

May June 2019 \$6.95

Archery Action



BEST OF SPECIES
OLD HANDLEBARS
A FAMILY'S JOURNEY

ISSN 1037-6720



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Timetable: Muster each day at 8.00am for an 8.30am start	
Monday 10/06/19	Registration and bow checks
Tuesday 11/06/19	Registration and bow checks
Wednesday 12/06/19	28 Targets Field/Hunter
Thursday 13/06/19	28 Targets Hunter/Field (afternoon bow checks)
Friday 14/06/19	28 Targets Field/Hunter
Saturday 15/06/19	28 Targets Hunter/Field
Sunday 16/06/19	28 Targets Animal followed by presentations

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

Nomination Fees:

3 Days Adult/Young Adult/Veteran/Seniors \$55 Cubs/Jnr \$45 Family \$145 - 5 Days Adult/Young Adult/Veteran/Seniors \$75 Cubs/Jnr \$55 Family \$170

Nominations closing date: 27th May 2019

All nominations must be completed online at www.bowhunters.org.au and paid for at the time of registration. No late nominations will be accepted and nominations on the website will open immediately after the National Safari.

Last day for gradings: 27th May 2019

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

DIRECTIONS:

<http://renegadebowmeninc.com/web/index.php/club-map>

324 Cumner Road South Ripley.
Access is via Cunningham Hwy only.

Turn off the Cunningham Highway at Swanbank exit.

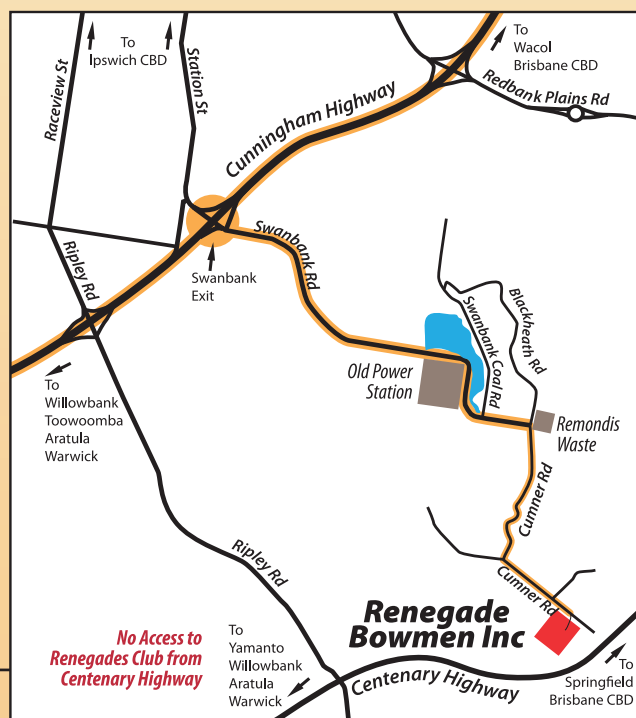
Keep the old power station site on your right.

Keep following Swanbank Road to the Wood Mulching Industries (it is actually Remondis Waste Facilities - google is wrong) and then turn right.

Turn left into Cumner Road.

Aproximately 1 Kilometre along Cumner Road you will see the turn-in sign to the club.

Note that you cannot gain access via the Centenary Highway and your GPS will not get you there.



- Limited camping and caravan sites are available, but site must be booked by emailing: camping.renegades@gmail.com - Definitely No DOGS allowed
- Ipswich Country Motel, 250 South Station Road, Raceview is located only a short distance from the club Ph: 1800 882 263, Ipswich Caravan Village Ph: 07 3281 7951 or more offsite accommodation information can be obtained from the ABA website
- The Club has modern toilet and shower facilities. Catering provided by the Club from the evening of the 10th June
- Food and drinks available on the ranges on shoot days. Clean toilets provided on the ranges.
- Commemorative shirts available for pre purchase by pre-order by 30th April. Email: camping.renegades@gmail.com for prices and payments
- For general inquiries contact the Club via website – renegadebowmeninc.com

▼ INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

ABA MEMBERSHIP FORM	82
ABA Shop	79
ABBEY ARCHERY	84
ABBEY ARCHERY Photo Competition	49
AFRICA'S BOWHUNTER AND ARCHER	74
ARCHERY ACTION – Deadlines	05
ARCHERY ACTION Gold Pen Award	24
ARCHERY ACTION SUBSCRIPTION FORM	75
ARCHERY ALLIANCE OF AUSTRALIA	67
ARCHERY ALLIANCE Shoot Calendar	80
ARCHERY ESSENTIALS	30
AUSBOW INDUSTRIES	43
AUSSIE TARGETS	69
BCY BOWSTRING	17
BENSON ARCHERY	50, 51
BUSH BOW 3D TARGETS	39
CROSSFIRE (AUST)	44
DAN SMITH SAFARIS	61
DARRYL REEKS ARCHERY	02
DOCTARI SAFARIS	59
ELIZA ARCHERY	52
FULL DRAW ARCHERY	26
NORSEMAN TRADITIONAL BOWS	47
NORTHERN BROADHEADS PHOTO COMP	70
ORTECH INDUSTRIES	15
OZHUNTING AND BOWS	02
POLLARD INSURANCE	27
PACIFIC REGIONAL FIELD ARCHERY C'SHIPS	03
PRIMITIVE ARCHER	81
QLD BOWHUNTING SAFARIS	57
TASMANIAN ARCHERY SUPPLIES	07
TBA MUSTER	45
TEN ZONE ARCHERY	47
3DAAA	65
TIMBERLINE SELF-GUIDED SAMBAR HUNTS	28
TOOWOOMBA ARCHERY SUPPLIES	53
TROPHY BOWHUNTS AUSTRALIA	83
TUSKER JUNIOR PHOTO COMP	71
TUSKER TROPHY OF THE MONTH	09
URBAN ARCHERY	37

WHAT'S ON

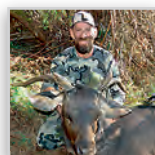
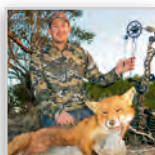
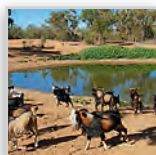
Branch B Safari (Charters Towers)	78
Branch D ABA Shoot (Barambah)	79
Branch D ABA Shoot (Pacific)	78
Mackay and District Bowmen Invitational	79
SNSW ABA/3D Shoot (Capital)	78
SNSW ABA/3D Shoot (Wagga Wagga)	78



May-June 2019 • Volume 44 No. 5

▼ REGULARS

- 5 Editorial
- 12 ABA newsletter, Game Claimed listing, Best of Species, TBA column
- 36 Around the Trads
- 40 Bushcraft and Survival
- 46 Traditional Trails
- 49 Photo Competition entries
- 52 Meanderings
- 70 Game Claimed pictorial
- 76 Outside the Zone



▼ FEATURES

- 06 Tanks for the memories
 - 28 Old Handlebars
 - 34 Gympie ABA/3D Shoot
 - 54 A family's journey
 - 64 3DAAA report
 - 66 Branch C Shoot at Saxons
 - 68 Combined hunting history
 - 72 Hunting the phantoms of Manitoba
- Tim Opie
 Michael Luxford
 Pam Helmrich
 Graeme Duff
 Pam Helmrich/Jenny Gilbert
 David Edwards



◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Jason Archer with the Best of Species fallow deer, RC 245 3/8pt.
See all 2018's Best of Species pictures on Pages 18 to 25.

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If you know anyone who uses a bow and is not a member of one of the Archery Alliance of Australia associations, I believe you should strongly encourage them to join the group that most suits their shooting style.

If they talk about using a bow on anything that breathes and moves, they need to take the ABA's Bowhunter Proficiency Course. It is imperative that people be educated about what is ethical, what animals it's acceptable to shoot and how to do it as humanely as possible.

You hear about people putting arrows into kangaroos, goannas and other animals that are indigenous to Australia. This is not acceptable! These are our native species and we should be doing everything we can to protect them.

To a large extent, hunting feral species is accepted



by non-hunters because they can see that controlling introduced pests is helpful to the continuation of our wonderful native species.

Joe Public is not going to be so accepting of an arrow in Skippy, and neither is the ABA, the RSPCA or environmental government bodies.

We all know rednecks and loose cannons; people who thumb their nose at authority. But we are also the architects of our own future to some degree and what we accept in others becomes the standard by which we ourselves rise or fall. Like it or not, we are lumped in with the people who perform the worst. Speak out! By not condoning the behaviour of people who flout the rules, we are at least making a stand for what is right.

Bowhunting must be done in a controlled manner, on acceptable species of animals, in the right way. We know that. So it's up to us to tell others who breach the rules that we don't think it's funny or in any way tolerable. Because if we don't, one day we won't have a bowhunting fraternity at all.

Jenel Hunt
Editor

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE	DEADLINE
2019	
Vol 44 No. 6 July-August	1 June
Vol 45 No. 1 September-October	1 August
Vol 45 No. 2 November-December	1 October
2020	
Vol 45 No. 3 January-February	1 December
Vol 45 No. 4 March-April	1 February
Vol 45 No. 5 May-June	1 April



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Printer

News Regional Media—

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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.

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REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

Traditional Trails—Nick Lintern

Bushcraft and Survival—Scott Heiman

Tanks for the MEMORIES



TIM OPIE

This idyllic-looking spot served as a writing room for Tim as he did some reminiscing and scribbling while he was waiting for animals to come by. Of course, it didn't always go well with his attention away from the main game, but we'll let Tim tell the story in his own words—mostly penned right here.

I'm sitting on a tank. Where I come from we call them dams, but here they are known as tanks so that is what I will call them.

We have driven roughly 1200km to be sitting on this tank, and it's not the first time.

I sit, and I watch, I write ... and I wait.

Normally I'm a walker. I'm not much good at waiting. Writing this as I sit helps a lot.

The property holds mainly goats and a few pigs with the odd camel passing through as well. It's a great place to hunt despite the fact it is quite heavily hunted by those with bang sticks. New hunters will more than likely get a shot off and for those who are more seasoned, the rewards are there if you put the time in.

It's the first morning of this trip and I'm paired with Bones (Ben Gipps). Most of my hunting is done with another person. I occasionally hunt solo but I like to be able to share the experience. That, and I don't get quite as scared.

Scout (Mark Burrows) is hunting solo while TV (Tim Vandenbelt) and Sam-8am (Sam Williams) are on another tank about 15km away.

TV has just sent a message. He has had success already with a nice billy.

I can hear goats in the distance and I'm getting excited. While I wait, I think back to previous trips.

My first time here saw one of our party leap from the car on arrival, grab his bow and race off in search of game. It wasn't the smartest thing to do considering it was 45 minutes before dark and none of us had set foot on the place before. Our search party found him safe but embarrassed, four hours later.

That first trip also gave me my first bowshot goat. It was a textbook 20yd broadside gut shot.

A lot of mistakes were made that first trip, but each was a lesson learned, including the lesson that not all pubs serve 'fancy' food like parma.

Another hour or so of sitting on this tank and I'm over it. At the conclusion of the first day, Scout has taken a pair of

billies in addition to the goat that TV shot.

Day two starts off nicely with Bones getting his first archery goat, and quickly following up with his second. I'm back to tank sitting.

Writing this is really helping and I find myself feeling



View from a hide.

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The first goat was TV's.

quite at ease. I am still hopeful I will get a chance to take something, but don't feel the need to shoot the first animal I see. I'm trying to learn patience.

I'm back in the past again and thinking about another earlier trip here. On that particular hunt I witnessed a hunter lose his head.

He had shot his biggest billy to date and it was a good shot but instead of letting the animal settle, he charged after it, fearing it would hobble off never to be seen again.

He put a second arrow into it and it ran. It ran and he ran and shot again. This was happening in a big circle. I was in the centre of that big circle with another person and we were just watching this train wreck unfold. I won't say how many shots were taken in total, but it was a lot. When it was over and he had regained his senses, he was beside himself with sorrow and anger to the point he vowed to never hunt again. (He did.)

Day two concludes with dinner at the pub (no parma) and three goats on the ground. Two for Bones and one for Sam-8am.

Day three and Sam-8am and Bones have gone out early looking for pigs. They get back to base with one more goat for Sam-8am.

I'm off for a solo sit-and-wait and to continue writing this, which also means more reminiscing. A couple of trips back I was hunting with a fella who had taken a few goats with the compound and had now decided he wanted one with the longbow. So let's call him Longbowman.

We were walking ... hold up!

Man oh man! I just had my first crack at a pig; a 40yd shot across the corner of the tank. The shot looked good, but it wasn't.

Back to Longbowman: We were walking towards a tank with a gap of about 50yd between us. A small mob ran right through the gap and we both had arrows on and ready to shoot.

We were both at full draw and tracking the moving mob, I let down as I came around towards the longbow. He didn't. He shot. The arrow fell harmlessly about 15yd directly in front of me. It certainly scared me and Longbowman was very apologetic.

Day three is done and Sam-8am and Scout have one more goat to add to their tallies.

Today I'm with Sam-8am and we spook a couple of nice



Scout brought down this fellow.



What kind of selfie do you call that, Scout? The half selfie?



Goat down for Sam-8am.



TV took this one.

looking billies as we approach the tank. The breeze is erratic and I'm feeling tired. Who would have thought that sitting for hours could be so draining?

This has just happened: I'm messaging a friend and not paying attention. I finish the message, put my phone down and audibly break wind. In response to my loud noise, I receive one in return that almost makes me jump. Over my left shoulder 8yd away is a billy: He has made me. He is blurring and snorting but not certain I'm a danger. He is worth a shot. After a 10-minute staring contest he moves into a position that allows me to grab my bow and slowly rise.

Now I see that he is there with a mate that is slightly bigger and an easier shot. My shot is good and his mate is down. Farting goat hangs around and Sam-8am is able to drop him with a cracker of a shot that I am lucky enough to be able to record.

At day's end we say goodbye to Scout, and TV adds two more heads to the day's tally.

It's now the last day for the four of us who are still here. That also means it's my last day of writing and sitting; tomorrow we are heading home.

There have been lots of goats around and more pigs seen than ever before on this property for us, including lots of little animals.

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TUSKER TROPHY OF THE MONTH

Best Trophy Taken

Taken with a Tusker Head, Recognised by ABA

Blaine Brinkwater, Collinsville Barebow Hunters, Chital Deer, 173 pts, Record Class



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First Kill or FKOS

Taken with a Tusker Head, Recognised by ABA

Byron Scott, Twin Rivers Bowhunters, Sambar Deer, GA



WINNER
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TUSKER BROADHEADS

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

Darcy Galliano, Namoi Valley Archers, Chital Deer, 170 5/8 pts, Record Class



WINNER
Packet of
TUSKER BROADHEADS



Yep, this little guy was in danger ... of being cuddled to death, that is.

On my previous trip here, we were driving to a tank when out of nowhere, a mob ran out in front of the car. They scattered in all directions, and in the confusion they left behind two tiny little kids that could not have been more than a couple of days old. So we did what any hard-core hunters with ice in their veins would do. We stopped the car, grabbed what we needed to do the job, and got to it.

We cuddled them until they could take no more. Then to add insult to injury we took photos of ourselves holding them. That will show those pesky goats not to mess with nasty hunters.

I've just received a message from Bones. He has shot two goats and has one arrow left with no fletching. He is hunting alone and I have to pick him up. Sorry Bones, you're going to have to wait for a bit.

TV is on the job and picks up Bones, leaving Sam-8am and me to sit until we are both over it, with no game seen.

We go back to camp with the intention of cleaning my skull cap from yesterday's hunt. To my dismay we can't find it anywhere. Some critter has come in at some stage and absconded with my trophy. The rest of the day passes too quickly and nothing else is taken.

That's this trip done. I will return. I will be just as excited as every other time. There will be new stories to add and hopefully they will all be good.

To the horn-stealing critter I say, dam you, dam a lot and dam again. To the property I say, tank you, tanks a lot and tanks again.



Three goats taken by Bones, who took his first archery goat on this trip (top).



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



The mate of the noisy goat—this one was an easier shot for Tim.



Left: Sam-8am's arrow on its way.

Above: Another one down.



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PROTOCOL

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

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BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Vice-President Bowhunting Division)



Bowfishing for carp

The first thing I must do this issue is apologise to Dr Andrew Moriarty and the Game Licensing Unit of NSW. In my previous column I spoke of the delay in seeing bowfishing for carp introduced in NSW. It may have come across that I was blaming Dr Moriarty and the GLU for the delay. I can assure

you that was not my intention, as the GLU and Dr Moriarty are not to blame at all. They have been extremely helpful through the whole bowfishing process. What is holding the decision up is the NSW State election. The necessary departments had put all decisions of this regard on hold until after the elections.

That election is now over with and hopefully we will hear some positive news in the not-too-distant future. Again I apologise for the clumsy wording.

2018 SEASON BOWHUNTING AWARDS

As I have no doubt mentioned quite frequently over the past 20 years, game claims are very important as they are a direct representation of what we do—bowhunt. I have used game claim figures to our advantage innumerable times over those 20 years with several different state governments to argue our cause. But I am talking to the converted. If you are reading this page then you are most likely one of the bowhunters who supports this system. I would encourage you to promote the cause to any of your mates who don't claim. It is to our own advantage to promote as many bowhunters as we can; governments only listen to

numbers. Unlike the USA that has specific bowhunting seasons and licenses to prove numbers, we only have our ABA game claims. These are as good as a statutory declaration to prove bowhunting numbers; everything else is hearsay.

As I mentioned in my previous column, I will not be standing for the Bowhunting Division at this year's election. Someone will either take the role on, or they won't. Either way, 20 years is probably enough. Now let's move on to the real reason for this report.

Firstly I would like to congratulate Troy Morris on his achievement of the Royale Ishi in the last claim year. Troy now joins David Luxford, John Scott and me as the four who have reached this pinnacle of claiming each of the 18 species on the ABA 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.

The total claims for 2018 is 1289 (down on 2017). The claims comprised 311 Trophy Class, (slightly up on 2017), 113 Record Class (just one up from 2017) and 865 Game Award claims (well down on 2017). The Greater Victoria Branch again submitted the largest number of claims with 364 (slightly down from previous year), followed by Northern NSW with 188 claims and Southern Queensland with 150. The total of First Kill (36 claims) and First Kill of Species (130 claims) were slightly down on the figures of 2017.

TBA BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR

The winner of this prestigious award has to have achieved Master Bowhunter status in the calendar year of competition. The Master Bowhunter with the most

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	20	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	7 4/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

Ladies Best of Species

Boar	Kristan Bell	34 4/8pt	2017
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Christie Pisani	87 4/8pt	2017
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 14/16pt	2016
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt	2014
Fallow Deer	Jennifer Vanderburg	205 5/8pt	2018
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt	2010
Hog Deer	Cheryl Morris	60 5/8pt	2018
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

measurable species claimed from that year will be declared the winner. In the case of two hunters having the same quantity of measurable species then the hunter with the most Record Class, then Trophy Class will break the deadlock.

The TBA Bowhunter of the Year this year was a very closely contested

event with Rohan Walker taking out the title with seven measurable species which included three Record Class, three Trophy Class and one other measurable species. This was very closely followed by John Scott with six species (four Record Class and two Trophy Class) and on the same level was David Luxford also

with six measurable species, five of which were Record Class and one other measurable. As I said, it was extremely close with both David and John getting more Record Class than Rohan. But Rohan was lucky enough to get that extra species. Congratulations to Rohan. Well done.

MASTER BOWHUNTER

This award is presented to those bowhunters obtaining 300 points or better, in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula.

Graeme Duff (E) 860, Helen Duff (E) 850, Tyler Atkinson (H) 640, Luke Hebb (J) 560, David Luxford, (G) 390, Scott Meadows (E) 360, John Scott (H) 340, Rohan Walker (A) 330, Luke Sampson (F) 330, Joshua Balsley (J) 310, Tony Lasker (B) 310, Wade Bygrave (D) 300.

TROPHY BOWHUNTER

This award is presented to those bowhunters obtaining 200 points or better (but less than 300) in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula.

Bradley Seagrott (D) 280, Lloyd Scott (J) 250, Toby Gall (B) 220, Dan Podubinski (F) 220.

BOWHUNTER AWARD

This award is presented to those bowhunters obtaining 100 points or better (but less than 200) in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula.

Graham Otto (B) 190, Stephen Fairbrother (B) 180, Anthony Atkins (H) 150, David Brewer (C) 150, Donald Moor (H) 150, Jason Lesnik (F) 140, Daniel Ferguson (B) 130, Gary Lander (E) 130, Graham McComiskie (B) 130, David Rethus (H) 130, Marc Curtis (A) 120, Elissa Rosemond (C) 120, Theo Vanderberg (F) 120, Wayne Atkinson (H) 110, Ben Chambers (J) 110, Benjamin Ireland (E) 110, Brenton Mitchell (D) 100, Damien Norris (D) 100.

LADIES BOWSHOT RECORDS

Fallow Deer	Jennifer Vanderburg (F)	205 5/8pt
Hog Deer	Cheryl Morris (J)	60 5/8pt

OVERALL BEST OF SPECIES

Buffalo	Troy Hughes (D)	96 2/8pt
Feral Camel	Dan Podubinski (F)	31 8/16 pt
Feral Cat	Tony Lasker (B)	8 pt
Fox	Tyler Atkinson (H)	10 13/16pt
Feral Goat	Peter Moore (F)	133 7/8pt
Feral Pig	Scott Mitchell (D)	33 4/8pt
Chital Deer	Nicholas Moloney (C)	185 7/8pt
Fallow Deer	Jason Archer (E)	245 3/8pt
Red Deer	Russell Watherston (I)	240 3/8pt
Rusa Deer	Dan Smith (B)	228 5/8pt
Hog Deer	David Luxford (G)	85 6/8pt
Sambar Deer	Christopher Bourne (G)	180 5/8pt
Shark BHFF	Rohan Walker (A)	19 5/8pt
Stingray BHFF	Graham Otto (B)	9 1/8pt
Stingray BF	Rohan Walker (A)	6 4/8pt

LADIES BEST OF SPECIES

Feral Goat	Rebecca Darby (C)	115 3/8pt
Chital Deer	Debbie Larkings (F)	154pt
Feral Cat	Elissa Rosemond (C)	7 7/16pt
Fox	Helen Duff (E)	10 2/16pt
Hog Deer	Cheryl Morris (J)	60 5/8pt
Fallow Deer	Jennifer Vanderburg (F)	205 5/8pt

JUNIOR BEST OF SPECIES

Fallow Deer	Dillan Gardner (E)	168 2/8pt
Fox	Drew Edwards (D)	9 15/16pt
Feral Goat	Mitchell Brewer (C)	121 6/8pt

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OVERALL TBA BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR

Rohan Walker (A)

FEMALE TBA BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR

Helen Duff (E)

TUSKER BROADHEAD TROPHY OF THE YEAR

Paul Withers (C)
Record Class Chital 172 6/8pt

MOST GAME AWARD CLAIMS

Anthony Atkinson (H)
84 claims

Claims by Branch

Branch	Record Class	Trophy Class	Game Award	Total
A	3	8	10	21
B	17	43	67	127
C	8	12	35	55
D	24	27	99	150
E	11	95	82	188
F	12	21	87	120
G	8	15	53	76
H	17	38	309	364
I	4	2	47	53
J	9	50	76	135
Total	113	311	865	1289

Second most claims:
Jonathan Layton (H), 76 claims

ALL SO CLOSE (JUST UNDER TC)

Joshua Balsley (J)
Fox 9 2/16pt

Claims by Species

Species	Record Class	Trophy Class	Species	Record Class	Trophy Class
Buffalo	2	1	Fallow Deer	20	16
Camel	5	8	Red Deer	6	3
Cat	8	11	Rusa Deer	5	2
Fox	16	156	Hog Deer	1	1
Goat	29	53	Sambar Deer	1	0
Pig	15	42	Shark BHFF	0	4
Chital Deer	4	4	Stingray BHFF	1	10

Total Record Class = 113

Total Trophy Class = 311

**GAME
CLAIMED**

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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award	FK/FKOS	Size
A Rohan Walker	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Fallow	RC		223 2/8
A Rohan Walker	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Fox	RC		10 7/16
A Rohan Walker	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Buffalo	TC		80 2/8
A Rohan Walker	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Stingray	TC		6 5/8
A Rohan Walker	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Shark	TC		19 5/8
B Blaine Drinkwater	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	Chital	RC	FK/FKOS	173
B Tom Bruce	Townsville District Bowhunter	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
B Tom Bruce	Townsville District Bowhunter	Cat	GA	FKOS	0
B Byron Scott	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Sambar	GA	FKOS	0
C Paul Graham	Capricorn Field Archers	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		101 5/8
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		105 7/8
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	RC		113
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		107 6/8
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		104 3/8
C Mitchell Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	RC		111 3/8
C Mitchell Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		105 7/8
C Mitchell Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		106
C Mitchell Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
C Rob Fowler	Emerald Archery Club	Cat	GA	FKOS	0
C Rob Fowler	Emerald Archery Club	Camel	RC	FKOS	29 4/8
C Brett Fittock	Full Draw Field Archers	Goat	TC		95 2/8
D Kevin Swan	Renegade Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
E Darcy Galliano	Namoi Valley Archers	Chital	RC	FK/FKOS	170 5/8
E Darcy Galliano	Namoi Valley Archers	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
E Peter Bush	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	GA	FKOS	0
F Tim Messer	Campbelltown Field Archers	Goat	RC		110 4/8
F Darren Crain	Southwest Slopes Sporting FA	Fallow	TC	FK/FKOS	158 3/8
G Andrew Robertson	Boola Valley Field Archers	Sambar	GA	FKOS	0
G Andrew Robertson	Boola Valley Field Archers	Chital	RC	FKOS	181 7/8
G Adam Clements	West Gippsland Field Archers	Hare	GA	FK/FKOS	0
G Adam Clements	West Gippsland Field Archers	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0

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OVERALL BEST OF SPECIES



*Rohan Walker BF stingray
6 4/8pt.*



Troy Hughes, RC buffalo 96 2/8pt.



Peter Moore, feral goat 133 7/8pt.



Dan Podubinski, RC feral camel 31 8/16pt.



*Photo not available:
Tyler Atkinson,
fox 10 3/16pt.*

Tony Lasker, RC cat 8pt.



Scott Mitchell, RC pig 33 4/8pt.



Nicholas Moloney, RC chital deer 185 7/8pt.



Jason Archer, RC fallow deer 245 3/8pt.



Russell Watherston, RC red deer 240 3/8pt.



Dan Smith, RC rusa deer 228 5/8pt.



David Luxford, RC hog deer 85 6/8pt.



*Graham Otto, BHFF RC stingray
9 1/8pt.*



Christopher Bourne, RC sambar deer 180 5/8pt.



Rohan Walker, BHFF TC shark 19 5/8pt.

LADIES BEST OF SPECIES



Elissa Rosemond, TC cat 7 7/16pt.

Jennifer Vanderburg, RC fallow 205 5/8pt.



LADIES
BOWSHOT
RECORD

LADIES BOWSHOT RECORD



Cheryl Morris, TC hog deer
60 5/8pt.



Helen Duff, RC fox 10 2/16pt.

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Archery Action

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Award, PO Box 638, Stanthorpe,
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editor@archeryactionmagazine.com
Subject: Gold Pen Award entry

All hunting stories are automatically
entered in this competition

Debbie Larkings, TC chital
deer 154pt.



Rebecca Darby, RC goat 115 3/8pt.



Mitchell Brewer, RC goat 121 6/8pt.

JUNIOR BEST OF SPECIES



Drew Edwards, RC fox 10 4/16pt.



Dillan Gardner, TC fallow deer 168 2/8pt.



**TUSKER
BROADHEAD
OF THE YEAR
WINNER
PAUL WITHERS**



Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



Introducing NEW TBA MEMBER Tim Jeffs

Where do you live?

At the moment I live in Ceduna, South Australia. Prior to that it was Port Lincoln in SA, and Geraldton and Exmouth in WA. Before we had kids, my wife and I moved around a bit, chasing a great outdoor lifestyle. Fishing and spear fishing played a big part in choosing where we lived.

What club do you belong to?

When I lived in Port Lincoln, I joined the Lower Eyre Archers. Unfortunately now I live in Ceduna and my club is 350km away but I try to get to a few shoots a year. I'm still a member though and will continue to be.

How long have you been an ABA member?

I joined an archery club in 2015 and became a member of the ABA then.

How long have you been hunting?

I started bowhunting in 2014. Prior to that, I would occasionally go rifle hunting with mates for foxes, cats, rabbits and goats. I never had a gun licence so would only go when invited.

What got you into bowhunting?

I was rifle hunting with a mate and we were sitting in the bush surrounded by goats. I thought to myself, "I could definitely get one of these with a bow." On my next trip to Perth, I walked in to Archery Essentials and met Mike Murphy. I told him I didn't know anything about bowhunting but I knew I wanted to do it. Mike sold me a PSE Stinger 3G and not long afterwards I shot a cat and a fox and was away.

How often do you get to go hunting?

It varies. Some months I'll go a fair bit, but then will go months without chasing an animal. I always shoot my bow a few times a week though.

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

I shoot a Mathews No Cam HTR.
Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?

Not at this stage. My young family takes up most of my time but I try to hunt whenever I get the chance.

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

There are none that I've specifically set out to achieve, but I'm halfway

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through the Australian Deer Slam so that would be nice to get. I was lucky enough to draw an archery elk tag for New Mexico this September so that is definitely a goal that I'm looking forward to achieving.

Did you know much about TBA before this?

I knew the TBA existed but didn't know much about it. The booklet that I got with my membership was a good read and I know a lot more about it now.

The TBA Committee congratulates you, Tim.



The hunt:

About 10 minutes from my house is some mixed farming, scrub and coastal land that is good fox habitat. I normally take my dog for a run each morning through that area and in September I started seeing a few foxes out and about, so decided to come back one afternoon with my bow to see if I could whistle a few in.

The evening that I shot my record class fox was the end of a pretty hot day, and the wind had dropped right out as the last hour of light approached. I set up for my first call in front of bush that looked across a paddock to the next pocket of scrub 120m away. I blew the whistle a few times and, just like I hoped, a fox was soon bounding my way. The set-up was perfect—a keen fox, plenty of cleared land to watch him run across, and a single small bush 20m in front of me that would give me my chance to draw. As he closed, he slowed but surprisingly didn't circle around to get the wind in his favour.

I hadn't blown my whistle since first sighting him exiting the opposite scrub so he probably didn't know exactly where I was. When he went behind the small bush, I drew and when he stopped 15m facing me, I released and the arrow hit him dead centre, exiting behind his ribs. He ran directly towards me, passing about 2m to my right before falling for good. He was a beautiful fox and had the nicest coat I've seen before or since.

My nearest measurer was over 200km from my house so it took a few months to get him scored, and I was pretty happy when I heard he went record class. He wasn't my first fox but was my biggest with the bow, but it was really the way the hunt played out that I'll remember. I've shot a number of foxes in that same area since, and even a few more from that exact stand. There's a big black cat that I've seen down there too, but he's got the better of me so far.



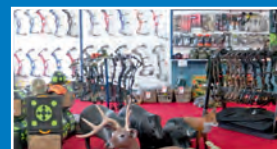
Tim and the Record Class fox that won him a place in Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club.

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Dry grass crunched underfoot as we walked the top of the ridge. We stopped to check the wind again, hoping it would find a direction hold on the warm Christmas Day evening. Liz and I were walking in to Troy's Stand. The general breeze made it the best option, although we knew the microclimate in the gully was unstable.

The temperature was perfect. Birds were busy, insects were noisy and the unsteady breeze rustled the leaves. We sat in silence next to each other in the ground blind. Listening, observing. If we couldn't be with family on this special day, an evening at Russell's was the next best thing. Seven sambar hinds came past that evening.

Like all summer nights at Russell's, it ended late. The next morning started equally early. We clicked the ute doors closed at 4.30am and headed to Luxford's Stand, sticking to the northern side of the ridge. Like always, we failed to make it into the stand without getting honked at. In the moonlight we saw two sambar move to the north, down the gully past Troy's Stand.

The silver moonlight cut into the gully, slicing each gum leaf and fern frond it struck. In the minutes before

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Trail cam photo: Handlebars at the preaching tree, August last year.



Old Handlebars

by MICHAEL LUXFORD

02:27:42 AM 2018/08/15 7 °C



TRAIL CAMERA



Bushnell

03-24-2011 17:47:55



Preaching tree images—stag photos taken in August and September 2018.



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Bushnell

03-26-2011 17:58:38



When you can't be there in person, cam trail pictures give you an idea of animal movements, day and night. All these photos were taken over time at Timberline.

Top photo, both pages. Stag on the move.



Stag at wallow.



03-24-2011 17:48:12



03-28-2011 17:58:53

Trail cam photos taken some days after the top photos: Same trail being used.



Spiker at wallow.

first light, a family of kookaburras celebrated the coming of the new day. They moved from tree to tree in the gully then settled in the branches above me, all four of them. The volume of their chorus was impressive, near deafening. As the golden light of Boxing Day etched the sky, the kookaburras left us to go on their own hunt.

Two juvenile foxes came down the cutting track. I kissed as they came past but they kept on their hurried way. Liz's position in the ferns below me didn't allow her to see them trot past.

The gully that Luxford's Stand sits in is quite steep, giving the illusion of great height when looking on the downhill side and not high enough when looking on the uphill side. One needs to look up to keep an eye on the area to the left, as animals will approach from above you. It was from here, at the crest of the ridge, that I heard what I had been waiting for—the snap of twigs and crunch of dry grass as a large mammal crested the ridge, making its way towards us. The moment he stepped out, I knew him: Handlebars. I had trail cam pictures of him at different points and videos of him preaching, and now here he was, 40m away and creeping towards me at the same elevation. Cover was limited between us. As he moved behind a tree, I lifted my bow. The next, and last opportunity to move was as he passed behind an old dead straggly tree. I came to draw, but the wise old stag saw the movement only 25m in front of him. He baulked and trotted off 10 steps, then stopped for one last look. He did his best to hide behind some hanging gum leaves, by chance blocking his chest. I leaned out from the tree as far as I dared, the bright green pin sitting perfectly straight up the front leg. “CRACK!” My heart sunk. I didn't see the arrow flight. Was the noise bone? Was it a dead branch? I sat high in the tree cursing myself. That was the 20th arrow fired at Russell's

this year, and I was thinking that I had just become another statistic. In that moment, my old faithful Hoyt came close to flying into the depths of Luxford's Gully. I could see Liz looking up at me. It seemed she was working out the trajectory of her arrow up at me. The stag would have walked straight over her hidden in the ferns.

After 10 minutes or so, I asked Liz to move to where the stag had stood to try to find the arrow. She scrambled the short distance up and found his wheel marks. I climbed down and joined her. We couldn't find the arrow. Liz followed the stag's marks a few metres along the game trail, the same one he had come in on, and whispered, “Hey! I've got blood!” It was bright red and enough to be encouraging. Cautiously we followed the trail. The path followed the edge of the bush and paddock, right on the crest where it dropped steeply into the gully. The blood was improving as we followed and showed signs of a pass-through, with blood on both sides of the trail. Pools of blood indicated the stag had stopped several times. We had come 150m then decided to stop and wait further. A fox came toward us sniffing along the game trail before making a rapid departure. We stood and again took up the trail. The blood trail tuned right, at the place we had sat, and headed straight down into the gully. At the edge of the drop-off amongst the ferns I saw what looked like slide marks. The blood thinned out, but now it didn't matter. The warm sun penetrating the canopy, highlighted the horizontal lines of the sambar, caught up against a small stringy bark. We made our way down to the mighty stag and I put my hands on this magnificent and unique trophy.

For a great sambar hunting experience, contact Russell and Steph Cornall at Timberline Self-Guided Sambar Hunts on 0427 501 527 or email russell.cornall@gmail.com.



Michael with Handlebars.



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



GYMPIE ABA/3D SHOOT



Gympie once again outdid themselves with an awesome two-day shoot in March with more than 70 shooters attending from Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Wide Bay and Lakeside.

On our arrival on the Friday afternoon it was evident that a lot of work had taken place at the club. The camping area was clean and tidy and looked great with even a bit of green grass thrown in. I was told by the Branch member who completed the range check that the ranges were brilliant—a lot of work had been done by management and I am told that they will be developing the ranges even further which means these ranges will be even more challenging in the future.

The weekend was very hot, with high humidity and blue skies but this did not deter the enthusiasm of the shooters. Gympie has very hilly courses and the hills, along with the heat, created quite a challenge for the shooters. There was definitely a lot of sweat and sore muscles!

On the Saturday we had the ABA round with the three-arrow round in the morning and a one-arrow round in the afternoon. By lunchtime the heat and humidity was getting really high and there was very little wind so it was hard shooting.

On the Sunday we woke up to a very foggy morning which meant a hot, clear day. This was the 3D shoot. In the morning we had the three-arrow round and the one-arrow round was scheduled for the afternoon. There was a large variety of 3D animals including cats, turkeys, buffalo, bison, bears, monkey and lots more. This was a well set-out course with some very challenging shots.

It was so good to see shooters from the age of five years through to a number of the older generation. Archery is a sport that can cater to all ages and this was evident at Gympie. There were also a lot of new shooters, their first time at an away shoot, they all seemed to enjoy the weekend.

It was great to see so many archers from Full Draw Field Archers in Rockhampton; they had 15 shooter turn up, both old and new. The new shooters were well advised on how the event was run, which made for an enjoyable event for all.

While on the practice butts having a few shots and out on the ranges, if you looked closely enough at the tree branches above, you could get lucky and see a koala. Apparently there are quite a few that make the club their home.

The food served up during the weekend was of a high standard. Hungry shooters appreciated having their plates filled to the top with excellent food. After having a good feed it was time to sit around the fire with a cold drink and talk about the day's shoot. There had been some arrows lost and some broken, but everyone enjoyed themselves.

The camping facilities were well set out, with plenty of room for the larger caravans and heaps of room for the campers. Toilets and showers were of a high standard.

Overall, the weekend was a great success. Everyone I spoke to said they will definitely return. Well done Gympie, we look forward to seeing you all at the next shoot.

Pam Helmrich



Around THE TRADS

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

Sue Wallace

✱ The Wednesday morning prior to the February trad shoot weekend for Chevallan Archery Park, a cyclone named Oma was hanging around the mid-Queensland coast and had intensified to a Category 3. They kept saying it was possibly going to head south and cross the coast somewhere between Gladstone and the Gold Coast. Chevallan falls within this region and we considered calling off the shoot, however by the Wednesday afternoon before the shoot the cyclone had weakened and the cyclone watch was cancelled, so we decided to go ahead. I issued an email to say the shoot was on, with a fee reduction as some of the targets from the lower lying areas had been removed, just in case we did get some predicted rain. I had already received notice that quite a few would not be coming due to the weather forecast, which was fair enough.

By Friday morning and they were predicting the now Category 1 cyclone would head north, so three of the removed targets were put back.

We arrived mid-afternoon Friday to blue skies, sunshine and a moderate breeze. A few campers were set up already. I wandered down and helped mark out the clout range—shooting this event was going to be rather interesting the following day.

We sat around the communal table after tea and watched the moon rise over the mountain top.

On Saturday morning a few more joined us and around 8.15am I was about to do the Muster when a car pulled up in the driveway and a family jumped out. They had seen the flyer and the son and his friend wanted to have a go. The son had been there before at one of the birthday parties held last year, where the kids had shot a couple of novelties. The kids' friend had a bow bag with him and a quiver in his hand and I could tell by the shape of the bow bag it was

a non-traditional bow. I figured the kid had come to shoot and wasn't aware we were a trad club, so we let him shoot with his friend and it soon became apparent he had been shooting for quite some time.

It was just as easy to let them come around in the group I was in, so the new kid could learn from all of us on the way, plus we explained some of the history that went along with the events. He was most excited when he hit his first 3D target.

Doing the clout wasn't the easiest as we were shooting down-range into a very stiff crosswind, so we seemed to be drawing the bow back and shooting way off to the right to get the arrows on line, and then coming back the other way, you needed to shoot off to the left (except when the breeze stopped and the arrow just kept heading left). Those who shot it in the afternoon thought they might not have to contend with the breeze, however, they were incorrect.

There was a group at the novelties up the top, so we headed down to the field course. The new kid didn't quite get target 1, however the hunt round was next and he did really well. His Mum was always giving words of encouragement while Dad was very laidback.

We continued around to complete the field course then walked up to the moving target and the young fellow's Dad ran it for us. Our group then did the 45-second speed round. This event had been set up in the round yard, with the six targets around the back of the yard and the orange markers were placed in an arc toward the front of the yard. The first and last targets were closer shots than the two middle ones. Events complete, now it is time for lunch.

The kids finished their lunch quickly and asked if they could go and do the rolling discs which they had done previously at the party, so we let them go. Once we finished



First time shooting at Chevallan.



Sunshine Coast Bowmen.



Fun on the range.

lunch and had a little rest, three of us headed down to do the lolly-popinjay and left the kids at the discs with Dad rolling for them. Up to this point Dad had been very quiet and was happy just to watch and walk around, however he certainly came out of his shell at the rolling disc, and when we arrived he was more than keen to roll for all of us. I think he's found a calling!

We all went to do the popinjay where we were shooting into a headwind. Although we tried to correct for the wind, all we could do was watch our flu flus fly mostly off course. The day's shooting was now complete, yet still the young fellows asked if they could shoot at the rolling discs some more, so we left them to it.

One chap who had worked Saturday morning didn't arrive until about 2.30pm so we grabbed a score sheet for him and we went around while he shot for a score and we shot for fun. We finished the entire day's shooting rather quickly and were all back by 4.30pm. The Top Everyone shoot didn't happen, but I don't think anyone was too fussed.

I entered the scores and was waiting on one group's scores. But when I got that group's paperwork, I noticed something was odd. I put in the first archer's score who was a very new archer, and thought to myself, "She did really well, getting a few 10s," then entered the next score, thinking "Wow, that's also quite a few 10s." Then I looked at the other two scoresheets from the group and they also only had 10s and 5s. So in the interests of all scores having the same system, I changed the other scoresheets. I just had to explain to everyone that the scores were now higher than they would remember, and explained why. Everyone was really happy with the thought of better scores, anyway!

An enjoyable evening meal of barbecued meat and salads was followed by icecream and cheesecake, plus a

couple of us had picked some passionfruit from vines on the course to add to our dessert.

There were quite a few strong gusts of wind during the night, and we woke up to a cooler overcast Sunday morning. We headed out earlier than usual. We did the rolling discs then the speed round, where a group was just about to finish, so we gave some comments of support for the last archer, as she was doing quite well for a very new archer. She and her daughter had driven from Warwick to join their relatives for a fun archery weekend.

After we shot the speed round we shot target 1 and then target 4, which was the gamble shot.

Once the field course was finished I phoned the house to ask if someone could come down and run the moving target for us. Perhaps automation would be an idea! This event completed, we did targets 3 and 2 and the hunt round, then headed back.

I waited for a couple of the groups to come back before I started to enter the scores and was told by one group there had been a misunderstanding so the first few targets had been scored as 10 and 5 until another group corrected

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them. So to make it fair for all I converted all 8s to 10s. As I was re-entering the scores, I could hear the rain on the roof. It was now 11.40ish so there was only one group that was still to come in. It was only a light shower of much needed rain. Most had just finished lunch as I came out with the medals and the final scores.

Despite Mother Nature's attempt to dampen our enthusiasm it was a very enjoyable weekend for all of those who attended and we look forward to our next two-day shoot.

☼ Southwest Bowmen in WA held the TAA State Titles over the weekend of February 2 and 3 and I received the following from one of the participants.

We had a great time at the TAA State Titles as the weather was absolutely perfect. The shoot format was the same for both days, being a two-arrow 20 target 3D with both arrows scoring and a two-arrow 14-target IFAA animal round. The 20th target of the 3D was two arrows at rolling discs on the Saturday and two arrows at a running pig on the Sunday which you shot at the end of the day. You were put into shoot groups with a designated target number to start on. At the sound of the hooter everyone started shooting. The clubgrounds are very small which doesn't allow shooting at more than one course/novelty at the same time. Lunch was served on Saturday before the start of the shoot and after the shoot on Sunday. There was a dinner on Saturday night. Some people camped at the club. Considering their lack of space and experience in hosting these type of shoots, the club did an excellent job; we will definitely be shooting there again next year.

☼ The southeast coastal region of Queensland had been receiving various amounts of rain, and it was good to see that the March Trad Day being held by Sunshine Coast Bowmen was still going ahead as at Saturday evening. We had quite substantial falls overnight, so headed out on

Sunday morning to their clubgrounds near Forest Glen, not sure what to expect. By the time we arrived there was blue sky and even some sunshine, although dark clouds were looming on the horizon. There were 35 trad archers all set for a day of fun regardless.

At this club, due to the compact layout of the courses, the groups are put together and then we all go out to our allotted target numbers and wait for the signal to start shooting. As you wander through the course it is almost as if you are the only group out there. We could hear voices and laughter, but only saw a couple of groups as we went through.

As it had been raining and more was due, they decided to use vinyl targets on the normal course butts, and moved the trad peg away from the usual shooting position. This still made for some very interesting shots through the foliage on the two-arrow 20-target round.

When we had finished and returned to the clubhouse area, someone had been very busy cooking, and there were yummy sausages, care of the local butcher, which we had on bread with the onions (first of course) and some salad.

There had been no rain at all in the morning while we were shooting, but as we were eating lunch the showers started again, so the day's shooting was declared finished and the presentations were done. They had medallions for first place and big blocks of chocolate for second and third place. They then asked was everyone agreeable with the prizes, to which most responded affirmatively, although I wanted chocolate for first place too! (All in jest, of course.)

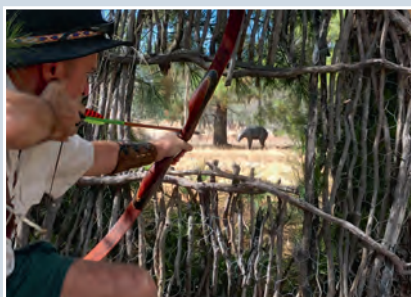
Once again it was a fabulous morning spent at the Sunshine Coast Bowmen Trad Day, despite Mother Nature's best effort to disband us.

The next full-day trad shoot at Chevallan Archery Park near Gympie will be on June 23 and the Sunshine Coast Bowmen's next day trad shoot will be August 18.

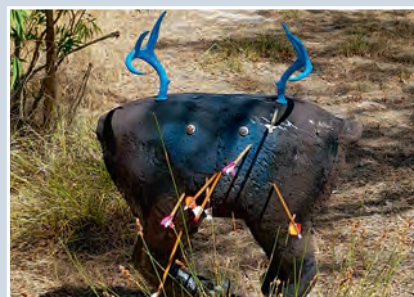
☼ The following report was received from one of the participants at Twin City Bowmen at Albury NSW's Trad Shoot



Spot the target at Sunshine Bowmen.



Twin City target.



Unusual target.

over the weekend of March 16 and 17. The weather was cool in the mornings and a little warmer in the afternoons. Sixty archers gathered, quite a few from Queensland, some from Melbourne, others from Dunolly and Irymple and also Bega plus the Shoalhaven area of NSW.

On Saturday morning everyone was put into groups and sent out to do the first field course which consisted of 20 pegs where there were two targets at each peg, and one arrow shot at each target. After lunch there were another 20 novelty targets to shoot at, some with one arrow, some using three or even four arrows depending on the actual target. One target had three birds of different sizes which you had to try to knock down, each one with one arrow. Another was a yellow daffodil where you were to shoot the centre then each petal for varying scores and then the bumble bee for the major prize of 50pt. There was also King Kong with a damsel. If you shot at King Kong's heart and hit the damsel by mistake, then you lost points. There was also a hot rod with circles of different sizes representing first gear, second gear and third gear, which had different scores. Particularly challenging was Pinocchio with his exceptionally long, coloured nose.

Once the second field course was done, it was onto the novelties. There was a minor technical detail—the moving target wasn't, so it was onto the long shot using flu flus where only a couple of shots actually hit the target.

Then there was a knockout competition where archers shot against one another and the lesser score was eliminated until there was only one archer left.

The tables for Saturday evening's dinner, included in the shoot fee, were set up outside with various meats and salads, and just as most sat down to enjoy the meal it started to rain. Everyone grabbed their meals and headed for cover, and then the rain stopped.

On Sunday morning there was a third field course of all 3D animals shooting one arrow only. The fourth course had the old ABA black-and-white targets where the score zones of A, B and C were only the heart and lung shots of each animal, and this too was shot as a one-arrow round scoring 20 for A, 18 for B and 16 for C.

Once everyone was back in, the scores were tallied and the presentations done. Most of the locals packed up and left on Sunday afternoon, and some who had further to travel left early Monday morning.

☼ The Asian Experience Trad shoot at Bega Valley Archers was cancelled.

☼ Trad shoots confirmed for June/July 2019: HVTA The Gathering June 8 and 9, Coffs Harbour Trad Shoot June 15 and 16, Chevallan Archery Park Trad Day June 23, Jules

Shield Lakeside Bowmen July 6 and 7, Chevallan Archery Park July 20 and 21, Bega European Matchplay July 28.

☼ Reports from confirmed shoots: Andy Firth Memorial at HVTA, NAFA Trad Rendezvous, Chevallan Archery Park, Gladstone Longbow and Recurve Muster, and White Rose at Irymple will be in the next issue.

For the readers who are on Facebook, check out Travellin' Round the Trads.

You will find the further information and available flyers for the Traditional Shoots on the following websites:

Ozbow:

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

Wallace Woods:

www.wallacetradwoods.com > Shoot information (proposed 2019 calendar, and will have the link to the shoot flyers as they become available)

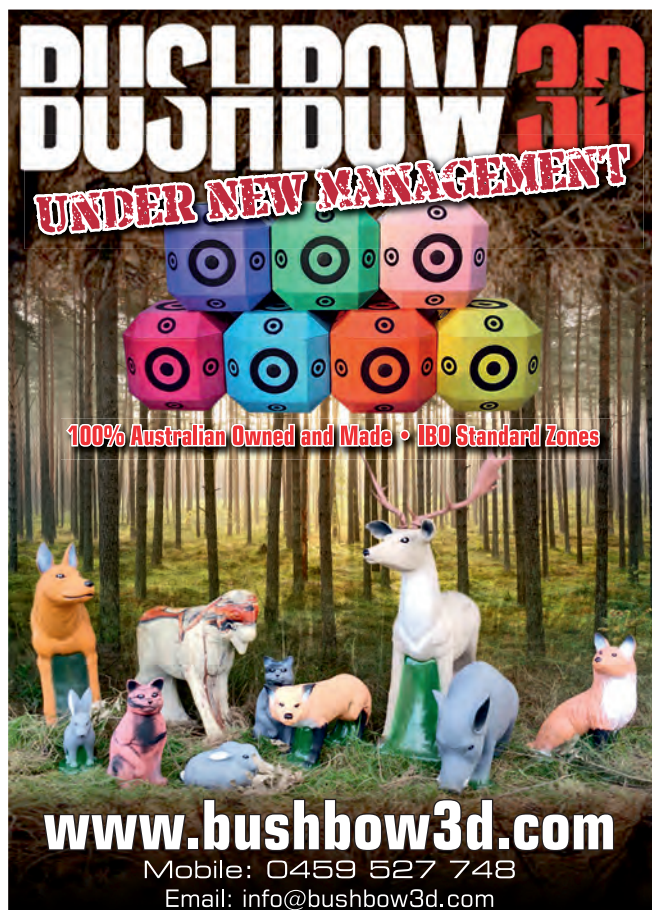
Chevallan Archery Park:

www.chevallanarcherypark.com – for the 2019 proposed traditional shoot calendar, IBO approved African 3D targets with replaceable centres, customised archery medals

Traditional Archery Australia: www.

traditionalarcheryaustralia.org > Shoot Information

I look forward to seeing you 'round the trads.



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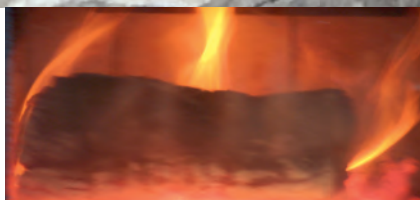
BACK TO BASICS

FIRE

If you've been reading this column closely, by now you will be starting to memorise the four priorities of survival: Protection, Rescue, Water and Food. So far we've been focussing on Protection and its four main elements: 1) First Aid, 2) Clothing, 3) Shelter and 4) Fire.

In this column, we'll pick up the element of Fire. While fire is a sub-category of Protection, it's actually involved in all four of the priorities of survival. But here, we're primarily focussed on fire's relevance to our capacity to achieve Protection in a survival situation.

Fire is fundamental to the human species. Indeed, there's evidence that we've been using fire for as long as 1.9 million years. By cooking food, we unleashed the potential of its stored nutrients and the evolutionary effect



was an increase in the size of the human brain. Fire has also played a significant role in the development of our societies through the medicinal, cultural, agricultural and other societal advances that are attributable (in part or in whole) to our ability to control fire. According to evolutionary anthropologist Daniel Fessler (2006), humans have evolved psychological mechanisms specifically dedicated to controlling fire.

So let's look at a few important applications of fire.

Creature comforts

On a cold night—or any night for that matter—most people consider a well tended fire to be one of the more

wholesome pleasures that humanity has produced. A fire, burning safely within the confines of a fireplace, is a visible and tangible source of comfort to us. A little discussed additional benefit of fire is its capacity to repel insects and animals.

Many studies have been conducted on the repellent qualities of fire for dealing with mosquitoes with examination of the relative efficacy of different wood types. Indeed, different species of mosquitoes are repelled by different smoke types. And if you don't like creepy crawlies, consider burning softwood that will create ash. Sprinkle a protective ring of ash around your sleeping area and survival camp and you'll keep most crawling insects out.

Remember too that it's not all about wood smoke. Smoke from burning cow dung also repels insects

Make fire a priority



While our society grows ever more sophisticated and technically advanced, fire remains a primal element that we can create and control under the most basic conditions to improve our comfort and condition. Indeed, in a survival situation, our ability to make and use fire may be essential. The subject of fire-making, and the science behind it, could fill a book. We'll talk about fire-making in more detail in a subsequent article. Meanwhile, as outdoors people, we should not only always carry matches and a lighter but also know of at least two or three ways of making fire without them.

PHOTOS:

Left: A matchless fire kit should live in your quiver ... just in case.

Below left: If both of these aren't in your quiver, backpack or pocket, you're missing something important.

Below right: TinderQuiks are a waterproof chemical firelighter.



—including mosquitoes. You may be surprised to know that, according to the World Bank, over two billion people in the world still burn dried animal dung as fuel. Happily, with an Australian national cattle herd of over 26.5 million, the chances of finding dry dung is up there with Cazaly.

For repelling larger camp pests like

possums or wild dogs, fire can play a big role. Animals are always wary of things that are dangerous to them. So in a country that is dependent on regular bushfires for regeneration of vegetation, animals know that it hurts so their survival instinct tells them to avoid it. Further, nocturnal animals naturally avoid fire as it distributes

light and therefore reduces their ability to see clearly.

But not always. For certain wild animals that have become habituated to human presence, a campfire may signal the presence of food scraps. And some predators may be drawn into the vicinity of fire as they have come to associate smoke with the availability



A necessity when it's cold, a log fire has other uses as well.



Everything you need to make fire is in this picture.

Characteristics of a good survival fire

In a survival situation, forget the bonfires that you've sat around at club shoots. They simply waste fuel. Your survival fire will look more like a small cooking fire.

You probably won't be surprised to learn that, in survivalist circles, there's an acronym, CERN, to help you remember what you're trying to achieve with a fire when the going gets tough. Indeed, these same characteristics are equally applicable when you're establishing a campfire in a recreational setting.

C	Clear	Clear a 2m area surrounding, including above, the fire, for safety and ease of access.
E	Enclosed	Ensure that the fire is fully enclosed, retains the fuel and concentrates the fire.
R	Reflector	Construct a good reflector that will retain warmth and help control the fire. (Fire emits light and heat in a 360-degree bubble, so build a reflector so that the heat and light are redirected towards you rather than simply being lost into the surroundings.)
N	Needs	Ensure all the requirements for your fire are at hand, including kindling, tinder and fuel—and ensure the fire is only big enough for your needs.



Left: It's important to know the difference between tinder, kindling and fuel when preparing a fire.
Right: Where there is smoke ...

of prey in the small animals that are flushed out into the open to evade the flames. While these animals may be little more than a pest in Australia, on other continents you may find that your fire has inadvertently drawn bears, tigers or lions to your vicinity.

When things get serious

A survival fire is a key element of your survival camp. It will service many of your immediate survival requirements, both physical and psychological.

- **Safe water:** Obviously, fire can be

used to boil water to make it safe. Not just 'safe to drink'—clean water can be used to wash wounds in order to stave off infection so that your body can direct its energy to dealing with other important bodily functions.

- **Warmth:** In the first instance, fire can be used to provide warmth. This reduces the risk of hypothermia which can be life threatening. Fire can also dry our clothes and boots. The ability to keep clothes clean and dry is a must in a survival situation on account of the benefits to our health and well-being.

- **Light:** In a survival situation, you should conserve your energy and

rest in the heat of the day, so you may need to do much of your camp maintenance and upkeep at night. This may include shelter making and improving, firewood collection, clothes mending, water collection and purifying and trap building. The list goes on. And all of these tasks are likely to be unachievable without the light of a fire.

- **Morale:** Never underestimate the value of the warmth and movement of flames in promoting a feeling of safety and improved morale. A fire is comforting and friendly on a dark night.



A rock wall behind the fire reflects the heat back to you, as does your shelter.



A canopy chair has its own reflector.



A few grass-tree flower spikes in your quiver is added insurance that you will have the right material when you need to make a fire.



Split large wet logs to get to the dry wood inside.

FIRE PLACEMENT

Placement of your fire is also really important. It should be:

- Protected from the wind and rain. But don't locate your fire under a tree or against a trunk as the fire may spread through the tree or its root system.
- Positioned in relation to your shelter so as to gain maximum heat, weatherproofing and shielding. In hot climates it may be necessary to position a night and a day fireplace.
- Surrounded with stones. This will contain the fire and minimise fuel usage. But don't use wet river rocks as they may explode when exposed to extreme heat.
- Constructed on a platform if the ground is wet. Use either timber or stones to lift the firewood and minimise moisture absorption—and have extra off to the side in case of rain.



A shelf above your fire helps to dry wet wood.



Note this log fire's construction with the logs lifted off the ground.

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• Star fire (or Indian fire) is, as its name implies, star shaped. It is easy to control, used for cooking, fuel efficient and best suited for survival and primitive situations. Fuel for this fire can be of varying lengths and thicknesses, requiring little to no alteration, thus rendering the need for cutting tools and excess expenditure of energy unnecessary.



The star fire saves on fuel and is good for cooking.

THREE MAIN TYPES OF FIRE

• Long fire—a long fire is a traditional fire where the fire lay is useful if you don't have the appropriate clothing and sleeping kit for a cold area, however it uses a lot of fuel.

• Others include the cross-ditch, lean-to and log-cabin. All have their uses and advantages.



The classic teepee fire dries wet wood much faster.

• Teepee fire—this burns faster than most fires due to the angle of the wood. As the teepee burns, the outside logs will fall inward, feeding the fire. Given the domino-effect of logs falling inward, this type of fire burns well even with wet wood as it dries them before they fall.

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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.



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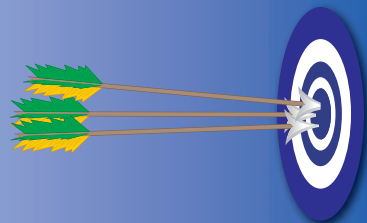
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There is no charge to attend the Muster however there will be a small fee for the Sneaker Round.

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Nick Lintern TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Welcome to another Traditional Trails. As this magazine comes out we will be approaching winter, by far my favourite time of year. In the cooler weather, shooting is more comfortable and camping requires a fire, and that is by far and away the best part of being outdoors—sitting around a fire.

The number of traditional shoots happening in Australia is on the rise and the traditional family is growing all the time. The passion and pleasure derived from shooting a traditional bow is a real unifying force and is bringing people together at clubs and shoots in ever larger numbers. This can only be a great thing.

We have covered a large variety of topics over many years but it occurred to me there is one area I haven't actually covered—takedown bows. In this issue, let's take a look at these bows and see where their strengths and weaknesses lie and maybe help you determine whether this is something you need with a few facts.

Takedown bows

Origins

The idea of a takedown bow is not new. Like most things in archery, the concept of a bow that can be disassembled dates back many years. There are examples of Chinese bows that had a hinge mechanism to fold them down and in Europe the idea of two-piece takedown longbows goes back to the 18th century. These bows were called carriage bows because as the name suggests they were much more convenient to carry on a horse-drawn carriage at 3ft long rather than at 6ft-plus long. This leads us to the main—and in fact only real—reason that a takedown bow would exist; convenience for travel or storage. In

the modern era, many recurves are made as takedowns as though there are no other options for them. It has become almost standard that recurves are takedowns. I'm not really sure at what point, or why, this became the norm but it was in the past 15 to 20 years that takedown recurves started to outnumber one-piece recurves by quite a bit. My concern is that many archers just go down the takedown road without realising that there are options. In the late 70s when my archery life began, archery dealerships were wall to wall with one-piece recurves. There were Bear Grizzlies, Black Bear Hunters, Bear Magnums, Hoyt Pro

Hunters, Martin Venturas, Wha Goks, just to name a few. Very few were takedown models. Even most of the target bows were one-piece bows. And many of those old one-piece bows are still around today and still shootable. Not many of the older takedowns have survived. I'm mainly talking recurves here because longbows haven't gone down the takedown road anywhere near as much. And, needless to say, many of the old longbows from the 60s and forward are still shooting today as well. Nowadays, even the cheap-end Asian made recurves are nearly always takedowns. One central reason may be the saving on freight charges. One-piece bows have to be couriered as they are too long to go through the post, whereas takedowns can be mailed in the post. That being said, a takedown is always quite a bit dearer to buy than a one-piece due to the extra work and hardware involved in their construction, so that will generally bring the cost to your door pretty much the same in most cases ... so there's no real advantage there.

So let's have a more in-depth look at takedowns and check out the pros and cons.

Types of takedown bows

There many, many takedown mechanisms and styles out there. Ever since the idea came up, there have been many engineering attempts to

come up with the perfect takedown mechanism. There are three-piece takedowns and two-piece takedowns, all offering some kind of mechanism to connect the limbs and make the bow a reliable full-length bow. As the name suggests, the three-piece systems take down into three pieces. The most common three-piece mechanisms are a solid, bulky reinforced riser with two limb bolts that attach each limb. These are a good, strong system that lend themselves well to almost any style of bow you can dream up. The most common bows using this set-up are recurves and deflex/reflex longbows. The better bows in this system have good, solid brass/steel hardware and will last a good while. The cheaper end bows will have plastic hardware that is naturally not as strong. Some super modern three-piece takedowns actually have limb weight adjustments like compounds. There are many benefits to three-piece takedowns, but as we will see later, there are undesirable trade-offs as well.

Two-piece systems get a lot more elaborate. The takedown mechanism used in classic English longbow carriage bows and on most traditional American semi-longbows is a socket-and-sleeve-style takedown. (see photos next page). When these bows are strung, you really wouldn't know they are takedown bows at all. The mass weight in the hand gives them away but visually, you wouldn't know.

These are a very basic and simple—and very old—takedown system. In fact, nearly all two-piece takedown mechanisms are invisible and keep their handling attributes very close to a one-piece bow. They all have a mechanism that occurs in the handle area. There are some really elaborate set-ups in this regard as well—things like diagonally cut handles that bolt together in the handle, fancy keyway locking mechanisms, hinge-style mechanisms just to name a few. I'm hesitant to add images of these as some are copyrighted to their designers but if you look online you will see the various different styles that are out there.

Now let's look at the pros and cons of a takedown bow.

Pros

The main and biggest pro (and in fact the original reason they were developed at all) of a takedown bow is, very simply, portability. A bag or box that is just a metre long or less is obviously a lot easier to carry on any mode of transport. This is the big win. One other pro is that some manufacturers offer replacement limbs. This means you can have different draw weight limbs on the same bow. This makes the bow quite 'modular'. Also if you damage a limb, the whole bow isn't necessarily done for. Some archers like the added

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English longbow carriage bow strung ... it looks just like a normal ELB.

handle weight of a takedown bow as well. They feel it sweetens the bow.

Cons

The biggest con of a takedown bow is reliability. Don't get me wrong: Good, well made takedowns can last many years, but nearly always the drama begins with the mechanisms. If taken down regularly, there is sure to be wear in these actions that will eventually lead to trouble. There is immense strain on these parts. Naturally, the lighter the draw weight, the less strain. I offer a socket-and-sleeve-style takedown on some of my range of bows, but the weight is capped at 70# due to reliability issues above that weight. Let's look at an example that will explain clearly why these takedown systems are under such immense loads:

Picture a plank sitting on two trestles. Now imagine a painter climbing on the plank to paint overhead. The plank bows in the middle under the painter's weight. The underside of the plank is under the same tensile load as a bow's back. It is trying to lengthen itself to cope with the load. The top side of the plank is trying to compress inwards just like a bow's belly. This is not an issue if the back or underside of the plank has one continual plane. It won't break unless the timber's tensile strength is surpassed. How happy would the painter be, though, if you cut the plank in half then used a sleeve of some kind to rejoin it? It has been completely crippled and robbed of its strength due to the cut. That rejoining mechanism would have to be immensely strong to cope with the load. That is exactly what happens when you cut a bow in half, (or thirds) then use a mechanism to rejoin it. There is incredible load on those parts. This is why, sooner or later, these mechanisms are going to play up. Most good takedown makers

tell their clients to take it down as little as possible to avoid wear on these systems. Aside from durability, the only other negative I find with takedown bows is their slightly clunky nature. I like a bow to be sleek and smooth with little or no heavy bulk. Socket-and-sleeve styles also limit you to a handle shape that is the shape of the socket and sleeve—there is no room to vary the grip. The hinge styles and three-piece bolt styles allow this but at the expense of bulk. Some archers like the bulk so it's each to their own here. Also be aware that some archery organisations don't allow takedowns, especially three-piece takedowns, so check with your club or association before purchasing.

One of the great positives of takedowns is portability. I have to say that I have travelled all around Australia on aircraft and in cars and never had an issue with a full length longbow. When on an aircraft, you just check your bow in as sporting equipment in a protective tube of some type and away you go. Most carriers allow you to have baggage up to 2m in length and when you think about it, pro surfers et cetera carry their gear on aircraft so it's no big deal at all. With cars, it's just a roof rack thing.

At the end of the day, a takedown is a personal choice. If travel convenience is paramount for you, it's the way to go. If though, that's not a huge big deal (and in many cases if you really work it out it probably isn't), you might want to look at a one-piece bow. Remember, there are always options out there. Nearly all the top bowery companies out there offer either, so hopefully this will help you make an informed choice

I hope this brief insight into the world of takedown bows has shed some light on the subject. As always, feel free to send any questions, or to let me know if there's a subject you'd like covered in Traditional Trails to norseman_longbows@hotmail.com.

Until next time, keep traditional.

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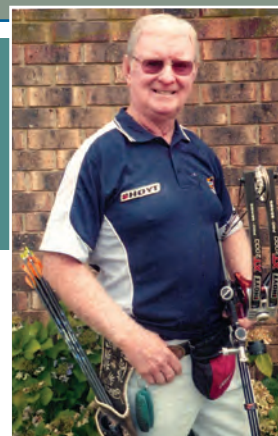
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Meanderings



The physical component in competitive archery

Is a fitter archer a better archer?

"Archery is 90 per cent mental and the other 50 per cent is physical," is a famous quote, which when first heard raises a smile. But this quote also contains a high degree of credibility—or perhaps conjecture! Our sport prides itself on the reality that an archer is not required to run fast, jump high, lift a big

weight or absorb the physical impact of an opponent. And while all of this is true, the equal reality is that in any sporting endeavour, a physical component will be present—and a fit athlete will always carry an advantage into the competitive arena, however static the sport may appear to be.

As a competitor who has been a regular and serious weight trainer since my teens, some six-plus decades ago, I naturally lean to the argument that fitness training is not only advantageous but also imperative. I concede immediately that this is a biased opinion, so let's examine in some

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detail the actual conclusions which can be drawn from an examination of our sport's elite.

Firstly, relatively speaking, our sport is a very short duration, quite static endeavour, where physical prowess would only seem to be involved in drawing to anchor repeatedly. Secondly, the most successful entity by far in our sport is the Korean female contingent shooting Olympic recurve archery. Almost without exception they are quite slight in build and yet effortless in their form and execution. Thirdly, across the board internationally (and I have been fortunately to observe closely since the late Sixties), I have very, very seldom seen an elite archer (recurve or compound) who is hugely muscled. The Arnold Syndrome simply doesn't exist in competitive archery. Top shooters seem to come in all shapes and sizes, but powerhouse, highly muscled archers are extremely rare.

Now, having conceded all this, I must also say I have no real factual information as to whether weight training or other gym activities play a significant role in national coaching programmes around the world. I am certain some leading shooters utilise the gym, but to what degree this is an integral part of their preparation, I am not aware.

It is certainly not evident on the shooting line that high muscle development is playing any major role in attaining elite scoring. For those who follow our sport's competitive events, it is a fact that a sizeable cross-section of our elite, although in a minority, are nevertheless in visual terms at least, 'unfit'. But in some cases it is difficult to ascertain what the term 'unfit' actually encompasses. We regularly see archers who are carrying excess weight—and who would be rightfully considered by an average bystander to be unathletic—perform at podium level on a consistent basis. So assessment of positive results cannot be married to the physical

make-up of the archer. We cannot even say that if they were 'fitter', they might perform even better.

In short, it does not seem across the board, that what the public would describe as being athletically fit is of any major consequence to the archer. If the archer, despite their build or body weight, successfully negotiates the cauldron of Olympic world and international competition and is a high achiever, then their 'fitness level' for what they are required to do is obviously more than adequate. I personally know a number of both recurve and compound top-line shooters who have experimented with their weight situations. Some who have lost bulk due to a concentrated training and diet programme have produced better results, while others have found that they seemed to shoot superior scores at what might be regarded as excessive body weight. One very famous compounder even stated that losing a lot of weight simply didn't work—that his stance, his stability and whole form and execution functioned much better when he was fat (his words!).

Even around a field or 3D course where the terrain may well be challenging and a degree of fitness would surely be an advantage, we still witness superb scoring and podium success by a number

of archers who, it would seem, are at a physical disadvantage.

So having looked at the realities so definitively, have I decimated my own long held belief that a fitter archer is a better archer? Surely, if your endurance level is allowing you to shoot at an elite level, then your physical make-up is immaterial? That would seem to be the case in a specialised sport such as ours. And that's great, because unlike most sporting endeavours, it's not a vital necessity to have a specific frame, build and fitness level for archery.

All this conceded, I believe that from a longevity, health-related standpoint, a general increase in fitness—be it gym related or some other discipline—is well worth the effort to at least see if it impacts upon your scoring levels.

I still have a sneaking suspicion that across the board at the very highest levels, especially among professional shooters, diet and weight training programmes are an integral part of their competitive thinking.

I guess the blessing is that whatever your physical status, archery is a sport for life, and if an accompanying programme enhances that life and your shooting, then so much the better.

That has certainly been my personal experience and I am convinced that this overall philosophy has enabled me to be the best I could be.

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A family's journey

We have known them for years—decades—even if they have not known all of us. Through the pages of *Archery Action* in the Game Claimed section and the occasional story, we have kept in touch with the Duffs.

Graeme and Helen have been listed many times in Master Bowhunter Awards for their prowess in taking animals. Just for this year's awards Graeme racked up the largest number of points in the Bowhunters Award (860) and his wife was second in line with 850 points. To give you an indication of how impressive this is, the person who was third in line had 640 points. Graeme is the current holder of the Australian Record for taking an 11pt fox and Helen holds the Ladies Best of Species for her 10 14/16pt fox. Plus, Helen has just won Ladies TBA Bowhunter of the Year, as you'll have seen earlier in the magazine.

These two have made an amazing difference in taming the fox population of their northern New South Wales home region as they have kept at it, decade after decade. But now they say they are slowing down (we'll believe that when we stop seeing their names multiple times in each Game Claimed listing) and we thought it would be a good opportunity for a look back in time. So we asked Graeme to tell a little of the Duff family's life as bowhunters.

This story took a bit of getting. I had to work on Graeme to get him to put pen to paper. (And yes, it really was pen to paper.)

"It'll sound like we're boasting," he protested.

"No it won't," I said. "People will find it fascinating to get an insight into your hunting story from how it all began to where you're at today."

So I hope you enjoy this retrospective of the Duffs, humble people ... but all the same, fox hunters extraordinaire.

Jenel Hunt, Editor



I've been asked to start from where it all began. Now, that's a daunting task! A lot of time has passed and I'm not sure I can get the sequence of events in quite the right order. But I'll put my thinking cap on, and give it a go.

My introduction to archery was like this: A fellow I went to high school with, Brian Whittaker, came to the abattoir

at Inverell around 1982 as a meat inspector on temporary transfer for six weeks. I was already working there in the same capacity as Brian. In general conversation, we talked about our lives since we'd left school and what we did for recreation. This brought us to the subject of archery, a topic about which I knew nothing. Brian told me what he could about target archery

and bowhunting, both of which I found somewhat difficult to comprehend. (This was compounded by the fact that everyone shot barebow.)

Up until that time, I was well equipped with a number of good quality firearms with which I hunted pigs, feral goats, rabbits and the like. Brian suggested that on his return to Inverell after going home

by *Graeme Duff*



Retrospective: Graeme with a pair of trophy class of foxes that came to the same stand and Helen with her Australian Women's Best of Species fox.

to Gunnedah for the weekend he would bring his bow and a couple of others for our son Anthony and me to try out—just for something to do. Anthony was at the time 11 years old.

The three of us went out to an old disused gravel pit with these bows after work. Brian was using a Bear Grizzly recurve bow with wooden target arrows. A large cardboard box was set up to be the target and of course Brian had no trouble in demonstrating its effectiveness. He loaned our son Anthony a PSE Scamp compound bow for this exercise. From

memory, Anthony did hit the box with a few arrows. He seemed fairly impressed with this kids' bow.

Then came my turn to have a go at the cardboard box. I think I was holding a Darton 45K compound. (Bear in mind, I had never seen a compound bow, so it was going to be a fairly alien thing for me to come to terms with.) Brian set the box up at about 3m for me and said, "Have a go at it." This I did, after having a number of attempts at coming to full draw. I had no end of trouble keeping the arrow on the rest! Eventually, I managed to release maybe four or five

arrows ... and not once did I hit the big cardboard box. Brian kept encouraging me. The fact is, he had more faith in my ability than I did.

I have never forgotten what he said to me out at the gravel pit that afternoon.

"Graeme, throw away your pop guns and get a bow!"

That surprised me, because I hadn't been very good at it. (In fact, I may have told some other people that I'd never struck any sporting equipment in my life as useless to me as a bow—about as handy to me as having a barbed wire fence in the bathroom!)

Our son Anthony, like any active and adventurous 11-year-old, (naturally) said, "Dad, I would like to do archery."

Had he not shown any interest, I can honestly say I would never have contemplated doing any more with bows.

Possibly a few months passed after our introduction to archery and Anthony was still expressing interest in the sport. I saved enough money to buy him a new PSE Scamp. As much as I thought that archery for me would be a non-event, I purchased a York Excaliber compound bow for the sole purpose of joining Anthony in this interest. Maybe we could learn together!

That's when I started practising with my bow and wooden arrows in an effort to support Anthony in his quest. I joined him up in the local archery club to assist him in becoming proficient in his newly chosen sport. A couple of weeks later, I recall, I went along to the archery club and shot as a visitor with the members. To me, it seemed like a good idea to be involved with our son as hopefully we could cultivate further interest in the sport.

This in fact did happen and bows and arrows occupied our minds quite a bit (to say the least). A little later our oldest daughter Alison decided to join us and (I think) she was equipped with



The cover of Archery Action back in 2011.

a cheap fibreglass recurve. Anthony outgrew the PSE Scamp and that was handed down to Alison. Then a little later our youngest daughter Stacy took Alison's fibreglass recurve and she too started in the sport. The last of all, but not the least, my wife Helen tentatively made a start. Does this scenario sound familiar to many families who have become involved in archery?

In the early days of our joining the local archery club, I mentioned to the president Garry Leach that we would certainly like to have a crack at bowhunting. This is where our joining the club was to become a very beneficial and rewarding experience as Garry gave me some very sound advice on the matter. He told me not to consider bowhunting until I had no less than 12 months' experience with the target aspect. What happened then was for Anthony and me a matter of practice, practice and more practice. Anthony would come home from school and I would finish work for the day then we'd both be at our practice butt striving in earnest to gain some consistent form with our barebows.

In those days, the local archery club shot the range every Saturday afternoon. This budding ABA club presented us with a multitude of challenges with the cardboard targets. We eagerly accepted the challenges, and along with the rest of the family Anthony and I progressed through the ABA grades at a club level. We made the transition to aluminium arrows and I think we were both astounded by their performance.

It was now time to start bowhunting. My first bowhunt with a very (very very) well known archer, Bruno Fryda from Coonamble. He told me of a lot of hunts he'd been on, particularly bowhunting big boars. One afternoon when I had finished meat inspection duties at Coonamble, Bruno loaned me his hip quiver with some wooden arrows tipped with broadheads. I



nervously accompanied him, not knowing what to expect regarding any feral game, particularly pigs. I think I may have been somewhat relieved that we saw nothing as at that stage my confidence was sadly lacking. However, the experience was excellent.

The first animal that I got, back in my own district, was a medium-sized black pig, when I was hunting alone. I marvelled at the effect of a well placed arrow (although luck also played a big role) and how quickly and silently it all happened. This was probably the moment when my bowhunting began in earnest. It was now hunting with a bow or nothing.

My association with foxes goes back a very long way—to 1958, in fact, when I was 11 years old. At that time, Dad had taught me how to make a fox whistle from a jam tin lid. A couple of demos from Dad and I was blowing the whistle quite well. So away I went on

Graeme's first animal might have been a pig, but foxes have been far and away his most taken species. He is pictured with a pile of skulls from record and trophy class foxes.



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my pushbike some 4km from home on a dirt road in the sheep country west of Dalveen (near Stanthorpe) in Queensland. As luck had it, I found a large set of rabbit warrens, sat down and started blowing the whistle. I wasn't really expecting any worthwhile result. No fox, I thought, would come in to my whistle ... but for some reason, I looked behind and there was a big dog fox looking at me from no more than 10m away. To say I got a hell of a scare would be an understatement. I quickly those to my feet, yelled and threw a stone at the fox. All the while, the hair was standing up on the back of my neck.

Anyhow, back to the early bowhunting days for our son Anthony, two daughters and me. Anthony and I regularly went bowhunting of a weekend and accepted the challenges presented. Never once did we wish that we had a firearm in the field again. As stated earlier, it was to be bowhunting or no hunting at all.



When Alison arrowed this fox in 1989, she took out the Australian Women's Record Fox (trophy class 9 9/16pt).

My taking Alison and Stacy hunting was very satisfying, as family involvement is something I have always cherished. The same can be said for my time hunting with Helen too.

A couple of incidents involving the girls will always stick in my mind. Firstly, I had Alison with me when I spotted a group of medium-sized pigs grazing on a green grassy plateau. Alison was nervous about approaching them with me so I told her to climb up high on the limbs of a fallen tree and watch things unfold. I made my stalk on these pigs but they winded me and bolted. I went back to Alison, who was still in the fallen tree—and she was in tears. From my perspective, I couldn't imagine from her vantage point what could have possibly been the problem. It turned out she was just plain frightened. I accepted this and reassured her that all was okay.

Another incident involving Alison sometime later was when she and Stacy were with me on another property in timbered country walking to an area where there were feral goats. Suddenly from nowhere, four sucker pigs ran past us at about 14m. In what seemed

like two seconds, Alison was up on my shoulders! No pig was going to get her! Stacy, on the other hand, couldn't have given two hoots about the pigs. (Still, it was becoming fairly obvious that Alison didn't like pigs!)

Another account of an incident involving the girls comes to mind. It was late autumn (on the same property where the sucker pigs had been but at least 3km further up a very good game-producing creek), I whistled up a feral tabby cat for Stacy. Coincidentally, this was exactly the same place where two months earlier I had whistled an identical feral cat for Tom Mitchell (and he got the cat, too). Anyhow, at this same stand I whistled the cat up for Stacy and she arrowed it, I thought, reasonably well. Tough things, these feral cats. The cat went back down the lightly grassed hill in the direction of the creek. Being very able bodied then, I easily caught up with it. I obviously got a bit too close to the cat and to my surprise it turned quickly with all four feet and locked its claws onto my trouser leg. Things got a bit worse in a very short time. The enraged cat tried to bite me while it was firmly locked



Anthony with a 31pt boar, taken in 1990.



Stacy with a rabbit.

on my leg Meanwhile, Stacy and Alison were back about 15m in full view of the unfolding incident laughing their heads off while I was kicking like a mule trying to dislodge the savage feline. Luckily, I broke loose from its grip with very few scratches from the ordeal. It got my adrenaline up, that's for sure, and as vets will testify, a bite from a cat can have dire consequences. (Our daughters periodically remind me of that incident from long ago.)

Some time after that, Helen decided to join me in bowhunting feral game as Garry Leach had put her through the Bowhunter Proficiency Course.



Anthony's first record class fox, 10 6/16pt, in 1992.



Stacy and the feral cat that latched onto Graeme's leg.

I thought I would introduce her to bowhunting by giving her an opportunity at a small group of goats



Stacy's only fox— RC 10 6/16pt!

which were grazing in an open but lightly timbered area. I was close behind her during the stalk and gave her quiet verbal assistance. Helen got to within a distance that I thought was well within her capabilities with her barebow and quickly lifted her bow to prepare herself for the shot. The sudden movement spooked the grazing goats and they ran from the area. You might be thinking, "What's the big deal











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about that?" Well, her arrow was still on the string as she quickly turned around to ask me what had made the goats run. Being less than a metre from her, I had to do an instant limbo for fear of being swiped across the abdominal area with a very sharp broadhead. Helen apologised when I explained what could have happened. We put that one down to lack of experience, and it never happened again.

In the Easter long weekend of 2000, I decided to go on a hunt on my own while Helen, Anthony and Rebecca Darby went off to the National Safari at Orange. I was camping in a nice little hut on the property where I'd had the dramas with Stacy's feral cat. To this day, I've never struck bowhunting of foxes so full-on as it was that long weekend. I was then using my old Darton 4000 set on 56# What a trip it turned out to be. I took 15 trophy class foxes and two that were non-measurable.

Then in July of the same year, we went to Bowen in North Queensland for a fishing and stingray bowhunting holiday. While the mackerel fishing was an absolute success with the boat at sea, so was the bowhunting for cow-tailed stingrays. Under the

guidance of Tom Mitchell, Helen had an absolute blinder of a first day on the mudflats after stingrays. She took four good trophy class stingrays and she while thought that must have been a normal outing, Tom assured us that this wasn't the case. Helen's uncanny ability to judge the refraction of the water in which the stingrays were lying was exceptional. While I took a couple of trophy class rays during the holiday, my judgement of the refraction angles wasn't nearly as good. We still have some very memorable video footage of bowhunting on the tidal flats.

Helen and I have, of course, had a lot of hunts on land-based game—way too numerous to mention.

In 2002 I started to wonder why walking anywhere was causing me pain in the groin. I thought that maybe stretching exercises would be the answer but these only aggravated the condition. In 2010, X-rays revealed what was causing me so much discomfort—there was virtually no cartilage left in either of my hip joints. Still, I pushed on in our quest for taking feral game and also our enjoyment of competing at the indoor archery range with my newly acquired 32# Formula 7

Hoyt takedown recurve bow.

By about 2012, walking was becoming something I did only when absolutely necessary. That was when Helen had bowhunting completely to herself. How that worked was I would take her on our 4WD quad bike to drop-off points on our hunting properties, then I would select an area to stay while she hunted. We were in contact with each other by UHF radios. From my perspective, it was all good. I accepted my disability and maintained a positive outlook. My participation in actual hunting became a non-event as even driving the quad bike had to be done side-saddle and walking was only possible with two walking sticks.

Over this period of time Helen did extremely well, for which I was pleased. I never felt left out because I was also where I wanted to be—out in the bush with plenty of water, sandwiches, binoculars and of course the UHF radio. The only thing that concerned me was that Helen might take an animal where the terrain prevented me from getting close to where she was. But that was so rare it was never a problem. Amazing things, 4WD quad bikes.

Some four or five months after my



Helen's personal best goat, 117 1/8pt, from 2002.



Graeme's RC goat, 115 2/8pt from 2005.



Current Australian Record fox, 11pt.

first hip replacement, I was hobbling around on the flats and some hills too, pursuing game again with my compound bow. Helen helped me a lot—carrying things and helping me get to my feet after I'd knelt for a photo with bowshot game.

I was still hobbling around right up to the time for my second hip replacement. In fact, I took two good trophy class dog foxes exactly one week before I went in for the operation.

Once I had recovered sufficiently from my second operation, I was back hunting with Helen in earnest. No way was I going to retire from our main recreational activity! I have

to say here, though, on the subject of determination, I'm definitely not Robinson Crusoe. Reading articles in *Archery Action* titled "A close encounter of the deadly kind" and "The Longest Road" written by David Luxford is a striking example of this. That's dedication and perseverance at its best. What I've experienced isn't a fleabite medically speaking with the things David has endured.

Regarding our hunting, something that still surprises me is that on February 7 2016, Helen upgraded her Best of Species fox to one of 10 14/16pt RC. This, I think, is her fourth upgrade! At that time I'd never put my Vernier

calipers over any fox bigger than two I got ages ago that went 10 12/16pt RC. I was firmly convinced there was nothing in our hunting areas that would exceed my two good foxes, but time was going to prove me wrong yet again. In the *World Bowhunter* book, Eric Creighton had mentioned that I should have taken a new Australian record in this species, which I considered an impossibility. Clearly, that's two occasions on which I have been wrong. A third error on my part and possibly the biggest one, shall be mentioned shortly!

I haven't mentioned much about our interest in hunting anything other than foxes. Actually, we never pass up the opportunity to hunt quality goats (that's if we can locate any, of course). Rabbits, hares and feral cats are on our list as well.

The ageing factor has definitely come into play of latter times. Take my wife for example. Helen has always loved target archery and bowhunting barebow but severe arthritis in her fingers has given her no option but to shoot a bow with sights and a release aid. While this is not her preferred discipline, she is lucky to have another option now, and she handles it very well. The other noticeable factor

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Graeme took this trophy class cat, 7 3/16pt, last year.

affecting us both is a reduction in poundage of our bows. Furthermore, our reflexes are nowhere near what they were 20 years ago. This is reflected in our reaction time in hunting situations where decisions often have to be made fairly quickly. We consider good ethical decisions must take precedence over hasty actions.

Many other archers could relate to this scenario, so we're not alone there. When we hunt our properties, we do to some extent target the most productive areas and minimise the very long walks. However, this never means that we come home after a day's hunting feeling as fresh as daisies. That just doesn't happen! But even though we may feel a little spent, our spirits are never broken.

But enough about creaking bones! Now to the story of my third error,

which had the potential to end badly.

In May last year I spotted a black sow feeding on short green grass near a creek which was shaded by beautiful oak trees. The breeze was in my favour as I nocked an arrow and stalked towards the pig. When I got to within 15m of her, she stopped feeding, looked up and immediately charged me. This I handled no worries at all. Coming to full draw on the charging pig, I released the arrow at 5m. The arrow was tipped with a nice sharp Tusker Delta broadhead and it made a complete pass-through. The pig quickly turned and ran back basically in the direction from which she came. The arrow showed good evidence of having what I thought was nice placement. Just imagine if I'd only had a light spinning rod in hand and not a bow (this creek does hold good redfin).

Helen was above this creek on a steep hill and saw the whole thing unfold. She saw the pig going into a

blackberry bush at the base of this hill (but still near the creek) She could see the movement in the blackberries, then the movement ceased. We thought the sow had expired so we both threw a couple of stones down into the bush. To our surprise, a medium-sized red boar burst out, along with two smaller pigs, and disappeared.

There was no sign of the black sow so I got a solid stick and started to bash my way in to retrieve the pig for a photo.

That was the plan, anyway. Some metres away, out came my pig and ran further down the creek, over a ridge and out of sight. We tracked her easily to where she had gone into a sizeable stand of waist-high wire grass. With another arrow nocked, I went into this grass preparing to finish things—or so I thought. I searched for my pig but found nothing, so put my arrow back in my hip quiver. This just added to my foolish move! I heard a deep, loud, angry grunt and the pig was right on me. Her snout hit me in the groin and all I could do was try to fend her off with my bow held crossways. She only backed off maybe one metre then charged me twice more. After the third confrontation I tried to step back and get an arrow out of my quiver. That's when things really went pear shaped. I tripped in the tough wire grass and went face over apex. Now I was lying in the grass on my back with an angry pig close by! I yelled to Helen, "Help me, quick!" She saw the pig in the long grass and quickly got a carbon hunting arrow out of her bow quiver. Now it was her turn to experience the wrath of this pig. She barely had her arrow out of the bow quiver when she was confronted by the pig. There was no time to nock the arrow, so all she could do with it was to hit the pig over the head with it. Helen was charged twice before she could nock the arrow and put a good shot on it. By then the pig



This hare was taken last year too. It's not all about foxes.

was just visible in the grass some 6m away. By that time I was thankfully back on my feet. I quietly went to Helen. She had seen the pig go into a huge piled-up heap of dead grass, obviously a pig nest. We could see the sow side-on in this pile. I said to Helen that I could see the pig's head and knew for sure where the vitals were for a finishing arrow.

I released another arrow and the pig exploded out of the grass in our direction—but luckily this time she was spent.

Helen said this ordeal left me as white as a sheet. Those who have had a lot of experience with pigs will know how foolish I was. The problem was

that over the years I had obviously developed a level of elevated confidence and thought that with a bow in my hand I was bulletproof. How wrong I was!

Since that confrontation I have read the late Bill Baker's book, "Born to the Bow," and I consider myself very lucky not to have been converted into pig droppings, as actions like mine can come at a very high price.

What a trip down memory lane this has been, reflecting on our journey with the bow and arrow. I must say, bowhunting has been very good for our fitness. As well, we've been happy to do our bit for the ecology by taking as many foxes and feral cats as possible.

Having been interested in birdlife since I was seven years old, I have found that being out in nature and wearing camouflage has also brought me close to numerous native birds, animals and reptiles. It has definitely been well worth the time we've spent to experience these things.

Precious too are the friendships we've forged with like-minded people and the numerous kind property owners we've met over three decades in our pursuit of feral game.

It has been an amazing journey, and it's not over yet. While we have scaled back dramatically, I think we will always be striving to outfox those crafty foxes.



Graeme and Helen Duff ... fox hunters extraordinaire.





Victorian State Series

Twin City Archers

The first Victorian 3DAAA event of 2019 was an excellent event put on by Twin City Archers. The weather was great and the groups were full of fun, challenges and smiles.

The new Semi-Pro Division saw four of our MBO team from 2018 take to the challenge—Paul Eagle, Tony Brezic, Ken Smith and Troy Hanson keeping the scores pretty even on some challenging courses.

Thank you to Mike Lambert and Bill Holmes for coming across from SA to be a part of the event.

Day one saw a quick briefing to cover course layout, emergency procedures and then it was down to the art of placing arrows on the targets set out by our course setters. They had used dead ground across what appeared to be flat ground, shadows flickering across the targets and deceiving distances.

There were archers young and old celebrating great shots while others were questioning how they could have missed the target.

Courses were set out to be challenging. They made you think of your distance judging, while the brilliant sunshine, shadows and wind all added to the event. We heard jubilant calls of a successful shot over the course ... not mentioning any names, Neil Morris (great score, Neil). This all created a fun atmosphere.

3D archery is a fantastic form of archery and presents special challenges to the archer. It's enjoyed by novices and experienced archers alike. Each shot presents a unique opportunity to use a variety of archery and judgement skills to make the shot.

With day one over, the resetting of the courses for day two was done and the focus turned to where the group of 30-plus archers wanted to go for dinner. This was soon decided, bookings were made and the archers made their way to the venue. Dinner allows the members

to catch up and talk archery and whatever else comes up in conversation. The day didn't end there, for Twin City Archers opened the club rooms up for a night of fun and left it up to us to set up some fun ideas of Micro 3D Targets—like shooting Minties (you had to be there) but the same motto played out on the course the next day—it's moments like these you need ... Well, you've seen the ads; you know how it goes.

Day two saw the groups set out with great optimism, planning for those perfect rounds. And those plans came to fruition for two of our members, as Drew Orton took out another two 100s and Alex Spath with one 100. Congratulations.

Jo Mufale, thanks for creating a great breakfast for the group on Sunday, and thanks to the Twin City members who looked after lunches through the event.



Shooting at Twin City Archers.

NSW State Series

Lake Glenbawn Field Archers

A wonderful weekend was had at the LGFA shoot in April, with 89 shooters in attendance and perfect weather. The feedback was great on the five set ranges. We had some tricky ranges along with one easy flat range to keep the arthritic shooters smiling. The lighting was tough on some of the targets, making them hard to see.

Three archers—Ethan Bowden, Josh Radoll and Lachlan Scott—managed to shoot 100s over the two days which was great, however it did not please our range setters as their aim is to make the shots tricky for the archers!

Saturday afternoon saw the Top 10 shootout take place at the clubhouse, with some very good scores. After the first round there were four shooters left to take on the Mozzie target. After the first three shooters all shot 8s, Grant Elsley stepped up and drilled the 10-ring for the win.

It was great to see new faces join us for the shoot and as always fabulous to see the same familiar archers whose love of the sport make it a fun weekend. Thank you to all the LGFA members for all the hard work put in and thank you to everyone who attended.



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BRANCH C IFAA TITLES



Saxon Archery Club

We travelled to the town of Bundaberg in April for the Branch C IFAA Titles at the Saxon Archery Club. This club has about 73 members and is growing all the time. The club prides itself on the number of coaches it has and the ongoing training the coaches do, the number of members who travel to other clubs to support their shoots and the all-out effort the members make so that any shoot held at the club is memorable for all shooters who participate.

For the titles there were only 26 shooters. It was sad that not many members from the other clubs travelled but the weekend was a great success anyway.

The canteen was a big hit with the Saxon well known awesome food. The dinner and breakfasts were to die for. There was a barbecue on the range which cooked the whole day for the shooters. You could smell the sausages and onions cooking the whole length of the course. There were also slices, muffins, cold drinks, chocolates, lollies, chips, and water—all at the barbecue area on the course. This was a big hit with the shooters.

Saturday was a beautiful cool morning; the smoke from the fires lingering in the air and the shooters all ready with anticipation for the day's shoot. It started with an awesome breakfast then after letting breakfast settle there was the bow check and then muster and out to let some arrows fly. The weather was really lovely with a gentle breeze and the heat was mostly gone. Some really good scores came through, and although not everyone had a good day on the scoresheet, the range was full of laughter from archers who sounded like they were really enjoying themselves.

Saturday afternoon over a coldie brought a lot of reminiscing about the way we should have shot a particular target (or maybe we should have just stayed back at camp). After a great dinner with plates piled high and beautiful desserts, a lot more arrows were verbally flying around along with reminiscing about other shoots people had attended.

On Sunday morning everyone woke to a beautiful day again. It wasn't too hot, making for a good day of shooting. Muster was a bit earlier to enable the shooters to be off the range earlier so that the trip home for the travellers was not a late one.

Another awesome breakfast and out on the range again hopefully a better day for those who hadn't done so well the previous day. Not long after the shooting started, the mouthwatering aroma of the barbecue could be smelt all over again.

The Sunday shoot finished a lot earlier than usual which meant that the presentations were finished early. Everyone was starting to leave by 1.30pm which was great because they would all get home at a reasonable hour.

The camping facilities at Saxons are of a high standard with plenty of room for larger caravans, tents and camper trailers. The amenities work extremely well, with plenty of hot water for showers.

Saxon may have had only 26 shooters but they treated the shoot as if there were 100 shooters there and gave the shooters an awesome weekend. Well done, Saxons.

Pam Helmrich/Jenny Gilbert

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



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COMBINED HUNTING HISTORY



Question: *How long have you been a bowhunter?*

Answer: *At least 293 years.*

In December 2018, Graham Newell hosted a gathering at his Brisbane home of all but two fellow bowhunters he had hunted with over the past 21-plus years. Just for fun, they did a rough tally of the total years of bowhunting that had been done between them and their best guesstimate was 293 years.

They are (from left): Kel Salta, Alan Robertson, host Graham Newell, Lew Wren, Dave Littlejohn, Jason Podlich, Brett Stokes, Eric Creighton, Alan Podlich; John Matsen and (not pictured because he was the photographer) Tom Buxton. All are currently, or have been, members of the same archery club—Grange Bowmen Inc.

The evening started with a T-bone steak and salad washed down by a few beers, rums, scotches and bourbons, and finished with a safe trip home in a stretch limousine.

The men in this group have hunted near and far; from northern New South Wales to the Gulf, the Cape, western Queensland, the Territory, western New South Wales, the Flinders Ranges, upper southeast South Australia, the channel country along with the Brisbane and Mary Valley *and* most places in between.

They didn't even attempt to estimate the feral pigs, goats, cats, foxes, buffalo, rabbits, deer et cetera removed from the bush by all of them over those 293-plus years, but (pick a figure!) it would probably number in the thousands.

On the next page, just for fun, are some photos from our *Archery Action* archives of some of these fellows in hunting mode.



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Rob Fowler, RC camel 29 4/8pt.

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*Luke Hebb,
TC fox 10
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Ben Chambers, sambar.

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CANADIAN ADVENTURE

A black bear is seen climbing a tree trunk in a forest. The bear is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its body angled towards the left. Its front paws are gripping the tree trunk, and its hind legs are also visible, pushing against the bark. The tree trunk is light-colored, possibly birch, and shows some peeling bark. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and other tree trunks. The title 'Hunting the phantoms of Manitoba' is overlaid on the image in a white, cursive font with a black outline.

Hunting the phantoms of Manitoba

by **DAVID EDWARDS**

It was around lunchtime when Harry Walker from Sandy River Outfitters picked up Dave Littlejohn and me from the hotel. Our first stop was Canadian Tires to get pairs of gumboots and fishing licenses. An hour and a half later and after telling Harry numerous times I didn't like heights, we were at

Pinefalls meeting other hunters from the USA who were staying at the cabin with us. The cabin was lakeside and had five bedrooms, two bathrooms and three dining rooms.

An hour later, everyone was gearing up and heading out to hunt. Some of the people staying with us

had an hour's drive before getting to their hunting ground.

My first stand was only 6km or so away from camp. As I've said, I'm not one for heights so Harry put me in a double stand. I found out later that Dave had been put in a single stand with a very small seat.

Time slipped away and I finally started to relax. Then a squirrel came up the tree just behind me and started making a terribly loud noise and I almost fell off the stand. As I calmed down I dug out a packet of Wagon Wheels (well, they were no longer wheels but rather crumbs stuck to marshmallow.) About 10 minutes after I had finished my snack, the tree stand suddenly felt as if it had dropped about a foot. I looked down and saw a big black head below. As I continued to look, I saw a tongue licking chocolate crumbs off each rung of the ladder! I grabbed the video camera and he made his way down to sit at the bottom for two or three minutes before wandering over to a nearby can.

I didn't know if he was a shooter and had made a deal with Dave that we were not going to shoot anything on the first day unless it was a really big bear so I sat back and watched and videoed him till dark, which made for an awesome story and great footage for the boys back at camp.

At the camp, everyone gathered around for a few drinks and stories about their evening's hunt. One of the boys had tagged out on a nice bear. Next morning, Harry and I took the leftover carcass from the bear up to the boneyard and the rest of the day was spent fishing, shooting bows and talking.

At 3.30, everyone started to head out to their stands. I didn't see a bear until about 7pm (they come in under the stand and you never hear them till they want you to). Videoing him, I was thinking, "Should I or shouldn't I?" If I shot him, my hunt would be over and I wouldn't get the chance to shoot a wolf (in Manitoba when purchasing a bear tag you receive two wolf tags but the deal is that you have to shoot the wolves first). We still had four nights left so I let him feed at the can until Harry came to pick me up. Harry greeted me with the news that Dave

had tagged out on a nice 400lb bear some hours earlier. The Bundy bear made its appearance that night for celebration drinks!

The next morning, we headed back up to the boneyard with the carcass of Dave's bear to see that the previous bear had been taken by wolves and all that was left was a bit of blood on the grass.

That night, a mum and cubs came in to the can, and as the cubs ate she worked on keeping a young boar from coming in by popping her jaws till dark. Once again, Harry picked me up with news of another bear down and when we got back to camp we found out that two of the other boys had shot a bear each as well, so by dinner time there were three bears waiting to be caped out. Back at the boneyard the next morning to drop off three more bears, we saw that Dave's bear's carcass had all but disappeared. There was only the ribcage left and it didn't have one scrap of meat left on it. The rest of the day was spent fishing and sleeping. Night four and I was getting taken past the boneyard and up the road to a new stand. The only bear I saw that night was a two-year-old but he was entertaining to watch and video as he tried to work out how to get food out of that can. The next morning I took some of the guys up to the boneyard for a look around and on the way there we saw flocks of thousands of geese feeding in the paddocks along the river. Just before lunch we took one of the boats downstream and up a couple of creeks. It seemed like just about every little feeder creek had a beaver dam blocking it. Looking around, I noticed how much the trees had changed colour from green to yellow in just four days. Later that afternoon, it was back out to the stand and I was back in my first stand where I sat still till dark. A big bear showed its head through the bush as the light was fading fast, as it does in thick timber. I never saw

anything more than the head. The next day around lunch time, Harry came to say he was going to put me out at a stand where they knew there was a big bear so to get pumped up. At 3 o'clock it was time to go. It was an hour's drive away and on the way he said I needed to wait and let the other smaller bears come in first. The big bear might only come in on dark. I got into the stand and got myself set up. I needed to look around for a place to set up the video camera, but the only place I could put it was the tree half a meter in front of me and a bit off to one side. As Harry was walking out, a tree came crashing down not far from the track he was walking on. I thought it was him making noise to get things moving. An hour later, I saw movement to the right and a nice-sized bear was heading in when more trees came crashing down just off to my left. It was where we had walked in and where the previous tree had fallen when Harry had left.

It was as though a truck was coming through the bush. The bear ran back to where he'd come from. I still hadn't seen the larger bear that had scared the other one off but 10 minutes later I saw a big bear walking straight down the track only to get the same welcome of trees getting knocked down. He stood his ground and even stood up and huffed. That lasted till the truck-like bear came tearing through the bush. It was jet black and the biggest bear I had seen by far! After chasing the other bear off, he made his way over to the can and stood 16yd away from me for seven minutes. I videoed him face-on and he never gave me a shot in all that time.

Then he reversed behind the can and turned to chase off another bear. He came back in afterwards only to stop, turn and walk back behind the bushes at 30yd looking for other bears. As he walked back in to a wider part of the track which was roughly at 22yd he did it all again. In fact, he started to



make a routine of it, walking towards the can and then back to the bushes.

I was losing precious light on the last day of hunting so when he started to do it the third time, I turned on the video camera, picked up my bow and waited for him to turn. As he did, I naturally put the pin tight behind his shoulder on a quartering-away shot. That would be have been great on other game, but a bear's lungs and heart are further back.

The next morning after all the other hunters had left, we headed back out to find the blood trail. We followed his blood trial and found

the blue glow nock then followed the blood trail through some really thick bush down on our hands and knees to occasionally stand up in openings. We looked at every red leaf and every black stump. After four hours we had only gone 150yd. We found the arrow but no broadhead. We also found a big hunk of blood-covered fat on a tree. My stomach dropped as Pete, the guide with the back-up gun, said, "That's not a good sign. The fat moves down and blocks the exit hole for the blood."

As we reached the top of a rocky outcrop where the blood trail had led



us, rain started to fall. I could see the blood trail getting washed away ... along with any chance I had of finding my bear.

But I will return next September to Canada and in particular Sandy River, this time with my son Drew. We can try for phantom bear and whitetail deer— and if we're really lucky, maybe a wolf.



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Simply the best

by Nils Spruitt

Field archery is a great sport. It caters for all levels of experience ... or inexperience, as can often be the case. It is relatively cheap to participate in and has a great social structure. I have tried a lot of sports in my time and field archery is the clear winner in my book. On a physical level it is not overly demanding nor is it hard on the body like impact sports. I can honestly say with my hand over my heart, if I could wind the clock back a lot of years, I would steer my children into field archery. I am not saying it is the perfect competitive sport. Nothing is perfect, but as a close-knit sport and one in which the entire family can participate in as a group, then field archery steps mighty close to the mark.

If you don't believe me, then let's compare field archery to another well known and popular family-orientated sport. Golf readily springs to mind and yes, golf is a relaxing sport which combines fun and competition on an equal basis to field archery. Golf can be played by all age groups and these days most clubs have a weekly combined men's and ladies' competition day run in conjunction with each other. So like field archery, a golfing family can play together as a single unit but only on specific days.

Golf is not hard on the body providing you don't want to practice day in and day out. The constant action and biomechanics required to play golf at a fairly high standard is both physically damaging and mentally stressful in the long run. Field archery would be no different, but this applies to all sports. The repetitive nature of training to reach an elite level in any sport is always going to be detrimental to one's body over a long period. For the purpose of this exercise, let us just confine ourselves to the enjoyment, relaxation and social atmosphere of sport.



I have played golf on and off for a long time and I would be a liar if I didn't say I don't enjoy it—sometimes, at least. I have always been fond of any sport played at a competitive level. It is human nature to want to win, although with some this level can dominate to such an extreme that the enjoyment factor is completely lost because winning becomes the only reason for playing in the first place. We have all seen people like this. Tantrum throwers, irrespective of the sport, really do need to step back and take a serious look at their actions. It is unfortunate that we see this type of behaviour displayed by an occasional elite athlete in high profile sports and to some degree I do understand it. I don't condone it, but I can understand it. To professional athletes, sport is not just a pastime, hobby or way of keeping fit. It is their means of earning a living and setting themselves up for the future. So when all does not go according to plan and there are big dollars involved then, yeah, I can understand anybody getting a bit down on themselves, but still there's

no excuse for throwing equipment or punches around.

In a world where the line between professional and amateur sports is vague at best, field archery still lies well within the amateur status. There is no great wealth to be had even if you are an elite field archer. I am aware that in the USA there are 3D competitions which boast a fairly hefty prize purse for the winner, but here in Australia there is no Australian Open-style field archery competition to be broadcast globally. Publicity is virtually nonexistent. Field archery is not played in the Olympics or even the Commonwealth Games and there is no monetary gain to be had or lost at the highest level, be it prizemoney or sponsorship. So apart from an individual's personal goals and ambitions such as winning a state or national medal, the budding field archer's life does not really depend upon making that next shot. No need for bow tossing or extreme cussing in my opinion. But I have digressed.

Unlike field archery, golf as a sport has priced itself beyond the reach of the average Joe and as a family sport where both parents plus two children can all play on a regular basis, well, let's just say it is beyond the means of most. Field archery, on the other hand, is a sport well within the financial reach of just about any family. Of course, you still have club joining fees, event fees, club shirt and equipment, but when you compare this to golf, it is small change really and this is having an impact upon numbers. Back when Tiger Woods burst onto the golfing scene, a lot of rural and metropolitan golf courses were suddenly overrun with budding young Tigers. These days the level of young people playing golf has shrunk dramatically, which is sad. Field archery has always had a strong junior contingent and it remains so today. This is to be both applauded and fostered, for without future archers the sport will shrivel and die. It is also a strong indication that the organisers of field archery are doing something right, whereas the corporation that is golf globally have got it completely wrong.

It goes without saying that golf as a world-wide sport attracts far more competitors and members than does field archery. One cannot deny this but then again soccer attracts far more world-wide interest than does rugby league. Statistics are not what I am referring to in the context of this narrative. I am more concerned with what sport every family could afford, participate in as a family unit, and above all else, enjoy. Field archery is that game, my man.

I am not saying there are not more sports out there which are family orientated and above all else, affordable for the entire family unit. Forget team sports as a father could not play soccer in the same team as his eight-year-old son nor could mum play competition netball with her 10-year-old daughter. What I am talking about are sports

where a family can participate together and even against each other albeit according to gradings, handicaps and age divisions. I am not a lawn bowler but perhaps that as a family sport does offer some merit and so too would target shooting with a firearm. I am sure there are others, but I doubt if any would overshadow field archery.

Speaking now from my own individual perspective and not that of a family man, the weekly field archery competition held at my local club is my much needed dose of social time spent with friends. I am not a good enough archer these days to worry about the competition side all that much, but that does not mean I don't give it my all. However, these days it is more about the interaction with fellow archers and the socialising that goes with it. Of course there are the side bets and the sorting of just who is going to be your shooting partner on the day (very important when you have a can of Coke riding upon the eventual outcome or the booby prize of having to cook the lunch time barbecue). No one wants to be on the losing team and there is much sly manipulation, finger pointing and nudging prior to the commencement of hostilities, whoops, that should read competition. It is all in the spirit of the game and no one takes it very seriously although we are talking about a \$1 can of Coke here. It is not high stakes, but a bet is a bet.

If the game of the day is ABA then I tend to be overlooked as a potential team asset or winning partner and it has nothing to do with my ability or lack thereof. As a recurve or longbow shooter, but not one who utilises wooden shafts, I am forced to shoot from the red markers whereas the true traditional guys can shoot from the much closer traditional peg. Believe me, it makes a difference when you are up against sighted compounders and that is what I do love about the sport. Irrespective of what your preference is when it comes to bows, field archery by its very nature, bonds all archers together into the one close-knit group. I have never seen snobbery or elitism displayed by any archer over another based upon the equipment he or she chooses to use. I must stress at this point, I am only referring to my local club's weekly shoot and not zone or divisional competition which of course has gradings and divisions based upon ability, age and equipment. It might not be a high profile elite sport but at least it tries to have a level playing field.

Some of my most memorable club competition days have been had when I found myself shooting in a mixed group of compounders and trad archers. The banter and lighthearted ribbing that occurs on just about every target is what keeps me coming back. In other words, it is just plain fun. And isn't this the very essence of what playing sport is supposed to be? Until next time.

What's On

Where applicable, please use this as your tax invoice:

Australian Bowhunters Association TM

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





Branch D ABA SHOOT

Pacific Bowmen

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May 2019



Saturday

11am Registrations and Bow Checks • Nominations close at 12:15pm
12:45pm Muster for a 1pm start • 2 Arrow Round

Sunday

7:45am Muster for an 8am Start
3 Arrow Round • Lunch • 1 Arrow Round • Presentations ASAP

Fees: Cubs/Juniors \$15, Adults \$25, Family \$50

Pre Nominate by Monday 13th May to:
Branch Score Recorder, Sally-Anne McGrigor
abasqscorer@gmail.com or 0402 074 788

Facilities include: Camping, showers, toilets and canteen

Evening meal available Saturday night
No dogs allowed • No smoking or vaping allowed on the ranges

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

ABA/3D BRANCH SHOOT

Hosted by Capital Field Archers

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May 2019

PROGRAM

Saturday - 3D Round		Sunday - ABA Round	
8 - 8:30am	Registration & Bow Checks	7:30 - 7:45am	Registration & Bow Checks
9am	Muster	8am	Muster
	Start 1 Arrow Round		Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch	Start 1 Arrow Round	Lunch	Start 1 Arrow Round
	Presentations ASAP		Presentations ASAP

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

To pre-nominate or for Further Information: Louise Whitley
Ph: 0427 951 561 or Email: branchscores@gmail.com

Facilities include: Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen
An evening meal available Saturday
Availability of meals is not guaranteed for those who do not pre-nominate.

NO DOG POLICY APPLIES TO THIS SHOOT
NO SMOKING ON RANGES WHILE SHOOTS ARE IN PROGRESS

Branch B Safari



Hosted by
**Towers
Bowhunters**

Archers Rd, Charters Towers, Qld
8th & 9th June 2019

Saturday (Nominations close 8am 8/6/19)

8:30am Bow Check
9:00am Muster
9:30am Round 1 Start
11:30am Lunch
12:30pm Round 2 Start
2:30pm Round 3 Start
Novelty Events after Round 3
5:00pm AGM
6:30 to 7pm Dinner

Sunday

8:30am Muster
8:45am Round 4 Start
Lunch and Presentations will commence ASAP after scores have been finalised

** Times are a guide only and are subject to change*

**All Camping
Facilities
Available**

Nominations can be emailed to: cherylhembrow@bigpond.com

When nominating please provide the following: name, ABA number, age division, shooting division and grade.

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

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

ABA/3D BRANCH SHOOT

Hosted by Wagga Wagga Field Archers

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 June 2019

PROGRAM

Saturday - 3D Round		Sunday - ABA Round	
8 - 8:30am	Registration & Bow Checks	7:30 - 7:45am	Registration & Bow Checks
9am	Muster	8am	Muster
	Start 1 Arrow Round		Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch	Start 1 Arrow Round	Lunch	Start 1 Arrow Round
	Presentations ASAP		Presentations ASAP

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

To pre-nominate or for Further Information: Louise Whitley
Ph: 0427 951 561 or Email: branchscores@gmail.com

Facilities include: Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen
An evening meal available Saturday
Availability of meals is not guaranteed for those who do not pre-nominate.

NO DOG POLICY APPLIES TO THIS SHOOT
NO SMOKING ON RANGES WHILE SHOOTS ARE IN PROGRESS

Australia Bowhunters Association, Inc.

Branch D - ABA SHOOT

Hosted by
**Barambah Bowhunters
and Field Archers**

**Saturday 29th June and
Sunday 30th June 2019**



Saturday Round

11:00am Registration & Bow Checks
12:15pm Nominations Close
12:45pm Muster for a 1pm Start
2 Arrow Round

Sunday Round

7:45am Muster
8:00am Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round
Presentations ASAP

Fees: Cubs/Juniors - \$15, Adults - \$25, Family - \$50 (all fees include GST)

Pre-nominate by Monday 24th June: to Branch Score Recorder
Sally-Anne McGrigor - abasqscorer@gmail.com or 0402 074 788

Facilities include: Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen

Evening meal available Saturday night

No Dogs Allowed

No Smoking or Vaping Allowed on the Ranges

Mackay & District Bowmen Inc. Invitational Shoot 2019



**6th & 7th of
July 2019**

Fees: Jnr/Cub/Pensioners - \$15
Family - \$50 • Seniors - \$25
Knife/Axe and Sneak Round - \$2 each

SATURDAY:

6:45am - Breakfast
7:30am - Nominations (Close at 8:30am)
8:30am - Bow checks & muster
8:50am - Morning announcements
9:15am - First round
Lunch - Followed by second round
3:00pm - Knife & Axe + Novelties
7:00pm - Tea & dessert
Night time novelties after tea

SUNDAY:

6:45am - Breakfast
8:30am - Muster
9:00am - 3D round
Lunch - Followed by presentations
***Times are a guide only and are subject to change
Please inform us of any dietary requirements and
number of meals required on nomination

- Camping facilities available • NO dogs allowed • Raffles
- All shooters must supply ABA Card • Hot showers • Toilets
- Knife and Axe • Meals available all weekend • FREE meal Friday night
- Novelties • Snacks and drinks available • Please nominate for catering

Nominations and Questions to: mackayanddistrictbowmen@gmail.com or 0407 022 906

Early nominations go in the draw for a prize!!!

Australian Bowhunters Association Inc TM (Inc in NT No AO1978C)

GST ABN 79 750 431 225

GST tax invoice



Name _____

Address _____

_____ P/Code _____

ABA number _____

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE

* Available to TBA members only

Available only to members who have qualified. Please
enclose copy of letter of acknowledgement from BH Division.

PAYMENT DETAILS

- ☐ Enclosed is cheque/money order for \$ _____
payable to Australian Bowhunters Association
- ☐ Pay by credit card—fill out details below:

Card Number ↓ NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print) _____

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Expiry Date (mm yy) _____ Signature _____

Product (Prices include GST)	\$.	Qty	Size/Type	Cost
ABA Cloth Badge	10.00			
ABA Metal Badge	8.00			
ABA Car Sticker	4.00			
ABA Proficiency Badges (eg, 300+)	5.00			
ABA Junior Advanced Badge	6.00			
ABA Cub Advanced Badge	6.00			
ABA Target ID Cards	5.00			
ABA Coloured Identification Card	5.00			
National Bowhunter Education Manual	19.00			
Bowhunting Pocket Guide	5.00			
National Measuring Manual	10.00			
Welcome to Field Archery	14.00			
IFAA Cloth Badge	10.00			
IFAA Metal Badge	8.00			
IFAA Chevron (eg, Hunter)	4.00			
Robin Hood Cloth Badge	9.00			
Robin Hood Metal Badge	8.00			
*TBA Car Sticker	4.00			
*TBA Metal Badge	8.00			
*TBA Cloth Badge	10.00			
#Game Award Badge	9.00			
#Game Award, T/C & R/C Chevrons	6.00			
ABA Peaked Caps	15.00			
Total				

Forward with payment to:
Australian Bowhunters Assoc
PO Box 5124 Brendale Qld 4500
(07) 3256 3976
or email credit card order to:
generalsecretaryaba@gmail.com



SHOOT-CALENDAR

May-June-July

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
May			
4th	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	PCA Field QRE
4th	Eden Field Archers *	SA	Field QRE
4th-5th	Lakeside Bowmen *	D	Queensland IFAA Titles
4th-5th	Gloucester District Archers *	E	ABA Invitational
4th-5th	West Gippsland Field Archers *	G	Victorian 3D Championships
4th-5th	Ipswich Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA
4th-6th	Townsville District Bowhunters *	B	ABA
12th	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
12th	Freds Pass Field Archers *	A	ABA
12th	Dead Centre Bowhunters *	A	ABA
12th	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
12th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
18th-19th	Mount Petrie Bowmen *	Qld	SQAS Target Championship
18th-19th	Wide Bay Archers *	C	Branch Invitational
18th-19th	Pacific Bowmen *	D	ABA
18th-19th	Capital Field Archers *	F	ABA/3D
18th-19th	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen *	H	ABA
18th-19th	Border Bowmen *	I	ABA Paper
18th-19th	Lake Macquarie Field Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
19th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
19th	Full Boar Archers	B	3D
19th	Kurrimine Beach Archers	B	3D
19th	Archery SA *	SA	Max Manuel WA Star
25th	Illawarra Archers *	NSW	Field QRE
26th	Sydney Olympic Park Archers *	NSW	Target QRE
26th	Eden Field Archers *	SA	Eden Field Invitation Tournament
26th	Liverpool City Archers *	NSW	Liverpool Black Snake Field
June			
1st	Eden Field Archers *	SA	Field QRE
1st- 2nd	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	Golden Arrow
1st- 3rd	Greenough Archery Club *	J	Fun Shoot/ABA
2nd	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters *	G	ABA
8th-9th	Towers Bowhunters *	B	Branch Safari
8th-9th	Moranbah Bowhunters and Field Archers *	C	ABA Invitational
8th-9th	Hunter Bowmen *	E	3D State Titles
8th-9th	Mallee Sunset Field Archers *	I	ABA/3D/IFAA
8th-9th	Northern Rivers Field Archers *		3DAAA State of Origin
9th	Mount Isa and District Bowmen	B	ABA
9th	Full Boar Archers	B	3D
9th	Sydney Olympic Park Archers *	NSW	Target QRE
10th-16th	Renegade Bowmen *	D	PRFAC National IFAA Championships
15th-16th	Wagga Wagga Field Archers *	F	Branch 3D Titles

16th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
16th	Kurrimine Beach Archers	B	3D
22nd-23rd	Lower Eyre Archers *	I	ABA Paper
22nd-23rd	Mount Petrie Bowmen *	Qld	SQAS Field Championships
29th-30th	Barambah Bowhunters and Field Archers *	D	ABA
29th-30th	Liverpool City Archers *	NSW	Liverpool Short Distance

July

6th-7th	Mackay and District Bowmen *	B	ABA
6th-7th	Mendooran Archers *	E	Branch IFAA Invitational
6th-7th	Caboolture and District Bowmen *	Qld	3DAAA
6th-9th	Freds Pass Field Archers *	A	NT ABA/3D Titles
7th	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
7th	Bairnsdale Field Archers *	G	ABA
7th	Full Boar Archers	B	3D
7th	Sydney Olympic Park Archers *	NSW	Target QRE
13th-14th	Silver City Archers *	I	Rockery Invitational Paper ABA, 3D
13th-14th	Dubbo 3D Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
14th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
20th-21st	Saxon Archery Club *	C	C vs D ABA
20th-21st	Shellharbour Bowmen *	F	ABA/3D
20th-21st	Bendigo Field Archers *	H	ABA
20th-21st	Western Plains Archers *	J	3D State Titles
20th-21st	ANSW/Liverpool City Archers *	NSW	ASNSW Indoor Championships
20th-21st	Paringa Archers *	Tas	AST/National Indoor Championships
21st	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
21st	Kurrimine Beach Archers	B	3D
27th-28th	Hinterland Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA
28th	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	PCA Winter Field

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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Brendale Qld 4500

Phone (07) 3256 3976

Renewal ☐

New Member ☐

ABA Membership N°:

I, (full name) (M-F)

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

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

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

Email address.....

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

I am a member of (Club)

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

If you do not agree, tick this box: ☐

Signature of Applicant

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

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

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

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

Parent-Guardian Signature ABA Number if Applicable:

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

RENEWALS and/or Advance Memberships for existing members

	12 months	3 years in advance
Adults	\$75	\$205
Juniors-Cubs	\$50	\$145
Families	\$160	\$435

New Members (12-month membership including joining fee)

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

PENSIONER DISCOUNT: Deduct 10% from fees listed.

Quote Pension Benefit Card Number:

All fees include GST

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

Card Number ↓	NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print)															
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	[][][][]				[][][][]				[][][][]				[][][][]			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	[][][][]				[][][][]				[][][][]				[][][][]			
Expiry Date (mm yy)	[][][][]				Signature											

12/ 2018



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



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Wild Boar - Aug to Oct from \$4000 (10 days).

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

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