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All ABA members are cordially invited to compete at the 2019 National Safari Championships to be held at the Mallee Sunset Field Archers, Red Cliffs, Victoria.

Nomination Fees:

ABA Adult \$55 Jnr/Cub \$45 Family \$125
3D Adult \$60 Jnr/Cub \$50 Family \$135

Closing Date for Entries is Monday 1st April 2019.
No late nominations will be accepted.

Last date for grading is 18 March 2019.

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

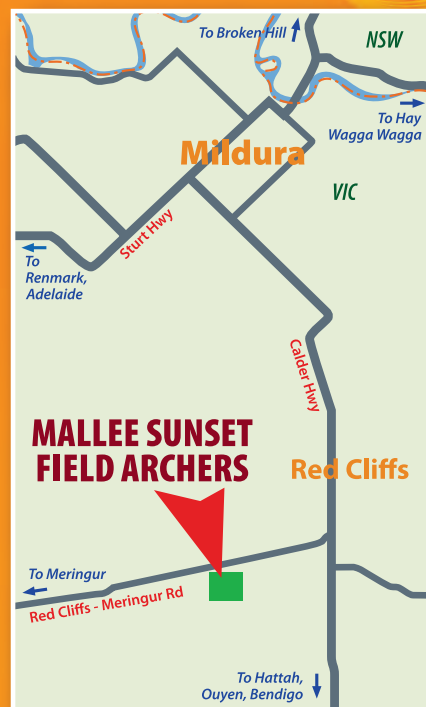
Timetable:

Muster each day at 8.00am for an 8.30am start

Registration and Bow Checks for all events - Thursday
18 April 2019.

ABA - Friday 19 April and Saturday 20 April (3 and 1 arrow each day), followed by presentations Saturday evening.

3D - Sunday 21 April and Monday 22 April followed by presentations Monday evening.



Camping:

Camping is ample at the range; anybody wishing for offsite accommodation can obtain further information from the ABA website. Definitely No DOGS allowed.

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

Entries:

All Nominations to be completed online via the ABA website and follow the links, www.bowhunters.org.au

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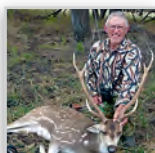
STH NSW BRNCH ABA/3D SHOOT Eurobodalla 80



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◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Luke Hebb with a Record Class fox, 10 10/16pt, taken in WA.

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Another year is racing to a close. People have started telling us how many weeks it is to Christmas. I suppose the discount stores are already filled with glittering decorations (although I admit I haven't been in to check) and it won't be long before the supermarkets break out the yuletide Muzak.

As we watch the year coming to its end, it's a chance to look back and think about what we've reported on during that time. ABA barebow, sighted and 3D archers and IFAA enthusiasts have visited Australia's heartland to shoot a very successful National Safari at Alice Springs. We've welcomed some people and farewelled others. Hunters have been on some fantastic trips and we've celebrated their successes and felt their pain when things haven't gone their way. We have saluted three new Australian records with fallow, red deer and fox. Archers who love 3D have had some wonderful shoots and have made fine memories with friends old and new.

DEADLINES for 2019

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE		DEADLINE
Vol 44 No. 3	January-February	1 December
Vol 44 No. 4	March-April	1 February
Vol 44 No. 5	May-June	1 April
Vol 44 No. 6	July-August	1 June
Vol 45 No. 1	September-October	1 August
Vol 45 No. 2	November-December	1 October



Aussies have travelled overseas a few times for competitions—Pacific Regional Field Archery Championships in New Zealand and World Field Archery Championships in South Africa come to mind. And Norfolk Island has been as popular as ever as a destination for those who like to combine a 3D competition with a holiday. Traditional Archery Australia has held its second annual National Muster and is now planning to conquer the world. This year a youth story-writing competition gave us an insight into what archery means to children, while Nick Lintern taught us how to make a Flemish splice traditional bow string from scratch.

People have been hunting in the bush and shooting on the archery course. They've aimed with trad or new-fangled gear (and axes and knives) and they've aimed at 2D, 3D, ABA, IFAA, novelty targets and feral animals. Some have battled target panic and won. Some have had frustrating gear failures but have still managed to come out smiling.

We hope your archery experience has made the year richer and more satisfying for you and the editorial team takes this opportunity to wish you well for the holiday season.

Jenel Hunt
Editor



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FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

DISCLAIMER

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REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

Traditional Trails—Nick Lintern

Bushcraft and Survival—Scott Heiman



CRAWLING TO *Success*

DEBBIE LARKINGS

There can be many pleasures from being in the great outdoors. Here, a courting bowerbird's rich offerings provide a photo opportunity and (below) this image gives new meaning to the saying, having your ducks all in a row.

Graeme and I have been lucky in the past with our hunting trips but there is one animal that has always eluded us and that is the chital deer stag. Graeme has got does before and one small stag in the past but has been unable to get a big stag, which has haunted him. I've been on two deer-hunting trips and have never been able to get a chital.

So we rang Pat McNamara of Bowhunters Lodge and it wasn't long before we were on our way to Charters

Towers for a chital hunt.

We arrived at the basalt rock property at Charters Towers mid-afternoon on Monday. After talking to the landowner, we got ourselves sorted and went for a walk. I have to admit I was a bit apprehensive. Knowing how switched on deer are, how good their eyesight and hearing are and how hard it is to walk on basalt rock, I knew it was going to be a hard week.

We got off to a great start: Over a rise 400m from camp, I noticed a doe

having a feed, it was 160m from where we were standing. It was decided that Graeme would have the first stalk. Graeme stalked to 23m from the doe and got a lung shot. The deer walked 40m and dropped. So within 30 minutes from leaving camp, we had a deer down. We decided to dress the deer for meat. Smiles all round.

Up early the next morning, we packed the meat and when the job was done we headed out for a hunt. They have had good rain recently in



Graeme had early luck, taking this doe on the first day. Was this an indication of how the whole hunting trip would go or would it be as hard as walking on basalt rocks might suggest?

this area so there was plenty of high grass ... but unfortunately not high enough so the deer couldn't see us.

Not long after we started looking around we saw a couple of nice stags but they were alert as usual, and off they went. After a bit of cursing, we kept walking. A while later Graeme noticed another couple of stags. Graeme went and had a stalk but this time little kangaroos saw us. Poof, gone were the deer. "Okay," we thought, "Alright." Maybe we thought a bit more than that but our disappointment didn't stop us looking around. Once again we came across a stag and started to stalk in on it. This time the wind changed and the deer immediately disappeared. We thought the deer gods were certainly on the their side. In one sense it was disheartening but in another way it encouraging because at least we knew

that there were deer around.

It was getting late in the day, so we decided to head back to camp. On the way back, Graeme saw a stag and two does, so Graeme had a little stalk but they were a bit fidgety and kept walking away. Bugger. At tea that night we were saying how promising that there were a few deer here but the problem was how to get close to them. Over the week we learned to hate the wind and little kangaroos.

On Wednesday morning, we got up early to have an early hunt in the hope of seeing deer but one of the station hands came and asked Graeme to help get a truck tyre off as he couldn't do it by himself. While Graeme was away, I did some domestic duties ... yes, domestic duties. No matter where you are, you have to clean clothes!

Graeme came back and we headed straight out and not long after we saw

a stag in the distance but the wind wasn't favourable, so we left him for another time (we hoped). Around about this time we were wondering if it was going to be one of those days.

After more walking, we noticed a mob of 20 deer and after a bit of a talk about the possibility of evading 20 sets of eyes, we decided we shouldn't let the slim odds stop us from trying to get closer.

As we were giving the deer a wide berth to get ourselves into a better position, Graeme noticed a doe by herself in the open; yes, in the open. I thought, "Bloody deer gods again." We got to a little hill with lots of rocks on it. The doe was about 70m away in the open. Aarrhhh, I thought, and in the next moment, I was on my belly crawling in long grass and over rocks. Every now and then I would look back at Graeme because he was my eyes

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TUSKER TROPHY OF THE MONTH

Best Trophy Taken

Taken with a Tusker Head, Recognised by ABA

Tony Lasker, Independent, Feral Cat, 8 pts Record Class



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First Kill or FKOS

Taken with a Tusker Head, Recognised by ABA

Geoff White, Wide Bay Archers, Hare, GA



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To enter for First Kill Trophy, Tusker Head, mark your ABA small game application clearly with "FIRST KILL".

BEST GAME NOT TAKEN WITH A TUSKER

Kenneth Thompson, Namoi Valley Archers, Feral Pig, 26 4/8 pts, Trophy Class



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from a distance. I was determined to get this deer and in the end I crawled 120m. I was telling myself as I was crawling how silly I was and that I'd better get this doe after doing all this crawling. The doe had moved to some rocks and trees and I thought that was good but when I got to where I wanted there was a kangaroo and I spooked it a little—enough for the doe to investigate. The doe saw me and ran 30m and stopped and looked back. I cursed but I wondered why the doe didn't run further. The next moment I saw why—there was a stag there.

He tried to have his way with the doe but she wasn't interested and the

stag started walking away from her but closer to me on an angle. Well, I have shot pigs, goats and buffalo but never before have I had the adrenaline kick in like when the stag came in.

I had to hold my bow tight against me so I could put my release aid and arrow on the string and to make matters worse, I had only one chance

and a narrow space to shoot.

I managed to shoot an arrow through the narrow space and hit the stag and down it went at 18m.

If the shakes had been bad before I shot the stag, they were even worse afterwards. Graeme came over and he was nearly as excited as I was. It took a long time for me to calm down and

*Sometimes you have to crawl
before you can shoot*

Debbie's stag.





even then I couldn't believe what I'd managed. Graeme took photos and then he caped the stag for me. It was one of my best moments in hunting and having my husband with me made it even better.

We went back to camp for a late lunch before going out again. Graeme saw a pig and had a shot but had no luck. It was getting late, so we went back to camp and we had a great talk about the day's hunt.

As all hunters know, the wind plays a huge part in hunting. If it's in your favour, that's great ... but we all know how it goes when the wind is against you. For the next three days we saw deer and we stalked in on them but the wind would change or there would be those little kangaroos warning the deer. We even tried blinds early in the mornings, to no avail. It was testing our patience and luckily Graeme has plenty of that.

On our last day, we decided to have a big day, even though our legs were hurting from all the walking on rocks we'd been doing.

We had been walking for four hours and had only managed one stalk. It wasn't looking very promising and to tell the truth we were feeling pretty bugged. We had a rest for a while and headed on again. Hearing a stag in the distance, we walked towards the sound. We found the deer and I cursed the deer gods because the deer were out in the open. We sat and waited for ages in a clump of trees to see what the deer would do. After a long wait, the deer wandered off to a clump of teatrees in front of us upwind. Graeme stalked in on them but they caught him out and they went off. While Graeme watched them walk away, he looked

Debbie with her caped out stag. The deer measured 154pt.

to his left and saw three stags under some teatrees. Graeme sneaked back to me and told me about the trio of stags he'd seen 200m away.

He walked towards the first tree which was 110m away from the stags. He got into a crawl for the last 70m. Every now and then, Graeme lifted his head up to check out the situation.

Graeme was away a long time and I couldn't see him or the deer. He eventually came out of the trees and my first thought was that the deer gods had been at it again, but then Graeme threw his hands up in the air with an excited gesture.

He'd gone into the teatrees and when he ranged the stag he wanted, it was 28m away. While still hidden by the vegetation, Graeme drew his bow back then slowly, slowly moved from behind the tree ... just far enough to take the shot. The next moment the arrow was on its way. The stag ran 15m and down it went. Graeme got his stag and a good one. Wow. It was exciting, hugs galore.

Graeme had left it till the eleventh hour to get his stag—it was 4pm on our last day. But he got it, and had time to cape out. How good is that!

It was a very special trip for us, not only because we both got a stag but also because we were hunting together.

Graeme's eleventh-hour deer measured 150 2/8pt.

gear used

Debbie

Bow: Mathews Jewel
Broadheads: Razorbacks

Graeme

Bow: Mathews Halon 7
Broadheads: Northern, Outback





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PROTOCOL

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

NATIONAL OFFICERS

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

BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Acting Senior Vice-President)



Hunting about

I would like to offer huge congratulations to Troy Morris. He has now become the fourth ABA hunter to take the total of 18 species of game on the ABA game list. This is a fantastic achievement and I can tell you from personal experience that it takes a lot of commitment. It doesn't matter what Australian State you live in,

you have to put in a lot of time and travel throughout the country to collect all the animals on the list. I have been privileged to hunt with Troy on several occasions and I can assure you he is a worthy recipient of the Royale Ishi. Troy now joins David Luxford, John Scott and me as the four who have reached this pinnacle but there are several

other hunters who are very close.

While we are on the subject of hunting and mentioning John Scott, he called in to my place on his way home recently to get a few things measured. Even though he now lives on the other side of the little ditch—that's the ditch between Victoria and Tasmania—he still manages to get a bit of hunting in on the mainland. In a five week or so lap around the eastern part of Australia he managed to shoot four camels, three cats, a fox, two goats, three pigs, a rabbit, a very good fallow deer and a very good rusa deer, collecting for himself five TCs and four RCs. Good stuff, John. The old fellas are still out there flinging an arrow or two.

TBA Facebook page

The TBA committee has been working on getting more material onto their Facebook page. However there is some concern with privacy issues. It is our plan to amend our game claim form so hunters can inform us if they don't wish to be on Facebook, or any of the ABA's media for that matter. In the meantime, if we see a good

picture come through we may contact you in regard to using that image on Facebook.

Knife/axe and insurance

We have been looking at the ABA's insurance in relation to knife and axe competitions as what we had was not really clear. Clear to us maybe, but not necessarily to our insurance providers. As insurance tightens up, we have had to be more specific in what is covered within the ABA game structure. As a result, we added a specific knife and axe policy into our insurance policy. The wording of this is no different than what we currently have within our rules for both the set-out of the knife/axe range and our general rules of competition.

So be aware that to be covered by the ABA's insurance, knife and axe competitions must adhere to all our rules and regulations. That includes proper target butts, safety precautions and no alcohol until the completion of the activity. I'm not saying you have to do it that way ... just that you won't have insurance if you don't.

The following came directly from our insurance broker: Strictly enforced that for archery and knife/axe throwing (and associated activities), no one is allowed to participate/compete if they have been drinking or appear under the influence of any substance.

More insurance issues

QBE's Global Underwriting Committee (GUC) recently agreed on a change in insuring any organisation, association or club which provides, permits to own, purchase, carry or use firearms, or whose primary purpose is to support the right to bear firearms, or which conducts or otherwise supports activities involving the use of firearms. This includes shooting clubs and political parties that support the use of firearms. QBE are the major underwriter for many of the SSAA insurance policies. In addition QBE will no longer insure the sale and/or manufacture of firearms. This global initiative from QBE initiative will affect all branches of QBE worldwide effective 1 October 2018.

How does this affect us? It doesn't

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

at this stage however if one major insurance company goes against shooting sports, where may archery and bowhunting stand in the future? I think anyone who is involved with shooting sports needs to make a point here. Personally I will check my policies and if QBE is involved I will be changing.

National survey

I was recently contacted by a National Study Group working on the social and economic impacts of recreational shooting and hunting, which included bowhunting. This group have been engaged by the Commonwealth Department of Health. Their research will report on:

1. The economic activity associated with recreational shooting. Results will be reported for each State/Territory and Australia overall.

2. The impact of recreational shooting on physical activity.

3. The social and mental health benefits that shooters experience as a result of participating in shooting and hunting.

4. Demographic information on shooters.

They were specifically after statistics on membership, ie, how many people hunted, and how they went about it. This was mainly to give them an idea of who is hunting and help inform their survey design. They were also after any research we may have on bowhunters in Australia or on a State level that we thought could be useful. Late this year or early next year they will be drafting the survey across the nation.

I could tell them a bit but not as much as I would have liked. I was looking for something that would benefit us as bowhunters and recreational bush users. I would really like to have given them huge figures on the amount of people who hunted and



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

Bnch Hunter	Club	Game	Award	FK/FKOS	Size
B Graham Otto	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		27
B Graham Otto	Cape York Archers	Shark	TC		15 3/8
B Graham Otto	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		25
B Graham Otto	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		26 6/8
B Graham Otto	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		27
B Graham Otto	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		25
B Graham Otto	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		27
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	Fallow	RC		195 7/8
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	Hare	GA	FKOS	0
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	Fallow	TC		168 2/8
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Stingray	TC		7 3/8
B Tony Lasker	Independent	Goat	TC		96 4/8
B Tony Lasker	Independent	Cat	RC		8
B Toby Gall	Mackay & District Bowhunter	Fox	TC	FKOS	9 13/16
B Toby Gall	Mackay & District Bowhunter	Fallow	RC		205 6/8
B Toby Gall	Mackay & District Bowhunter	Goat	TC		103 6/8
B Toby Gall	Mackay & District Bowhunter	Goat	TC		107 6/8
B Toby Gall	Mackay & District Bowhunter	Goat	TC		100 4/8
B Toby Gall	Mackay & District Bowhunter	Rusa	RC		171 6/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC		26 4/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Red	TC		185
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Fallow	RC		194 2/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Red	TC		196 1/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC		25 4/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Rusa	RC		218 3/8
C Scott Hannah	Capricorn Field Archers	Rusa	RC	FKOS	185 6/8
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Fallow	TC		178 4/8
C Geoff White	Wide Bay Archers	Hare	GA	FKOS	0
D Dave Edwards	Grange Bowmen	Cat	RC	FKOS	7 13/16
D David Littlejohn	Grange Bowmen	Fox	TC	FKOS	9 7/16
D Dean Thurtell	Renegade Bowmen	Cat	TC	FKOS	7 3/16
D Lawrence Arnold	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	GA	FKOS	0
E John Timbrell	Central Coast Moonterra	Fallow	GA	FKOS	0
E Jason Archer	Hunter Bowmen	Fallow	RC	FK/FKOS	245 3/8
E Kenneth Thompson	Namoi Valley Archers	Pig	TC	FK/FKOS	26 4/8
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 11/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 11/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16

how often they hunted. These would have been positive figures as nothing attracts the attention of governments more than numbers, as numbers are votes. The more we do, and the more often, the more likely we are able to continue to do it.

Where am I going with this? Please

claim all your game. We can get positive statistics from your game claims. Nothing worries a politician more than upsetting voters, providing those voters are in the majority. We need to be seen to be in the majority to have a chance to continue what we do.

E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Cat	TC		7 3/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		10 1/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
E Charlie Gardner	Sapphire City Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16
E Charlie Gardner	Sapphire City Archers	Fallow	TC		167 1/8
E Charlie Gardner	Sapphire City Archers	Fallow	TC		170 1/8
E Dillan Gardner	Sapphire City Archers	Fallow	TC	FK/FKOS	168 2/8
G Damien Hollingsworth	Macalister Trophy Bowhunter	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	21
G Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland Field Archers	Fox	TC		10
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers	Fox	TC		10 1/16
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
H Dean Scott	Independent	Buffalo	RC		95 4/8
H Dean Scott	Independent	Donkey	GA	FKOS	0
H Cheryl Looby	Bendigo Field Archers	Pig	TC	FK/FKOS	0
H Tim Pitt-Lancaster	Mount Clay Archers	Fallow	RC		193 3/8
J Colin Montgomery	Peel Archers	Rabbit	GA	FK/FKOS	0
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 3/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	RC		10 2/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		10
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 15/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 5/16



Rob Fowler, TC goat 105 7/8pt.





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President's Report

Communication: It is the lifeblood of any association! We rely on the dissemination of information both to and from the administrative bodies of ABA to the members and back the other way.

Given the diversity of our members, clubs and Branches, communication is always an issue for us. ABA relies on the association's hierarchy to disseminate information to the members; the members rely on the diversity of our communication outlets to find out what's happening.

And hasn't communication changed in the past 20 years!

When I first joined the National Executive there were essentially three main sources of communication used; snail mail, *Archery Action* and the telephone/fax line. And they did the job that was required.

Since then we have seen a number of technologically advanced additions to this; the internet, email, SMS, numerous social media sites et cetera, many of which have taken the place of the tried and true older methods, especially snail mail.



Jeff Bell.

The main reason for this is speed. We have become a society that wants answers and information, *now!* We don't appear to have the patience to wait for snail mail any more. And why should we? The use of computers and smart phones mean that we can ask questions, or make decisions, now and distribute that information almost immediately. I believe that this has had huge benefits across society, not just for ABA, and has meant that the tyranny of distance is no longer an issue (at least with regard to communication) as the

time that separates all of the different factions of our association can now be measured in just seconds.

It should certainly make the distribution and dissemination of information so much easier ... at least that's what you'd think!

But it doesn't work that way. The human element plays such a significant role in the effectiveness of modern communication. While computers and internet and smart phones are very fast with sending their messages, they are only as reliable as the person who inputs the information. Our new technology relies on accuracy.

Why am I telling you this? Because there have been a number of situations recently where the limitations of computer-generated communications have challenged the ABA's ability to disseminate important information.

The first significant impact with this was with membership renewal via the internet. It has been recent practice that membership renewals are sent to members via email. Sometimes this is hundreds per day. If, in sending these emails, the recipient's/member's

At the same time there have been a number of challenging situations within the ABA family. Some of these have required the distribution of very important letters to clubs and Branch officials. I recently sent important emails to a number of clubs and was of the understanding that these had been received and understood. I was certainly feeling very positive, from a personal perspective, that the members would be pleased that they had been kept informed of what

And what caused both of these situations? Incorrect communication details! In some cases it was an incorrectly entered email address; that's our fault! In most cases it was caused by incorrect personal contact details. Either the club personnel had changed but ABA had not been notified, or people had changed their contact details, especially their email address, and not let us know!

If ABA, in all of its elements, is to continue to rely on the computer and the internet as a major source of communication, it is then up to every one of us to ensure that ABA has our correct contact information.

you have changed your address, your phone number, your internet provider or any of your details I would ask that you make sure that you let ABA office know as a matter of urgency. In this we can be sure that the message is getting through and that our very important lines of communication are always open.

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Bowhunting achievements

to 27 September, 2018

Master Bowhunter

Graeme Duff	780
Helen Duff	750
Tyler Atkinson	460
David Luxford	390
Luke Hebb	380
Luke Sampson	330

Trophy Bowhunter Award

Toby Gall	200
-----------	-----

Bowhunter Award

Graham Otto	170
Donald Moor	150
Jason Lesnik	140
Daniel Ferguson	130
David Rethus	130
Dan Podubinski	120
Elissa Rosemond	120
Wade Bygrave	110
Brenton Mitchell	100
Theo Vanderburg	100

Bowhunter Royale

Nil further since last report

Bowhunter Imperial

Nil further since last report

Bowhunter Supreme

Alan Robertson

Senior Member of TBA

Nil further since last report

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

Dean Thurtell
Dillan Gardner
Jason Archer
Kenneth Thompson



Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



Introducing NEW TBA MEMBER Gary Percival

What town do you live in?

Brisbane.

What club do you belong to?

Renegade Bowmen. This has really helped my ability with the bow, but I've also found the support and information that other club members give to be extremely helpful.

Do you hold a position in the club?

No.

How long have you been an ABA member?

Two years.

How long have you been bowhunting?

I'd been bowhunting just over 12 months without any success until my recent claims of two foxes and a cat. I've made stalks on goats, deer and pigs but either the shot didn't present itself for my confidence level or they weren't what I was looking for. I don't want to kill just anything.

What started you in bowhunting?

I have been a rifle hunter for a long time and was encouraged by friend and fellow member Damien Norris to give bowhunting a try. I bought a cheap secondhand bow to begin with, to see if I liked it. I did, a lot.

The trip where I took the foxes and cat, another club member, Wade

Bygrave, took Damien and me to one of the properties he has access to. It makes a big difference if you can get onto a good property for hunting.

How often do you get to go hunting?

Once every couple of months.

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

Compound. I recently bought a new bow, a PSE Bow Madness, and absolutely love it.

Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?

Yes I definitely want to try to make more claims.

Do you have any hunting goals that you would like to achieve/bowhunter awards etc?

Yes I would love to earn more patches and wear them with pride on my club shirt and encourage more bowhunters to do the same.

Did you know much about TBA before this?

Yes, right from the start. It was a real goal of mine to make this my first claim and I really hope to make more claims in the future.

The TBA Committee congratulates you on your achievement, Gary.



In the previous issue, we introduced new TBA member Drew Edwards. Here, he describes the hunt that led to the taking of his trophy class fox.

There was about an hour and a half left of daylight and it was decided that I would sit at a fence where we'd seen a mob of pigs going through the fence to crop on the other side the day before. This was my first hunt alone. It only took about 20 minutes and two foxes were in front of me chasing each other around. I watched them play around for a bit and ranged them at 45yd while I watched. Then they took off! I wasn't upset about not having a shot because it had been fun just watching the two foxes chasing each other around.

On the way back to the car after regrouping with Dad, we spotted a fox out in an open paddock. We whistled him in and he came in to 25yd and sat down. I took the shot straight through the heart. I knew immediately that it was a good shot and I was really excited. But we didn't find the fox straight away and unfortunately we ran out of daylight. We went back to look for him the next day. He measured out to be 10 2/16pt and I was a very happy hunter.



*Gary Percival
and his TBA
fox.*



TRANSITION

complete

by **ADAM CLEMENTS**

After almost 10 years of whistling foxes, busting bunnies and chasing pigs with my rifle, I decided to give stalking deer a go ... and ever since I have been obsessed with everything to do with these majestic creatures. A further five years later—and having experienced many highs and lows—I wanted to immerse myself deeper in their world.

I thought I'd take on a new challenge. With the lure of honing my stalking skills, testing my patience and getting closer in, I decided to get

into bowhunting. And boy, did I get a challenge!

A year later, with my success rate falling to zero, I realised I had started to focus too much on the result and not on the hunt or just enjoying being out in the bush. I was spending the same amount of time out hunting and seeing the same amount of deer I usually did but only ever remembered the frustration or disappointment of not going home with the rewards. Many times I wished I had my rifle. After my annual pig trip I realised I needed to

step back, remove the pressure from myself and start taking my time and enjoying the little moments again.

I planned a couple more hunts and forced myself to go alone and spend more time sitting still and taking in my surroundings but the decision of bow or rifle was still a struggle. At one point I even stalked in on some fallow with one in each hand! I wanted so much to use the bow but couldn't let go of what I was confident in. It ended up with me at full draw waiting for them to come into my window but at the

last second they winded me so it was bow down and rifle up in a flash. Even though it ended up with two nice meat animals in the freezer, I knew then that it was time for one or the other.

We were in the beginnings of planning a family trip around Australia, so I decided to start looking into possible guided bowhunts where I could spend time with experienced bowhunters and maybe, just maybe, have the opportunity to experience that special moment I had been chasing where it could be just me and the deer up close.

I searched around and asked for advice at my club then chose a red/fallow deer hunt during the rut in Queensland. Before I knew it we were in Brisbane and the time was here. Leaving the family behind, I was full of nerves and anxious about what was ahead. Not knowing what to expect or who to expect, my heart was beating at a much faster rate for the three-hour drive into the beautiful Brisbane Valley. The last 10km were intense so I wound down the windows, slowed down and took in the amazing country I was driving into.

Upon arrival, I was greeted and welcomed into camp. I picked somewhere to sleep and got ready for the morning hunt. Overwhelmed with pressure and nerves, I was pretty wound up and didn't sleep much that night. I just lay in bed waiting for 4.30am to tick over.

Then it was on, coffee was done and with the sound of the Polaris starting, it was time.

My heart was pounding! We headed off up a steep, rough track over the mountain to a view and a sound that took my breath away ... an endless view of rolling hills and valleys and the roaring of red stags. Wow!

Within an hour I was suddenly standing frozen behind a small tree 80m away from my first roaring red stag. The sound was intense. It was

kind of like standing in front of a lion with antlers!

I had an arrow nocked and it was now up to him whether or not he charged down to confront us and present me with clear shot. After what seemed like hours (but was only 20 minutes) he wasn't coming in and vanished into the bush.

Back at camp we all shared our excitement from the morning. The next couple of hunts were pretty quiet ... the roar was ending but the fallow were starting to croak. At each subsequent outing I was starting to relax a little, taking on board any advice I was given, and things started to fall into place. My fellow hunter, being originally a rifle hunter himself, could understand the battle I had been having and said that I need not worry as I was just in a transition phase and eventually I would get to a point where I no longer had that thought of, "I wish I had my rifle."

He had two other great bits of advice for me. Firstly when you get to that point of freaking out just close your eyes and sing a silly song in your head over and over to clear your mind and stop overthinking things. Secondly, when you are out always strive to look over the extra ridge, climb that one more hill or check that one more gully.

On the third day we stopped on our way out to listen if the croaking was on ... and it was. So we headed over and around a few more mountains and the adrenaline began to build. I remembered the advice and mentally sang all the way there ... one potato, two potatoes, three potatoes, four, five potatoes, six potatoes, seven potatoes, more ...

We pulled up to a deep and vast system of gullies where we could hear a fallow buck croaking so we went in. Contouring around and around, we encountered some does and things started to go quiet. After a while we changed direction and could hear

another buck or two croaking flat out so we headed around to the next ridge and all of a sudden came out just above them. A big white buck was chasing his prancing does around and around, unaware of our presence. He pulled up about 100m away and with a rattle of some antlers we got his attention. After another five or 10 minutes all of a sudden he decided to come and show his dominance. With his head down and bellowing his way up to us, it was on!

With some quiet direction from my guide it came together perfectly, draw, 20m, okay when you're ready ... the stag came over the ridge and stopped in front of me so I squeezed the release aid and the arrow was in flight. Whack! He turned and took off but as he went around the corner I saw him sway and stumble. I was quietly confident but my guide wasn't sure so we went to investigate where we found a blood trail which then turned into a big blood trail. As we came to the valley floor that was scattered with lantana the doubt crept in as I could see in all directions clearly and could see no sign of him. Then my guide turned with a big smile and the adrenaline skyrocketed but I still couldn't see



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Adam with his buck.

what he could see until he pointed out my fletchings standing upright above the lantana. There he was! Overcome with emotion and after a quick extra arrow to make sure he was dispatched as quickly as possible, it was time to soak up the moment.

After harvesting what meat we could and making the big hike out, we headed back to camp where everyone shared in the excitement and achievement.

The next day we tried a different spot and after walking a picturesque ridgeline watching the rising sun's warmth bring the bush to life, we scaled down a spur where we found a few does grazing. As we dropped down

further and stalked in, we chose a spot in front of them to wait to see if there was a buck with them. After about five minutes a small doe broke out of the creek at a blazing pace followed by an excited buck. She changed direction two or three times, each time coming closer to us, until she passed us within 5m. Following her after pausing to check out the other does, the buck came rocketing up after her passing us at 20m. A quick bark pulled him up and there he was, broadside. Whack! We couldn't believe it ... only seconds earlier we'd been looking at a quiet valley, and now there was another buck down.

In the afternoon we headed off

for a long but easy walk to see if we could find a red stag that was still occasionally roaring. Soon we were climbing some steep ridges exploring the area, then after no luck and worn out decided to head back to camp. Then I heard the words "You wanna go up here to see what's up there?" and the words of advice came back to me, "Push for that extra effort."

So I said "Why not?", and at the top was a red stag and a couple of hinds grazing 100m in front of us! As we planned the stalk the wind changed, I had that haunting thought, "If only I had my rifle!" Sitting by the fire that night I realised I had found that spark and joy I'd previously had for the entire

hunt no matter the outcome and was soaking in all the bush had to offer. And I think, just maybe, that will be the last time I say those haunting words. Transition complete!

Hunting with a bow forces you to be in close with your quarry where it is just you and them. With a rifle they just have to pass into your zone which could be 300m away whereas with a bow you have to make it into their zone, their personal space of 10m to 30m. One of the guides said it perfectly: "With a rifle, the hunt is over when you see the deer but with a bow the hunt starts when you see the deer."

Overall it was a great week and one I will never forget, not just because of

the successful hunt but because of the respectful, generous and welcoming atmosphere that archery brings. I met many new faces, had the privilege of taking two quality animals and soaked up all the bush had to offer.

I had arrived feeling extremely nervous and under a mountain of pressure but left calm and with a great weight off my shoulders. Also having an experienced guide helping you (and keeping you calm) was invaluable and to see how much they still experience the highs and lows with you after so many hunts was really encouraging.

Spending time with such experienced bowhunters is a very special thing no matter how experienced you

are. Their wealth of knowledge and understanding of everything involved is such a blessing to the next generation. We should strive to learn what we can when it is available and ensure we pass it on and keep protecting the privilege of bowhunting.

I cannot thank Queensland Bowhunting Safaris enough for the opportunity to hunt in such a special place. If it wasn't for their time, effort and generosity we wouldn't have the chance to hunt in such amazing areas like this, we should all be very grateful to our older generation and what they have worked so hard to protect and develop so we can enjoy such a great sport and way of life.



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





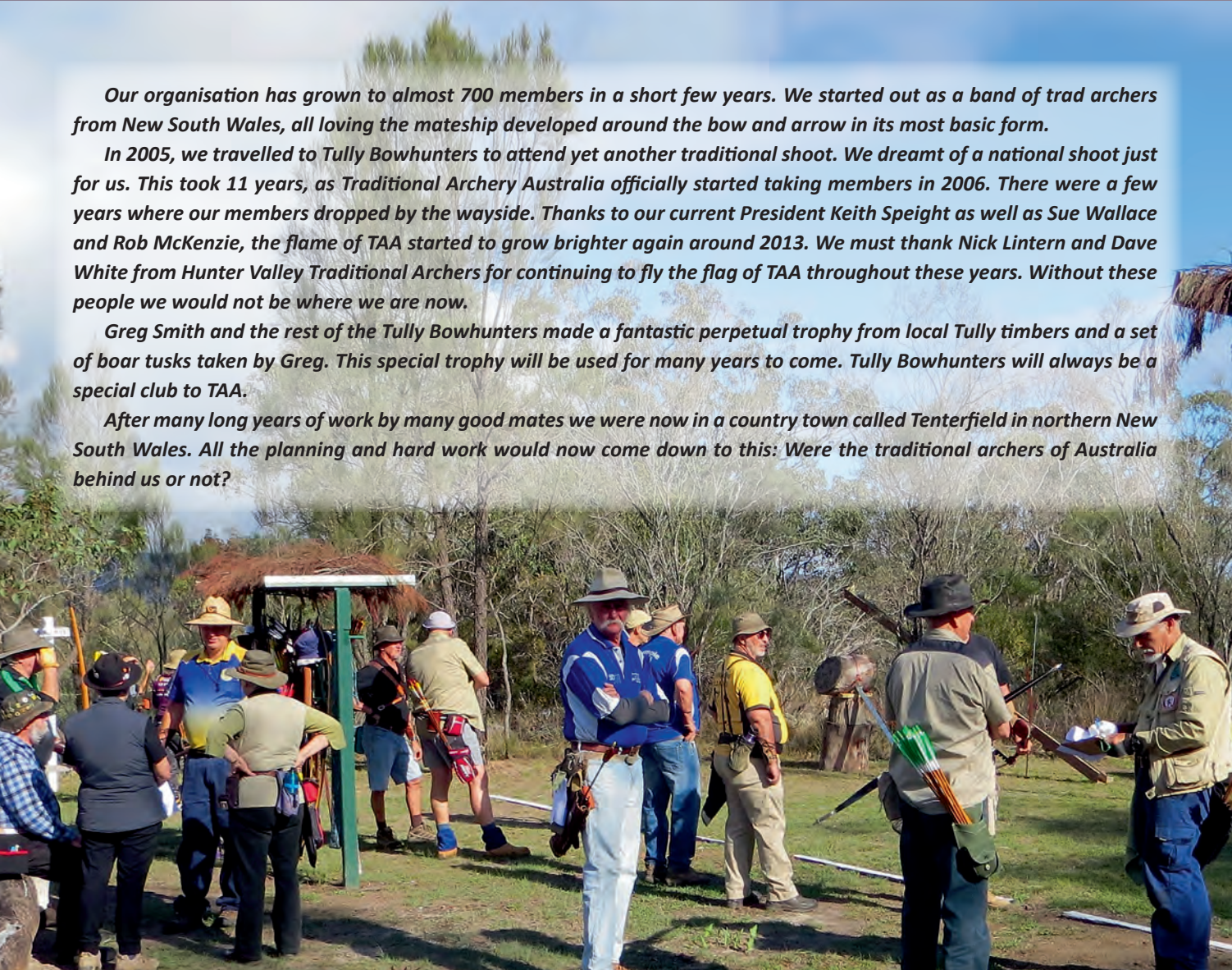
NATIONAL MUSTER

Our organisation has grown to almost 700 members in a short few years. We started out as a band of trad archers from New South Wales, all loving the mateship developed around the bow and arrow in its most basic form.

In 2005, we travelled to Tully Bowhunters to attend yet another traditional shoot. We dreamt of a national shoot just for us. This took 11 years, as Traditional Archery Australia officially started taking members in 2006. There were a few years where our members dropped by the wayside. Thanks to our current President Keith Speight as well as Sue Wallace and Rob McKenzie, the flame of TAA started to grow brighter again around 2013. We must thank Nick Lintern and Dave White from Hunter Valley Traditional Archers for continuing to fly the flag of TAA throughout these years. Without these people we would not be where we are now.

Greg Smith and the rest of the Tully Bowhunters made a fantastic perpetual trophy from local Tully timbers and a set of boar tusks taken by Greg. This special trophy will be used for many years to come. Tully Bowhunters will always be a special club to TAA.

After many long years of work by many good mates we were now in a country town called Tenterfield in northern New South Wales. All the planning and hard work would now come down to this: Were the traditional archers of Australia behind us or not?





The opening ceremony.

Last year we had the TAA's first National Traditional Muster at ABA Park in Mudgee NSW. Just under 30 archers entered. We had a ball and the TAA members were behind us. Discussions around the campfire were positive, with a "Let's keep this going" attitude.

Fast forward to this year. There we were, the Thursday before the second National Muster. Archers were starting

to roll in from all over Australia. Even as the heavens opened and we were doused with copious amounts of rain, they came.

The final tally of archers competing was 75. Local politicians attended to open the brand new club, Tenterfield Traditional Archers. Indigenous elders were there to welcome the archers. The community of Tenterfield was very supportive of the shoot. The

visiting archers were made to feel right at home. Many businesses donated prizes for the club raffle. Locals dropped in throughout the shoot to show their support to the club.

The competition was stiff. The best thing was that we didn't have one complaint (even when on Saturday we were drenched by another downpour of rain).

There was one range of 20 3D

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Remembering a special mate.



Perry Jackson made a special perpetual trophy.

targets, and competitors shot a three-arrow round on Saturday and a one-arrow round on Sunday. We had moving targets and a hunt round which was a timed event. Targets were set throughout a bush setting and archers walked through and shot as many targets as they could in the allotted time. As well, there were rolling discs, axe and knife throwing.

A special novelty event called Hog Hollow was run in memory of Cleve 'Shrek' Wood. Our Shoot Director and special mate passed away early this year and he will be remembered through this event every year at the National Muster. Perry Jackson has made a perpetual trophy for this event.

Perry, who is our Traditional Skills Officer, also arranged a spectacular display of leather crafts, bows and arrows made by our members.

There could not have been a better location for our shoot. Wow, how proud are the executive committee after all their hard work. And what a response they received, with the committee and members voting to hold the National Muster at Tenterfield every year on the second weekend of October.

Next year, after an overwhelming vote from our members, we will include a world invitational shoot. Traditional archers from all over the world will be invited to attend the TAA

National Muster to join in with our Aussie trad archers. We have already received expressions of interest from the USA, Poland, Turkey, Korea and China.

I encourage all traditional archers to start planning now so they can attend our third Annual Muster. This will be the traditional archer experience of a lifetime. Keep an eye on our website and in *Archery Action* for updates.



Results

Ladies Longbow: 1st Kay Price 2nd Adriana Speight 3rd Fiona Young.

Ladies Asiatic: 1st Brenda Maher.

Ladies Recurve: 1st Zanette Williamson 2nd Heather Pender 3rd Marian Rogan.

Mens Longbow: 1st Dave Pender 2nd Tim Fox 3rd Gary R Harris.

Mens Historical: 1st Russel Garlson 2nd Howard O'Connell 3rd Joe Ansell.

Mens Asiatic: 1st Peter Van de Molen 2nd Brendan Price 3rd Les Heiman.

Mens Hybrid: 1st Gary Penshorn 2nd Peter Stefanini 3rd Chris Holman.

Mens Recurve: 1st Dale Holloway (best overall score) 2nd Troy Dickenson 3rd Dave McGuire.

Junior Recurve Female: 1st Lydia Schiffmann 2nd Aurianne Conway.

Cub Longbow Girls: 1st Roxie Jeffrey.

Jnr. Recurve Male: 1st Jarvice Cruice 2nd Tyler Floss 3rd Kyle Rushton-Reprecht.

Cub Recurve Boys: 1st Alex Williamson 2nd William Young.

Overall Champion: Dale Holloway.

2018 TAA Club Perpetual Trophy Winner: South Coast Traditional Archers NSW.

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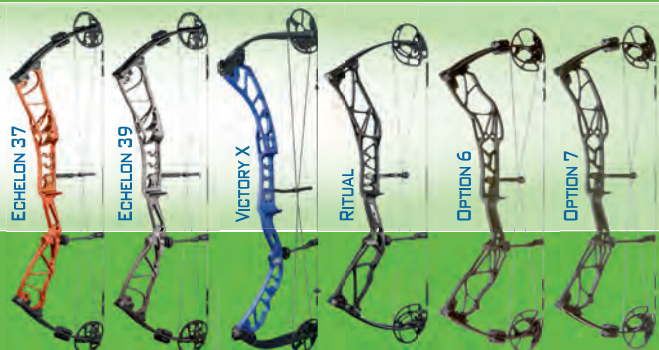


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Nick Lintern TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Hello to all our readers and welcome to another instalment of Traditional Trails. For quite some time now, longbows have been making a huge comeback. In their various forms they are more popular than ever—and with good reason. Both hunting and field shooters are on the rise with traditional gear. Right now though, I'd like to send a shout-out specifically to the target fraternity. There has been unprecedented growth of longbow use on the shooting lines all over the country. Many target archers are re-experiencing the love of their sport, enjoying the challenge and realising the accuracy that can be achieved with a well made longbow. Many clubs have gone from one or two longbows on the line to eight, 10 or even more. If you are target shooting and want to go to the next level of enjoyment and experience a true art, get on board with a longbow ... you won't regret it.

Bow strings

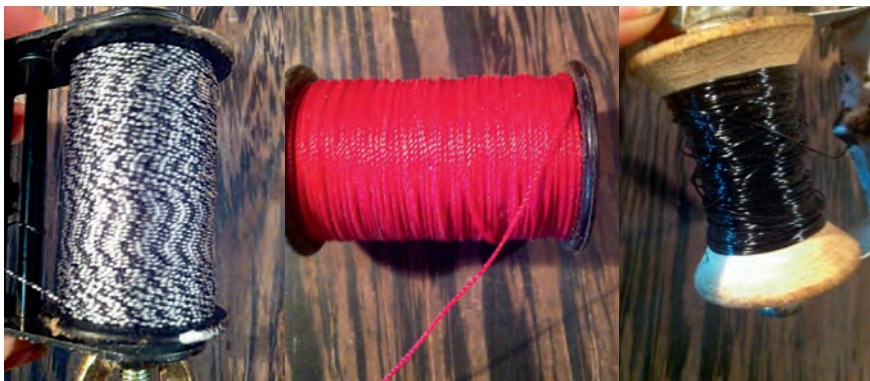
PART 4

In our previous issue we had our string laid up and strung our bow with it. Now we need to serve it. This is easy enough, however there are some things to know and this part of our string journey will cover it in detail. I will include a good number of photos to help back up the text. So here goes.

The first thing we need to look at is why we are serving the string at all. We haven't served the loops on our Flemish string so why the arrow nocking area? This part of the string cops a lot of wear and tear. Firstly it has to handle the abrasion of the arrow nock being repeatedly pushed in place and then shot off, then there's the abrasion of

the armguard rubbing against the string as well. Your string should never hit the guard as such (if it does you may need to look at your shooting technique), but it will slightly rub against it and 'buzz' at the end of its power stroke as it comes to brace height after a shot. Then there is the wear and tear of the shooting glove or tab on that part of the string as well. This means we want to reinforce the whole area starting about 3in just above and about 5in below the nocking point. Then we are extending the string's life exponentially.

Let's have a look at the various common types of serving material available and their pluses and minuses.



From left: Diamondback, nylon, monofilament.

On top of the material differences, there are different thicknesses of servings available. We need to consider this because there are also lots of different nock throat sizes out there as well. Many different archers like different nock fitment—some like them really tight, some a fair bit loose on the string. At this point, a brief sidetrack to look at proper nock fitment is probably worthwhile. As a good guide if you are unsure of how tight your nocks should be, go with this test: Place your arrow on your string with the bow held horizontally with the string down. The arrow should not fall off. Then twist the string and hopefully your arrow won't pendulum (swing back and forth). Then flick your string with your finger and the arrow should fall off. This is good fitment. You don't want it tighter than that as it can badly affect your shooting. You can go looser—and I prefer to—but not too much looser. The benefit with a slightly looser nock is ease of nocking quickly. This is beneficial in hunting and speed round situations, where you can

place your nock on the string and slide it up to your nocking point without looking. So when we choose serving materials we need to consider our string thickness (ours is 12 strands) and our nock choice. There are so many different nocks out there. You may need to wrap some dental floss around your serving to thicken it up, or heat your nocks in boiling water and expand them et cetera. At the end of the day, good old nylon No. 4 or 0.22 diamondback is hard to beat and will suit most nocks.

The next thing we need to look at is a serving tool. These are usually cheap, last forever, and can range from very basic to more elaborate. They all basically trap the roll of serving between two posts and a wing nut and threaded bolt run through posts through the serving to lock it in place and through this bolt you can adjust the tension. The ones I prefer are the type that run the thread through two contact points, then out through the top rather than the direct off the roll, through the top models (see photos next page).

Now, having looked at why we are serving and the tools we need to serve, let's look at serving materials. The most common (and cheapest) serving thread, and the one we will use for our build-along string, is nylon. The most common size is No.4. I'm fairly sure this is 0.17in thick. It comes in a multitude of colours and is one of the easiest to serve. It is a good, general purpose serving. It has the benefit of being easy to retie in the field if it were to undo and it will not fully unravel if that happens ... although it is very rare that it would come loose if you follow these serving methods. Nylon will give you a good smooth release and will last well. The next most common is diamondback. This is a braided thread that is far stronger than nylon. It only comes in a black/white colour. You will need a razor to cut it as it turns most scissors away. It will never wear out and still offers a good, smooth release. The last one I'll mention here is monofilament. It is a lot like fishing line but only comes in black. I haven't seen mono for a while now, although I imagine it is still available. I like it personally as it is very strong and very slick. It will give the smoothest release of all three. The negative is that if it starts to unravel, the whole serving will let go in a micro second! It is near impossible to repair on the go.

Okay, let's get this string we have made served up and ready to go. The first thing we need to consider is whether our bow is right handed or left

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These two serving tools are the cheaper ones. They are great and will serve well.

handed. This is not a joke that you might throw at an apprentice. You should actually serve right-handed and left-handed strings differently (more on this later). For a right hander, place your bow in a vice or similar clamping method, with the top limb on your *left*. Now, run out a length of serving approximately 1 ½in long. Guesstimate a position that is about 3in up (left) from your rest. Place your serving tool against the string with the serving thread running down to the right. Getting started can be a bit fiddly



This elaborate looking server is a Bear Paw. Perhaps too elaborate.

but once you're under way the serving process takes only a few minutes. Hold the thread close to the base of the tool with your right hand and spin the serving tool under the string and bring it back towards you over the top. We are going to serve *over* our piece of thread and lock it in place. Once you do this a time or two, you should be able to lock your thread down. Now just spin your server in that same under-and-over fashion, pushing under and pulling it over the top back towards you, again and again.



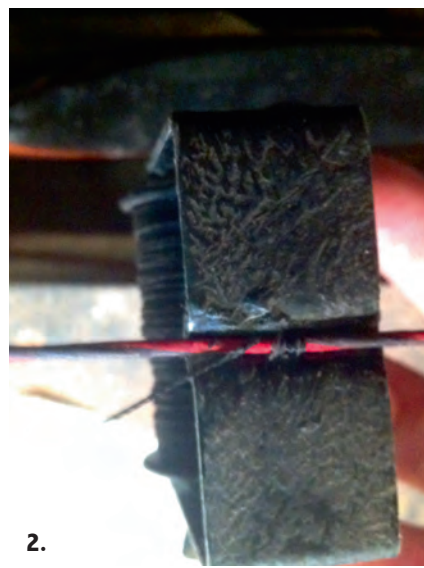
This is Nick's favourite serving tool. The serving pressure is regulated due to two contact points.

You will see your little tail thread slowly disappear under the serving. Adjust the tension on the tool so you get a nice tight serving but so your tool still spins freely and easily. Practice, as always, makes perfect.

Now keep on spinning your tool until you have covered approximately 8in or so of string. This is more than enough to reinforce the areas we need. Now we need to tie off and lock the end. While maintaining the tension, pull about 8in of thread out of your server. More will make



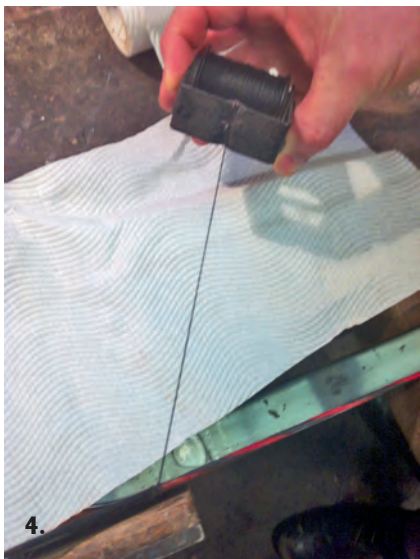
1. Start your serving about 3in up from your rest.



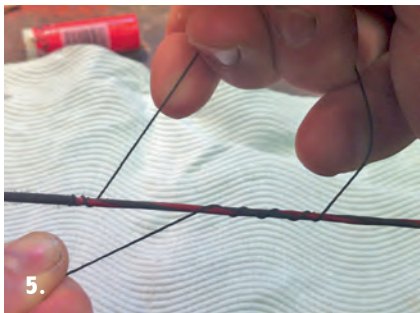
2. Start working your way up and over the start thread.



3. Spin your server under and back over towards yourself until 8in or so of string is covered.



4. Now peel off around 7in or so and cut off your thread.



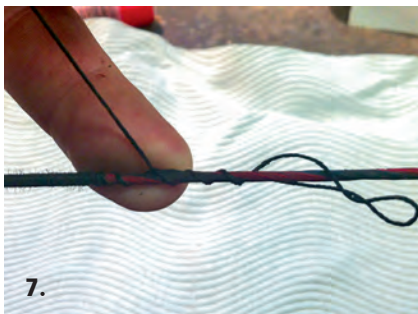
5. Make a loop and wind your loose thread under and through the loop six or seven times.

it easier. Don't worry about wasting a bit of thread, it'll be a few cents at most and will make life much easier if it's longer. Again, while maintaining the tension, cut off the thread.

Here it gets a bit tricky. Hold the thread in your left hand, maintaining pressure on the serving. Loop the loose end you have cut off, under the string from your side and feed it back under and over the string five or six times. It will look like the part in your left hand is a bridge for the end you are winding underneath. Now, change hands and trap the end you just wound with your left hand. Now with your right hand, wind the 'bridged' part over towards you as if you were serving again. Once the six winds or so have unwound, pull on the end thread and cinch the thread up tight.



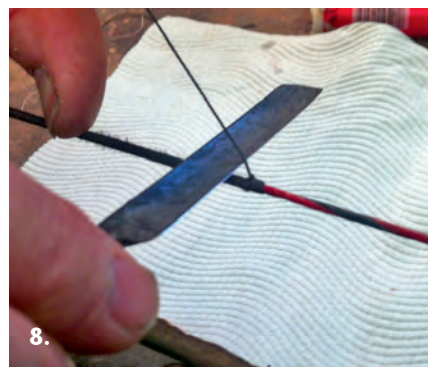
6. Then wind the loop over the wound area the same number of times.



7. Pull on the loose end thread and cinch the serving up tight.

Your serving is now neatly locked. The pics with the article will clarify this—I hope. Now trim off the excess serving thread and add a small blob of super glue to the cut off area to help lock it. There we have it, one served string.

Persevere and practise and you will be able to do this in minutes. For a left-handed bow do everything exactly the same but start with your bow's top limb to the *right*. Serve from left to right as before but start around 5in below the rest area, as we are serving from bottom to top this time. So why do this? Why not do it the same regardless of the hand of the archer? Think of a right-handed archer's drawing hand. The fingers wrap around the string ready for the draw. As the archer draws, the string will naturally rotate around to the right as this action happens. Then upon release the string will rotate back violently and suddenly. The serving doesn't come loose though. It doesn't come loose because we wound the serving from right to left from the top of the bow, so when the shock of sudden twist happens



8. Now trim off the excess thread.



9. Add a drop of super glue to help lock it in place.

the thread will lock in tighter into itself, almost like a Chinese burn effect. If we wound the serving the other way it would constantly be trying to jerk loose. While this may seem minor, it actually makes many a serving unravel which is very annoying and for professional stringmakers is very unprofessional. I figured this principle of serving out about 500 strings ago. I haven't had any come loose since. So, this is why when we do a left-handed bow, rather than trying to serve from left to right which is very awkward—essentially pushing the tool away from you rather than drawing it towards you—we simply operate the exact same way with the bow tip on your right instead. Then, when the lefty goes to shoot, the serving will be twisting into the shock of release and still lock. Same principle. Mull it over in your mind and you'll get a good understanding of it.

In our next article we will jump into three-splice strings. As always, any questions feel free to email me on: norseman_longbows@hotmail.com.

Until next time, keep traditional.



Castlereagh 3D Championship

The weekend of the first ever sanctioned shoot for Dubbo 3D Archers and the first Castlereagh 3D Championship in July will be remembered for years to come, as it was also officially the day Dubbo recorded its coldest ever day with -5.8°C

Held in Mendooran, NSW, the weekend saw 91 shooters come for a winter shoot on excellent grounds. The weekend started with nominations at the Royal Hotel in Mendooran on Friday night, with old friends and newbies enjoying the

country hospitality and some cracking meals. The freeze set in on the Friday night, some would say it was 'chilly' others would say 'Antarctic'. Unofficial records had the range opening to the balmy temperature of -8.2°C. The cold start was offset by amazing clear and



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Photos courtesy of Spellbound Photography

windless days, plenty of hot food from the canteens and warm friendship and camaraderie displayed throughout the whole weekend.

The ranges were a fantastic mixture of hills, dense forest, gullies and flat open shots, challenging the skills of ranging and shot execution.

Saturday had another first of Jenette Harvey shooting her first 100 round. Another mentionable result was achieved by Ethan Wilkinson, who only dropped six points for the day shooting a 294/300 on Saturday. The tremendous results were capped off by the Top 10 shootoff, which was given approval to be shot in town, across

the road from the hotel to across the creek. Alex Elvin got to choose the target and went for the jugular, setting an alligator at 41m for the shot to beat. This played out well for him, as Alex was the eventual winner of the shootoff.

Saturday night was a pig on the spit at the hotel and a great night had by everyone who attended.

Sunday morning was slightly warmer, starting the day at -4°C. Four more shooters were added to the 100 round sheet with Ian Summers, Jamie Bradshaw, Julie Evans and Norm Sager shooting perfect rounds for the day. This culminated in close scores and a

fantastic turnout to the presentation in the warm sunshine at the Royal Hotel, Mendooran. The results were strong, with Ben Doyle coming out on top in MBO and Jo Moffitt taking FBO. The other hotly contested categories had Jamie Gilroy taking out Hunter class and Norm Sager taking out MSR.

Dubbo 3D Archers would like to thank all sponsors for their support, especially Caltex, the Royal Hotel at Mendooran and Butchers on Macquarie in Dubbo. As it was their first shoot, club members were exceptionally grateful for all the words of support and advice they received in the lead-up to the shoot.

Benchmark Shoot

The 2018 Benchmark Shoot started early for Grant Elsley, Jamie Bradshaw, Robert Vayro, Brett Pirlo and Greg Scott as they set the ranges and got the venue sorted.

The meet and greet on Friday night with Pizza at the Saloon was a great event, although the debate is still raging about using banana as a filling on a pizza.

Saturday started with a muster and shoot groups being organised and sent out to the ranges. Some great scores were handed in at the end of Saturday's shooting.

The Top 10 was slightly different, with everyone shooting in a last-man-standing format starting with having to shoot a 10 to stay alive, then a 12 to stay in it. It came down to Ian Summers and Ryan Corner shooting at a 14 on a small javelina. Ian shot and missed the 14 while Ryan held his nerve and smoked the 14 to take the win.

Dinner was held in the saloon with some great entertainment (I am sure everyone is still trying to decipher Brett Pirlo's story though).

Sunday started with a muster and peer groups sent out to the range. Once all shooters had handed their score cards back in, the shootoff



placings for the top five in each division was sorted.

Rhys Aizlewood, Steven Bartley, Mark Corner, William Watson and Scott Hayden fought out the barebow class, with Rhys coming out on top.

In the restricted class Damien Ormiston, Stefan Ivanisevic, William Dreyer, Brad Fountain and Ryan Corner

made the shootoff, with Damien holding on for the win.

Sam Wearne, Andrea McFarlane, Mikala Shevill, Don Tomasietig and Josh Shone battled it out in the unrestricted class. Sam held on for first but some impressive shooting from the youngest in that class saw Mikala edge ahead of Andrea into second place on the very last arrow.

Gerard Miles, Brett Pirlo, Ben Doyle, Jock Thompson and Ian Summers contested the open class. There was some impressive shooting from Brett Pirlo which saw him edge out Gerard to take first place.

We all learned that just because we know the distance doesn't necessarily mean we will shoot great scores. (At least with unknown distances we can blame a bad shot on our range estimation!)

The committee would like to thank all the wonderful sponsors who made this event the success it was.

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NSW State Series

The 20th anniversary of the Moonan Flat 3D Classic was held over the long weekend of September 29 and 30 and attracted 108 shooters and their families.

With the arrival of the competitors also came a slight drizzle of rain ... which pleased the local farmers.

As Saturday morning dawned the drizzling rain continued as shooters started to head out to five testing ranges. Little did they know that Grant and the other rangesetters had a few surprises in store for them.

One such shot was the rising board on D Range which was shot downhill through a tunnel cut through a peppercorn tree.

Another was the croc on A Range shooting downhill off a ledge, leaving nothing to pick distance off. This certainly made a few scratch their heads and there weren't many 10s shot on this target ... and quite a few misses.

Saturday afternoon saw Brad Wilkinson finishing the day with the highest score 289 which was quite a effort considering the ranges in place. Then it was time for the running of the Top 10 sponsored by Klosters, Congratulations go to Dustyn Oloman, who was the eventual winner.

All Top 10 competitors had one arrow closest to the centre for \$100 prizemoney up for grabs (also thanks to Klosters). This was won by Joanne Bogie.

Then the customary dip in the freezing Moonan River was to come, just lucky there was a bit of water in the river or it could have been a bit rocky, and so entered Dustyn and Joanne. Dustyn stripped down to his jocks much to the amusement of the crowd, but Joanne was a bit more conservative and left her clothes on.

A mentoring talk followed the Top Ten for those who wanted to listen to



Greg Scott, Dustyn Oloman and Grant Elsley.

On Sunday as the sun started to rise over the mountains, the archers started to head out. Josh Shone (MBR) managed to finish Sunday with a perfect round of 200, which was an amazing effort.

With a great weekend coming to an

end there were still a surprise to come at presentation with Cessnock Archers acknowledging the three archers who have shot all 20 Moonan Flat shoots—Jock Thompson, Simon Gallen and Mark Elliot.

Grant Elsley was surprised to be acknowledged for being the only Cessnock Archers member who has attended all 20 years. Grant didn't always shoot this event but he was always hard at work behind the scenes running the event with setting ranges to score recording. The club cannot thank him enough for all the hard work he does behind the scenes.

Senior winner for the weekend was James Bush with a score of 479. Junior winner was Ethan Wilkinson with a score of 461. 100s—James Bush. 200s—Josh Shone

A huge thank you to our amazing landowners without whom the event would not happen, and to commemorate 20 years of support some beautiful hand-made trophies were handed to the Garland family, the Collison family, the Haynes family and the Rodeo Committee, thanks to Daniel Ross.

Thank you to our major sponsors, the Victoria Hotel Moonan Flat and Klosters Hamilton.

Thank you to the Upper Hunter Shire Council for ensuring the campgrounds were clean and extra bins were out for our campers, and for the donation to help out our club for the shoot.

Thank you to our other sponsors—Ten Zone Archery, Bohning, Lakes Disposals, Abbey Archery, Hair by Ali and Bunnings.

To all the archers and their families who attended, thank you, without your support there would be no shoot. We hope to see you all next year for the 21st Moonan Flat 3D Classic.

HUNTING IN THE HEAT



This curly billy went trophy class.

40" IN 50°

BY ANTHONY ATKINSON

I'd been tied up with work and other commitments and it had been driving me crazy watching my brother and old man travel away and go on hunting trips for the past year or so. As you can imagine, when the chance finally presented itself, I jumped at the opportunity.

I was with a few mates and we would all be hunting the same property, although we would be concentrating on different areas. We hit the road at sunrise one very early Saturday morning. It was a long and tedious eight-hour drive from home in Victoria to our destination in New South Wales, including a few stops here and there to fuel up and use local amenities. When we arrived, it was a sweltering 50-degree afternoon, so we decided it was

a little too hot to set out and have a look around, so instead we sat around and had a few beers and a chat with some of the local blokes.

When 5pm rolled around, the sun still had a decent amount of sting in it, so I decided to head to our temporary headquarters and set up camp before going for a quick drive to familiarise myself with the property. First impressions showed me promising signs, as there were quite a few goats on their afternoon hunt for water—just nothing of any decent size. Needing some yabby bait as some side entertainment for the week, I spotted a young billy and put in a quick stalk before sending an arrow on its way, watching him run for 15m and expire.

Just before last light, as I was

about to pull in to home base, I spotted a nice-sized billy on a dam bank about 200m away from me. Upon closer inspection through my binoculars, I noticed that he clearly had broken hips ... perhaps he had been hit by a car and survived. Regardless, he was in a pretty bad way, obviously suffering, and I felt it would have been cruel to leave him the way he was, so I sneaked in and executed a perfect shot which had him out within seconds.

I spent a long and sleepless night, as the temperature didn't reach below 35°C all night. Knowing it was going to be yet another 50° day, I was up before sunrise and sitting in cover watching over a tank. When the sun rose, the goats came from everywhere; mostly nannies and kids



The little fellow taken for yabby meat.

with the odd decent billy every now and then—just nothing with the wow factor that I was looking for. Several hours passed before the goats eased and I returned to camp to sit under a sprinkler strung to the rafters of the surrounding verandah, and chat and do a little work with the station manager for the rest of the day.

Yet again a hot and sticky night passed, with little sleep achieved. I was up early once again and off to a different tank. This one was approximately 10km away from the tank I had sat on the previous day. I arrived as the sun began to rise over the horizon and spread daylight on the target tank, which showed promising signs as plenty of goats had already moved in for their morning drink. I sneaked into position and got comfortable watching goats come and go as they pleased. I lay in wait, hoping to see a billy worthy of an arrow. It didn't take long before I

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glassed a very high, wide and white billy making his way towards the water. I decided then and there that if the opportunity presented itself, I would take a shot on him. I moved into an adequate position, around 20m from where I expected him to show himself. Sure enough, after a few minutes, he emerged over the rise and trotted down the hill with his nannies, oblivious to my presence. He made his way closer and closer, and was around my previously estimated 20m before I drew, and

let out a little squeak to which he stopped, allowing me to send an arrow over a nanny's back and into the vitals of my target. I sat ecstatic and watching him expire within 40m or so. All in all, he measured in with a 37in spread, which was teasingly close to the ever elusive 40in, and enough to keep me wanting more.

Having already had a successful morning, I sat back under the shade of a tree and waited for an even bigger billy to wander in for a drink. Not two minutes after I had taken a

seat, I spotted a few goats making their way over a hill maybe 300m away. I raised my binoculars and my eyes widened at what they saw. Surely my eyes were playing tricks on me. He was huge! The horns, the body; everything about this goat made all his competition seem miniscule in comparison.

I positioned myself in a spot where I'd be able to get a clear 40m shot as he came into a clear sight picture. All he had to do was give me that shot. It took a good 15 minutes for him to make his way down the fenceline and work up the courage to move in for a drink. My bow was drawn with the 40-pin resting on his chest as he made his way through the pop hole under the fence, I let out a little noise, but it wasn't enough to get him to present himself.

There was now a fence in front of him, making it rather difficult to thread an arrow into him. I risked it all and tried gaining a bit of ground on him while he was occupied. It was all going to plan until a nanny sneezed and spooked along with every goat at the trough. My billy stopped broadside at 52m and looked back at me. The range was a little out of my comfort zone, but I had no way of getting closer and he was seconds away from disappearing. This goat was too good to let go. Without thinking about it too much, I sat my 50m pin high in his body and squeezed the trigger, watching my



This poor billy had two broken hips.



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The white billy went 37in.

arrow soar through the air and hit him a little lower than I would've liked, but drawing immediate blood nevertheless. He carried the shot a little better than what I would have liked, but to make sure I didn't spook him, I watched from afar as he walked 200m and bedded up under a tree.

After I saw him settle, I closed the gap to 25m before putting a finisher into him and he didn't move an inch. A quick score with the tape and excitement erupted as he went 40 1/8 spread and 126DP. I couldn't have been any happier and couldn't wait to tell the fellas back at camp.

I'd come into this trip with the attitude of wanting to improve on each goat that I shot and realised I had set a rather high goal for myself with the rest of the week still remaining.

The following mornings were a bit slow as it wasn't quite as hot. There were still plenty of goats to see—just nothing really big. I let a few very respectable billies walk past me as I didn't feel the need



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This big fella was taken on a scorching 50-degree day and he went just over the magic 40in mark.

to shoot them. And then on the second last morning, a young brown billy walked into the tank with a few nannies and kids. Although he was not as big as some others I'd seen and passed on, he had a pretty cool curl and twist in his horns, so I decided to take him. Still going


trophy class, he will take a spot up in the shed.

The last morning of the hunt I decided to go back to the tank where I'd shot the big fella as there were a few other record class billies I'd seen that morning. Lots of goats made their way in to the tank but again, nothing huge. There were a few good billies I would've taken on the first couple of mornings, but I let them walk. Just as I was about to get up and make my way back to the car I spotted a young fox making his way into the tank. You could see he was crook and very skinny. As he approached and stopped at 25m, I sent an arrow his way and did him a huge favour.

After knocking the scalp off him and making my way back to camp, I packed, said my goodbyes and thank yous to the station manager and owner and then it was time to hit the road for the long-haul home.

I can't wait for the next trip in a year's time.

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This crook fox was taken at 25m.

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



Entries PHOTO COMPETITION



*Foxhunting,
James Thurlow*



*First time IFAA,
Anita Selwood.*

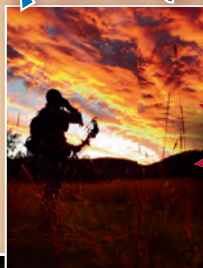


*Twenty-yard goat,
Rhys Crouch.*



*Fallow rattling,
Bevan Blacklock.*

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Around THE TRADS

To receive trad shoot information direct, email a request to:
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Sue Wallace

* North Burnett Field Archers held their third annual Trad Shoot over the weekend of August 4 and 5. It looks like it was a successful weekend, with 67 shooters enjoying the warm weather.

* I have received the following information from a travelling trad source. Dunolly in Victoria is home to the Golden Triangle Archery Club. This year the Traditional Shoot, held on August 11 and 12, saw a considerable swell in numbers. Undoubtedly this was due to the warm welcome given to all archers by the friendly folk of Dunolly, helped along by the delicious food supplied by the Neighbourhood Centre and the creative range set up by Andy and his helpers.

The range saw archers shooting two arrows at a 3D target and two arrows at a 2D vinyl target from most of the 20 shooting positions. Shooting through wedding-ring-sized targets, long distance shots at a Viking ship and running pig added variety.

A highlight is the Saturday afternoon King's Round where six arrows are shot from each of 50m, 40m and 30m towards a large IFAA target. The 20m position is a speed round. Multiple arrows in the air at the same time makes for an impressive

sight, the result of multiple targets in a row all being shot at the one time. This was followed by the friendship arrow shot, where everyone writes their name on an arrow and shoots it down range and then arrows are picked up, which ensures the archer folk make new friends as arrows are swapped. The axe and knife rounds are also a favourite at Dunolly. This shoot is a credit to the organisers. Their friendly, humble manner will ensure archers return next year.

* The Bega Asian Experience was held on August 18 and 19 and I read on the TAA Facebook page: A big thank you to James Murray and the Bega Valley Archers for a fantastic shoot last weekend. What a challenge to shoot targets completely different to what we are used to. There was a strong contingent from Maydaan Traditional Turkish Archers attending.

* The Sunshine Coast Bowmen held another trad day on August 19. The clubgrounds are in a pretty heavily timbered rainforest area and it wasn't till we all walked back out to our vehicles that we realised how windy the day was as we had been protected fairly well in the scrub. There were approximately 40 archers; some had travelled from Brisbane and some came from Gympie join many locals for the shoot. One archer was an exchange university student from Hungary who enjoys shooting her own handmade longbow at shoots in Europe. She was very excited to find a club close to the university where she could continue her shooting, albeit with borrowed gear. The SCB club is quite relaxed and you can choose to select your own group, or shoot with a partner and you're then paired with others. The layout of the field course necessitates that everyone goes out at the same time, and it's always a social occasion as the course winds in and out around the trees along a pathway, so you shoot the targets on one side of the path and then back down the other side. First we shot two arrows at 20 3D targets from



Viking ship at Dunolly.



Silver City course.



Silver City speed round.

the orange peg, stopped for a cuppa and a sausage sandwich then went out again shooting the same targets only this time from the green peg, which was sometimes closer, sometimes further away, and most of the time from a different angle to the first round. Once again the field course set-up made perfect use of all the foliage available, with a small amount of foot shuffling required. There were a couple of set-up shots where you were to shoot the predator, not the prey. They also had a rolling disc event where you paid to shoot the rolling discs and the winner took the pot. While walking along one of the paths, we were greeted by a group of rufous fantails dancing along the path.

After we finished the second round we had lunch. We weren't expecting any presentations so said our goodbyes and started to walk back down the track toward the vehicles when we were asked to quickly come back for the presentations.

The club's next trad day is November 18 which we are now all really looking forward to. Mark it on the calendar and come join them for a day of traditional archery fun.

* The August 25 and 26 mini-trad shoot at Chevallan Archery Park was cancelled due to the weather.

* The following details are from a participant at the Swan Hill Traditional Shoot, held over the weekend of August 25 and 26. It was again a fun time for both travelling and club archers. Two ranges were set up, a two-arrow 25 target range consisting mainly of 2D vinyl targets and a second range that was predominantly novelties that included some 3D targets.

Amongst the novelties we came across a steel dragon. The scoring hole varied in size as rings of steel could be added or subtracted. The carnage of arrows in front of the target was testament to the target's difficulty and also the daring (or stupidity) of most archers who chose to shoot this target over a less vicious one nearby. The laughter as each arrow met its

demise probably sums up the ethos of the trad archer.

The Saturday night dinner of roast, followed by self-saucing puddings cooked in the ground campovens proved a real hit. Brian and his team of helpers worked tirelessly to ensure a great weekend.

* Silver City Archers had a weekend shoot on September 1 and 2. I have received information advising that this club will not

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Cat up a tree.



Mannum course.



White Rose windmill shot.

be holding a trad-only shoot in future, as it will be incorporated into an invitational shoot.

One of the participants at the shoot reported that they had a great time at Broken Hill despite the windstorm on the Friday that saw tents filled with red sparkling dust. Archers covered in fairy dust having a jolly good time ... go figure.

David at Broken Hill is very creative and entertaining. His Joker Poker Archery, Alphabet Archery and King's Round make for much jocularly, not to mention walk-up archery where a 3D target, a black-and-white paper ABA animal target and a small IFAA target are set up at each station around the range.

Each target is shot at a different distance. The archer gets the choice of which target to shoot at which distance—strategy at its archery best. For example, if you choose to hit the large 3D zebra at close range to score in the A Zone (maximum 20 points) you might miss at long range the small IFAA target (maximum 10 points) attached to the zebra's rear end, then your score will plummet as the arrow has now hit the zebra again for a lower score. This wipes out the A score and scores zero for the IFAA target.

David's brain works overtime to ensure all archers have a great time, one challenge after another. His amalgamation of the archery codes next year should be good, although trad archers will miss the unique experience of the Silver City Trad Shoot.

* Information received from an archer who attended the Mallee Sunset Field Archers Trad Shoot held on the weekend of September 8 and 9: There were attendees from Bega, Silver City (Broken Hill), Swan Hill Archery Club, 'The Blakey's' from Donald and the local Mildura guys. On Saturday morning, we shot 20 3Ds, two arrows, and different pegs for each. One of the pegs at each target required an imaginative approach to get a shot to the target, the other was more straightforward.

Popinjay, 30-second speed round, 60-second hunter round, challenge round, running pig, rolling discs and clout were held in the afternoon. After a nice chicken dinner organised by the club, it was time to relax. There was a raging fire, a few quiet

drinks ... followed by a lot of rowdy drinks .

On Sunday morning, we were back to the 3D course for a one-arrow round. In all, it was a good time, great facilities with courses set up by trad shooters who know how to set a fun, yet challenging, course for a stick bow.

* Also on the weekend of September 8 and 9 there was an alternate trad event at the Murray Mallee Field Archers, which is a small club in Mannum SA with four of the club members also being members of the White Rose Archery Klub in Irymple Victoria. Plans had been made much earlier in the year that the travelling trad archers from Queensland and NSW (also members of White Rose) and who also had attended the Dunolly, Swan Hill and Broken Hill trad shoots, were to join their friend Roadie across at the Mannum club. A couple of the travellers took advantage of the break between Broken Hill and Mannum to visit various wineries in the Clare Valley of South Australia.

There was much laughter as they made their way around the 20-target field course, which is set along a dry creek bed with tricky downhill shots and a few long shots. A combination of the older ABA paper targets and 3D targets were used. Saturday was a little windy, making the arrows travel off course on occasion. This was a three- arrow round with all arrows scoring 10 or 5. The novelties included rolling discs, a cantankerous moving pillow, a white knight with three shields, 30-second speed round, wand shoot and some hanging balls. The 60-second speed round was made up of rabbit targets set in very realistic-looking warrens along the bank.

For Saturday evening the group ordered pizza for dinner then sat around the fire enjoying a few drinks.

On Sunday they completed the range as a one-arrow round. The wind had dropped, which meant glorious shooting conditions. After all the shooting was over there was a very big raffle table to choose from. It is only a small club with few members, but is very well supported by the community, and did a great job in putting everything together. This shoot was a great success.

✿ The following is from information received from my usual 'foreign correspondent' plus a very long detailed phone conversation with Roadie.

Travelling archers from Brisbane and Toowoomba in Queensland, Tooma and Newcastle in NSW and Redcliffe in South Australia, having completed the Mannum SA trad shoot the previous weekend, gathered at Irymple in Victoria for the ANAA's White Rose Archery Klub's Memorial Trad Shoot over the weekend of September 15 and 16. The club is small but had worked really hard to provide a very interesting and challenging shoot. There were 20 targets at the clubgrounds with another 20 at the nearby nursery along with a great range of novelties. Saturday morning comprised of two arrows per target on the 20 targets at the clubgrounds which is a combination of small 3D targets, some paper targets and also the new 2D targets, along with a round of the novelties which includes 30-second speed round, the 60-second speed round that is shot from the castle turret down onto the field of rabbits, the rolling disc where you stand inside the shed and shoot out toward the orange grove and the windmill which has two arms and rotates at a fair speed while intermittently disappearing behind nearby orange trees.

After lunch, we went to the Elm Tree Garden Nursery, where the owners had generously allowed Roadie to utilise their garden centre to set up a target round. We shot two arrows per target at the nursery which included six targets in open terrain, and that is where we were standing when a sudden very strong gusty wind storm blew through. There was a group of 2D dinosaurs, a fox surrounded by beautiful roses, a 3D duck under a bush, three cats in the pergola, a crow and a cane toad in the mulch, also a goat with a pink tutu grazing under an olive tree, amongst numerous other targets. There was also a special event of the three little pigs and the wolf. The house of straw with the little pig was reasonably close and the score was lower. The house of sticks was further away and the score doubled the house of straw, and the house of bricks was further away again, and so was the little pig behind the wall, so the score doubled again, and then to top it off you had to shoot the heart and lung of the wolf to score maximum points. We then went back to the clubgrounds for the windmill shoot. At first there were very few hits but after everyone had flung a few arrows at it we began to work it out and the rotating discs began to take lots of hits. For some reason there was also lots of laughter! A full day of shooting was followed by roast chicken and baked vegies for dinner, and then a special presentation of a prize as picked out by the lovely lady-of-the-course, being a small house with three little pigs inside for the special event winner. Unfortunately no-one took a photo. There was a lot more laughter and conversation lubricated by red wine and single malt scotch before bedtime.

On Sunday morning we headed up to the nursery for a single-arrow round on the 20 targets, then back to the club for a late bacon and egg brekkie. After that, we enjoyed the 2D carp shootout which involved hitting the pro-ring of the target to stay in the game. There were lots of early exits until we finally had a winner, a young chap from Renmark who received a rather large trophy. One amongst the participants did try to claim she had won, by quickly inserting her arrow in the middle of the target. Nice try young lady! The scores were finalised, placegetters were announced and special certificates were handed out to the placegetters.

Some packed up and hit the road, while others were stayed overnight and didn't leave until early the next morning. It was a really great shoot with lots of varied targets, great friends and laughter. Well done to the White Rose Archery Klub and also another big thank you to Lance and Dianne, the owners of the nursery, for allowing Roadie to extend his course into their premises. Here's looking forward to next year's events.

✿ There are no Trad shoots being held over December and January. At this stage the first shoot will be held at Chevallan Archery Park in February. Keep your eyes on the various websites for the 2019 proposed trad calendar which I shall put together over the next few weeks. If you would like your club's shoot added or need any information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

✿ Reports from Manning Valley Trad Shoot, HVTA Charity Shoot, Chevallan Archery Park, Tenterfield Inaugural Trad TAA National, Coffs Harbour, and Sunshine Coast Bowmen will be in the next issue.

For those readers who are on Facebook, check out Travellin' Round the Trads, where you can read the shoot write-ups and view many more photos.

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

Chevallan Archery Park:

www.chevallanarcherypark.com – for traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO approved African 3D targets with replaceable centres, customised archery medals.

Wallace Woods:

www.wallacetradowood.com > Shoot information (will have the link to the shoot flyers as they become available).

Ozbow:

www.ozbow.net > Traditional Archery Events > each shoot has an individual thread.

Traditional Archery Australia:

www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org > Shoot Information.

Wishing all the readers the very best for the festive season, and I look forward to seeing you 'round the trads in 2019.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY ARCHERY FOR HUNTING AND WAR

Whether as hunters or warriors, humans have always striven to increase the distance over which they could effectively strike a target. In hunting and military terms, control over distance means power and advantage. Today's developments of the US Navy electromagnetic rail gun that can fire projectiles seven times faster than the speed of sound and strike targets more than 200km away, and a multitude of other 'eye in the sky' and long-range laser weapons is testament that the principle is as true today as ever. For much of history, the ultimate weapon to extend lethal power over distance was the bow and arrow. It has been responsible for the rise and fall of kingdoms and empires.

Story and photos by
VERNON SOMMERFELDT



Rocks were the first projectile weapon to be used by early man. Then three innovations followed that allowed Stone-Age humans to gradually extend the distance from which they could effectively strike a target for hunting or in battle. These were the spear, the throwing dart and the bow and arrow respectively. Eventually the ability to hunt more effectively at increasing distances meant more food and reduced need for a nomadic, follow-the-prey lifestyle. This gradually contributed to settlements and to civilization. Each of these developments represented a jump in technology with the bow and arrow being the most sophisticated (Rhodes 2013).

The spear was developed 500,000 to 780,000 years ago. It is still in use as the rifle bayonets issued to every infantry soldier throughout the world.

More effective at killing and protecting the human than a stone, its limitation was the limited distance it could be used over and that once thrown another spear was needed. The throwing dart or atlatl was lighter than the hand spear and had fletchings. The system used a launching stick to leverage the dart or throwing spearing and increase the velocity beyond the maximum velocity of a hand-thrown spear. It increased hunting distance but because of its light design was not as effective as a spear for big game or at close distance for defence. Throwing darts first appeared in Europe about 30,000 years ago and in North America about 12,500 years ago. The woomera is an example of a spear atlatl.

The first bows and arrows were probably used about 64,000 years ago (Rhodes 2013) in South Africa where ancient arrow points were found in caves. The bow was the most technological innovation of all three weapons. Archery emerged in Europe 12,900 to 11,600 years ago and replaced the atlatl as the weapon for hunting deer and other game. This single weapon has held a key place in history. Without it, Genghis Khan would never have carved out a



Attack on Lachish 701BC.

dynastic empire that shaped history on two continents and there would never have been the one-sided English victories of Crecy and Agincourt.

The simple wooden bow which was at the time the most technical, innovative weapon manufactured by humans, jumped in sophistication when composite bows were invented in Central Asia between 2,100 and 1,700BC. Composite bows resulted from



Assyrian archers attack the town of Alaamu in 700BC. (British Museum)

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Assyrian soldier using a composite bow. This is dated at approximately 700BC. (British Museum)

the need for a shorter yet powerful bow that could be shot from horseback. The traditional simple longbows which were often longer than the archer's height were not suitable for a mounted archer. The composite bows were made by laminating a material with high compressive strength like horn on the inside against a wooden centre and

a material with high tensile strength like sinew as the outside layer. A flexible adhesive-like glue made from fish swim bladders would typically be used and the layers further bound by hafting to create a composite bow (Miller, McErwen & Bergman 1989). Not only was this bow suitable for a rider but it was more powerful, shot at higher velocity and was easier to control. Another key advantage of the bow was that it could be left strung for long periods without the bow weakening (Miller et al., 1989). This had major implications for its military application and by 1,300BC it was in use by Egyptian horse-mounted archers.

In around 1,000BC, another major innovation, the recurve bow, also emerged from Central Asia. The curved ends of the bow's limbs allowed more energy to be delivered to the arrow, resulting in a greater release velocity. Asian traders introduced the recurve bow to the Inuit and by 500AD First Nation people along the northwest coast of the USA and Canada were using recurves.

There is an abundance of information on Upper Paleolithic and Neolithic arrow heads since stone, bone, antler horn and metal tend to endure ... but very little is known about the design of the wooden shafts, fletchings or of the bows that shot them. Arrowheads were sometimes pulled from heavy, dense and brittle hardwoods but these were

not as commonly used as the stone and horn points. Alix and Andrews' (2012) analysis of the remains of 27 arrows found in two different ice patches in the subarctic Yukon gave a rare opportunity to study the design of wooden arrow shafts. These bows and arrows were designed for hunting caribou as is evident from the dung and caribou bones found in the same area. Remains in northern USA have shown that in some areas the arrow heads were fashioned from spruce wood. Throwing darts were found in the same area and carbon dating dates them from 1,000 years old to as much as 3,000 years old in one case. In this area of the Yukon, throwing darts were used 6,000 years ago. Like arrows, they had three fletchings which were bound by thread but unlike arrows the dart shafts were fashioned from different timbers (willow to birch). Arrows were made from spruce and weighed more than darts. The increased weight meant increased penetrating power; important for killing large game like caribou. Hunters chose to craft their arrows from seasoned old wood as it had less shrinkage and was more resistant to moisture.

Some arrows were tapered towards the nock, allowing release with reduced contact between the fletchings, shaft and bow. This reduction in friction and weight allowed greater velocity as the projectile left the bow. Many of these shafts were constructed of two types

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Inuit recurve bows, arrows, quivers and spear points.

of wood bound with hafting. A heavier more brittle wood was used on the leading end attached to the arrowhead. A lighter wood was used for the back part of the shaft where the fletchings and nock were positioned. This meant the centre of gravity was in the first half of the arrow and aided straighter flight and deeper penetration. All arrows had three fletchings but some had U-shaped nocks and others had a shallow V shape. The researchers believe that this was adapted for the different archery and finger nock position styles.

Bows, arrows and points were

manufactured from materials in the local environment. Some parts of the arrow such as the point seem to be universally made from stone, horn, bone and hard seasoned wood. By contrast, arrow shafts found frozen in the Yukon were split from spruce or birch wood depending on whether the environment was coastal or arctic. In the Near East, reeds were the popular choice and in some languages in the region the words for 'reed' and 'arrow' were synonymous (Miller et al., 1986). The reed was long, straight, flexible and light, making it the ideal shaft for mass release of military

arrow artillery as was practiced by the Mesopotamians with their composite bows. Stands were set apart especially for the cultivation of 20,000 arrow reeds in a single plot (Miller, et al., 1986).

Discoveries surrounding the development of prehistoric archery have revealed great diversity of design and materials across different regions and also show how widely new technologies spread across continents. To sporting archers and bowyers today, these discoveries illuminate the incredible inventiveness of our ancestors and the rich history that preceded today's carbon fibre shafts and sophisticated compound bows. No doubt future research will provide more insights into the innovations and practices that kept archery the dominant hunting and warfare weapon from Paleolithic times until the appearance of the chamber-loaded firearm.

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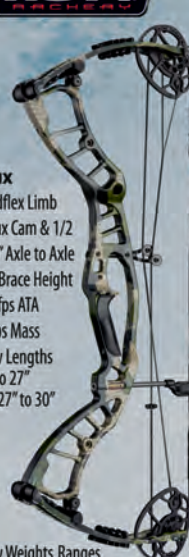


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Facing page clockwise from top left: Tim Pitt-Lancaster, RC fallow 193 3/8pt; Cheryl Morris, stingray; Ethan Wilson, goat, Rob Mihalyka, TC fox 9 10/16pt; Luke Hebb, cat; Brenton Mitchell, RC red deer 212 3/8pt.

This page clockwise from top: Dean Scott, RC buffalo 95 4/8pt; Bernie Hayne, goat, Kevin Dowd, stingray; Troy Hughes, red deer.



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Daniel Badenhorst

Bushcraft & Survival

BACK TO BASICS

PROTECTION: Shelter

Operating as a professional in remote area operations, there are many principles that guide the way I approach the outdoors. But as we step off with the very first *Bushcraft & Survival* column in *Archery Action*, I reckon that the best way to start is at the beginning. And that's with the four priorities of survival: Protection, rescue, water and food. It's easy to remember these principles with the phrase: 'Please Remember What's First'.

So let's take a look at the first priority: Protection. While it's a simple word to say, the concept of protection is critically important when the chips are down. So, whether you're faced with a life-threatening situation in a bushfire, flood, from exposure to extreme weather conditions or a dangerous animal, the first priority needs to be to protect yourself.

When we talk about protection in a survival context, there are four key elements to consider.

- First Aid
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Fire

I'm not going to cover first aid here. After all, it takes training across far more pages than a column. Indeed gaining a first aid qualification is probably one of the best decisions we can make when we decide to take up an outdoor lifestyle.

I'll leave discussions on clothing and fire-making for another time. Instead,

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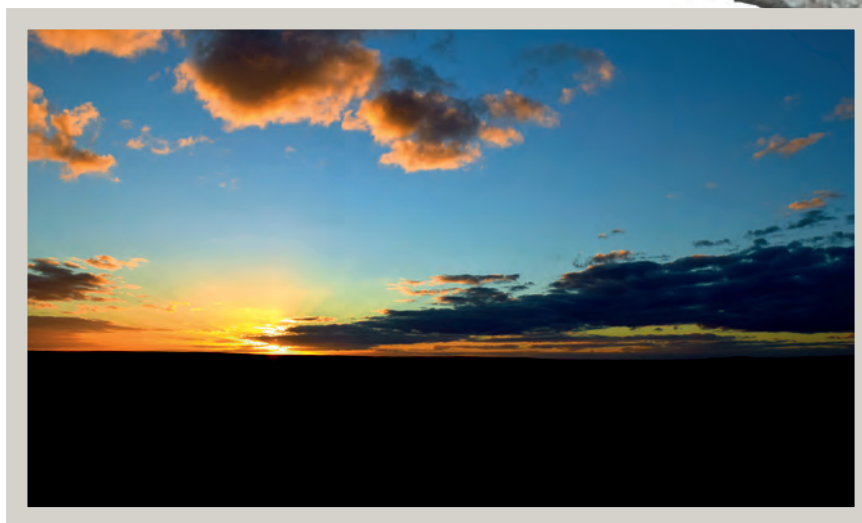
let's focus on the issue of shelter.

What does it take to make a decent shelter? Well, the answer depends on the environment that you're dealing with. If constructed well, a good shelter can protect you against sun, heat, cold, wind, rain, insects and animals. If it's done badly, you'll find yourself exposed to the elements with your energy drained and your resilience sorely tested.

The most common error in making a shelter is to make it too large. A shelter must be large enough to protect you—but it also needs to be small enough to contain your body heat, especially in mountains or arid areas where the nights can get cold to freezing.

Form and function

Shelters can be constructed in many shapes and forms. Indeed,



If you haven't found camp by the time the sun goes down, seek shelter.

their construction is limited only by the materials available and your imagination. Having said that, some basic forms of shelter will probably serve you better than others. So consider these options:

- **Purpose built:** Examples are your car awning, a tent or bivvy bag.

- **Improvised:** Consider how you could build shelter if you detached your vehicle's bonnet or used a stray piece of corrugated iron or a sheet of

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Sometimes shelter can be as obvious as using the existing infrastructure on a hunting property.



Caves and overhangs have been used as shelter throughout time.

plastic. Alternatively, you may have a survival blanket that is big enough to rig up into a makeshift shelter.

- **Indigenous:** Examples include a bark lean-to or gunyah, snow cave, palm hut, or brushwood wind break.

- **Natural:** Shelters exist in caves, under overhangs, within thickets or even beneath a simple tree.

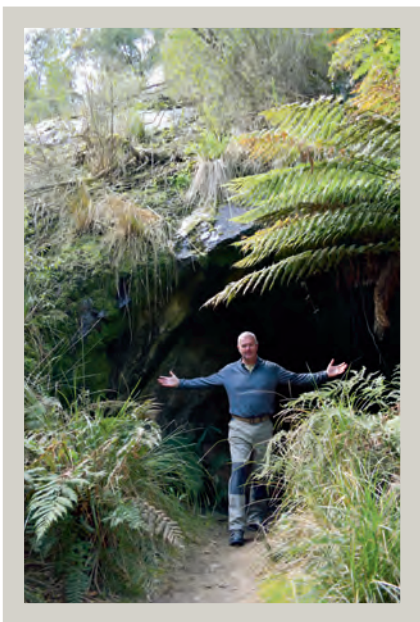
How you construct or use a shelter will depend on environmental conditions. For example, in a hot area, you'll need a shelter with a roof to provide shade while allowing

for good ventilation. By contrast, in a cool climate, a shelter will be more effective if it's enclosed to trap in the warmth. Meanwhile, if there's a prospect of rain, ensure your shelter's roof is at an angle (around 60 degrees) to encourage water runoff (and make sure you've worked out a way to collect the water).

The best shelters have a roof that incorporates an air cavity. If you have sufficient material and time, try making two layers of roof with some separation between layers. This will

provide increased waterproofing and thermal protection. Think of a tropical awning that has an air gap in between that encourages air flow to help dissipate heat. If you're using a combination of man-made and natural materials, use the natural fabric on the upper layer as it will operate better to reflect heat. Leave the man-made material for the under-layer as it will tend to provide hotter shade because it absorbs more heat (and then emits it).

If you're using a survival blanket



People—and game—find that caves like this are good to shelter in during an emergency.



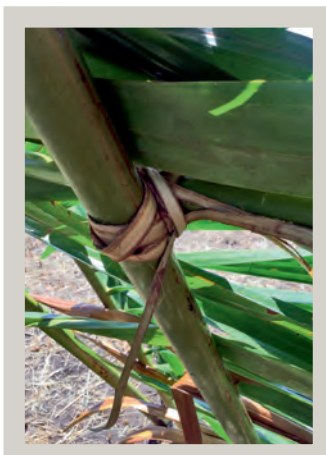
Survival blankets and bracelets don't take up much room. They can be easily carried in a quiver.



Some commercially available shelters come with parachute cord and quality lightweight pegs.



The first step is to make a frame.



No rope? Use strips of bark.



Pacific island cultures learned to erect shelters as part of their daily routine.

to provide shelter, keeping it taut is essential. It's the key to achieving strength and for water run-off. If you leave the blanket limp, the wind will make it billow and ultimately shred it to bits. Good survival blankets have

high reflectivity, so to keep warm you should erect it in a way that will reflect the warmth of your fire back towards you and your rest area.

High and dry: An essential part of any good shelter is to incorporate

a sleeping platform or bed. A bed provides:

- Thermal protection from the ground and moisture so that the bare earth does not suck the energy straight out of you,

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If you have the time and materials, making a weather-proof shelter is a good investment.



This kind of shelter is good to help you keep your cool during the day in arid and desert areas.

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- Protection from biting insects et cetera that live on the ground, and
- Comfort to enable adequate rest which conserves and builds energy and allows your body to heal/recover.

Hide and seek: As hunters, many of us may have the opportunity to incorporate the skill of shelter building into our regular hunting routine. Specifically, most of us are familiar with the benefits of a good blind or a hide that can provide the level of concealment from our quarry that may be difficult to achieve by other means, regardless of our skills in stalking.

If you have a permanent property where you have permission to hunt, consider erecting hides that also incorporate the characteristics of a good survival shelter. Position the

hide downwind of the prevailing wind, near a dam, game trail, or feed source. This way you'll have a place to hunt and also a source of protection in case of a weather event or injury. And, for my money, this sort of set-up has so many benefits over an artificial commercially produced hide that operates like a sweat box.

So why not practise some of these applications the next time you go hunting? Erect a survival shelter or hide/shelter combo. Better still, do it with your partner, your kids or your best mate who you routinely hunt with. As with all things in life, practice makes perfect.

When it comes to looking after ourselves in the outdoors, it's true to say that keeping safe doesn't happen by accident.

About the Author

Scott Heiman is a 25-year Army veteran, former Australian Federal Police instructor, environmental scientist, survivalist, fisherman and bowhunter. He is the Managing Director and Principal Consultant of Heiman Habitat. His 'man shed' includes a couple of compounds but he, his wife Kath and their daughter Scout prefer hunting and field competitions using the longbow.

Kids stay for free at Norfolk Island Archery Championships

Norfolk Island seems to epitomise the spirit behind the description 'kid friendly'. Not only is the island itself renowned as a picturesque and safe holiday haven but also the Norfolk Island Travel Centre 3D Archery Championships are geared to give all young competitors a wonderful introduction to international archery competition.

The local Norfolk Island Archery Club stands out in the way they encourage juniors to join up and get involved. This happens not only during weekly club meets, but also during their championships when local children compete alongside visiting archers. The event is timed to occur during the July school holidays and includes events for cubs and juniors as well as adults. And it's not all archery. There's time for lots of holiday activities. As a family you'll have plenty to do including mini-golf fun, Strawberry Fields maze, museums, golf and ghost tours.

And there are now even more reasons to book in to July 2019's Norfolk Island Travel Centre 3D Archery Championships with a special 'kids stay free' deal, plus the chance to win a \$100 voucher to spend at one of two local businesses, the Bounty Centre Toy Shop or the Golden Orb Café!

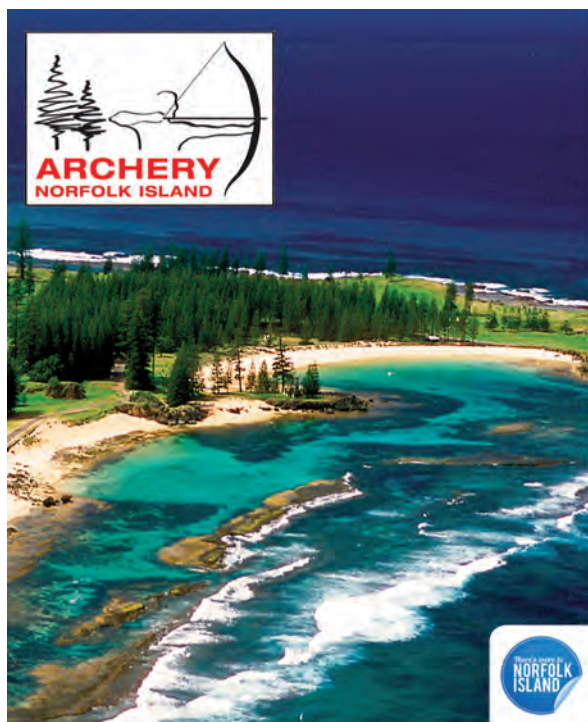
Make a seven-night family booking staying at either Fletcher Christian Apartments or Pine Valley Apartments

and your kids will stay for free. This offer is valid when two adults book with up to two accompanying children aged 14 years or under. Based on a family of four, you'll save more than \$350!

Make the most of Norfolk Island Travel Centre's Early Bird Competition and go in the draw to win that \$100 voucher by making your booking by Friday 21 December. For full conditions and details on the Kids Stay Free offer and the Early Bird Competition, contact Helen Reeves by email at helen@travelcentre.nf or phone 1800 140 066.



Kids love all the activities at Norfolk Island.



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A large, traditional-style hut with a conical thatched roof stands in a dry, open landscape. The hut is supported by wooden poles and has a wooden platform in front. In the background, there are more huts and hills under a clear blue sky.

Aussies at **WFAC**

WORLD FIELD ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIPS

A large crowd of people is gathered outdoors in a wooded area. Many people are wearing blue and white clothing, and some are holding bows. In the foreground, a large, reddish-brown ceramic pot sits on the ground. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

South Africa



Above: The parade: A proud moment for Aussie archers. Below left: A morning scene at WFAC.

For some of us, WFAC 2018 had been two years of planning, preparation and saving. So when October 4 rolled around and we boarded our first flight, our excitement was pretty overwhelming. Archers from around Australia all met at the Sydney Airport for the final flight to Johannesburg. Travelling in your green and gold shirts with the Australian contingent made for a real proud feeling.

Getting through the South African customs was pretty easy considering our border control.

The two-hour bus ride to our accommodation was something to remember, with utes passing us at speeds over 120km an hour with people just sitting in the back of them, drivers texting or talking on their phones and even drivers rolling cigarettes while steering with their legs. Then it all got real (about the

country we were in) when we saw road signs with "High Hijack Area, Do Not Stop" on the sides of the highway. Our anxiety levels started to rise when we slowly pulled off the highway to a locked gate with two lots of cars waiting in the dark. It didn't look like any grand entrance to Elgro River Lodge. A few minutes later we arrived safe at our accommodation for the next 10 days which was called the Stables. Yes, you guessed it, it was originally stables and a year or two ago they converted it into accommodation; 12 basic rooms which housed three people in each room. We all found our rooms then it was a 5km or 6km ride back to the lodge in game cars to have supper.

We got dropped back to our accommodation somewhere around 10pm or 11pm and were told breakfast would be at 9am and they would come back and pick us up. The 25 to 30 hours of travel was taking its toll on us and all

words

Jeanette Dowd

photos

Joy Wood

Kath Erskine

Jeanette Dowd



One of the many catfish Jeanette caught.



The 'Stable mates' ready for a day's shooting.

we wanted was a hot shower and bed. So we were in shock when we found out we had no water for showers and some of our toilets didn't work. Something they hadn't mentioned was that there was no way to contact anyone at Elgro River Lodge so we just had to wait it out till 9 o'clock the next morning.

The rest of the Australian team was spread out at the chalet accommodation at the Elgro River Lodge near the river, the Owl Cottages, Willows Hotel and Elgro Hotel in town.

The next two days were spent practising at our very own practice range beside the Stables, fishing, a quick trip into town for registrations, bow inspections and the opening

ceremony. For the parade, we had four juniors. Kenya was the youngest so she had the honour of carrying the Aussie flag while Jake, Josh and Julia proudly held the ABA flag. They were followed by the seven members of the Australian Champion of Nations team and then the Australian continent in their green and gold marched behind.

Around 400 archers competed in the 2018 World Field Archery Championships, with 35 of them being Australian.

The Elgro River Lodge is around 30km from Potchefstroom. It has four archery ranges, two within walking distance while the other two needed a small bus ride to get to.

The archery committee did a great

job at starting on time at 8.30 each day when we were briefed and told which bus we needed to be on.

Shooting would normally start between 9am and 9.30am after we heard a shotgun blast.

Each range had its own unique figures and being set on a game park meant that zebras, kudu, monkeys, giraffes, wildebeest, ostriches, waterbuck and impala could be seen roaming around the ranges.

The biggest factor that impacted your shooting was the altitude, which affected your breathing while you were walking to each target and your shot sequence as well. The heat and swirling winds also proved hard for some of us.



First thing in the morning.



In the bus travelling to one of the ranges.



Doing an archery competition at a South African game park was an eye-opener. At times it felt a bit surreal.

The Oryx Range was built over a few small hills in walking distance to the Lodge. There was a main road which went up and over the centre of the range. There were lots of rocks and slopes, which made walking difficult.

The Impala Range was the longest of all the ranges set up and around our accommodation at the Stables. It was an 11km walk when you included retrieving your arrows. Two buses were provided each day to drop off and pick up archers. It would be nothing for the final bus each day to be driving back in to the lodge at 6pm with the last of the archers. This made for very long days.

The Fish Eagle Range was an easy

walk from the Lodge, set around the Owl Cottages. This range was the only range that had any shade. I think every archer competing would have gotten some great photos of the local zebras that roamed this range feeding each day.

The Zebra Range was also a range that you needed to jump on a bus to get to. It was mostly flat with a mountain at the rear. If you looked hard enough, you could see animals in amongst the trees waiting for us to leave the ranges so they could come back down to their favourite spots.

With the temperature being in the mid-30s each day, Elgro Lodge

had made a road that went past all the targets so on each range there were cars continually travelling around selling cold bottled water and Powerade. It was nothing for archers to drink six to eight bottles of water throughout the day. A few people collapsed from dehydration, including one of our Aussie members.

The 25 or so Aussies who were staying at the Stables had a hard time getting to and from the archery range each day with the limited transportation. Our archery days would start at 5am getting dressed, a quick practice, then by 6am a game car would arrive to pick up the first





Flags of the nations on display at official gathering.

lot of archers and all their archery gear for the day to take them to the Lodge for breakfast, drop them off and then go back to get the second lot. We would get to see lots of different animals roaming around the game park on these trips. Luckily a few of the archers had hired a couple of cars as there would have been no way to get everyone from the stable to get to breakfast on time, as it was up to a 30-minute round trip.

After the day's shooting they would only do one trip back to the Stables,

so if you were still on the range and missed the game car you would have to stay at the Lodge, wait for dinner and arrive back to the accommodation around 9pm or 10pm. On a lot of occasions Cheryllanne, one of the non-shooting mums of the trip, would ferry archers back and forth each afternoon so everyone could at least have a shower before dinner.

Each night the game car would arrive back around 6.30 or so to pick us all up for dinner. Our record in the game car was 11 archers with all their

gear and the driver in the morning to get to breakfast and 15 archers, the driver and his dog on our way home at night, so no one got left behind.

The five days of shooting seemed to go relatively fast and before we knew it, presentation night had arrived. To get everyone off the ranges, showered and then get into town for the 7pm start was a feat in itself. We made a pact that no Aussie would leave in the bus until everyone could be accounted for.

The Aussies took home a huge number of medals in different divisions

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The Aussies took second place in the Champion of Nations.

and the Champion of Nations Team placed second behind England. A great night was had with all the new friends we had made over the previous week.

If we hadn't walked enough over the five days of competition, we got a rude fright when we were informed that the bus driver was not going to drop us off at the Stables and we would have to walk the 2km or 3km from the highway, in the dark, through the game park back to our accommodation. In

true Aussie fashion we all helped each other to get to back without anyone getting injured.

Some archers and their families travelled on further to different destinations around Africa seeing the sights while the rest of us made our way back home, down under.

This truly was a trip to remember. When you travel as a team, you always have a great sense of pride representing your country and having the support of

fellow archers and non-archers who share the journey with you. It really makes for an unforgettable experience. The part that stood out for me the most was how all the Aussies rallied together through all the difficult situations we faced, supporting each other, problem solving and working together. It really showed the great team spirit which helped us all through this Survivor-like adventure together.



CROSSFIRE DG3 BACKPACK

by MARK BURROWS

The CrossFire DG3 is an external frame and backpack combination. The frame is made from an injection-moulded aerospace resin fragmentation-resistant polymer and the pack and all straps are nylon with polymer clips. It has a volume

of 55 litres. Right from first glance you can see this is a quality item. The frame is well moulded with no rough edges or unfinished mould points and the sewing on the pack and attached straps is excellent. The frame is a lightweight design with no weak

points or vulnerable projections and can quickly and easily be set up for nearly any torso shape.

The DG frame is designed to flex at the same rate as the human back, letting the hips and shoulders move freely and therefore the pack is more comfortable and less tiring to use, and the active ventilation keeps things cool. According to CrossFire, frames that flex too little or too much can have an exhausting effect on the hips and shoulders, causing fatigue very quickly. The shoulder harness yoke assembly can be extended or retracted with three height settings built into the webbing attachments. Shoulder straps are shaped and tapered to be very comfortable in use. The waist belt has three height setting which are also quick and easy to adjust.

Nothing has been left to chance in the design of the pack. It has two internal plastic sleeves for water bladders and two mesh sleeves—all of which are removable. There are several other pockets on the inside along with three in the lid. Contents can be accessed through the throat of the pack like normal or the pack can be zipped right down the front for total access. Externally it has more pockets and carrying straps. The pack is covered in sewn webbing to attach nearly anything you need to hook on externally. All removable sections including attaching the pack to the frame are via webbing barbs sewn into the ends of the



The frame in use with a day's worth of hunting paraphernalia.

straps. This makes everything quick and easy to alter. The system also comes with a waterproof cap which is attached over the top of the pack, deflecting water away from the main entry points. The pack is fairly waterproof anyway and I would suggest it would require a heavy and constant downpour before you had to use the cover.

The 55-litre pack is far bigger than I would need for a day pack, which is what I require for the type of hunting I do. So upon receiving my DG3 I immediately set about removing the pack and configuring the frame to use as a day pack carrier. For a long time now I have been using an early model military harness system, modified to carry both my pack and my bow, but it is wearing out, along with my back. I was hopeful that a new system would help me out in this regard.

I removed my day pack, which

includes a water bladder, from my old harness and easily attached it to the frame. The DG frame is compatible with most Alice-type packs or as in my case (as there are a multitude of attachment points

on the frame), any pack that has a strap attachment. This left me with the sides of the frame free to add other items as required, either temporarily or permanently. In this case I attached my camera case to



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DG Frame Set

In conjunction with input from SMEs in the back-country hiking industry, we have developed a frame that will flex at the same rate as the human back. (Too little flex forces the hips and shoulders to fight with every stride, which is fatiguing. Over flexing forces the shoulders to fight angular momentum as the load swings wide with each step.) The DG frame set flexes just right, hips and shoulders move freely, stride is longer and less exhausting. Active ventilation keeps things cool. The whole shoulder harness yoke assembly can be quickly extended up or retracted down with three height settings built into the webbing attachments.



DG3 Overnight

Our 55ltr overnight EDC pack comes in two variants—external or internal frame. Other than size, the pack shares the same pedigree as its big brother the DG16 and has similar features—field replaceable buckles, removable stowage and bladder pouches. It comes in three colours: Ranger Green, Coyote or OCP which is a new variant of multi cam.

Peacekeeper Light Boots

The Peacekeeper Light is the final outcome of a long partnership between Crossfire Australia and Thorogood Boots (US) and is unashamedly pretty close to being the ultimate boot in hot weather footwear. As the name suggests, these boots were designed for the rigours of combat. They're made with ultra-tough materials like Mohave leather, 1000D Cordura®, and Vibram® TC4 outsoles.



DG16 Long-Range

The DG16 embodies everything we have learned in three decades about materials, science, ergonomics and systems integration. This pack has been engineered from first principles of grams count and redundancy of all critical points. There is nothing else like it, anywhere. The pack comes in one size and is universally adjustable.



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one side and added my bow hook to the other.

The bow hook is why I prefer a harness system pack. The hook enables me to attach my bow for easy access but leaves my hands free when climbing, glassing or taking photos. In this case the hook was easily attached to the top of the DG frame and carries my bow with ease. I have been using the frame set up in this configuration for several months now and can't fault it. The weight distribution is certainly a lot more forgiving than my old set-up.

On a recent hunt I had the chance to fully test the DG3 backpack in its full assembly with a sambar hind carryout. The deer had been taken the evening before, which enabled me to remove my daypack assembly and reattach the pack back to the frame for the carryout. It wasn't a long carry—a bit over a kilometre—but I have to say that this would be the most comfortable loaded pack that I have had on my back. The weight was distributed perfectly to make the carryout relatively easy. I didn't have scales but using a full jerry can as a gauge I estimated that I had well over 20kg of meat and skin on my back.

I am not really a backpack hunter. Generally I drive, set up camp and day hunt from there. However, this pack nearly has me converted. I would have no hesitation in filling this pack with two or three days' rations and heading bush. I will certainly be keeping the pack on hand for carryouts in the future. The bottom line is that I am very impressed with the whole set-up, whether I am using it with the 55-litre pack attached or, as I mostly do, in my personal day-pack configuration.

When I was about to retire my old set-up, I thought I would be hard pressed to find something to



The DG3, ready for the sambar carryout.

NOTE: CrossFire (AUST) P/L is a family-owned firm based in the NSW town of Braidwood. They started in the mountaineering/XC ski/rafting trade and soon branched out into the military. It is these frames and packs designed for military use that we are now seeing in the civilian market. What CrossFire produces is of the highest quality in both design and manufacture and the business reaches worldwide. More information can be found at www.crossfire.com.au.

replace it. How wrong was I? I have not only replaced it I have done it with a system that is far better than I had before. My back certainly appreciates the change and I can guarantee if you stumble across me in the bush some time I will, without doubt, have the DG frame on my back.

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We're back!

Aussie hunters on
another South African adventure

KEV WINDLE

While hunting was the main reason for the trip, there were many opportunities for photographing the picturesque African animals and these vervet monkeys made good subjects for the camera.



Cape buffalo.

Two years ago, some friends and I travelled to South Africa for a hunting experience. We enjoyed it so much we declared that we had to go back again so after almost two years of planning, we were there.

It was a Saturday morning in August. My good friend and fellow hunter Greg Warren, Greg's wife Terri and their son Mitchell (also a good friend and hunting ally), my wife Linda and I were at Brisbane Airport checking in for a long day of travel. Our bows and luggage were processed and we were off to Sydney then Johannesburg. Timing was tight and after rushing from the domestic side to the international side of Sydney Airport we tried to clear Customs as fast as we could. Linda had a piece of carry-on luggage which for some unexplained reason failed the explosives test five times. When we got to our gate we found no aircraft there. So much for the rush! It was about

another one-and-a-half hours before the 747 arrived and we departed.

It was a long flight of 14 hours and we arrived around 7pm local time. A couple of days prior to leaving Australia I'd been contacted by our hosts, African Arrow Safaris, and asked if we would stay in Johannesburg overnight as the current guests had miscalculated their departure day and instead of leaving Saturday they wouldn't be gone until Sunday. African Arrow arranged a guest house for us. We were met at the airport and had a short drive to our accommodation. We enjoyed a nice meal and a well deserved bed.

On Sunday after about a four-and-a-half-hour drive we arrived at the hunting lodge around 10am. One of the American hunters was still out hunting and the rest were madly scrambling to get ready to go. They'd had a whale of a time shooting about 30 animals

between eight of them. After they left, we were served lunch and were off hunting. Linda and I went with Naas (one of the new guides) to a blind where we saw plenty of waterbuck. A nice waterbuck was there that I thought I would take but it did not present itself for a shot ... which turned out to be a blessing come Tuesday. A couple of eland also watered and fed but I was not interested in them. Johan took Greg, Terri and Mitch to see four steenbuck, some eland and blue wildebeest. There was nothing they wanted to shoot there either.

On Monday morning Linda and I met up with Garry, my guide from our previous visit, and he took us out to another blind where I saw one big sow warthog, plenty of waterbuck and a nice impala. Although a warthog was on my desired species list, I was after a boar this time. Also on my list was a zebra and duiker. Mitch and Naas went



Greg with his gemsbok.

to a tree stand 8m up in a leadwood tree. Mitch was at full draw on an impala when it spun round, barked at another, and then would not settle. A boar warthog presented well for him at 32yd but the shot would have been over Naas' back so Mitch opted for safety first and did not shoot. Another warthog stopped and ran off due to the swirling wind. Mitch also topped off the morning seeing more eland, four zebra with two foals and four gemsbok. Johan, Greg and Terri were comfortable in their blind when baboons appeared. They came up close to the blind even licking the windows and dancing on the roof. Terri moved her seat behind the safety and

comfort of her husband. Greg saw a nice boar warthog that didn't present and also a group of gemsbok that came in to water. Greg shot one and it took off. They spent the next one-and-a-half hours tracking it before stopping for lunch. After lunch Mitch, Naas and I went back to the same blind I'd been in that morning. We saw nothing. Garry, Johan and Greg went back to tracking the gemsbok. They finally caught up with the gemsbok around 5pm—a magnificent effort after tracking sometimes 300m between blood spots and on sandy ground. All up, it was estimated he had travelled around 3km. No one could understand how the animal had gone so far as the

shot placement looked very good.

On Tuesday, I sat in a blind with Garry and Linda, not seeing much for most of the morning although we did see four white blesbuck, two normal red blesbuck, some kudu cows, impala and a very nice roan. The roan did not stay long.

Greg, Terri and Johan were having a similar morning when a sable walked in. Greg found the price had dropped significantly since the previous trip and could not help himself. Garry showed me a photo that Johan had sent him of Greg with the sable. When I found out the price I said to Linda, "That is half tempting!"

The plan changed for us to stay out all day so lunch was brought out. Linda was starting to feel the heat and left with the truck. The last thing I said to her was "Don't worry, darling, I won't shoot a sable." Mitch had much the same morning with Harry waiting for a Cape buff with not a lot going on. Terri



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Archery Action

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Subject: Gold Pen Award entry

All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition



Greg and the unexpected sable.



Kev also took a sable.

had left Greg at lunch as well and Greg joined Mitch for the afternoon. Greg spotted a very nice Cape buffalo coming in and as soon as he presented well Mitch let the arrow go. The buff ran only about 40m before stopping, staggering for a bit then going down. This was only the second time Harry had seen one go down in view of the blind.

Back at my blind it seemed like there was nothing for hours—not even a bird. Then a big sable walked in on me and after much changing of mind and tearing out of hair, I took my shot on him. I was thankful now that I had not shot the waterbuck on day one or my hunt would have been over then and there. A red letter day (and a fair bit of explaining for me to do when I got back to camp).

The next day, Mitch was left in the leadwood tree house by himself. He had a great time and eventually shot a very nice warthog. Naas and I were in the blind Greg and Terri had been in on Monday. I got my first close up look at the baboons Greg and Terri had seen then. I also saw a female duiker and more of the usual stuff but nothing for me to shoot.

Greg travelled to a distant blind and had four bushbuck females and seven mountain reed buck, all girls, either come to water or tiptoe around the edge of the clearing. Also appearing were baboons and lots of birds. All the animals seemed especially edgy and it was later discovered that a leopard had been in the area.

That afternoon Linda, Naas and I went to the blind from the first day and saw nothing until very late when zebra came in. One zebra presented but I was fumbling getting an arrow on the string and it had moved off by the time I was ready. Mitch went with Greg and saw heaps of zebra, impala and eland. At one point Johan got a bit exasperated and said, “Isn’t anybody going to shoot something?” but there was nothing there that either really



Mitch's shot on the Cape buff was so successful that the beast went down while still visible from the blind.



Mitch shot a warthog in the morning, but impala were proving problematic.

wanted so arrows stayed in quivers.

On Thursday morning, Garry and I spent the morning at the leadwood tree house. We saw 15 gemsbok, a single tsessebe and three warthogs that watered and then wallowed. The warthogs reminded me of how I wanted to mount mine if I got one. At the taxidermist's last time we were here, I'd seen a full-mounted warthog playing in the mud ... and I had immediately wanted one like it.

Mitch went with Harry and he shot an impala but the shot was just a little high to start with and the impala ducked the string. After tracking for a while, Harry declared the impala MIA.

I was targeting zebra in the afternoon and saw a zebra on the way to the blind then nothing. As we were about to leave, a large spotted eagle owl flew in and landed about 2m from the blind. Alas, it was too dark to get a photo.

Mitch went for a walk with Harry down near the river. They saw leopard and hippo tracks, some waterbuck and warthogs. Mitch reckoned his heart sped up bit knowing that a leopard could be close by.

Greg's day was uneventful. He saw a lot of good stuff but nothing he was looking for. The girls, meanwhile, spent the day being pampered at a day spa in Lephalale.

On Friday morning, I came out of my room to find that honey badgers had visited during the night, knocking pillows and cushions off the bench seat. Mitch had heard the commotion and got some video on his phone.

In my blind later that morning, I was surrounded by waterbuck. Four small warthogs watered and at around 1pm two nice kudu bulls with four cows came in to water.

After lunch we were back at the first day's blind again. It was quite warm and we were all feeling the heat. Whilst waiting for a zebra to show we had waterbuck, eland and

blue wildebeest watering and feeding all around. When it was finally too dark to shoot we got out of the blind to find zebra behind and very close to the blind snorting at us. They are a cagey animal!

Mitch had an exciting morning with a leopard attack happening behind his blind. He couldn't see anything but all the sounds were correct and all the animals were very agitated. Naas removed the .243 from its case and had that handy all morning. Mitch shot at an impala but it turned slightly on release and was only wounded. Impala were getting on Mitch's nerves and rapidly becoming his nemesis. Mitch saw nothing of interest in the afternoon.

During Greg's day he saw baboons again. This time there was some fighting going on between a pair of males. He saw some female bushbuck and a young male come in and around the waterhole. A big male and small mountain reed buck showed up but he was still waiting for his bushbuck.

Most of Saturday morning I was surrounded by a thousand (actually 25) waterbuck. It just seemed like they were everywhere! Also a gemsbok, wildebeest and three impala showed up. A troupe of vervet monkeys came through and did not stay very long. The funny thing with these animals is the male has a light blue scrotum. It is a nice

colour, but it's very funny seeing half a blue tennis ball hanging from them.

No zebra came in that morning but we did see them on the way to lunch. That afternoon we went back to the blind near where we'd seen the zebra. Waterbuck and red hartebeest and wildebeest showed up but no zebra. Mitch shot himself a nice warthog in the morning and after feeling ill all night before spent the afternoon in bed. Greg saw a lot of stuff in the morning but nothing he wanted to shoot. He only saw a

couple of monkeys after lunch.

On Sunday, Mitch saw his wounded impala and had another go at him. Strangely he shot underneath him this time. He was getting more frustrated by the minute. Looking later at the video he noticed that the first shot at the impala was at 9.04. The second shot he had on that same impala was at 9.05 and he was standing 2m to the right. Mitch declared he wanted to be there at 9.05 Monday to complete the job.

We passed zebra near the blind we were going to but again they did not



Greg ... impala.



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venture near us. On our way to lunch we saw zebra near the blind we'd been at the evening before so Garry and I stayed there while Mitch and Naas continued to lunch. Harry brought out our lunch and suggested the zebra would not be back and that we move to the blind I'd been at on Thursday afternoon.

After dropping us off, Harry saw 16 zebra back at the blind we'd just left. Even the experts sometimes get it wrong! Late in the afternoon zebra finally came in. Garry told me to shoot the first one that presented. I'm sad to admit that excitement, fading light, the zebra moving but mostly my impatience, resulted in a poor shot. I was very disappointed with myself for pulling the trigger. It was dark by the time Harry came back and he and Garry tracked him using the light on their phones. They wanted to find a spot far enough away from the water so as the tracks did not get disturbed and then come back after dinner to finish tracking. Garry and Johan went back after dinner and found him about 300m further in from where we left the tracks. Greg was still seeing little and nothing that he wanted to shoot.

The following day I spent the morning on my own in a blind made from a watertank and saw 22 warthogs, a blue wildebeest, a nice impala and a beautiful golden wildebeest. The golden wildebeest costs US\$35k to shoot! There was nothing I either wanted or could afford from all that lot. Mitch and Naas saw nice kudu bulls and plenty of warthogs.

Greg and Johan were in the tree house and saw quite a few animals. Greg downed a very nice impala. In the afternoon, Mitch and Naas spent their time in a similar watertank blind as I did in the morning. They saw some warthogs but didn't take anything. Greg finally had an eland bull come in that was everything he was looking for. After waiting a while for the eland to present he shot the eland through the



Greg ... eland.

heart. Harry had the butchers remove the heart showing a neat slice right through the middle of it.

Linda, Gary and I sat for ages seeing nothing then two medium-sized boars came in and started feeding. Not long afterwards, three eland came in. As the light of day was starting to dim I was thinking about having a beer when a nice boar appeared and woke me from my daydream. The warthog moved around for a bit, not wanting to settle. I heard Garry whispering something but could not understand him. I just decided I had to wait until he cleared the eland and presented. As it turned out that is exactly what Garry was saying. The boar finally stopped and presented well. My arrow passed

through both lungs. My hunt was now over unless I saw a jackal or a rabbit on the last day.

The next day I went with Mitch and Harry to the blind where Mitch had taken the Cape buff. A roan came in. It was possibly the one I'd seen the day I shot my sable. He fed for a while and we took some photos and video. Harry said he would be in the world Top 10, which got Mitch's trigger finger itching. He resisted the urge. Shortly afterwards, some impala arrived and one nice ram took Mitch's eye. It took an eon for the ram to settle. After running off several times when some mongoose and gemsbok arrived he eventually settled and came back for some more food. A nice shot saw him fall about 40m from where the buff had gone down. Mitch's hunt was now over also. Back at camp, we downed a 'couple' of beers to celebrate our achievements. Greg finally had the bushbuck he was looking for come in. It took about 20 minutes from the time they saw him until he finally presented. After a previous bushbuck Johan had declared a 7 out of 10, he declared this one a 12. Later Harry said that this was the largest bushbuck



Kev's zebra ... at last.



Kev took the desired warthog.



Mitch got his impala after all.

taken so far this year and probably would not be topped. Greg has now completed his spiral slam—all of the four twisted-horn African animals; a kudu and nyala from last trip and the eland and bushbuck this time. He is now one of very few Australians to do so with a bow.

Mitch is amongst the first Australians to take a Cape buffalo with a bow. Mitch went back out with Greg in the afternoon to see if Greg could top off his trip with a zebra but no luck this time.

Our friends at African Arrow Safaris again gave us the royal treatment. Great accommodation, great food, great service and helpful, friendly staff. The PHs are always looking after your best interests and go out of their way to try to get you your prize. As Butch said on the last trip “We arrived as clients. Halfway through we became friends and left as family.” I can’t recommend them highly enough.

It was now off to the Kruger National Park with African Adventures for a few days ... but that is a whole new wonderful story.



Greg with the largest bushbuck taken so far this year.

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



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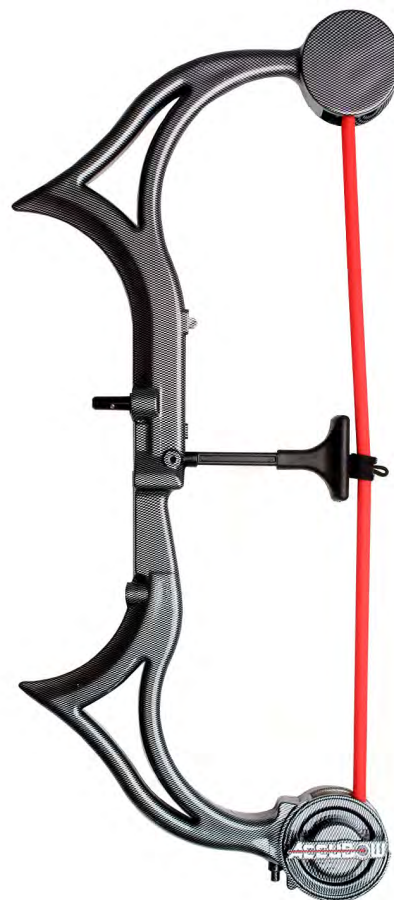
The Accubow can be used for both compound and recurve training with or without a release aid. Many other simple shot trainers on the market are set for tension, or in many cases have no tension at all. The Accubow can be easily adjusted from 10lb to 70lb in draw weight with a simple turn of the Accudial located at the bottom of the bow.

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Outside In the zone

Make a wish

by Nils Spruitt

Nowhere is it written—not as far as I am aware at least—that wishing for something you will probably never have or is impossible to have, is against the law. A wish is a conscious dream. A wish is one of the few things we have left that are still tax free (at the time of writing). A wish is one of the few selfish acts we can think about from time to time without bringing down an entire wall of criticism from those who exist only to cry ‘foul’ every time we self indulge.

That is one of the nicer things about Christmas. We are encouraged to make wishes—aloud, written, and often, in secret. It has occurred to me that a Christmas wish we just know will never come true is a lot closer to life than a New Year’s resolution we will never keep.

That said however, you must be careful about what you wish for because sometimes, when the planets align and the moon is in its final phase, wishes can come true. Not often, mind, but you just never know. We all know about the old fables where someone was granted three wishes and the third wish was to undo the first two. I am not saying don’t wish; just be mindful about it, that’s all.

I remember wishing when I was still a youngster for some help with my household chores. Then I got a little brother. Whoever it was granted the answer to that wish might have got

the theory right, but didn’t have too sharp an eye on the detail.

Another example of what I am saying: A friend of mine who enjoyed field archery kept badgering his wife to try archery with him. She in turn said whilst she liked the idea, she was positive she would never learn to hit anything with a bow. So, as a sort of ‘give it a try’ gesture he introduced her to the local club instructor for some tuition and now she shoots a higher grade than he does and is the current club champion.

I bet you wish you had some of the old bows you traded off because you wished you had something different at the time. I can count at least half a dozen without even trying too hard. Yes indeed; you go around wishing out loud in the wrong place at the wrong time and you are going to wind up wishing you hadn’t.

You take out a new chap who has never been rabbit hunting and you wish him the best of luck as you spread out across the bracken flats. From that day on, you wish he would finally stop telling all and sundry how many he bagged as opposed to how many you missed. Please feel free to substitute goat hunting, fishing, pig shooting, ABA, 3D or whatever else comes to mind as I am sure it has happened to you—or if not, it soon will.

I would wager that small and unpretentious wishes are



made on a daily basis by all. I wish I didn't have to work so hard or that my wages were higher or both. I wish my sleeping bag was 10 degrees warmer or at least as warm as the manufacturers claim it to be. I wish I could ride a horse. I wish I still had a fringe and so on. We are all guilty of such whimsical wishes ... and what would a day be without such thoughts or ideas? I most certainly cannot ever imagine such a day, but such concepts are not really earthshattering, if you get my drift. Every now and then a wish does formulate itself which to me at least, ranks right up there alongside world peace.

I wish I could shoot downhill Group 5s accurately and regularly instead of constantly puzzling over why I seem to always miss high or how I am ever going to figure the required math so I don't miss the next one. (Just for the record, I am lousy at all things mathematical.)

I wish I would quit acting like a little child in a lolly shop whenever I come across a small clearing containing half a dozen or more rabbits. The good Lord knows—and so do I—that I should concentrate totally on one and completely ignore the others, but the Lord also knows a lot of other things I do when I ought to know better.

I wish I could remember not to forget things. I have jackets, pipes, torches, solitary socks, knives, bow strings, hats and a plethora of broadheads and other paraphernalia scattered around abandoned campsites from the Victorian high country all the way up to the Top End. Perhaps it is because I always feel so pleased with myself that I actually remembered to bring that sort of thing in the first place, which goes to prove my other wish theory is working. After years of such forgetfulness I am sort of resigned to being whatever it is that I am. That old saying, 'If wishes were horses then the poor would all ride,' has a lot going for it.

I really do wish on those rare days when we witness a perfect sunrise that it would herald a perfect day ... a day when the sun shines brightly and all our wishes do actually come to fruition for a change. Far too often I have seen such an event only to have that unbelievable moment of awe fade and then disappear into the gloom of rain and storms.

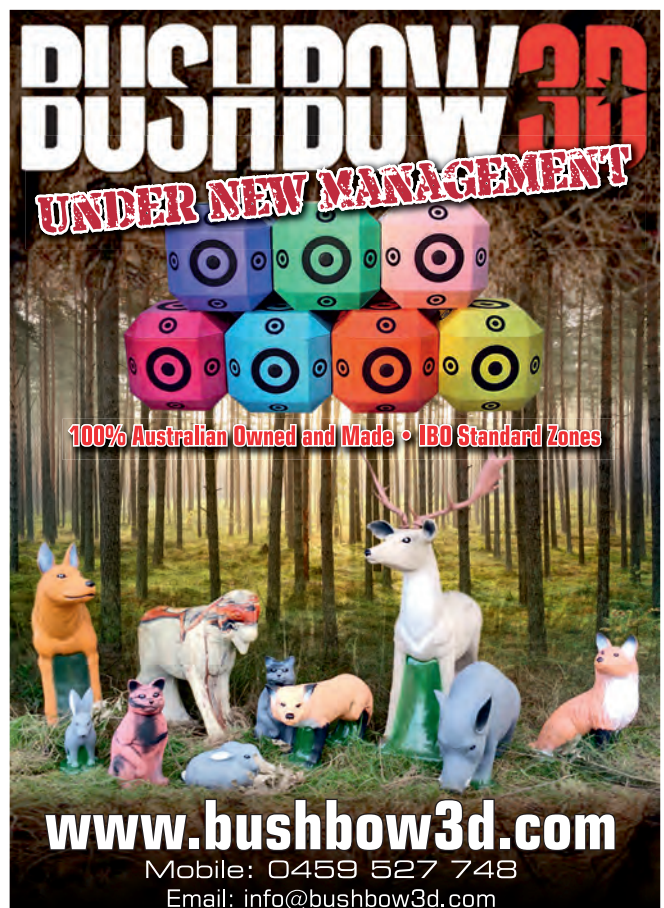
Despite all our well wishes there are always some close external objects, such as wives, who every now and then have wishes which run contrary to, or at least a trifle askew from, that of our own. At one time, when I wished I could smoke less, I began chewing gum as an alternative. My wife began wishing I would chew gum less or at least not when we were entertaining or dining out in elite company such as with the local ladies golf club president. It is just a fact of life that other people's wishes come true easier and quicker than some (especially if the other people are married to you and you rely on them to do a rabbit casserole, patch the barbed wire hole in your trouser groin or remember to pack your spare underwear).

On the broad scale, I stopped long ago wishing for the

absolute impossible like being a much better shot, a great tracker or even more intelligent when it is time to make an important decision. Since then, I have discovered that I have a lot in common with a lot of very nice people just the way I am. I hear that it can be lonely at the top. I will never know, but that is what I hear.

With the festive season almost upon us, I wish that this Christmas all those little boys and girls who receive a new bow or a sub-zero thermal jacket can step straight outside and try it out. I never did get a new jacket for Christmas, but I did once get a new bow and I can still remember the ultimate satisfaction of being able to step out the kitchen door and shoot a few arrows into my two lucerne bales which were permanently set up near the chook run. I guess that is the freedom country kids have over those who live in the city. There is an immense pleasure in being able to feel that sharp little bite in the fingers when you pull back the string on a new bow; a bow that is yours and yours alone. Perhaps the jacket wish is not such a good idea what with Australian Christmas being what it is. Dehydration and heat stroke could be a real problem if you dressed in a thermal jacket on Christmas Day.

One last wish before I go: This Christmas, I hope you and yours have a wonderful day and that the festive season is truly festive and not marred by mishap or tragedy. Merry Christmas to all. Until next time.



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The Last Word

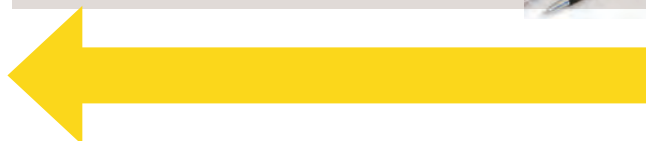
We probably shouldn't tell tales out of school, but at the Traditional Archery Australia's National Muster held in Tenterfield in October, apparently there was a bit of a how-to session going on with some blokes putting up a gazebo. Or should we say, how not to? For the onlookers it was a half hour of the finest entertainment ever as they watched five intelligent men eventually get it right.

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SHOOT-CALENDAR

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
November			
3-4	Sapphire City Archers *	E	IFAA Indoor Titles
3-4	Playford District Field Archers *	I	3D SA Titles
4	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters *	G	IFAA
4	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
10-11	Nambucca Heads *	NSW	3DAAA National Championships
11	Great Southern Archers *	SA	State Field
11	Freds Pass Field Archers	A	ABA
11	Katherine Archery Club	A	ABA
11	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A	ABA
17-18	Granite Belt Bowmen *	D	ABA Club Challenge
17-18	Eurobodalla Archers *	F	ABA / 3D
17-18	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters *	H	ABA
December			
1-2	Macleay Valley Archers *	E	ABA / 3D / IFAA
1-2	Shellharbour Bowmen *	F	Safari
1-2	Yorke Peninsula Field Archers	I	Christmas Shoot
2	Phoenix Field Archers of Sale *	G	ABA
2	Full Boar Archers	B	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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Phone number Date of birth/...../.....

Email address.....

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

I am a member of (Club)

Signature of Applicant

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

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

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

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

Parent-Guardian Signature ABA Number if Applicable:

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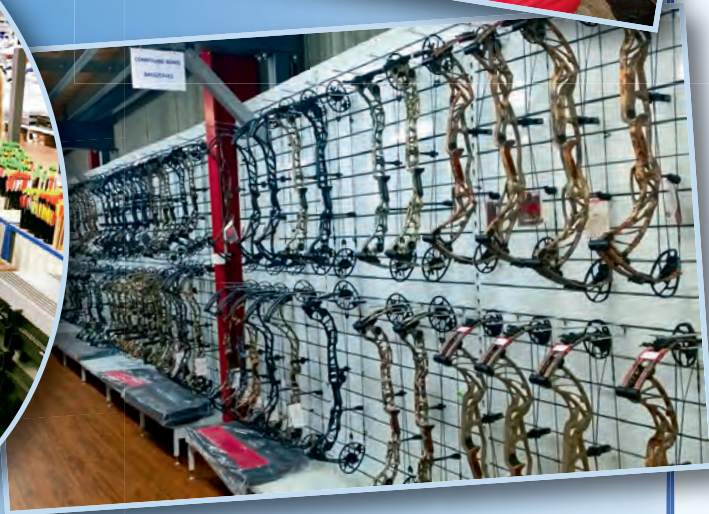
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