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■ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Luke Sampson with a Record Class goat, 124 pt.

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It's interesting to have the chance to take a peek inside other clubs—how they operate, how they promote themselves, plus fun things they do to keep the shooting experience fresh.

If your club does something a bit differently from other clubs or if you have a special shoot every year where you tend to let your imagination run free, why not share it in the magazine? Contact me at the email address below and we can run some photos and a story.

We can all learn from each other. Promoting your club can be as simple as getting a spare *Archery Action* magazine, putting your club's contact details on the cover and leaving it (with permission) in the waiting room of a local dentist's practice or similar. Not everything you do has to cost money. The best publicity has always been word of mouth, so the more you talk about how much fun you have at your club, the more you are likely to attract new members and in doing so, have even more fun. And sometimes it's as simple as encouraging someone to come to a try-out day when there are bows available and a coach on hand to give some assistance in getting them started. Who doesn't like the



Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE		DEADLINE
Vol 44 No. 1	September-October	1 August
Vol 44 No. 2	November-December	1 October
Vol 44 No. 3	January-February	1 December



warm glow you get from a personal invitation?

If you'd like to do some bowhunting but you've never tried, get your Bowhunting Proficiency Certificate under your belt and start chatting to people who already go bush in search of game. It's all about communication. And when you boil it all down, communication simply means talking to each other.

This magazine is about communication, too. As it's a publication that runs stories by archers, for archers, it's another avenue for you to explore and use. If you have a good story to tell about a hunting trip or something that happened on a range during a field archery day, please share it with us all! We all like a bit of vicarious living, otherwise social media wouldn't be so popular!

I know life is busy these days, but please consider sitting down to get your special story written and submitting it to the magazine. It could help others with ideas on running interesting shoots, it could tell people what to do or what *not* to do on a bowhunt ... or it could simply be a good read for someone to enjoy on a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Jenel Hunt Editor



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FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

are welcomed by this magazine and articles should be addressed to: The Editor, Archery Action, at the above address. The Editor accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Colour photographs or high resolution scans are suitable for publication. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your articles to enable notification of acceptance or otherwise and return of article if required. Photographs returned only if stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

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

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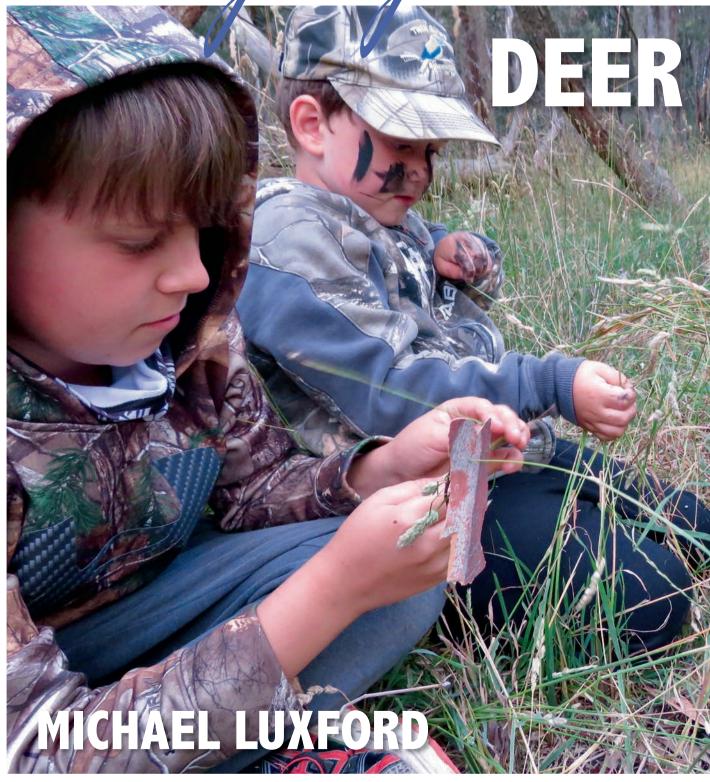
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Were going on a





couldn't help but smile—the kind of smile that takes over your face when you feel that life really is good. The three of us held hands and kicked our way through the dry yellow grass. It was a picture from the kids' book, "We're going on a bear hunt". The grass was swishy swashy swishy swashy.

This was the first time my two boys, Knox (8) and Angus (5), had been with me on a deer hunt. It was hardly going to be serious sambar hunting. I thought as we walked along, "If a deer comes past, it will be the most unfortunate deer in Victoria!" I was really hoping the boys would get to experience getting honked at by a sambar. There really is nothing like it!

We found a spot to sit and wait among some logs just inside the treeline, overlooking a crop. I had made it pretty clear what waiting would be like. I told Knox and Angus we needed to whisper and keep talking to a minimum, explained they would get bored and we would be there about an hour. "Okay," they replied and we settled in. Knox was instantly bored. Angus entertained himself by tying knots in grass and showed off his efforts to his older brother. Knox joined in, and they quietly sat practising their new craft, tongues wiggling in silent concentration.

I glassed the bush and along the clear edge ... mostly I watched the boys. Even though it was the second of January, the high country at Benambra was pretty cold. I slid over to a nearby log to get a different view. "Hey boys. Be really quiet and crawl over here." I knew if I had said, "Hey, I can see a

deer," an excited "WHERE?" would have been the reply. Like experienced stalkers, they snaked over to me. I pulled them in close, "Look out there, can you see it?" I saw Knox's eyes bulge, "YEAH!" Angus saw it a second later. They pulled hard at my binos so they could get a better look. "I can see its antlers," said Knox. It wasn't a sambar, but a fallow spiker. It didn't matter to the boys. They were impressed that we had gone deer hunting and seen a deer. I was pretty impressed too! "Do you think I should try to get him?" I asked. A very excited "Yeah!" was the reply. "We'll wait here," Knox said and they both ducked behind the log like they were in an air raid drill at a school, knees to chest and hands behind their heads, elbows protecting their faces and burying into the ground like echidnas. I couldn't help but laugh. Were the hell did they learn that? "You boys are right, sit on

Timberline Self-Guided Sambar Hunts

Exclusive Bowhunting access to a prime sambar hunting location on private property in the Victorian high country



Contact Russ (0427 501 527) or Steph (0427 669 914) or via email: russell.cornall@gmail.com Also able to arrange affordably priced bowhunts for buffalo. Excellent opportunities on bulls TC to 100DS.





Out with Dad another day.

Going on a hunt can sometimes be a smelly business.



Having a grandfather who hunts is cool!

the log and watch. I'll sneak down the treeline then up through the grass. You should be able to see me most of the way."

So off I went on a most unexpected stalk.

The bush was horribly dry and crunchy. I cut though the trees and skirted deadfall. The spiker greedily fed, looking up back into the bush every now and then before gorging himself again. Between the treeline and the crop paddock fence lay a 40-metre strip of dead man's land. The spiker was over a slight rise. I could see the spiker's back as he fed and had a clear view of his face when he looked up. I belly crawled to the crest, waited for him to look around then feed again.





The unexpected deer—a fallow spiker.

I sat up and ranged him at 50m. I nocked an arrow, settled the pin. The red-lighted nock illuminated its deadly path and vanished behind the deer, reappearing when the young buck flicked and pranced about. He stopped and turned back around to look at the disturbance. "... and fell down?" No, he put his head back into the green crop and kept feeding. Now though, he fed as he moved parallel to the

fence directly away from me. I nocked another arrow, using the tight angle of the fenceposts for cover, moving swiftly when he did, trying to anticipate when he would look around again. It was cat and mouse as I inched closer. I drew when he turned broadside. Another red illuminated nock left no doubt where the arrow connected, this time tight behind the shoulder. His dash didn't make the fence. I walked over

to him and was welcomed by a chorus of six honking sambar just inside the bushline. I called the boys down. They ran down stumbling and tripping, Knox proudly carrying my pack. "Did you see all that?" I asked them.

"Yeah! We saw everything!" Knox was buzzing. "We saw you miss too, Dad!" Angus just had to add.

A big thanks goes to Russell Cornall of Timberline Sambar hunts.



Australian Bowhunters Association

AFFILIATIONS

BOWHUNTING: FIELD ARCHERY:

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WORLD BOWHUNTING ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT

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PROTOCOL

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

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BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows (Acting Senior Vice-President)

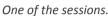


Reaccreditation

On May 19 and 20, the Bowhunting Division conducted four-yearly reaccreditation and training courses for the Branch Bowhunting Education and Measuring Officers. courses cannot be held without commitment from a lot of people. I would sincerely like to thank all the members from each Branch who gave up their time for the weekend and will continue to give of their time over the next four years. The ABA runs on volunteers in this regard and the efforts of these people cannot be overstated.

Thank you also to the presenters who continue to give of their time—Garry Pitt, Ray Morgan, Troy Morris and Ralph







The lecture ...



... and the hands-on experience.

Boden. Special thanks also to Darryl Bulger who supplied many excellent and varied deer heads for the members to measure. As an ADA (Australian Deer Association) measurer, Darryl volunteered his services to help expand on the experience of our own

measuring instructors. It was much appreciated by all in attendance.

The advantage of this event is twofold. Not only do we update our experience, or in some cases learn new processes, we also have the ability to interact with members

new processes, we also have the ability to interact with members

Participants and presenters at the re-accreditation weekend.

from other Branches and form larger networks to enhance what we do. As the Measurers Course is more hands on, the participants have the opportunity to fine-tune their practices and come up with improved functions for measuring. As a result, I am sure we will see some suggestions at this year's Bowhunting Technical Meeting at the AGM.

For me personally, one of the biggest things to come out of this weekend is the glaringly obvious need to completely update and revamp our Bowhunting Proficiency System, both the procedures of doing the BPC and the manual. The basic system is now over 30 years old and it is eight years since the manual was revamped. Advancement in technology has meant

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 4/8pt	2017
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Christie Pisani	87 4/8pt	2017
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 14/16pt	2016
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	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

the old system is getting left behind. Don't get me wrong; the current system has served us exceedingly well and those who introduced it all those years ago are to be congratulated for their vision and forethought. NSW, Victoria and WA Government departments have used the basis of our system many times.

As Vice-President Bowhunting, dealing with antagonists to our sport, I have used the BPC manual and our BPC system to promote the fact that we are self governing and take pride in the fact that we encourage responsible bowhunting at all times. The BPC system is very important to us and must stay, but it can definitely be improved.

Some of the experienced BPC officers came to this reaccreditation with those thoughts in mind, so it was an opportunity to use the weekend to discuss what the future could hold for the whole BPC Program. The new officers had the chance to work with the experienced officers and pick their brains on the best way of doing things and to help with ideas for the future. I think there are definitely some good ideas in the pipeline.

Bowhunting Awards

By now all the Bowhunting Awards should have been well and truly received by those I thought should have obtained them. Congratulations to all who collected awards and thanks also for your continued support of the ABA bowhunting claims system.

This year was the first time I had correlated the Bowhunting Awards myself. In the past I have relied heavily on Eric Creighton and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all that he has done for the ABA over many years. As you should be aware by now, Eric has retired and as of the start of this year we have new staff in the office. None of us was one



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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Awara	I FK/FKOS	Size
Brichnunter	Club	Game	Awarc	I FK/FKUS	Size
B Graham Weinert	FNQ Bowmen	Fox	TC	FKOS	9 7/16
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 8/16
C Scott Hannah	Capricorn Field Archers	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	RC		117 3/8
C Mitchell Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	RC		121 6/8
C Nick Moloney	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	RC		126 1/8
C Sam Moloney	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		100 1/8
C Paul Withers	Moranbah Bowhunters & FA	Chital	RC		172 6/8
C Rebecca Darby	Saxon Archery Club	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
D Alan Robertson	Grange Bowmen	Fallow	RC		220 2/8
D Drew Edwards	Grange Bowmen	Fox	TC	FKOS	10 4/16
D Drew Edwards	Grange Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 15/16
D Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Fallow	TC		189 5/8
D Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Fallow	RC		209 6/8
D Thomas Hooker	Independent	Red	RC	FK/FKOS	205
D Troy Ward	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
D Troy Ward	Lakeside Bowmen	Fallow	GA	FKOS	0
D Darryl Bulger	Pacific Bowmen	Fallow	RC		212 7/8
D Bevan Blacklock	Renegade Bowmen	Fallow	RC	FKOS	191 4/8
D Bevan Blacklock	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	RC		115 1/8
D Damien Norris	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	TC	FK/FKOS	107
D Peter Robinson	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	TC		100 6/8
D Wade Bygrave	Renegade Bowmen	Fallow	RC	FKOS	203 7/8
E Gary Lander	Central Coast Moonterra	Scaled Fish	i GA	FKOS	0
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Cat	TC		7

hundred percent confident with all the details but I am pretty sure we got most things right (I am aware of a couple of dramas, but we are fixing them, sorry Graeme and Rohan). If you think you should have got something you didn't then please contact me and I will endeavour to have the problem rectified.

Our new office manager Kerry is doing an excellent job and is right on top of everything; she has already introduced a couple of procedures that should alleviate last-minute problems at the end of the year. All Branch Field Reps will receive a three-monthly report on game claims for that period. A doublecheck can then be made on claims that have been forwarded. BPC officers will also get a similar report.

TBA Bowhunter of the Year

In my opinion this is the most prestigious award that Trophy Bowhunters Australia can give out. Not enough recognition is given to the winner of this award. The bowhunter who wins this award must be highly committed to the cause for the whole year. The criteria are huge. Firstly the hunter must achieve Master Bowhunter Status—an achievement in itself—then have as many different species as possible at Trophy Class level or better. Marc Curtis was the winner last year with seven species at TC level or better. This has been the standard every year since the awards inception. Congratulations again to Marc ... and all who have won it in previous years.

Ε	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	RC		10 10/16
E	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 12/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 15/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 6/16
	Graeme Duff Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox Fox	TC TC		9 15/16 9 4/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 12/16
	Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 12/16
	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 12/16
	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 3/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 11/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 9/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
Ε	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 5/16
	Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 12/16
F	Dan Podubinski	Independent	Camel	TC	FKOS	28 11/16
	Dan Podubinski	Independent	Camel	RC		30 1/16
	Dan Podubinski	Independent	Camel	TC		31 8/16
	Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Goat	RC		110 2/8
	Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Goat	RC		112 2/8
	Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Goat	RC		111 5/8
	Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Goat	TC		105 4/8
	Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Goat	RC		124
	Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Goat Goat	TC TC		107 1/8 99 2/8
	Luke Sampson Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Pig	TC		26 4/8
	Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Cat	RC		7 12/16
	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC		9 9/16
	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		RC		10 3/16
	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC		9 4/16
	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC		9 5/16
	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC		9 15/16
G	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC		9 12/16
G	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		RC		10 3/16
G	Dylan Taylor	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Sambar	GA	FKOS	0
Н	Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland Field Archers	Fallow	GA	FKOS	0
Н	Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland Field Archers	Sambar	GA	FKOS	0
J	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Cat	TC		7
J	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		10
J	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 5/16
J	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 5/16
	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 15/16
	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 15/16
	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 15/16
	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	RC		10 2/16
	Quineka Parker	Peel Archers	Scaled Fish		FKOS	0
J	Brett Thomas	WA field & Bowhunters	Cat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
J	Brett Thomas	WA field & Bowhunters	Goat	GA	FKOS	0 4/16
J	Brett Thomas Angus Officer	WA field & Bowhunters Western Plains Archers	Fox Fallow	TC GA	FKOS FKOS	9 4/16
	Angus Officer	Western Plains Archers	Goat	GA	FKOS	0
	Cheryl Morris	Western Plains Archers	Hog Deer	TC	FKOS	60 5/8
J	Doug Bourman	Western Plains Archers	Stingray	TC	. 1.05	7 3/8
J	Doug Bourman	Western Plains Archers	Stingray	TC		7 4/8
	5		0 -1			, -





vour storv 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.

Send your entries to

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

All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition





J	Doug Bourman	Western Plains Archers	Stingray	TC		6 2/8
J	Joshua Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Cat	RC	FKOS	7 13/16
J	Joshua Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		10 1/16
J	Joshua Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
J	Joshua Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 9/16
J	Joshua Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
J	Joshua Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Cat	TC		7
J	Joshua Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 6/16
J	Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 6/16
J	Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	RC		10 7/16
J	Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 12/16
J	Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Shark	TC		16
J	Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Stingray	TC		6 2/8
J	Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Stingray	TC		6



Introducing **NEW TBA MEMBER** Jennifer Vanderburg

Where do you live?

I live near Richmond NSW in a small country town called Glossodia. There were a number of deer farms located throughout the Hawkesbury area, but most of the deer farms no longer exist. There is the occasional sighting of deer in the local area.

What club do you belong to and how long have you been a member of your club and the ABA?

I have been a member of the ABA for approximately four years. I live between two archery club so I became a member of both clubs—Campbelltown Field Archers and Lithgow Valley Archers.

Do you hold any positions in the club?

I do the membership/joining fee for new and old members for Campbelltown Field Archers.

What is your choice of equipment (compound, traditional etc)?

After starting with the Bear Finness 40lb I quickly upgraded to the Xpedition range after talking to Adam at Ten Zone Archery. I hunt with the Xpedition Xcursion and for Target I shoot Xpedtion Xcentric; both in 6-inch brace height 58lb.

How often do you go hunting and what is your preferred game to hunt?

After two years of field archery, my husband and I decided to give hunting a go. We jumped straight into the deep end and did a fallow deer hunt. I was successful in harvesting my first fallow doe and have been hooked ever since. I try to hunt at least once a month, we normally target goats and pigs but prefer to hunt fallow during the rut.

Do you have any bowhunting goals that you would like to achieve?

I am keen to add to my deer species and have lined up a chital hunt next February. My dream is to be able to hunt hog deer as I find them intriguing and will be entering the Hog Deer Ballot this year.

Did you know much about TBA before this?

Only from the Archery Action magazine.

The TBA Committee congratulates you on your achievement, Jennifer.



Bowhunting achievements to May 31, 2018

Master Bowhunter

Tyler Atkinson 420
Graeme Duff 400
Helen Duff 390

Trophy Bowhunter Award

Luke Sampson 280 David Luxford 210

Bowhunter Award

Luke Hebb 190 Elissa Rosemond 120

Bowhunter Royale

Elissa Rosemond Dan Podubinski

Bowhunter Imperial

Joshua Balsley Bevan Blacklock Luke Hebb Luke Sampson Paul Withers

Bowhunter Supreme

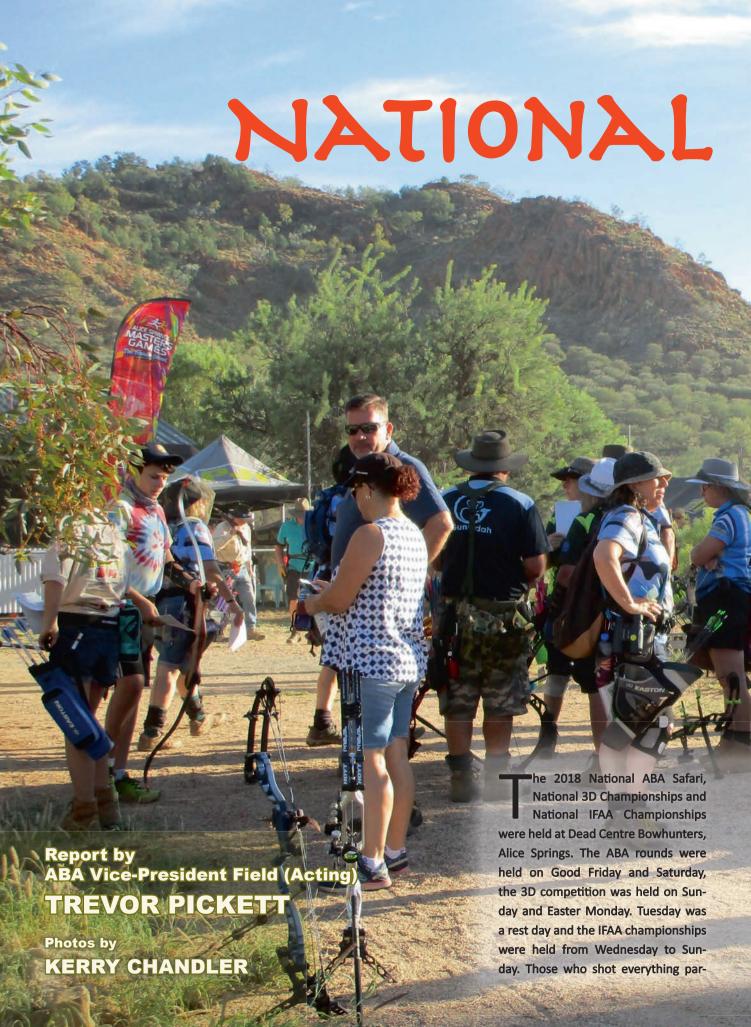
Nil further since last report

Senior Member of TBA

Dan Podubinski

Members Admitted to TBA Club (membership granted after taking first Trophy Class or better animal)

Mitchell Brewer
Drew Edwards
Thomas Hooker
Samuel Moloney
Damien Norris
Brett Thomas



SAFARI

DEAD CENTRE BOWHUNTERS ALICE SPRINGS

2018



ticipated in nine days of competition, a marathon effort shooting in 35-degree heat, continuously battling the ever present flies.

Despite the conditions, good scores were shot for all events, records were broken and the level of competition was high, just as we have come to expect at a national championship.

In the ABA Championships John Hester took out the Men's Bowhunter

Unlimited Australian Champion patch by two points. Dion Woodborne was a very close second. Gerard Miles won Men's Freestyle Unlimited shooting a perfect 400 in the second three-arrow round. Brett Raymond won Men's Bowhunter Compound, with Alvyn Bell second and Brian Taylor third.

At the presentations the winners of the Youth Writing Competition were announced and some were

present to hear their names called.

Congratulations to all those winners.

The 3D championships were as hotly contested as the ABA championships. The Men's Bowhunter Unlimited A Grade division was won by Damien Ormiston with John McKay second and Mark Burrows third. John shot the first perfect one-arrow 3D round (400 score) under the new 3D format rules. This is an excellent



effort. Jock Thompson won the Men's Freestyle Unlimited division from Brad Stephan and Mitchell King. In the Men's Bowhunter A Grade division Brett Raymond again came first, with Alvyn Bell second and Peter Judge third. During the 3D presentations, the winner of the trip to the Norfolk Island 3D competition was drawn. Congratulations to Hugo Lobb who I know will enjoy the trip.

The National IFAA championships were a gruelling five days of shooting and a particular mention should be made of the group of cub girls who shot excellent scores and demonstrated repeatedly that archery is fun. I should also mention the volunteer minders who looked after the girls: Sally-Ann, Donna, Leanne and Cheryl-Anne all did an excellent job.

Donna Ormiston took out the Ladies Bowhunter Unlimited division, Joanne Bogie won the Ladies' Bowhunter Limited division (breaking several of her own Australian records) and Rebecca Darby won the Ladies' Freestyle Unlimited division. In the Men's Bowhunter Compound division, Alvyn Bell took first place with Brett Raymond second and Peter Judge third.

Branch teams were submitted for all three championships and teams from seven of the 10 Branches competed. The Branch D adult team had a resounding victory, clean-sweeping all three events. Northern New South Wales Branch defeated Central Queensland Branch in the Junior ABA Teams competition.

The Axe and Knife competition was also fairly well contested. (Results were listed in the previous issue of *Archery Action*.)

An event like this is a combined effort and I need to thank some people. I'd like to thank Ian, Wally, Shirley, Ross and the rest of the Dead Centre Bowhunters club members for all of their efforts. The club's bacon-and-egg

rolls and coffee were a very important part of my day. The club only has a small core group of workers and they did a great job. I'd like to acknowledge Tanya from Subway Mt Gillen who provided lunches every day of competition even though some days she was lucky to break even. I'd like to thank the National Executive for all their help leading up to and during the event. They made my job as Shoot Director so much easier. The National Executive has gone through some changes this year, many of us are new to our roles, yet I think we bonded as a group and were able to confidently resolve the problems we encountered. Finally I'd like to thank all of the archers and their families who travelled to Alice Springs to make 2018 a successful Safari. I think we had competitors from every Branch in Australia; an outstanding effort.

I'd like to leave you with one final thought. Any archery shoot where people have to travel great distances to





compete will always generate stories that will be told around campfires for vears to come. This National Safari was no different. The drama with the hire truck, Jason's encounter with a cow, Ryan's Blowtech, Sally's termite mound, Ruth and Thor's toilet cleaning prowess and John's fly-ingesting top score all immediately spring to mind, but my favourite story from this shoot will always be the following one:

Early in the competition a young man and his uncle drove up to the archery club. They came and spoke to me and told me that the young man was in the final stages of pancreatic cancer and that he was travelling the country trying to complete a bucket list of things he had always wanted to do. Archery was on the list and he had come to the club to find out if he could have a go. I told him that our national competition was currently under way but if he wanted to come back that afternoon we could arrange something. I spoke to Tom, our National Director of Coaching about supervising the session. He said that unfortunately he had to go into town to sort out the issues with the hire truck, he'd try to get back in time, and suggested I talk to Lindsay Yuile (Branch B coach) to see if he could assist. Lindsay readily agreed and Dead Centre Bowhunters gave us access to their club bows and arrows. When the

man and his uncle returned, Lindsay helped him select a recurve and some arrows and we wandered down to the practice butts. Over the next hour or so I watched Lindsay transform this young man from a complete novice who struggled and shook just pulling back a recurve to a confident archer who could draw, anchor, release and hit a target. I'll never forget the smile on the young man's face while he was concentrating on shooting a bow and forgetting about his illness. After he'd finished shooting he thanked Lindsay

and me for letting him try archery even though our national competition was going on. We told him that he was very welcome and presented him and his uncle with an ABA cap each to remember us by. We wished him well and he and his uncle drove off to their next adventure. It was just by chance that they happened to come to Dead Centre Bowhunters when the Safari was on, but I know that if they had arrived at any other ABA club in Australia, they wouldn't have been turned away.



The Last Word at JAFAR

Isn't this a gorgeous photo? It was taken by one of the participants of the National Safari at Alice Springs. It did, however, come at a cost. On a sightseeing tour to Kings Canyon, a cow was sadly in the wrong place at the wrong time. The travellers were pretty much in the middle of nowhere and the 4WD, which was the apple of hubby's eye, did not fare well from the chance meeting. The insurance company came good with a Hyundai i30 to get them to Alice Springs and the National Safari so they valiantly stuffed the contents of the 4WD into it. The front seat passenger had a battery for a footrest, but all the same knees by the ears seemed better than having to walk! And because the accident happened so far away from a main centre it was virtually impossible, and much too expensive, to bring the vehicle home to be fixed. And while this little story doesn't have the usual humour attached, it came to me that in this instance the cow had the last word. Or maybe it was the husband. And maybe it was a word I shouldn't repeat here.

ant's perspective

ow can one describe such an awesome experience in a short story?

The excitement started from the very beginning when the decision was made to attend the Safari. Having heard from former participants that it was a 'have-to, must-do' at least once, my curiosity was tickled even more. With the pre-nominations sent and paid for it was onward and upward with flight bookings, accommodation and transport to organise. After using a travel guide to get tickets sorted, accommodation was helped along by friends Cherylanne and Josh and we booked into a backpacker hostel. Cherylanne booked the transport so everything was ready for the trip. Next to sort was the work environment. This was all done months in advance so it was a long wait.

When it came time to check about luggage, I found that the baggage weight criteria to be an issue. As it was going to be my first time attending a competition so far away, my mind boggled over what to take, what would fit, and if I really needed it. Plus, my head was spinning from so much advice from different directions.

But at last I got my priorities right and realised my bow's hard case wouldn't fit all I wanted to take so another case was required. I was lucky to find a second-hand Fivics case (I would have paid full price for a new one because of the remarkable space and safety for the main centrepiece, the bow). It was so well set out that all the accessories and even some clothes fitted as well: an awesome case. I also

ALICE

had a carry-on for more clothes and toiletries.

Doing my last check, I realised I'd been booked for Uluru! So I had to re-book another flight one week before the Safari. Having sorted everything, I was up early for the train trip to the airport, which was interesting as it had been quite a few years since I'd been on public transport. At the airport, it took three tries to get through the security check (damned metal!) but it ended up being okay. While waiting, I saw a few shady characters lingering around the flight deck. I could tell they were outward bound for Alice as well.

Landing in Alice was quite a surprise, as I had never ventured there. It was eerily quaint, and yes, those shady characters appeared there as well!

I waited for my companions for guite some time till I found out they had been misled and had landed at Uluru! So I grabbed the hire car and dashed over to pick them up, which was a experience in itself. I arrived at Uluru along with the sunset ... then we started the dash back. Watching out for the wildlife was tricky. Trickier still was missing the last petrol station by 20 minutes, so we didn't arrive at the backpacker hostel until the next day. (And what a place it was—the people were so inviting and the place exuded a quaint atmosphere. I wouldn't hesitate to return at any time; it was just what the doctor ordered.)

We headed for Dead Centre



3D targets ... time to get busy.

Bowhunters to familiarise ourselves with the venue and the plan for the events. There was time for a quick catch-up with friends and to throw some arrows before going back to the hostel for a needed rest.

We were up early the next day to go back to the venue for a last-minute practice. The long awaited 3D targets had arrived, and with many putting up their hands to help, all was sorted and the venue was ready.

With anxiety racing before the event start, we arrived well in advance for a little practice and to catch up with other entrants as we waited for muster. The hooter sounded and muster was called as some 180 to 200 archers came together while Trevor laid down some laws and advice. Group introductions were great as a long-time friend Robin Huckett was there and new friends in Scott Hannah and Kenneth Henderson from the north. We went off to the rangeand what a range it was; challenging both mentally and physically. It was awesome to shoot!

The next day proved great as well. The four stooges had a great time until Scott had to leave on a family matter. We all missed his lively banter and hope we will catch up with him at a future shoot. At the end of the first two days of shooting the ABA round, I was surprised to be the podium position taker with Damien Ormiston second and Dion Woodborne third ... yay team! As ABA National Champion for 2018, I was over the moon. After that, Branch E came in second in the teams event so by day's end there was a gold, silver and national champion to celebrate! My companion Josh also became the national champion in his grade as well as getting gold in the Branch E team (juniors).

I was excited the next day to get going on the 3D round. This time I was with Mark B, Darren and a junior. I had a nightmare round. My shots were off



A special moment ... on the podium for Men's Bowhunter Unlimited A Grade.

and I was fading fast. The following day was equally dismal. By day's end I had dropped out of any contention. A bow inspection followed and I had a realisation of the worst kind as one string had broken a few strands. Panic set in. I was in the middle of nowhere with a broken string!

This is where you have to have the utmost respect for this sport: So many people came to help. Randall J. Wellings, thank you so much for your contribution of string material, support, kindness, and I still owe you a drink and I won't forget!, Damien Ormiston for serving and just being a great friend and competitor, Jock Thompson for hands on and another great friend, Gerard Miles again advice and a great friend, Ross from Dead Centre Bowhunters for opening the workshop and allowing us to use the equipment required for making a string on the go. There are so many others who were there for a needy shooter—thank you all from the bottom of my heart ... if it wasn't for you all I'd be sitting in the clubhouse having fun with an awesome girl putting up with all of my cheekiness, (thank you too,



Broken but not defeated. Other archers came to the rescue of the broken string.

girls). There are so many more people who made the whole experience into a positive one and my apologies if I've not mentioned you, but the feelings are the same for all! This is why I like this sport and the people who make all worthwhile. String made and fitted, tuning done, I was off to sight it in. With eight arrows in the five at 40m at the practice butts, I was stoked and ready for the IFAA.

A new day, a new muster, a new group: Damien Ormiston. Woodborne and Stuart Everett went with me off to the target for the first day, which was not as good as I had expected due to misjudging some targets so by day's end it was only a respectable score.

Looking at the cam, I realised it had turned while the string had stretched during the day so it was back for more tune-ups.

Another day, another round, and off we trotted to enjoy what this awesome venue had been providing us for a few days.

As the day progressed, the aim was out again and by the day's end again the cam had turned and another tune and re-sight was required.

My third day was disastrous on the field. I dropped way too many points and got frustrated as well which didn't help and by day's end hadn't even cracked the 500. The cam had again slightly turned so another tune and this time I re-set the pins on the sight as a last resort.



Repair job.

Next morning I was part of a new group with Robin Huckett, Peter Fiebig, Johnathon McKay ... as always, a great bunch of guys to shoot with. Now tuned and sighted I was off to a reasonable start so it was time to put head down and tail up. These guys were so awesome to me. We all had a great shoot even though it was kind of funny having big Johnathon behind me breathing like he was about to rip me apart (I'm a short arse, as you know). By day's end I'd had a blitzer with a 520 for a great comeback which now had put me back to third after dropping down to fifth.

Then it was down to the animal round and I was back with Damien, Dion and Stuart for the last round with one point each separating second, third and fourth, with Damien off in front. What a day! We all shot great and were neck and neck for most of the day. Stuart had a fletch go, which rocked his rhythm and by day's end Dion tromped with a clean round. Now it was over and we were just waiting for the last results.

It was exciting to be back on the podium in third place, with Dion second and Damien taking honours.

What can I say about the whole experience? I'm just about lost for words about the many people who iust made everyone welcome with clean banter and fun to all that made this a great time, not forgetting Tommy and Fish on the practice range.

As I leave Dead Centre Bowhunters with a gold, silver and bronze—with Josh going home with five golds himself-the memories will be everlasting.

Would I come back again? Yes, in a heartbeat ... and maybe for a little longer next time to enjoy this great country. In the meantime, this experience has taught me so much and opened my horizons for more adventures within this amazing sport. With great competitors and awesome environments, why wouldn't you want more?

Once again, thanks to those who made this a lasting memory!



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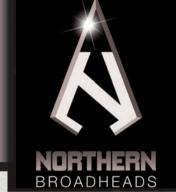
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Wild Boar - August to October from \$4000 (10 days).

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Email your game photos (minimum 1MB in size) to editor@ archeryactionmagazine.com (Subject: Northern Comp) to be in the running to receive one of two six-packs of ...



This issue's WINNER



Jodie Franklin.

Dave Teitzel, TC goat 106 4/8pt.



Darryl Bulger, RC fallow deer 212 7/8pt.



Dylan Taylor, goat.



Quineka Parker, stingray.



Scott Meadows, TC pig 27 4/8pt.



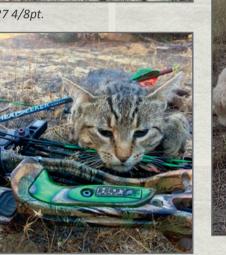
Gary Lander, RC goat 112 2/8pt.



Dave Pender, TC pig 27 2/8pt.



Luke Hebb, TC cat, 7pt.



Bevan Blacklock, RC goat RC 115 1/8pt.





This issue's winner— Mitchell Brewer.



rad shooting is one of the fastest growing aspects of our great sport of archery, and traddedicated TAA clubs are springing up all over Australia. I urge all trad shooters to get behind our association, Traditional Archery Australia, the voice of trad shooting in Australia which at present has nearly 1000 members

and is growing steadily all the time, due in large part to the dedicated and persistent efforts of Keith Speight and his willing and able committee. TAA is made up of enthusiastic archers who prefer shooting unencumbered bows, recurves, longbows, and horse bows using simple but often elegantly crafted and sometimes beautifully decorated

*words*Dale Marsh

pholos Heather Pender wooden arrows. This is the way we want to keep it—true to the origins of traditional archery, using simple bows without sights or any kind of aiming device and wood arrows, exclusively for the satisfaction of shooting at a mark at any distance within bowshot and the joy of seeing your arrow fly cleanly to that mark, unassisted by anything extraneous. Nothing beats the experience of relying solely on your skill.

There is also the good wholesome fun of shooting novelty targets. It's a great feeling to sink five arrows into the ten-zone of a big black rubber pig that is running lickety split along a wire amongst the trees or to nail every one of the five discs rolling along the ground or to shoot through the narrow slit in a corrugated iron 'hen house' and hit the fox inside without getting your arrow stuck in the iron or again, to hit the kill zone of a floating crocodile as it is being towed along to the far bank. Of course there are always trees and grass blocking your view of the target, but that is part of the fun—and it's closer to real hunting conditions anyway.

It was with great excitement that Lorraine and I anticipated the 8th annual event of the Barambah Trad Bash. The Barambah trad shoot is very special to me—I celebrated my 70th birthday at the first one back in 2010. This time I would be celebrating my 78th! We arrived on Friday and already there were a number of campsites and caravans establishing their presence



The camping area.

in the camping area. The Barambah club is very special; the club members are all friendly country people who never fail to give you a warm country welcome. And it's always nice to meet up with old friends around a lazy campfire. The club was started in 1985 and the president is an affable young man by name of Len Davis. The range captain is the very able Joe Ansell who set a mean course. (I'm referring to the fact that it was interesting and loads of fun but challenging as well.)

Saturday came around, and by

8:30am we were on the practice range warming up the bows and trying to get the brain working. We were extremely lucky to be able to shoot with all round nice guy Mark Goener and the quiet and likeable Con Hendricks, two of the finest people I have ever met.

We were warmly and respectfully welcomed to the shoot at muster by President Len Davis and given instructions for the day. It's so much nicer when the person conducting muster speaks to the mob in a reasonable and friendly way instead



Barry Clarke shoots at a pig in a hollow.





You're never too young to get a taste for trad shooting.

of addressing the crowd as if they were a group of morons or naughty children as has sometimes happened at shoots I've been at. One of the things I personally like about trad shoots is that you can choose who you want to shoot with and you can select the events you want to do in the order of your preference. We agreed to do the 'nostalgic' range first, having no idea what a nostalgic round would turn out to be. When we got to target one we found, set up on the bales, the old-fashioned black-and-white ABA targets we all used to shoot years ago before the coloured vinyl ones came in. This was a dream round as all the targets were relatively close so we all got good scores.

On the way round we encountered one of the running pigs that had been set up, so we did that just to get it out of the way. Personally I enjoy shooting the running pig, ever since I learned how to do it. The secret is to follow the pig down the wire right from the start just leading it, (by how much depends on how fast it is going and how far away it is) and wait until it is opposite you, then release and follow through tracking the direction of the target ... piece of cake!

As we moved on through the course we came to the rolling discs. Of course you shoot them the same way you do the running pig, only you have to remember that now you are shooting downhill.

In the spirit of the trad shoot, I

bought along my home-made split bamboo longbow, and good old boy Mark Goener shot his one-piece osage orange self bow made for him by bowyer Jim Mason, and by the way he shoots it very well indeed. He's an instinctive shooter, bending his knees as he shoots something like G. Fred Asbell. Con, meanwhile, continued his love affair with his brand new Bodnic longbow, knocking up impressive scores. Lorraine of course continued to put us all in the shade.

All of this activity was followed by some lacklustre hit-and-miss shots at a tall popinjay. Then there was a speedround that flashed by in a brief 30 seconds and a hunt that took all of 60 seconds. It is said by those who know





Right: Doug Eagles attempts to wrest control while riding the war pig.

that time is relative. It sure is when you are trying to fumble arrows onto a bowstring and shoot as accurately as you can before time runs out. Believe me, life too becomes a speed-round after you turn 78!

After lunch we worked up the courage to have a bash at the dreaded war pig, a swaying contraption with a fearsome snout and tusks and a saddle. While mounted on this loathsome beast you shoot six or so 3D animals arrayed in front from left to right. The ones on the left are easy enough but when you get to the ones on the right you need to be a contortionist and have a very short bow; a horse bow would be just right. My 70-inch bamboo longbow was just out of place.

After the war pig, the second running pig was a pushover. As the light began to fade and the ranges became all hazy with sweet-smelling campfire smoke, it was time for dinner and a well deserved rest. Tomorrow would be another day.

Day two dawned into a cloudcovered sky and we started early to get onto the second range. Things

were serious now. This was the event that would make or break us ... only the atmosphere and the affable conversation was so relaxed that it was hard to be serious about anything. After all, we were at Barambah far away from the world of care and strife like road rage and news stories of school shootings and terror attacks. Shoot we did and we did our very best too. We had brilliantly accurate hits, disastrous uncoordinated misses and spent some time looking for lost arrows but overall we did a fair day's work on the range and made a reasonably good job of it. Not enough to win anything, but then we didn't come for that, although Lorraine managed to get a gong.

After the interminable raffle and the award presentations, we reluctantly said a fond farewell to as many of our friends as we could find in the general mêlée that followed, and hit the road for home.

We will be back later in the year to shoot at the Bill Baker Memorial Trad Shoot. It was a real hoot last year, I can't wait! Thanks to all the crew at Barambah, and the friends who turned up for a really great trad bash.



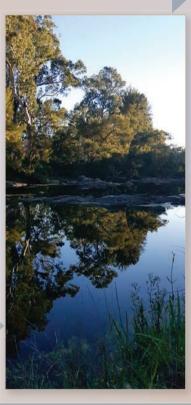


Entries PHOTO COMPETITION

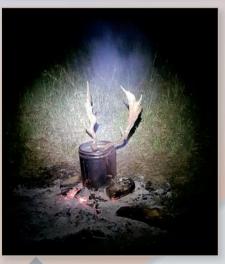


Just before dusk, Peter Jilg.

Ducks and deer, Graham McComiskie.







In the spotlight, Bevan Blacklock.







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Second Annual Traditional Archery Australia National Muster

Australian Championships

Held at Tenterfield Traditional Archers 6th & 7th October 2018

Camping is available at the showgrounds which is situated a short distance from the club's grounds at a cost of \$12 a night, please book a site through Heather when nominating.

There will be a free sausage sizzle Friday night at the showgrounds. Tenterfield Club will provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday at the club grounds with Saturday night dinner at the showgrounds. To help with catering please indicate when nominating.

COMPETITION EVENTS

20 Target 3 arrow Field Round

Speed Round Rolling Disks

20 Target single arrow Field Round

The Hunt Running Deer

NOVELTY EVENTS

Axe and Knife Throwing, Hog hollow and other Novelties.

Nominations close two weeks prior to the shoot. Late entries will only be accepted if space is available. A late fee of ten dollars on top of the entry fee will be charged.

Nomination and camp site booking forms available on our web site

Nominations and Camp Site bookings to: Membership Officer: Heather Pender hndpender@bigpond.com or mail to: PO BOX 927, Morayfield, Qld. 4506

Entry is available to all Traditional Archers and the shoot will be conducted according to TAA equipment and shoot guidelines. Copies are available on the website.

Cost: Family: \$95 Two adults and children under 18yo. Adult - \$45. Junior - \$30. Cub if Parent/Guardian competing - FREE. If no P/G competing \$30.

Divisions: Male, Female, Junior and Cub.

We have 5 Bow Divisions as per TAA Equipment Guidelines:

- 1. Longbow Division. (other Associations call Traditional Longbow).
- 2. Recurve Division. (as recurve/ trad peg in ABA).
- 3. Hybrid Division. (as modern longbow/ trad peg in ABA, deflex/reflex, short flat bows and bows that do not comply with our Longbow or Recurve Guidelines).
- 4 Historical Division. (self bows, bamboo backed bows and ELB's).
- 5. Asiatic Bows Division. (all Asian style bows including horse bows).

Definition of wood for arrow: Wood or Bamboo.

Arrow Craftmanship Awards will be run at the muster.

So bring along your matching set of wood arrows. Criteria is on our website.

Those using Carbon or Aluminium arrows are welcome to join in with the fun and fellowship however only those using wood arrows will be included in the competition.

For more information visit our website www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org

Mission HOG DEER STAG



Cheryl Morris with her hog deer.

ith the 2016 and 2017 hog deer seasons embedded deep in our memories, we were back in East Victoria ready for the opening morning of the 2018 hog deer season. After our past experiences, I decided to put Cheryl through a lot of testing and changes with her bow and arrow combination (bow limb upgrade, arrow and broadhead testing to achieve maximum speed and energy from a 23in draw length bow) and as a result I was extremely happy with Cheryl's shooting leading into this trip.

Hog deer season opening this year could not have been at a worse time, with a full moon on April 1, the Easter long weekend, duck season once again and every man and his dog in the bush. The upside was that the number of deer sighted on the property leading into the start of the season was good ... but from experience this counts for nothing as things always change and hog deer don't like change, especially when it involves human scent.

Day one proved to be a heartbreaker with Cheryl and me not seeing a deer for the day ... which deflated our enthusiasm and dampened our spirits somewhat.

The next morning we were in a different stand. We were dropped off well before sunrise and even before we had a chance to settle in the stand we had deer moving past and feeding around us. Unfortunately it was still too dark to shoot.

Through the binos we had five does and a spikey moving around the stand. Then I spotted a decent stag coming in, but it was only 5.50am and still too dark for a shot. The stag was a nice 12-inch stag and he was in full rut. As he came through, he scattered the does and spikey back into the bush. The stag wasn't interested in hanging around as he looked like he had other things on his mind and moved on as quickly as he had arrived.

By now, sunlight was breaking though the canopy of the treetops and we were in shooting light. Ten minutes later, a hind appeared from the bush lining followed by a stag and moved slowly in front of the stand. A quick look through binos revealed a nice six-point stag. I turned to Cheryl and whispered that he was a shooter. The stag moved in close to the stand and moved slowly past broadside. Cheryl had already drawn the bow and was locked in waiting for the spot. I was just lifting my binos back on the stag when she fired; the stag spun and disappeared into the bush lining. To me, the shot had sounded good and we thought we heard the stag go down but neither of us saw the arrow impact.

A wave of emotion hit Cheryl and she fell to bits on me. I tried to calm her down as the sound of arrow impact had been a good chest noise, but she wasn't having any of it. I contacted our trusted guide, Mick, to tell him what had happened and that we were staying in the stand for half an hour before looking at the area of the arrow impact.

The 30-minute wait felt like hours then we finally climbed down from the stand. Cheryl was not convinced about the shot placement and was now

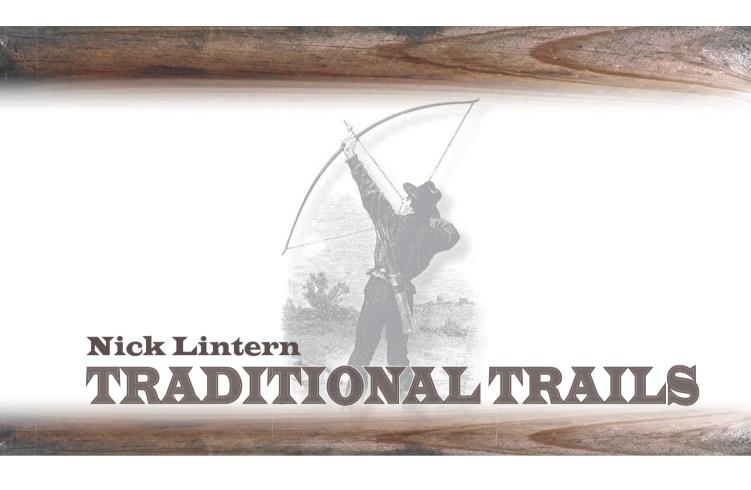
feeling sick. As soon as I got to where the stag had been standing I could see good blood spray on the ground and 5m behind that was Cheryl's arrow, soaked in blood. I turned to her and gave her a cuddle and said nothing, but to me he was dead on his feet and we just had to find him. We found where he had entered the bush but there were minimal blood drops, which is usual with hog deer. We crawled through the dogwood bush following small drops of blood about 2m apart. We had gone 20m in the bush when I heard Mick driving in, so I told Cheryl to stay tracking the stag while I went and got Mick. I was just telling Mick I that believed the stag was down when we heard a cooee. Cheryl had found her stag 50m into the bush and he had died in full stride. Emotion swept over us all with a few tears shed between us, for three years and lot of hard work had finally paid off.

I have done and experienced many different things in my bowhunting time, but this experience was my proudest and will be most cherished.

Cheryl, congratulations on a great effort, persistence and shot placement. To Mick, many thanks for another great hunt, excellent hospitality and your positive hunting views and knowledge of these magnificent animals.



Nearly three years and a lot of hard work in the making: Husband Troy, left, and guide Mick, right, help Cheryl celebrate her first hog deer.



Bow string

PART 2

Hello to all our readers and welcome to our next instalment of Traditional Trails. Over the past few years we have seen a steady increase in traditional archery through all spheres of archery but of late the rate of people taking up the traditional bow has been going gangbusters.

I hear many reasons for this major resurgence but one of the main comments I hear is that archers who've been on the compound merrygo-round are getting bored with it.

There really isn't anywhere much else for the compound manufacturers to go now. They can't get the bows any shorter, they can't drag any more speed out of them, so it's a stalemate situation. Most converting archers are realising that there's a lot more joy in having a virtually indestructible bow in their hands, that with practice is very accurate and the week-to-week challenges of a good traditional bow is a very fulfilling and enjoyable thing to do. It's really very simple: The more

doodads and do-hickeys your bow has on it, the less there is for you to master as an archer. But here's the trade-off your gear becomes mega-unreliable and far less flexible in its use. Many archers have come full circle and are on board now with the straight-up fact that gadgets and shortcuts absolutely cannot replace hard work and conditioned skill.

Okay, off my soap box now and onto this the topic at hand: Making strings.

The last time we started looking at the making of a Flemish splice bow string with a basic introduction. Now we will start on the actual making of the string. We will start with a basic two-splice string as it is much easier and we can use two colours to make it easier still and later on we can go into the three splice string. The threebundle string is a superior string in terms of neatness and strength. With that said, the two-bundle is still more than strong enough and is still very superior to an endless loop. I always make three-bundle strings for my bows and for anyone ordering a string from me, unless they are looking for a twotone string, in which case I go for the two-bundle as it looks better balanced in colours. But the two-bundle is a lot easier to learn so let's start there.

Two-bundle string jigs

The first thing we will look at here is a simple string jig. You can do this job entirely by hand if you wish but this simple, cheap set-up will save you time and is definitely worthwhile if you intend on making a few strings. The jig we are making suits a two-bundle string. We will make another one when we go into three-bundle strings. The difference is the spacing in the nails. (More on this later.)

Here's how to make it: Firstly, grab yourself a small, off-cut piece of timber



A string jig is very simple and cheap to make.

(good old radiata pine shelving is ideal) and cut it to approximately 10in by 4in by ½in or so thick. Pine shelving fits the bill well but anything in those rough dimensions will do. Now mark 1in increments along its length. Now, using a square, mark lines across your timber at each of these points. Next mark a line 1/2-in in from the side of your block all the way along its length. Next, mark another line approximately 1 ½in in from that line and again mark it the length of your block. You will now have something that looks like a rectangular grid marked on your block. At each of these increments where the lines cross, tack a 2in (50mm) flathead nail (see photo, left). There will need to be at least nine nails. That is really all we need to do.

One more measurement only needs to be made. Turn your jig on its side and measure up from the bottom 5in and make a strong clear mark down the side of your jig. A fine permanent marker is good for this. That's our jig done—it's the easiest jig you'll ever make. The only other thing we need now is a long bench. It'll need to be about 2.5 metres long. There are fancy jigs that operate on a multipost system so that when we run out our strands they zig-zag around these posts enabling us to use a smaller area to work in. However, once the strands are laid up we still need a 2.5m (or so)



Mark a point 5 inches up from the bottom of your jig and square it down.



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bench to lay the string on as we make it up so I've always figured what's the point in that style of jig? We will also need a bolt or similar at the right hand end of the bench. This can be temporary, even if there is just a hole that you can put your bolt through when you need it. The bolt will need to be partially threaded so that the top under the cap of the bolt is smooth and won't rip your string up as you wind around it. Mine simply has a lock nut on the top of the bench and a wing nut underneath to keep it in place. So, that's all we need to make up lots of good quality strings. As I mentioned earlier, I've made 1000-plus strings on mine over many years, so I know this is a simple and effective jig. Now we have our jig, we need to gather all our materials. We will need two rolls of Dyna 97 (or whatever string material that you prefer) in two different colours. Again, it doesn't have to be two different colours, it's just easier if this is your first string. You will need a tube of wax. Good old beeswax is awesome but is very hard and will need to be softened by heat before using it. For this reason a great choice is the commercially available tube of wax incorporating beeswax mixed with a softening material.

The first thing we need to establish is the length of the string required. If you have an existing string, just measure that and away you go. If not, plan your string length this way: If you own a recurve, you will need to subtract 4in from the bow's AMO length. This is normally written on the bow. If not, the AMO is simply the nock-to-nock length of any bow if the limbs are stretched out flat. To check your recurve, use a dressmakers tape and hold it at the nock slot of one limb, then run the tape along your limb. Faithfully following the limb shape, run it across the riser and back up the other limb and see what the measurement is at the other nock slot.

With longbows this is very easy to do as they are obviously straight and simple to measure. Once this is established. simply subtract 4in for a recurve and 3 ½in to 4in for an American semilongbow. Deflex/ reflex bows generally want about 3in off their AMO length and the same for English longbows. These are excellent rules of thumb and will work in 95 per cent of cases but sometimes you may need to adjust these lengths with so many varied bow styles out there. This is why it's best if you can duplicate an existing string. Herein lies another strength of a Flemish string. There is some degree of adjustability in them via twisting, whereas an endless loop has little or no adjustability.

For the sake of this build-along, let's make a red and black Dyna 97 string for a 50# 68in American semi-longbow. This means we will aim our string to be 64in. Now for more maths: Firstly we need to determine how many strands we need for our bow. We are doing a two-bundle string here so the number of strands we use must be divisible by two. We don't want one bundle being thicker than the other. We also need to consider the material we are using. If using Dacron I may go a few strands thicker than say Dyna 97 or Fast Flite as it is not as strong. Below is a basic table that gives string thicknesses for different materials that I have used for over 1000 strings with great success. I will also include a column for the different string materials. Some string material manufacturers have higher recommended strand counts than these but after many strings I've arrived at these numbers as being very safe and not unnecessarily overkill thicknesswise, which only robs performance. I suspect the manufacturers have a safety overkill factor in their figures to cover themselves.

So, going by the table, we want a 12-strand string for our 50# bow. Now we need to do still more maths. The next calculation is to add 18in to our string's intended length. We want a 64in string, so we add 18in to 64in which gives us 82in. Now divide the 82in in half which gives 41in. Now we need to utilise our jig and bench. Measure from the base of your bolt 41in and mark the bench in that location. I have a permanent rule marked on my string bench as my bench is a permanent string bench, but you can just lay a tape out each time if you want to.

Before going any further, make sure the bench and the floor where you are working are clear and dust free. The string materials we are working with are prewaxed so they'll pick up dirt and grime if the area isn't clean. I vacuum my work area before commencing a string run.

Now, at the 41in mark, clamp your pegboard so that the mark you made on the side of your board is on the 41in mark. Now grab the first

STRING THICKNESSES FOR TWO-BUNDLE FLEMISH SPLICE STRINGS

Dyna 97 and Fast Flite Weight Strands 0 - 50#12 50 - 65#14 65 - 80# 16 80 - 100#18

Dao	cron
Weight	Strands
0 – 40#	12
40 – 55#	14
55 – 70#	16
70 – 90#	18
90# +	20



At 41 inches, clamp your jig on the 5 inch side mark.



Tie your first strand on the bottom right hand nail.



Loop your first strand around the opposing nail.

hitch on the right hand bottom nail (see photo). Now wind your strand of string material around the opposing nail and down to your bolt. Go around your bolt and back up to the next nail, then down to the bolt and back up to the third nail and so on until you have gone around six nails (six strands) then go down to bolt one last time and on the return to the board wrap the strand around the nail that is two up from the last post you went around, so in other words the eighth post. When you wind, keep a firm even pressure on the roll so there is no sag in your lay-up—not so firm that it bends your nails but firm enough to prevent any sag. Complicated as this sounds, the pictures with this article will hopefully clear it up for you. Now cut the strands down the centre between the nails and at the point between peg 7 and peg 8 where you wrapped the last strand. If using Dacron, a good quality pair of scissors or Stanley knife will cut it well. If using Dyna or Fast Flite you will need a very sharp blade. Scissors won't do it. These materials are very tough. A brand new Stanley blade at the minimum will be needed. I use an old-fashioned cut-throat razor, sharpened on a leather strop. Make sure you hold the strands when you cut so you don't lose the even tension you have built into your string. Next, take your strands off your jig and holding the bunch in the centre, run wax over the entire string. The best way is to trap the strands between your thumb and the wax and run outwards towards the end. Once both ends are done, perform the same action again without the wax, running the bundle between your index finger and thumb several times out towards the ends to melt the wax into the string. What you now have is a bundle of six strands that have been turned into one homogenous whole larger strand that is tapered at both ends. Now lay the

roll of string material and tie a half



Once all six strands are looped around the nails, they can be cut.



You will need a sharp tool to cut Dyna.

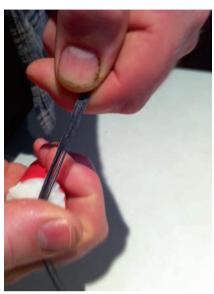


Hold the strands as you cut.

bundle out on your bench. You will see that our peg (nail) board has given us that tapered bundle. Each strand will be about 1in longer than the previous one. This gives a very professional and neat finished string. I have seen too many strings out there that seem to finish in a big clump in one spot ... not good and not neat. Now grab your next roll of string material which for this learning experience should be a different colour and repeat the exact same process as we've just done. Don't worry if it takes a few runs to get this process down pat. It takes practice to overcome the fiddly nature of making a good Flemish string. So at this point we have two different coloured tapered bundles ready to splice into our string. I'll leave it at that for now and we'll finish this string in the next issue. Persevere and you can get very good at making a Flemish string. With practice you can make one in as little as 40 minutes.

Until next time, stay traditional.



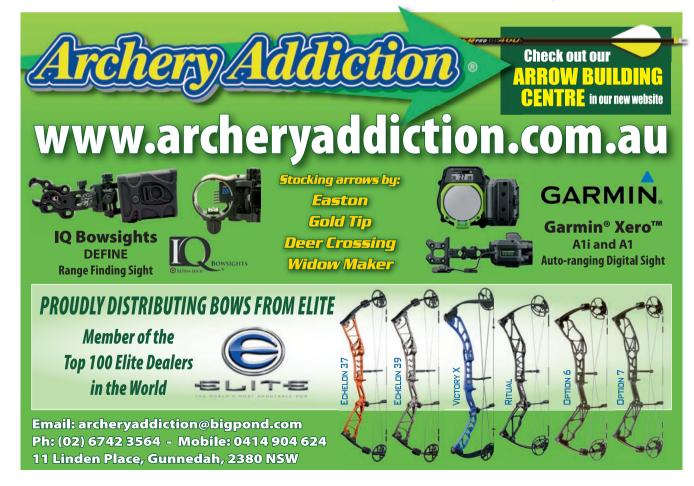


Apply wax down the whole bundle and rub it in.

Left: Commercial string wax is great to use as it is softer than straight beeswax.



Both strands ready to go. Notice the tapered ends.





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Unmissable fun at the Masters Games, with nightly entertainment at the Games Village.



From traditional longbows to recurves and all the latest in compound technology, the Pan Pacific Masters Games field archery can be a veritable showcase of what's modern-vintage or state-of-the-art in archery gear.

One of the delights of the three-day field event, hosted by Pacific Bowmen at Reedy Creek on the Gold Coast, is that you never know who you will end up in a shooting group with. Comparing gear, set-up styles, learning about other clubs and forging good friendships shape some of the great conversations that can make the Masters a bit of an educational experience as well as a test of your own shooting skill over two challenging ranges.

Held over 10 days every two years and attracting over 13,000 sportspeople to the Gold Coast from countries around the Pacific rim, the PanPacs are one of the world's biggest masters games. The field archery has traditionally drawn teams and individual shooters from throughout Australia and from New Zealand and other countries.

Another big bonus is that the field archery takes place over the first three days of the Games (November 2, 3 and 4), giving the rest of the week to enjoy the nightly live entertainment at the Games Village, explore the coast, watch some of the other sports, visit the numerous beaches – or rest up in time to shoot the two-day target archery event at nearby Tallebudgerra Valley the following weekend (November 9 and 10).

The field archery starts with a 20-target 3D round on the Friday afternoon, then morning and afternoon rounds on both the Saturday and Sunday, with a final shoot-off by the top-scoring archers from each division on the Sunday afternoon, before the presentation of medals.

Early November can be pretty balmy weather on the Gold Coast, with temperatures around 30 degrees, so it can be a test of stamina as well as shooting skill, with rounds covering paper targets, animal targets and 3D, with both marked and unmarked distances governed by Australian Bowhunters Association shoot rules.

The Pacific Bowmen range underwent a forced closure for several months following the previous Masters Games while council road-building works were going on around the club's boundaries. Since re-opening, many months of effort have gone into planning and refurbishing the upper and lower ranges, targets and practice butts.

Camping for up to 30 sites is a welcome option for many who prefer to stay on-site, with hot showers, amenities and a chance to connect and yarn around the large fire circle at night a good part of the shoot's atmosphere.

The kitchen crew at Pacific Bowmen turns out commendable breakfasts and lunches of bacon and eggs, burgers, tea and coffee.

Entries for the Masters Games close on Friday, October 19. The minimum age for participants is 30 and there is no minimum standard for entries. Forty other sports are included in the Games.

See advertisement on Page 3 for more details.

The BOW ARM

John A. Barlow

Thirty-five years ago, I stood on a steep hillside high in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range glassing for blacktails. Suddenly a buck stepped out of a thick stand of trees, twenty-five yards away. His velvet-covered antlers held four points on one side and five on the other. While not as large as his mule deer cousin, the buck was nonetheless impressive. His wet, black nose glistened as the morning sun shone on it and his rusty coloured coat stood out against the green trees behind him. A few days earlier I had bumped into another bowhunter who told me of a large blacktail buck he had seen that walked with a slight limp. I noticed the limp as the buck took a step. The deer sensed something was not right as he cautiously walked forward, but he never looked in my direction or acted as though he had winded me. Sometime in the process of first seeing him I had nocked an orange-coloured Easton XX75 arrow on the string of my Brackenbury recurve, canted my bow, and begun my draw. While I had practised shooting at moving targets the thought of wounding this animal was something I did not want to even consider. Finally, when the buck was 30yd away, I produced a sucking sound from my lips, which stopped the buck immediately. As I released the orange arrow and its pure white fletching arched

As I released the orange arrow and its pure white fact of the air toward the buck, I cringed as the arrow hit low and into through the air toward the buck, I cringed as the arrow hit low and into the ground, directly under the deer's vitals. The buck shot straight the ground, directly under the deer's vitals. The buck shot straight the ground, directly under the next ridge, his limp not having any into the air and was soon over the next ridge, his limp not having any into the air and was soon over the slightest.

Most of us who shoot any type of bow, be it a modern compound or a more traditional bow like a longbow or recurve, know from the release if our arrow is going to go where we want it to. There is usually a voice within us that tells us if we have made a bad release, or if perhaps the string of our bow caught on our arm guard or clothing. Or, as was my case with the blacktail buck, if we dropped our bow arm at release and failed to follow through.

The late Paul Schafer, in an interview in *Bowhunter Magazine* in 1985, when asked what seemed to separate the really good bow shots from the mediocre, said: "I have found over the years that a solid bow arm is the single most important factor. In other words it's not dropping your bow arm until the arrow strikes the target. I think that if a person really concentrates on a solid bow arm/follow-through, that this will help their consistency more than anything." Before his untimely passing Paul Schafer, bow maker of the Schafer custom recurve, was recognised as one of the most successful and finest bowhunters in North America. As Barry Wensel once wrote about his friend, "This man has just about done it all."

Like you, I have seen and studied some of the greatest bowhunting shots in our sport ... some up close and personal, some from black-and-white photos and some from videos. From each I have learned much. But without question, each lesson taught has emphasised the importance of the bow arm in becoming more proficient with a bow.



Example of a rock-solid bow arm, everything in alignment.



Keep tension on the string with a solid anchor.



Practise with perfect form. When it begins to break down, it's time to stop.

Push-pull method

In 1988, G. Fred Asbell published his first book on instinctive shooting. Up until that time there had been magazine articles on the subject and a few books with chapters on the subject. But Asbell's book covered the topic from the first page to the last (with the exception of a few chapters on his favourite bowhunts near the end). I remember buying it immediately and reading and re-reading it. Finally, there was a book written on instinctive shooting only! It even had excellent picture support. It became for me the authority on instinctive shooting. Asbell taught that in order to keep the bow arm solid and the arrow not creeping forward after coming to full draw, two things needed to be done.

First, the bow arm and hand holding the bow needed to be pushed toward the target. And second, there needed to be continual tension on the bow string. Pushing forward with the bow arm, and pulling back on the string with the draw hand. In this way, with continued tension forward, pushing, and continued tension back, pulling, the chance of the arrow creeping forward would lessen. And the chance of the bow arm dropping, or as Paul Schafer described it, floating, would lessen as well. I could see it working with a straight wrist, like when shooting most recurves or compounds but would it work as well with a broken wrist down on the



handle, like with a block handle on many longbows? It took some getting used to, but using the push-pull method on my longbows has worked equally as well and has helped my shooting tremendously. Whether you draw your bow from a swing-type position or begin your draw with your bow held directly in front of you, as you continue to push forward, and, continue tension on the string, your bow arm will stay solid, allowing your arrow to go where you want it to go.

Follow through

When John Schulz published his book "Hitting 'em Like Howard Hill" in 1975 and his accompanying video with the same title, the example of a solid bow arm and perfect follow-through, now became visual. No dropping of the bow arm and the keeping of the draw hand in the face, became easy to understand. As Schulz explained in the video, " ... upon release, both hands do nothing." Meaning simply that neither the bow arm nor the drawing hand at anchor do anything except stay where they are until the arrow strikes the target.

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The great thing about practising this type of shooting form is that it can be done with or without a bow in your hand. I have embarrassed my wife more than once walking into a grocery store with her and while seeing a bird on a telephone wire have come to full draw, released, and then stood there with my follow-through until my imaginary arrow struck home. She does not invite me to go grocery shopping with her too much these days! The point is that you can work on a solid bow arm and follow through just about any where.

The drawing hand

Ask me if the drawing hand has an impact on the bow arm's movement and my answer would be a resounding "Yes"! If you move your drawing hand by plucking the string, or if you allow the drawing hand to creep forward after coming to full draw, or if you throw your drawing hand away from the face at release, your bow arm is going to move. Even if it's just a little, it is going to move. And when the bow arm moves, so will your arrow.

Even when shooting a release on a modern compound I believe one's accuracy will improve if the drawing hand stays close to the face. My son Josh is a case in point. When shooting his Hoyt compound he has his thumb behind his ear for an anchor point. But it also helps to keep his hand from moving forward and flying away from his face at release. I have seen many shooters who use a release use this type of anchor, with a thumb behind the ear to keep the hand close to the face. Yes, we all know guys and gals who defy this way of shooting and are very good shots. But I think that for the average bowhunter, keeping the drawing hand close to the face will help tremendously in keeping the bow arm solid during, and at the time of, release.

Bow poundage and the bow arm

Just a few months ago I bought a new recurve bow. It was not that I really needed one, but I wanted a bow with a reduced bow poundage. Most of my bows are in the 57lb to 71lb range. It has been many years since I have purchased a new bow and to be honest I thought it might just be another thing that I did not need. I mean really, how many bows can a guy shoot at one time anyway? But with the encouragement of my good wife I did buy it and waited eagerly for my new bow to be delivered to my favourite archery shop. At my draw length, the new bow pulled 48lb. It only took a few arrows



You might find that your accuracy improves if you use a lighter weight bow.

The push-pull method can be used even with a

broken wrist.

passing over the bow's shelf to convince me I had done the right thing. Suddenly my groups were tighter. I could push the new bow forward easier and pull the string back and lock in my anchor point easier and my bow arm stayed much more solid during my draw and release. In fact, after the release I just stood there looking at how solid and level my bow arm looked. The bow drove the arrows into my target just as well if not better then my heavier bows and I was also amazed at how fast the bow shot. At 48lb, it is heavy enough to bring down the blacktail deer that I pursue each summer and fall. And with the increase in accuracy, I feel very confident.

Fred Eichler, a well known bowhunter here in the United States, has been using a lighter weight traditional bow because of a problem with a shoulder injury. His videos show him shooting javelina, whitetail deer and other game animals using a much lighter draw weight bow than he would normally use. Even with a sore shoulder, Eichler's form is perfect; bow arm solid, drawing hand tight against his face. The key to improved accuracy and a more solid bow arm/follow-through might be a reduction in draw weight. It is definitely something to consider.

How much push and pull?

One of the things that is often left out when teaching the importance of pushing the bow forward with your bow arm and pulling, or drawing the string with the drawing hand

is how much do I push? And how much do I pull? The key word is tension. And how much? Enough to keep the bow arm from creeping back toward you. And enough to keep your drawing hand from breaking away, or creeping away from your anchor point. Whatever tension it takes so that your bow arm stays forward, and your drawing hand stays at anchor, is enough. You are probably doing it already. But go to your local archery range and watch those around you and my guess is that you will see enough unsteady bow arms and creeping anchor points to illustrate my point. If your shooting is not where you want it to be, focus on a steady bow arm by keeping tension on the bow by slightly pushing forward, and tension on the bow string and I think you will see positive results.

Perfect practice

Someone once said that it is better to shoot one arrow with perfect form than 100 arrows without it. Your practice sessions should follow this rule. There is nothing more relaxing for me than to shoot my bow ... but even good things need to be done in moderation. It has been my experience that it is far more productive to shoot 25 perfect arrows in a session than 200 where I get tired and sloppy. If you can, shoot often. But keep your shooting sessions short. Focus on good form, a solid bow arm and tight release and watch your arrows hit where you want them to.



New South Wales State Titles

Bonalbo-Northern Rivers Field Archers

After months of work cutting in ranges and setting up awesome and challenging shots, Northern Rivers Field Archers unfortunately had to postpone its February shoot due to slippery wet conditions and rising creek crossings. The weather leading up to the cancellation was unpredictable and the rainfall on the Friday was even higher than predicted.

Thank you to the 78 shooters who returned for the shoot in March. We hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Congratulations to all shooters who took part. Well done to Ben Reynake and Brian Turner who won the Top-Ten Shootout for Sighted and Barebow respectively.

On Saturday, due to the low numbers the decision was made for all shooters to shoot the same 30 targets so that scoring would be equitable for all in case the weather changed and for ease of bringing in the ranges on Saturday afternoon.

There was lots of chatter about the ranges. The bobcat-on-the-stump shot and the alligator on the creek bank on Range B in particular received lots of comments. The ranges were thought provoking and challenging, with very few giveaways (and as you all know, Robert and Chris evilly conceive challenging shots on all their ranges). There was a great vibe around the ranges for the weekend.

Sunday morning saw us starting in the gully before climbing the hill with uphill and downhill shots.

There was lots of lovely food on offer provided by the Old Bonalbo Hall Society and the Bowling Club smorgasbord on Saturday night.

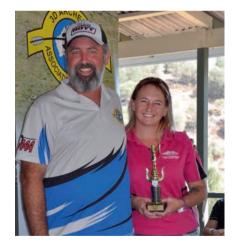
NRFA would like to thank the shooters who fought the weather to turn up to our shoot in February, we are sorry that we had to cancel, but as you all know NRFA only have the health and safety of our friends in mind and the decision was not taken lightly.

NRFA would also like to thank all the shooters who returned to Bonalbo the following weekend for our March shoot.

As 3DAAA members know, there is a lot of work that goes into each shoot. Thank you to all NRFA members who contributed to the successful running of this weekend.

Lake Glenbawn Field Archers

Lake Glenbawn Field Archers' annual sanctioned shoot was held on the weekend of April 7 and 8. A total of 82 archers came from near and far to compete in the event which was held at Camp Kurra-Keith within the Lake Glenbawn recreation area. This turnout was rather impressive considering many hunters were busy on the rut and ABA shooters were slowly making their return road trip from the National Safari held at Alice Springs over Easter.





The Top-Ten was held on Saturday afternoon, with Ben Doyle emerging as the eventual winner after a hard-fought competition. The raffle followed, with many more winners walking away from the table with smiles on their faces.

The weather was extremely kind, with both days sunny and mild. The small but hard-working LGFA committee had once again prepared five high class ranges that tested the endurance and mental toughness of the competitors. The steep and hilly terrain provided a wide range of challenging shots which resulted in only three archers scoring a perfect 100 round throughout the weekend (Isaac Scarr, Jamie Bradshaw and Alex Elvin), prompting range-master Garry Dawson to announce that the winner of the weekend was undeniably the ranges.

Huge thanks to 2nd Muswellbrook Scout Group for their wonderful catering services during the weekend.

We look forward to seeing all shooters once again at our second annual shoot, the Wingen Matchplay to be held in September.













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Ipswich Field Club

Another Ipswich Field Archery Club shoot is done and dusted for the year. The weather was very kind to us with glorious sunshine on both days. The first Queensland 3DAAA-sanctioned shoot of the year was on May 5 and 6. We had a total of 105 competitors who travelled from NSW and other parts of Queensland to compete in the event. Your support is very much appreciated.

The canteen also provided a delectable array of food and drinks to satisfy those hungry and thirsty archers. We would like to thank the Ipswich Lions Club for keeping the food up to hungry archers.

The Top-Ten Shootoff was held on Sunday afternoon prior to the presentation. The winner of the sighted Top-Ten was compound shooter Brett Pirlo and the unaided winner was recurve shooter Scott Hayden.

New South Wales State Series

Lake Macquarie Classic

It was Thursday and there were still two days to go before the shoot, and already the campervans had started rolling in. By Friday afternoon the clubgrounds were packed. After having low numbers the previous year, things were looking much more promising this year.

The new committee, especially newly elected President Michael McRae, had spent the past few months cleaning, painting and fixing up the clubhouse and all the facilities. The club had never looked this good and the whole club was keen to show it off to all the visitors.

Registrations started on Friday night, and we could already see that we were going to have good numbers. In the morning, drawn in by the smell of bacon and eggs on the barbie, the masses descended on the clubhouse to register. Treasurer Colin Keene's

experience and organisational skills made sure that everything was set up and ready to go to ensure everyone got processed quickly and get them on the ranges.

Simo Weir and Michael McRae had been working tirelessly to set up five of the best ranges LMFA had ever produced. With only one perfect round recorded all weekend and multiple compliments coming back, it was mission accomplished for them.

Saturday afternoon, with the sun sitting low, Josh Radoll ran the Top-Ten Shootout. Jamie Bradshaw, MBO, won the Sighted comp and Estelle Boshoff, FBU, won the unaided comp.

After all the walking and shooting, everyone was ready for a good meal and Donna Gilroy did not disappoint. With a menu that ranged from lambs fry to apple slice, there was something for every taste.

The last day arrived and everyone

was keen to shoot the last two ranges of the day. Most people got out early and soon the clubhouse was deserted. Peter Gabriel and Yolandie Goodyear made sure the canteen was ready for when everyone returned for lunch and had learned from the previous day that this was a hungry bunch of shooters, so extra provisions had been brought in overnight.

From mid-morning, the scores started to roll in. The usual archery excuses started to fly as people handed in their score cards, but almost everyone commented that they'd had a great weekend. After everyone had lunch and all the scores were in, it was time for the prizegiving and raffle draw. And what a raffle table it was; with targets and bows from Benson Archery and Ten Zone Archery and sets of strings from Big Fella's Bow Strings.

The highest male score came from Ian Summers, MBO, with 461









and highest female score of 454 was recorded by Jenette Harvey, FBO. Highest cub score had to be counted back as Seth Sutton and Isaac Phillips scored 443 each, but eventually it went to Isaac. Ethan Wilkinson scored 427 and took out highest youth score, with Sarah Keene taking top female youth honours with a score of 314.

This will go down as one of the best events yet at LMFA and we can't wait to go even better next year!





The luck of the draw

The 2017 3DAAA Nationals at Nambucca Heads in New South Wales will be one competition that I'll always remember. It was, as always, a lot of fun but with some challenges. I was shooting in a peer group with my brother's girlfriend Annalise and we got to the second target of the weekend and her strings broke. She was understandably upset not only because we'd come so far to shoot but it was also quite a shock. Anna had to go back to the cabins and thought she wasn't going to be able to shoot for the rest of the weekend but I always bring a spare bow which has come in handy a few times ... such as that weekend.

We got my spare bow set up for her as best we could and she managed to finish the shoot and even beat my score with my own bow. The rest of the weekend was sun and sand which was the best way to finish any shoot.

At the presentations dinner I was stuffing my face with lasagne—dinner was great, by the way—when I heard my name called out and almost everyone in the room turned around to look at me. I hadn't realised at the time that I'd won the lucky door prize which was my choice of a new Hoyt bow. It was probably one of the luckiest and best moments I've ever had as I've never owned a brand new bow before, and certainly not a Hoyt!

After talking to Abbey Archery for only a short time, I now have my brand new Hoyt Prevail FX. I love it and I love the colour too. So I'd like to say a big, big thank you to the 3DAAA committee, Hoyt and Abbey Archery. Hopefully this year will be my best yet.

Krystal Callon





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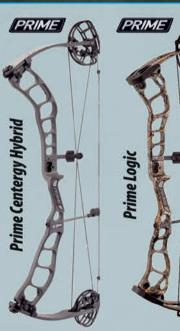






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Around **THE TRADS**

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

Sue Wallace

The following was sent to me from a participant, as I was doing some promotional work for traditional archery at the time.

[®] It was a great weekend at the North Albert Field Archers at Yatala in Queensland over the Easter break. Numbers were down on previous vears with the Commonwealth Games start following the weekend, and the rain on Friday probably scared some folk away even though Saturday and Sunday were fine. About 50 archers enjoyed two 3D ranges with 15 targets each. The ranges were shot on both days, alternating the onearrow and two-arrow rounds, along with the club novelties of bow bird, 30-second speed round, rolling disc, running pig and a 60-second hunter round. The weekend featured hearty brekkie, lunch and dinner fare as well as a great prize table for the raffle. There was plenty of catching up with old friends and meeting new ones, good shots along with spectacular misses, the odd broken or lost arrow and lots of laughter. No out of control behaviour ... unless you count some naughty boys howling at the full moon! Who would that have been? A big thank you to the team at NAFA for putting on another great Traditional Rendezvous!

Leading into the weekend of April 21 and 22, quite a few had set up around the camping area at Chevallan Archery Park and could see the dark clouds looming in from the ocean. We were wandering around the field course doing a final check on target placement and thought we'd best head back up to the shed. Unfortunately, we had only gone a short distance when the heavens opened.

As we sat on the verandah while the rain continued through Friday afternoon, we realised quite a few would probably drop out from the weekend shoot. Sure enough the rain let up a little later that afternoon, and the stars were out by the time we were tucking ourselves in for the evening.

When we rose on Saturday it was a little cloudy with many patches of blue sky which was promising, and quite a few locals joined us after breakfast.

There was one couple who had travelled up from Newcastle and ours was the third shoot they had attended. Some friends of theirs had recently moved to the Gympie area and had come out during the week to have a go, under guidance, at the practice butts, so they also joined us for the shoot.

Following a warm-up at the practice butts and then muster, we set off to do the day's events, consisting of 25 3D targets for a two-arrow round, clout, two popiniays, rolling disc, 30-second speed round, moving target and the 60-second hunter round. Once again targets 24 and 25 were set closest to camp, so could be done either first (on the way out) or last (on the way back), if there are groups on them. The target placements were once again different from the previous shoots.

The tea tent, always a popular place to catch up, was in the vicinity of targets 17 to 23 and the hunter round, giving groups a chance to have a break between events.

The clouds had started to move in during the latter part of the morning and as our group got back for lunch a small shower fell. With everyone enjoying lunch we had a quick discussion and decided not to run the Top 10 shootout and instead we would do some combat archery at 3.30pm,







Chevallan shot.

Chevallan combat arena.

Gladstone windmill shot.

giving enough time for the groups to complete the novelties.

The combat arena is set up not too far from the shed, with five 'walls' erected in each side of the field for players to hide behind. The object of the game is to eliminate the opposition by either striking them in the body region, or hitting out the discs from their five-spot target. There is a safe zone in the middle where you cannot be shot at or shoot from,

however you can be whacked in the backside as you leave the safe zone to get to your cover. We started off with five people per side, and at first we were all a little cautious, till we each ran out of arrows (each player



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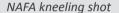














Granite Belt archery course.



Not every arrow found its intended mark.

gets three to start with) so then we had to start taking chances to retrieve more. Now that's when the game gets interesting, and even those looking on were giving 'helpful' hints to us on the field. As each round was completed we would swap sides and others would come into the game when some dropped out and strategies were made. At one stage there I was a little outnumbered four to one, and trying to hit the little discs when you have four people doing their best to stop you was rather challenging. I didn't go down quietly that's for sure. We were all having so much fun that we didn't realise it was starting to get rather late. This event is definitely being added to our shoot agenda.

Sunday dawned with threatening clouds on the horizon, however by the time we were ready to set out they were starting to disperse, and we were joined by a few more locals for the day. The day's events consisted of the field course, rolling disc, 30-second speed round and the hunt round. On the second day groups may go out at any time as

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there is no muster and most headed down to the course. We did the rolling disc and another group had just started the speed round so we too wandered down to the course. It was quite amazing how much the creek had dropped again overnight.

Before I started the presentations we had a birthday to celebrate, although it was rather a sombre occasion for Brett as his partner Kylie had only recently passed away. In memory of Kylie we will be presenting the Kylie Encouragement Award every shoot to one of the weekend's participants who did their very best or has improved the most since the previous shoot. As this was the first one, we presented it to one of the very new beginners who will soon be joining us on a regular basis. He was both surprised and honoured to receive it.

The shoot weekend turned out to be mostly dry with only the one shower during the day and a couple of overnight showers on Saturday, and those of us who were there are quite looking forward to our next one, rain or shine.

The following two reports are from an intrepid Queensland traveller who shot on both weekends:

Bendigo Field Archers held a trad shoot over the weekend of April 21 and 22 and there were about 40 archers attending from around Victoria and New South Wales, along with one crazy Queenslander.

They had only one 20-target range which had a mix of ABA vinvl targets. 3D animals and novelties. One of the novelties was a steel pig with a hole for the score zone. Having a shot at the pig was often accompanied by lots of clanging and merriment (they had a safe target option as well, for those who wanted to choose that option). There was a 50m shot on a 3D buffalo, a swinging egg shot and a double bale with six or seven ABA vinyl targets where it was surprisingly hard to hit a score zone. There was even a lying-down shot which was surprisingly difficult! The range was shot four times over the weekend. The first three times were two-arrow rounds with three arrows on the novelties and the last time was a onearrow round with two arrows on the novelties. The club catered hearty meals and the camping was great under mild autumn skies.

Attending the Stanthorpe Trad Shoot over the weekend of April 28 and 29 were approximately 30 archers, mostly from around southeast Queensland, but some had travelled from as far as Newcastle in NSW.

They had three 20-target ranges to be shot—one 3D animal range, one nostalgia range of the older blackand-white ABA paper targets, one vinyl animal range with all scoring of 10 for a kill and five for a wound. The novelties were running pig, 30-second speed round, 60-second hunter round of five 3D deer targets with 10 to 12 paces between each shooting peg. The hunt round was set up on an incline which had some archers huffing and puffing by the time they were done.

On Saturday evening after dinner we had live music which was really excellent, as well as a V-Shoot held on the practice range which generated some great shooting and lots of laughs. Target placements were out to about 30m and hunting-style shots with some targets partly obscured by trees or shrubbery. A little moving around the peg was the order of the day! The club catered all meals from Friday night through to Sunday lunch and the food was plentiful, hearty and great value. Saturday night's choice of beef or lamb stew with rice and bread was really excellent and some little piggies even had both and/or seconds. This was followed by apple pie and custard around the fire.

The Granite Belt Bowmen is a small but very friendly club and the members really know how to put on a great shoot.

The Gladstone Muster was held over the weekend of May 5 and 6. Following is an account from a travelling archer from NSW:

Two ranges were set up with 20 3D targets, some brand new. On Saturday, archers had the choice of shoot-

ing either range as a two-arrow round and the other range as a one-arrow round. This was swapped for Sunday.

The novelties were creative. Along with the hunt round, flying pig and speed rounds, there was the windmill, where a plastic bottle had to be shot between the rotating blades. Then there was the bacon and eggs novelty. First the eggs had to be made to swing, next an egg was shot through to land in a frying pan set over a fire. An arrow then had to land in the 3D pig behind the frying pan.

A night shoot saw archers shooting at a screen where animal images gradually appeared. The images were very pixilated at first. When the animal became clear the first to shoot successfully moved on to the next round. There was a great deal of laughter from the audience at these events.

The weekend was catered with complimentary hamburgers on Friday night and the club's pizza oven was put to good use Saturday evening.

Trad shoots confirmed by the clubs for August and September, at the time of printing, are: North Burnett August 4 and 5, Dunolly Trad Shoot (Victoria) August 11 and 12, Bega Trad Asian Experience August 18 and 19, Sunshine Coast Bowmen Trad Day August 19, Chevallan Archery Park Mini August 25 and 26, Swan Hill (Victoria) August 25 and 26, Silver

City Broken Hill September 1 and 2, Mallee Sunset (Mildura) September 8 and 9, White Rose Memorial Trad Shoot September 8 and 9, HVTA Charity Shoot September 29 and 30, Chevallan Archery Park September 29 and 30.

Reports from Sunshine Coast Bowmen, The Gathering at Hunter Valley Trad Archers Inc, Chevallan Archery Park, Jules Shield Lakeside Bowmen will be in the next edition.

For those readers on Facebook, Travellin' Round the Trads has many more photos and a copy of the 2018 trad shoot calendar.

You will find 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 with some shoots still to be confirmed. Will have the link to flyers as they become available)
Ozbow: www.ozbow.net > Traditional
Archery Events > each shoot has an individual thread
Chevallan Archery Park:

www.chevallanarcherypark.com – for traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO approved African 3D targets, customised archery medals. Traditional Archery Australia: www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org

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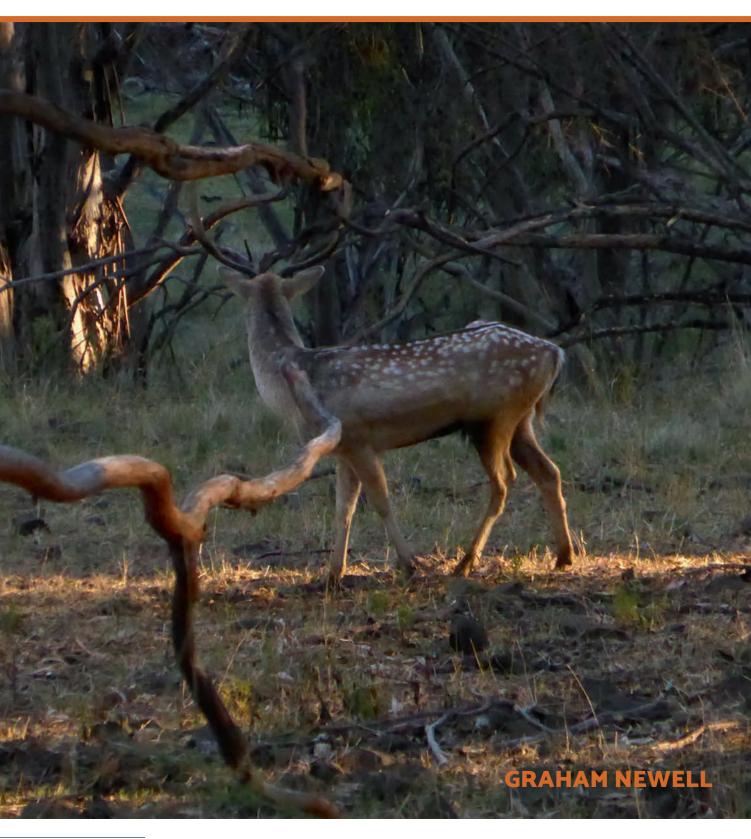
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Hail THE FALLOW STAGS



t was April 14 and we were on the road to the New England region. For this trip we were using Robbo's new Isuzu D-Max space cab. It had all—and I mean *all*—that one could add to a hunter's truck; obviously Robbo's pride and joy.

The road trip was just over five hours with meal and fuel stops and on arrival at our cabin (an old fencing contractor's base), we unloaded all our gear then set up for the next day and settled in for a steak-and-mushroom meal plus the odd rum and beer.

Later in the evening, a storm headed our way. Seeing Robbo's face when I yelled out, "Hail! Bloody hail, mate!" was painful. The thought that his new truck, with less than 2000km on the clock, might be peppered by hailstones was enough to give anyone that awful sinking feeling. However, our hut must have deflected the worst of the hail because it looked like no damage had been done to his vehicle, hence the play on words in the title of this story.

We have been coming to the property for well over 12 years now with the first three or four years a steep learning curve to better understand the fallow deer and their habits.

The terrain is typical New England grazing country, although the owner has removed a lot of the brush, blackberry bush and small regrowth, thus making it a real challenge to get within reasonable bow range.

Our time on this fallow stag hunt was to be about five days and we both felt that was sufficient.

We have observed over the past few years (and have chatted with other bowhunters about it) that there seem to be four common ingredients to a successful hunt: We need to be reasonably good shots, we must have above-average stalking ability, of course be in an area with feral game and we need lots and lots of luck. So many times we have found that being in the right spot at that right moment is not necessarily skill but just plain luck.

Whilst the property is over 3,300 acres, only about 18 per cent of it is suitable to hunt the fallow stags if they are in rut and in that area there are probably only four spots that have historically produced stags worthy of taking.

We rose about 4.20am to drive some 7km through eight gates (it might be a slight exaggeration to say I hate those gates, but only slight) to reach our jumping-off spot. On the way to the rutting areas, we noted no does on the flat land—not a good sign for the day.

We arrived around 5.30am. It was still dark (no moon this year) so we kitted up, put on our head torches and set off in different directions to the obvious stag croaking noises. We have found you cannot hunt in pairs on this property (or in our opinion on

any deer hunting outing) as the deer—especially the does—are just too alert, watching for danger all the time.

Robbo had a long, hard and exhausting haul up a massive hill to his spot, but he's a young guy.

He said it was worth it, when shooting light was on, about eight fallow bucks of various value were visible. After a short recon, he decided to belly-crawl some 40m towards a nice bedded stag, which would then give him a 35m shot.

Now this area has some 70-plus cattle grazing with the deer so if he was not dodging does and spikers he was romancing the cows!

After 15 minutes Robbo was ready, and with his arrow on the string he ranged the chosen stag at 37m. As he rose to his knees, the stag decided to stand. Robbo was not ready and rushed the shot. It missed by only millimetres, in fact it appeared to remove some hair. No problem, there were more stags around. But sadly, he again put in the huge stalking effort only to have a similar outcome. Not to worry, we still had three days to refine the deal.

I was headed in a south-westerly direction and after about 15 minutes of huffing and puffing I was near an area that sounded full of action. However, the southern boundary of this property was only 30m from where I was going and of course all the good ones were over in the neighbour's property! There was no shooting light when I



arrived but I could see about eight stags, with does and a few spikers in the general area, but only three stags on my side of the fence.

The breeze was kind so I stalked under some fallen timber to be 30m from a reasonable stag (maybe trophy class) harassing a doe, it was 5.55am and there wasn't enough light to see my peep, so I had to wait. The stag was still very much focussed on the doe so at 6.05am when daylight was okay, I sent the traditional (carbon) arrow with a 135-grain two-blade Zwickey broadhead on its way. This was probably the earliest I have ever claimed a kill in all my 25-plus years of hunting.

The shot looked like a double

lung but forward, however the stag jumped, ran some 10m, fell over and kicked his legs in the air but didn't die straight away.

I was hoping one of those over the fence would come my way so I waited five minutes before going to the arrowed stag. Nothing moved—they were too busy with their does—so I walked to the stag which needed to be dispatched effectively, then I started to set him up for a photo.

As I dragged him to a suitable spot, (deer are heavy when a dead weight), I had a sense I was being watched. Yes, over on the neighbour's side next to the boundary fence some 25m away stood another bowhunter in full camo, bow and gear.

We introduced ourselves only to realise we had met at this spot twice before. We are now on first name terms! He did tell me he'd been watching me stalk in and make the kill and also said the area has had a fair number of poachers and he thought I might have been one. Bowhunting has all sorts of twists ... fancy seeing him way out in the bush! Refreshing, actually.

Photos and head taken, I found a spot to remove the hide and meat from around the stag's head, then strapped him to my backpack and headed for the truck.

The next day we both went to the same areas, but it was uneventful for me. I had several stalks, a few 20m



crawls but each time could not get a shot I felt comfortable with. It was good to see two small stags fighting but neither was too keen to hurt the other.

We did start to see a few other stag carcasses of over a week old in various levels of decay. Poachers perhaps—the number of fallow in our areas certainly seem to have been affected.

After a huge climbing effort Robbo arrived at his spot in good time but he was almost spent. He soon recovered as there was a nice chocolate stag bedded under some trees some 65m out. With poor cover, he proceeded to crawl (again) out to the stag. Despite the difficulty of getting to one's knees, nocking an arrow and coming to full draw, that's what Robbo did and at 38m from a kneeling position, he made the shot. He felt it was good in so much as the stag jumped, threw his head back several times then ran a few metres, staggered then walked on about 60m from where he had been hit. The stag joined another that walked past heading slowly to timber.

Around this spot are some very steep heavily wooded slopes, almost impossible to walk through and unfortunately the mortally wounded stag got into this area.

Robbo followed him for some 100m but lost the blood trail. To the old mate's credit, he spent several hours retracing the stag's exit path and kept searching the dense bush. At last, bingo, he found him, and a very nice



Happy camper ... Robbo with his fallow head.



specimen the stag was. It was a tough job to get the photos and the head off due to the very steep terrain, but Robbo achieved it, and for sure he was one happy camper!

The area also has some pigs. On our way out, a family group was observed off the track. I tried a rushed shot with a negative outcome;, maybe next time

Back at the hut with a stag each, it was time to have a few (more) beers and rums plus a huge chicken stew. Sleep came easy after a hard day in the hills.

The next morning I had serious thoughts of staying in bed a bit longer because I was still feeling pretty tired. But there was more hunting to do. We decided to follow our usual practice of

swapping hunting spots.

Now my dear late Dad used to say "It's no good getting old if you do not get smart," but sometimes we can be too smart for our own good.

Robbo, who is very familiar with 'his' spot, said I would need to get the wind right—and that meant going all the way to the top of the hill. It would be a big effort for me if I decided to heed the advice.

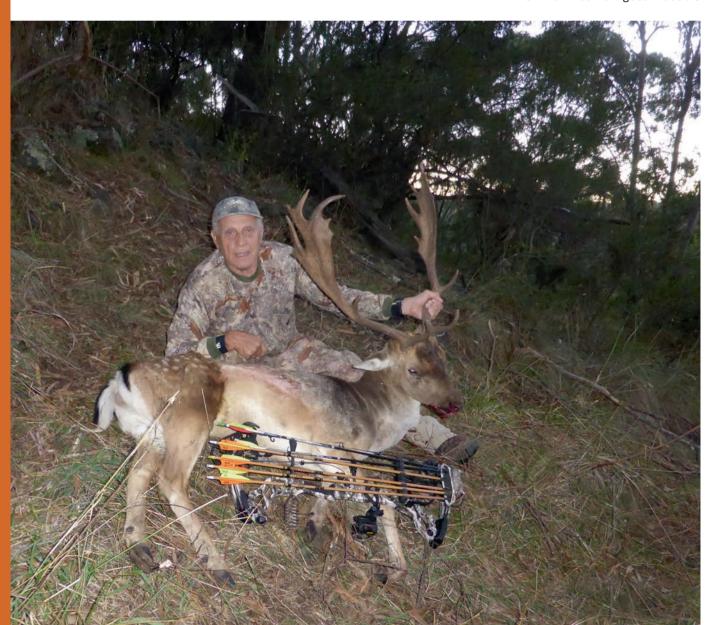
No, not me. I took the easier way, cutting back on the rutting spot after I'd covered about 70 per cent of the hill. I was temporarily exhausted. This meant I was taking a huge chance that the wind could blow my hunt—literally!—before it was started.

As luck would have it, there was

little to no breeze when I got to a position where I could see the stags but as it was 5.50am I could not shoot due to the low level of light. There were four or five stags actively chasing does. I had a nice stag picked out, one not croaking and he only appeared to be an observer, perhaps he was exhausted from the previous night's doe action?

I had a nice position behind some small logs with no chance of being silhouetted as the stag would be looking down on my position. He was now at 41m broadside. The time was 6.01am, and there was just enough light to get the job done—earlier than two days previously.

The hit was a good double



lung and as he raced down the hill across my path I could see the blood pumping from the hit. The stag ran 48m, leaped through some thick brush and branches 2m to my right with a thunderous crash then there was nothing but silence. I remember Robbo's issues the day before when he almost lost his stag in the steep, thick brush and I thought, "Not me, too!"

I walked to the brush the stag had charged through to see a small sloped clearing beyond and there he was, piled up ready for the photos and head removal—a good hit and an easy recovery. I now realise he must have been dead when he hit the brush and branches

With the photos taken and antlers removed (I got the photos taken just before my camera battery died), I then decided to head back to the rutting area to see what more mischief I could

We find that once a stag has been



Attaching the head to the pack properly helps with the walk out.

removed from the herd in this manner, the rest are nervous and very easily spooked. They look to move onto a safer spot with a lot more cover but still carry on with the rut action ... this was the case here too.

I did recover my arrow, good as

new, some 3m past where the stag was hit.

The trip back to the truck is always better with a trophy strapped to the backpack even if it is a long walk. Attaching the head/antlers to the pack properly helps with a steady walk out.

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Goodbye, fallow country. See you next year.

The following day we were up at 4.20am again to go out to the back paddocks once more. This time I decided to try a spot on the eastern boundary. Robbo went to his spot again.

We both covered a lot of ground for no real opportunity; in fact we noted the stags had stopped their action and croaking soon after dawn. Perhaps we

had seen the last of the true rut for these wonderful fallow stags.

Back at the hut, we started to clean up our deer heads ready for the trip home the next day.

Over a few more beers, rums and bourbons we revisited the previous four days and the efforts needed to get the outcomes we did. For sure, they

were hard yards but come 2019 we'll try it again.

We both noted the fallow stags, does and spikers were moving further west each year—perhaps in 2019 they will all be on the neighbour's property!

It was great to see Robbo on top of his target panic and still able to get amongst the feral game.

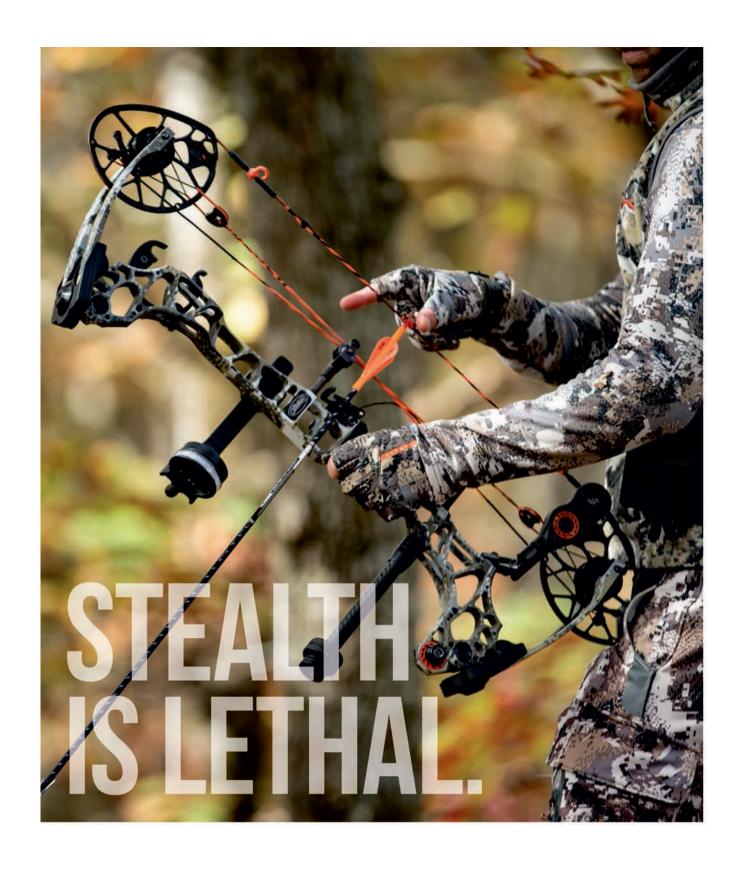


gear used

Both use Mathews bows-Robbo an almost new Halon and Graham a brand new TRIAX. The two stags were Graham's first kills with the gear.

They are both at 63lb-plus draw weight. Robbo uses 135-grain Northern and Graham uses 135-grain Zwickey two-blade broadheads.

For hunting deer, rangefinders, good binos, knives and backpack are essential.



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Shooting competitive barebow

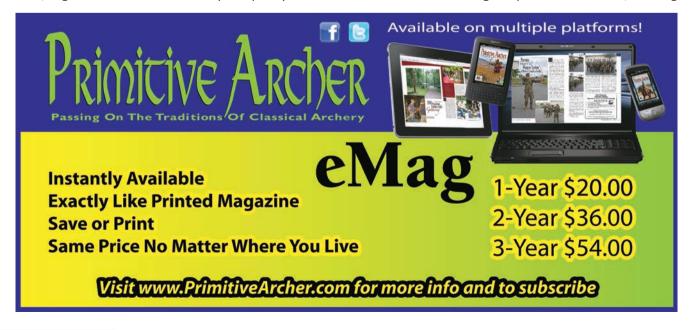
I have in the past lauded, both in print and in seminars, the skill and expertise of the elite competitors in world archery barebow competitions. Their accuracy levels are exceptional by any reckoning and the thought and time these shooters have put in to achieve such outstanding scoring often goes unrewarded as far as coverage and general recognition is concerned.

Perhaps their virtual lack of profile stems from the fact that the archery fraternity only gets to witness their prowess every couple of years at the World Field Championships.

My interest in the barebow class goes way back to the mid-sixties when I first caught the archery bug. Scimitar Archery was half tourist attraction and half archery club. The tourists shot during the week and the club members utilised both indoor and a field course on the weekends. It was a barebow facility and as the club grew and our limited expertise improved, a few of us ventured into local, regional and state events. I quite quickly became

somewhat proficient, although to be honest the barebow division did not attract a huge following. With my Wing Presentation bow, X7 arrows and an under-the-shelf clicker, my scores reached national levels.

Of course at this point in time, we shot under the old NFAA rules over 28 targets, well before the advent of the FITA rounds here in Australia. With a corner-of-the-mouth anchor and no real aiming system, my scores (as I remember) were in the mid 300s. Imagine my absolute astonishment when the NFAA magazine from the USA arrived in 1967 to reveal that Frank Gandy, a Florida barebower, had won the Nationals with scores in excess of 500, including a 560 perfect animal round. He had, in fact, outshot the sighted recurve competitors. An ambitious letter (I had no precise address) to Frank was rewarded with a 13-page reply, revealing for the first time the art of string walking and multiple anchors, the forerunner of today's universally adopted system. Frank, I should add, went on to become a great professional archer, winning



national championships and the major indoor titles, then switched in his later years to compound, once again annexing national and regional honours. He was a worthy inductee into the American Hall of Fame and one of their finest all-round competitors. Today at 80 years young, he is still a force to be reckoned with on a field course.

Under today's World Archery rules, with no stabilisers or clicker, the art of string walking, married to immaculate form and execution, yields scoring by the elite which many a club compounder would envy.

So what is the thinking behind the three fingersunder- the-nock walking of the string? By retreating the three-finger hold down the string away from the nocked shaft, the arrow is being despatched from a gradually increasing downhill angle which in effect allows the archer to employ a point-of-the-arrow aim on the spot, over a range of distances. By utilising different anchor placements, the shooter can provide himself, or herself, with definitive point-of-arrow aiming at all the World Archery distances out to the maximum 55m. Clearly this method necessitates considerable planning to be viable. The bow needs to be long limbed to counter the assault upon the tiller that the string walk imposes. Equally obvious is that fact that the walk of the string can only increase a certain distance before the bow will simply not function well enough to facilitate a healthy result, and another anchor is needed to repeat the process.

The barebower's initial concern is to find an optimum harmony between draw weight and arrow length and point weight, which allows point-of-arrow aim on the target.

The next major impediment for the prospective barebower is having the composure to function under pressure without the aid of a clicker. Considering all top level recurvers shoot with a clicker, attempting to compete without a clicker to trigger the shot and provide a duplicative draw length is for many a real mental hurdle. A touch-and-go shot process is just not definitive enough to produce quality aiming, and barebowers without a clicker can certainly run into anticipation hassles under tournament stresses.

However, the leading international barebow exponents are an ingenious fraternity and many improvise a virtual clicker situation to guarantee a solid hold, aim and subsequent shot execution. A popular method is to use the actual arrow vane. The archer anchors on the face and by accurate placement millimetres from complete full draw expansion, the final closure of the scapula causes the vane to actually touch the nose or face, in effect providing a clicker situation to trigger the execution. Like all other form and aiming challenges the barebower faces, this is just another skill which takes many hours of focussed practice.

There are other methods which can also mimic the action of a clicker. Manipulation of the bow grip can also create a trigger at anchor once the aim is established. The archer's term for this is a 'physio trigger' and barebow elite have a number of options which can give them a trigger in the same way a clicker works on an Olympic recurve.

It is patently clear that to achieve at the highest level of barebow competition, an enormous amount of planning, bow preparation and dedicated practice are required to perfect all the skills needed to overcome the challenges which the rules impose. Negotiating the demands of the field course regarding stance, uphill and downhill shots, determining cut and distance estimation are magnified for a barebower utilising multiple anchors and pre-determined string walks, while coping with a bow denied the usual aids available to sighted recurvers.

So any chance you may have to witness these superb archers in action—most probably when the World Field Championships roll around in September—make the time to watch, enjoy and marvel at the expertise of arguably the world's finest exponents of the art of shooting a bow. They truly deserve our admiration and accolades.

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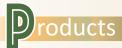
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SAVIOUR RECURVE BOW

by Graham Foley

Thinking about the number of people of all ages who have joined my archery club over the past year, I am seeing a definite bias towards traditional archery. Many new members, when progressing from using the club's equipment to buying their own bows, are choosing recurves. There's a huge choice of bows to choose from in the entry level part of the market at around \$300 or less, but one in particular stands out as it fulfils all the requirements of a novice archer and much more.

Apex Hunting in Brisbane sells a recurve bow they call the Saviour and after shooting the 45lb and 50lb versions, I've been impressed with the smooth draw and speed. I achieved a consistent result and found the Saviour a joy to shoot. The build quality of the Saviour regardless of its reasonable price is very good and the bow is incredibly light in the hand.

The riser is constructed of makore, zebra, and gmelina arborea hardwoods and is 60in in length. The limbs are laminated maple wood and high tensile clear fibreglass, giving the bow a flexible and comfortable draw. A short brace height, high strength and excellent arrow speed all make it a very pleasant bow to shoot.

The Saviour comes with a standard issue horse-hair adhesive arrow rest, and BCY Dacron string.

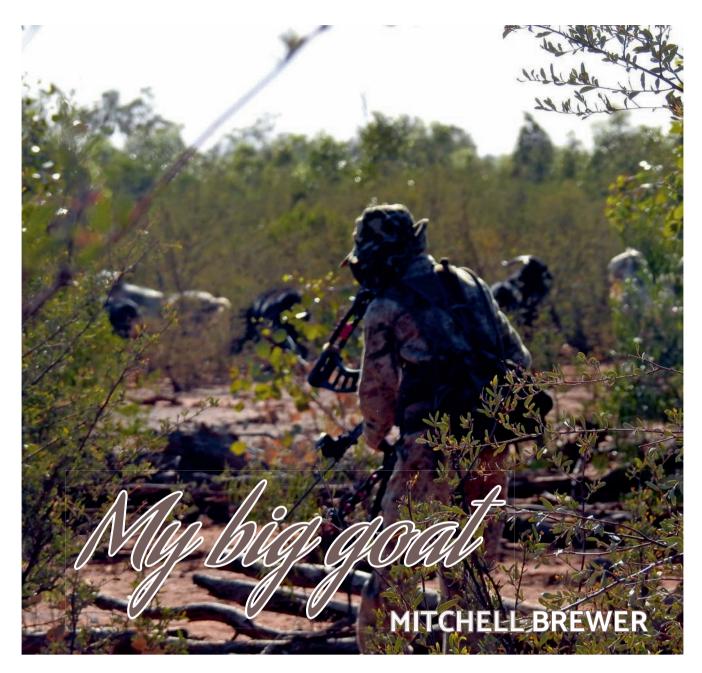
For more information on the Saviour recurve bow, visit the website at apexhunting.com.au.











n January 17 this year I, Mitchell Brewer, put an old goat to rest with tears of joy as I got to see him take his final breath.

I also felt relief as it was the last day of the hunt. A few days before I had shot a big boar but hadn't been able to retrieve him as he had run into thick scrub mixed with mulga and box trees, which had left me very disappointed.

Two days later a big mob of goats stumbled in front of us when we were sitting at a dam waiting for something to get a drink. At the head of the mob was a decent-sized billy and as

he crossed my path at 10m I slung an arrow into him but I flinched, making the arrow go high and in front of his shoulder. Whilst complaining about the shot, he ran off with the mob, not leaving any blood to track.

As time went by, I was putting myself down about that one shot. But like Dad always says, "You'll get 'em next time." So I took his word for it and the next day we sat at the same dam and in less then 10 minutes we saw a mob of billies walk in so I stalked in on them ... but they must have smelled me as they took off before I could even

draw my bow back for a shot.

Shortly after that we could hear some goats behind us so we stayed low and quiet. As they walked into the dam there were at least 50 goats standing less then 5m in front of us but knowing me, I wasn't sitting correctly to draw my bow. I started feeling sick and because of my huge adrenaline rush, I started shaking. That caused them to run to the other side of the dam. Next to that mob was a nice ram so dad decided to have a go at him but he misjudged the distance so his arrow went flying. After retrieving



stalked him.

Like all billies, he didn't muck around. He got a drink and got out of there ... not because of us but just doing what his instincts told him. As he ran off I carried on like a pork chop saying, "There goes another one!" while Dad kept an eye on the goat as

even if I shoot it myself!" We caught up to the old billy. He was a bit less than 10m away and feeding on some small mulga bushes. As he walked out from behind a tree Dad drew on himwhich left me a bit cross as I wanted to shoot a goat, but then the billy walked back behind the bush and started this; I'll let him shoot it," so I waited for him to shoot and I decided to just let down. But as this goat started walking to where no one could have shot him I wondered what was taking Dad so long. So I just fired my arrow and I nailed him with a double lung shot and as I looked over at Dad he said he'd

been waiting for me to shoot it.

After trying to track the goat, I felt the same disappointment I'd felt when I'd shot the other goat and pig ... but after just randomly walking around Dad spotted him resting in front of a fallen tree in the shade. So I put another arrow in him, causing him to get up and go into a slow jog then into a walk ... then onto his knees and then into a sleep he'll never wake from.

After getting a few photos with this fine 41in trophy and getting his rack, we started walking back to the car and as we were walking we found a very clear blood trail on the dirt road.

I would like to thank my Dad for giving me this opportunity, Nick and Sam for keeping my head up when I was disappointed, Rob for boiling and creating an awesome shield for this fine trophy and the land owner for letting us come out for the hunt and take home some wonderful memories.

Mount Isa birthday bash will feature bows, arrows and plenty of fun

They say life begins at 40, and if that's true then the Mount Isa and District Bowhunters are about to really hit their straps! The club celebrates four decades of existence this year and is calling all past members—along with any ABA members who will be in the region at the time and who love a good shindig—to come and help them celebrate this auspicious occasion. And what better way than doing what we all do best ... shooting at targets with bows and arrows.

It's happening on Queensland's final public holiday weekend of the year. The invitation shoot doesn't start officially until Saturday, September 29 but those who come early can have complimentary dinner on Friday night.

Breakfast is from 6.30 Saturday, Sunday and Monday and there are three-arrow and one-arrow rounds both days of the weekend as well as fun rounds, knife and axe. On the Monday an IFAA round will be held in the morning, followed by lunch and presentations. You're invited, so let the club know by September 10 if you can make it.



OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Beginners' tips

Over the many years I have been shooting, I have seen tons of people join our sport and spend months shooting without any proper quidance or instruction on how to shoot their new bow and arrows. For new shooters, I always recommend spending a few hours with a good coach to get some of the fundamental aspects of your form designed before you start forming habits, some of which might be detrimental to your scores (and body) later down the track. However, sometimes it is difficult to find a coach in your area, and some clubs just don't have anyone with enough free time to help out, so new shooters turn to external resources (such as magazines and Youtube) to get their information. When I first started out shooting, I managed to strain my back from very poor form, which still causes me troubles these days, so in this month's article I will cover a couple of the most basic form attributes that you should work on perfecting early in your shooting career so that both your body and your scores will thank you later on!



by STEVE CLIFTON

The first, and initially the most important thing you should work on, is getting your body alignments correct. The most important thing to start with is your draw length. Think of your draw length in a similar way to how golfers would think about their club length; if the club was too short, they would have to hunch over just to get the head to touch the grass, and if it was too long,

they would stand much further back/ hold the club uncomfortably in order to be able to hit the golf ball. This is exactly the same for archery. We must get our draw length as close to ideal as possibly early on so that we are able to build the rest of our form around it. A very common way to calculate your draw length (usually accurate to within +- 0.75in) is by taking your wingspan

measurement and dividing by two. For me, I have a 58in wingspan, and my comfortable draw length (on a short axle-axle bow) is 29.25in, so this method is very accurate for calculating my ideal draw length. However when being fitted for a bow, make sure the dealer checks your draw length for you (usually with a low poundage test bow, and remember to take note of this so you can keep track of any changes you might make later with the bow).

Before buying a bow, and especially for growing teens, check to see you have some room to adjust the draw length as over the first few weeks (or years as you grow), you will need to tweak your draw length and the last thing you will want to do is buy a new set of limbs, cams and strings just to get a little more length out of the bow. I always recommend the cam-and-a-half systems (on the Hoyt bows) for new shooters as they have a large amount of adjustment, which is particularly important for some kids who can gain an extra 1in or 2in in











draw in the space of 12 months.

The next key focus point is getting your stance correct, as the way you stand and face the target strongly influences the way the rest of your body holds a pose during the shot. As with most things in archery, there are differing opinions about what is the 'best' method, however the most common stance taught to beginners is to have one foot either side of the line, about shoulder width apart and with your front foot's toes approximately 2in or 3in behind square from the front of your back foot. What this causes your body to do is slightly face your chest towards the target, which will allow you to get your front and rear arms in comfortable and consistent positions. Once you are happy with

how your stance is, you need to ensure you are standing up straight, with your hips, upper body and shoulders in positions that can help maximise shot stability. The key to this is keeping all of these items in line and over your feet, and on a photo, you should be able to draw a line from the top of

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your head to between your feet and run directly through the middle of your body. Ideally, you would want to distribute your weight reasonably evenly across your feet: if anything a little more on your back foot as I have found it adds a bit more stability to my shot this way. You will see many compound shooters with varying levels of a leaning-back stance (myself included), however I was never taught to stand up straight and now my lower back pays for it. Definitely focus on keeping your feet and body in good alignment—as I've mentioned, it's the absolute foundation of your shot and helps you aim better, score better and feel better.

The next thing to keep focus on is your shoulders and elbow positions. As with the rest of your form, it's always better to get this sorted early in your shooting career than later, as I have worked with shooters trying to get their front shoulder down (after years of having it high) and it takes a lot of hard work to make gains with this. New shooters can get it right from the start fairly easily. A really good starting point for your front shoulder at full draw is to have it lower than your arrow, with at least some gap between the top of your shoulder and the bottom of your arrow. This position helps lock the shoulder into place and keeps you as stable as possible during the entire shot process. One key way to make sure that your shoulder is able

to get into this position (at full draw) is to try to focus on keeping the shoulder low before you begin, and then as you draw your bow up. By starting with vour shoulder low before reaching full draw, you'll be able to keep it lower than trying to adjust it when you are at full draw.

The next key part of your upper body form is the position of your back arm, and the first thing I'll mention is how your wrist sits. Depending on what release aid you shoot will alter slightly how your position it, however most people shoot a handheld release so I'll address that here. Whether you are using a hand-held thumb trigger or back tension 'hinge' release aid, a really good starting point for your hand is to have this at a 45-degree angle to your face, with your index and middle fingers' knuckles tightly pressed up against the back side of your jaw. While it might feel unnatural at first, try to relax your hand as much as possible (while still holding onto the release!) so as to remove any tension on the release aid, as this is a primary cause of torque and can directly influence where the arrow lands. By anchoring like this on your jaw, you are able to have a clean follow-through when the shot breaks ... which as you will learn is quite important for a consistent shot routine.

The next items of importance is to ensure that your wrist is as straight as you can keep it, forming a nice straight line from your index finger's knuckle through the wrist, and up to your back elbow. Keeping this area of your upper body straight really helps you keep a nice solid pull into the shot, allowing you to continue to pull through and straight back after the shot has broken. Having a limp or bent wrist can make it really difficult to pull into the wall consistently, so I strongly suggest working on this to keep your shots solid.

Lastly, a good position to aim to have your shoulder at is about the same height as your nose. This creates an upwards angle from your fingers to your wrist and up to your elbow. Having your elbow raised like this helps enable you to be able to pull your arm around as you execute your shot, allowing you to keep a strong push-pull shot cycle and helps build consistency in your routine.

Hopefully this can help new shooters get started with some good fundamental form techniques, which as I have mentioned, will not only get your better scores, but will help keep your body in better shape for longer!

Keeping track of your form changes is essential in building your shooting career, so I strongly suggest taking photos of before/after form changes so that way you can see how things were and are, and re-evaluate them from time to time to see whether you are shooting how you think you should be.



outside In the zone

The bunny ethic

by Nils Spruitt



It wasn't the actual shooting of rabbits, nor was it the hunting of them, that first conceived the overall appeal for the game animal which would later grow into somewhat of a passion. What attracted me, even as a small boy, was the very thought and the ethic of rabbit hunting. The introduction to this ethic was presented to me by the first real rabbit hunter I ever knew.

His name is not important. Nor is the fact that he was known around town as a bit of an idler who lived on his wife's income and a man who on occasions drank a little more than was socially deemed acceptable. In those days, both were viewed in a dim light by the majority of working-class people.

What is important here is the fact he was polished in his style. I can still clearly remember the times I used to see him

drive past our house on his way to the dairy run just down the road. His dusty old Vanguard with tarnished chrome and broken mud flaps, always made a peculiar sound as it crossed the corrugated cattle grid. It was a sound like no other I had heard ... sort of like shaking a paint can which had been quarter filled with stones is the best way I could describe the noise. Still, the old car never missed a beat.

On most occasions, his Jack Russell dog could be seen sitting patiently on the front seat alongside the driver. Looks, however, can be deceiving as we all know. I think that the old adage, never judge a book by its cover, must have been conceived for this man. Unlike the car, he was immaculate in his dress. In a way, he reminded me of the traditional English gentleman out for a day on quail or pheasant.

Woollen trousers were his norm and despite their age, they were always clean and pressed. In the cooler mornings, a tweed coat with matching flat cap was worn over a pressed long-sleeved shirt and his shoes were always polished. The only thing missing was a tie.

He was not a bowhunter. I knew that and to be honest, neither was I at the time. Instead, he carried a side-by-side 12g shotgun which looked well cared for but did show signs of age and usage. I have no idea of the make or model, nor can I remember what cartridges he used—only that they were made of paper and were not the more modern plastic type we see today. I never ever fired that gun but I did watch him use it on many an occasion.

Rabbits were very common along the boundary fence of the dairy run and there was ample bracken and blackberry in those days to shelter them. I can't really remember how long it was before we struck up a friendship. What I used to do was discreetly follow him at first. Every time I heard the old car drive past our front gate I would jump the fence and just tag along at a safe distance. Call it childhood curiosity but, in truth I was simply in awe of anyone who owned a shotgun and actually used it for hunting game. The only shotguns I had ever seen were a couple of old dusty singles hanging on walls. Remember this was way before licensing was even thought of.

With haste, I would make my way to a vantage point

situated atop a low rise where I could watch him and his dog at work. The little Jack was trained to follow hand instructions and an occasional whistle. When all was ready, a simple wave was all the dog needed to start nosing about in the bracken. The terrier was not a chaser nor did it ever work more than about 30m in front of the man. Its job was simple and it knew exactly what was required of it. When a rabbit was flushed, the dog stopped dead in its tracks until the roar of the shotgun soaked away into the surrounding grasslands. Then and only then would it run up and recover the carcass of the rabbit and return it to the man.

This same procedure was repeated until the man had three rabbits on his belt. I never saw him ever take more than three and I never saw the dog show any further interest in the hunt once the tally reached three. Most times, their hunt never lasted much longer than 30 or 40 minutes and rarely did they venture more than 100m beyond the parked Vanguard. I thought this rather odd, especially when I could often see plenty more rabbits feeding and jumping back and forth in the bracken a little further down the fenceline.

This went on for about four or five weeks until one weekend both dog and man were waiting for me at my vantage point. I was only young, about eight from memory, and stranger danger was not something talked about—not like it is now, at least. He struck up a conversation with me,



introduced both himself and the dog and asked if I would like to accompany them both rather than simply watching from a distance. I agreed straight away.

That morning the hunt took a little longer than normal. I guess my constant prattling must have made concentrating for both man and dog just a little harder than usual but in the end three rabbits succumbed to the duo. I asked why he just shot three to which he replied three was all he required. Two for supper for his wife and him and one for Bobbin (the Jack Russell) as a reward. He went on to say it was wasteful to take more than he needed and disrespectful to the rabbit itself. I guess he could see I was a bit puzzled by that and as we strolled back to his car he explained that hunting an animal is also about taking the life of that animal. If the need is justified then that is okay but if it is based purely upon want or desire then that is not okay.

I thought about that long and hard until the following weekend. This time I met them where they always started off on the hunt and this time we were finished earlier than the previous weekend. You see I was pretty quiet this time although at one point in the hunt I did ask the question, "Why Bobbin?" It seemed a silly name to me but, when he told me to just watch him work it dawned on me. Bobbin was a bundle of energy as is the nature of the breed and being short in statue you very seldom saw him in the high bracken. Every now and then, though, he would stand on his hind legs and his little head would just 'bob' up above the fern as though he was getting a bearing or location. From then on, I figured Bobbin was actually a pretty neat name.

The following weekend I met the man and Bobbin at the same place but this time I was handed a small single-barrel shotgun and a handful of slender shells. I had fired a few .22s before and a mate's air rifle but never a shotgun. This was serious business to me. He explained the gun was a .410 and unlike his 12g, it would be comfortable for me to shoot and effective out to 20yd and no more. He also told me to carry the gun with a cartridge in the chamber but cracked open. I was not to close the action until I was ready to shoot.

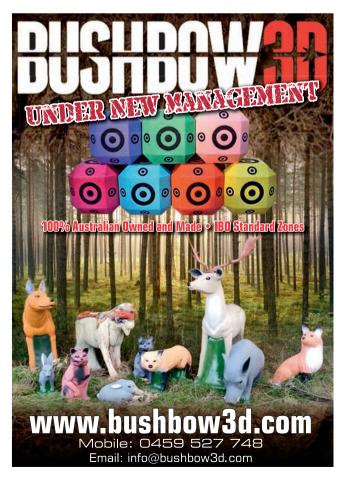
Bobbin went to work and in a few minutes two rabbits were flushed but the man, who was walking beside me, indicated the distance was too great even though one of the rabbits propped in the open. After a couple more were left to escape, one finally stopped next to a blackberry bush. He whispered to me to close the action which I did and to put the front bead on the rabbit. I confess to having a bit of trouble stopping the gun from shaking but, I eventually did and when I pulled back on the trigger the gun let out a roar coupled with a small kick to the shoulder. I didn't see the rabbit flop over but hit it I did. I was mighty impressed when Bobbin delivered the rabbit to me.

We continued hunting although I never fired another shot

on that day. The rabbits were either too far or running flat out. The man shot two and I donated mine to Bobbin so that made up the three. I hunted with the duo and the .410 on a number of occasions and each time I learned when it was right to shoot and when it wasn't. The lessons he taught me have stayed with me my whole life. You might ask what this has to do with bowhunting and I would answer, a heck of a lot.

A competent hunter, be it using a firearm or a bow, is not a man/woman who lets loose at everything they see. You have to be patient and shoot only when the moment is right. To this day I never take any more than I need although as a traditionalist, bagging more than I need is seldom an issue. Plus, every hunter must know their limits. I will not draw on any game animal unless it is under 25m. At this distance, I am competent with bigger game and not too bad on small. I do try my hand with running rabbits aka shotgun style but, mostly I shoot behind them and yes I still do use a dog on occasion.

I pride myself on my hunting ethics. The lessons I learned all those years ago, taught to me by a complete stranger, will never leave me. I do draw the line at pressed woollen trousers, tweed jacket, shirt and polished shoes. Bush shirt, camos and cargo pants and a well worn pair of boots are more my style. I do however, own a flat cap. Some things are just not meant to change. Until next time.





have been doing this every Christmas for the past 10 years. Straight after Boxing Day, I head out to the hot western Queensland terrain around Thargomindah in pursuit of trophy class pigs and goats. At that time of year, the temperatures are up around 45 degrees or more. As you know, the pigs and goats have to come in to water ... and the summer of 2017 would be no different. The property owner thinks I am mad but I have never missed out yet.

My mate Barry was coming with me this time; the property owner thinks he is mad too. Because of family commitments, we didn't leave until December 27 so we set off early and arrived at the property late afternoon after a 12-hour drive. We had a quick chat to Dick and got all our all gear packed away then a few

beers and an early night was in order.

We decided to do a run around all the waterholes just to see how much water we had to work with. Daylight was just before 5am so with everything packed for the day, we headed down the powerline. First stop was Afghan Tank. There were four gates to open and being in Barry's car meant I had gate duties. (I'm not used to doing this as it's usually Heather's job). We pulled up back off the tank and slowly walked in. Straight away I spotted the familiar shape of a boar lying in his wallow. I signalled to Barry then started my stalk in with only one tree between me and the boar.

I made it to within 16yd and sent an Outback Supreme between his neck and shoulder. He stood up looking at me and fell back down. He was not in the best of condition and his grinds were chipped. He still measured 24pt; not a bad start. I dragged him away from the water and we headed off to the next tank.

The property owner had told us about a busted pipe out near the back boundary just past White Tank with a large dam that usually produces well for us. There wasn't anything on the tank so we wove in and out of channels trying to find this broken pipe. We came across an old windmill with a few goats but just nannies and kids

There was a nanny lying beside an old concrete tank that was half buried in the ground and she just didn't want to leave. We walked over and there was a little kid that had fallen in and couldn't get out. By the number of skeletons down there, he



Broken grinds, but a good start to the hunting trip.

wasn't the first. I helped Barry down into the tank (he is younger than me) and he passed the goat up to me. I placed him on the ground and he ran straight over to the water and had a good long drink. We ended up dragging a couple of logs over and put them down in the tank so if any more goats fell in they could walk back out. (That was our good deed for the day.)

We couldn't find the broken pipe but we did find a track on our way back. I could see a green patch of scrub so walked over to check it out and found water running down the gully. We walked upstream until we found the busted pipe. There were plenty of goat tracks and a few pig wallows but no game, so we went back to the car.

We were nearly at the end of the water when I spotted a boar looking at me as we drove past him. I told Barry to keep driving a further 200yd then pull up. Barry grabbed his bow

and stared working his way back along the drain. I slowly walked on the other side with the video camera. Just as he got to the spot where I had seen the boar, the pig burst out of the water and took off across the flats. He looked a good boar around 70kg or 80kg.

As we approached White Tank we couldn't see anything so we just drove over the dam wall. As we drove over the pipe that fed the main dam from the creek, Barry looked straight down and said there was a pig lying in a puddle beside the pipe. We kept on driving another 60yd before we pulled up.

Barry said, "Your shot."

I said, "No, you take it." (I'm a dickhead.) Barry sneaked back and drove him from 8yd. The boar went nowhere. He measured 25pt.

On the way back, we decided to do the trough run to see what was about. On the first trough a sow and her suckers ran off and so did a boar at the end of a waterhole. At the next trough we found four young boars wallowing in the water, with water splashing over the sides. Barry took one before they ran off. (Dick told us later they were making a mess of the surrounds around the trough so he wanted them shot.)

We came to the last one. It is what is called a turkey's nest tank and had no cover for 300yd. The wind was in our favour, so we just slowly drove in to within 100yd. We saw two good boars come over the tank wall, go under the neighbour's fence and disappear into the scrub. We checked out the spot and found a few wallows so we decided this would be well worth checking again.

While we were driving down the boundary fence, two more boars came out of the scrub and ran along the fence. One was a good black-and-white boar about 80kg and the other was a younger one about 60kg.

The next tank we checked was one we had found during our previous trip in September. There were plenty of wallows and rub trees. We pulled up 200yd back, checked that the wind was right, and made our way in. I was on the right-hand side and Barry on





Barry and a great boar.

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Another good one for Dave.

the left. There were about three or four sows and their suckers but no boars so we decided to wait a bit and see what happened. Ten minutes later a boar came in on Barry's side, only a young one, but Dick wanted them shot so Barry stalked in and it took one arrow and he was down.

Heading back to camp, we had one more tank to check. We pulled up 200yd away and again the wind was kind to us. Coming over the tank wall, kangaroos were everywhere. I couldn't see a thing but Barry, being 6in taller than me, spotted a boar laid up in a little drain running off the tank.

The roos moved off quietly and I slowly made my way in. At 20yd I ran out of cover so took the shot. I thought I had blown it as my arrow went low but it hit something he didn't like and as he rose and hunched up, I had enough time to hit him again through the right shoulder into the left shoulder. He went over the bank and I followed him, only to see him falling over for good.

He was a big pig, the biggest I have

shot, maybe 100kg or even 110kg. He had thick tusks but both grinds were broken. He still measured 26 6/8pt—not bad for our first day.

The next day Dick was going away so we were looking after the water run while he was gone. This meant we had the work ute, so Barry decided to sit on the main dam for the day and I was going out to the dam where Barry had shot the young boar the day before.

After filling my backpack with food and water, I put in some camo netting to set up a blind. Barry did the same. We wished each other good luck and went our separate ways.

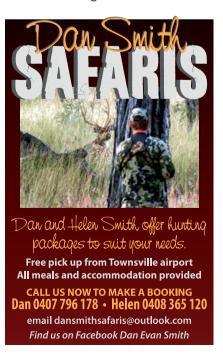
Arriving at my destination, I walked the last 200yd and set up my blind so I had full view of the water. It was a long, drawn-out day, sitting there from 6am till 5pm. Apart from roos and emus, nothing came in. Lucky for me I had a book to read. I considered packing up many times but I kept telling myself that they would come in eventually.

Well, I did pack up and headed down the track. When I came to a

T-section, I tossed up which track to take. Left, I would be home in 30 minutes with a cold beer. Right, I could check the turkey's nest that had the two pigs the previous day. Not liking to go home without seeing anything, I went right. The way the day was going, I wasn't too hopeful.

I pulled up 80yd from the turkey's nest and walked in, not expecting much. As I started up the dam wall, roos started running off making a boatload of noise, so that stuffed that up. Still, I thought I would just check if the pigs had been wallowing that day as it was past 5.30pm.

Everything was about to change. Looking over the edge, all I could see was large white tusks looking straight at me. The pig that owned the tusks and another boar were sound asleep, heavens knows how after the noise the roos had made. The pigs were only 15yd and both were facing towards me. It wasn't any problem choosing which pig to take as one had over 3in up both sides. It was the same boar we had seen the previous day. Placing my pin just down from his cheek, I hit the release. The arrow, with an Outback Supreme, drove in through his neck and into





Barry got his record class goat.

his vitals. He came out of his bed roaring like a lion—with me with no cover whatsoever. Luckily, he turned and went the other way. He ran 60yd and pulled up. He was one of the best looking boars I have ever taken and measured 27pt. He pulled short in the jaw. He was definitely the boar we had seen the day before. It was so hot the pigs were still wallowing at 6 o'clock at night.

When I arrived back at camp, I learned that Barry had had some good luck too. He had nailed a good boar. We'd taken three trophy class boars in two days.

The next day we went looking for a good goat for Barry. He only wanted to take one if it was record class, so we spent the day driving around. With a few of the waterholes dry, it cut the areas that held goats down to a handful. We found a few that were close but on closer inspection they just didn't quite make it. After lunch we pulled up at a dam right out the back blocks where we could see two goats asleep in the shade. The wind was right, so Barry went in while I stayed back a bit and used my video. I used the camera to zoom in and told Barry that one goat could go record class.

He made it in to 20yd and took the shot, hitting him a little high. The goat ran straight at Barry, stopping about 4yd from him. By then, another arrow was on its way. He was down. He didn't quite make 40in but definitely record class and Barry's best goat to date.

We spent the rest of the week just doing the dam and trough run with limited success. All up, we took over a dozen boars, three going trophy class and three just under and one record class goat ... pretty good for six days hunting.

I'm not sure if I will make the trip in 2018 as the property has only had 20ml of rain so far this year, but I'll be back there again on a summer hunt one day ... even if the property owner does think I'm mad.



Beauties like this make hunting in the summer heat of the Queensland outback worthwhile.



Where applicable, please use this as your tax invoice:

Australian Bowhunters Association ™

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



Australia Bowhunters Association, Inc.

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

Hosted by Shellharbour Bowmen Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd July 2018

Saturday

8 - 8:30am Registration & Bow Checks 9am Muster

Start 2 Arrow Round Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round

Sunday

7:30 - 7:45am Registration & Bow Checks 8am Muster - Start 2 Arrow Round Start 1 Arrow Round Lunch Presentations ASAP

Fees: Single Day Only: \$20 Single, \$40 Family Both Days: \$30.00 Single, \$50.00 Family (all fees include GST)

To pre-nominate or for further information:

Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628 or Email: branchfscores@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.

> No Dogs Policy Applies to this Shoot No smoking on ranges while shoots are in progress

Southern NSW & ACT Branch Southwest Slopes Sporting Fiel Saturday 18 and Sunday 19, August 2018

Saturday - 3D Round

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

Sunday - ABA Round

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

Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628 or Email: branchfscores@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.

No Dogs Policy Applies to this Shoot No smoking on ranges while shoots are in progress or restricted areas Contact SWSSFA: www.facebook.com/SWSSFA

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

Branch T

Hosted by Wagga Wagga Field Archers Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September 2018

Saturday

8-8:30am Registration & bow checks 9:00am Muster and start 2 arrow round Start 1 arrow round Lunch Presentations

Sunday

7:30-7:45am Registration & bow checks 8:00am Muster and start 2 arrow round Lunch Start 1 arrow round Presentations

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 for further information contact: Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628 or Email: branchfscores@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.

No Dogs Policy Applies to this Shoot No smoking on ranges while shoots are in progress or restricted areas Contact WWFA: www.facebook.com/Wagga-Wagga-Field-Archers-196356697151359/



Email Nominations to: Rhonda Pitt pitt04@bigpond.com or mobile: 0427 564 278 - Supply ABA Number

Nominations before 10th September with ABA number

Shoot Fees: Adults \$25, Cubs/Jnrs \$15, Families \$50

Complimentary Meal Friday Night

Strictly NO Dogs

Program times are a guide only and may be subject to change.

Saturday 29th September

6:30am Breakfast 8:00am Bow Check & Muster 8:30am ABA 3 Arrow Round Morning Tea

11:00am ABA 1 Arrow Round

12:30am Lunch Fun Rounds, Knife & Axe 2:00pm 6:30pm **Evening Meal**

Sunday 30th September 6:30am Breakfast 8:00am Muster

8:30am ABA 3 Arrow Round Morning Tea

11:00am ABA 1 Arrow Round

12:30am Lunch Fun Rounds, Knife & Axe 2:00pm 3:00pm Presentations

6:30pm Evening Meal Monday 1st October

6:30am Breakfast 8:00am Muster 8:30am IFAA Round 12:30pm Lunch & Presentations

What's On

Old State ABA Titles

Mackay District Bowhunters



Yakapari Rd, Seaforth, Qld 29th & 30th September 2018

Saturday	
(Nomination	ns close 8am 29/9/18)
8:30am	Bow Check
9:00am	Muster
9:30am	Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch	Start 1 Arrow Round
Novelty Fy	ents after 1 Arrow Round

6:30 to 7pm Dinner

Sunday 8:30am Muster

8:45am Start 3 Arrow Round Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round

Presentations will commence ASAP after scores have been finalised

Camping Available

Nominations to be emailed to: mackayandistrictbowmen@gmail.com
Early nominations will go into the prize draw for lucky door prize
When nominating please provide the following: name, ABA number, age
division, shooting division and grade

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

The Last Word

This is an old story and I don't suppose it has ever been told around the campfire, so I'll share it here. Names have been omitted to preserve the hunter's dignity.

Hunter came rushing into camp, out of breath, telling me between gulps of air that he had a cat up a tree, had run out of arrows and needed help to retrieve it. We grabbed an arrow or two and were immediately on our way.

Arriving at said tree, yep, I could see there was a cat hiding on one of the branches. The hunter gave me his bow and said, "You do it."

"No, I said, "It's your cat." But he insisted ... then told me his shoulder was sore.

"Why?" I asked, "Did you fall down?"

"Nope," was the reply. He then admitted he had spent quite some time running at the tree trying to dislodge the cat.

So in the end it was me who fell down. Laughing.

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Archery Alliance of Australia

2018











State Clout

July-August-September

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
July			
30June-1	Darling Downs Field Archers *	D	ABA C v D Challenge
1	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters *	G	ABA
1	Full Boar Archers	В	ABA
7-8	Manning District Bowhunters *	E	IFAA Branch Titles
13-15	Silver City Archers *	F	Indoor / ABA / 3D
14-15	Dubbo 3D Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
15	Freds Pass Field Archers	Α	3D
15	Katherine Archery Club	Α	3D
15	Dead Centre Bowhunters	Α	3D
21-22	Saxon Archery Club *	С	ABA
21-22	Shellharbour Bowmen *	F	3D NSW State Titles
21-22	Bendigo Field Archers *	Н	3D Vic State Titles
21-22	Caboolture and District Bowmen *	Qld	3DAAA Qld State Titles
28-29	National Indoor Mail Match *	Aust	National Indoor Titles
August			
4-5	North Burnett Field Archers *	С	Traditional Shoot
4-5	Namoi Valley Field Archers *	Е	ABA
4-5	Benchmark Marked Distance Shoot *	NSW	3DAAA
5	Boola Valley Field Archers *	G	IFAA
11-12	Yorke Peninsula Field Archers *	1	ABA/3D
12	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	The Nepean Pairs Handicap
12	Dead Centre Bowhunters	Α	IFAA Field
12	Full Boar Archers	В	ABA
18-19	Barambah Field Archers *	D	ABA Celebration Shoot
18-19	Southwest Slopes Sporting Field Archers *	F	ABA/3D
18-19	Bendigo Field Archers *	Н	ABA
18-19	WA Field and Bowhunters *	J	3D/ABA
18-19	Twin City Archers *	Vic	3DAAA State Titles
18-19	Collinsville Barebow Hunters *	В	ABA
25-26	Kurrimine Beach Archers *	В	ABA
25-26	North Albert Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA

SA

ArcherySA—TBA *

26

September

1-2	Emerald Archery Club *	С	3D
1-2	Tully Bowmen *	В	ABA
8-9	Gloucester District Archers *	E	3D Branch Titles
8-9	Mallee Sunset Field Archers *	Н	Traditional/IFAA
8-9	Mornington Peninsula Bowmen *	Vic	3DAAA
9	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters *	G	ABA
9	Full Boar Archers	В	ABA
9-10	Towers Bowhunters *	В	ABA
22	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	PCA September QRE
22-23	Charleville Field Archers *	D	ABA Gold Cup
15-16	Wagga Wagga Field Archers *	F	ABA Branch Titles
15-16	Lilydale Bowmen *	Н	ABA
15-16	Break O'Day Field Archers *	Н	ABA
15-16	Southern Yorke Field Archers *	1	ABA/3D
15-16	Swan Hill Archers *	Н	Traditional
22-23	Gladstone Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA
23	Freds Pass Field Archers	Α	ABA
23	Katherine Archery Club	Α	ABA
23	Dead Centre Bowhunters	Α	ABA
29-30	Cessnock Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
29-30	Mackay and District Bowmen *	В	ABA Qld State Titles
29-30	Silver City Archers *	1	Branch Safari ABA

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

ABA national events are in red. Shoots marked with an * are cross-participation events



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of (street # & name)		(to	wn-city)	(p-code)
•	*	•		(p-code)
Phone number		D	ate of birth/	/
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		Signature o	f Applicant	
• • •	e, also wish to mal		nbership of ABA (In	Date of Birth
attain such age.				er the age of 18 years, until they cable:
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sought or supply of inc	orrect information ma	y result in application be	ing rejected.	ACCOCIATION
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