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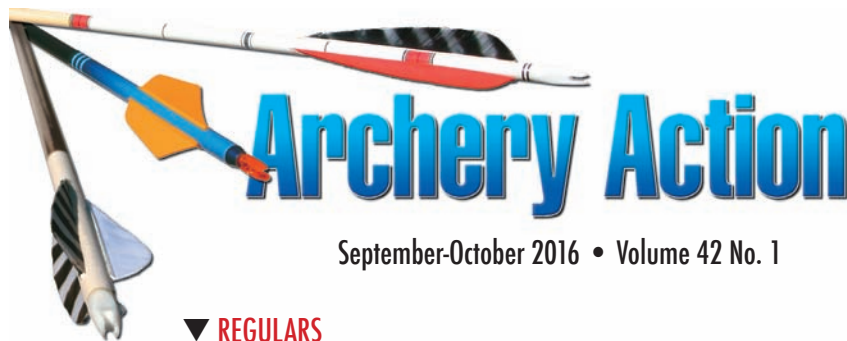
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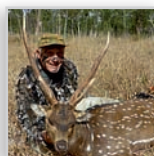
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◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Wade Bygrave sets the pin on a billy during a western Queensland hunt.

Photo by BRENTON MITCHELL

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Australia's first medal in the Rio Olympic Games was a great moment for Australia, and an even better moment for the sport of archery in our country. Congratulations to Alec Potts, Ryan Tyack and Taylor Worth for their accomplishment—a bronze medal in the Men's Archery Team event. I'm sure all the archers of Australia, no matter if their preferred style of archery is for targets, 3D, trad or bowhunting, are basking in the reflected glory!

Of course it's good to see Aussies do well in any sport but really, a medal in what is arguably a niche sport for us is an absolute triumph. This year's trio follows in the footsteps of Tim Cuddihy, 2004 Athens Olympics' Men's Individual bronze medallist and of course Simon Fairweather with his gold medal at our own Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

The Olympic Games also provide us all with an opportunity to admire the very best athletes from throughout the world ... and in the end perhaps the country they hail from takes second place to the fact that this is human endeavour at its most physically elite level. In reality all Olympians are winners, medals or not, and if we are fortunate enough to see graciousness and dignity shown in triumph or defeat, we have been doubly blessed.

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements to:

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ISSUE		DEADLINE
Vol 42 No. 2	November-December	1 October
Vol 42 No. 3	January-February	1 December
Vol 42 No. 4	March-April	1 February



And now, to our own winner: Our 'medal' is a gold pen and the amazing opportunity for a red deer hunt donated by Mick Baker at Trophy Bowhunts Australia. The *Archery Action* Gold Pen Award winner for 2015-16 is Troy Morris with the story, *Big Country, big game*. This is an account of Troy's first, long-awaited donkey (or four)—and he managed to throw in a scrub bull and a boar or two for good measure—during a trip with David Luxford in the Top End (*AA March-April 2016*).

Highly commended are Michael Luxford for his extremely well written single species stories on hog deer and sambar, Mark Burrows for his fallow and buffalo stories, Ben Kleinig's *A dream realised* and Guy Curtis for *Trophies amidst the Dust*. And thank you to Rhys Millington who always gives us a good tale and great photos.

In our judging, we always try to reward a combination of good story and good photos. And on that note, please take care with your photos. Respect your animal in the way you set it up. Clean up any blood, sit or stand next to your animal (not on it) and leave your victory thumb tucked out of sight. Set your phone or camera to its highest resolution (largest file setting), because there's nothing more disappointing than a great picture that can't be blown up past postage-stamp size.

Jenel Hunt
Editor



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FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

QUEST BOAR



ALEX JURIS

in the high country

Over the period of a couple of months I had some great stalks on billies with the Quest G5 Torrent compound bow that Benson Archery in Sydney set up for me.

On one of these outings hunting billies, I had glassed some pigs in the high country with the Steiner Condor 10 x 42 binoculars, but the pigs had vanished into the thick scrub by the time I got to their last-seen location.

On my next outing looking for feral pigs, I spotted a lone pig making its way in my direction along a fenceline. It was a large pig moving steadily and staying near the fence. I decided not to cross over the fence as this could alert the pig to my presence. Instead, I stayed close to the fence and in the early morning shadows.

Ridgelines Buffalo camouflage clothing kept me unseen and soon the pig was very close ... once he presented a sure shot, I sent a three-bladed broadhead arrow into his lungs.

The boar scampered away when hit, stopped at around 30yd, sat down for a second or two and then moved off again. I could see the boar's blood trail and soon found him sitting on all fours in some long grass. Watching him from around 40yd, I had the sinking feeling that the boar was not done for.

Stalking in cautiously and at around 20 paces from

him, I prepared to put the finishing arrow into the boar. I brought the Quest G5 bow to full draw and arrowed him again low behind the shoulder.

He jumped to his feet and looked straight at me. I was standing very still but he knew my position, and with evil intent in his look he charged me. (Next time that I need to arrow a feral pig a second time I will ensure that I am more concealed!)

I made an instinctive decision to hold my position and watch him approach—once he was very close I moved to one side and pushed the side of his head away from me with the part of the bow that has the bolt to tighten the limb and adjust the draw weight. This action with the bow moved the boar away from me and he ran on for a few more yards before collapsing.

I stayed very still and watched him lying there on his side. There was no more movement from the boar but now I was being extra vigilant, preparing the bow again before moving position slightly. With bow at the ready, I approached him very carefully. This time, I could see the boar was done for—wow, that had been a very close encounter—and he was a thumper!

My bow had taken its first boar. I looked down and the bow's name stood out clearly against its camo pattern. Quest. And it had been a successful one.

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about the bow

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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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Gippsland, Victoria	Lee Solomon	0476 786 180
Central and Greater Victoria	Wendy Gallagher	0429 959 402
South Australia	Bob Maynard	(03) 5024 2592
Western Australia	Glenn Hosken	0437 195 788
Tasmania – see Victoria		
Trophy Bowhunters of Australia	Ralph Boden	(02) 4392 6810

BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Vice-President Bowhunting)



NSW DPI illegal bowhunting meeting

Scott Heiman and I attended the second NSW DPI Illegal Bowhunting Stakeholder Meeting in Sydney in late June. From an archery perspective this meeting was also attended by 3DAAA, Traditional Archers, Archery Alliance and Archery Australia. Several NSW government departments were also in attendance, including the DPI, Game Licencing, Police,

Fisheries, Parks and Wildlife, along with Animal Welfare and the NSW Farmers Association. This meeting was mainly to rationalise strategies and review initiatives that were reported in the June/July edition of *Archery Action*.

The DPI is moving ahead with this and is approaching the problem from two directions—education and conviction of those

blatantly breaking the law. Finalisation of all proposals will be decided at the third and last meeting which is scheduled for sometime in August. You can be assured that the ABA and the Archery Alliance are working on behalf of our members to make sure this affects law-abiding bow-and-arrow owners as little as possible. Illegal use of bows and arrows is a criminal activity. If you know of anyone doing the wrong thing, pass this information on to the appropriate authorities. You won't be 'dobbing' anyone in. You will be protecting our right to continue to use our archery equipment. I will give a full report once we have all the information.

Bowfishing

This will be the last big push. As I said 12 months or so ago, you will probably get sick of me going on about bowfishing. The ABA, along with the NSW DPI, Game Licencing Department and NSW Fisheries has put in a lot of effort to get bowfishing for carp off the ground and we need

to support it. The DPI had a base set of figures in mind for what could be considered successful participation when the bowfishing trial started. At this stage those figures have not been reached. From my perspective, this is very disappointing. A government department is offering us something extra to use our bows for and we as bowhunting enthusiasts are not supporting it. I do, however, sincerely thank those who have made the effort.

The bowfishing trial goes further than just shooting a few carp. It is an interaction with the authorities that govern what we do. We need to get off our butts and not be so apathetic. Positive action here could lead to many opportunities down the track. But if we are seen to be not all that interested here, why would they help us out in the future?

If you haven't got your NSW fishing licence and Section 37, please make the effort. The trial is scheduled to finish at the end of June 2017 so there is plenty of time to get out and get amongst the carp. Again,

please make the effort. If all goes well with the NSW trial and there is enough perceived participation then it will give me an opportunity to lobby the pertinent departments in Victoria and try and get something similar established in that State. Queensland would also be targetted. Our best chance is to see the NSW trial successful. So please get out there and be a part of it.

Bowfishing competition

To encourage further participation in the bowfishing trial, the Bowhunting Division will be hosting a carp bowfishing competition on the weekend of November 19 and 20. This will be based at Jingellic east of Albury on the NSW-Victorian border. Jingellic worked well last year. There are several bowfishing access points within a reasonable drive and it also encourages more Victorians to participate. The rest of NSW will not be left out. It will be a two-part competition allowing participation State wide for those not able to travel to Jingellic.

Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

Species	Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Boar	Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29 6/8	25
Goat	James Finlay	151 2/8	113 4/8	95
Buffalo	John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Camel	Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Fox	Dave Parker	10 15/16	10 6/16	9 3/16
Cat	Tim Pitt-Lancaster	8 5/16	7 10/16	7
Red Deer	Dan Smith	315 3/8	190 1/8	175
Fallow Deer	Jason Robinson	264 5/8	180	150
Chital Deer	Dan Smith	204	150 5/8	140
Hog Deer	Stephen Tilley	111 7/8	70	55
Sambar Deer	Dean Scott	203 5/8	162 7/8	140
Rusa Deer	Toby Gall	231 6/8	168 5/8	150
Shark BHFF	Barry Feeney	35 2/8	28	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	9 1/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

Women's Bowshot Records

Boar	Lynda Fell	32 2/8pt	1991
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Emma Johnson	87 2/8pt	2015
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 11/16pt	2000
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt	2014
Fallow Deer	Margaret Cowin	150 7/8pt	1997
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt	2010
Hog Deer	Nil		
Sambar Deer	Nil		
Rusa Deer	April Stoneman	180 3/8pt	2014
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell	23 2/8pt	2014
Shark BF	Lynda Fell	23 5/8pt	2000
Stingray BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986

A bowfishing package, including a Taipan compound bowfishing bow, bowfishing reel and fish arrow, generously supplied by Abbey Archery, will be the major prize for the most carp taken over the weekend. Only those who weigh-in their catch at Jingellic will be eligible for this prize. There will also be prizes for the longest fish as well as most fish for male, female and junior.

If you can't make Jingellic then you can enter your catch with pictures via TXT. The finer details of how this will operate will be sent out to competitors via email once they have registered to be a part of the competition. Gift vouchers for most carp male, female and junior, generously supplied by Planet Archery, will be awarded to the winners of the TXT competition.

If you are interested in either part of this bowfishing competition, email me at vpbowhunting@bowhunters.org.au to register. Simply state your name, your Section 37 number and whether you are going to be at Jingellic or participating by TXT. If by TXT then I will need your mobile number as well. If the TXT side of the competition is successful then we may do another competition early next year solely based around TXT.

Don't forget that all competitors will have to log onto the bowfishing portal and register your intent to bowfish. No prizes will be given out until your intent to bowfish number is verified.

TBA shirts

The new TBA shirts are now available for purchase. These are a bit more upmarket than any previous TBA shirt. They are available direct from me at \$40.00 each if you pick them up or \$50.00 if they are posted. Email me at vpbowhunting@bowhunters.org.au and I will get back



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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award FK/FKOS	Size
B Jyri Iivonen	Townsville and District Bhtrs	Chital Deer	TC	142 5/8
B Tony Lasker	Towers Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	RC	217 2/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Red Deer	RC	209
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	RC	218
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	25 4/8
B Stephen Kidd	Mackay District Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 8/16
B Stephen Kidd	Mackay District Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	RC	219 4/8
B John Mitchell	Towers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	28
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Fallow Deer	TC	162 1/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Fallow Deer	RC	203 1/8
B Richard Morrison	Mt Isa District Bowhunters	Feral Cat	TC	7
B Graham Wienert	Independent	Chital Deer	TC	145 5/8
B Graham Wienert	Independent	Pig	TC	25 2/8
B Malcolm Meehan	Townsville and District Bhtrs	Camel	TC FKOS	28 3/8
B Jay Janssen	Mackay District Bowhunters	Goat	TC	112 4/8
B Jay Janssen	Mackay District Bowhunters	Goat	TC	101 6/8
B Jay Janssen	Mackay District Bowhunters	Goat	TC	100

to you with all the purchase details and sizes. Don't forget you have to be a TBA member to purchase these shirts.

Best of Species 2015 correction

Our apologies to Candice Sutherland

who should have been recognised for her outstanding achievement in taking a record class red deer measuring 204 6/8pt during the 2015 Bowhunting Awards year. Candice has now been recognised as taking the 2015 Women's Best of Species award for red deer.



B Jay Janssen	Mackay District Bowhunters	Goat	TC	102 2/8
B Jay Janssen	Mackay District Bowhunters	Goat	TC	107 2/8
B Jay Janssen	Mackay District Bowhunters	Rusa Deer	RC	197 6/8
C Troy Dickinson	Independent	Red Deer	RC FKS	209 7/8
C Troy Dickinson	Independent	Red Deer	RC FKS	255 3/8
D Eric Creighton	Grange Bowmen	Feral Cat	GA FKS	0
D Nathan Emslie	Grange Bowmen	Hare	GA FKOS	0
D Bevan Blacklock	Renegade Bowmen	Red Deer	TC FKOS	177 1/8
D Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Fallow Deer	RC	190 4/8
D Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Chital Deer	GA FKOS	0
D Brad Beach	Pacific Bowmen	Fallow Deer	RC	186 7/8
D Brad Beach	Pacific Bowmen	Pig	TC	27
D Brad Beach	Pacific Bowmen	Pig	TC	25
E Luke Sampson	Dubbo and District Field Archers	Red Deer	RC FK	193 6/8
E Luke Sampson	Dubbo and District Field Archers	Pig	GA FKOS	0
E Jason Shortt	Independent	Fallow Deer	TC	171 2/8
E Jason Shortt	Independent	Fallow Deer	TC	163 5/8
E Jason Shortt	Independent	Fallow Deer	TC	179 1/8
E Jason Shortt	Independent	Goat	TC	101
E Jason Shortt	Independent	Fallow Deer	TC	103 3/8
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	TC	104 2/8
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Fallow Deer	TC	153 4/8
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Fallow Deer	RC	194
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	TC	108 4/8
F Neville Ashton	Campbelltown & District FA	Fallow Deer	TC	171
F Rob Messer	Campbelltown & District FA	Goat	TC	111 5/8
F Rob Messer	Campbelltown & District FA	Feral Cat	GA FKS	6 10/16
F Neville Ashton-May	Campbelltown & District FA	Goat	RC	119 3/8
F Neville Ashton-May	Campbelltown & District FA	Pig	TC	25 2/8
F Graeme Larkings	Forbes Lachlan River Archers	Goat	TC	107 4/8
F Ethan Zadro	Shellharbour Bowmen	Red Deer	TC FK/FKOS	176
G Tammy Richards	West Gippsland Field Archers	Feral Cat	GA FKS	6 12/16
G Lee Solomon	West Gippsland Field Archers	Fox	TC	9 3/16
G Lee Solomon	West Gippsland Field Archers	Fox	TC	9 7/16
G John McNamara	Bendigo Field Archers	Goat	FKOS	76 2/8
G Zeb Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	RC	184 1/8
G Zeb Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 9/16
G Zeb Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 15/16
G Zeb Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Feral Cat	TC	7 1/16
G Jamie Harrington	West Gippsland Field Archers	Chital Deer	GA FKOS	107 2/8
G Paul Eagle	Boola Valley Field Archers	Fallow Deer	GA FKOS	0
G Paul Eagle	Boola Valley Field Archers	Pig	TC FKOS	27 4/8
G Paul Eagle	Boola Valley Field Archers	Chital Deer	RC FKOS	155 1/8
H Brad Hadden	Mt Clay Archers	Fox	TC FKOS	9 6/16
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Goat	RC	114 4/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Goat	TC	109 3/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Goat	TC	102 5/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Goat	TC	102 4/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Goat	RC	127 6/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Goat	TC	102 6/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Goat	TC	109 1/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Pig	TC	25 2/8
H Bradley Seagrott	Western Melbourne FA	Fox	TC	9 9/16
H Jonathan Layton	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Rabbit	GA FK/FKOS	0
H Jonathan Layton	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC FKOS	9 3/16
H Jonathan Layton	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Cat	TC FKOS	7 3/16
H Dean Scott	Independent	Fallow Deer	GA FKOS	0
H Dylan Evans	Mt Clay Archers	Fox	TC	9 6/16
H Tim Pitt-Lancaster	Mt Clay Archers	Fallow Deer	TC	156 4/8
H Shane Donnison	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Sambar Deer	GA FKS	0
H Shane Donnison	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fallow Deer	TC FKS	152 6/8
I Russell Watherston	Lower Eyre Archers	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	0
J Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Sambar Deer	GA FKS	116 2/8
J Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Pig	GA FKS	0
J Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Fallow Deer	GA FKS	0
J Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Hog Deer	TC	64
J Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC	9 13/16
J Joshua Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC FKOS	9 10/16
J Jarred Brown	Peel Archers	Shark BHFF	TC	15 4/8
J Jarred Brown	Peel Archers	Shark BHFF	TC	16 3/8



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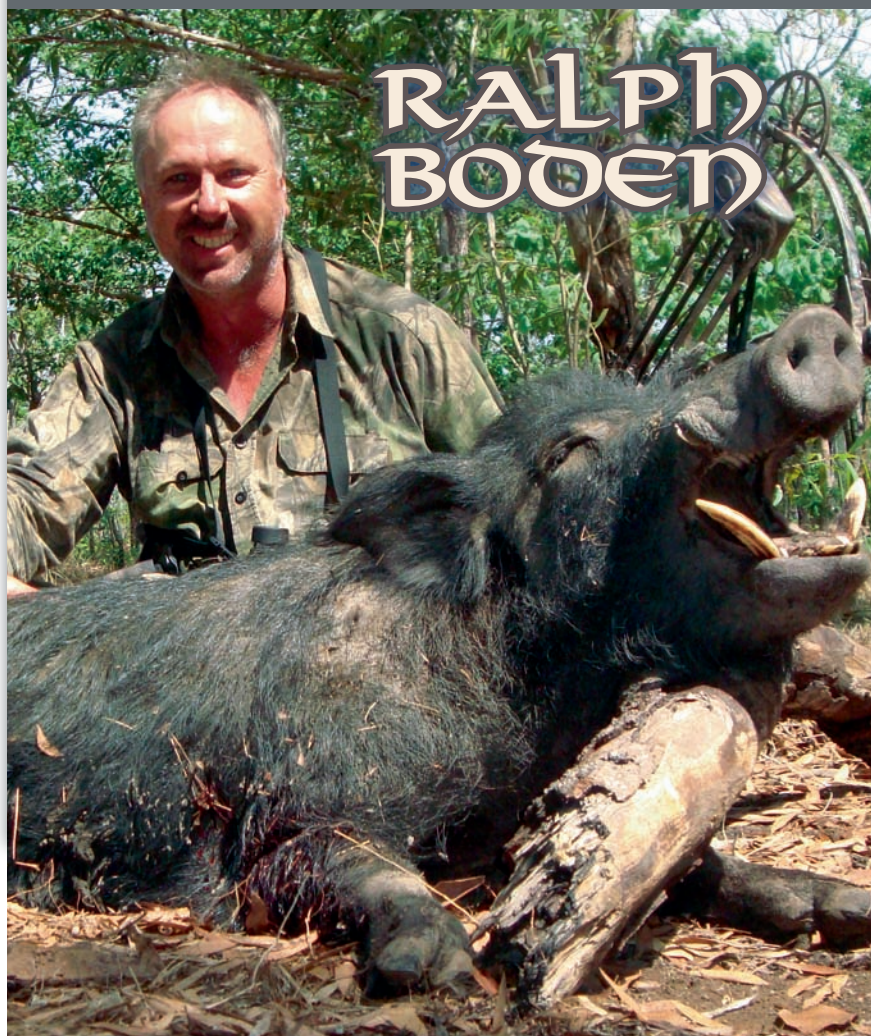
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TBA PROFILE



Introducing Trophy Bowhunters Association Committee chairman



TBA Committee Chairman Ralph Boden lives in New South Wales on the Central Coast in the Wyong district and is a life member of the Central Coast Moonterra Archers, where he has been a member for 19 years. Over this time, he has held several positions on the bowhunting side of things within the club of which he is currently the club BPC officer and measurer.

On the Branch level he held the

position of Branch E Field Rep for many years which he readily admits was both a rewarding and frustrating job throughout various periods. Along with this position he was also the Branch measuring instructor for Branch E.

Around 2004 he nominated for the TBA Committee and was accepted.

"I found this to be a great opportunity to get to know a lot of senior members of the TBA and bowhunters

in general, The wealth of knowledge about bowhunting in Australia and overseas was remarkable," he said.

"Somewhere along the line I ended up as the Chairman of the TBA Committee and I was lucky enough to have the help of the previous Chairman David Luxford."

Ralph's interest in Bowhunting started around 1975 with a 50# recurve on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. Where he lived it was a matter of "over the back fence and you were in the bush chasing rabbits, foxes, feral cats and the odd deer."

"And I do say chasing, as I was not very successful with the recurve bow considering the amount of arrows that I lost or broke!"

Back in those days they were timber shafts with Bodkin broadheads, but a few years later Ralph purchased a 60# Browning Cobra compound one-piece timber laminated bow and from there he has predominantly shot compounds, adding sights and release aid over the past 15 years.

Around 1996/97 Ralph joined the ABA and Central Coast Moonterra Archers which he said opened his eyes to the bowhunting system of the Association. From there, things flowed along with many bowhunting trips with a few of the members from the Moonterra club.

"It was always great to see new members harvest their first game and it was not uncommon to have new members turn up at my doorstep with a rabbit or a set of goats horns asking, 'What do we do now?'," he said.

"I really enjoy being out in the bush with my two boys stalking rabbits, whistling foxes or hunting deer and goats—it's all an adventure.

"Over the past few years I have travelled up to Arnhem Land with a few good hunting buddies chasing boars and buffalo. These trips I really enjoy as you are there purely to hunt and the phones don't work up there.

Peace and quiet!"

Several recent issues of *Archery Action* have had a TBA Committee member profile in them. These are ABA members from around the country. The idea of this promotion is to let members know who the TBA Committee members are and what the Committee is about, so that if they have any productive questions regarding the bowhunting system through ABA they know who to ask.

To become a TBA member it is necessary to:

1. Sit for your Bowhunter Proficiency Certificate. This should be able

to be done at your local ABA club.

2. Go bowhunting where you have permission to hunt. If you don't have access to places to hunt look at some of the paid properties, as some of them are very productive.

3. Get your game measured. Should you be lucky enough to harvest some of the measurable species, go through your Club Measurer and have it recorded and submitted to ABA. Should your game measure Trophy class or better and you have adhered to the rules of fair chase, congratulations, you are now a member of TBA.

TBA MUSTER

The past four years have seen the introduction of the TBA Muster, held every two years at a different location.

The next TBA Muster will be held at ABA Park at Mudgee, NSW. This is open to anyone who wishes to attend and will be held in September 2017.

The first Muster in 2013 was held at the Wide Bay Archers in Queensland and the second one, in 2015, was held at the South West Slopes Sporting Field Archers in Tumut, NSW. TBA thanks the clubs and their members for their previous help with these events. The TBA Committee would like to thank Dave Whiting and the Trophy Takers Association for their assistance with the Tumut Muster.

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Australian IFAA Championships

ABA Park, Mudgee




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The outstanding facilities at ABA Park have been achieved in just 18 months, an organisational feat that is largely due to the work of National President Mike White, with the support of Mark Burrows, Joe ‘Bulldozer’ Haley and some help from me.

Mike spent more time at ABA Park than at home over the past six months and much of that time was by himself with the odd visitor to help out and provide some company. The Association owes Mike a well-deserved vote of thanks for his untiring work in seeing the project through to completion.

Additionally, there were 24 other members including National Executive officers who attended working bees as well as those who turned up early to assist in getting the venue ready. The Association extends its thanks to all those who assisted in bringing the dream of ABA Park to fruition and will recognise their efforts in the near future.

What a start to the inaugural shoot at ABA Park—a last-minute rush to put the finishing touches to the amenities and the courses with a great deal of effort

from a long list of volunteers. At the opening ceremony, Branch D Controller Trevor Pickett presented ABA President Mike White with an honour board denoting the Life Members and Syd Green Memorial Award winners. The honour board now hangs in the administration building at ABA Park.

The Tuesday saw travellers starting to arrive under cloudy skies but with no rain. Wednesday, practice day, again had reasonable weather and all was looking great for the 230 shooters (the most ever for a national IFAA shoot) to kick off the competition, however the skies opened up during the night and the rain saw many of the archers take the option of not starting the competition until the following day as better weather was forecast for the rest of the event (although there were five days of shooting, archers were only required to complete one of each of hunter, field and animal rounds; where two hunter and field rounds were completed, the best score was to count).

The second day of the competition was cold, wet and windy but the majority of the archers took to the courses to brave the weather conditions. A familiar sound heard out on the ranges was a ‘ping’ as another arrow came into contact with either the top or bottom of the metal frame that held the Morrell targets in place. Unfortunately these targets are not freestanding and it was nec-



ABA HONOUR BOARD					
LIFE MEMBERS	BRANCH	YEAR	LIFE MEMBERS	BRANCH	YEAR
Tom Doctor	A	1978	David Luxford		2011
Peter Pickin	C	1979	Stephen Kidd		2012
Peter Kent	I	1978	Alan & Delma Archer		2013
Kevin Whiting	B	1978	Jim Newman		2013
Marion Whiting	B	1978	Jeanette Dowd		2014
Dennis Lambert	D	1981	Garry Pitt		2015
Darryl Perrett	D	1981			
John Ursem	D	1981			
Richard Snape	H	1983			
Delma Archer	B	1986			
Roger Wagner	E	1989			
Werner Jaeger	H	1989			
Trevor Gough	B	1991			
Henry Rossie	D	1991			
Tom Mitchell	B	1993			
Syd Green	D	1993			
Eric Creighton	D	1999			
Dennis La Varenne	F	2000			
Peter Macey	O	2003			
Wendy Newton	H	2003			
Jan Holmes	C	2004			
Doug Weare	C	2004			
Stephen Fuller	C	2007			
Mal Thomas	G	2007			
Keith Goldsmith	H	2007			
Susan Green	C	2010			
Alan Podlich	D	2010			
Robert Dover	D	2011			



Clockwise from top left: The new honour board, cold weather made it popular in front of the fire, Action Graphics provided signage, new amenities at ABA Park.



essary to construct a durable frame to anchor them in position. Despite the targets being sizeable—4ft by 3ft—arrows continued to be attracted to the metal framework and something had to be done about it. On Saturday, Mike White and I went off to town to purchase lengths of timber which were then cut and screwed

to the bottom and top of the target frames on all butts where the shot was 44yd or over.

This third day of the competition was again cold and windy, but no rain fell and the following two days had a forecast of clear skies. The persistent wind had one blessing in that it dried out the range tracks,

camping grounds and the 8km or so of dirt road into ABA Park. The clubhouse, warmed by a large wood heater, proved a popular meeting place especially for the youngsters who gathered around the fire each evening. Saturday saw a full complement of archers on the courses as many competitors only arrived on the



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Friday to shoot the last three days of the championships.

The final two days, although the temperatures hovered close to zero early on, were warm with clear skies and there was an upbeat atmosphere amongst the competitors. The ranges were some of the most difficult ever encountered by Aussie archers on their home turf, but

despite this and the resultant lower scores overall, almost all those who attended agreed that it was a most worthwhile and enjoyable trip.

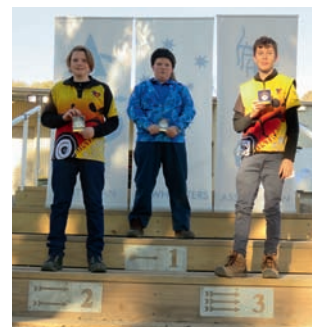
A big thank-you to all those who assisted in some way and especially those who ran the kitchen and ensured that hot food was available to competitors. Also thanks to John and Bev Ursem from Action Graphics

who sponsored the signage for the road, ranges and amenities.

The Tuesday after competition was clean-up day and this was achieved by midday mainly because competitors had ensured their campsites were left in pristine condition as were the courses—very little rubbish was found. What a great effort by all concerned.



Up hill ... and down dale.



A set of stairs did double duty as the podium for placegetters.

Australian IFAA Championships

RESULTS

Name	Hunter	Field	Hunter	Field	Animal	Total	2 Hugo Lobb	391	425	422	427	506	1355
Cub Girls Barebow Compound							Cub Boys Barebow Compound						
1 Josie Hatch	0	413	395	445	476	1316	1 Seth Harris	0	288	293	336	442	1071
2 Marnie Little	0	0	371	377	384	1132	2 Zachary Aldred	0	264	297	286	376	959
3 Casey Ormiston	0	286	dnf	246	322	608	Cub Boys Freestyle UnLimited						
Cub Girls Freestyle UnLimited							1 Nicholas Scarlett	510	519	531	517	550	1600
1 Alyssa Mollema	0	537	535	544	560	1639	2 Aidan Young	0	504	485	487	532	1521
2 Amber Reinbott	0	0	506	524	558	1588	3 Will Tilbrook	0	464	477	485	540	1502
3 Ella Tilbrook	0	343	393	401	494	1288	Junior Girls Bowhunter Recurve C Class						
Cub Boys Barebow Recurve							1 Mikayla Harris	0	80	95	89	180	364
1 Jamie Hatch	0	450	454	464	502	1420	Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound C Class						

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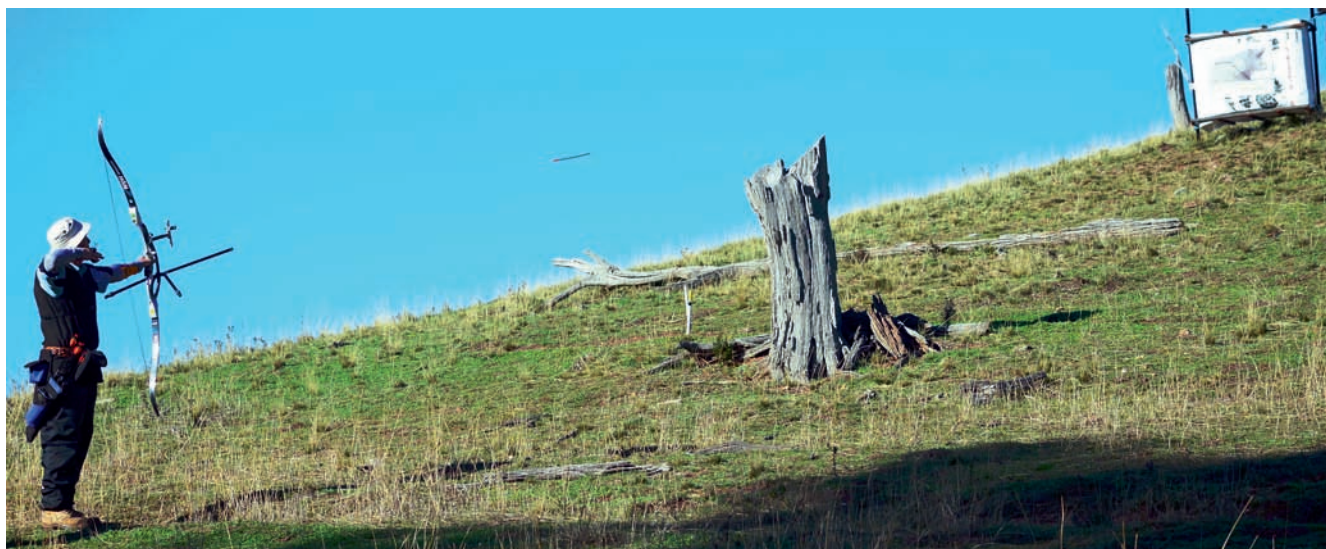
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1 Sophie L Hartcher	0	115	101	0	308	524	1 Alexandra Canning	0	0	374	377	440	1191
Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound B Class							Young Adult Womens Freestyle UnLimited B Class						
1 Tilly White	0	242	151	192	330	723	1 Jessie-Rose Walklate	0	499	491	491	556	1546
Junior Girls Bowhunter UnLimited C Class							2 Lara Timmis	0	0	385	369	466	1220
1 Nysha Willaton	0	0	363	368	472	1203	Young Adult Mens Freestyle UnLimited Ungraded						
Junior Girls Freestyle UnLimited B Class							1 Bradley Matthews	0	469	0	0	0	469
1 Lily Stewart	0	505	494	494	512	1511	Young Adult Mens Freestyle UnLimited A Class						
2 Madeline Boyle	0	dnf	483	472	538	1493	1 Blake Hayes	470	496	514	508	554	1576
3 Lily Quirke	0	0	411	427	528	1366	2 Samuel Willoughby	0	0	506	498	556	1560
Junior Girls Freestyle UnLimited A Class							Veteran Ladies Longbow						
1 Annaleigh Carter	0	0	466	502	548	1516	1 Joy Wood	94	128	119	99	234	481
Junior Boys Bowhunter Recurve C Class							Veteran Ladies Bowhunter Compound						
1 Callum Berry	0	0	80	118	278	476	1 Liz Guthrie	0	333	368	294	412	1113
Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound B Class							Veteran Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited						
1 M. Walker-York-Moore	0	313	323	0	430	1066	1 Helen Thomas	0	0	330	340	484	1154
2 Brodie Hatch	0	287	258	20	420	965	Veteran Ladies Freestyle UnLimited						
Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited C Class							1 Marie Hulbert	0	486	499	0	542	1527
1 James Terras	0	224	224	224	408	856	2 Fenny Thompson	0	435	469	469	540	1478
Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited B Class							Veteran Mens Longbow						
1 Jack Steele	0	400	422	412	520	1354	1 Geoffrey Blake	246	209	217	173	394	849
2 Hayden Ormiston	333	342	342	333	494	1178	2 Trevor Pickett	0	82	86	0	230	398
Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited A Class							Veteran Mens Bowhunter UnLimited						
1 Nate Chandler	509	508	486	0	556	1573	1 Peter Mosse	0	0	495	506	554	1555
2 Luke Agnew	0	477	476	0	552	1505	2 Mark Burrows	464	487	499	488	548	1535
Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited C Class							3 Jeffrey Jennings	0	444	439	460	518	1417
1 Joshua Ford	0	0	334	368	426	1128	Veteran Mens Freestyle UnLimited						
2 Mitchell Timmis	0	0	285	274	420	979	1 Dennis Carson	0	527	530	528	558	1616
3 Andrew Prazauskas	0	0	198	169	394	761	2 Geoffrey Blesing	0	520	522	508	554	1596
Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited B Class							3 Barney Miller	0	515	511	508	558	1584
1 Mitchel Agnew	0	486	493	492	556	1541	Ladies Longbow C Class						
Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited A Class							1 Cathie Munns	0	0	118	136	204	458
1 Peter Hearne	0	529	521	520	560	1610	2 Anne-Marie Corgat	90	82	98	0	206	386
2 Jaxsen Wells	0	513	516	507	556	1585	3 Tracy Hickey	0	0	89	102	168	359
3 Hugh Fabbro	0	459	469	494	550	1513	Ladies Longbow B Class						
Young Adult Womens Bowhunter UnLimited B Class							1 Shirlenne Fulton	0	80	114	72	248	442





Ladies Bowhunter Recurve C Class

1 Pauline Hunter	198	189	209	139	278	676
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Ladies Bowhunter Recurve B Class

1 Glenys Allen	0	298	277	271	418	993
2 Toni Ormiston	269	258	274	220	368	900

Ladies Bowhunter Compound C Class

1 Kimberley Songberg	0	0	146	170	342	658
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Ladies Bowhunter Compound B Class

1 Ann Stubbs	0	0	282	245	460	987
2 Annette Christensen	0	0	277	273	340	890
3 Tania Harris	0	200	204	0	374	778

Ladies Bowhunter Compound A Class

1 Rebecca Hatch	0	307	360	340	478	1178
2 Libby White	0	322	330	344	490	1164

Ladies Bowhunter Limited C Class

1 Sindy Avard	0	dnf	280	289	426	995
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Ladies Bowhunter Limited B Class

1 Joanne Bogie	0	436	446	453	536	1435
2 Edna Aitchison	0	324	320	292	506	1150
3 Raylene Starke	0	313	292	298	458	1063

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited C Class

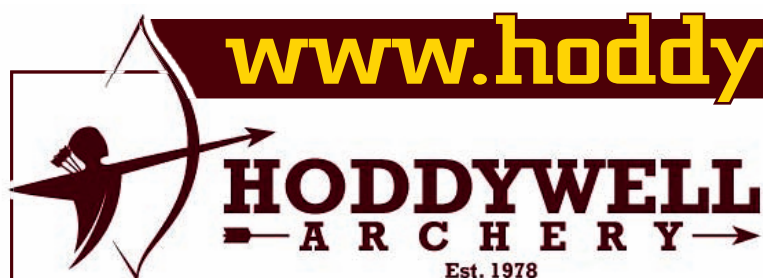
1 Donna Butt	0	0	288	293	468	1049
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Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited B Class

1 Katie Mann	457	451	469	475	542	1486
2 Evette Terras	0	452	463	419	528	1443
3 Amanda Tilbrook	0	403	419	395	514	1336

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited A Class

1 Kerry Chandler	475	493	482	469	554	1529
2 Jeanette Dowd	466	488	491	480	548	1527
3 Donna Ormiston	471	467	468	458	554	1492



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Ladies Freestyle Limited Recurve C Class

1	Kathy Vaughan	0	317	179	0	398	894
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Ladies Freestyle Limited Recurve B Class

1	Wendy Gorton	0	337	363	0	436	1136
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Ladies Freestyle Limited Compound C Class

1	Annette Stevens	0	262	321	292	434	1047
2	Julie Morrissey	0	72	91	0	334	497

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited C Class

1	Tara Moore	0	477	481	482	540	1503
2	Loretta Maloney	0	272	233	0	496	1001

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited B Class

1	Karen R Smedley	0	464	477	457	554	1495
2	Holly Woodward	0	0	442	458	528	1428
3	Dianne Houghton	0	436	426	438	530	1394

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited A Class

1	Diann Benson	0	0	497	501	552	1550
2	Shayna Dowd	470	485	509	487	546	1542
3	Michelle Hunter	0	457	494	476	550	1520

Mens Historical Bow Ungraded

1	Peter Rogers	0	129	143	109	206	478
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Mens Longbow C Class							3 Robert Gleeson	363	419	337	374	488	1270
1 Allan Driver	0	0	142	132	274	548	Mens Bowhunter Limited A Class						
2 Joe Haley	85	82	118	78	206	406	1 Kevin Dowd	415	440	411	427	520	1375
3 Adam Murray	0	91	129	70	168	388	Mens Bowhunter UnLimited Ungraded						
Mens Longbow B Class							1 Andrew McMillan	0	0	369	0	0	369
1 Ken Hardingham	219	227	218	225	356	802	Mens Bowhunter UnLimited B Class						
2 Jason Chandler	165	190	189	187	358	737	1 Ryan Tilbrook	0	471	466	451	540	1477
3 James Judge	186	234	0	0	312	732	2 Nathan Butterfield	472	469	469	464	532	1473
Mens Bowhunter Recurve C Class							3 Richard Grosser	0	0	449	468	552	1469
1 Bryan Harris	145	209	0	0	300	654	Mens Bowhunter UnLimited A Class						
2 Dirk Craigie	104	106	150	131	284	565	1 Bradley Stephan	503	517	519	519	558	1596
Mens Bowhunter Recurve B Class							2 Damien Ormiston	493	517	518	509	560	1595
1 Karl Peck	319	336	348	310	430	1114	3 Terry Bassett	0	515	511	510	554	1580
2 Paul Lovelock	266	268	295	272	470	1037	Mens Freestyle Limited Recurve B Class						
3 Stewart Houghton	0	289	300	282	360	949	1 Kenneth Thompson	423	423	420	410	528	1374
Mens Bowhunter Recurve A Class							2 Paul Innes	365	397	401	394	504	1302
1 Kel Ormiston	362	356	383	362	458	1203	3 Ray Schofield	344	352	345	370	474	1189
Mens Barebow Recurve C Class							Mens Freestyle Limited Compound B Class						
1 Shane Walker	0	173	209	0	370	752	1 Malcolm Gorton	0	406	402	391	498	1306
Mens Barebow Recurve A Class							2 David Morrissey	0	309	322	365	490	1177
1 Bruce Kelleher	0	0	371	326	472	1169	Mens Freestyle Limited Compound A Class						
Mens Bowhunter Compound Ungraded							1 Trevor Aldred	0	440	468	467	546	1481
1 Brian E Turner	0	167	dnf	0	0	167	Mens Freestyle UnLimited Ungraded						
Mens Bowhunter Compound B Class							1 Peter Pike	0	0	dns	469	544	1013
1 Adam Lebner	321	351	382	364	512	1258	Mens Freestyle UnLimited C Class						
2 Michael J Parker	0	389	366	398	492	1256	1 Dean Songberg	0	0	431	452	530	1413
3 Alan Scarlett	295	290	327	281	450	1067	2 Neil Russell	385	385	417	356	514	1316
Mens Bowhunter Compound A Class							3 Brett Paddison	0	233	203	237	384	824
1 Alwyn W Bell	410	449	456	447	532	1437	Mens Freestyle UnLimited B Class						
2 Matthew Hatch	0	450	455	428	524	1429	1 John Mollema	0	512	514	511	550	1576
3 Wade Hudson	0	0	460	441	522	1423	2 Lee Solomon	492	0	499	505	554	1558
Mens Barebow Compound A Class							3 Glen Barram	483	496	515	479	542	1553
1 Jeff Bell	422	457	458	0	514	1429	Mens Freestyle UnLimited A Class						
Mens Bowhunter Limited B Class							1 Justin Olexienko	526	537	545	543	558	1646
1 Nelson Mann	403	417	424	411	544	1385	2 Rory Smith	0	0	535	539	558	1632
2 Daryl Venables	403	423	421	394	514	1358	3 Scott B Buscombe	0	0	536	534	556	1626





Outback summer BOWHUNTING

Goats galore.



by RHYS MILLINGTON

Picking my way through the scrub by headlamp, I arrived at the dam I would be hunting after parking the ute some distance away. As the darkness faded, the first bleats of feral goats could be heard in the distance, on their way in for their daily drink. As always, this brought much excitement of what this summer morning would produce and what trophies might just wander in.

It was my first hunt for the year out west on this property, which I planned to visit a number of times wherever possible, in between a few other hunts, chasing feral pigs and

goats. As the sun poked up, the first goats began to water, and soon I was looking at a number of mobs of young goats having a drink. A nanny on heat crested the wall, with a handful of keen billies on her tail, and they proceeded to give her a hiding only 20m in front of me. I'd seen enough, and cracked the biggest one who died on the spot, which sent his mates running, and secured some meat for the dogs to enjoy.

The rest of the morning only saw visits by younger billies with good potential, and as the property musters goats for good money these days, I needed to be selective, and

let them be. A young meat goat however presented a good shot at 40m, which I took with another clean pass-through.

After processing the meat, I looked up to see an old broken-horned billy in poor condition bedded up, so decided I would take him if he was still there when I was done. Sure enough, once the meat was hanging, I headed over, and with plenty of cover, was able to get into 20m undetected, and took a quartering-away shot on the old billy. He only made 10m before passing out.

On the next trip, my brother and I were headed for a recon mission on



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a new property, and while the main goal was to scout the large property, we hoped to also bump into some game. The first morning saw us sitting on a tank which had a number of dead cattle in its vicinity. A cheeky fox was the first animal to pop up some 50m away, and after slowly backing out, I quickly sneaked around to his position behind the cover of the tank. Easing up over the wall, I soon located him, and put him down from 15m, with the arrow disappearing into the water behind with a splash.

No pigs visited and the temperature was starting to increase so we decided to make our way on foot to the next water source. We started to come across some sign indicating a bedding area, and before long we caught the flicker of an ear in some shade. Koby crept within range, and on cue the young boar rose to his feet, before copping a well placed Terra Firma shaft from 30m.

The rest of the day saw us get very unlucky on a number of occasions, spooking unseen pigs or seeing only young pigs and piglets. At times the wind was unreliable and even a D-loop failure occurred for Koby while he was drawing on a boar. The only luck we had was that I got a young sow, and the fact that we managed to scope out a few

new areas for some future hunts.

The next and final day unfortunately followed the same pattern of the day before luck wise, with a handful of boars seen, but they managed to get the better of us on each occasion. The luck finally swung in our favour however late morning, when we spotted a cracker old billy making his way in to water. On the



hoof he looked really impressive, and after he finally finished his drink and stood broadside, Koby's arrow flew true, and the goat was on the ground within five seconds. He measured 36 inches tip to tip, and sported a nice curly set which Koby was wrapped with.

We both had some unsuccessful hunts due to weather and low numbers after this trip, before the hard work finally paid off for me on the following hunt. A week of hot weather with a number of days over 40 degrees had me once again heading out in search of some trophy billies.

After setting it up with the property owner, I made the mistake of not checking if the dam I aimed to hunt still had water in it first, and to my dismay when I arrived at daybreak it was indeed dry. I quickly re-hatched the plan, and began a fast march toward the next dam over 3km away.

I approached the dam much later than I had originally hoped,





but at least the sound of goats confirmed this one had water. With that, I almost walked into a nice billy slowly moping along. I didn't waste any time in nocking a shaft, creeping up nice and close, and taking the billy from under 20m. He only made a short distance before expiring, and went 30in.

Continuing to the steep dam wall and peering over, I saw that there were a heap of goats watering, including some very stylish billies. I crept down to a well placed tree some 30m off the water and had no sooner sat down when a beauti-

ful high styled billy appeared with a number of other nice billies in a bachelor mob. After looking over him through the binoculars for a while—I hadn't taken a big billy with a high set of horns like his—I decided he was a shooter.

Nocking an arrow, I sat and waited for the perfect angle as he drank on the other side some 40m away front-on. He finished up and turned, and as is often the case with watering goats, I could not get a shot opportunity due to other goats getting in the way. After drawing multiple times, it was now or never as he

made his exit, and with a tight quartering away shot, my arrow flew true from 45m. He took off over the wall, but barely made it down the other side, and my trophy billy was down. It was barely 8.00am and I had two very nice goats down.

As the sun began to get some bite, I too had a bite on a muesli bar as I watched the goats pour in to quench their thirst before bedding up for the day in any shade they could find to escape the 42-degree heat. Among the few hundred goats which watered, there were at least four great goats that normally would

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have been toast had I not already secured the earlier billies.

I was just about to head off when a bachelor mob trickled over the bank, with a large-bodied white billy among them. It wasn't until he turned front on that I immediately realised he was a shooter, and scrambled for my gear. He drank in safety on the other side of the dam for some time before things turned in my favour and he showed interest in a nanny, following her around the water's edge and into my range.

After another drink, he began to amble his way out towards me, then stopped as he picked the unusual blob out next to the tree on the bank some 20m away. As the stand-off continued, I took up the tension on the string, waiting for the right moment. As he took a brief sideways glance, I quickly came back to full draw and settled on my anchor. As he took a few steps, the quartering-on angle opened up, and squeezing on the release, I watched the arrow disappear into his brisket.

He trotted off before slowing to a walk, and after a while began to sway, and collapsed soon after. I was ecstatic; as I walked to up to give him a closer look, he not only had an excellent spread just short of 37in, but also had a great style. He was an old billy on the back 9, and it was great to get him in good condition before he started to go backwards.

The carry-out was far from enjoyable as I hauled the skulls back to the ute while the sun rose to its peak, but the short term pain is always worth it when it comes to taking trophies home.

It was a great summer and we'd had some memorable hunts. For the next few months, deer would occupy much of our time ... but we knew it wouldn't be long before the days became hotter and we could go summer hunting in the outback once again.



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3DAAA Victorian State Titles at Diamond Valley Archers

July had been nominated to run this year's Victorian State Titles at Diamond Valley Archers, and while in January this seemed to be too far off to really worry about with all the other busy events Diamond Valley Archers were running, the intervening time soon disappeared. The team came together, long-range forecasts were reviewed, mapping the terrain was being done and a plan soon came together.

The Friday saw members roll in to set up; the week was wet and rains had filled the stream that runs

through the course, creating other opportunities. Along with the usual crew of reliable members we added one of our youngest, Mitch, 12. It's good to encourage these youngsters and while Mitch learned a lot from the day, so did we as we looked at our courses through his eyes.

Day 1 was expected to have only limited sunshine, but Mother Nature put on a splendid day. In the morning, the course was covered with a light mist/fog and the range officials were out checking that the ranges were okay to go.

Soon the ranges were filled with archers and the sound of chatter filled the surrounding valley with anticipation and excitement. Arrows making their mark were pleasing to the ear, and occasionally there was also the sound of 'squish' as an arrow missed its mark and ended up in the wet ground.

Ranges were not maxed out, yet tricky shots were placed so that they gave one a sense of comfort at the shot that changed to surprise when they saw their arrows missed that pro-ring on what seemed an assured

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10. The honey bear placed in the open but shaded by trees and the shot taken through the fork of a tree (although big enough to see a Mack truck go through it) meant archers had to consider the shades and shadows as well as what happened to that score zone that appeared so clear through the binoculars.

Our visitors from Queensland, Ian and Jason, were soon to see and feel the difference from shoots they were used to—the steep gully shots put a new meaning to sloped shots, canting and other elements—nevertheless they accepted the challenge, along with the strange feel of the sun rising at 7.30am rather than what they were used to.

At the end of the day there were only 29 points' difference between the leading top 10 scores for the day in the sighted divisions while in the trad division Ian, Richard and Mick were the game in play.

On Day 2, the weather person was giving assurances of wet and windy weather on the way and the archers were eager to get in and out of the new courses laid. The previous evening the team had been back out re-setting the courses with some more surprises, coming back in well after 6.30pm.

The turkey provided its own challenge as the shadows from the moving overhead trees created a new perception of where to aim, leaving some archers with cheers and others with an expression on their face that said it all.

Once again the bedded elk (one of the largest 3D targets) with the 10 zone the size of a small dinner plate, saw arrows fall in the 8 and 5 zones with archers scratching their heads.

As the day progressed, the archers moved through the courses in uniform precision with the objective of getting their best shot in and beat-

ing the coming inclement weather back to the club rooms.

The rangesetters provided challenges that made you think of target placement, your footing and the weather.

The 3D Archery Association of Australia, encourages all archers from other associations to come along and enjoy the experience; our event was no exception to this rule and it was really pleasing to see archers from other associations joining in and sharing their experiences with their fellow archers.

At the end of the second day, three archers had achieved the elusive perfect round of 100—Drew, Ian and Josh. Congratulations!

With presentations soon finalised and the teams bringing in the targets off the courses, it was time to close off the State Titles for 2016 and look towards our next Victorian shoot at Twin Cities in August.



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The Jules shield **TRAD SHOOT** *2016*



by DALE MARSH

The main thing about planning a trad shoot is that you have to find the 'Goldilocks zone' between too hard to shoot well, and a range that is too easy and not challenging enough. You have to make it interesting and above

all, fun to shoot. You need to put in lots of simulated hunting and quirky novelty shots. Animals half hidden by foliage and grass, and tricky shots in between trees and from behind blinds, and through pipes set low to the ground where you have to kneel

to get your shot off. You need moving targets too. You must incorporate a degree of difficulty while keeping the fun in place without making the shots impossibly hard so that everyone goes home on a downer with a migraine headache and a sense of



Finding the 'Goldilocks zone' can be quite a challenge

having somehow failed. So for this year's Jules Trad Shoot, we set out to create an event that everyone would enjoy. The assistant range captain Peter Van De Molen—who is a carpenter when he's not shooting arrows—has access to all manner of unusual stuff. Peter came up with a giant poly pipe to shoot through, and we set it up on the first target. I set myself the task of creating a giant

spider from the remains of a black 3D goat that I had shot until it fell apart some years ago. I also thought that I would make a swinging tyre shot set up in front of an animal, the idea being that you had to shoot the animal through the swinging aperture of the tyre as it passed in front of you. Sadly, I couldn't get the tyre to both swing and stay flat-on to the shooter so it ended up just being

a static through-the-tyre shot. I had more luck with the spider however. Using my skills from long ago when in my youth I was a prop artist for a prestigious fashion house in the city, I carved the body of the spider from the remains of the 3D goat and made the legs out of old arrows covered with long strips of cotton cloth painted black. I arranged the finished spider, a totally creepy thing with a big red



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Sneaking up on the crocodile ... wrestling with the crocodile ...? No, just collecting waterlogged arrows. Phew.

stripe down its back, on a bed lit by the low light of a small lamp, and waited for my partner Lorraine to find it. She did, and let out a satisfyingly loud scream and ran panic stricken from the room. My spider was okay.

We set the giant spider up on red range next to a sign that read, "Approach with caution. Has been known to attack small children."

Our president and range captain Neil Hope was busy attaching floatation to the underside of a 3D crocodile and this was to be towed along the length of the creek by a long piece of rope, giving us a life-like moving crocodile shot. As it turned out, a lot of arrows ended up in the creek and had to be retrieved by the gallant Jason who stripped off and got into the water, collecting a bundle of them.

The hunt round was a lot of fun and enjoyed by a lot of people judging by the many comments that came back to me. Dave Pender and I set it out. Dave placed a turkey behind a large tree. When it came his turn to shoot the hunt, Dave forgot that he had put the turkey there, and walked right by it!

Weatherwise, we were lucky. Rain had been forecast for the weekend, but while we were out on the ranges it remained dry, only starting to rain

on the Saturday night which wiped out the night shoot Keith Speight had rigged up, an intricate lighting system that came off and on at short intervals, illuminating random targets especially designed for lots of fun. Next year, Keith.

The Traditional Archery Australia Committee held its AGM on the cold and rainy Saturday night with President Keith Speight presiding. The meeting lasted an hour or more, during which some important business was done.

After the meeting, Keith and good old Cleve Wood (aka Shrek) from the Hinterland club presented Perry Jackson (the guy who does all that wonderful leatherwork) and me with Traditional Archery Australia awards in the form of large and very beautiful medals. It was a very humbling experience.

Jane Bell, Fay Hollier, and Adriana Speight cooked up a storm in the kitchen, and on Saturday night everyone had a gourmet feast.

All of the action on the Saturday happened on Red Range. On the Sunday, we moved on to Yellow Range to face a whole different array of targets that included a couple of long shots, Shots through a hole in a fence, and shots that were downhill into a creek bank and some that

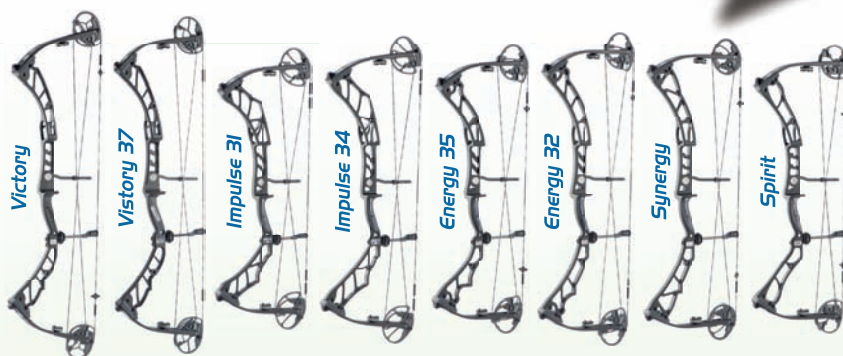
were difficult to estimate in terms of distance. There was another running pig, thankfully closer this time (the one on Red Range was 'out there'). We had to deal with multiple targets and walk-up targets. There were uphill targets as well as downhill ones, and one with a small tree right in front of the kill zone. It's amazing just how many times you will hit these darn things and skid off the animal. All in all, it was a very enjoyable shoot.

The Jules Shoot always includes the Hotshot, an event for which a handsome trophy is made especially. Archers have to qualify by hitting a small yellow dot on a cube during the Saturday round, and the final is held last thing on the Sunday. We set up a deer at a close distance with a large price-sticker-sized dot on his tail. Archers who hit the dot went into the final at a greater distance, and the winner was the closest arrow to the dot. This year it was won by Liz Gutherie. The other winners whose names go up on the Jules Shield were Lorraine Reynolds and Dave Pender.

We had a great weekend and will be back to do it all again at the eighth annual Jules Shield Shoot next year with bells on, and hopefully by then, I'll have my swinging target worked out. Until then, cheers!

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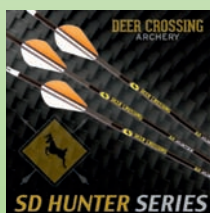
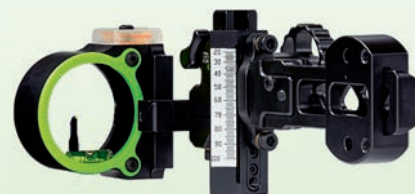


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NORFOLK ISLAND

3D Archery Championships



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Fun for competitors and families:

Competitor **BARRIE RHODES** reports

Every year, Norfolk Island puts on a 3D archery competition for all ages, classes and competitors. The 3D targets are varied, from the traditional deer, pigs and turkeys, with a mix of dinosaurs, skunks, armadillos, bear, lion and leopards, spread among open fields and wooded ranges across the magnificent landscape of Norfolk Island.

I'd seen the advertisement in the *Archery Action* magazine, and as one of our members had been the year

before and raved about the competition, location and event, I thought I'd give it a go this year.

There were 76 competitors, but according to the Norfolk Island Tourist Bureau, there were well over a 100 visitors to Norfolk Island for the competition, because some of the archers brought their partners. One of the things that attracted me to the competition was that it was synchronised with the Norfolk Island Tourist Bureau so there was plenty of time to

do the tourist thing as well as competing in the archery competition. It is (if you are from NSW), a Friday-to-Friday event (other states and New Zealand vary by one to two days), with the actual competition running Monday and Tuesday mornings, all day on Wednesday and Thursday is a fun day for both traditionalists and compound archers.

Because of the way the competition is structured, there is plenty of time to explore Norfolk Island and immerse yourself in the history of the Island, from the Mutiny on the Bounty story to life as a convict—and best of all—relax and enjoy the island with your partner and family. Registration is on the Sunday night and is a great opportunity to break the ice and meet people from all over Australia and New Zealand over an ale and a Fish Fry. If you do decide to go next year, I can certainly recommend visiting the Cyclorama that provides a true account of the Mutiny on the Bounty. The half-day tour is also a great way to get a snapshot of the history of the Island. Our package included a car and we used the information from the half-day tour to explore in our own time the places we brushed over on



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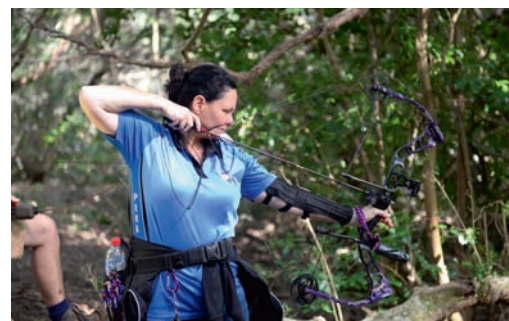
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the tour. We found the best places for coffee were The Olive (in the main part of town) and the Cyclorama Café called Hilli's.

The first day of the competition was on the open fields, and the course was set up so that it was not too difficult, yet still provided a challenge with shots across open fields, water courses and up and down hill. The morning brief commenced at 9 o'clock, but the practice range was open from 7.30am. We were split up each day into groups of four people, with traditionalists, compound and cubs mixed together. The groups changed every round, so that you got to meet different people to talk and reflect on the competition and 3D archery in general. Of course there was the constant rivalry between trads and wheelies—wheelies was a term I was not familiar with, but soon got to accept the nomenclature for me and my compound bow. Some of the trads took it very seriously and dressed the part—Robin Hood would have been proud.

The second day started similar to the first; a quick warm up, coffee, a very informative brief, map issued with details of station locations and score cards. The difference was that it was in the scrub and a little more challenging. Targets were well placed for shots through vines, scrub, downhill, uphill and into targets that were light and dark, well placed to make you think about how to judge the distance for the shot. Clearly these positions were set by a hunter, as

they were both realistic and challenging. We were mixed into different groups again, but always trads and wheelies together. Because the first two days were only from morning to lunch time, there was plenty of time to continue the tourist thing around the island with partners and family.

The third day was an all-day affair, and even more challenging. Targets were again well placed, and in some cases could only be seen when you were standing on the mark for the shot. The course was also set so that you shot from out in the open into the woods, and vice versa. The weather stayed clear for the morning and some archers were happy with their scores (four rounds, best of three scored) and did not continue in the afternoon, as the weather changed with light showers.

Over lunch the organisers dashed out and changed the course layout, and we were placed again into different groups, but the weather came and went and the afternoon shoot was also very challenging with the rolling clouds and odd shower or two, just to make it interesting.

The fourth day was more of a novelty event, particularly for the trads. What was a hoot was the horseback event—a horse saddle on a large vine that provided sufficient movement (human induced) on the archer. Hilarious activity, particularly trying to nock the arrow and shoot. The day also consisted of travelling the island to different locations and shooting events at the different properties that

were organised by Norfolk Island Archery members. One memorable shot was a large 3D bear standing on the cliff-top edge with nothing but high cliffs and the sea in the background so if you missed and your arrow didn't fall short into the grass, you could say goodbye to the shaft: Archer nil, 3D bear 1.

The presentation night was conducted at the local RSL, food was good (plenty of it) as was the company. Presentations were conducted starting with the cubs (so that parents could get them away early) and progressed at intervals between the three-course dinner. During the night, there was a background screen displaying all the photos collected by Archery Norfolk Island members and competitors. A great fun night and a brilliant way to end what was an excellent event.

If you are after an archery competition that is well organised with a large and varied collection of 3D targets, placed in diverse and challenging environments, then the Norfolk Island competition is for you. If you are looking for a holiday package that suits the whole family, with a 3D archery competition nestled within the trip, hopefully this article will give you some food for thought.

To all the trads I met, fellow wheelies and the members of the local club, thank you for your friendship and the opportunity to share a wonderful experience on Norfolk Island.

*Barrie Rhodes
Monterra Archers (NSW)*

Looking forward:

Now is the time to organise your archery holiday plans for 2017 by locking in the first week of July for the 15th Norfolk Island Travel Centre 3D Archery Championships.

The local host club Norfolk Island Archery will present a week to suit the whole family, with 3D events organised for all ages including cub divisions, adult compound, recurve and longbow. Held during school holidays, the Norfolk Island Championships are an excellent introduction to international competition for junior shooters. A traditional shoot day adds to the fun and is a great chance for the kids to feel the spirit of Robin Hood! This is an exceptionally friendly and safe place to holiday and event locations are very easily accessed. Accompanying non-shooting family and friends can join in the week's social events.

This will be the 15th year that the Norfolk Island Travel Centre has been the major sponsor for this event. As they are based on the island, they know all there is to know about travel to the island, organising other tours and activities, where to eat and how to get around. Special packages for travel from Brisbane start at \$1029 per person and from Sydney at \$1079 per person for a seven-night twin-share

stay. Prices include return economy class airfare (seat + bag) to Norfolk Island, airline taxes, meet and greet at the airport, seven nights twin share accommodation, seven days car hire, discount shopping card, complimentary miniature golf and complimentary 'A Walk in the Wild'. Prices are subject to availability. For those participating in the archery competition a registration fee will be additional to the above packages.

While on Norfolk, you can see World-Heritage-listed Kingston and explore convict stories via museums and tours, swim and snorkel in stunning Emily Bay, have a game of golf or simply wander around at your leisure. Kingston Pier is the main departure point for amazing fishing trips. Around the island you'll find excellent cafés and restaurants serving meals out of fresh, seasonal island produce plus a number of clubs where you can enjoy a drink or a meal.

Contact Kelly Schmitz at the Norfolk Island Travel Centre on toll free phone 1800 1400 66 or email kelly@travelcentre.nf to receive a full information pack and make your booking. You can also visit the website at www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com.



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Conditions apply • Prices are current at time of printing, subject to availability & change without notice • Travel insurance strongly recommended

Archery registration is additional for those competing in the championships



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Results

NAME	RND1	RND2	RND3	RND4	TOTAL	SCORE	
Compound Unlimited							
MICK MURPHY	368	374	380	360	1482	1122	1ST
JUSTIN MURPHY	374	368	366	358	1466	1108	2ND
JASON WALES	358	374	348	368	1448	1100	
MIKE ELVIN	330	324	328	332	1314	990	
WILLIAM KESZLER	334	300	314	324	1272	972	
RICHARD EDSER	220				220	220	
Compound Limited							
RON GREEN	348	340	310	340	1338	1028	1ST
ALLAN HALL	324	334	300	264	1222	958	2ND
DAN TOOHEY	262	318	278	268	1126	864	
Hunter Class							
ANDREW SHEERAN	372	380	360	372	1484	1124	1ST
BOB KEMP	372	374	362	370	1478	1116	2ND
M. FEATHERSTONE	362	372	360	356	1450	1094	3RD
ADAM ROBINSON	380	362	340	348	1430	1090	
BARRIE RHODES	360	356	358	352	1426	1074	
DAN CLAY	348	358	344	326	1376	1050	
DAVE PITCHER	352	374	350	360	1436	1086	
GREGORY PIERCE	334	354	362	350	1400	1066	
M. LEEMAN-SMITH	334	358	330		1022	1022	
LEN DAVEY	354	364	346	336	1400	1064	
Hunter Class							
TRACEY SLEIGH		328	334	294	956	956	1ST
JULIE-ANN EDSER	242	204			446	446	
Junior Compound Unlimited							
HUGH FABBRO	382	390	370	356	1498	1142	1ST
Junior Hunter Class							
LOGAN PITCHER	356	362	358	352	1428	1076	1ST
LLEYTON CLARK	332	346	318	348	1344	1026	2ND
Junior Compound Unlimited							
JESSICA LOVERING	356	366	368		1090	1090	1ST
Compound Barebow							
RON SCOTT	338	316	338	344	1336	1020	1ST
SHANNON HITCHEN	322	326	282	332	1262	980	2ND
BARRY THOMPSON	280	330	290	280	1180	900	
DAVID WILSON	270	254	294	304	1122	868	
KEN NEILL	320	332	300	310	1262	962	
LARRY WORSLEY	174	256			430		
Compound Barebow							
CHRISTINE BATTY	294	336	268	294	1192	924	1ST
RACHEL JOY	296	288	318	298	1200	912	2ND
Recurve Barebow							
WARREN LOVERING	364	356	330	344	1394	1064	1ST
STEVE WALLACE	356	358	338	332	1384	1052	2ND
BRANDON DAVIES	306	310	310	278	1204	926	
CLEVE WOOD	344	338	340	330	1352	1022	
FRANK BORG	302	258	278	250	1088	838	
GLENN COWPER	298	292	284	300	1174	890	
JOHN DEER	326	342	316	348	1332	1016	
MATTHEW STOREY	318	292	244	254	1108	864	
VICTOR NOLAN	314	320	324	320	1278	964	
DARELL MORRISON	334	342	300	314	1290	990	
TROY O'DOHERTY	318	350	292	344	1304	1012	
Recurve Barebow							
KAREN DEER	314	346	314	316	1290	976	1ST
SUE WALLACE	300	334	316	306	1256	956	2ND
ELISE PALETHORPE	290	278			568	568	
DINAH JONES	268	260	236	254	1018	782	

FAITH ROBINSON	234	158	122	190	704	582	
PENNY O'DOHERTY	314	308	308	312	1242	934	
Longbow							
MARK HARVEY	342	330	332		1004	1004	1ST
KEN RACHOW	306	342	322	338	1308	1002	2ND
ALAN BRADDOCK	236	298	274	270	1078	842	
A. KALATZIS	256	244	282	294	1076	832	
DAMON HARDMAN	228	262	226	262	978	752	
EDDIE OTTO	306	298	284	288	1176	892	
NIGEL THOMPSON	280	290	298	310	1178	898	
STEVEN EVANS	290	362	230	302	1184	954	
LEWIS OTTO	300	290	242	250	1082	840	
RODNEY BASSETTI	154	262	196	250	862	708	
R.SOMMERVILLE	230	284	252	310	1076	846	
WILLIAM BLAIKIE	334	296	250	278	1158	908	
ROBERT SHIELDS	330	260	282	294	1166	906	
Longbow							
KATRINA LOVERING	318	336	296	292	1242	950	1ST
REGINA BOHLER	294	344	258	302	1198	940	2ND
GWYNETH KALATZIS	274	268	276	246	1064	818	
P. VAN DEN BOOGERD	192	252	160	196	800	640	
ROSA FORD	290	252	252	238	1032	794	
SERINA STRETTON	232	292	278	278	1080	848	
Junior Compound Barebow							
GRACE LOVERING	332	354	340		1026	1026	1ST
Junior Barebow Recurve							
CHRIS RILEY	292	334	274	314	1214	940	1ST
JAMES O'DOHERTY	320	298	270	246	1134	888	2ND
Junior Barebow Recurve							
GEORGIA DEER	326	344	314	340	1324	1010	1ST
Cub Barebow							
SETON O'DOHERTY	280	258	242	246	1026	784	1ST
ADAM STOREY	282	270	182	222	956	774	2ND
Cub Limited							
LUKE FEATHERSTONE	316	360	314	338	1328	1014	1ST



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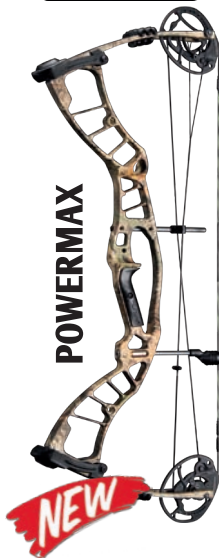
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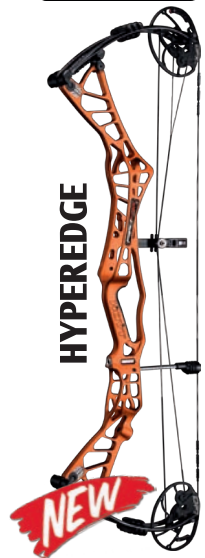
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Around THE TRADS



*To receive trad shoot information direct, email a request to:
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* Fine weather greeted the 137 archers who attended the Hunter Valley Trad Shoot which was held on the NSW June long weekend. Once again it saw the reunion of a keen North Queensland archer and his father from WA, who both flew in to Sydney as they did last year, and then went on to Newcastle. Others travelled from the South and North coasts of NSW to join the locals in shooting the 20 3D-target field course, the moving pig, speed round plus the broadhead round. Everyone reports as having a great weekend.

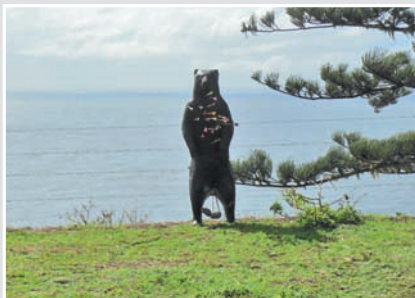
* Unfortunately, the following week saw the weather become rather inclement, forcing the cancellation of the Caboolture Corral, due to some of the course being under a small amount of water, and very slippery underfoot, including a very boggy camp ground. This shoot is a great one to get to, so we will now have to wait until next year's event.

* Two weekends later saw a group of archers jetting off from Brisbane Airport on their way to Norfolk Island. Others flew out of Sydney on the Friday morning. This year saw the introduction of a traditional-only section as well. On the Sunday evening was the fish fry and Archery registration held at St Barnabas Chapel Hall where all 76 archers met to rub shoulders and check out the competition. There was one lone archer from New Zealand, and I think he may have felt a little outnumbered. Monday, Tuesday and all day Wednesday saw everyone shooting the 3D International competition, which consists of 20 x 3D targets. They mix the archers in the groups for every round, so everyone will shoot with different people. The club also changes the targets/pegs for every round as well. Four rounds are shot, and the lowest scoring round is dropped.

The first traditional event on the island was held on Monday afternoon at the golf course, which is in the historical Kingston area of the island. The 34 trad archers, none of whom had ever shot an event like this event before, were put into groups of four and five with varying bow weights. It was played as an Ambrose event, with flu flu's with blunts and the groups were started on different holes. There was a catch; if anyone landed in a bunker the entire team had to use the wrong hand to shoot out of it. The event was scored the same as golf, by shots instead of strokes. Most groups came in two or four over par. However one group who became known as the Feather-Licking Team did the course at one under par. In the briefing it was mentioned "getting the arrow to the flag, by any means possible". It was good for a laugh back in the clubhouse. There were also a couple of rather bemused golfers on the course. Some even had a go with the bows, including the golf professional.

Tuesday afternoon saw the trad archers venturing to the Pony Club just up the road from the archery course. There was a clout range being shot into the sun, a 30-second speed round, bow bird and horseback archery, no, not from a pony. There was a saddle placed on a low fig-tree branch, which was bounced up and down and side to side as the archer sat in the saddle and tried to shoot. You would be correct in guessing that some did more laughing than shooting at this particular event.

On Thursday morning 34 trad archers returned to the clubhouse to commence an around-the-island shoot. It was interesting to note it wasn't the same trad archers who had been at the golf course. Archers put themselves in groups and commenced in the drizzle. First was the moving 'leg of venison' at the clubhouse. Then one by one, the groups went off to the Walk In The Wild. This is a rainforest which is privately owned by one of the island's



Balls of stone.



Remembering Andy.



Flu flus on the golf course.

most respected residents, where there is information on all the fauna and flora as planted, extinct, plus a history of the island's geography. The five targets were placed in various positions within the garden. It was decided at these special venues that only one person was to gather/score the arrows to minimise disturbance. This venue is open to the public from 2.00pm to 5.00pm so some archers returned to enjoy an extremely tasty milkshake or icecream in the afternoon. Next stop was the privately owned property called Music Valley, usually only viewed as part of the Gardens Tour. The property has one of the island's oldest convict-built residence ruins. It is also still owned by the original family, and now has many family homes scattered through the extremely large acreage of well-kept gardens. There were a further five targets placed around and shot from the pathways. Next stop was another private residence where the archers were provided with a morning tea of fresh scones with jam and cream. That particular property also had five targets with five gamble shots. You had a choice of a small cat in the smashed windscreen of a car or a larger cat sitting out on the bonnet. You could shoot at a small crow in the back of a very big steel tip truck or a larger pig in front of the tyre. Most took the gamble shot for double points, and double fun. The final property was Simons Waters, a privately owned cliff-top reserve. There were 10 targets set out at

various distances along the pathway of the tree-covered reserve which led to spectacular views of the surrounding cliff tops and ocean. After all groups had arrived and shot the 10 targets they gathered near the final target. Before this target was shot, archers who were members of the Sydney Bowmen Club, plus traditional archers who attended the yearly Wisemans Ferry Shoot, gathered to honour a very special friend. Andy Firth had lost his short battle with cancer the previous week. The archers drew their bows skywards, shot an arrow from the edge of the cliff, up into the air, and then watched the arrows fall silently into the ocean, as a tribute to Andy who will be missed by all his friends.

The final target, Balls of Stone, was a bear attached to the fence at the cliff top. Archers started from 10m out and shot one arrow. If it missed the target, you were out. Those who were still in kept moving back 5m per shot, until only one archer remained. Even the last man standing was not allowed to claim his victory until he too had shot an arrow and missed the bear. This concluded the traditional section. The presentations were held as a private function at the RSL Club on the Thursday evening, with a hearty buffet specially prepared.

I have been advised there will be a Traditional Section again as part of the 2017 competition which is also the 15th Anniversary of the 3D International shoot. Wouldn't

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it be great if the traditional archers outnumbered those only doing the 3D shoot? All traditional archers would like to thank Mark Harvey and the Norfolk Island Archery Club for all their effort, and a special note of thanks to the event's major sponsor Norfolk Island Travel Centre

* The Jules Shield Trad shoot was held at Lakeside Bowmen (Petrie, Queensland) on the weekend of July 16 and 17. The weather leading into the weekend wasn't terribly inviting with a cool change and rain forecast, but this did not deter 50 or so shooters from attending. I believe they set off in the morning drizzle to commence the 20 x 3D target, two-arrow field course. Some started on the day's novelty events, being rolling disks, the William Tell event, and the Hunt Round.

On Saturday evening Traditional Archery Australia held their AGM, the new committee was voted in, with a change in treasurer to Peter Bell.

Sunday morning dawned without moisture, so once again the field course was shot along with the swimming crocodile and a flu flu event, which is threading the arrow through a decorated hole cut in canvas. Not as easy as it sounds, I believe. The weekend closed with the Hotshot shootout.

*Trad shoots confirmed for October and November

are Chevallan Archery Park (Queensland) on October 1 and 2, Hunter Valley Charity Shoot (NSW) October 1 and 2, Coffs Harbour (NSW) October 15 and 16, Suncoast Bowmen (Queensland), a one-dayer on November 13.

* Reports from the Andy Firth Memorial Shoot, Wisemans Ferry, North Burnett Field Archers, Silver City Archers (Broken Hill), Mallee Sunset Field Archers (Mildura) and Swan Hill Archery Club will be in the next edition.

You will find further information and available flyers for the traditional shoots at the following websites.

www.wallacetradwoods.com—click on link to flyers
www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org > Shoot Information —(link to flyers)

Traditional Archery Australia Closed Group is also now on Facebook.

www.chevallanarcherypark.com—for traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO approved African 3D targets, customised archery medals/medallions.

www.ozbow.net > Traditional Archery Events > 2016 Calendar.

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Sunshine Coast Bowmen spend a day learning about bowhunting



Ready for the day.



Hands-on learning.

It was a cool and fresh morning at Sunshine Coast Bowmen, and school was in. We were there for a Bowhunters Proficiency Course. For many of you, this might not seem a big deal as you are already hunters. But as time goes on, new and old archers want the opportunity to learn the skills and knowledge they will need to go hunting.

It was great to see not only men but also women and children attending the course. Our group for the day was small and we all knew each other from attending regular club shoots. This made for a fun and a cruisy day.

It was time to start, so with our bows in our hands we attacked the accuracy test. Nerves were high on my first round, and I had one bad release which saw my arrow overshoot the target. After a short breather and a second round, I had no issues. The rest of our group passed with no worries.

Now it was time to start the bookwork. Because we were a friendly group, no one was embarrassed about asking questions and we all got to learn something new. With our curiosity piqued, we ran well over time. It was great to see so much knowledge being passed on.

We had a quick barbecue lunch break then moved on to some hands-on experience with broadheads. John was able to show us how to correctly sharpen broadheads. We were quite lucky as each student was given a packet of three broadheads, donated by Tusker Broadheads. Along with the broadheads, Tusker also donated some educational and hunting DVDs to keep our interest high. This gave us an opportunity to practise sharpening and later shooting broadheads.

After a bit of fun with the broadheads it was time to complete the written test. This was undoubtedly the quietest time of the day and one or two of us got caught out with some of the wording, but we all passed.

After the brain work, we got to test out our newly razor sharpened Tusker broadheads; for most of us it was the first time shooting a broadhead and it gave us a chance in a controlled and safe environment. A few sneaky smiles popped up, that's for sure.

—Nick Pemberton



From left: sharpening demonstration, razor sharp, shooting with broadhead-tipped arrows.



JUNIORS

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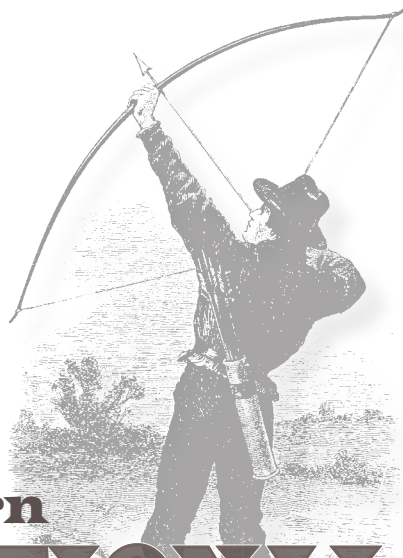
WINNERS



Ethan Zadrow, FK TC red deer, 176pt.



Jacob Linich, goat.



Nick Lintern TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Hi to all our readers and welcome to another instalment of Traditional Trails. Before we go into this issue's article, I want to write about the passing of one of Australia's greatest fletchers and traditional archers, Andy Firth. Andy was one of my best friends and a man who truly knew the passion of the traditional bow. Anyone who has seen Andy's arrows will attest to the fact that he is one of the greatest fletchers we have ever had. His craftsmanship and understanding of arrow dynamics was truly outstanding. After his cancer diagnosis and during treatment, he continued to shoot and attend traditional shoots, and in true form shot really well despite his health. An outstanding archer and true warrior who fought a good fight—he will be sadly missed.

Bow performance Part 1

In the past five articles, we have looked at making an osage self bow from start to finish. I reckon now is the time to have a look at bow performance, what design criteria contribute to real performance and why. We will have a look at force draw curves and how to interpret them, and also expel a few myths here and there. For those of you who read my Traditional Trails article "A Bow To Hunt With" some time ago, you will see that some of that information will turn up again here as it is relevant to this article as well.

When we first look at bow performance there are a few hard home truths we all need to know. Probably the most important fallacy that needs

to be cleared up is the fact that a bow's poundage is what it is. This seems like an obvious and overly simple statement, so I'll elaborate. There are all sorts of claims made about bows producing more power or cast than their poundage might indicate. For example, a bowyer might claim that their 50# bow possesses cast like a 70# bow—shooting well over 200FPS (feet per second) et cetera. Let's set the record straight. A bow which requires 50# of force from the archer to get it to full draw *can only store 50# of energy*. There is no little man sitting in a tree bestowing 70# attributes on a 50# bow. The only way that a 50# bow can shoot like a 70# bow is if the 50# bow

'feels' like a 70# bow to draw. It may have very early string weight—so it is very stiff from brace height and may smooth out later in the draw. This will definitely increase the bow's stored energy but it can feel unpleasantly aggressive in the draw. This is because the bow's balance has been lost ... more on that in a minute.

Even if the 50# bow has the same chronographed speed as a 70# bow it won't push the same weight arrow at that speed. For example, if a 70# longbow pushes a 700-grain arrow through a chronograph at 190FPS, a 50# bow may match that speed but the arrow will be more like 500 grains. And if the 50# bow goes anywhere near a similar speed with a similar weight arrow then there will be an awful loss of balance within that bow. In other words it can *only* be as a result of radical design. And because these sorts of designs really upset the bows' balance, it can only

be called poor design. Let's look further:

Balance

So, what is meant by balance? A good bow (any bow)—to be really good—should show an even balance of durability, cast, reliability and stability. As a quick recap from the other article:

Cast is the speed a bow can throw a given arrow.

Durability is simply the fact that the bow can take a knock.

Reliability means it can be shot over and over in all conditions and will keep on working for you. It's really necessary to know you don't have to worry about your bow misbehaving.

Stability means the bow is forgiving to shoot. In other words it won't punish you for a slightly poor piece of form.

All these factors are factors of bow design. If you wish to increase one attribute and keep your pound-

age the same, you *must* take it from somewhere else. So let's say our bow is 66in long. You could shorten it—within reason—and get the limbs working harder to improve cast. However the string angle to the drawing fingers is now tighter, increasing finger pinch and making a good release harder to achieve. So you have improved cast but now the bow is not as forgiving.

In another example, if we want the bow to be more stable and forgiving, we could make it longer. This opens the string angle to the fingers, making the release very easy to achieve, but now cast suffers as the bow is too long and the limbs are 'lazy'. A good way to be sure you aren't buying an unbalanced bow is to consider this: A well balanced bow, any bow, will always shoot between 100FPS and 140FPS plus the weight of the bow. Factors such as draw length, arrow weight, limb construction and limb



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materials will be the factors that get bow speed to the upper and lower ranges. So if a bow is 50# it should shoot somewhere between 150 and 190 FPS. If faster than that, consider it with great suspicion. Now for the good news. We can get to the top end of the cast range without compromising balance:

How do we improve cast without compromising balance?

One of the biggest killers of cast in a bow is drag on the limbs. There is always a dynamic lag between input and output on any bow limb. If you put 50# of effort in to a draw, you won't quite get 50# back. This loss is called hysteresis. To understand hysteresis better, try a simple experiment: Grab a child's plastic soccer ball or something similar and hold it with your arms outstretched while standing on a firm surface. Now drop the ball. It will bounce back but not all the way back. Why? Because the weight of the ball causes drag so it can't give back all the energy you gave it. The same occurs with bow limbs. So in order to limit this factor and improve cast as much as possible, we must reduce the weight in our bow limbs as much as we can. Further to that, weight location in a bow limb is critical. Things like string silencers, overly heavy strings and bulky, heavy tip overlays will add to

performance-robbing drag in a limb. Tip weight is a major issue with performance shortfalls. This is where weight distribution is critical. Roughly every 60 grains of weight in a limb tip will take 1FPS of cast. Of course, overlays are needed to reinforce the tips with modern string materials, particularly with recurves and hybrids due to the string angle to the limb. These bow designs create a 'ripping down' effect from the string on the limb, so tip reinforcement is important. There is no need for these overlays to be too bulky or heavy though. Here's another experiment. Grab an old bow—one you don't mind getting a few marks on—and shoot eight arrows through a chronograph. Get the average of the eight and write it down. Now get some small fishing sinkers and tape them to your limb tips. Make sure you have the same weight on each limb tip. Now chrono the bow again and get the average of eight again. You will see a marked drop-off in cast. If you then take both sinkers and this time tape them to the handle area and do the same test again you will find that speed has been restored or even improved.

Limb materials will help limit hysteresis. Some timbers are faster responding than others. Bamboo is really good in this area. It is stiff, light and fast responding, making it a great limb core choice in glassed bows. Limb construction will also

help limit hysteresis. If the bow is laminated for example, the limb is able to respond faster than a solid timber limb (self bow).

The next factor is to ensure we use every bit of our bow's stored energy. A well tillered and designed bow will be quiet and hand-shock free. Noise in a bow limb or twang in the string is unused energy—energy that should have gone into the arrow. Hand shock is also energy that couldn't get out through the arrow. Hand shock is a result of poor tillering—limbs that aren't set up to work fully and evenly in relation to each other; again, cast killing. A bow that needs lots of silencers is poorly designed. Silencers are almost a double-whammy cast killer. The fact they are needed suggests the bow is not working as efficiently as it could be. Add to that cast-killing factor the added drag of the silencers and you are really not getting the punch from the bow you should be. If you think about it, any really quiet bow is usually quite fast pound for pound. A good mate of mine was chrono testing a new takedown recurve he had just bought in from the US. The bow was 54# @ 28in and was 62in long. He was shooting carbon arrows and getting around 175FPS. A good balanced bow all round that had great early string weight. We also had a reverse-handled, semi-pistol-grip 55# @ 28in longbow that was 68in long



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with us. We decided to have him shoot the same arrows through the chronograph—you can't get a better test than that. Same archer, same arrows, same bow weight. Both bows shot the exact same speed. The longer bow of course was easier to be accurate with because of the longer limbs. Also, the recurve had to have silencers whereas the longbow didn't. If you used a force draw curve graph you would see that the recurve was storing more energy, but was clearly unable to get that energy to the arrow as efficiently as the longbow. So we have in that test a degree of proof, that even if we get a bow's limbs to store more energy, it is pretty much pointless if we can't get that energy to the arrow. And when you consider that the shorter bow design has to be a little harder to shoot due to finger pinch, et cetera, it makes you realise that the design isn't so clever after all. This is not an isolated test. Over many years of testing, we have seen straight-end longbows shoot the same speed as short takedown recurves that are meant to be really fast. Again, the longbow in this case was the balanced bow. Olympic-style target longbows are evidence of this sort of thing. They are all between 66in and 70in long. All in all, unless you are a hunter who uses blinds, I'm not sure of the short bows' appeal.

Further proof of the noise factor being unused energy is a dry fire. The awful bang that comes from a dry-fired bow is unused energy. A bow limb will blow apart as the energy had nowhere to go. That takes us to the next factor of best using a bow's available energy—arrow weight.

Kinetic energy versus momentum

This section is not as relevant to target archers as it is to hunters. All hunters, however, should be very concerned with the penetrative ability of their bow/arrow set-up. Com-

pound manufacturers are very keen on kinetic energy, but the truth is, kinetic energy or KE is not a good way to assess a bow and arrows penetrative ability. So let's have a look at this kinetic energy versus momentum argument.

Kinetic energy is a measurement of the total energy an arrow develops at a given moment of time while being delivered by a particular bow. The reason that the measurement is only at a particular moment is that as soon as the arrow is released and until it hits its target it is consistently losing speed. As the velocity decreases, so does the kinetic energy. This shows that KE is a good measurement for determining the energy the bow stores at the greatest speed point for the arrow, which is exactly when it is released. Naturally when we use a chronograph, it is only a few metres in front of the bow. It is therefore not an effective measurement for determining the effect an arrow will have in penetrating game because at the time of impact the arrow has slowed.

The formula for measuring KE is:

$$KE = \frac{(1/2M) \times (V^2)}{450,240}$$

So basically half an arrow's mass times its speed squared, divided by 450,240.

From this we can see that all we have to do to improve KE is speed up arrow flight and to do that in any given bow without increasing poundage, we must reduce arrow weight. But speed alone does not improve penetration on game, or the impact potential of any projectile. Would you rather be hit by a ping pong ball at 500FPS or a bowling ball at 100FPS? I know I'd rather cop the ping pong ball; it'd barely leave a mark, but the bowling ball? No thanks!

Momentum is a better measurement for assessing an arrow's ability to penetrate game. Quoting science: Momentum is the measurement of

concentrated force that is moving in one specific direction over a period of time. Simply, it is weight times speed. The formula for momentum is:

$$P = (M) \times (V)$$

(P is used as the letter for momentum as it comes from the original term used to describe momentum—persistence of the object's motion.)

Persistence is a good descriptive of what we want our arrow to do when it strikes an animal. We want it to 'persist' on through any tissue or bone that it hits. Back to the bow performance story again. In order for our bow to best use its stored energy, we need to use heavy arrows. Even for target archers this is partly relevant. If we drop arrow weight, our bow will shoot flatter ... but only to a point. Once you start to feel hand shock as the bow's stored energy is starting to not get utilised, your accuracy will suffer as the bow is unpleasantly active in the hand and in the extreme case of very light arrows, cast suffers as well and the flatter shooting benefit is lost as too much potential energy is wasted. For those archers needing impact or penetration potential, we need to get our arrow weight up. I always feel around 10 grains of arrow weight per pound of draw weight as a minimum is about right to absorb all the available energy your bow is storing. Let's have a quick look at the momentum equation again. According to the equation, there are two ways to improve momentum in an arrow from a given bow: One way is to improve speed, but will come at a cost of reducing arrow weight. It will cost arrow weight because we only have a certain amount of punch, or thrust to work with. Let's say a 60# bow is pushing a 600-grain arrow at 175FPS. If we work with our equation, that gives us a figure of P= 105,000. If we want to increase arrow speed from 175FPS, we have to reduce arrow weight. In general, for long-



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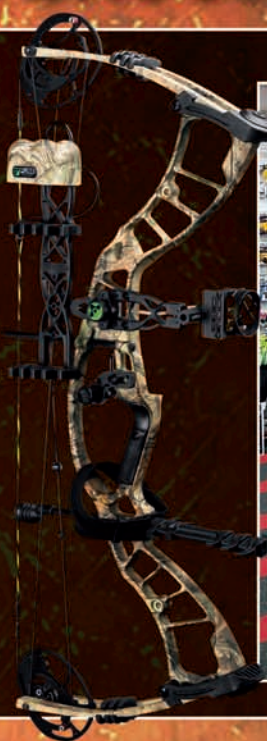
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bows, every 10 grains we add to an arrow will reduce its speed by about 1FPS. Obviously, every 10 gains we take off will increase our arrow velocity by about 1FPS. There are variations to this brought about by clever tillering et cetera but that is about right. So if we take 100 grains off our arrow it will increase our speed by about 10FPS. Our 500-grain arrow is now travelling at about 185FPS. So our equation will now give us this reading: $P = 92,500$. So it is easy to see that the higher momentum figure comes from the slower but heavier arrow. If you wish to improve the speed of your arrow and keep the arrow's weight up so as to dramatically improve your momentum, you need to increase the amount of thrust or punch available to you. How? By increasing the draw weight of your bow; simple really! You could alter the design of your bow to pick up some performance but as mentioned

above, there will *always* be a trade-off there somewhere. The bow will become unreliable or very sensitive to shoot or both. Be wary of performance without effort!

Let's look at some real extremes. We can study momentum from another angle as well. There is quality momentum and less quality momentum. So what does all that mean? Okay, let's get a highly strung, hyper-sensitive cam compound bow. It may push a 300-grain arrow at 300FPS and that gives the figure of: $P = 90,000$. As we can see, our 600 grain at 175FPS bow scores higher in momentum. As we know, momentum is a better judge of arrow penetrative ability, so the heavier arrow travelling slower scores better in arrow penetration. Let's go further with this and see what happens. Let's get a bow that shoots a 300-grain arrow at 400FPS. (I don't think that's been achieved yet but I'm sure it's not far off). Using our equation for this bow and arrow we get $P = 120,000$. That scores high! But does it? This is where quality momentum versus less quality momentum comes in. The faster an object is travelling, the greater will be the resistance on impact with another object.

In fact, the impact resistance goes up massively. To test this, simply hit a heavy punching bag slowly and push through. You feel some strain in your wrist. Now hit the bag really fast—the bag resists your efforts more so than when you hit it slowly. In fact, it resists more than just the amount you would expect as a result of the increased speed. You will feel that in your wrist. So we are looking to increase our momentum by increasing weight of arrow more so than speed. We are better off getting a higher momentum reading by increasing arrow weight and losing some speed rather than vice versa. All in all, we know that momentum

is the desired measure for improved penetrative success.

This information is not new; in fact the great majority of bowhunters now realise the need for arrows with good mass. So why did some wander off the path in the first place? The answer lies in the difference between hunting with a bow and target shooting. Both are disciplines in their own right and have their own unique challenges. Target archers are shooting long distances, so for them a flat shooting arrow is very helpful. It minimises sight variations and makes hitting the gold at the longer distances a lot easier. Therefore target arrows are generally very light—again, this speeds up the flight and flattens the trajectory to the target. Hitting weight is irrelevant for the target archer, so in that discipline lighter arrows are the preferred choice. For the hunter though, hitting weight is critical, as we have established. Long shots are therefore harder as our much heavier arrows arc a lot more. So we need to get in closer hence the need for stalking skills and understanding animal lore. We also need bows that are designed to throw heavy arrows. Longbows are excellent at throwing heavy arrows, their design and tiller is the secret behind this ability. We also need our bow to be forgiving as shots are often taken in difficult conditions.

With all that said, we now know how to make the best use of a bow's stored energy via arrow weight and some bow design considerations. So how do we track our bow's stored energy? We can get a lot of information by tracking our bow on a force draw curve. We'll leave that for our next edition. We'll go into force draw curves and look at what they can and can't tell us.

Any questions can be sent to: norseman_longbows@hotmail.com.

Until next time—keep traditional.



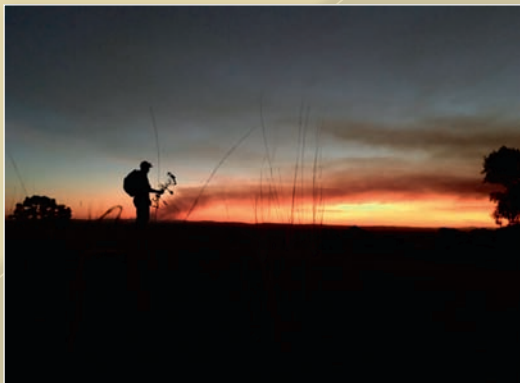
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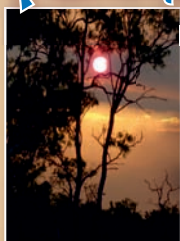


Top, from left: Call of the bush, Shiloh Katene; Father and son chasing reds, Matt Ramsay; Ready for fun, Jefferey Evans.

Bottom, from left: Trad fun, Allan Driver; Windmill silhouette, Dave Pender; Hiking light, Aaron Neal.



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THE CHITAL CHALLENGE

on Toomba Station

Just when you think you know (almost) all there is to know about bowhunting, along come those chital deer ...

Having hunted seven kinds of our feral animals—namely goats, pigs, fox, rabbit, fallow deer, buffalo and cat—over almost 25 years, I felt I was ready to tackle chital deer. After all, I told myself, they are only deer. So when in November 2015 Eric Creighton asked if I was keen for a June hunt this year, my quick response was a resounding ‘yes’!

The round trip was about 3,200km and this was my first hunting trip with Eric, well known to all ABA members for his tireless work for the organisation over almost 40 years. Boy, does he know what makes the sport tick; a very interesting man. He too has a story to tell of his experiences on Toomba Station and will do so hopefully through this magazine in another issue.

My first few days were a real wake-up call to my general low level of hunting knowledge about chital deer, stag and hind level; in fact, the next five days proved to be real eye-openers.

Toomba Station has had a good season and the location plus geography of the property saw us walking through growth ranging from half a metre to 3m high. The grazing areas had hayed off to a colour very similar to that of the chital deer; at times they appeared to be wearing camo.

In a very short timeframe I learned to belly crawl up to 80m, stand (almost) motionless for 55 minutes, shave-sharpen Zwickey broadheads, appreciate the true value of a professional guide, butcher a hind, criss-cross (four times) .75m deep creeks (wearing boots), stalk up to 150m without shoes on, stagger over the basalt ridges. All these were new to me. Then there was the constant removal of spiky cobbles’ pegs, spear-grass, burrs and other locally grown prickly delights.

Then there was the deer themselves; the sporting commentators say Usain Bolt is fast, very fast out of the blocks, but he would run a distant last to a chital, man they are quick from a standing start. By way of example, I had a hind at just under 40yd jump the string and it was at least two body lengths out of harm’s way, even Daniel Ferguson, our very professional guide, was impressed. This young man Daniel convinced me (and Eric) a guide was needed and he went on to impress with his exceptional set of skills. He repeatedly spotted bedded stags from 150yd-plus when only 40cm of antlers could be seen over the grass, he had a phenomenal ability to stalk in on stags with binoculars to his eyes and not break a twig or stumble over rocks (that was my job!) and then there was his knowledge on what the deer would do next, brilliant to my mind. If sprint-belly-crawling was an Olympic sport Daniel would be a gold medallist!

by **GRAHAM NEWELL**

The first two days of hunting exposed just how easy I had had my previous quarter century of hunting game. For me, the time was spent getting oriented and getting my head around the terrain, the chital and the pigs. Over those two days, I saw more deer than the whole rutting time of the fallow in the New England as our guide Daniel explained a few of the feeding and bedding habits of the chital.

The morning of the third day was especially frustrating for me. We had at least three good stalks on bedded stags blown by the fickle breezes, one when I was about to nock an arrow.

In the afternoon Daniel took Eric out and I walked along the main

creek for about 2km then headed home through a wooded area with grass up to 1m high under the trees.

With the solid breeze at my back, the thought of getting within 100m of game hardly entered my head, however never say never because way out to my right about 300m off I saw five or six hinds plus an immature stag slowly feeding their way to the treeline I was in.

I sprinted (ahem, now visualise a near 73-year-old unfit city dweller's version of sprinting), managing to trip up on vines in the high grass not once but three times to eventually arrive in front and opposite where I thought the small group would enter the cover.

Hell, I got it right! (Nice change.) Chital do not seem to like cattle too

close and there was a mob of steers to my left. I believe this helped guide the small chital herd my way.

I ranged a gum tree at 36yd and made the decision that the first chital, hind or stag to come around the tree was to be my target. The wait seemed long but was in fact only a few minutes.

The lead hind rounded the tree but was head down feeding; good, I suppose as she was unaware I was at full draw, she closed to 30yd-plus then raised her head and turned a little to my left to be nicely quartered on.

The Zwickey-tipped arrow was on its way. In her attempt to jump the string, she dropped and turned back to my right, allowing the arrow to hit a little high taking out one





lung and severing the spinal cord. My knife to her heart sealed her fate. Wow—my first chital deer. This is still special to me.

I radioed Daniel, who arrived on the quad for a photo shoot and we carried the hind back to camp for butchering. The cool-room facilities there meant I was now well served

with meat to take home.

Interestingly, Daniel said that many bowhunters wanted to shoot a stag first then—time permitting—hunt the hind—but he felt hinds were generally harder to harvest.

The next day could only be described as one frustration after another. Daniel got us into five good

stalks on quality (but very smart) stags only to be busted by the breeze in four of these and one by a hind running interference.

I calculated we had belly-crawled a total of at least 200yd for no reward except the very dubious pleasure of plucking the burrs and cobblers pegs from all parts of my



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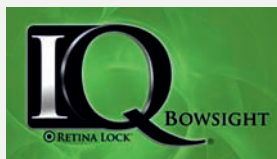
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I thought that surely the fifth day was time for a change of luck, and it was. The first stalk/crawl attack had me taking a shot at a nice stag from 46yd. It was a pity the stag was actually 43yd away, so a neat shot just over his back was the outcome. Not to be deterred, we soldiered on.

How Daniel spotted the next stag—that was at least 150yd to our right off the track in long grass—I can only guess ... but he did. By the time we drove on another 70yd or so, we had a 200yd stalk and crawl back, and all the time Daniel knew exactly where the stag was bedded.

We got to within a little over 50yd of the stag, then I was on my own. I stalked to 38yd using a big gum as cover and ranged the tree the stag was next to (I couldn't range the actual stag as the cover grass would have given a false reading). I felt no nerves as I came to full draw behind the gum tree.

Stepping out, I set the 40yd pin low on his chest and released. Lightning fast and in one motion, he turned towards me and started to stand.

The arrow entered his right shoulder (the opposite one to my aiming spot). Mortally wounded,

he sprinted some 100yd, stopped, hung his head and lay down in the tall grasses. All the time Daniel knew exactly where our chital stag was. A finishing arrow was used as the usual hunters' insurance

I turned to look at Daniel and saw the big grin (probably happy the old fart hit the target at last). It was only then that I noticed the antlers were not big at all and slightly damaged, but he was my very first chital stag and nothing could take away from that.

Photos were taken and then we headed back to camp for a late breakfast plus a well earned sip of

gear used

Mathews Helim compound set at 63lb, Gold Tip 340 Traditional carbon arrows and Zwickey Eskilite 135-grain broadheads plus rangefinder, GPS, UHF hand-radio, a range of knives, spare parts, camera and iPad (they take great photos).

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bourbon ... but the day wasn't over.

"Want to go after a boar?" asked Daniel in the mid-afternoon, so arrows were resharpened before gearing up and getting on the quad.

The first two spots proved vacant but at the back of a round swamp set between the basalt walls we saw several hogs trotting into the basalt so we followed.

Ahead was one lone boar grazing in a spot some 80m away below the basalt but across a metre-deep rock-bedded creek. Into the water we went, me in boots, water up over my knees as I staggering through the water.

I got to 38yd and with Daniel ranging him I took a shot as the boar moved to 35yd, split pins and the arrow punched through the left shoulder into the lung.

After some 150yd of tracking in failing light across the 'lovely' basalt following a huge blood trail, we found him dead. How he travelled so far will forever remain a mystery.

The usual photo shoot, the bottom jaw removed (by Daniel I might add—great idea, these guides) and we were off home in fast-fading light. The basalt is not the place to be in the dark! This was not a good day; it was a *great* day, thanks to the hunting gods.

Our last hunting day was, for me, a non-event—a lot of (noisy) walking, waiting and watching for no game sighted thus no positive outcomes but as they say, that's bowhunting.



As I reflect on those six days, I have to mention that the camp's facilities, food and equipment (vehicles et cetera) were all quality, as was our personal professional guide Daniel Ferguson. Our evening chats around dinner and the open fire on "How was your day?" were, as always, fun ... along with the occasional evening beverage

To say I am a tad wiser on the ways of the chital deer would be correct, however, to my mind I have really only scratched the surface of the animal world's greatest challenges—hunting the great basalt wall and surrounds for the slick chital deer.

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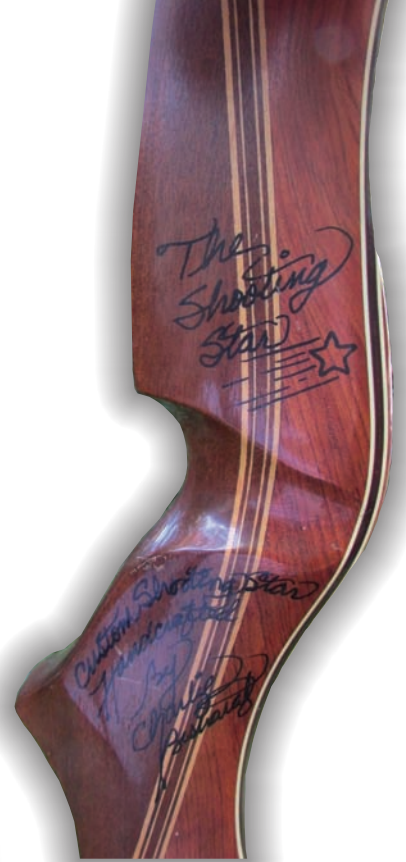
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Staying GROUNDED

As the doe approached the watering hole, I raised my Brackenbury recurve and slowly began my draw. Being 12ft above the ground in a treestand made me a little unsteady even with a safety harness on. I had hoped to harvest something with antlers on it but I knew the doe would provide many fine meals for my young growing family. When she came to the edge of the watering hole she stopped for a moment, looking for danger, before she lowered her head to drink. The Zwickey Eskimo broadhead caught her directly behind the front shoulder. Turning and looking around as if to find out what was happening, she took three hurried steps before slipping to the ground. My long and hot Utah hunt was over. The following day I would start the 14-hour drive back home to see my family and see the excitement in my children's eyes as I related my bowhunting adventure.



John A. Barlow

In all my bowhunts, this was the first time I had bowhunted out of a treestand. Treestand hunting is a technique used mainly by bowhunters in the eastern United States for whitetail deer. There, bowhunters place treestands near game trails where being up off the ground provides them with many advantages in the thick jungle-like hardwood forests of the east. Though treestand hunting is becoming more popular in the western United States, the west is still more popular

for the spot-and-stalk type of bowhunting. Most western bowhunters sit for long periods of time glassing for game, then sneak in close enough for a shot. Even waiting for game at watering spots or on game trails is a popular technique. But even then, most bowhunters have their feet on the ground when they do it—not 15ft up in the air.

To be honest, on my Utah bowhunt, I liked being up in a tree. The weather was extremely warm and the ground dry. The noise from walk-

ing on the ground was like stepping on popcorn. Any scent produced by my sweaty body was above ground level and I could slowly move a little without the fear of being seen. I used less energy and I could see a great distance in all directions.

I had bowhunted this same watering hole just the year before. Then, I had gathered broken aspen limbs from off the ground and built a well concealed ground blind, waiting for elk. What was so fulfilling on that bowhunt was the number of

large mature mule deer bucks that came to feed on the leaves from the limbs from which my blind was made. At least a half dozen times on that bowhunt I was within feet of these beautiful deer as they fed close enough for me to see the moisture on their noses. If ever I had felt like a bowhunter, it was on that hunt. I was able to experience things I could not get bowhunting from a tree.

Though that experience of hunting in a treestand in Utah took place several years ago, I have climbed into a treestand only one other time. That was on a bear hunt not far from my home. My good friend Chris Nielson had been charged by a black bear on opening day of bowhunting season, so he and I both took to the trees. Chris harvested a heavy antlered blacktail buck from his tree stand just the very next weekend. Luckily for us, there were no more charging bears.

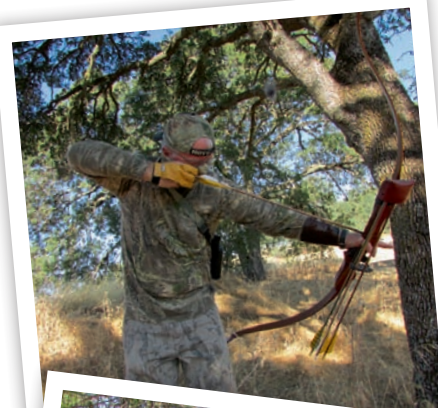
Death from above

While I am not a great advocate of treestand bowhunting, I do believe that getting above one's quarry can reap great benefits. Bowhunting mountains and hills can put you in such scenarios. Bowhunting any animal from above helps to keep human

scent above the animal, if the wind is blowing right. The hunter can generally see his quarry better. And while game animals can and do look up, most of the time their focus is to look in other directions, especially if they are bedded on a hill or steep slope. Getting above one's quarry and stalking down can be very rewarding. The key is getting above them. Even in country that seems relatively flat, rocky areas, small bluffs and other above ground areas can help to put you above the animal you are pursuing. Getting above the areas before sunrise puts you into glassing position at daylight and helps to increase the chance to spot game. Most game animals are nocturnal and will be on the move as the sun rises, looking for bedding spots. Because they will be moving, they will be much easier to spot. You will be able to take note of their travel routes, where they go for water and food, so that you can position yourself to stalk them or ambush them as they move. In bowhunting from a tree stand, you can have limited options.

Becoming invisible

Some years ago National Geographic featured an article entitled "Masters of Illusion." The article caught my interest because the fea-



Use the lay of the land to get above your quarry, look ahead for hiding places, look for areas you can use as natural blinds.

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A stool can make a big difference to your comfort, soft-soled footwear is an advantage, always know which way the wind is blowing, commercial treestands are readily available.

ture was about animals that were hard to spot in the wild. One such animal was the blacktail deer, which lives on the western coastal range of the United States, starting in southern California and extending its range to the northern coast of Alaska. These deer are very hard to bowhunt. They stay well hidden in the thick brush and woods of the coastal range and move very little during the day. For those of us who hunt these deer, patience and long-suffering play a big part in our success. They move slowly and use everything around them to stay hidden.

Stalking or still hunting any game animal requires many of the same tactics. Much has been written about camouflage and patterns that help to hide the bowhunter from his or her quarry. And there are many state-of-the-art camouflage patterns that can help. But nothing in the world can take the place of watching the wind and moving snail-slow through the bowhunting woods. Hiding one's scent and hiding one's movements are paramount to success. Nothing moves quickly in the woods unless it is fleeing for its life. Moving slowly while constantly checking wind direction will help you stay hidden from your quarry far better than the latest camouflage pattern. Camo or no camo, if your quarry smells you or catches you moving, most of the time, your bowhunt for that animal is over. Noise plays an important role as well. Most animals will run from you if they hear you, but occasionally, some game animals may come to investigate, looking for the noise maker. If you think you have been caught because of the crunch you made from your boot, you may want to nock an arrow and stand still to see if something comes your way. I have never had any game animal come to investigate me if they have seen me or caught my scent.

Ground blinds

For years I had a small notebook in which I recorded the adventures of my bowhunts. In that notebook I wrote down where I bowhunted, how I got there as far as roads and trails I drove or walked, the number of game animals I saw and the type of hunting techniques I employed such as spot and stalk, ground blinds, still hunting, or maybe even a combination of two or three of these techniques. I also made notes about how close I got to each animal which included the ones that were legal to harvest and the ones that were not. Without a doubt, spotting and stalking yielded far more animals as far as numbers seen. Getting high on a hillside or mountain with good optics produced many sightings, which is always encouraging. But as far as getting close to game animals, hiding in a ground blind produced the closest encounters of all.

Just last year my youngest son Josh had an encounter while sitting in a natural ground blind. Leaning against a pine tree with a blown-down tree in front of him he was very well hidden and the fact that he was not moving a muscle made him almost invisible to detect. We were bowhunting the edge of a high alpine meadow in California's Trinity Alps Wilderness for deer. We had hunted this area before and seen good numbers of deer. With only 20 minutes of legal shooting light left, Josh heard a small sound behind him. Thinking it was a deer, Josh turned slowly, only to see a large mountain lion coming his way, totally unaware of his presence. Mountain lions can be dangerous and reports of them attacking and killing humans are not unheard of. The big male never knew Josh

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was there until Josh stood up and yelled. Even then the cat took a few moments trying to see where my son was before sliding into the woods. The photo my son took of the cat on his phone is one he likes to show his friends.

The point is that you can get very close to game animals if you take the time to conceal yourself properly and stay still. What happens is that most ground blind bowhunters get antsy and move too much, only to hear or see an animal run off after it has been standing only feet from them. Packing in a light stool or a thick piece of foam to sit on can do wonders for your comfort in a ground blind setting. If you are comfortable, your tendency to move will be less and your chances of success will improve. Ground blinds offer many benefits to the stealthy bowhunter and they can be erected almost anywhere. Using natural vegetation to your advantage is always good or in some cases

man-made materials like light camouflage netting can be helpful.

Still hunting

When I was young, I constantly walked quickly through the woods when bowhunting. My thinking back in those days was that to see game animals a bowhunter had to cover a lot of ground. In doing so, my chances would increase—the more ground covered, the more animals I would see. What do you expect from a teenager anyway? In all fairness, I did see some animals—the backside of them as they ran for safer ground. I thought I was being sly and stealthlike, but I was far from it. It took me a few years to realise that in order not to be seen, I had to move without looking like I was moving. And much like building and using a ground blind properly, I had to use

my surroundings to conceal myself, not only when I moved but when I was not moving as well ... a moving ground blind, if you will—hiding while moving. The great still hunters I have known over the years use this method. Shadows, vegetation, rocks and whatever is available in your bowhunting woods can all be used to help hide you if you use them. The key is looking ahead as you slip through the woods, thinking about your next step, and what feature lying in your path can help you stay concealed. By looking ahead, you will be pleasantly surprised at the number of things in your path that can help you hide. I once used an abandoned truck to hide in. That worked out great until the owner showed up and drove it away.

Staying on the ground and getting up close and personal with the quarry you are bowhunting will give you experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

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The Manly Art of KNITTING

BOOK REVIEW
by Scott Heiman



When sitting around camp at night, what does an hunter do with two spare shovel handles and 100m of 1/4-inch sisal rope? He pours himself a big drink and starts knitting a hammock!

Before you reckon I've finally lost the plot, give me a minute to explain. Recently, a 'crafty' neighbour gave us Dave Fougner's, *"The Manly Art of Knitting"* which was originally published in 1972. Out of print for decades, it's been re-released due to popular demand. Apparently it's a bit of a cult classic!

Fougner was a teacher-come-horse-rancher from Northern California. His purpose in writing the book was to take the stigma out of knitting for men. So the *"The Manly Art of Knitting"* is quick to explain that knitting was once something done by both men and women. Indeed Fougner suggests that male Arabic traders first taught the skill to European sailors. From there, a six-year Master Knitter's apprenticeship was established, with only masters being allowed to knit for kings and queens.

Well, who are we to argue with Fougner on the finer points of knitting history? *"The Manly Art of Knitting"* is a quirky yet practical guide to knitting,

with easy-to-understand manly instructions. Take Fougner's guide to getting started. In the conventional knitting world, this process is called casting on. To us, this sounds like something you'd do with a fishing rod. To avoid confusion, Fougner ditches the knitting jargon and explains the process in manly-man terms. He says, simply start with a slip knot on the shovel handle and add half hitches after that to make stitches. Now that's terminology we can all understand!

The book stays well clear of instructing readers how to knit scarves or cardies. Instead, you can read how to knit a blanket for a dog or a horse blanket that's knitted on a garden hose. Chapters include the basics, different stitches, projects, and problems.

Fougner asserts that only a man would knit a hammock with shovel handles for needles and manila rope for yarn. For us, this all sounded manly enough, so ... challenge accepted. We'd give it a crack!

Besides, once upon a time we used carpet as a vehicle traction aid. With the help of Fougner's book, maybe if on a hunting trip some low-life stole our MaxTrax, we might be able to knit ourselves out of trouble! After all, a knitted rope hammock could make a really useful base layer for a traction aid. Even if that never happened, at least we'd have spare shovel handles in case our others broke!

Apart from that, it's a useful long-term survival skill and would help fill the void while waiting for your quarry on the dam, while up in a treestand or fishing in the middle of the day. Moreover you could knit your very own woollen camo pullover—in natural fabric and colours of your choice!



Shear Outback

Australia rode on the sheep's back from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century when the wool industry was instrumental in giving our country a high standard of living. The Australian Shearers Hall of Fame in western New South Wales is a great place to stop for a driver revive and to learn a thing or two about this part of our history.

Shear Outback is located at Hay at the nation's crossroads between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Here you can experience the living and working conditions of the hardworking men and women who shaped the industry and find out about Australia's shearing history. As hunters, we have slept in our fair share of old shearers' quarters and shearing sheds—but do you know how shearing was conducted 100 and 200 years ago?

Look out for the big galvo building on the corner of the Sturt and Cobb Highways.

NOT JUST FOR GIRLS



Inside The Man From Snowy River Museum located in Corryong in the beautiful Upper Murray region of North East Victoria, is a strange but noteworthy World War 2 artefact.

In 1943, Jim Simpson was shot down over Germany. Fearing that his RAAF woollen pullover would be seized and sent to the Russian front to keep a Nazi soldier warm at night, he unravelled it into balls of wool. Using this wool and some more that he scrounged from another POW, he went on to knit socks and a very nice blanket to keep himself warm while he was imprisoned in Stalag IVB. The blanket, featuring a map of Australia and the Australian coat of arms, is well worth a look next time you're out Corryong way.

OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

The foundation of good form

PART 2

In the previous article, I covered some basic ideas around a correct stance for compound shooting. I also emphasised the importance of getting your stance right as this is the foundation that your form is built on. In this article, I will continue to expand on building up the 'correct' form, discussing some other key aspects such as shoulder, elbow and hand positions.



by STEVE CLIFTON

The whole purpose of getting your foundation correct during the entire shot process is to create the most stable platform for you to execute your shot.

When I started shooting compound more than 20 years ago, one of the first things I was told was to keep my front shoulder down while drawing and executing. To this day, I still believe this is one of the most important pieces of form advice I can give someone. By keeping the shoulder low as you draw the bow back, you are reducing the amount of unnecessary muscle use which in turn will help stabilise the front bow arm during the shot. In picture 1, you will see a succession of shots from pre-draw, full draw and just after execution; the first image shows that my front bow shoulder is kept down as I draw the bow back, and when at full draw my shoulder is below the line of the arrow. I have always used this as an indicator to check whether someone's shoulder is high or low, as ideally you would want there to be a gap between the top of the shoulder and the line of the arrow (as shown in the picture). Lastly, after I execute the shot, you will notice that my shoulder has not moved at all; this shows that the correct muscles have been used to keep my shoulder in the right posi-

tion, as if it moves after the shot there has been some muscles used to hold it in place that should not have been used.

Now the next point of form is something that varies the greatest of anything you will see in compound archery; the release hand and elbow position. Compound archery is full of contradictions and if you look across the line at any major event or World Cup, you will see this demonstrated time and time again with regard to this form trait. Some archers have developed a very low elbow position (below the position of the release aid jaw), whereas others have a relatively high elbow-to-release position. For maximum muscle efficiency, many suggest that having the elbow somewhere in the middle of these two is the best system, where the elbow height is just above that of the release jaw. I have spent a fair bit of time testing various positions of my back elbow and for me

I have found that having my elbow just above the release jaw line enables me to keep the most amount of backwards (pull) pressure with the least amount of effort. That is to say, I can hold the bow back at full draw (and continue to pull into the shot) with the least amount of strain and stress on my arms and shoulders. Getting this pull consistent and correct when developing a compound form is extremely important as this is the foundation your shot execution is built on and if done right, can lead to greater consistency.

Following from elbow position is the way in which I hold my release aid. Again there is much variety across the shooting line on how people hold their release, however there are a couple of important suggestions I'll make to help improve the consistency for developing a new form. In the picture you can see the line from my fingers > wrist > elbow is very straight; there is no bend or





kink in it. I believe it is important to have these elements all lined up nice and straight as it indicates that the wrist is relaxed and allows for a more consistent pull from the back arm. If I were to bend my wrist while executing the shot, there could be a variation of tension which could disrupt my aiming process, or if the cam timing was not right, change the synchronisation of the cams and effect where the arrow will land.

You will also see that I like to hold my release aid at a natural angle to my face, roughly 45 degrees off-centre. The primary reason this type of anchor is preferred to having either a flat 90-degree or straight

0-degree style is that it is much easier to get into this position where my hand runs against the side of my face, creating a solid platform for my hand to rest against. This is extremely important for consistency as changing the angle of the release jaw on the D-loop can have dramatic effects on torquing the string (leading to arrows landing all around where you are trying to hit).

You will notice that in my pictures that I like to hold my head up straight, but tilt my head slightly into the shot. There are two reasons for this; the first reason for doing this is to support my anchor as I discussed above. By relaxing my head and tilt-

ing it forward slightly, I can get my release hand's angle closer to the 45 degrees that I aim to have. The second reason is that by tilting forward slightly I am also reducing the strength of the contact that my face is placing on the string and D-loop. If you have too much contact on the string, you can actually influence it to the point that it affects where the arrow will land, so leaning forward reduces that contact enough to remove its influence.

Hopefully this has given a little more insight into a few of the key elements of a compound shooter's form. As I mentioned earlier, compound shooters vary greatly in upper body form and in many cases there is no one right way to shoot the bow. The basics I have covered will help you develop the foundation of your upper body form, and if you try something slightly different and it works for your score, keep doing it (as long as it doesn't injure your body).

In the next article, I will cover some of the other key form tips that can help you improve your shooting through hand grips, anchoring and more.







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enabling them to shoot arrows for target or small game shooting or fishing. They can also be used as conventional slingshots.

There are two options available in the fishing outfits. One incorporates a simple side-cast type spool referred to as the Remote Country where the solid glass fibre arrow is retrieved in the same way as a conventional hand line after shooting. Although basic in its operation, it's a tried and tested set-up favoured by many bowfishers for its simplicity. The other option is more sophisticated in that it incorporates a large closed-faced reel on a reel seat attached to the front of the Slingbow. This set-up, named the Ultra, makes fighting a fish easier as you have the benefit of a drag system on the reel. What makes the Slingbow so versatile is that it can be carried in a backpack and set up very quickly and is also useful as a back-up if pursuing game in restricted areas where taking aim with a conventional bow may be restricted due to dense vegetation or other obstacles.

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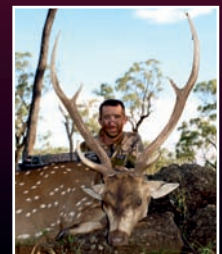
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A photograph of a brown rabbit in tall green grass. In the foreground, a compound bow with a wooden and black finish is resting on a log. The text "Confessions of an R&R addict" is overlaid in the center.

Confessions of an *R&R* addict

by PHIL STEELE

I confess ... I am addicted to shooting recurve bows and hunting rabbits—with the aforementioned recurve bows, naturally! I am at a loss to explain or even understand when this all came about and just as importantly, why it even started in the first place.

Up until the present, I have never been one to confine myself to stalking just the one species—quite the contrary, really. In a period spanning nearly five decades, I have been fortunate enough to have hunted extensively both here as well as overseas. Irrespective of the quarry, I have always engaged in each pursuit with an equal passion. I love a simple fox hunt in the rolling hills near home just

as much as I do stalking a big kudu bull in the Transvaal. So I am at a complete loss to understand why all of sudden, my hunting thoughts and desires are primarily centred around small game and in particular rabbits.

The same can be said about my sudden obsession with traditional bows and in particular, recurves. Back in the days when I was a rifle hunter I shot most of my game with the same rifle even though I owned a few others. I never was all that fanatical about firearms. To me a rifle (or shotgun) was just a tool I used to satiate my hunting desires. I realise there are plenty of hunters, shooters and archers out there who have a real passion for amassing rifles,

shotguns and bows but I am not one of them ... or at least, I wasn't until recently. Even when I started back into serious bowhunting I only ever owned the one compound bow. The very thought of owning two or more compounds never entered my mind. I couldn't see the point really, but that is just me ... or at least, that's who I thought I was.

I cannot pinpoint an exact time when this transformation came about, but in September 2013 I purchased my first recurve bow in more than 40 years. In my youth I hunted with a couple of Ben Pearson recurves until I eventually succumbed to the lure of a flat shooting compound bow in the late 70s. My new recurve was a 45#

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Samick Sage. Certainly nothing flash or top shelf, but gee I loved this bow and still do even though I no longer have the original limbs.

About five months after purchase, I had a limb break during a practice session. Damned infuriating, especially when it happened only days out from a scheduled hunt. My initial reaction was to blame cheap overseas labour and low cost materials for the mishap, but when I looked into it and did some research (much later on), I found many commercial bow manufacturers have a 'bad batch' every now and then, includ-

ing the big name companies. On the positive side, a new set of limbs for a Samick Sage will not overstretch the budget like the equivalent from some of the bigger names (something to keep in mind if you are contemplating a journey into traditional archery).

At the time of the incident, I still owned a compound bow so the hunt was not a complete washout. When the hunt concluded I ordered a new Hoyt Tiburon, but it was not about buying a new 'curve just to hang on the wall. You see, I was still pretty miffed about the breakage and I didn't want anything more to do

with Samicks. The new bow was a replacement, not an addition.

The Tiburon was a fine bow and well made, as it should be. I hunted quite a bit with it and shot regular competitions as well. I scored my first rabbit with the Tiburon and if I think long and hard about it, this was when the spark for small game hunting was struck. However, at this point, the concept of owning more than one or two bows was still not something I contemplated. In the meantime, I sold my one and only compound and picked up a set of replacement limbs for the Samick, so in my mind I had



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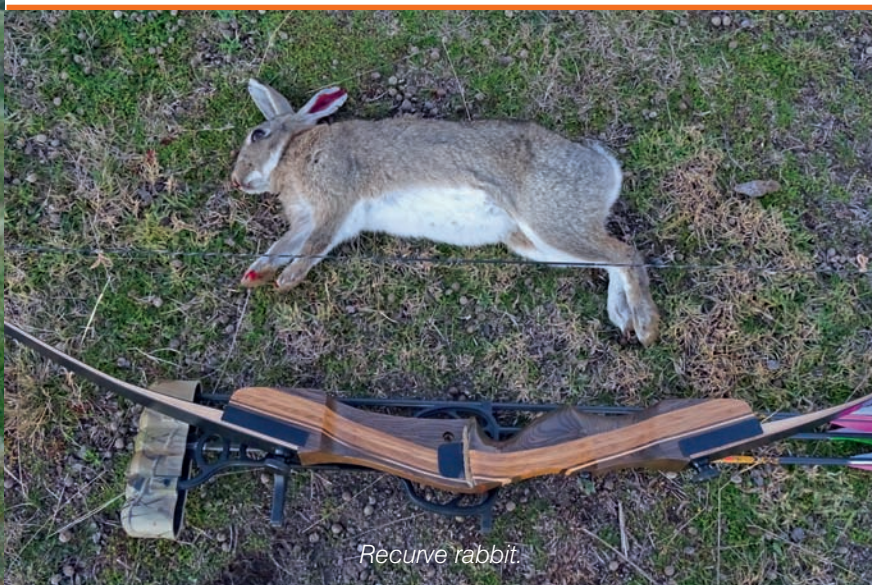




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Taken with the Tiburon.



Recurve rabbit.

a spare bow should something go wrong with the Tiburon, but I wasn't content with that.

As good a bow as it is, I was never fully comfortable with the Tiburon. It had nothing to do with the bow itself or the workmanship. I simply did not like the fact it had a metal riser rather than a nice shapely wooden one. Pretty silly I know, but I wanted a basic recurve, one that was pleasing to the eye and one that I could shoot off the shelf. I didn't want to add unnecessary gadgets like an elevated arrow rest, a stabiliser or sights. If I wanted a bow with this sort of paraphernalia attached to it, I would have kept my sighted compound. In the end, I sold the Tiburon and purchased a 54# Predator DX Hunter.

Predator make a great bow and the Hunter most certainly spits out an arrow. I am told Predator bows shoot an arrow with the flattest trajectory of all commercial recurves and I believe it. My hunting mate, Doug Cane, used to refer to the Hunter as a compound without wheels. I hunted a lot with it and was successful on a number of different species including rabbits, but then I started to make up excuses to buy another bow.

And excuses were all they were.

The compulsion to buy and try different bows was starting to bite so I had to come up with something justifiably solid in order to win the wife over. In this case I told her the Predator was too short (it was a 60inch model) and with my draw I needed a longer bow. I do have a long draw but I never experienced stacking with this bow

or any other I have owned for that matter.

Anyhow, my feeble excuse must have sounded reasonable enough because I got the rolled eyeballs and shrugged shoulders from the other half along with the mandatory lecture on budget limitations. Shackled as I was by money restraints, I knew I



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couldn't buy anything real flash so I bought another Samick Sage. The passing of time had subjugated my feelings for these Korean bows and there is just something about the Sage. They are very popular both here and abroad and yes, it would probably have a lot to do with their price range, but in my case I just love shooting them. Simple design and simple to shoot ... what more could you want? Don't believe all the stories you hear about them being just an entry level bow. At a local trad shoot going back about 18 months, I won the longest shot, speed shoot and the 20-target 3D round with my Sage. Not bad for an entry level bow.

One bow had now grown to three. Common sense tells me you only need two bows; one for use and one as a spare. But who wants to listen to common sense especially when we are talking recurve bows? Since then and up until the present I have bought and sold six more recurves in a 12-month period. Now, to some this may not seem excessive by any means but I stress, I am not a collector of bows. For some reason I just get this urge to try something new. I just love shooting different bows which is probably not all that condu-

cive to top accuracy, but I do okay. Hardly a week goes by where I don't get the urge to go looking for another bargain buy. Unfortunately, I have to subtract one in order to buy one. That is the law in my house (think wife's), otherwise I would still have every recurve I have purchased. I cannot complain because she did allow me to buy a rather expensive Black Widow takedown a little ways back (which I have since sold by the way—that one really was too short).

At the time of writing (an important point because it could so easily change on any given day), I still only have the three recurves. My original Sage with the 40# limbs, which I will never part with, a 40# Samick Phantom (you can see I have gotten over my angst against Samick) and the newcomer, a custom made 47# Ranger takedown. Ranger bows are made by New South Wales bowyer, Stuart Wearne from down Goulburn way. This bow is my first custom piece and at first glance it has everything I look for in a recurve—elegance and simplicity. No doubt you will hear more about the Ranger in the future.

You will note, none of the bows I purchase is of a heavy poundage.

The Predator at 54# was the heaviest whilst my two 40# Samicks are the lightest. All the others have been somewhere in between. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, I don't like trying to shoot heavy bows. The Predator was about my limit, but I found whenever I used it in a field archery competition, I became tired and a bit worn out halfway through the afternoon session. Hence my scores were always lower than what I could shoot with my much lighter Samick. Secondly, bows of 40# are more than adequate for small game like rabbits. In fact, I would not hesitate hunting rabbits with a 30# bow so I have no reason to own a bow of heavy poundage. Even if I do encounter a larger game animal, a 40# bow will do the job if some common sense is applied. I have shot goats with both my Samick bows and I would not hesitate taking a shot at a fallow deer. Having said that, I would have to be very close before I contemplated putting an arrow into a big boar. I have no desire to hunt anything larger these days so I don't see any need to completely wreck my shoulder with a heavy bow.

Despite my rather mixed up predisposition for buying and selling bows, I am proud to say, that I have hunted with all the bows I own or have owned. What's more, every bow has accounted for at least one rabbit. The Ranger is the exception to this but I have only had this bow for just over a week and I am hoping by the time you read this, the Ranger will have accompanied me on a hunt or two. It goes without saying the quarry will be rabbits.

Who would have thought that I of all people would turn into an addicted small game hunter? All my life I have had this passion for trophy hunting. As I have mentioned in the past, I was very much an absorbed antler, horn and tusk man. I never went any-

where without a tape measure in my pack and I used to love inspecting other hunters' trophies and trophy rooms. So I am totally mystified by my eagerness these days to primarily hunt small game and in particular, rabbits. You really can't get a game animal more 'non trophy' than a rabbit. I do, however, enjoy a feed of rabbit, but bugs is only on the menu should I be fortunate enough to head or chest shoot one. Broadheads ruin a lot of meat so all your shots have to be chest high. Anywhere else is not worth retrieving.

I have heard on the grapevine a new virus or strain of an existing virus, is going to be, or has been, introduced into the environment to control rabbits. Are rabbits still that much of a problem? Perhaps they are in some isolated areas, but I must say, they are not in plague proportions anywhere I hunt. I just think it

is a little bit sad when you don't see rabbits anymore in areas where you would normally jump a couple in the course of an afternoon hunt. I sometimes wonder about all this 'feral' nonsense. Kangaroos are in pest proportions across a lot of the country and yet the environmentalists say nothing about trying to control them or manage them at any level. Shame, as they would be a viable asset if they could be utilised sustainably for meat production and the fur industry. Why, even overseas hunters would jump at the chance to legally hunt a roo or two providing the trophy skins could be taken out of the country. The trouble is, kangaroos are native and rabbits are not.

Anyway, back to bunnies. I am not going to dwell on multiple past hunts because there have been a few. Rabbits, as we all know, are pretty widespread in the eastern states and as

a rule you don't have to travel far or camp out for any great duration in order to enjoy a bit of hunting. As I mentioned before, I can't really put a date on when my fascination with rabbit hunting become so dominant, but I do vividly recall an overnight excursion about a year ago where I believe the deal was sealed and I was from that moment forth a bunny hunter.

Lewis Reid is grazier, hunter, author and a long-time friend of mine. He owns a small holding where he runs cattle situated about three hours' drive from where I live on the mid-north coast of NSW. In days gone by, the property was home to a few pigs, a goat or two, the odd deer, foxes, cats and rabbits. It sounds like a hunter's heaven and indeed it was, but long-term land improvement and pest eradication has put paid to most of the species except for a few bunnies. I visit the property pretty regularly and just do

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The rabbit obsession ... hunting partner Doug looks understandably puzzled.

an overnigher. It gives me a chance to recharge my batteries, catch up with Lewis and do a bit of hunting. Nine times out of ten I don't score anything but that is not important.

On this particular weekend, I had my Samick Sage with me and I hunted the back end of the property on the Saturday afternoon with not

much success. I had a few shots at various distances, but as is normal with me, I just couldn't connect. I did however, drive a blunt into the mid-section of a hapless sandy-coloured bunny, but lost it in the blackberries. At the time I was experimenting with blunts and that was the last time I fired one at a living target. Sure, they

do kill, but not quick enough for me and you can't claim an animal you can't find; plus, I hate losing a rabbit.

Now, Lewis is a very seasoned rifle hunter and his book "*I Did it My Way*" is proving to be very popular with local hunters here in Australia. He is not an archer and to be honest, he is not all that keen on bows and

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bowhunting in general. He certainly accepts that a high-tech, sighted compound bow is a deadly weapon, but in his opinion, guys like me who prefer to hunt with a simple 'no-tech' bent stick and a string are just wasting their time. I was so hoping to prove him wrong, but that afternoon I did nothing other than reinforce his biased viewpoint.

Early the next morning I decided to hunt a few feeder gullies just near camp. The day was bright, clear and not at all chilly even though it was late April. It was a far cry from the year before when Doug and I had spent a very cold night camped in exactly the same spot. My first shot at an alert rabbit missed to the left, but not by much. Still, it was a miss. In my defence, a standing bunny at 25m or thereabouts, is not an easy target—we are talking recurve bows, remember. Normally, I would not be at all worried about failing to connect, but I so wanted to prove to Lewis that a traditional bow is more than capable of delivering the goods. Now my pride was at stake and resting on the eventual outcome.

My next opportunity was a younger rabbit which was feeding adjacent to a blackberry bush. This time the distance was a bit closer, perhaps 18m or so, but the target was smaller. I focussed on my spot, drew back on the string until I reached anchor, held momentarily, then released. This time my arrow was on a perfect line and struck the hapless rabbit right through the chest. The coney just flopped to the ground and didn't even kick. Even I

was impressed. A rifle bullet couldn't have killed the rabbit more efficiently.

That was the confidence boost I needed and with my prize secured to my belt, I went in search of another tempting target. It didn't take long. This time the rabbit was a fully grown specimen and feeding out in the open. Unfortunately, I was in full view and the rabbit picked me up when I was still 50m or so away. It sat there for a while then as they do, then ran in behind another blackberry patch and I lost sight of it.

More often than not, the little devils will pull up and just sit there, trying to work out if you are a threat or not. Providing you don't make a noise or move into their line of vision, they will continue feeding, but be warned, they are very much on the alert. With this in mind, I slowly crept up to the edge of the briar and kept watching for the rabbit through gaps in the foliage rather than expose myself. Sure enough, I spotted the coney sitting about 15m away.

I knew if I tried to move into the open for a shot the rabbit would see me and vanish in an instant, so I looked for a hole in the tangle of spiny foliage. Eventually, I found one. It wasn't a big hole, but it was enough. Once again I concentrated intensely on my spot before release and just like the previous rabbit, my broadhead-tipped shaft took out the chest. Two shots, two kills. I had never done that before. Generally, it's all about lots of shots, perhaps a kill, then a lot more shots. When it comes to rabbits, any hit in the chest or head with a broadhead is instant

death. No tracking, no blood trailing and no waiting for game to expire. Perhaps, this is a reason why I like hunting rabbits. Obviously it's not the only reason, but it is an important one nevertheless.

I can tell you I was one smug hunter when I strode back into camp with two rabbits hooked onto my belt. Lewis didn't say a lot, but I knew he was surprised. I, of course, just played it very nonchalantly. I didn't want him to know this was a first for me and if I gave him the impression this was what I do all the time, then so much the better. Besides, I dislike pompous attitudes, especially when they are based entirely upon false belief rather than fact. I dined well two nights later at home with a slow-cooked rabbit casserole.

It would be fair to say, since that weekend I have become obsessed with hunting rabbits. So much so, that whenever Doug and I venture afield, more often than not, Doug ends up wandering off in search of goats on his own while I visit my favourite rabbit patch. I love it. There's no better way to describe it really. As for the recurves—well, they go hand in glove with the way I like to hunt. There is just something stately and quite genteel about the whole concept of hunting with a traditional bow. I saw a statement written by an American traditional bowhunter in an overseas bowhunting magazine which read, *"If I wanted to use sights and a trigger I would still use a rifle!"* That pretty much sums it all up for me. I wouldn't mind betting he was a rabbit hunter too.

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



FOOTNOTE

Since starting this story, I have added yet another bow to the growing assemblage—a 50# Heritage longbow. I am wondering at this point if it could be the start of yet another journey for me. Who knows, in a year or two you could very well see another story entitled Confessions of a longbow addict. Only time will tell.

Getting the lowdown on **LEATHER**

by TONY JENSEN

You can find an amazing variety of leather to work with.

The traditional archery community offers different things to different people. For some, it's the excuse to dress up like Daniel Boone, forgo shaving and showering in order to reclaim the essence of simpler times. For others, it's the opportunity to follow a passion for crafting their own gear. I sit some-

where in between. I love being able to make my own leather gear and if I can get away without shaving, I'm all for it!

For about 20 years now I've been making my own leather gear—mostly tack that I could use while working on stations and doing repairs to make a bit of extra cash.





Wet moulding a knife sheath.



Chrome-tanned leather.

Background: Vegetable-tanned leather, also known as oak-tanned leather.

After a while, doing a few repairs turned into making bridles, breast-plates and other bits and pieces for other jackaroos and jillaroos and much of my spare money went back into buying tools and equipment to make my second job a little easier.

I started learning the craft of leatherwork from an old ringer I met when I was in Emerald many years before my working life started. He was a great old character with the wisdom of a sage gleaned from a misspent youth and the personality and charisma to go with it. He was more than happy to show me the ins and outs of the saddlers stitch, wet moulding leather to make a pocket knife pouch and how to attach red hide reins to a bridle with a 'Gulf knott'.

With those basics behind me, I've been able to move on to other things like saddles and now archery gear. This has been a journey that has given me a lot of joy over the years. Now, in the great tradition of

passing on knowledge, I want to share some of what I have learned in order to help out any of you aspiring archers who want to make your own equipment.

Without a doubt, the question I get asked the most is "What leather do I need if I want to make an arm guard or a quiver?" I can understand the confusion. I remember the first time I went into a leather shop in Brisbane and asked for some leather. I felt like I had walked into a bra shop; I was excited and nervous to be there because there was so much to look at, but I had no clue what I was looking for. The bloke behind the counter was great though—he guided me through some options based on what I needed the leather for and in the end I left happy ... and quite a bit poorer.

The first thing you need to work out is what you want to make because this will give you your starting point. If you have in mind

to make a moulded knife pouch or pocket watch pouch then you're going to need leather that is easy to shape when it's wet and hold its shape when it dries out. Vegetable-tanned (veg-tan or oak-tanned) leather is generally required for wet-moulding. It is the most expensive leather, depending on the part of the hide, but essential for wet-moulding. Veg-tanned leather is also known as tooling leather because if you want to tool the leather (put in shapes or patterns), then that's the leather you need.

A lot of traditional archers and the re-enactment community like the idea of making their own bags, clothing or leather art. In these cases, most types of leather will do as long as it isn't too thick, but ideally either veg-tanned leather or chrome-tanned leather would be your best bet. Chrome-tan tends to be much cheaper and easier to find.

The main difference between chrome-tanned and veg-tanned

leather is the tanning process itself. Veg-tanned uses natural products and the process takes a bit longer whereas chrome tanning uses chemicals and is generally done fairly quickly. The end product is that veg-tanned leathers tend to be the natural creams and light brown colours that you see whereas chrome-tanned hides are dyed different colours after tanning.

For the wild west enthusiasts that would like to make their own holster, knife sheath or something else where the leather may interact with metal, consider using veg-tan leather instead of chrome-tan. While the decision isn't a huge deal, veg-tan tends to react less with metal. There are some makers who prefer to use chrome-tanned leather instead of veg-tan for these items, but they are a rather distinct minority. Basically, it won't hurt to use chrome-tan to practise and for some items, but for the best results, use veg-tanned leather.

If you're going to use veg-tan leather, pick a part of the hide that corresponds to the size or thickness of the project. Shoulders are usually used for belts and other thicker pieces. Sides are used for parts that require strength and appearance but not as much thickness as the shoulders. Bellies are the worst quality and tend to stretch, but are by far the cheapest leather cut. Still, they are quite useful if you want to make a smaller item that doesn't need great strength. Belly leather is also great to practise as a beginner. You can make very useful items and, if you mess up, it's not going to break the bank.

Consider the thickness that you need. In the USA, leather thickness is measured in ounces whereas in Australia everything is usually in millimetres. A rule of thumb for making the conversion from ounces to mm

Hide Patterns			Thickness Chart			
			Ounce	Millimetre	Inch	Decimal
	Side		1	.40	1/64"	.015625
			2	.80	1/32"	.03125
			3	1.20	3/64"	.046875
	Back		4	1.60	1/16"	.0625
			5	2.00	5/64"	.078125
			6	2.40	3/32"	.09375
	Shoulder		7	2.80	7/64"	.109375
			8	3.20	1/8"	.125
			9	3.60	9/64"	.140625
	Double Shoulder		10	4.00	5/32"	.15625
			11	4.40	11/64"	.171875
			12	4.80	3/16"	.1875
	Bend		13	5.20	13/64"	.203125
			14	5.60	7/32"	.21875
			15	6.00	15/64"	.234375
	Double Bend					
	Culatta					
	Double Culatta					
	Bellies					

though is 1oz : 0.4mm. So a piece of leather that is 3oz is actually 1.2mm. Most retailers will be able to help you if you're unsure.

Thinner leather is obviously going to be easier to bend than thicker leather so for a quiver, regardless of whether it's a side, hip or back quiver, it can usually be made from 2mm or 3mm leather, depending upon whether you like it firm or a bit floppy. Armguards are the same. If you want to get a bit fancy and use overlays and backing then I would recommend using a 2.5mm piece of veg-tanned leather as the base and use some 1.5mm veg-tan as the overlay and a piece of softer split leather or moccasin leather as a backing if your arm is a bit sensitive to the rough texture of the natural leather.

Belts and things like that are normally 3mm thick and you can actually ask for belt leather, which makes it a bit easier. If you needed a heavier duty piece for a holster, sword scabbard or knife sheath then you could try 4mm in either tanned type depending upon what you needed.

Latigo is another form of normally chrome-tanned leather (although some latigo is veg-tan) that is use-

ful for projects such as larger cases for takedown recurves or longbows, camera cases, water bottle holders et cetera. It is cheaper than veg-tan and is very useful for items where thick leather is essential but a closely moulded fit is unnecessary.

There are some very good leather retailers in Queensland: Mac Lace Leather, Packer Leather, Bur-rum River Saddlery and East Coast Leather are the ones that I use regularly and always supply great advice and helpful hints. If you're looking at just trying a few little projects then you can normally pick up a bag of leather off-cuts for between \$10 and \$15. If you're looking at doing a lot of work then it would be much cheaper to buy a side of leather. Buying job-sized pieces can often work out a little expensive.

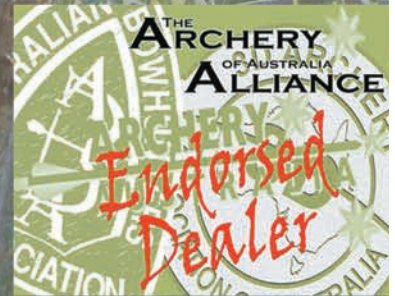
I hope I've been able to shed a little light on the topic of leather selection.

The best thing to do if you are interested in getting into leather crafting is to contact a retailer and ask about courses that they run. Most places will run their own schools or can definitely point you in the direction of someone who does. Good luck!

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



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Entry to the club grounds.



Camping ground.

Gunnedah Arrow Slingers' 2016 inaugural 3DAAA-sanctioned shoot

Gunnedah was the location for the NSW State Series Shoot, held in July on the club grounds situated near Lake Keepit. Gunnedah Arrow Slingers was established in January with the express intent of hosting an inaugural sanctioned shoot in its first year of 3DAAA affiliation. The club was set up with the purpose of encouraging and promoting cross participation between archery associations within (and outside) the Archery Alliance.

The club has been kept very busy this year with a small but dedicated crew encouraging new members with club shoots while setting out and cutting in five competition ranges for of the inaugural shoot.

The original shoot date was in August, which would have been a tight but comfortable time frame, but due to calendar and scheduling issues this date was changed to more than a month earlier, putting extra pressure on the club.

The club was lucky when they initially approached another local club that they were able to negotiate an arrangement with the Gunne-

dah Sporting Clays for the use of their exceptionally well established club grounds, which included a club house with kitchen, generator, large camping areas, gas showers, flushing toilets as well as more than 100 acres of varied bush terrain ideal for setting up archery ranges.

The week leading up to the shoot was a hive of activity as club members set out and positioned targets, put up range signage and safety barriers along with a myriad of other jobs. All the while there was rain, cold weather and gusting winds, leaving club members apprehensive about how the weather would play out on the weekend. With the forecast being for no rain, reasonable temperatures and light wind, all they could do was keep their fingers crossed that the forecast was right.

The camp grounds started to fill up from Thursday. Outside accommodation was also used, with some choosing to stay in the cabins at Lake Keepit Recreation Park and others utilising accommodation in Gunnedah. Friday night and Saturday morning nominations were a busy affair, with

archers even rolling up on Sunday to shoot, taking the overall total to 119 shooters signed up for the weekend, which was a fantastic result for the club's first shoot. The club would like to thank the 3DAAA and the ABA archery communities for turning up to the shoot, some travelling quite a distance, to show their support for our new club. The club has received many overwhelming compliments from shooters about the quality of the ranges, facilities and canteen, with everybody impressed with what the club has achieved and presented in such a short time. 'Shoot of the year', and 'better than Moonan Flat' were some of the flattering comments, leaving the club members basking in a warm glow of satisfaction. The club was also able to secure some great prizes on the raffle table, thanks to some great local and archery business donations. There were many highly sought-after prizes on the table, with one father reporting his son had been offered a UHF radio for a particular fox whistle, which he declined.

On Saturday morning, a heavy



3D targets take a rest before their big event.



On the field.

fog blanketed the entire area, reducing visibility and the desire of many to venture forth from the warm glow of their campfires. The fog started to lift around 9.30am and the day improved tremendously, turning the remainder of Saturday and the next day into great days for shooting the new ranges. Rangemaster Nathan Murrell, ably assisted by Bernie Hayne, presented five varied and challenging 3D ranges, utilising the best of what the terrain had to offer in an attempt to confound, confuse and bewitch shooters. The result of all this enchantment was that only four perfect scores were recorded for the weekend—two of those going to Jamie Bradshaw, one Saturday and one Sunday, and one each to Alyssa Mollema and Matt Bradshaw on Sunday.

The Top Ten Shootoff, usually conducted on the Saturday afternoon as the result of that day's scores, had to be postponed to Sunday due to the fog delaying Saturday's start time. The Gunnedah Top Ten consisted of

the best 10 archers from the sighted and unsighted divisions shooting off against each other in front of a gallery of spectators.

The Unsighted Top Ten was won by Paul Brown, in the second round, with a great shot on the brown bear, just under max distance, to wrest the title from Jeff Thompson from Grafton and Brian Turner from Woy Woy. In the Sighted Top Ten there were three shooters left standing after the first round with Skippy Shorten, Alex Elvin and Jamie Bradshaw going into the shootoff for the title. Skippy was first to shoot, disappointed with his shot, pushing it high, into the 8-zone, next was Alex with a great shot, resulting in his arrow placed high in the 11 ring. That shot looked every bit the winning shot and placed great pressure on the last shooter, Jamie Bradshaw.

But, with the steely nerve of a surgeon and more akin to a laser-guided strike, he surgically implanted his arrow to the centre of the 11-zone to take the victory with one of those

memorable shootoff moments.

Jamie completed his weekend of great shooting, taking out top honours in MBO from Grant Elsley and John Mollema. Other results saw Nicola Alam score a close win in FBO from Chloe Warner and Jenette Harvey. Jake Collins had a convincing win in MBR. Glenys Allen continued her dominance over her beau in RU, with Karl Peck a close second, followed by Estelle Boshoff. Lachlan Scott continued his good form, scoring a victory in the always close HC division, with Jamie Gilroy second, one point in front of a strong finishing Luke Collins. Natalie Henderson was over the moon with her third placing in FHC, as she has only been shooting for a short while. In the YF division Bridget Ryan was first, Haylee Murrell came second and Sarah Keene was third, and in a pleasing result for the club the nominated team of Lachlan Scott, Bridget Ryan and Haylee Murrell took out first place in the club team event. Full results are available from the 3DAAA website.



Top Ten groups.





INDOOR ARCHERY Victoria hits the spot

by PETER MOSSE

Over the past few years, one of the things we have noted in Branch G (Gippsland, Victoria) is that there is increasing interest in shooting indoors mid-week and declining interest in shooting the conventional ABA or other outdoor rounds on a weekend.

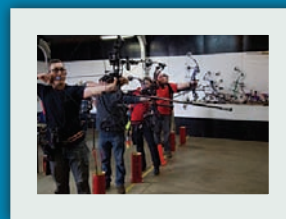
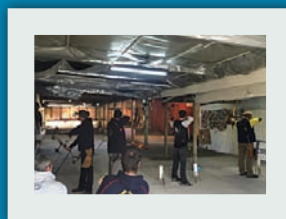
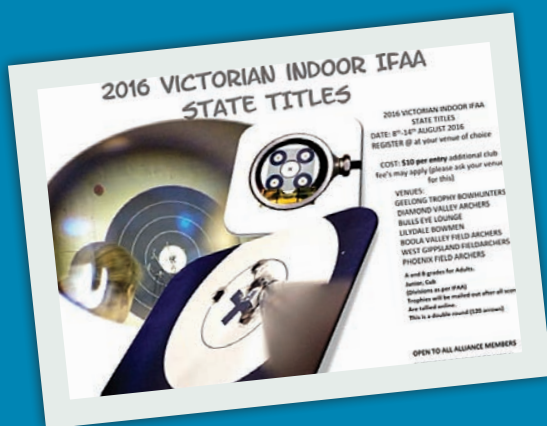
While the regular mid-week participation was positive, as was the increasing number of younger shooters, observation of the shoots often revealed archers were simply coming along and shooting some arrows, with no structure and no way to assess any progress. The archers were starting and finishing at different times and there was often no real social interaction between them. Retention was generally quite poor. I was also concerned that the many new archers involved were getting the wrong ideas about shooting.

As Branch Coach, I was keen to encourage them to shoot a recognised round and score the round so they could monitor their performance. It would also provide our coaches and instructors an opportunity to help them with their shooting form and thereby achieve higher scores. I felt this was a way of increasing their enjoyment in shooting and thereby keep them in archery longer.

Monthly IFAA indoor web shoot

So a concept slowly developed to capitalise on the emerging interest in shooting midweek and shooting indoor—introduce archers to the formality of an indoor round with scoring and enter the scores to a website where they could track their progress and compare themselves with others if they wished. It also meant that even if only one or two people shot at a particular club, they could be part of something larger if they wished.

I decided to try to formalise the trend and introduced a monthly IFAA indoor shoot and social evening. This is run as a formal shoot so our new archers get a bit used to competition and time limits. We approached the other Branch G clubs to join in and some have embraced it with all participants showing enthusiasm. It was heartening to see the response at my small club when we had the last shoot of the year in December 2014, when they were asked whether they wanted it to continue in 2015, all hands shot up. We start shooting at 6.30pm, shoot the full 12 ends (60 arrows) and shooting is well over by 8pm leaving plenty of time for biscuits, cheese, tea, coffee, soft drinks, cake; whatever the host brings along. One small



Left: The flier for the first multi-venue Victorian Indoor State Titles. The event was held in the second week of August at seven different venues. Above: Participants shooting at two of the venues.

point in passing is that often the containers of freshly cut celery, carrots, small tomatoes, or sultanas and nuts go quite quickly and the standard chips and sweet biscuits less so.

We gradually extended the shoot to include a larger Melbourne club and also one in Geelong.

Originally at the end of the shoot, the club representative would collect the scores and enter them to a club score Excel spreadsheet. These were then entered to a common Excel spreadsheet hosted on a personal website belonging to one of our Branch archers. This has now evolved into using more sophisticated software developed by Marcus Anear, where each individual club can enter their own scores into the database, thereby easily allowing for growth in the number of clubs and archers. If you are interested, have a look at <http://www.indoorarchery.org/ifaaindoor/index.php>

The initial idea was for the shoot to be conducted in the first week of the month, but this has now evolved to it being conducted at any time during the month—when ever a club chooses—thereby maximising flexibility for each individual club. But the shoot does need to be completed in the month and the scores entered by the end of

the month. Participation of clubs and individuals varies, but it is still going after two years. I wouldn't say strongly, but it's still going.

State Championships

For many years, Victoria struggled to run a regular State Indoor IFAA Championship. At the events held in 2012 and 2014 in Morwell in Eastern Victoria, the numbers of archers were 45 and 27 respectively. The number was judged to not be viable into the future even though those who competed thoroughly enjoyed the event. For some time we had discussed ways to increase participation. One idea was to always hold the event in or around Melbourne to reduce travel, which was thought could be a factor in the attendance. The idea of a multi-venue event was also tossed around in one shape or another to address the issue of travel and convenience. The idea slowly took shape and a decision taken to give it a go in August 2016.

A total of 121 archers participated, with some groups shooting on a mid-week evening or others shooting on a Saturday or Sunday. Archers from any of the three Archery Alliance associations were eligible to participate.



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The evening shoot had a short tea break between the individual 60 arrow rounds, while the ones held on the weekend generally had a lunch break in the middle. At some venues there was a single flight shooting, while at others there were enough archers to require two flights.

I shot the mid-week evening shoot and having shot

the full 120 arrows in a relatively short time, I wouldn't have minded having two flights to provide a little rest in between, but it was all good.

Scores were immediately entered to a new database (very similar to the one for the monthly shoot) developed again by Marcus.

Feedback from everyone involved has been positive and the event deemed a success. There are a few organisational and rule issues to be discussed, but these will be sorted out relatively easily.

Thanks are due to the committee that put together the inaugural multi-venue State Championships. Thanks also to Marcus Anear for developing the software to allow direct live data entry and participant access. And thanks also to the participants. We hope the enthusiasm engendered by the event can help to keep the monthly shoot going with increasing numbers and increasing numbers of clubs and also a bigger and better championship event next year.

If anyone thinks their club might like to join the regular monthly indoor IFAA shoot, you can contact me at peter.mosse@gmail.com with any questions and I can also organise log-on access to the score-recording database for you. If anyone would like to register interest in participating in a possible National Indoor Championship next year, let Lee Solomon know by emailing him at branchgcontrol@gmail.com.

Not quite ^ THE LAST WORD

Here's a photo that came across my desk from the IFAA National Championships at ABA Park in Mudgee. Somebody really loves his association and doesn't mind who knows it! I just hope his scores were better than his numberplate seems to indicate.





Vale

Good friends are like stars.
You don't always see them,
but you know that
they are always there.

In memory of
Cliff Gosper, who passed
away 18.08.16

Life Member of the
Mount Isa District Bowhunters Club

This photo of Cliff was on the front cover of *Archery Action* in 2000, and it's the way his mates at Mount Isa will always remember him, with the same faithful recurve he used on many club shoots. He was a member at the Mount Isa club from 1986 until he retired to Forrest Beach in 2012. He leaves a wife, son, daughter and grandchildren.

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

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outside In the zone

Outfoxed

by Nils Spruitt

I really cannot remember if it were morning or late afternoon nor can I recall what time of the year it was. Unfortunately, small details such as these have been eroded with the passing of the years. The one remaining black and white picture I still have in my possession from that time does not give away too many clues. It depicts my two school mates sitting on a log in what was our rudimentary camp. They were both wearing long sleeve shirts so I would hazard a guess and say it was during the cooler months of the year. Perhaps it was late autumn or sometime in spring, but I really don't remember.

The passage of time has erased most of the memories I once held of that camping trip and many others just like it, but not all is completely lost. I can still vividly recall walking down from the top of the tussock-covered hill where we were camped and taking up a position on the side of the slope out in the complete open. This was not what the many 'how to' stories I had read advised me to do, but I had very little choice. There simply was no cover to be had other than tussocks. However,

I do recall having a grand view from that position. Before me lay a couple of broad gullies filled with bracken and regrowth; a perfect place for a fox to live.

The little button-type fox whistle which I had purchased from a local sports store with earnings from a paper run didn't look much in my hand and I do remember thinking, how can this thing lure a fox? It did sound a bit like a rabbit in distress, a sound I had heard many times before when I ran traplines, but I was still doubtful. Foxes are sly, cunning creatures with extremely well developed senses. Surely, this piece of tin could not fool old reynard into thinking there was an easy meal for the taking?

The first notes from the whistle were loud and long. I had no idea really. Nobody had ever showed me how to use a fox whistle and the stories penned by hunters in the various outdoor magazines of the day did not really advise me on how to blow the whistle. All I knew was that I had to stay put for about 10 minutes and try not to move about much.

I am not sure how long I sat there, but I doubt if a minute had

even passed before I heard a noise from behind me. I remember standing up and turning at the same time to be greeted by a fox just sitting there looking at me. I cannot tell you how far away the fox was but suffice to say the single-barrel 12g shotgun I had in my hands, loaded with No. 4 shot opened up a hole in the prize skin about the size of a mango when I fired. It was that close.

That was my first attempt at fox whistling and I was 14 at the time. It was also my first fox and I wanted



the skin as a trophy. With the help of my two mates we did carefully skin the ruined animal only to have my Dad tell me when I arrived back home that the shot hole was far too big to be repaired. I cannot remember what happened to it after that. As I said at the start, most of the memories I have of those days are very dim but I do remember thinking at the time, this fox whistling lark was pretty easy. Oh the well meant but misguided thoughts of youth!

I have shot a lot of foxes since that day so long ago. I have mostly used firearms, but I have had success with a bow.

Yet to this day, that particular fox is the only one I have ever taken from start to finish with a whistle. I have had the occasional fox show interest but such an event is rare. I am at a complete loss to understand it all. I have read and digested all the stories written by the experts—so much so I believe I could recite verbatim Graeme Duff's last published fox-hunting story. I follow his advice to the letter and yet I have nothing to show for it.

In my defence, I must point out I am not what you would call an ardent fox whistler. I do not go out

with the express purpose of hunting foxes and foxes only (which is obviously detrimental to my ability or at least an explanation of my lack thereof). Most of the foxes I encounter are chance meetings whenever I am hunting for other game but since turning my attention to rabbits of late, I seem to encounter more foxes than I ever did when hunting bigger game.

Despite my ineptitude, I never go out hunting without a fox whistle around my neck or in my pocket. It is just something I have done ever since that episode so many years ago. Every now and then I try my luck when nothing else is attracting my attention and give the whistle a work out, but I never do any good. It probably doesn't help that I give up after a minute or so and move on. I am generally a very patient man but when it comes to fox whistling, I fall way short in that department. Ninety percent of the time I use the whistle only after I have spotted a fox prowling about. Perhaps employing the whistle once you have seen a fox is not the correct way to go about things although I can't see why not. However, I can adamantly state, most of the time I wish I had left the

whistle in my pocket for all the good it does me. Here are two examples of what I mean.

Digs and I were hunting a new property primarily for goats, but much to my delight this property also abounded in rabbits. It goes without saying I elected to chase rabbits around camp most of the time (well, someone has to do it!) while Digs did all the goat hunting.

One morning I had just reached the end of the cleared gully where it joined up with uncleared forest and I noticed a fox prowling around some windfalls and rock outcrops. The todd was only 40m or 50m away at the time and heading directly towards me. I dropped down on my haunches, knocked an arrow, removed my whistle and commenced to blow what I thought to be a tantalising tune. Quick as a flash and without any hesitation whatsoever, this fox just turned tail and got out of there as fast as he could, leaving me to ponder why I just didn't let him come in on his own. I most certainly would have had a 10m or so shot at it had I not blown the whistle (and, I admit, blown the hunt!).

On another goat hunt but this



time with Digs and Gerry, I again noticed a prowling fox some distance ahead of me and on the opposite side of a steep gully. This time I positioned myself in front of a large tree and proceeded to try and tempt it in with my whistle. When the first shrill notes of the whistle reached its alert ears, the fox stopped and just looked up the hill towards my hidden position for maybe all of 15 seconds before deciding to keep doing what it was already doing. No amount of further calling could entice this animal to come anywhere near me and in the end I gave up when it finally disappeared over a hill. These are just two of my more recent endeavours ... there are many others I could relate.

So you see, as a fox whistler I am astonishingly bad. Even if I do manage to attract a reynard's attention with the whistle, something invariably goes wrong. Attracting the fox in the first place is a very rare event and in itself a separate subject entirely. As you can well imagine, I am somewhat frustrated by my inability to call in a fox. So much so, I have decided to try and remedy the situation but that has presented me with yet another problem.

Of late I have made several purchases of alternative fox calls and whistles. All these years I have just used the old button type but after browsing through various hunting publications and digesting some of the fox-whistling tips, I have noted most successful artisans of the craft don't just use the one type of whistle. Subsequently, I have outlayed a bit of cash and am now armed with a variety of fox whistles all guaranteed to produce results (or so the various literature states), but which one should I start with?

According to what I have read, foxes can be choosy and will often completely ignore a certain lure

(you don't say), but respond to another. Okay, I will accept that, but how do I know which whistle to use on any given day? Will it or will it not work depending upon the season, time of day, mood of the fox, location, whether or not I showered that morning and so forth and so forth. It's fine for the experts to say just keep trying different whistles but what happens if I blow the wrong whistle first up and scare every reynard for miles? I cannot imagine changing your tune (so to speak) with an alternative whistle will fool old todd if he is already long gone and miles away.

I have even tried the various calls out on my pet spaniel, Chloe, to see which one works the best. After all, dogs and foxes are related and I am sure that buried deep down somewhere in Chloe's psyche is that same predatory instinct so prevalent in foxes. At first the tests were going well until I tried the Tenterfield type whistle. I could hardly make much more than a wheezing sound out of it, but once again this bought Chloe running. From that point on I had an inkling this was a pretty pointless exercise. I knew for sure when Chloe again responded when I started blowing raspberries to her through pursed lips. So much for primal instincts.

I am no closer to mastering this craft than I was this time last year or the year before that. I do know for certain if Messrs Duff, Whiting or Luxford ever decide to hold a field-training demonstration with limited participation then I will be there in a flash. I would even go so far as to camp out for several days on their respective doorsteps if I have to, just so I will not miss out on a place. Don't laugh, I'm serious.

One aspect of whistling I am slowly coming to grips with is the fact that foxes are more prone to

the lure during the warmer months and in particular spring (at least I think that is correct). If I am right on this, then I find myself in somewhat of a quandary. I hunt foxes for their prized pelts and for no other reason. Winter is the only time I am interested in taking one or two. It is in my bucket list to have a prime winter-coated fox full mounted for my little study ... but it must be a really good fox. One from the high country would be perfect. I recently saw a picture of a full mounted fox whilst surfing the net with Mr Google. This fox was lying over an imitation rock with its head up. I don't know who did the taxidermy work but I must say it was a masterpiece. Ever since then, I have wanted something just like it.

Another reason I will not hunt foxes in spring is purely ethical. Early spring is when the vixens have a litter in their dens and it would play very heavily on my mind should I arrow a lactating vixen. Killing such an animal is sentencing her litter to a slow and prolonged death and I can't knowingly do that, not to foxes or any other animals. You can say what you like about them being a pest and a feral menace, but to me they are still an animal. I have a great respect and admiration for all animals, no matter what—and so should every true hunter in my opinion.

I have heard it said that every hunter will invariably come up against a quarry which will test him or her to the limit—an Achilles' heel if you like. Apart from bowhunting as whole, I guess foxes are mine. I am not what you would call desperate for help just yet but if you have any advice to offer me, then I am all ears. Perhaps a one-on-one demonstration on how to blow the Tenterfield would be a good place to start. Until next time.

What's On

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Southern NSW & ACT Branch

ABA/3D Branch Shoot

Hosted by

Lithgow Valley Archers

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20, November 2016

Saturday - ABA Round

8-8:30am Registrations & Bow Checks
9am Muster & Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round
Presentations ASAP

Sunday - 3D Round

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

Fees: Single Day Only \$20 Single, \$40 Family
Both Days \$30 Single, \$50 Family (all fees include GST)

To Pre Nominate or for further information:

Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628 or Email: branchscores@gmail.com

Facilities include: Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen

Evening meal available on Saturday

No Dogs Policy Applies to this Shoot

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

ABA/3D Branch Shoot

Hosted by **Capital Field Archers**

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 October 2016

Saturday - ABA Round

8-8:30am Registrations & Bow Checks
9am Muster & Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch 1 Arrow Round
Presentations ASAP

Sunday - 3D Round

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

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

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

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

Facilities include: Camping Available. Toilets and Showers.
Canteen over the weekend. Hot meal available Saturday night only.
Novelty event Saturday afternoon.

For more information: Drew Cummings on 0418 352 268 or
tigg67@gmail.com

NO DOGS POLICY APPLIES TO THIS EVENT



ALICE SPRINGS Masters Games

8 - 15 October 2016

The Friendly Games



Back in 2016 for just their third Games, Archery is again organised by the Dead Centre Bowhunters Club. Featuring competition in a picturesque country setting at the foot of the MacDonnell Ranges with FITA, ABA, IFAA and 3D competitions for a rounded Archery experience.

The Dead Centre Bowhunters Club is 15km from town, and offers on-site camping with flushing toilets, drop-pit toilets, porta-loos and bucket showers. Good water supply with hot water available. Transport is available for those not staying on site.

Breakfasts and lunches will be available for purchase along with water, soft drinks and snacks throughout the day. Spectators welcome.

Saturday 8th: Practice range open, shoot group allocation. Opening parade 5.30pm onwards in the mall.

All competition days: shooting starts 8am, muster from 7:30am onwards and breakfast from 6am onwards.

Sunday 9th: ABA 20 colour animal image vinyl targets, 2 rounds (3 arrow & 1 arrow)

Monday 10th: ABA 20 colour animal image vinyl targets, 2 rounds (3 arrow & 1 arrow). Presentations Monday 3pm.

Tuesday 11th: IFAA 28 circular vinyl targets, single "field" round, marked distances.

Wednesday 12th: IFAA 28 vinyl targets, single "Animal" round, marked distances. Presentations Wednesday 3pm.

Thursday 13th: FITA 60/900 round, circular colour target at 60m, 50m, 40m. Presentations Thursday 2pm.

Friday 14th: ABA 20 3D targets, 2 rounds (3 arrow & 1 arrow)

Saturday 15th: ABA 20 3D targets, 1 round (2 arrows, both counting). Presentations Saturday 1pm.

Divisions:

Male & Female

Age Categories:

35 - 45

46 - 55

56 - 65

66 - 75

76+

Classes:

Longbow

Recurve - unsighted

Recurve - sighted

Compound - unsighted

Compound - sighted



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SHOOT CALENDAR

September-October-November

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
September			
2nd	Diamond Valley*	Vic	Indoor QRE
3rd	Eden Field Archers*	St Marys SA	Field QRE
3rd	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	State Target
3rd-4th	Mallee Sunset Field Archers *	I – Branch	Traditional
3rd-4th	Geelong Archers*	Vic	State Field
4th	Canberra Archery Club*	Canberra	Presidents Shoot
4th	Mackay District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
4th	Mount Isa Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
4th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
10th-11th	Uralla Bowmen*	E – Branch	ABA
10th-11th	S A Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA
10th-11th	Mt Petrie Bowmen*	Belmont Qld	State Field
10th-11th	Mornington Peninsula Bowmen*	Vic	3DAAA
10th-11th	Wingen Matchplay*	NSW	3DAAA
11th	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	G – Branch	ABA
11th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
11th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Branch	ABA
17th-18th	Peel Archery Club*	J – Branch	ABA & 3D
17th-18th	Charleville Field Archers*	D – Branch	Gold Cup ABA
17th-18th	Lilydale Bowmen*	H – Branch	ABA
17th-18th	Caboolture & District Bowmen*	Qld	3DAAA
18th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
19th	Great Southern Archers*	SA	Indoor QRE
24th-25th	Penrith City Archers*	NSW	State Field
25th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	3D
25th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
25th-30th	Wagga Wagga Field Archers *	F – Branch	WFAC
October			
1st	Eden Field Archers*	NSW	Field
1st-2nd	Mountain View Archers*	NSW	3DAAA
1st-2nd	Gympie Field Archers*	C – Branch	Invitational
1st-2nd	Playford District Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA
1st-2nd	Mount Isa Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Invitational
1st-5th	AA National Championships *	Adelaide	Target/Clout/Field
2nd	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	Presidents Shoot
2nd	Mackay District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
7th	Diamond Valley*	Vic	Indoor QRE
8th-9th	Lilydale Bowmen*	H – Branch	Invitational Trad
8th-15th	Alice Springs Masters Games*	A – Branch	ABA 3D FITA
9th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
9th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA
14th-16th	ABA National AGM	Qld	Brookfield
15th-16th	Gloucester District Archers*	E – Branch	Branch Indoor Titles
15th-16th	Capital Field Archers*	F – Branch	ABA & 3D
15th-16th	TBA*	NSW	State Target
16th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
16th	Boola Valley Field Archers	G – Branch	3D

17th	Great Southern Archers*	SA	Indoor QRE
22nd	Great Southern Archers*	SA	Field QRE
22nd-23rd	Darling Downs Field Archers*	D – Branch	TBA
22nd-23rd	Western Plains Archers*	J – Branch	State ABA Titles
22nd-23rd	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters*	H – Branch	ABA
22nd-23rd	Burnie Bowmen*	Tas	Field
23rd	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	3D
29th	Canberra Archers*	ACT	Field QRE
29th-30th	Wide Bay Archers*	C – Branch	Invitational 3D
29th-30th	Western Field Archers*	J – Branch	ABA State Titles
30th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA

November

1st-2nd	Mendooran Archers*	E – Branch	Branch Titles
4th	Diamond Valley*	Vic	Indoor QRE
5th	Eden Field Archers*	St Marys SA	Field QRE
5th-6th	Phoenix Field Archers of Sale*	G – Branch	State ABA Titles
5th-6th	Yorke Peninsula Field Archers*	I – Branch	Branch Titles ABA & 3D
6th	Archery SA*	SA	State Target
6th	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	Presidents Shoot
6th	Archery NSW*	NSW	State Clout
6th	Mackay & District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
6th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
6th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA
12th-13th	TBC*	TBC	Australian Titles
13th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
13th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
19th-20th	Saxon Archery Club*	C – Branch	Invitational
19th-20th	Renegade Bowmen*	D – Branch	ABA
19th-20th	Lithgow Valley Archers*	F – Branch	ABA & 3D
19th-20th	Western Melbourne Field Archers*	H – Branch	ABA
20th	Archery SA Field Championships	SA	Field
20th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	3D
20th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
26th	Great Southern Archers*	SA	Field QRE
27th	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A – Branch	3D
27th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA

Black type shows ABA events (national in red), green type represents Archery Australia events and blue type denotes 3DAAA events

Shoots marked with an * are cross-participation events




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ABA Membership N°:

Renewal ☐
New Member ☐

I, (full name) (M-F)

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

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

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

Email address.....

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

I am a member of (Club)

Signature of Applicant

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

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

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

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

Parent-Guardian Signature ABA Number if Applicable:

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

RENEWALS and/or Advance Memberships for existing members

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

New Members (12-month membership including joining fee)

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

PENSIONER DISCOUNT: Deduct 10% from fees listed.

Quote Pension Benefit Card Number:

All fees include GST

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

Card Number ↓ NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print)

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

Expiry Date (mm yy)

Signature

ASSOCIATION USE ONLY

M'ship #s Allocated

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5/11/2015



APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE
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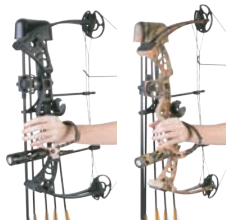
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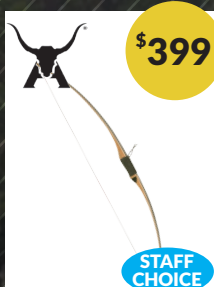
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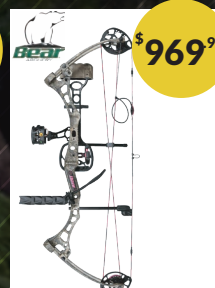
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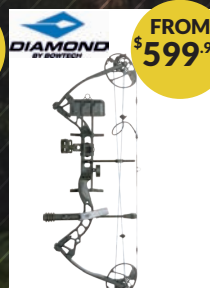
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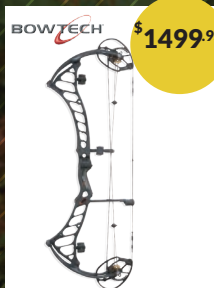
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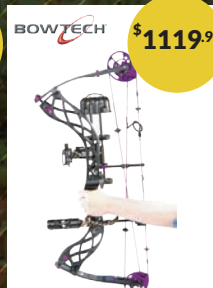
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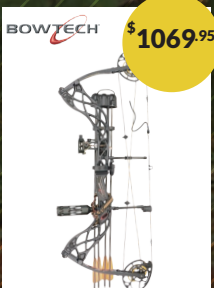
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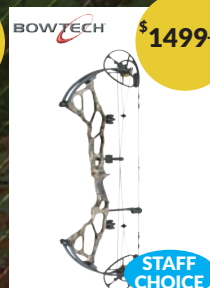
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