempt in the axe-throwing. He was more successful in the knife-throwing comp.



Scott Heiman with his daughter Scout and her new long-bow. She netted two medals over the weekend.

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MENS RECURVE	CLEVE WOOD	744
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LADIES HISTORICAL	REBEKAH MURRAY-SMITH	515
LADIES HYBRID	MARILYN CLERKE	497
LADIES RECURVE	HEATHER PENDER	601
JUNIOR LONGBOW	WILLIAM MacNAMARA	452
CUB LONGBOW	JAMIE HEIMAN	300
AXE ADULT	HOWARD O'CONNELL	
AXE CUB	JAMIE HEIMAN	
KNIFE	JACK BLACKADDER	

“The more I practise,
the luckier I become.”
– Fred Bear

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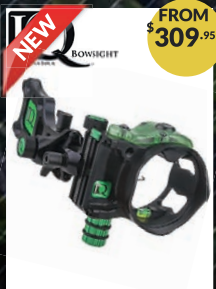
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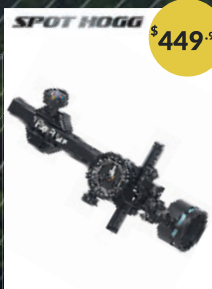
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The elusive **40th**

When it's unbelievably hot out there in the bush, sometimes you need to find an easy way to get your body temperature down. Here, Bob Windle is flat out using the water cooling method.

by KEV WINDLE

Do you know Bob Windle? Lots of archers do. Bob took up the sport in 1981 and has been a keen archer and hunter ever since. Proof that he has been around so long is in his BPC number of 178. I don't think that there has ever been a time since he started where he has not been involved in a committee at club, branch or national level. He has been a bowhunting instructor and has taught many people the art of hunting both as an instructor and as a mentor.

So now we're looking forward to celebrating Bob's 40th. No, not his birthday or wedding anniversary. Bob has shot 39 trophy animals—meaning that he is just one decent animal away from obtaining his Bowhunter Supreme award. It is an achievement Bob has been keen to get. It has been this way for a few years and this is the fourth hunting trip I have been with Bob to get this pesky trophy.

In 2013 I took Bob and two other mates to a property out near Thargomindah in south-western Queensland only to find that in about two million acres there was not one pig to be found! The 40th would have to wait a little longer.

Then in 2015 we headed to our favourite property between Longreach and Winton. Some novice mistakes from the veteran meant we were still waiting for the 40th.

Also in 2015 we went up to the Gulf in North Queensland. Prime pig country ... but still no trophy. Such was Bob's frustration he was beginning to think he was "just a lousy shot". But it was here we found Bob's sights on his hunting bow were not as secure as they should have been and this was the cause of all his troubles. Now Bob could put his mind at ease. The next trip was going to be the one.

Shoulder surgery this year in August threatened to end Bob's shooting career but his shoulder has healed well and Bob can pull his bow back again. He may not compete in any long events any more but he can certainly still hunt.

So there we were, planning a trip to go back up in the Gulf again. There were six of us going and everyone was as keen as anything for Bob to finally get the monkey off his back. As well as Bob and me in the hunting party there were also our good mates Peter Robinson, Bevan Blacklock, Greg Warren and his son Mitchell.

We had a couple of meetings to discuss our travel plans. Preparation of quads, buggy, trailers and cars was carried out and then it was just a case of waiting until departure day.

On Sunday evening, just six days out from departure, we received word that the property had received an inch or two of rain over the weekend. Our spirits weren't dampened by this news. As long as there was not too much more rain before we got there it would be okay as the dry ground should suck up the water and stop the pigs from scattering. I guessed at worst case we could just go fishing!

Foodstuffs (and most importantly,

drinks) were purchased and we were ready to go. We just had to see what was going on with the weather. Constant checking of the BOM radar during the week showed all the rain had fallen east of our destination.

On Saturday morning, a phone call revealed that the property next door had heaps of pigs but also had 4in of rain overnight. AAARRGHH. It was looking like a fishing trip after all. That afternoon we hit the road. Constant light rain fell during the night but by morning it had cleared. Our spirits were raised at this sight and we reckoned that all things being equal, we should arrive mid-evening.

We arrived about 10pm and met Scooter. Scooter was kind enough to wait up for us and he showed us where we were to camp. We did the bare minimum of unpacking—just enough to get our swags and bags out and we hit the hay.

Several of us had a bit of a sleep in but eventually we all got out of bed, breakfasted and unloaded the rest of the gear. Scooter had to mend a fence and we tagged along to help and also see the layout of the land. It was then that it started to dawn on us the extent 6in of rain had on the landscape. There were pockets of water everywhere. We saw some

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nice pig country around the property. We found quite a few diggings and places which on any other day would be hiding a pig but nothing today. The buggers had scattered with the rain. We did, at one time, see one small pig and late in the afternoon Pete had a stalk on a big boar until the wind swirled on him.

The next day Bevan and Bob went off to a swampy area and the rest of us hit another paddock to walk a creek. Apart from Mitch and Greg spotting an old ginger cat we all saw nothing. Needless to say, the swirling wind got Mitch scented and the cat disappeared rapidly.

We were shown more of the property the next morning and came across a dam they called Agate Dam. It was here we collected some various types and styles of rocks. We ended up at the river late in the day and finished by having a few beers and wetting a line. Bob hooked three catfish and Mitch an angler fish which was thrown back. During the afternoon Bevan started up about my backpack being a 'winter' pack and that I should get a 'summer' pack which would be lighter and easier for me to carry around. Back

at camp and after much discussion, Bevan said that he would show me how to lighten my pack. So after dinner and several more drinks the pack came out for dissection. During this exercise about six large rocks suddenly appeared to the merriment of those present. It turned out that I had been unknowingly lugging these rocks around all afternoon! I had been 'got' good!

On Thursday we all travelled to a nearby property owned by one of Bevan's relatives. Greg, Bevan and Mitch decided to go for a walk. It was a big walk of some 15km to 18km. They saw a few pigs and plenty of unique countryside. Mitch got off one shot but he couldn't settle properly and the pig was up and running uninjured after the shot. Bob, Peter and I stayed at a waterhole to do some fishing. We bagged another catfish and eight redclaw ... but still couldn't hook up a barra.

On the fifth day of hunting, it was hot. In the morning Greg managed to arrow a pig that was feeding in the middle of a swamp. The arrow hit low in the shoulder and it ran off leaving a good blood trail. Everyone else saw nothing that morning. We all helped Greg trail his pig in the afternoon and trailed it without luck losing the blood trail but the footprints indicated it had gone to the river. Further searching proved fruitless and the search was called off.

On Saturday, we headed back to that nearby property to meet Bevan's brother, Trevor. Trevor led us to a part of the property that contained agates and other gemstones. We spent some time collecting rocks in the 40-degree-plus heat before heading back to the waterhole. I checked my backpack for unwanted cargo. Bevan wanted to walk one watercourse and Mitch and Greg

walked another. Bevan saw nothing but Greg and Mitch saw three mobs of pigs. Again the wind spoiled any chance of a decent stalk or shot.

On Sunday we were hoping for a change of luck and have Bob's prayers answered. He went with Bevan, Mitch and Greg to walk the river where we were told you would always find pigs. It was not the case this time and they saw nothing again. It was very hot again and they found a nice patch of running water to hop into so they could bring their body temps back down. Peter and I set a few more redclaw traps for dinner that night.

On Monday, I left early to sit at the large lake to see what would come in and you guessed it. A big fat zero. Mitch and Greg walked another area without luck. They saw about 10 pigs spooked by the quad and had a cat show itself several times but it didn't get into a decent shot position. After seeing two small boars having a go at each other Peter had a stalk only to find that they had moved on by the time he got to where they had been fighting. Peter dropped Bevan off for a walk along a creek and he then sat at a dam and saw nothing. Bevan finally had some luck. The wind was right and he came across a small mob of pigs. He managed to get a shot at a sow bringing the trip's tally to one. Bob had a lay day as his shoulder had been giving him grief.

On Tuesday, Bob and Peter went early to try and get something on a dam or two but had no luck. We were all starting to hate this number 40, but Bob most of all! Mitch and Greg went to another swamp. Greg thought it best to park the quads around the back of a little knoll to get them off the main road. They found more water and lo and behold there was a boar feeding in the water. Mitch stalked in and



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Bob does some fishing



Greg Warren.

placed his arrow such that the boar only ran a few metres before going down. Mitch had to get his feet wet to retrieve his trophy. It was a small boar but a boar nonetheless. Bevan and I walked a creek that had been walked the previous Tuesday. As we walked from the car to the creek we were talking and not really paying attention. A big boar jumped up from under a tree only 10m from us. (It just goes to show that once you leave your vehicle you must put yourself into hunting mode. Lesson learned!) We walked a couple of kilometres before I left Bevan and headed back to the car. He continued and almost tripped over another boar that you couldn't see until you had

walked past it. On his return to the car he went up an offshoot of the creek and spotted another 20 pigs. They winded him and took off. We decided then we would be back in the morning. We had only two days left to hunt so we had to make the most of it.

Next morning, Bevan and I travelled back to the creek. We hunted together for a bit and then split up. I went south and Bevan went north. I saw nothing but Bevan bagged himself a sow and a small boar. The boar disappeared on him and after searching for a while Bevan decided to leave it until it got cooler to continue the search. Peter and Bob walked a creek without

luck again. Mitch and Greg went to the same water as the day before and Greg shot a sow and a boar and Mitch a sow. The pigs were starting to come back out now that the water was drying up. Our problem was that there was only one day left before we were to go home.

The last hunting day arrived and we all went out in high spirits. Peter, Bob and I went to the swamp that Greg and Mitch had visited the previous couple of days and we came up short again with nothing but birds there all morning. Bevan went back to find the boar he'd shot the day before. He didn't find the boar but did retrieve his arrow and broadhead. Greg and Mitch found more pigs at another swamp but the wind played its hand yet again and they could not get a shot away.

We spent the afternoon packing for an early departure on the Friday morning. That evening, instead of celebrating Bob's 40th we could only commiserate with Bob missing out on it again. It had been a difficult trip, with the pigs making us work hard in the heat to try to find them. When they were found, the wind often intervened and gave us away.

Bob told us that evening that this would most likely be his last hunting trip. His body wasn't holding up as well these days and

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Mitch Warren.

he felt he had lost his enthusiasm.

My dear brother, before you pull the pin on your hunting career, have a good think about what you have achieved ... and I'm not talking about how many trophy class animals you've taken. You have been an inspiration and friend to many a hunter. You have provided insight

and humour on countless hunting trips, regaling us all with stories of hunting and some of the antics that went on after the hunt. Maybe you will have to change the way you hunt and the time of year you hunt to make it easier on your body and spirit. Who cares if you don't get that 40th trophy; being there with your

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A person with brown hair, wearing a blue jacket and a black backpack, is shown from the side, aiming a compound bow. The jacket has 'PEEL ARCHERS' written vertically on the back. They are in a grassy field with trees in the background. A target with a deer picture is visible in the distance.

Report: Ken Gosper

WA ABA STATE TITLES

The 2017 WA ABA State Titles, contested on the last weekend in October, was hosted for the first time by Peel Archers. Despite an unpromising weather forecast for the weekend, 102 competitors attended to make this the largest attended WA event in 17 years! It really is heart-warming to see the sport here growing with active engagement by ABA WA members and enthusiastic promotion of the clubs.

For the first time in most archers' memory, four courses were used over the two days. Challenging was a term often used to describe the courses, two of which were used for the first time in a competition. We all know how much effort goes into hosting an event like this and hats off to the Peel Archers Committee for hosting such a fantastic event with such a large turnout.

Archers turned up from eight of the nine affiliated clubs here in WA with a large turnout of independent ABA members, some AA archers and even the odd interstate competitor. While archery was the main draw card, as usual socialising was high on the agenda for the attendees, with many new friendships being forged (over a few brews) around the campfires. As some of the clubs are well over 500km away, the commitment of archers from those

clubs to make the journey for the weekend was fantastic.

After a full day of archery on the Saturday, many of the shooters enjoyed a few cold ones and a roast meal provided by host club. The large camping grounds ensured that most could *really* enjoy the socialising for the Saturday night and get a good rest before the start on Sunday.

A highlight of every Branch J ABA interclub event is the presentation given by the Branch Controller Ken Neill. Ken (*pictured doing a presentation, right*) has a way of ensuring that everyone feels welcome (and the odd kiss on the cheek for all the adult trophy winners) with plenty of laughs still to be had throughout.

Ken had the privilege of presenting Jaylen Anyon (BRA) with the Michelle Cunningham Award for his eager efforts in promoting the sport and helping at his club Blackwood River Archers. Ken also presented the Champion Junior Tom Fiebig (PA) and Champion Cub Quineka Parker (PA) awards for the Branch events held through 2017.



The event attracted the attention of the local newspaper, which ran two separate articles over three weeks. This is great free publicity for all Branches and clubs looking at hosting ABA events. We also had the Business Development Officer from the Shire of Waroona attend and the

Ballistics and Bowsports representative from the WA Government Department of Sport and Recreation attend in their official capacities.

The whole weekend had a great vibe and we saw many happy faces. Now we are all looking forward to a fantastic 2018 shoot calendar.

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A great weekend **CAMP CRYSTAL**

Gary Sinclair

Every year, Renegade Bowmen of Ipswich, Queensland, send volunteers and coaches away for a weekend of archery for a family-catered camp run by Childhood Cancer Support. For the past 28 years, staff and volunteers of CCS have helped to organise, run and promote Camp Crystal, a camp for children and their families who are touched with cancer and related illnesses. The camp was formed when a family who was going through the hardship of constant hospital visits and stays, talked with other people who were in the same situation as them with their

family, inviting a few families to their property for a weekend of camping and farm-related activities. From this premise, Camp Crystal was formed and grew over the years.

Camp Crystal helps in giving the families a taste of different activities not usually available to them, including horse riding, 4WDing, astronomy, arts and crafts, abseiling, archery, and many others. Our activity has always been very popular ever since we started more than 20 years ago, as absolutely anyone can have a go. Each year we try to bring something different for the families



to try rather than shooting at paper targets. In the past we have had 3D targets, a running goat, balloons and aerial shooting.

This year we had helium balloons for the families and our volunteers to



shoot with flu flu arrows. If anyone busted a balloon or got a bull's eye, they were rewarded with medals to wear for the weekend. The medals were donated by one of the other supporters attending the camp and were very sought after. We gave everyone a go, from the youngest, to the not so young. The smile on the face of a child with so much going on in their life when they hit a target or even get a bull's eye or hit a balloon is priceless. Sometimes we even have families join our club because the family didn't know how archery can be a sport the whole family can enjoy at any age in any circumstance, being a part of another welcoming community.

This year the camp was attended by more than 200 people, both families and volunteers. Each year we have a fun challenge between the RAAF and other groups of volunteers as a way to interact once the kids have gone to bed. This year the RAAF challenged each other to see who was best with a bow. They had a lot of fun even though the bows didn't shoot like the guns they shoot on the ranges at the base. When the first one got a medal, it seemed to spur on the others to do better.

The camp is for the children to have fun and their parents to have a little break from the 24/7 care they put in for their children. The camp has volunteer buddies for each child.



The buddies ensure the children get to experience each activity and get the most out of the action-packed weekend while Mums and Dads relax for a while.

Each year the RAAF helps out with a massive portion of the weekend. They help to sort out accommodation for the families by setting up and taking down the tents, they have volunteer cooks who prepare and serve breakfast, lunch and dinner, and helpers who make sure that everyone is having a great time.

This event is always something that we look forward to on the calendar, as every year it brings the opportunity to help families enjoy a weekend of activities together as well as promote the sport of archery and its family-friendly environment where absolutely anyone can have a go. Once again, it was a great camp and everyone will be talking about it for some time.

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Around THE TRADS

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Sue Wallace

✿ Heading into the October long weekend, the weather in south-east Queensland was really warming up. There were predictions for temperatures in the very high 30s from Wednesday through to Saturday. The strong westerly winds were certainly going to test us as we set up the gazebos and tarpaulins for shade over the practice butts and speed round at Chevallan Archery Park for the combined Trad Shoot and Trophy Takers Awards Presentation from September 30 to October 2. A group of Trophy Takers members arrived on Friday mid-morning, having set out from Victoria two days earlier. After they had made camp, they started setting up game displays in the shed, where shelves and tables had been installed for them to use. A tepee was erected near the Trophy Taker members' camp, and was standing proudly, until a willy willy danced up the paddock and gracefully flattened it. On Friday afternoon we were also visited by four of the neighbour's cattle that had decided to walk across the 'creek' which was rather dry in places. It was quite entertaining watching Gary rounding

up the beasts on his quad bike and herding them back down to their home paddock.

By Friday evening there were quite a few campsites set up, with many arriving late into the night. They were coming from Townsville, Rockhampton, the central NSW coast, southern NSW and even flying in from Greece, and the displays were growing with each new arrival bringing their individual mounts. The shed display was really beginning to take shape.

Saturday morning dawned bright and soon started warming up. A full hearty breakfast, the washing up complete, all nominations taken and it was time to do the muster. We received a quick rundown of the events then off we went with two full days of archery ahead of us. For this shoot we kept our group smaller than usual and started on the rolling disk. The arrow fletches were definitely being tested to keep the arrows on course to the targets on the 30-second speed round with the western winds blowing in all this warm weather.

Next was the popinjay. This event

is shot with flu flus and having even more fletch area for the wind to deflect I was struggling to get the arrows anywhere near the owl I was looking at. Somehow I do not think I was the only one, and the clout was going to be even more fun. As well as the usual challenge of making the distance from one end to the other, we had the added element of the strong cross-winds, plus the temperature by mid-morning was well over 30 degrees. It is fascinating to watch your arrows fly down-range at quite an acute angle to the wind. Once complete, we stopped at the house for morning tea then ventured down to the field course.

For the bigger two-day shoots there are 25 targets set out and a little quirk is that two targets are placed quite close to the camp area and numbered as 24 and 25. You can shoot them first as you walk down, or shoot them last as you come back. In one particular area of the course for this weekend, an archer must stay at the peg while the group walks around the shrubbery to get to the targets. It is quite easy to explain the target so everyone remembers,



Chevallan target.



Trophy Takers display.



Hunter Valley charity shoot.

as one of the numbers has been attached back onto the post upside down, so when you get to targets 17 and 81 ... of course we always get one smartpant who comes back saying they couldn't find targets 18 to 80.

We had set up the tea tent at the bottom out of the wind, and a lot of the field course was in some shade so it felt cooler in those spots. The guests were quite happy sitting in the shade enjoying the view back up the property to the camping area and house. The 60-second hunt round and the new hunter round, although out in the open, were not affected by the wind gusts. By then it was just after midday and very warm, so we headed back to get out of the heat and have some lunch and do the moving target later.

At this shoot we would be doing the Top 10 Shootout, sponsored by Wes and Kaylene Farnham, with the winner receiving a set of handcrafted custom made Wallace Wood arrows in Chevallan Archery Park colours. The archers are selected by their 25-target field course score. We delayed running the shootout until

4pm when it was a little cooler. It was held on the 30-second speed round where you must shoot an arrow into the metal ring before you could proceed to the other targets. One of the participants was watching his team playing in the AFL grand final on the big screen TV that had been set up at the dining area, so we only called him over when it was his turn to shoot so he wouldn't miss too much of the game. Those watching were enjoying spring rolls, cheese, crackers and cabanossi under the

gazebo. The first nine had shot, and as I stepped onto the shooting block, the adjudicator said something that started me laughing. Honestly, when I get the giggles I am hopeless. Two of the archers went into a second round shootoff, with the winner by one arrow being Shane Dupille, one of the Trophy Takers members.

Shoot-off finished and the AFL grand final over, it was time for dinner of barbecue steak with potato bake and salad followed by various cheesecakes, ice cream and custard,

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then most went over to the big shed to watch the Trophy Takers Awards presentation. Quite a few bowhunters had come in over the course of the afternoon to attend the award ceremony which swelled our numbers for dinner. The raffle was drawn at the end of the presentations and one of the visitors who had come along for the afternoon and meeting only, had brought a substantial amount of raffle tickets, and selected both of the 3D targets and various other goodies. It was a very interesting and informative evening, and members were more than happy to answer questions and share stories of the different feral game species found and dispatched, and the areas each species were found both here in Australia and overseas.

It had cooled off quite a bit overnight so Sunday shooting was going to be more comfortable, thank goodness, as we had the whole day to do everything once more. A few of the local archers also joined us for the day, having had work commitments the previous day. The wind had turned and was coming from a northerly direction so when doing the clout we were shooting directly into the wind when going down-range, and had wind assistance when shooting back again. On the popinjay and the 30-second speed round we were shooting directly into the wind, making it most interesting indeed. Once again the field course and hunt rounds were protected. Three in our group shot recurves on Saturday then longbows on Sunday to mix it up a bit.

The presentations were done late Sunday afternoon to allow some who were leaving early the chance to watch. We had already done a special one for the cubs, as after two days of shooting the parents wanted to get them home for back to school on Tuesday. We enjoyed a dinner of corned silverside with cauliflower

in white sauce, mashed potato and vegetables followed by apple pie, custard, ice cream and cream. A few of us tackled the washing up as the rest settled back to watch the NRL grand final on the big screen, some wandered back to camp to enjoy the cool of the evening.

There had been very little rain in the area for quite a while and the sound of drizzle on the tarp overnight was a relief. The tanks on the property had been starting to get a little low. This was a most successful and enjoyable weekend once again. It was an honour to host the 31st Trophy Takers Awards evening.

✿ Another event on the October Long weekend was held at the Hunter Valley Traditional Archers course in Newcastle. More than 100 registered shooters came together for the 2017 Andrew Spiechowicz Livin' It Ain't Weak to Speak Charity Shoot. This charity is to encourage and support those suffering from mental illness to speak out, and start living.

The archers had a 3D field course, bow bird, rolling disk, moving pig, speed round, watermelon splitting, axe and knife throwing. In total there were 134 who purchased tickets in the two raffles, one being the pick of the table and a Norseman longbow donated by Nick Lintern. There was an auction on Saturday night which raised \$840, plus the head/beard shave raised \$1,000. One fellow had half of his very well grown and bushy beard removed along with the opposing eyebrow, just to keep him balanced. A total of \$9,000 was raised over the whole weekend, which isn't bad for a small group of archers, all with deep pockets, and included shoot fees plus the club covered expenses. The shoot is always well supported and raises awareness of some very good causes. (*Information received from HVTA Secretary.*)

✿ Leading into the weekend of October 14 and 15, the weather forecast was for rain. This did not dampen the enthusiasm of around 80 archers who attended the Traditional Shoot held at the Coffs Coast Archery Club.

Just after lunch on Thursday we arrived at the grounds and they were a little soggy, although we hadn't been through any rain on the way down. One archer from southern NSW who had been camped since Tuesday got fairly drenched on the Thursday morning and had phoned the friend he was to meet and advised he was heading home. A quick cabin booking was made so they could both still catch up and do the shoot as well. The skies weren't too bad as we set up, so with fingers crossed we carried on. There were a few light showers on Friday and campers were still arriving even late into the evening, which was a very good sign.

Saturday dawned with overcast skies and it was very pleasing to see so many faces smiling, shooting at the practice range, and generally catching up with many friends made at the previous year's shoot. At the Coffs Harbour Trad you shoot one course with two arrows and other course with one arrow on the Saturday, then on the Sunday you shoot the courses the other way. Following the muster, our group headed off to start on a 15-target 3D course for our two-arrow round. One of the targets was a set of five javelinas in a huddle, however only one had a clear shot at the score zone. You had to be very careful not to hit the wrong target, and thankfully there were no negative points removed. The gamble shot was well set out with the bigger target at the back being in the darker forest area which made judging the distance interesting. It was further than I anticipated ... never mind. The back end of the skunk was closer



Standing bear at Coffs.



A group enjoys the course at Coffs.



3D fun at Sunshine Coast Bowmen.

and also well placed just in front on a small stump! At the end of this course we discovered the moving javelina which had quite a downhill run and sped along rather swiftly. There was a group at the hunter round so we headed back to camp. Our break over, we did the rolling discs, which have the uncanny ability to jump just

over your arrow. We looked in at the speed round to find a group shooting and another one waiting, so headed out to do the second field course as our one-arrow. This course heads down toward the creek and you shoot at a couple of targets downhill. At one particular target, if you shot high, your arrow went into the creek. One soul

went on a retrieval mission—it was his first shoot with his own equipment and he wasn't going to leave his arrow in the water.

It started to drizzle about five targets into this course and became a little heavier toward the end, so umbrellas were deployed for a short period. Once the course was



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complete, it was back to camp. The rain had now stopped, so after our lunch break we went and shot the 60-second hunter round which was set in an area where you walked along and then back, shooting the targets between pine trees. Next was the through-the-hole which this year found us shooting through a 3D deer target which had had the centre zone removed—very tricky indeed. One in our group just couldn't miss, getting five out of five. Well done, Tim. Then we did the 30-second speed round which was shot from the top of the bank down into a rainforest area with some strategically placed trees near the targets.

Our remaining event for Saturday was the new stalker round where you started at a point and ventured forth into the unknown ... there could be six targets, there could be 10. First you had to find them! The walk back out was a little slippery, and everyone was very careful. I forgot to ask how many targets there were, but most of us found six.

Overnight it did rain rather heavily for a period, so a couple of camps pulled out early to head home, which is understandable. The dirt road running through the middle of the grounds was getting a little boggy after quite a few had driven into town for dinner on the Saturday evening but there were plenty of 4WDs around to assist if required.

On Sunday it was just the two field courses to be shot, so a lot of people packed up their camp before they went out to shoot in case it started to rain again. Our group didn't go out too early; we just seemed to cruise and had finished our two-arrow round reasonably quickly. So, as we were close to camp, we stopped for a cuppa, as one does. At this point we realised it was only 9.30am Queensland time, and even though we were initially not going to head

home until Monday, as everything was dry in camp, we decided we could do the one-arrow round, get back, pack and be home before dark, which would be a great advantage to us, plus the roadwork regions would all be set at 80km heading back to the Queensland border. Unfortunately, leaving early meant we missed the presentations.

A very big congratulations and well done must go to the Coffs Coast Archery Club for their tenacity to overcome challenges in order to hold their trad shoot. The target placements for both the courses were extremely well thought out, as was the stalker round and all the other novelty events.

✿ Inclement-looking weather and an issue with association membership meant lower shoot numbers for the Traditional Knot Shoot at Sunshine Coast Bowmen on November 12. As I was unable to attend, a friend has given me a rundown of their day.

Once everyone had nominated the groups were organised by the club and each group was issued a target number. Rain delayed the start by about half an hour, then the archers walked to their allocated target number just as it started to drizzle again, so they waited at the targets for it to stop. There were 30 3D targets around and about, and the club had done a marvellous job with their target placement, with some very realistic shots. Each target was two arrows, with both scoring as 10 and/or 5. The undergrowth claimed a few arrows.

There were three novelties to choose from. A new one this year was shooting three flu flus through an elevated hole—not as easy as it sounds. My friend's first arrow went through, so he was feeling quite chuffed, however that was where his luck ended. The 30-second speed

round was held on the practice butts, and there was a multitude of unique vinyl targets to shoot in the allotted time. The five-arrow rolling disc was once again held beneath the tall gum trees.

It was a successful shoot and here's hoping it is on again next year.

✿ Trad shoots confirmed by the clubs for February-March at the time of printing: Chevallan Archery Park February 24 and 25, Twin City Bowmen Albury NSW March 10 and 11, Wisemans Ferry Traditional Get-Together March 17 and 18.

✿ A report from the Chevallan Archery Park Christmas Mini-Trad weekend shoot will be in the next edition.

For those readers on Facebook, check out Travellin' Round the Trads, you can read the shoot write-ups and view many more photos and also get a copy of the Proposed 2018 Trad Shoot Calendar.

You will find the further information and available flyers for the traditional shoots on the following websites:

Wallace Woods: www.wallacetradwoods.com

> *Shoot information (is showing the 2018 proposed calendar as most shoots are still to be confirmed; will have the link to flyers as they become available)*

Chevallan Archery Park: www.chevallanarcherypark.com—for traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO-approved African 3D targets with replaceable centres, customised archery medals/medallions.

Ozbow: www.ozbow.net > Traditional Archery Events > 2018 proposed Calendar

Traditional Archery Australia: www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org > Shoot Information – (link to flyers)

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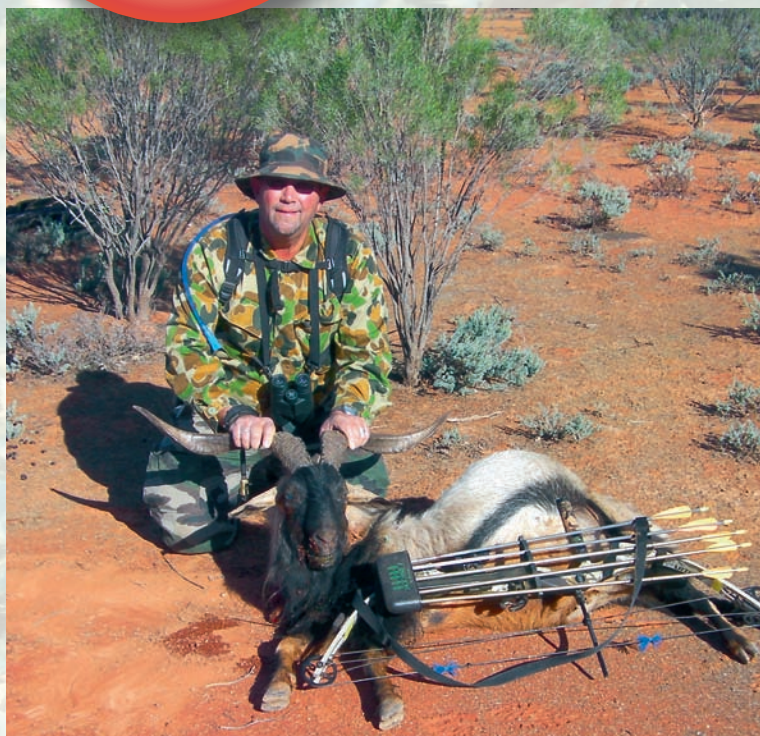
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NEW AUSTRALIAN RECORD

—a bittersweet experience

The preparation for this particular hunt was, I thought, no different from any others that we had undertaken.

First and foremost, we obtained permission to bowhunt the property on the nominated day. During the lead-up to our hunt, Helen suggested that I should go back to hunting barebow as in her opinion I had far better results than when using my sighted bow. However, I must say, my sighted bow has on occasion been quite productive.

Our normal procedure is to split the jobs. Helen gets the hunting clothing for both of us out ready the night before and she packs sandwiches, snacks and drinks for the day to come. My job is to have bows, quivers, backpacks containing all relevant items and our quad runner fuelled up ready for driving onto to the trailer next morning.



Graeme with his Australian record fox.

GRAEME DUFF

All seemed to be quite normal regarding our tasks. I thought everything was flowing along like it should ... the same way it had countless times before.

On arriving at the property, we had to negotiate a cement slab crossing over the creek which to our surprise had come up overnight due to a substantial fall of rain some distance up in its catchment. The crossing of this creek was in no way risky for our Colorado with the trailer in tow. It did, however, mean that hunting the northern section of the property would not be an option because the same creek had to be crossed a second time. The second crossing is gravel and while it is not particularly wide, it is rather deep. A previous experience in attempting to cross there with less water definitely changed our minds about ever trying it again.

To the east, south and slightly west of where we parked the Colorado was plenty of good undulating grass country for us to hunt. We knew the area from previous outings.

I placed the portable ramps on the back of the trailer, unhitched the 4WD quad runner and drove it off the trailer then began loading the three crates on the back, plus our two bows on the front rack. With backpacks, five-litre water container and bows secured in their positions, it was then time to load my eight-

arrow hip quiver and Helen's six-arrow bow quiver. This all went to plan until Helen said, "You've just loaded your hip quiver but where is my bow quiver?"

In that moment, things went pear shaped. As mentioned previously, it is my job to see that all equipment is put in for each trip. I had a look in the back of the vehicle, but Helen's bow quiver wasn't to be found. I had very obviously forgotten to put it in.

By this time I was feeling thoroughly disgusted with myself for being so absentminded and I seriously suggested to Helen, despite it being a very nice morning weather wise, that we should call the whole thing off and go home.

Helen took my oversight much better than I did, but was definitely not in agreement about our going home. Instead, she said I might as well see if I could get my Master Bowhunter Award up for 2017 as I only needed one trophy class claim to unofficially reach that level.

Only about 1km from where we parked the vehicle was a high grass-covered peak which is home to at least one good-sized fox we've learned about during previous outings. That doesn't mean that we try whistling for a fox at this spot very often, as should this be the case we would invariably fail. The memory of a fox can be considerable and regular attempts will guarantee failure.

The first stand of the morning was in front of a smallish but suitable gum tree facing this hill. The breeze was gentle and blowing directly in our faces. With Helen alongside me I started blowing my whistle. On my second attempt Helen spotted a good-sized dog fox coming down the hill very quickly in our direction. The third time I touched the whistle I made a much quieter and more husky sound. The fox came to about 10m where I was already at full draw. It was apparent the fox was not intending to come any closer so I took careful aim and released my arrow. To this day I wonder if this was karma, as my arrow passed ever so closely over the fox's shoulders. He beat a hasty retreat back to the hill from whence he came, only to be much wiser for the experience. Had Helen's arrows been packed, this would have been her stand and opportunity, as we take turns in attempting to harvest feral game.

From this area, we rode the quad runner about 2km east to where in the past we have both enjoyed reasonable results. This area has some patches of very long coarse wire grass surrounded by different grasses that are considerably shorter. This area was absolutely ideal for whistling as opposed to huge acreages of thick waist-high grass which tends to make our type of bowhunting hard, to say the least.



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BROADHEAD SHARPENER

Leaving the quad runner behind, we walked for about 10 minutes to reach the moderately timbered area and tried unsuccessfully to get a fox to respond to the whistle. This area has produced foxes for us in the past ... but obviously was not going to today. As there was more moderately grassed undulating country stretching for some 700m ahead, I suggested to Helen that I should have maybe two or three more stands in the distance so that when she returned with the quad runner she should locate me fairly easily.

My first stand after we parted company produced nothing except a pair of noisy miner birds protesting at my presence and the sound of the whistle. The second stand for some reason looked more appealing to me as within audible range was a dam and to one side of it a large dead yellow box tree with a patch of long wire grass. Maybe this area would hold a fox, I thought. However again try as I might, nothing happened.

Having covered much of the distance I'd told Helen I would whistle, I reckoned I only had one more stand to attempt to bring a fox to the whistle. I walked as briskly as I could to a slight ridge where there were a few medium-sized gum trees and short grass. I had an uninterrupted view should a fox come into the whistle. Having put my 'stanley' ear plugs in, I commenced quietly blowing my GJD whistle. I knew it could be at least 20 minutes before I would see Helen in the distance on the quad runner. After some eight minutes of whistling, I decided to greatly increase the volume. By this I mean reaching a level of a 100 decibels or slightly more—hence the need for hearing protection.

Luckily, I noticed a pied butcherbird about 200m out swoop at something in a very shallow grassy gully system to my right. Utilising

anything that nature provides as a possible warning system, I immediately made a slight change in the direction I was facing. That put me directly in line with where I saw the bird and the gum tree behind me. This is a common practice at a stand, as many birds plus kangaroos and some livestock will on occasion assist in locating an incoming fox (or a feral cat for that matter).

About a minute later, a dog fox came over the slight ridge in my direction from where the butcherbird had reacted. The fox was coming at a slow trot. I came to full draw while it was about 20m away. At this point I needed to entice the fox into a slightly different direction to hopefully offer me a good shot. I squeaked quietly with my lips. This had the desired effect as the fox passed from my right to left at 3m. I released my wooden arrow tipped with a Tusker Delta broadhead. This turned out to be a perfectly executed side-on shot as the fox only travelled a mere 2m before quickly expiring. I didn't move from my position but just reflected momentarily on taking what looked like a good dog fox, thus qualifying unofficially for the Master Bowhunter Award for 2017.

About five minutes later, I could see Helen coming in my direction. I then decided to get my fox and the arrow so I would be ready for a photo session when she arrived. When Helen was close I punched the air to let her know that I had had success. Her first comment on viewing the fox was, "Gee, it has a wide head," followed jokingly by, "You have an eleven pointer there!" Ah yes, many a true word has been spoken in jest.

It was now 10.30am and there was a fair bit of good hunting ground to cover so the sooner the fox was photographed and trophy head removed, the better.

The next stand we walked to was

a considerable distance from where I'd taken this fox and was a place that had excellent potential. The direction of the prevailing breeze was a problem and because there were very few trees in this particular paddock, it was extremely difficult to select a stand which would offer at least 30m visibility. I needed the distance to allow me some much-needed reaction time to prepare myself for an incoming fox. The tree I had selected was definitely not going to provide much of an opportunity for me as a heavily grassed ridge came very close to it. All the other trees were a considerable distance away from this promising area. It would have been a waste of time trying to use any of them.

With Helen close at my side in front of this ironbark tree, I started whistling. This spot held a fox, right enough, but it came using the terrain to its advantage. The fox was less than 2m from us before Helen spotted it—game over! Needless to say this magnificent dark red dog fox departed almost as quickly as it had arrived. I wasn't particularly surprised nor disappointed as a poor selection of a stand invariably results in the fox learning a valuable lesson for future times.

Helen and I went widely around this ridge to try another hill with a grassy gully leading down from it. Here we stood in front of a dead tree on the side of the slope which led directly to the grassy gully and began to whistle. Prior to this I did say to Helen that if a fox was to come it would most likely be from down in this gully system below us. A quiet blow of my whistle had an interested fox coming in at a good trot. It decided to stop out at about 30m and would not respond again to the whistle. My next tactic was to squeal it up with my lips. That had the desired effect as it slowly came



Graeme Duff with his dog fox.

to within 14m. This dog fox was taken with a Tusker Aztec broadhead and measured trophy class at 9 10/16pt.

It was now approaching midday so we decided to have lunch. The break was welcome, as I get fatigued from continual walking over a prolonged period of time and the result is a marked decline in my shooting ability.

The next area worthy of a try was in another paddock which had

fairly substantial hills with gullies and blackberries. This involved a reasonable walk to gain access to where we had seen game on more than one occasion. Three stands of fox whistling here provided nothing, which surprised me a little.

I was starting to feel the effects of walking a considerable distance. I selected a gully system that came off this large hill which certainly seemed like an area that would be worth a try.

Helen had some troublesome grass seeds in her socks and decided to stop and rectify that problem. We agreed I would go down this gully about 50m and see what I could entice to the whistle.

On approaching a big apple box tree on the side of this promising gully, I spotted a medium-sized black feral cat slowly making its way over the short grass near a blackberry bush. Very slowly, I edged my way to this tree as the cat was still too far for me to take a good confident shot. When at the tree and in position I very gently blew my whistle, expecting an immediate response. It got the cat's attention but it's hard to predict a 'typical' response from a cat. I knew that anything might happen. The cat very slowly made its way around the far side of the blackberry bush, but to my disappointment was not in a hurry to investigate what sounded like a dying rabbit.

A number of quiet blows on my whistle in an attempt to lure the cat closer took an unexpected turn. On the other side of this gully where the grass was a reasonable height, a pig materialised.

This became a rather intriguing

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situation as the medium-sized sow slowly walked onto the short grass at the bottom of the gully then proceeded to go around the blackberry bush in exactly the same path the cat had taken. With the pig out of sight, the cat again materialised, coming painfully slowly in my direction. A very interesting development unfolded. The cat was in full view as the pig walked up behind it and to my surprise the sow stopped possibly 1m behind the cat, which was still looking in my direction. Having heard the pig approaching, the cat turned to face the pig. I fully expected the cat to beat a very hasty retreat into the blackberry bush, but it just stood calmly facing the pig. This peaceful stand-off lasted possibly a minute then the cat slowly made its way into the blackberry bush not to be seen again. At this stage I was not very impressed with the pig's actions as I had been denied the chance to take the cat out.

However, with the exit of the black cat, the sow slowly made her way toward my stand at the apple box tree. She turned and decided to go back toward the gully so I thought I may as well have a pig at this stand as nothing. I released my arrow and the Delta broadhead took the pig in a quartering-away position at 6m.

Little did I know that some 30m or less up the gully, Helen had witnessed the whole scene. Then a very slight movement caught my eye 5m to the left of the spot where I had taken the pig. It was a fox! I nocked another arrow and took the fox also. This would not have happened had the pig either made a noise or run off after I had arrowed it.

So there I was, having just taken a pig and a fox which both came to the whistle at the same stand. Maybe I was expecting too much to take the cat as well! Incidentally quite some years ago I have on two occasions



This pig and fox both came to the whistle at the same stand.

taken a feral cat and a fox at the same stand. The pig and the fox in the one photo made me quite happy even though the fox dropped short of the trophy class measurement.

The next morning at home I boiled out the two fox heads and to my surprise had just taken a fox that comfortably measured 11pt (Record Class) and the other at TC with 9 10/16pt.

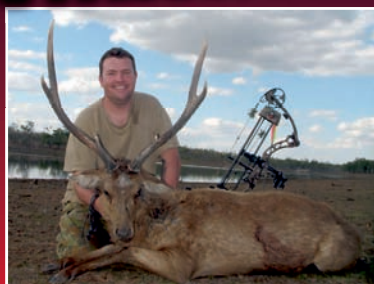
I have never shared other people's belief that I would ever take a fox which would give me an Australian Record. I rated my

chances of that happening to be as good as the chances of a one-legged grasshopper in a yard full of hungry turkeys.

But while taking an Australian Record would have to be classed as a great moment in any bowhunter's life, for me it was bittersweet because a hard lesson had been learned from this day's hunting. From now on, first and foremost, I will make certain that all of Helen's bowhunting equipment is accounted for. I won't even contemplate packing my own gear until hers is safely in the vehicle.

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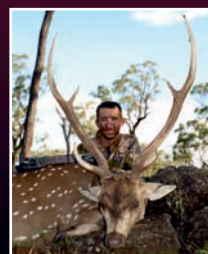
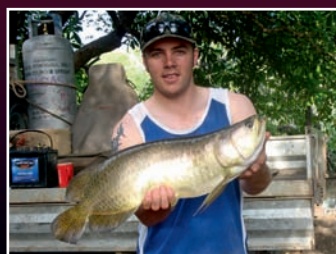
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Nick Lintern

TRADITIONAL TRAILS

I have made this build-along a little long winded (as I did with the osage build-along from a few years ago), but I always feel that it is better to give an abundance of information as many writers, both past and present, have tended to skim over the more important parts of tillering et cetera. Hopefully you are still with me and getting the knowledge you need to have a solid go at making an ELB. We are really close to finishing our all-wood composite English longbow now. We have it tillered, near enough to weight required and test shot. Assuming it is shooting well and all looks good with the tiller, we are ready to put those finishing touches on our bow. I like to have my ELBs about 5# or so heavy at this point. I want a surplus of poundage to play with just in case the horn fitting changes anything in the bow, such as alignment or tiller balance. It generally doesn't but occasionally can, so leave yourself with some leeway. If nothing changes in the bow's dynamic after the horns are fitted it is easy enough to take 5# off. You will also need a pound or two to stay on for the final sanding which takes that little bit more off. So let's wrap this bow up and go and shoot.

How to build an English longbow

Part 7

Before we move onto our finishing touches, I'd like to touch on a few troubleshooting hints if your bow is not shooting well. As I mentioned in the previous article, there may be some vibration but there should be no shock. If your bow is jarring, it generally means the timing is out. Another symptom of bad timing is an arrow that is waving at you. Poor limb timing means one limb is too stiff, so check for your 3/16in weaker top limb. Arrows that fly left (for a right hander) are too stiff and arrows that fly left and right means they are too weak. So, most things that can

cause the bow to be unpleasant are timing related. Now, let's look at how to finish our ELB.

The next thing is to consider if we want traditional horn tips. Depending on bow weight, you can leave the self nocks you have already and just 'pimp' them up a bit (*see photos*). The horns are fitted to add reinforcement to your bow's tips to prevent the string gouging into the wood. This is particularly relevant when making a yew bow. Yew is quite soft and the sapwood used on the bow's back would easily be damaged without the horn reinforcement. Our bow



Self nocks.



Self nock— belly view.

has a hickory back which is not as vulnerable but as bow weights get up and with modern string materials like fast flite et cetera, it is still a good idea to reinforce your tips with the horns.

Fitting the horn tips

There are a few different methods of shaping and fitting horns. This method works very well and has served me well through more than 70 ELBs.

Firstly you are going to need some horn. The tips—approximately 4in to 5in or so depending on the horn size—are the parts of buffalo

and cow horns that are solid. If you don't have access to horn tips, let me know and I can supply you with some. The first process is to cut the horns to a length of 2¼in for the top limb and 2in for the bottom. You want the top tip longer to allow for an extra groove for stringing. If you are lucky and have a horn tip long enough, you can get both horns out of one tip. Once you have your two horns cut to length, you have to drill a conical hole in the horn to fit it to the bow tip. The best way to do this is to make a reaming bit from an old spade bit or speed bore. Using a bench grinder, reshape your old bit to a bishops mitre shape. Be mindful of the size of your bow tip. If you have made a light bow it will be narrower and shallower than with a big bow so consider that as you will want to drill a bigger hole for a bigger bow and

a smaller hole for a smaller bow and the bit you are making should match its target size. Grind an angle on your bit's edges so it can cut. Keep some water nearby and quench your bit regularly to prevent it losing its temper. The photos below will show what you are looking for. Remember, once the horn is fitted to the bow, you don't want there to be any air between the bow and the horn at the base of the horn. This is unsightly and while it won't actually affect the strength of the union between horn and bow, you want it to look neat. Next, clamp your horn tip into a vice with some rubber so it won't slip and drill a hole as close to the centre as possible with your new reaming bit. Watch the depth of your hole. You don't want it to go through the end. Next, roughly shape the horn using a liner to within wide tolerances.



Mark and cut your horn tip to length.



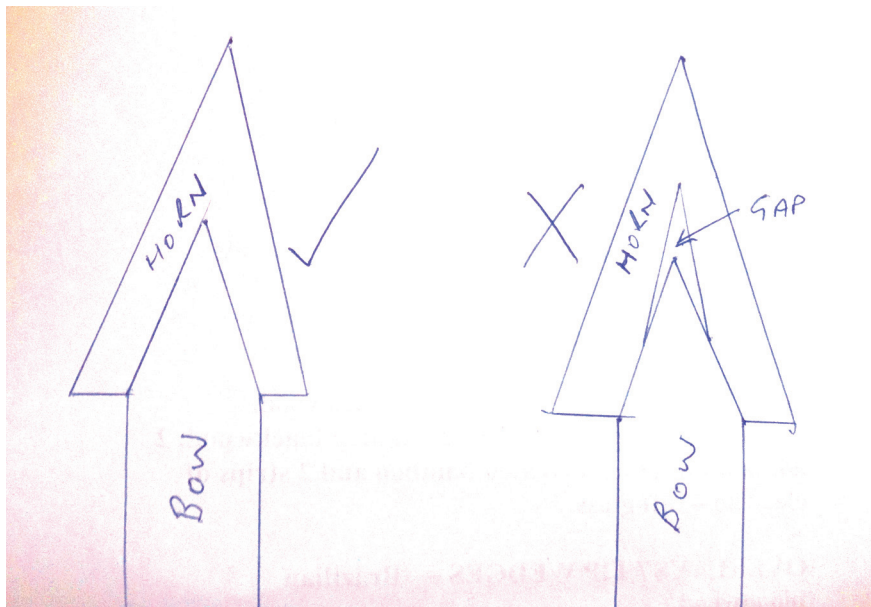
Reaming bit.



Drill out your horn tip.



Horns roughed out and ready to mount.



This rough diagram shows how snug your horns should be (left).

Don't over-shape at this point, just hog off the bulk of the excess horn. The horn will be married to the bow for shape and size after it is fitted and glued on. Next, you will need to taper your bow tips. The best way is with files and scrapers and patience. You can use a linisher here but be very careful, as you could ruin your bow. I strongly recommend you use hand tools here at first, and as you work keep checking the horn to see if it fits. You want the tip of the bow to go all the way to the drilled-out depth of

the horn. If it doesn't, you may create a wedging effect that can crack the horn (*see diagram, my apologies for the poor artwork ... as long as you get the idea!*). Once the horn is fitted all the way and there is no air at the base between the horn and bow and the tip is sitting straight and even, mark an aligning mark on your horn to the centre of the back of the bow so you have a reference as to where the horn sits best and glue it on. I use five-minute Araldite. Spin your horn tip to distribute the glue and

align your mark. Wipe off the excess glue and let it all dry. After about 10 minutes you can work on the other end, repeating the process as before. Make sure you put the longer tip on the *top* limb. Leave them both for a further half an hour to ensure the glue is well dried prior to working on them.

Now that the horns are fitted and glued we can go about shaping them fully. As they are mounted and glued it will be easy to work on the final shape. I use a power file to do the grunt work and sandpaper on a block to bring in the final shaping. The shape you go for is only limited by your imagination. The only must do's are making sure you have enough bulk around the base to provide strength after you file in the nock slots. The attached photos show my preferred styles. Before I file in the nock slots I work through the different grits to 240 grit, then use a 1/8in chainsaw file to file in the nock slots.

On your top nock, file in an extra one to allow for a loop style stringer. Now buff your nock with steel wool and have a critical look over it. If it looks good and has no file or sandpaper marks you are good to



Finished bottom limb horn tip.



The horn on the left is the four-inch tip. On the right is the finished horn for the top limb.



Your horn tip shapes are only limited by your imagination.

go. Once both horns are done, the next thing is to restring your bow and reassess it. How does the alignment look now? Is it still good? How is the tiller balance? If there are any adjustments needed you can make them now with the confidence that now there is no chance for anything more to change. No more variables. Also check how your nock slots are working with your string. Is the string sitting evenly in the grooves? You can make some tweaks if necessary. If all is still good, it's just a matter of even weight reduction on each limb being careful to maintain the perfection you have been striving for. At the end you want to be pretty much spot on for weight. Your bow will vary in weight in various weather conditions. If the weather gets hotter than the temps when you were tillering your bow it may temporarily drop poundage when shot in the warmer weather—only a few pounds—and it will return when the weather cools. Also, It can potentially gain a few pounds in the cooler weather.

Your new ELB is now very close. One other job you need to do now prior to final sanding is fitting a horn arrow pass. This is literally just a horn (or even fibreglass) inlay set into the bow in the spot where the arrow passes the bow. Obviously it should be on the left side of the bow for right handers and the right side for lefties. The pass will prevent the arrow from

wearing into the timber and leaving it vulnerable to weather damage et cetera. Horn is impervious to weather and is extremely hard-wearing. You can have any shape of arrow pass you like. I prefer triangular passes: I feel they look classy and have the added benefit of being reasonably easy to set into the bow. You can just glue a leather strip on your bow after the finishing coats are done if you'd prefer, then add your leather grip, but I prefer the set-in pass these days as the bow is obviously devoid of any shelf at all and is nowhere near centreshot and this means the arrow has a lot to get around. The leather strip only pushes the arrow further out still. The set-in pass reduces this as much as possible and is really classy. Back in Victorian times, top bows had mother of pearl inlaid passes. Very flash!

If you are wanting to fit a pass, firstly cut your horn into a triangle that suits your bow's thickness. It doesn't matter if it is a bit thick—we can fix this up later—as long as it is very flat on the side to be glued down. Next, position the pass onto the bow in a position that is about 1 7/8in up from centre. This means your leather will cover the bottom of the pass and guarantee you have horn where you need it. It should start at a depth which means the triangle is just touching your core lam (see photo). This placement means the



Inlaid arrow pass.

pass will contact the arrow and not miss it in the act of shooting. If it did, it would defeat the purpose. Now draw an outline around the pass and then, using a sharp Stanley knife, carefully cut in the outline. Cut just inside your pencil marks to ensure a tight fit. Now it is outlined with a knife you need to remove wood inside this bordered area. The best tool for this job is a palm chisel (see photo next page). This needs to be very sharp. Carefully chisel out the excess timber within the bordered area. Proceed with caution and patience, being sure not to bust out of the border area. Proceed until your pass fits snugly into the etched-out area. It will stick up proud, but don't worry. As long as it is in to the wood around 1 /16in to 3 /32in or so, it'll be fine. Now glue



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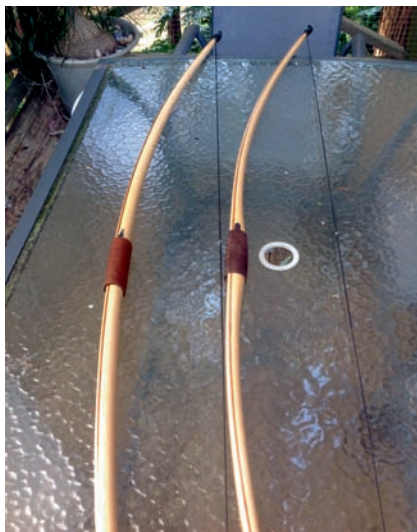
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Palm chisel ... this one is Swiss made.

it in with Araldite and allow it to dry *thoroughly*. Applying a scissor clamp can help get it well set in as it dries. It is critical to get it completely dry as you will need to sand the horn pass down with coarse grit paper and you don't want the glue to be rubbery. You want a top class job so let it dry—maybe an hour or so. Once it has dried, sand it level with the bow with 80-grit paper and a block.

Now go through and final sand the bow, first 120 grit, then 180, 240 and finally 400 wet and dry and steel wool. Restring and check everything



Finished ELBs with different tiller variations. The bow on the left is a big war bow.

again. If all is well—and it should be—you are ready to oil up your creation.

Final touches

As with our osage bow featured previously, I like to use a hand-rubbed oil finish on my ELBs. I start with a product called Osmo. It is basically an oil and wax style sealer which also has an anti-fungicide built in. This is very valuable if bamboo has been used as it can sometimes have a fungus which may show up



Finished leather wrap.

later on. The Osmo will neutralise it. I apply two coats of Osmo with two hours between coats. Then, after leaving it overnight, I rub it all back with steel wool and then write on the bow with a mapping pen and black ink. The other alternative to Osmo which also works very well is good old Shellac. Apply it in the same way. After the ink has dried I apply seven or eight coats of Birchwood Casey Tru-Oil. I apply it with lycra as it has almost no texture (so it doesn't leave any marks) and is 'fatty' so it absorbs and applies the oil very well. It usually takes 24 hours drying time between coats. Make sure it is totally dry before proceeding. In higher humidities it may need longer drying times. Steel wool between coats. After you have the hard glossy finish you are happy with, buff it up with a light cutting compound and then

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apply a good wax such as Maguiars. Now, all that remains is to fit your leather grip. You may choose not to fit a grip, that's okay and entirely up to you. The horn pass will act as a reference for where to grip the bow. This is important so the archer can grip the bow in the same spot every

time, and as your hand is the rest it means the nocking point for the arrow on the bow string will always work with your hand placement. If your hand/arrow rest is up and down, your arrows will not fly consistently. I like a grip as it gives that constant grip placement, and it also is good

on a wet or sweaty day to ensure a good, positive grip. I prefer suede on my grips. I cut my grip to about 4in by 6in. Mark with a pencil on your bow a point that is 2in up from centre. This should be slightly above the base of your pass. Now wrap your leather around the handle area at this point and mark the centre of the bow's back on the leather. Now cut your leather and test wrap it again. Trim until it has a fit that means the ends are snugly touching on the back of the handle. Now you can either glue it on as is, or use a lacing chisel to punch out slots on the leather and glue and lace the leather on (see photo previous page).

I won't go into making strings at this point but now simply set your nocking point on your string to around 3/8in up from square from your grip for split finger shooting—do not commit a treasonous act and shoot your ELB three fingers under—and you're good to go!

Well, there it is ... a complete journey with an all-wood composite English longbow. I hope you have enjoyed this journey and that those of you who want to make a bow have benefitted from this seven-part series and those who don't have found it interesting.

As always, any questions can be sent to: norseman_longbows@hotmail.com.

Until next time – keep traditional.



A well tillered English longbow at full draw is an awesome sight, This one is a 125lb yew bow made by Nick years ago.



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Benchmark Shootout

South Tweed Heads



Wow, what an amazing weekend at the 3DAAA Benchmark Shootout at South Tweed Heads! I tip my hat to everyone involved.

From the moment I arrived at the amazing venue, driving over the white crushed granite driveway around a small dam with lush green grass, it looked like something off of a movie set. With all the sponsors' signs at the front of the building, it had a distinct feel of one of the big ASA tournaments from the USA, that I've watched on Youtube.

It was great meeting new people and recognising the faces of people from Canberra, Townsville, Darwin as well as shooters from the 3DAAA hub of mid to central

NSW. I noticed that local numbers were slightly down but after finding out that two other major events had been programmed on the same weekend it was easy to see that this event could have been even bigger than it was. Several archers posted on Facebook that they wished they could have been there and supported the idea of bringing all codes of archers together for similar events.

Shoot groups were selected by a lucky draw program on the morning of the shoot, mixing the shooters up so each group had someone from AA, ABA and 3DAAA for Saturday's 30 targets. The next day they had peer grouping in groups of four, giving everyone a great chance to see where they really were in the competition and shooting with a bit of pressure for some serious coin.

I wish there were more shoots like this giving back to the shooters. It's an athletes-pay system in Australia, so to see an event where the archer has a chance to get something back was outstanding.

It was also great to see that it wasn't just the top two or three archers who were rewarded. With the help of the major sponsors Benchmark Commercial Building Services Pty Ltd, 3DAAA paid out the top 15 places which is an outstanding effort. In total, close to \$10,000 was awarded to archers for their achievements.

Ranges were set to encourage the archers to have a crack at the bonus high-score rings with mostly close-to-medium shots. A few longer shots were thrown in to test the archers on larger targets, with points there for the taking. This encouraged the archer to "aim hard," as Gerard Miles was overheard saying at the dinner on Saturday night. With this temptation, a few archers came unstuck and found themselves on the outside of the 10 ring on more than a few occasions.

For me, the most challenging shots were the uphill and





downhill shots with working out cut angles and relying on my sight set up with my third axis being on point for the day. Using a hinge-style back tension release aid also made for a few shots breaking a lot quicker than expected and catching a few lucky lines until I started to settle.

Getting to the top of the hill it was great to see an esky on the range with drinks and chocolates for a much needed top-up before starting the second half of the course. At the top of the hill there were three targets set close together around a big shady tree, and we were able to watch other shooters and see if they were hitting the lower 12s or falling out of them like the rest of us into the 8s. This flowed down the other side of the course to more challenging shots including a stinking turkey set at 10yd

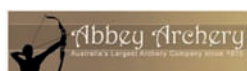
with an angle of about 50 degrees downhill, so not only did you need to work out your cut angle but then that played into your crossover distances as well.

The course continued changing from shot to shot, challenging the groups with every target as it wound its way back to the practice area where tables and chairs were set up for all of the archers to share their stories about good shots and getting sucked in to have that crack at the lower 12. Seeing the camaraderie as archers shared their stories was awesome. This shoot was really friendly and brought out the best in everyone.

Saturday night's meal was organised by 3DAAA and Pioneer Country. It was so outstanding that people had seconds and thirds ... and even fourths in some cases

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(hey, Ben?) This was a chance to share stories from the day as well as hear about experiences from some of the world-class archers who have travelled the world shooting. They shared photos of similar events in the USA and even gave some tips for the next day.

We were all excited and eager to see the next 20 targets. Sunday started off with the peer grouping and then heading out onto the range after a quick practice. It seemed that a few of the archers were playing it safe today aiming centre 10s hoping that their arrows would

drop into the 12 ring. Under the direction of the range setters the whole course had been changed from the day before, with some targets changing in distance or a target like the javelina pig that ended up out past the 40m mark ... on an open hillside ... with gusts of swirling wind ... and a 25-degree uphill shot ... yeah, thanks guys. Some of the shots had changed completely, making the whole day another exciting challenging day with scores reflecting the challenge. Even our event winner only managed to scrape in an even 100 on the first 10 targets, showing how challenging the courses were.

At the end of the 20 targets it was awesome to see that the top three archers had a dead even score with the winner being decided by bonus ring countback. What an amazing way to finish!

In the top 15 places there were three dead even ties with one of them having to go to a closest-to-the-centre shootout. Having so many archers so close together was a testament to how skilled some of these archers are.

Next up was the Top 10 Shootout and was great to see some of the best archers in the country displaying their skill. First up was the marked class shooters. With the pressure on, the top three shooters couldn't come up with the goods in front of the crowd that was there to cheer them on. It was great to see 2017 3DAAA SOTY recipient Dustin come away with the Top 10 win after his slow start to the event. This shows how close all of these archers are in skill and mastery of their sport.

Second up were the Unmarked Archers who had been shooting all weekend on the second dedicated course. They put on a great show as they shot under pressure in front of the crowd, with the added pressure of judging the distances as well as executing a great shot.

I talked with a couple of Australia's best shooters after the event and it was great to hear their thoughts. Justin Olexienko, who is the current IFAA World Champion and a well known target shooter, shared his thoughts with me.

"I think the idea of having an event like this is a great step forward for archery in Australia. It does allow archers who don't shoot 3D a chance to see what they are capable of without the frustration of judging distance.

"Even if there was no money offered and there was just a marked distance division, I would compete in 3D more often. I would also have no hesitation in shooting this event again and would like to see more of the other top archers come along and have a crack. I do think that if there is a chance to make it earlier in the year maybe from February to May it would probably get a better turnout."

I also had the chance to speak with Scott Brice, who is part of the Australian AA Squad and has competed on the world stage at world archery events including world cups

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and several international tournaments. He said, "There are two advantages to shoots like the Benchmark Shootout. It gives all archers a chance to meet and compete on a level playing field and the marked aspect is also great as all archers can use whatever equipment/set-up they have and shoot without having to change anything or having to buy any extra equipment."

I can't wait to see all of the pictures hit social media and see everyone else's experiences of such a great event.

For the future, I think that with more support from sponsors and the three main associations to program this shoot into their shoot calendars and work together to give archers the opportunity to compete in this event,

this shoot could become one of the biggest shoots in Australia. If anyone else feels the same and you want to see this shoot again, let the 3DAAA team know and support their unmarked events throughout the year ... and pass on to all of the associations that you want to see this event succeed.

Lastly I would like to thank the sponsors along with Robert Vayro and his whole team who came from all associations to put this event on for the archers. I look forward to seeing the next event and will be practising hard until then. In the words of Gerard Miles, "Aim hard" ... and shoot straight.

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OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Training and competitions

Over the years I have attended hundreds of events both internationally and locally. There's nothing like stepping up to the line at any event, confident in your preparation and relaxed about the upcoming day's shooting. While this is the ideal situation to be in, I have also arrived at many tournaments underprepared, tired from travel or still working through form/bow issues that I didn't have time to solve before the event. In this article, I will cover some of the essential steps I take to prepare for a competition and how to get in the zone, ready to shoot some great match-day arrows.



by STEVE CLIFTON

BEFORE THE EVENT

Over the years, I have developed a fairly straight-forward way to prepare for the upcoming events. It starts with developing a practice plan. As WA international rounds have moved to just two primary target distances (18m / 50m for compounders, and 18m / 70m for recurvers), it makes it much easier to choose distances at which to practise.

However, when I am shooting for field events, I like to mix my training up with half my time spent in the bush shooting the hills, and the other half spent at the target range ironing out my form and bow tuning. I find that a mixture of both really helps me advance my field shooting, rather than spending all my time doing one or the other.

The next most important thing is the frequency of shooting and how best to structure it in the lead-up to an event. There are several ideas on how best to achieve this, and from my experience I suggest the following: Shoot a lot! About two to three weeks out from any major

event, I like to be shooting 150 to 200 arrows a day, six days a week so that I can get my fitness up to a peak. The number of arrows is usually twice as many as I expect to shoot during the competition and the reason for this is that during the event, the stress and delays take a toll on a person's physical strength so being able to shoot a whole lot more arrows than required really helps ensure I have the strength to make great shots right up until the last arrow. Around two to three days out from the event I'll back off my shooting to approximately 100 to 150 arrows a day just to reduce the risk of fatigue or muscle strains.

Once the shooting schedule is sorted, I like to look back on my past results for that particular type of shoot and see where I feel points could be made up. For example, if I was shooting a WA720 round and noticed the back halves of my rounds were lower than my first half, I might try examining what could be causing this? A lack of bow fitness? Perhaps my form was changing during the day? The power of your shooting diary really shows its use here as

it can enable you to find patterns between shooting sessions and this often allows you to improve and add points to your score.

Another important aspect of practice is to shoot at least one scored round during each session, rather than just shooting arrows to get good groups. I have a particularly bad habit of counting not only my own points that I have dropped, but also that of my direct competitors as well—which can lead me to being more score sensitive while I am in a competition. I have found that by scoring a lot while in practice I can alleviate much of the stress I get from shooting good scores, which has helped me break many records over the previous years.

TUNING AND EQUIPMENT

During the build-up to an event is the time to start considering what set-ups we want to arrive with and experiment with any new equipment/ideas we might have. This is also the perfect time to be checking our gear to make sure everything is in working

order. Over the years I have seen this become more common practice and see less people having equipment issues in the middle of a competition. However, when I do see someone having an issue, it is usually caused by one of two things—lack of maintenance or using complicated set-ups involving equipment that is prone to failure. I have explained many times before that the approach I take in setting up my equipment is to try to keep everything as simple as possible to avoid any breakages or lengthy repairs if something does go wrong. As I mentioned in my previous article, I suggest checking over your gear briefly after every training session, and at least two to three days before the event check things like string servings, D-Loops and bolts (to make sure they are tight) so that if something does need to be changed it can be done well before the competition.

You will want to make sure you always have available spares and up-to-date bow spec measurements. If you break nocks, you need spares. If it is windy and you want a little more weight on your bow, carry a few extra ounces in your quiver so you can quickly add them to your stabilisers. If your arrow-rest blade happens to break or get damaged, you will need a spare blade, allen keys and a measurement to ensure you are putting it back as close as possible. Key measurements you will always want to have with you include your nocking point height, blade position measurements and peep height. The peep height is particularly important if you are shooting in the bush, as a couple of times I have seen fellow archers bows slide over/get caught in the bush and their peeps have been knocked.

COMPETITION DAY

Competition day is usually a



Preparation is key to competing well.

mixture of excitement and nerves, both of which hardly go away as time goes by. There are some events now that I am a lot less nervous about such as the local competitions, but at any major competition such as a national championship or an international event such as a world cup or championships, I still get nervous about how I am going to shoot that day. I have mentioned in previous articles that during competition I try to remain mindful (staying in the present moment and not focussing on the past or future), but this strategy can also work great for before-competition nerves.

If you do find you get worried about your upcoming performance, try bringing your attention back to something around you. We often see sports people (not just archers) on their phones before events, listening to music or busily swiping away on the screen. I have found that music/calming noise is really good for calming pre-comp nerves and it can allow you to focus on the task at hand rather than a million other things our minds can lead us off to.

Another strategy I sometimes use before a competition to help lower my pre-competition nerves is to visualise myself shooting a single arrow at a

target. Try it. When seeing yourself shooting the arrow, try to feel how the shot would feel as you draw back, aim, and release the arrow from the bow. I would suggest you do *not* focus on seeing the arrow land in the middle as I feel it is better to focus on the performance of your shot than on the result (otherwise it can create higher expectations which can lead right back to feeling nervous again).

Some people find that using shot-visualisation helps them during the event to stay focussed on the process of the shot, rather than the scoring or shooting the arrow. For me, I like to use this more at the start of the event and try to remain mindful during the event, but both can be used separately or even in conjunction with each other if that helps you shoot at a higher level.

One important aspect of shooting that I feel doesn't get enough coverage is what goes on in your mind while you are at full draw and when the shot goes off. Many people have heard of a book by Lanny Bassham titled '*With Winning in Mind*'. Lanny advocates for athletes to have a 'mental program' that they can run while competing in their sport. I am a big supporter of this style of shooting (running a mental program while at

full draw) as I believe it enables me to be more consistent with my attention and focus, which can cut down on unneeded distractions. How I like to run my competition mental program is by starting it as soon as my release is clipped onto my D-Loop and I am ready to draw up to the target. I begin to focus more on my breathing and once I get to full draw and aiming in the middle, I focus on saying the words “push and pull” so as to keep my attention focussed on the process of the shot.

I personally would recommend not having any result-based thoughts as this takes the focus away from the performance and can lead to issues with release and aiming. If you feel you need help with getting into the mental game of sport more, check out Lanny’s book; it is one of the best things you can invest money into and actually see tangible results from.

Finally, it is important that

during the competition you stick to your training form from before the event! One common thing we hear people say all the time is “I shoot so much better in practice than in a competition.” One key reason people’s scores drop in a competition, except from competition nerves, is that they change their form during the event and usually this hurts their overall score. Stick with what you have been doing in training! That’s why you have invested so much time into it!

AFTER THE EVENT

The last thing to think about is what happens after the event. Many people pack up their gear and head off to the bar/home without giving any thought to how the day’s performance could be improved. I personally like to take a while to think about the highs and lows of the day’s shooting and write down

my observations for later so further analysis can be done. Things I like to think about are usually form related, such as how I executed my shots, how my aiming felt and how I coped mentally with the day’s shooting ... basically, anything that stands out that I could work on further in practice. I would encourage people to write a list of post-event checks to be done and write a few words for each so next time in training you have a foundation to build on.

Hopefully that has given you a little further insight into shooting competitions, and maybe some new ideas to help improve your competition preparation and shooting.

The competitions we enter are the best part about archery so I encourage those who may not be competing yet to get out there and enter a local event and see what it’s all about!





*The Norfolk Island way to
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Last year, around 120 enthusiastic Australian and New Zealand archers joined local Archery Norfolk Island members for a brilliant week at the Norfolk Island Travel Centre 3D Archery Championships with Traditional Archery Shoot. This year's event is shaping up to be just as good, if not better!

Norfolk Island Archery has built a reputation over the past 15 years for a brilliant week of archery competition plus a wonderful, family friendly atmosphere that

makes for a great holiday. As Karen from Avoca NSW commented, the week was "well organised, friendly, efficient and just a great way to enjoy your favourite sport on holiday".

You also realise that Norfolk Island as an archery destination has something very special happening when you hear the field being described as "perhaps the finest field in the world, it is certainly the most enjoyable I have had the pleasure to shoot" (GM from Kirrawee).



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In 2018 Norfolk Island Archery will once again welcome back old archery friends as well as first time competitors by offering 3D events organised for all ages including cub divisions, adult compound, recurve and longbow. In addition to the 3D events, a traditional shoot is offered each afternoon at properties spread across the island. It offers behind-the-hedges access to some of the island's most beautiful, yet hidden properties.


To ensure all the family can compete, the club has again timed the event to coincide with July school holidays. Norfolk Island is a genuinely friendly and safe place, easily accessible via a two-hour flight from Sydney or Brisbane. Non-shooters are very welcome to take part in the week's social events including welcome and farewell activities. With the competition organised to allow time to enjoy exploring the island, families can really enjoy a holiday together.

Within a breathtakingly beautiful environment, you can experience everything from snorkelling over coral reef, deep sea fishing, soaking up history in a World Heritage-listed area and exploring the island's unique local culture. There are museums, tours and spaces

to just wander and feel the history and stories. Norfolk Islanders have always lived off their own fresh seasonal produce and it's common to see restaurants advertising that day's fishing catch on the menu. It's also likely to be served with vegetables harvested that day. You'll love the food at local clubs and cafes.

The Norfolk Island Travel Centre has been the major sponsor of 3D archery on Norfolk Island since the championship's inception. The business is locally owned and the people who work there certainly know the island well.

This year they have holiday packages using their group airline buying power to bring a best-priced flight, accommodation and car hire package. Prices start at \$1,069pp twin share ex-Brisbane and \$1,119pp twin share ex-Sydney. For more information contact Jannise at jannise@travelcentre.nf or on freecall 1800 1400 66 from Australia.

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A TINY BUT CRUCIAL ELEMENT

In my half-century-plus of archery involvement as a competitor (recurve and compound), avid observer, writer, coach and seminar presenter, I have often been asked what I thought was the most crucial piece of information if one wished to be a successful shooter.

Of course, there are a cross-section of ingredients which make up a quality archer. Regular constructive practice, a patient and efficient execution process, a strong mental approach and to my mind the most critical of all, the understanding that early stabilisation of your form and particularly your shot execution, is paramount. Let me explain.

In virtually all of life's contingencies, advancement emanates from a process of functioning, assessment of the outcome and then making whatever change is needed to produce a better result. Life's journey is pretty much a continuous procession of this trio of applications in order to achieve betterment. So logically the archer wishing to upgrade performance will seek to incorporate functioning, assessment of progress and then upgrade in some way as a positive conclusion. Now in our earliest archery experiences this is clearly appropriate and necessary. Choices must be made. Experimentation is a requisite to set in place the various equipment elements and then the basic form and execution process to be employed. This is a formative period.

However, our sport, whatever the discipline of choice—hunter, longbow, barebow, recurver or compounder, in essence is a simple sequence of around a dozen seconds from when the arrow is drawn from the quiver to when it departs on its journey to the target. All that is demanded in order to attain our goal—repetitive accuracy—is to duplicate that time span arrow after arrow after arrow.

Step 1, shoot an arrow in the gold. Step 2, repeat Step 1. This is a somewhat amusing summary of our sport. We might smile when we first hear it, but it is actually the perfect description of the pathway to unerring accuracy. Developing trustworthy, patient, comfortable form and execution which


can be reproduced as close to perfect as is humanly viable shot after shot is the absolute requirement for the consistent accuracy to which we aspire.

So clearly we must settle on a form and execution which we find comfortable, because comfortable is repeatable. In order to make it duplicative we must resist the usual human desire to continually judge and alter in order to upgrade our result. That might work in most of life's situations, but it doesn't work if the goal is constant duplication. If your form, and particularly your execution (especially for compound release shooters) is in a constant state of flux, your chances of repetitive processing—and hence accuracy—are completely compromised. Change is the antithesis of accuracy.

If you examine the form and execution of the elite archers in all disciplines, you will witness a video replay-like sameness time after time, year after year, and in some cases decade after decade. So it is imperative that after that early experimental phase where choices are being made, an archer must settle on a specific form and execution and then practise the dickens out of it.

For many archers, each practice session becomes an ongoing search for a supposedly better way. There is a persistent tweaking in the hope that some magic conclusion will produce X after X. This thinking, while rational and productive, defies our goal of identical repetitiveness. Each time we change, we go back to day one. We restart our quest for sameness of performance. We must build that likelihood of video replay-like duplication because it is the absolute blueprint for accuracy whatever bow we shoot. The really great archers have the same form and execution today they exhibited since they first came to our attention and it is the main reason for their continuing high accuracy. It's all that simple, but it's not easy. It takes mental discipline.

So settle on a form and execution process which is comfortable and trustworthy for you and which you can patiently negotiate shot after shot. Then you'll be well on the way to attaining an exalted accuracy result.

A composite image featuring two photographs of Richard Morrison. The top photo shows him crouching in a field of tall, dry grass, holding a large boar by its head. The boar has its mouth open, showing its tusks. The bottom photo shows him crouching on a dirt path, also holding a boar's head. He is wearing a tan hat, glasses, and a light-colored short-sleeved shirt. The background of both photos is a wooded area with trees and a body of water visible in the distance.

*Richard Morrison took the first two
boars of the hunt.*

Never too old

Plans for a hunting trip are often made months, even years, in advance and it's usual that some pull out and the numbers for the trip will shorten.

For this trip we were going to start with the TBA Muster at Mudgee then when the weekend was over I was hoping to hunt a locked gate property we had hunted two years previously. But as the time drew closer the key was unavailable, so all plans changed.

by **GARRY PITT**

It had been around three years since we had been up the Gulf hunting, so we decided this would be our new plan.

Old mate Peter Helmrich was to be my hunting partner. He would start from his home in Bundaberg and there would be a lot of driving involved. It would be two days to Mudgee, two days to Mount Isa, then a 13-hour drive to the property ... and then of course his drive home.

It was arranged that when we arrived at the property we would team up with long-time ABA member Richard Morrison. (He has a three-digit membership number, so he's been around a long time. He hailed from Orange back in the start-up days but finally saw the light and stepped over the border, spending time in Gympie and Calliope before ending up in Mount Isa where he would be closer to his son, spending time as the caretaker of the Isa club. Of course being at the Isa meant he could also get out chasing goats, pigs, camels and cats. He certainly bagged a good number of cats while walking the creeks around the Isa ... never too old to flick an arrow!

By chance, another lifestyle change popped up for Richard—caretaking a Cape York property. He headed up for a look around and now there he sits.

Upon arrival, we met those who were there, had a bit to eat and a sleep. The next day we did a few station chores then late the following day, we saw our first boar. Richard would be the first to put a good boar down, quickly followed by another.

The next day's plan was to do a few 3km and 5km walks along some creeks. This paid off for Peter. One hunter on each side of the creek is enough, so I headed out into the sand ridges following the tea-tree flat run-offs. Just over 1km of walking later, I found my first waterhole but

there was nothing there. Then 300m on, I saw an old sow. One arrow and she was mine ... but the two boars that had been lying under the bank by my feet made tracks for the sand ridge and their freedom.

I headed back to find Peter's boar missing its bottom jaw, so went back to the truck to find them sitting in the shade. Well done, Peter.

Heading home, we stopped to check out a very dry swamp. Along with just a tiny bit of mud was a nice boar. Richard placed an arrow through him and put him down, a nice 28-pointer for sure.

I would spend a bit of time running around after the grader driver. This

lad knew a few secret spots and from his GPS came two marks straight onto my GPS. They would be walks he told me, so this would be the next day's adventure.

Up early as normal, there was a little more station work to be done—change the radiator in Richard's Toyota, fix the fuel sensor, weld the bulbar back on—then there was time for a cup of tea before heading off to the first swamp. The closest we could get by vehicle was 1km, now it was time to walk. We got a little over halfway in and the pace was a little too fast for Peter's new knee and he turned back for the truck. Richard and I made it in and as normal there



was very long grass all the way around the swamp. At 3m in, we had our first boar sighting off to our right but there was no chance of a shot.

We poked our noses out of the grass but saw zilch.

"Nothing here," came from Richard.

"Not a pig," I agreed, glassing around the swamp. Then I spotted a boar readjusting his bed. From that time on I could only see his ear moving and Richard couldn't see him at all.

I stayed out some 40m to give Richard a good chance to get in on him. Up and up he went, also running his glasses over the spot I had told him were the boar was. Finally he spotted him, ranged him and set himself for the shot 25m off. The first shot went straight over his back. The boar sat up, looked around and lay back down on his nice grass waterbed. Richard re-nocked and hit the spot hard. The boar made it to the long grass where the next arrow put him down.

"TC for sure," was my pat on his back. As Richard removed the jaw, the swamp was starting to fill up with pigs, a very good spot for our next trip.

Arriving back at the truck we



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found Peter relaxing on the tail gate asking how we went ("Good," we said). Peter said, "Look in the box." I was thinking he must have got a cat or a boar on his way back; Richard's thoughts were more along the lines of fridge and XXXX. "No," said Peter, "The bow box." And there it was—the end of his hunting trip. The bow's bottom limb was gone—unbelievable; just like that.

Overnight the storm clouds rolled

in as they do at that time of the year. Peter stayed at camp with the two fishermen who were there and Richard and I headed for a swamp I had gone to with the grader driver a few days before.

The swamp showed good potential, and walking in from 600m out we could see a few good boars and heaps of sows and suckers all walking off through a dozen head of cleanskins that were lying around on



Left: Garry's first trophy class boar in three years.

Facing page and below: A few more boars for Richard.

the eastern side of the swamp.

We kept the wind to our faces and moved to the western side as there was one good boar still feeding out in the middle of the water. I drew the winner's straw and it looked like I would be going in. I moved around to the southern side using the long grass for cover and then moved out to the only tree on the edge of the swamp, all the time watching the cleanskins and what the boar was

doing. He was still feeding, but was starting to move to the northern side.

By then I was in the water and he was still about 100m away. Every time he put his head under the water I moved closer. I reckon I got to 50m then I nocked an arrow. The birds were starting to give me away, but I kept moving up. Then I was less than 30m from him and the birds were going off. He looked straight at me—I could see what he was



eating for lunch. As luck would have it, he went for another mouthful—a bad mistake! The 150-grain Stealth hit him hard and he went straight down. It was my first TC boar in three years! As we were doing the photos it started to rain, but as quickly as it started it was gone.

We made our way to the second GPS mark I had been given. The closest we could get to it was 1.2km off so it was walking time again. We geared up and Richard set a good pace for about half a kilometre. As I took the lead, I am sure I heard him say, “I wish I was young again.”

We arrived at the swamp and the wind was changing directions every two minutes. The closest boars to us were out of there, hurrying into the long grass. We had to make a new plan of attack as there must have been

100 or more hogs on this swamp—they were everywhere, no joke!

The wind settled down a little and we moved around to the southern side of the water, talking between ourselves about which were the better of the boars. I took the closest one of three that was right out in front of me while Richard hung back. I moved straight up to 15m, using a large tree for cover. With his head under the water again I hit him hard and he went down fast; another very nice boar.

I looked back to see Richard giving me the finger, no he wasn’t; he was pointing at an orchid in the tree.

I motioned for him to move into the water and away he went, steadily making his way to the first boar he’d said he liked. After one well placed arrow, he was on his way to the next

boar and got him as well. Then it was time to get out of the water and remove all the leaches. (It’s only fair that Richard had the most of them as he got the most boars, although anyone would think with the amount of blood coming out of his legs he had been shot as well!) It was photo time again then we had a good walk back to the truck and a two-hour drive home. It was time to leave this red-hot spot for another trip later in the year.

Having a lay day before we went back to the Isa, we spent the day running out a bit more lick and fixing a few more things. Oh yeah, and boiling out a few sets of hooks. We ran the tape over them—six nice TC boars, a few smaller boars and my sow ... all up, a good trip.

All of us used Bowtech bows tipped with Tusker Spirits or Stealths.

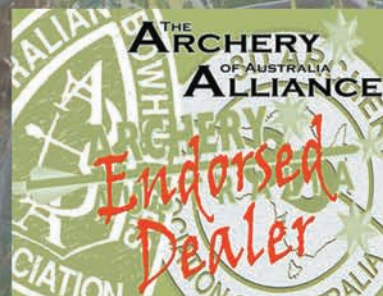


Garry with another nice boar.

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



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It was in September 1990 when John Prewitt and I met. We were guiding for Caribou in Northern Quebec, Canada, about 100km south of the Arctic Circle. The landscape of the northern tundra has a beauty and fascination of its own. John is a Louisiana man and came from Baton Rouge while I, living in Sydney, had four days of travel to get there. Our days were normally 18 hours of hard work, but we enjoyed every bit of it. Cooking, taking the bowhunters out to their areas, caping, skinning, butchering et cetera. When time allowed, we went hunting ourselves. We had to rely on each other, and in a very short time we became close friends.

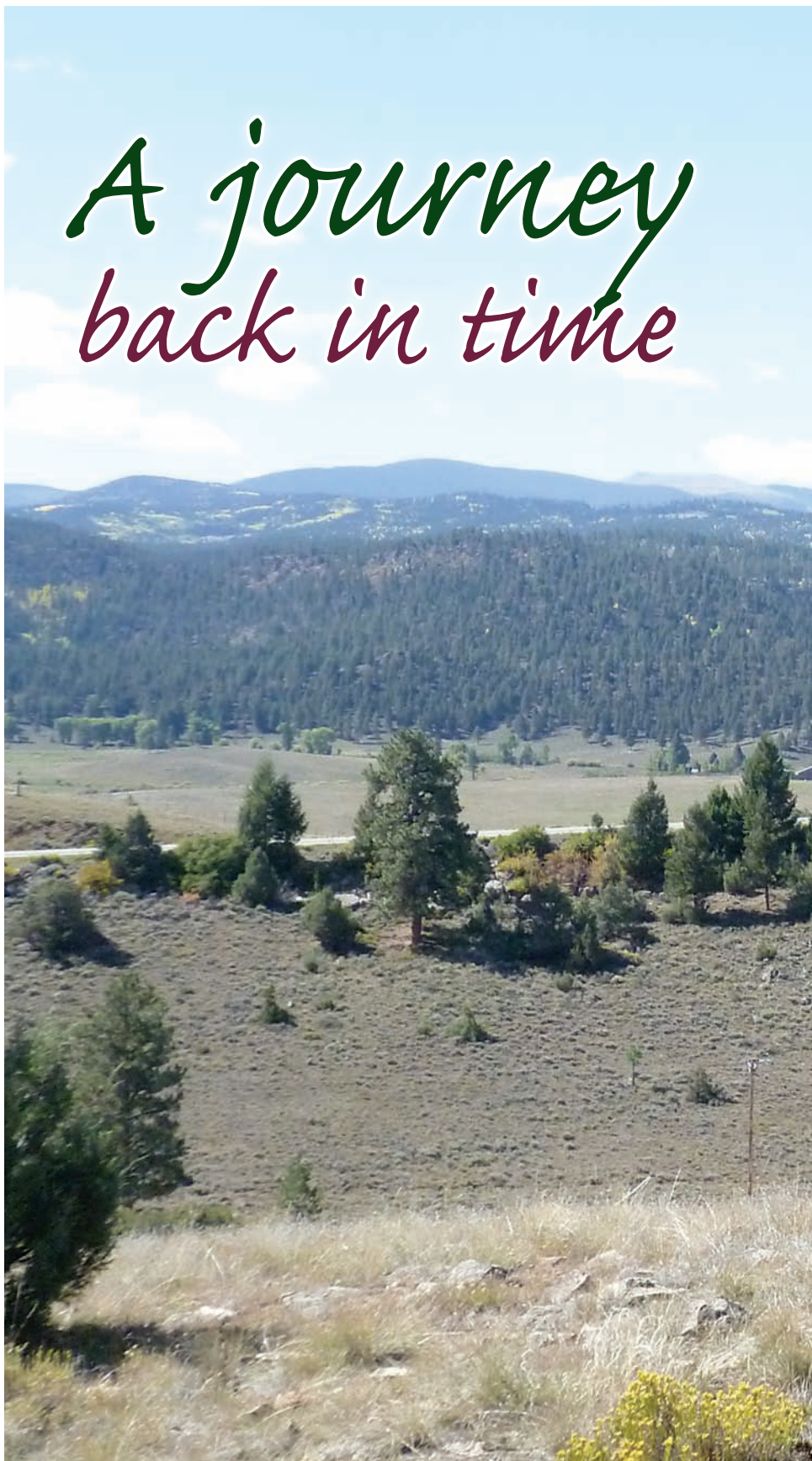
John was with me when I shot a caribou which met the standard to be included in the Pope & Young Record Book for bowshot game. (reported in *Archery Action* May-June 1991). My entry was the first by an Australian bowhunter. When we parted company after a month of great adventure, we promised to see each other again.

Every Christmas we wrote each other a short report of our activities. The years went by and I developed a love for hunting in Africa.

Finally, in September 2016—26 years after saying we'd meet again—it was time to keep the promise and Ingrid and I arrived in Colorado. A beautiful scenic drive took us from Denver to Powderhorn, a hamlet near Gunnison on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

At that time of the year the Rocky Mountains were at their most attractive. The aspen and cottonwood trees had changed

A journey back in time



*A holiday inspired by the love
of archery, hunting and history*

Ed Lanske



their leaves to a brilliant orange and gold. They looked magnificent interspersed with the dark evergreen of the spruce trees covering every mountain.

It was great to see each other after all those years. John and his lovely wife Cheryl spend six months of the year on their property "Wind Dancer Ranch" in Colorado and the winter months on their place

in Texas. What an amazing place they have in Colorado. The cabin is a converted horse barn filled with western memorabilia. Cheryl and John are very artistic and spend their time with beautiful leather craft. While we were there, one of the fun things we did was have a special photo session, dressed in the handmade mountain men outfits. We spent 10 days together and

there was never a dull moment. We spent our time exploring the ranch and looking for stone arrowheads as there had been an Indian camp on his place many years ago.

It all looks glorious and tranquil, but there are moments of excitement. John was telling us he had received a panic call from his neighbour the previous year because a black bear had bro-



The dress-up session as mountain men was fun.

ken into her house. John saved the day with his hand gun ... and there's still a bullethole in her hallway to prove it happened.

One day, to our surprise and delight, a cattle drive came through his place—cowboys on horseback, dogs rounding up. It made us realise that the Old West is still alive in Colorado! What a wonderful time we had with our good friends. It was

hard for us to say goodbye, but we had more travelling to do.

Our journey was to take us through the Mid-West of the U.S. and to the climax at the Plains Indian Pow Wow in Rapid City, South Dakota. Our next stop was Cody in Wyoming. On the way we visited the world-famous Yellowstone National Park. The park was established in 1872 and was the

first national park in the world. It is home to many species of animals, including elk, moose, bison and bear. We watched a coyote hunting for rodents. He was fully aware of his star status and posed for the cameras, consequently causing a mass congestion in the traffic. In the town of Cody, named after Buffalo Bill, is a great Western Museum. It's so interesting you could spend



*Yellow Stone National
Park had many species of
interest.*



Occasionally, pronghorn antelope could be seen grazing next to the road.

several days there to see it all.

Just half a day's drive took us to Montana and the Battlefield of Little Big Horn, also known as Custer's Last Stand. The drive through the prairie was a pleasure and reminded us of the great movie *Dances with Wolves*. Occasionally we would see pronghorn antelope grazing next to the road.

At the battlefield site, a light misty rain enveloped us. It made the feeling of this historical place even more dramatic. At the foot of the hill is a very informative visitor's centre and a large cemetery. This is the land of the famous treaty of 1868, where the Indians were granted a homeland west of the Missouri River to the sacred Black Hills of South Dakota. The treaty was broken time after time by white settlers and gold seekers! The land was home to the Sioux nation and also the Cheyenne.

Gold was found in Montana and also in the sacred Black Hills. More and more 'white people' were attracted to the area. The herds of bison, the main source of survival for the Plains Indians, were almost wiped out. Sitting Bull, the chief of the Sioux, had a vision where soldiers were falling out of the sky.

He sent messages to other tribes to drive the white man forever from their homeland. It became known to the Army that there was a large gathering of hostile Indians at the Little Big Horn River. It is common belief that Custer and his army were on their own. The truth is, it was a three pronged plan. Two Generals and a Colonel were to attack from three directions. Chief Crazy Horse and 700 warriors attacked a large

force of soldiers under General Crook and made him retreat.

At daybreak of June 25, 1876 Custer would see smoke from the Indian camp in the Little Big Horn Valley. Custer decided at once to attack. His troops were tired after an all-night march. He divided his 650 men into three groups. Captain Reno was the first to be pinned down and had to retreat back across the river while Custer circled around to



Custer and his men fell here.

attack the village from the north. He in turn was attacked by a large force of Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho. Custer was pushed on top of the ridge. The fight was so intense, there was no room for the horses. Custer and 40 men had to shoot their horses to have some breastwork for protection. It is believed the battle lasted less than an hour. Custer and 225 men lost their lives.

Standing in the misty rain, just metres from where Custer met his fate, I could imagine the noise of the battle, the gunfire, and the war cries of the Indians. I could not help

feeling that it was a just outcome. On the crest of the hill is also a beautiful monument made of black granite. It was erected in 2005 for the Indian warriors.

We had three more important stops to do before the Indian Festival in Rapid City. A day's drive brought us to the small township of Deadwood in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is located at the bottom of a picturesque valley. It was not only known for the gold that was found there, but also for the characters it attracted, among them Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. Wild Bill

was a larger-than-life legend who had a very colourful past.

Born in 1837, he was a tall man with a droopy moustache and shoulder length hair. He won fame as a marksman and had a reputation for great courage. He controlled frontier outlaws single handed. He never killed a man except in self defence or in the line of duty. He worked as a scout for the Union Army, was a law man and drove on the Santa Fe Trail. In 1861, after a bear attack he went to Rock Creek for rest and recovery. He quarrelled with some settlers and killed three of them, but was freed



Sculpture of Wild Bill.



Re-enactment shows are held daily at 10 Main Street.

on the grounds of self defence! He was also a professional gambler.

It was only six weeks after his arrival in Deadwood that he met his fate. He had the habit of always sitting with his back to the wall but on this day he arrived late for his poker game and his seat was taken. He demanded to have his usual chair back, but was talked out of it. He was sitting with his back to the rear entrance of the saloon, when a disgruntled gambler came in and shot him in the back of his head. The card hand he was holding included two pairs—Ace of Clubs, Ace of Spades, 8 of Clubs, 8 of Spades—hence this hand is known as ‘Dead Man’s Hand’. The saloon where it all happened, No 10 Main Street, is still operating and there is a re-enactment show every day. Wild Bill and Calamity Jane are buried in the Cemetery above Deadwood.

After a brief stopover at the famous Mount Rushmore Monument with the enormous carvings of the four U.S. Presidents, we proceeded to the Crazy Horse Memorial, less than an hour’s drive from Mount Rushmore.

In 1939 the well known sculptor K. Ziolkowski received a letter from Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear to come to the Black Hills of South Dakota and carve a mountain. The letter stated, “My fellow Chiefs and I would like the white men to know, the red men has heroes also.” Crazy Horse was the chosen subject. The project is of enormous proportions. It is not financed by the U.S. Government, just by the Crazy Horse Foundation and it will take many more years to complete. After the end of the Indian wars, a white trader asked Crazy Horse, “Where are your Lands now?” He stretched out his arm over his horses head and replied, “My lands are where my dead are buried.”



Crazy Horse sculpture.

In 1877, a year after the defeat of Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn, his own life came tragically to an end. He was asked by the Army to report to Fort Robinson, Nebraska. Unarmed except for his knife, he was arrested on arrival and as he tried to defend himself a soldier thrust him through with a bayonet from behind. It was a sad end of a noble warrior chief who was just 33 years old.

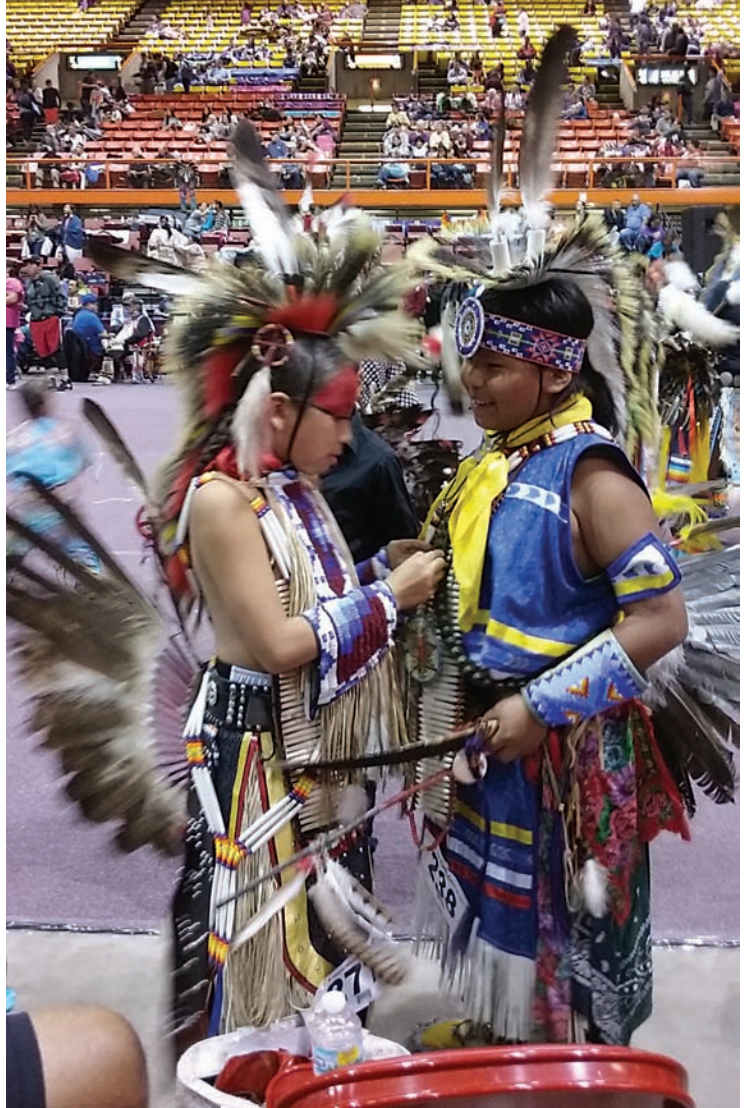
At the Visitors Centre and Museum, a direct descendent of the Little Big Horn Veterans told me the Sioux were the only Indian nation where 30 per cent still spoke their language and followed traditions like the Pow Wow.

Our exciting last stop was the Pow Wow in Rapid City. At the beginning, War Veterans and Tribal Elders marched four abreast into the arena, carrying military and tribal banners to the beat of large drums singing war songs. By the end of the parade, hundreds of Indians in the most colourful costumes and regalia filled the arena. During

the afternoon many tribal dances were performed to the beat of the big drums and deafening singing. Dances and songs were performed in a competitive spirit by warriors, women and children of various tribes. The program was non-stop for hours. It was a feast of colour and sound beyond our imagination. As we looked around, we saw only a handful of white people. This festival is not for tourists, but an annual get together for the Indian tribes. The revival of the celebration of their culture is relatively young, only starting in the 1960s. There was no problem about walking around and taking photos and videos. One of the highlights for me was the victory dance. It was very intense, with the war songs and the drumbeats coming to a peak. At the Battle of the Big Horn, several flags and banners had been taken as trophies. A Chief in full war bonnet danced around the arena dragging the flag of the 7th Cavalry on the ground followed by hundreds of warriors

commemorating their victory over the Army. It was almost scary.


The Pow Wow was the highlight of our journey. We will treasure the memories of this visit for many years to come.



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



BOWHUNTING bonuses



The jackrabbit was motionless as it lay under the orange tree just 10yd from me. The tree provided shade for the large-eared hare on a very hot July afternoon. My quarry knew I was there, its saucer-sized eyes bulging from its elongated head. Even at 10 years of age, with little bowhunting experience under my belt, I knew the hare was about to run. Its oversized back legs were taut and bunched underneath its slim body. I remember pulling back my bow and holding the string for what seemed like an eternity as I tried to aim. When I finally did release my wooden arrow, which seemed to be moving in slow motion, I stood in shock as the moving shaft went almost completely through my prey. I grabbed the creature by its hind legs and sprinted home to show my mother. My mother was a pretty good shot with the rifles we had in our home and had taken a few rabbits, but I do not think she could have been any happier had she taken the rabbit herself. I remember her smiling and then telling me that the two of us would work together to clean it.

John A. Barlow

Fifty-four years have passed since that day and my mother has passed away as well. Because she was a single mother trying to raise six young children on her own I felt like a proud provider and knew that the jackrabbit would help to feed us. Some people find this species of hare not suited for table fare but I knew that Howard Hill ate them. I had

watched legends like Howard Hill, Fred Bear and Ben Person as a young boy on the now ancient television show *The American Sportsman*, on Sunday afternoons after church. So I reasoned the jackrabbit would taste alright. Anyway, my Mom could make anything taste great. That's just the way she was. That day brought us closer somehow and it was Mom

who continued to encourage me to bowhunt whatever and whenever I could. And as I got older, into my teenage years it was Mom who sacrificed what little money we had to keep me supplied in bows and arrows so I could continue to follow my passion.

Bowhunting offers so much more than harvesting an animal and



Nothing clears a troubled mind like shooting a bow.

Fred Bear

bringing it home to feed one's family. For many of us it helps to refine us, calm us and bring us closer to family, friends and the beauty of our surroundings. It can also help to heal us from whatever ills or challenges we may be facing.

Chris Nielson is one of my bowhunting friends. We shoot different types of bows. He wears nice camouflage. I do not. He likes to bowhunt out of tree stands. I like to stalk game animals. And he drives a pickup truck that probably cost as much as my home. My vehicles are always breaking down and are old enough to be considered vintage. But there is not a guy I would rather walk into the woods with than Chris. He takes his bowhunting seriously and is always positive. After one long bowhunt where we only saw one deer the whole day, he talked non-stop on what a successful bowhunt it had been. Most folks would have thought otherwise.

Chris is a military veteran and has seen things that don't always go away in the memory of one's mind. But when he is shooting his bow; when he is in the woods focussed on seeing and getting close to game animals, life is good and negative feelings become positive.

One night, very, very late, he called me to tell me he had arrowed a nice blacktail buck right before shooting time ended and was crawling through the thick brush to find it. And find it he did. His enthusiasm could be felt even over the phone. But even without a harvest, without even seeing a game animal, the act of carrying a bow through the woods becomes a positive influence for him and makes him feel better. Fred Bear was correct. It can clear and heal a troubled mind. My friend Chris is living proof and an example to each of us who knows him.

After two years of labouring to help the people of Peru my son Jake came home 35lb lighter than when he left. He had brought home some unwanted friends in his intestines and was tired and depressed. But after the purchase of a new recurve bow and hours shooting it, things began to change. Every day he shot it ... over and over again. The troubles and concerns slowly vanished. He did not need a therapist. He just needed a bow to shoot.

Twenty-five years ago I watched a young man take his first big game animal with a bow. He was my best friend's son and we were

bowhunting high in California's Sierra Nevada Range. It was the young man's first bowhunt. My friend's son had fallen asleep against a pine tree on that warm August morning only to wake up with a small forked-horn blacktail buck feeding no more than 20yd away. The arrow flew true and the little buck took a couple of steps before his legs buckled and the bowhunt was over.

I can remember the look of astonishment on the boy's face as well as the pride in his accomplishment. Now a grown man with a family of his own, he still speaks of that day and having me help him drag that little buck out of the woods.

Bowhunts like that one help to sustain us and warm us. They keep us waiting for the next season to open, always with the excitement of what lies ahead. A good campfire story is nothing more than memories shared in words. And don't we all like a good bowhunting story? It warms us, regardless of whether it comes from ourselves or a close bowhunting friend.

When I was younger, bowhunting adventures were all about shooting something. But as I have gotten older, it is the memories of my bowhunts I savour ... whether I shot



Some of the best memories are made even if you fail to loose an arrow.

Author unknown

“

Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you.

Genesis 9:3

something or not. As Fred Bear once explained, “If you consider an unsuccessful bowhunt to be a waste of time, then the meaning of the chase eludes you all together.”

Big game bowhunting seasons never seem long enough. In some areas of the United States they can last for several months but overall most last just a few weeks or even just a few days. Wild pigs here

in California can be bowhunted year around with a-pig-a-day limit. Seasons for smaller species of game animals can give a bowhunter far more bowhunting opportunities. Many of these seasons last six to 12 months. Some species of rabbits (hares) can also be bowhunted year around. As always, check your local game laws for seasons and methods of take. The great thing about these smaller game animals is that you may

be the only one bowhunting them in your area of the world because some folks will find them less desirable to bowhunt as well as less desirable as table fare. If your bowhunting season seems too short, it might be time to think outside of the box and get adventurous.

If you are into shooting aerial targets, some game birds can also be harvested with bowhunting equipment. As soon as the firearm



John's first bow, found in a rented home when he was nine years old!



You can relive your bowhunt many times as you read your hunting journals and look through your photos.

“

Archery is still a matter of life and death to the extent that it is still a contest of the archer with himself.

Eugen Herrigel

“

You can learn more about hunting deer with a bow and arrow in a week than a gun hunter will learn his entire life.

Fred Bear



Small game can taste delicious.



Flu flu arrows are excellent for shooting aerial game.

seasons are over for big game here in my home state of California, squirrels can be bowhunted with a bow. They can be a challenge to the bowhunter and make excellent eating. These smaller species also provide bowhunters with greater chances to practise and refine their shooting ability. If you take a moment and explore your opportunities, you will see countless chances to harvest game and to fill your freezer.

While the end result of many bowhunts is the bringing home of a game animal for consumption, the challenge does not lie between the bowhunter and his or her quarry, but with one's self. The animal being pursued does not care how hard you have trained physically to hike and bowhunt steep mountains, or how many hours you have planned for your bowhunt, or the time you have spent on the archery range

perfecting your shooting. It doesn't care about the amount of money you have spent on licences and permits, or the time you spent away from your employment and family. The animal does not know or care. But you do. There lies the contest. I have seen some physically demanding bowhunts reduce grown men to tears from disappointment and exhaustion. Overwhelming feelings of guilt for being away from loved ones. Anger due to bad weather or

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The best bowhunters have two things: Specific goals and a burning desire to achieve them.

Cameron Hanes

broken equipment on a hunt ... even frustration at the very animal they might be hunting because the animal was not where the bowhunter thought the animal should have been. We all have been there. But we do not have to be. Life is full of choices.

We can go away from a bowhunt having learned something new about hunting or about ourselves. If we can come away from a bowhunt having the determination to be a better person, to the ones we love, and a better bowhunter and steward of the land and animal we hunt, then we have been successful. We will have won the contest.

Because of the close distance requirement in bowhunting and shooting a game animal, it becomes imperative that we learn everything we can about the animal we are hunting. In a way, we must become amateur biologists. What does our quarry eat? What is their sense of smell like? Their hearing? Each animal is different and it will take



Many small game can be called in, and a lot of the calls are easy to master.

different skills and techniques to bowhunt them. We will become better at stalking them because we have to. We will be more cautious regarding wind direction and the noise we make walking through the bush. Our senses will become more acute. Bowhunting any animal will become more personal because we will be experiencing more of what hunting is really about—getting close and personal with our quarry.

My friend Rick is an accomplished rifle hunter. His living room wall is decorated with many of the large mule deer racks he has taken with his high-powered rifle. He is a competitive long-range rifle shooter and scores high in his competition events. Most of the animals he has shot have been between 300yd to 400yd in distance. I applaud his accomplishments. But even with a modern compound bow, 50yd to 60yd is a long shot. For a traditional bowhunter, 20yd to 30yd—or closer—is a common shooting distance. It is a completely different sport you and I have chosen. But at the end of the day, I really do believe we bowhunters are a more complete hunter because we have to be.

Each of us goes into the bush with a different goal. For one it may be to take a record-breaking animal with our bow. For another, just to bowhunt and enjoy the experience might be enough. But whatever our goals might be, might we always have in our hearts a burning desire to achieve them.



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Outside In the zone

A matter of time

by Nils Spruitt

Every now and then, someone contacts me through social media and remarks that I tend to go on about missing the 'good old days'. I don't really mean to and I don't miss them all that much, but, like most of us, I have a rather selective memory. It all depends what the conversation is based upon, if you must know. For instance, I am glad my children had the chance to go to a much better school than what I did, but on the other hand, I miss being able to walk or ride my push bike to the farm on the outskirts of town with a bow and quiver strapped to my back.

I find it hard to believe I never saw a deer until I was about 18 and now I see them daily grazing along the treeline just opposite the house. When I shot my first rabbit at age 11 with a longbow, such success was unheard of in my home town and that feat almost made front page news in the local gazette. (Not that rabbits were scarce ... it was more a case of bowhunting being almost an endangered species.) I guess I do miss the kind of adventure and excitement



that goes with turning 11 ... my brand new longbow, arrows made from wooden rod obtained cheaply at the local hardware store, Mum worrying about me camped out on the Saturday night in the hills with only my dog as company and Dad being surprised by the fact I always managed to come home the next day intact.

Since that time of my 11th year and my first hunting trip, I have had my share of rabbits and lots of other game adventures in places far more exotic than the rolling hills around home, but few of these adventures were all that more exciting than being 11, all things considered.

The good old days were good to me and yes, I treasure them—as I am sure most people of my generation do—but I don't miss them. In the grand scheme of things, they weren't anything special, just the more or less normal excursions and outings of a rather typical country boy. I do dwell on the high points whenever I have a captive audience, but there are no moments unique to me, only personal places and private times.

To keep a balance, I don't miss the outhouse, weeding veggie patches or doing the dishes. I don't miss trying to sleep in midsummer without air conditioning, or having to go to church on Sundays, or cleaning the chicken coop, or being concerned about catching polio and a few other horrors that are, thankfully, no longer with us.

I do sometimes miss, as much for other little kids as for myself, sweet things like hay stacks, sleigh rides behind a real horse, the smell of freshly baked bread whenever you walked past the local bakery, running traplines for rabbits and most of all having my own hunting patch almost to myself and a very

understanding dog to explore it with me.

But these are small things, meaningful to no one but myself. My daydreams were unambitious and common to like-minded boys. Finding a deer, having my own recurve bow, enjoying a successful day now and then on the trapline, or having my father take pity on me and doing my chores while I went rabbit hunting.

What I do miss most (and at the risk of being called an old crank), is good manners. I was raised to respect others and manners were something we all took for granted. Times have changed and so too have manners it would seem. I guess I ought to use the word 'sportmanship', but I think that a lot of people who ought to know better, and probably do, are confusing politeness with servility, or simply being taken for a ride. I am sorry to see this happening.

Good manners and rabbits, yes sir, that is what I miss the most and the way I see it both are very much on the decline. Without trying to be repetitive—I have discussed the plight of rabbits in many a previous editorial—I am nevertheless concerned; so much so that I am constantly plagued with the thought that in 10 years there may not be a single wild rabbit left to hunt. This saddens me a great deal. I miss the times when rabbits were '10 a penny' and every briar patch sheltered a maze of warrens.

In what has come to be called the 'good old days' when you went hunting with someone, you took turns, trying to give your mate the equal or the best of it and knowing that he would do the same for you.

The term 'taking turns' means a lot to me. I would rather take turns in a tree stand than shoot the same deer you were looking at. I

appreciate your willingness to let me take the close shots because I am shooting barebow while you are using sights. I am perfectly content to be the spotter while you take the shot. I like knowing that should a bunny break cover left of front I have all the time in the world to pick my shot because you won't draw on my side.

Taking turns is a bit more leisurely approach than we seem to favour today. It's being a bit less competitive and says more about why we are out there together in the first place. At least that is how I look at the entire picture. Taking turns is a way of being able to give someone something that is special. For example, a few more minutes to line up the perfect shot, a chance to see why he missed the last shot or shot so well, as is sometimes the case. I wish we would get more competitive about seeing that our partner has a better day rather than concentrating on who has the bigger bag or best trophy.

In the good old days, we seemed to have more time for one another. Maybe we are beginning to believe we don't have that kind of luxury anymore. I once ruined a pretty fair dog prospect by pushing her too hard and expecting too much too soon. I have always been a trifle ashamed of myself for that. Yes I used to hunt with dogs, not as catchers or chasers, but more as flushers. I miss that, but my point is I hope I have never done the same thing to a friend. How easily a little greed or ego can turn us all into petty tyrants.

Maybe the thought of taking turns, or putting somebody ahead of ourselves, is old fashioned. But then again, as the kids of today like to say in a somewhat different context ... if it feels good, do it. Until next time.

What's On

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AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

ABA & 3D WALKABOUT

Hosted by Orange and District Archers
Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 January 2018

Saturday - 3D Round

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

Sunday - ABA Round

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

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

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

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

Facilities include: Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen

Evening meal available Saturday, for those that pre-book meals will be provided.
Availability of meals is not guaranteed for those who do not pre-book.

The ABA No Dogs Policy Applies all Branch Shoots

No smoking on ranges while shoots are in progress

Townsville District Bowhunters Inc. Invitational Shoot 2018



5th, 6th and 7th May 2018

Saturday

9.00am 3D Round for Early Arrivals
12 noon Lunch
1.00pm Nominations
1.30pm Muster and Bow Check
2.00pm 3 Arrow Round
4.30pm Knife and Axe
6.30pm Tea

Sunday

7.00am Breakfast
8.30am Muster
9.00am 1 Arrow Round
10.30am Morning Tea
11.30am 3 Arrow Round
1.00pm Lunch
2.00pm 1 Arrow Round
4.30pm Knife and Axe
6.30pm Tea
7/7.30pm Presentations

Monday

7.00am Breakfast

Fees:

Family - \$50,
Adults - \$25,
Jnr/Cub - \$10,

• NO DOGS unless prior arrangement

- Camping facilities available • Please nominate for catering purposes.
- Meals available all weekend (Friday night meal free of charge for travellers)
- Snacks and Drinks available • All participants MUST supply ABA card

Nominations close: 27th April 2017

Nominations to: Shailee Day: 0417 943 931 • sorby-shailee@hotmail.com
Robin Woodfield: 4778 0140 / 0413 252 015 • robinandleone@optusnet.com.au
Dave Paulsen: 0487 325 155 • longbowdave11@gmail.com

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

IFAA Branch Titles

Hosted by Southwest Slopes Sporting Field Archers

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 February 2018

Saturday - ABA Round

7am - 7:30am Registration and Bow Checks
8:00am Muster
8:30am 28 Target Field
Followed by 14 Target Animal

Sunday - 3D Round

7:30am - 7:45am Registration and Bow Checks
8:00am Muster
8:30am 28 Target Hunter

Note: for IFAA Shoots, a round must be completed in six (6) hours or less

Fees: Single Day Only: \$20.00 Single, \$40.00 Family

Both Days: \$30.00 Single, \$50.00 Family (all fees include GST)

To pre-nominate or further information: Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628
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Facilities Include: Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen

Evening meal available Saturday, for those that pre-book meals, will be provided
Availability of meals is not guaranteed for those who do not pre-book.

The ABA No Dog Policy Applies to all Branch Shoots

No smoking on ranges while shoots are in progress

THE LAST WORD

A bowhunter who was well known to be an absolute technophobe was on a guided hunt and was, as usual, taking his photos with a 35mm film camera (remember them?). Always looking for a bit of fun, he waited until after a photo shoot then gazed at the back of his camera for a few moments and, with an innocent look on his face, turned to the guide. Phobie offered the back of the camera to the guide for a look and asked ingenuously, "I think I have some good pictures here. What do you reckon?" The poor guide looked in vain for the image viewer, first puzzled, then it dawned on him that he'd been had. Technophobe, 1. Guide, still to score.



SHOOT CALENDAR

January-February-March

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
January			
12	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	Friday School Holiday QRE
13-14	Tully Bowhunters	B	ABA
14	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
20-21	Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club *	B	ABA
21	Phoenix Field Archers of Sale *	H	IFAA
21	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
21	Mackay-District Bowmen	B	3D
27	Diamond Valley Archers *	Vic	DVA 1440
27-28	Ipswich Field Archers *	Qld	Gavin Brown Memorial
27-28	Canberra Archery Club *	ACT	AU Day Archery Tournament
28	Eden Field Archers *	SA	Australia Day Field
27-28	Lakeside Bowmen Inc *	D	ABA
27-28	Orange District Archers *	F	ABA/3D
27-28	Brusseton Bowhunters *	J	ABA
28	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B	ABA
28	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B	ABA
28	Far North Queensland	B	ABA
28	Freds Pass Field Archers	A	ABA
28	Katherine Archery Club	A	ABA
28	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A	ABA
February			
3-4	Van Diemen Archers *	Tas	AST Field Championships
3-4	Capricorn Field Archers *	C	ABA
3-4	Northern Tablelands Archers *	E	ABA
4	Tully Bowhunters	B	ABA
4	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
4	Mackay-District Bowmen	B	ABA
4	West Gippsland Field Archers *	G	3D
10-11	Playford District Field Archers *	I	ABA/3D/IFAA
11	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
11	Far North Queensland	B	ABA
17-18	Renegade Bowmen *	D	ABA Branch
17-18	Ballarat *	H	ABA
17-18	Western Plains Archers *	J	3D
17-18	Collinsville Barebow Hunters *	B	ABA
17-18	Southwest Slopes Sporting Field Archers *	F	IFAA Branch Titles
18	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	3D
18	Mackay-District Bowmen	B	3D
24-25	Northern Rivers Field Archers *	NSW	NSW State Titles
24-25	Diamond Valley Archers *	Vic	3DAAA
24-25	Lilydale Bowmen *	H	Traditional
25	Tully Bowhunters	B	ABA

25	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B	ABA
25	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B	ABA
25	Freds Pass Field Archers	A	3D
25	Katherine Archery Club	A	3D
25	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A	3D

March

2-3	Wide Bay Archers *	C	Branch IFAA
3	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	PCA Field QRE
3-4	Pacific Bowmen *	D	Newbies
3-4	Hunter Bowmen *	E	State NSW IFAA
4	Boola Valley Field Archers	H	ABA
4	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
10-11	Renegade Bowmen *	D	Branch IFAA
10-11	Playford District Field Archers *	I	IFAA SA State
10-12	Mount Clay Archers *	H	ABA
11	Far North Queensland	B	ABA
11	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
11	Freds Pass Field Archers	A	ABA
11	Katherine Archery Club	A	ABA
11	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A	ABA
17-18	Twin City Archers *	Vic	3DAAA
17-18	Caboolture and District Bowmen *	Qld	Queensland State Titles
17-18	Lithgow Valley Archers *	F	ABA/3D
17-18	Collinsville Barebow Hunters *	B	ABA
18	Mackay District Bowmen	B	ABA
25	West Melbourne Field Archers	H	3D
25	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B	ABA
25	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B	ABA
25	Far North Queensland	B	ABA
25	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	3D
31-1 Apr	North Albert Field Archers *	Qld	Traditional Two-Day Shoot
30 Mar-8 Apr	Dead Centre Archers (Alice Springs) *	A	National Championships

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




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General Secretary ABA

PO Box 5124

Brendale Qld 4500

Phone (07) 3256 3976

Renewal ☐

New Member ☐

ABA Membership N°:

I, (full name) (M-F)

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

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

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

Email address.....

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

I am a member of (Club)

Signature of Applicant

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

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

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

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

Parent-Guardian Signature ABA Number if Applicable:

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

RENEWALS and/or Advance Memberships for existing members

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

New Members (12-month membership including joining fee)

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

PENSIONER DISCOUNT: Deduct 10% from fees listed.

Quote Pension Benefit Card Number:

All fees include GST

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

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Signature

17/05/2017



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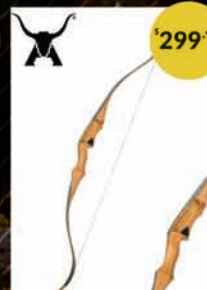
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