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⋖ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

South African waterbuck. See story *Aussies in South Africa* on Page 22.

Photo by KEV WINDLE

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New year is a good time to take stock. It must be, because nearly everyone seems to do it. And while we've all met people who casually trot out the usual sure-to-be-broken resolutions like giving up smoking, losing weight, drinking less and getting fitter, it is possible to be successful with our resolutions by using this time for critical reflection and planning.

For resolutions that won't come and go at the speed of light, obviously there's a little more to it than writing a list and checking it twice. (Oh, sorry, that's Santa.) But you'll be on the right track getting your plans down on paper. As ace New Zealand archer Steve Clifton is always saying within the pages of this magazine: Write it down. Keep records. Know how you're doing and what you've done to get there.

If you have a new year's resolution that goes something like this, "I'd like to do more archery this year" or "I'd like to get better scores", it's not going to give you enough meat to work with. But even an hour of thoughtful planning can put in train some structure that will help you take your archery to the next level, whatever that might be.

If you simply want to do more archery, set aside the time in your calendar now for club shoots and practice days. (If you're a member of the ABA but not in a club, go and join the closest club you can find.) Check the shoot calendar at the back of the

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE DEADLINE
Vol 42 No. 4 March-April 1 February
Vol 42 No. 5 May-June 1 April
Vol 42 No. 6 July-August 1 June



magazine and write in your calendar a couple of shoots that you could realistically attend in the next couple of months. Put a note in your calendar about any upcoming national competitions. The National Safari is always held over the Easter weekend, so block out that time and start saving your pennies so you can go. Make some bookings. Commit.

If your heart's desire is to improve your shooting, go to your club coach and work out a plan for what you're going to work on for the first three months of the year. Be guided by where your coach thinks improvement will make the most difference. Factor in practice times and make sure you practise with good form. Flinging arrows at a target is good fun, but actually improving your aim, your release and ultimately your score, is a case of persistence and proper practice.

You want to get out there and hunt? Get your BPC, grab a hunting partner and find a property where you have permission to hunt. Ring and book with one of the hunting outfits featured in the magazine. Or pal up with someone who already knows the ropes and ask if you can go along on the next trip.

For the rest, it's a good time of year to make sure that all your gear is sound and that you have back-ups of anything that might fail unexpectedly.

Whatever your wish for 2017 as an archer, just remember that you don't usually get where you want to go without some kind of road map.

Jenel Hunt Editor



Advertising Bookings and Editor—Jenel Hunt Mobile 0427 756 546 editor@archeryactionmagazine.com PO Box 638, Stanthorpe Qld 4380

Publisher

Artemis Productions ABN 79 750 431 225 PO Box 5124 Brendale Qld 4500

ABA contact details— Phone (07) 3256 3976Fax (07) 3256 3985

Mobile 0491 243 085 generalsecretaryaba@gmail.com www.bowhunters.org.au

Printer APN Print

56 Kenilworth St Warwick Qld 4370

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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I turned to look at Adam. His thumb was on the safety and his right index finger rested on the trigger of his borrowed .458. His eyes, as big as saucers, were scanning the undergrowth. It was dark, hot and airless. The midday sun did its best to penetrate the dense canopy, but only succeeded in creating eerie shadows. I had an arrow on the string, but what the hell could I have done with it? The mimosa was thick ... the visibility was barely 10m. The arrow snagged seemingly on everything and the insects chewed us to bits. I put the arrow back in the quiver. Clearly we didn't belong in here. The riverside vegetation belonged to Australia's most dangerous game, the water buffalo. So we did what any bowhunter would do: Without much thought for our own wellbeing, we continued following the blood trail.

t was morning. The sun, and the first bull, were not long up. Dew soaked the ground and absorbed most of the sound and the heavy morning fog isolated us from the rest of the world. I slid on my belly toward a thistle that provided the only cover between a giant buffalo bull and me. My only protection, a razor-sharp 190-grain Concorde. The bull was already onto me-a change of wind had given me away. He stepped closer, looking down his nose as I pulled myself the last metre into a slight depression on my side of the thistle. I drew my knees underneath me to my chest. I drew the bow horizontal, as low to the ground as I could, and then slowly raised my body to the vertical. The bull twitched and stretched his head high, exposing the contrasting white V on his neck. As the 35-metre pin settled on the V, the arrow was gone ...

The shot had sounded good, but neither Adam nor I had seen the impact. The buff dropped then threw his head, turned, ran 15m into cover and stopped to look back, then trotted another 15m before stopping to look back once more from deeper cover. With a loud snort he bolted. The bull's reaction left us with the question: How well had I hit him? We marked our positions and backed out. Then began the fight against all

the anxiety that comes when waiting to begin the follow-up.

If it was five minutes it was an hour, but it felt like a day. We returned to the start of the trail. We recalled the shot and triangulated where each of us had last seen him. There were some rough signs but nothing solid. A lot of buffalo had moved through, so picking the correct tunnel was harder than we had anticipated. We split up, cutting backwards and forwards through the wait a-while. We searched intently but were left scratching our heads. I called out to Adam, "Mate, let's go back to the start."

"Yeah, I think so," he replied.

Arcing around slowly, eyes at our feet, we only took a few steps before calling out almost in unison "Got blood!". It was only a few spots between us but it was blood all the same. We had something to follow. Out came the toilet paper to mark the trail. Adam led while I patiently stuck ripped-up pieces on the increasingly heavy blood trail. After only 20m we came to a large pool of blood. Our eyes followed the trail away from the pool to the tunnel. It was clear we wouldn't need toilet paper to mark any more. The blood trail was a hand-span wide and unbroken. How the hell something so big can move through a gap a man needs to crawl through I don't know. Without words, Adam put a round in the chamber and followed me in. Bloodied leaves stuck to my hands, knees and bare feet. Our ears pounded with the beat of our hearts and rang with the squeals of mosquitoes.

It was easy to lose track of how far we had come. Visibility was low, progress was slow and anxiety was high. The amount of blood was incredible.

Deeper into the vegetation we could stand up because the lack of sunlight had hindered undergrowth, but the leafless vines still meant we had to crawl more often than not.



The bugs were thick! A cloud of flying, biting insects stayed constantly in front of our faces. Sweat burned our eyes that were reluctant to blink. It was deathly quiet in there. Even with bare feet the crunching of dried leaves sounded deafening to our heightened senses. With each step we were expecting a surprise appearance from Stage Left. From the amount of blood on the ground, surely the brute was down and out, but there was no way I wanted to make an early announcement of my arrival regardless.

We came to a billabong hidden in the undergrowth. The blood trail led to the very edge. The bull clearly had crossed. My heart sank, fearing this could be the end of the blood trail. The billabong was only 5m or so across but we couldn't see either end. I marked an entry point with enough paper to keep a family of five in supply for a week then headed off looking for a safe place to cross. We fought around the billabong and

came to the opposite side. My trail marking efforts were clearly visible.

To our surprise, and my complete relief, the trail continued immediately from the water's edge. We moved slowly up the muddy bank and over the crest pushing through wait-a-while. After a short crawl I stood up. There, maybe 10m away, in the shadows, standing right over the shining blood trail was the silhouette of a bull! My eyes nearly fell out of head. I held out an open hand behind me and pushed Adam's stomach. I've no doubt he'd already seen it. The bull stood quartering toward us, his head slightly down. I leaned back and whispered into Adam's ear, "Is this him? It can't be! This one is nowhere near as big!" We exchanged explicit words without any other content. The cover was tight. I couldn't even nock an arrow, let alone draw the bow. I needed to move to have any chance of a clear shot. I grabbed my balls and placed them in my top pocket. I heard a muffled click behind me. I knew exactly what it was. I took a big step over the tangled vegetation. The bull did what we both hoped. He let out a big snort and took off directly away from us. We followed the blood trail the same direction the bull had run.

"Damn! We've just stuffed this up!" I rubbed my face in frustration and then dabbed the blood where the bull had pushed through another tight tunnel. The blood wasn't wet! I looked up at Adam as a smile broke across my face. It wasn't our bull!

Through the tunnel we went. I stood up on the other side and saw a sight I will never forget. A sliver of light penetrated the canopy and shone onto the grey back of an enormous buffalo bull. He was down! The beast was on his side with his back facing us. His right horn rose well above his body. With careful slowness we approached, but there was no need for further caution. He was ours!





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



gear used

Hoyt Alpha Max 35 @75lb FMJ Dangerous Game 250 spine 190gr Tusker Concorde singe bevel Total arrow weight 850gr

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Australian-Bowhunters Association

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WEBSITE

http://www.bowhunters.org.au

NATIONAL OFFICE

The General Secretary, Amie Mills PO Box 5124 **BRENDALE QLD 4500** Ph (07) 3256 3976 Email: generalsecretaryaba@gmail.com Mobile 0491 243 085

PROTOCOL

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

NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Michael White (03) 5143 0418

SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Jeff Bell 0429 358 636

VICE-PRESIDENT, BOWHUNTING

Mark Burrows (03) 5625 2390

VICE-PRESIDENT, FIELD

Tony Hartcher 0417 570 330

TREASURER

Amanda Skinner 0438 573 792

NATIONAL MEASURER

Garry Pitt (07) 4743 4131

ASSISTANT NATIONAL MEASURER

Troy Morris 0417 949 542

NATIONAL SCORE RECORDER

Trevor Pickett (07) 3282 7078

ASSISTANT NATIONAL SCORE REC.

Stephen Barratt (03) 5145 6214

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Bruce Kelleher 0425 758 834

DIR BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

Ray Morgan (03) 9743 5595 DIRECTOR OF COACHING (interim)

Tom Cornell (02) 6852 1847

BRANCH CONTACTS

Northern Territory Geoff Bond 0439 999 421 Jacqui Baumgarten North Queensland 0447 269 373 Central Queensland **David Brewer** 0411 156 428 South Queensland Trevor Pickett (07) 3282 7078 North New South Wales (02) 6743 1559 Peter Stubbs South NSW and ACT Joe Halev 0427 945 573 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)



Bowfishing Competition

This was held at Jingellic on November 19 and 20. Attendance was down but those who participated thoroughly enjoyed the ability to be able to legally bowfish. The river was up after recent rains, making things a little harder but quite a few fish were still taken. There were several prizes on offer, first fish taken, longest fish for both days and most fish for the

weekend. Jeff Bell managed to win the first fish. Nigel Vaughan got the longest on Saturday and Tony Valasinavicius got the longest on Sunday. Nigel also won the most fish for the weekend with nine. Tony Garget and I weren't far behind.

Nigel was very happy with his new bowfishing bow donated by Abbey Archery. I would like to



The bow prize, donated by Abbey Archery, is presented by Mark Burrows (right) to Nigel Vaughan.

sincerely thank Abbey Archery who have supported these events with the donation of prizes.

What was really disappointing, though, was the lack of attendance by people from New South Wales. It was nothing short of pathetic. The government is handing you something for nothing and you don't seem to be getting behind it. My only hope is that you are registering your intent at other times.

Bowhunting Technical Committee and TBA Meeting AGM

As per the usual practice, the full minutes of this meeting have been

forwarded to all Branch Controllers and Field reps for distribution. By now, everyone should be aware of what was discussed and voted on at that meeting. However, just to make sure everyone has an opportunity to be aware of what took place I will also discuss some of the major points here.

The attending committee is made up of all the associated hunting departments which include national representatives, Chairman of TBA and the committee, Measurers and BPC officers along with all the Branch Field Reps present. So all decisions are made with the best interests of our members in mind. If you wish to get a copy of these minutes, email VP Bowhunting via the ABA's web site and I will forward a copy.

2017 Muster

The muster will go ahead next year on September 9 and 10 under a similar format to the previous musters, that is, guest speakers for all types of activities like skinning, caping, fox whistling, deer hunting, first aid, survival and orienteering. This will be subject to what volunteer speakers we can get. There will also be a noncompetitive 3D round. We hope to have a full programme ready for the Safari next year.

NSW DPI Illegal Bowhunting update

I have put a full report into Archery Action on the results of these meetings but in short the NSW DPI are on our side in this. There was a big push from the green groups for bow licences, arrow bar codes, stricter hunting licences et cetera but in the end all were convinced these were impractical. The DPI have decided to go down two specific tracks. One will be a more intense push on the serious poacher, that is, catch and convict. The other will be education and awareness for the newer archer. Their intent here is to work from the archery dealer upwards and will be producing a 15-page bowhunting booklet to supply to NSW archery retailers, along with promotional material for shot shows et cetera.

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	Jay Janssen	236	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 14/16pt	2016
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt	2014
Fallow Deer	Margaret Cowin	150 7/8pt	1997
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt	2010
Hog Deer	Nil		
Sambar Deer	Nil		
Rusa Deer	Emma Johnson	195 6/8	2016
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

Submissions to Tasmanian and **Victorian Governments**

The Tasmanian Government called for submissions into the control of the increasing number of fallow deer in Tasmania. As most would be aware, there is currently no bowhunting in Tassie so we took the opportunity to put our case forward. Darvl Venables put a lot of work into this huge submission and was backed up by some excellent scientific research and data.

The Victorian submission was basically aimed at invasive pest animals on rural crown allotments. Using the core of Daryl's Tasmanian submission, I put in a smaller version to the Victorian Government, again backed up by scientific research and data supplied by Daryl.

Both these submissions are now on public record at their respective State Governments if anyone wants to have a look.

Troy Morris is also in the process of putting in a submission to the WA Government via WA Crown Parks

Alterations to RC of some of our species

Trophy Class (TC) versus Record Class (RC) as a percentage on all our claims has been studied very closely and there are some very interesting results. We can see, now that we have 30 plus years of data, that some of the decisions made in the early days have not worked as expected. As a result we have decided to alter some of our RC sizes to make the differences between TC and RC more acceptable across the board. (See the table in the full minutes showing these discrepancies and our alterations.)

The fox is a great example here. Of the 3841 Trophy Class and Record Class claims, 3652 are TC and only 189 are RC. It is obvious from this that RC is probably too high. Therefore it will be our recommendation that we reduce RC from 10 6/16pt to 10 2/16pt. Some of the deer species have had their RC level increased for the same reasons. The full list of recommended changes is in the minutes.

Membership versus hunting and **BPCs**

Figures were also looked at on our overall membership base compared to the amount of hunters claiming game. They show that even though our membership base has increased our game claiming members haven't necessarily followed suit. It was decided that the TBA committee try and promote themselves more effectively. TBA will put up a display at the Safari at Easter next year with the thoughts to increasing that participation at future safaris. They will look at the possibility of re-introducing some competitions and the sneaker round.





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

			_			
	ch/Hunter	Club	Game		rd FK/FKOS	
В	Darby Knudson	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	O	TC	FK/FKOS	26 4/8
В	Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District Bowhunters		RC		7 10/16
В	Jyri livonen	Townsville District	Pig	TC		25
В	Jyri livonen	Townsville District	Pig	RC		30 2/8
В	Allan Loumeau	Townsville District	Pig	GΑ	FK/FKOS	0
В	David Flynn	Townsville District	Pig	TC		29
В	John McKay	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC		27 4/8
В	John McKay	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC		27
В	John McKay	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC		26 2/8
В	John McKay	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	RC		30 2/8
В	John McKay	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC		25 2/8
В	John McKay	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC		26
В	John McKay	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC		26 2/8
С	Wayne Kruger	Wide Bay Archers	Red Deer	RC		304 6/8
С	Brett Fittock	Capricorn Field Archers	Stingray BHFF	-GA	FKOS	3 6/8
С		Capricorn Field Archers	Pig	TC		25 2/8
D		Grange Bowmen	Pig	TC		29 2/8
D	Dave Edwards	Grange Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 10/16
D	Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Pig	TC		26 4/8
D	Oskar Sheppard	Darling Downs FA	Red Deer	GA	FKOS	0
D	Tony Weir	Grange Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
D	Colin Ross	Darling Downs FA	Rusa Deer	RC	FKOS	171
E	Scott Meadows		Goat	RC	1103	
		Cobar Bowmen				113 6/8
Ε	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC	FIGO	101
Ε	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Fox	TC	FKOS	9 3/16
Ε	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Pig	TC		28 2/8
Ε	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		110 2/8
Е	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		119 2/8
Е	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Red Deer	GΑ	FKOS	148 7/8
Е	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Sambar Deer		FKOS	109 1/8
Е	Gary Ashworth	Independent	Fox	TC	FKOS	9 12/16
F	David Longmore	Wagga Wagga FA	Fox	TC		9 9/16
F	Dan Podubinski	Independent	Fox	TC	FK/FKOS	9 7/16
F	Dan Podubinski	Independent	Fox	TC		9 11/16
F	Dan Podubinski	Independent	Goat	GΑ	FKOS	9 11/16
F	Dan Podubinski	Independent	Rabbit	TC	FKOS	9 11/16
F	Theo Vanderburg	Campbelltown District FA	Goat	GΑ	FKOS	93 3/8
F	Theo Vanderburg	Campbelltown District FA	Fallow Deer	GΑ	FKOS	0
F	Jennifer Vanderburg	Campbelltown District FA	Pig	GΑ	FK/FKOS	0
G	Anthony Tatterson	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Cat	RC		7 10/16
G	Anthony Tatterson	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	RC		10 7/16
	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Pig	TC		29 2/8
G	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC		16 3/8
Н	Wayne Goorden	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Rabbit	GA	FK/FKOS	0
Н	Tim Pitt-Lancaster	Mount Clay Archers	Buffalo	RC	FKOS	90
Н	Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Sambar Deer	GA	FKOS	0
Н	•	Ballarat Bowhunters	Fox	RC		10 8/16
Н	David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Goat	TC		108 2/8
Н		Mount Clay Archers	Goat	TC		100 1/8
	David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Goat	TC		109 3/8
Н		Mount Clay Archers	Goat	RC		124 4/8
Н	Dylan Evans	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC		9 9/16
Н	•	Independent	Goat	RC		125 3/8
J	Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	Goat	RC		123 3/8
J	Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	Goat	RC		116 4/8
J	Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers	Goat	RC		114
	Ben Chambers Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers Western Plains Archers				
J J	Ben Chambers Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC RC		96
	Ben Chambers Ben Chambers	Western Plains Archers Western Plains Archers	Goat			130
J			Goat	TC	EKOS	108 4/8
	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
J	Cheryl Morris Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers Western Plains Archers	Stingray BHFF	TC	FKOS	7 15 4/8
J	noy woma	WESIGITT I IAITS AICHEIS	Shark BHFF	10		13 4/0





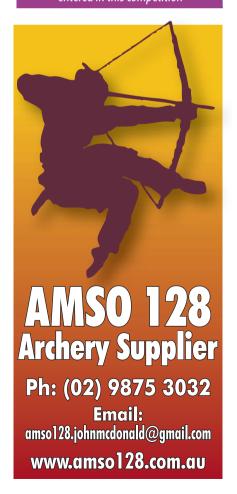


2017 and be in the running to win a red deer hunt with Trophy Bowhunts Australia valued at \$2000 and a gold pen as well as the writer's fee you receive when your story is used.

Send your entries to

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

All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition





Q & A

In this issue we answer the first two questions most people ask about the TBA.

What is the TBA?

The Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club originally existed to measure and record bowshot game within Australia and to promote the rules of fair chase. It was in essence the parent body of the ABA. When the Australian Bowhunters Association was created, the TBA was incorporated into the Association as a club of experienced hunters who have proven their skills to a minimum standard. So essentially, the TBA is a club within the Association.

How do you become a member?

Firstly, you have to be a member of the ABA. Secondly, you must have taken a Trophy Class animal with a bow and arrow, within the rules of fair chase, and the animal must be measured by an approved Measurer and claimed through your Field Representative. Once those conditions are met, the Vice-President of Bowhunting grants membership (there is no cost) with a letter of recognition and you are then eligible to purchase your membership badge, which is an Ishi Patch.



You can find more information on the ABA website, www.bowhunters.org.au, under the Quick menu link at the left of the page, "TBA Info Booklet".

Welcome to TBA Darby Knudson

Hi, Darby. Where do you live, and how long have you been hunting?

I live in Mount Isa, Queensland. I've been a member of the ABA for the past five years and have been actively hunting for four years.

What made you start bowhunting? Are you a member of a club?

I've always liked camping and 4WDing. I wanted something else to add to the experience and bowhunting has done that ... although it hasn't been easy. I belong to the Mount Isa Bowhunters Club, and enjoy the friendly atmosphere of club shoots.

How often do you hunt? What sort of bow do you use?

I try to get out for a hunt a least once a month. Sometimes I'm lucky and get to go out a couple of times a month. I've always used a compound bow but have recently bought a recurve. It's a little bit different to the compound but I'm enjoying the challenge.



Darby Knudson and his Trophy Class boar.

How long has it taken you go get your first TC claim? How do you feel about this whole experience? Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?

It's taken me four years to get my first TC claim. Although I've got a few animals in the time I've been hunting, this is the first time I've sent in a claim. It has definitely encouraged me to go out and hunt more. The excitement of getting an animal of that calibre is something I definitely want to experience again.

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

I do have hunting goals. I'd like to better the TC pig I got. Also, I've been trying for fallow deer and buffalo for the past two years; I'd like to achieve my goal for those species. And I'd like to go hunting overseas.

Did you know about TBA before you took your Trophy Class animal?

I knew a little about the TBA before this claim, and will be looking into it further.

The TBA Committee congratulates you on your achievement, Darby.

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Master Bowhunter Award points ... as at November 21 2016

Master Bowhunter Award (for those obtaining 300 points or better, in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award Formula): Graeme Duff 410, Helen Duff 410, Scott Meadows 410, Tyler Atkinson 350, David Luxford 320, Bradley Seagrott 320.

Trophy Bowhunter Award (for those obtaining 200 points or better (but less than 300) in a minimum of three species of game): David Rethus 290, Jay Janssen 260, John Teitzel 220.

Bowhunter Award (for those obtaining 100 points or better (but less than 200) in a minimum of three species of game): Zebulon Jones 170, Stephen Kidd 160, Donald Moor 160, Benjamin Ireland 150, David Pender 150, Jason Shortt 140, Anthony Tatterson 140, Jamie Molloy 130, Tim Pitt-Lancaster 130, Graham McComiskie 120, Neville Ashton 110, Carol Teitzel 100, Paul Withers 100.

Bowhunting achievements *(to November 21)*:

Bowhunter Royale (the equivalent of 10 Trophy Class)

Wayne Kruger, Brad Beach, Anthony Tatterson, Tyler Atkinson.

Bowhunter Imperial (the equivalent of 20 Trophy Class in three different species): Jay Janssen, Scott Meadows, Dean Cunningham, Douglas Bourman, Richard Cross.

Bowhunter Supreme (the equivalent of 40 Trophy Class in three different species): Graham Newell, Jason Shortt, Tim Pitt-Lancaster, Wayne Rantall, Benjamin Chambers, Troy Morris

Senior Member of ABA threearrow chevron (three different species at Trophy Class level): David Brewer, Bevan Blacklock, Scott Meadows, Timothy Messer, Anthony Tatterson, Neil Graham.

1/inners PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners of the Abbey Archery Photo Competition for 2016. Will Ellen and John Fookes each win a \$250 gift voucher.

They can use their prize towards a Bear RTH package bow or any other archery accessory at Abbey Archery.

Thanks to our graphic designer Aaron
Tomkins for judging the competition.





In the Bush

What a view

Will Ellen
Publication date:

March-April 2016

In the Field

Pick a spot
John Fookes
Publication date:
January-February 2016







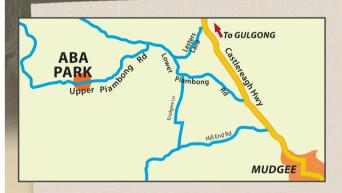
2017 TBA MUSTER

9th and 10th September 2017 at ABA Park Mudgee, New South Wales

The TBA Committee would like to extend a welcome to bowhunters and any one who is interested to the 2017 Muster to be held at ABA Park Mudgee NSW.

This is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in bowhunting and archery to catch up with other like-minded people.

Bring your hunting trophies, photo albums, craft items for display no matter how big or small.



ABA Park address is 600 Upper Piambong Road, Piambong

What's On

Information sessions from guest speakers on hunting topics Question and Answer Session DPI NSW Information

There will be a 20-Target TBA 3D Round. No Prizes - No Divisions.

TBA Raffle · Heaps of Camping

Directions:

From Mudgee take the Castlereagh Highway towards Gulgong for 12.5km and turn left into Lesters Lane and continue 3.7km to a T intersection and turn right into Lower Piambong Road (gravel road from here on). Follow Lower Piambong Road for 2.1km until you come to Upper Piambong Road on your left, take this turn and continue 6km until you find the gated entrance to ABA Park. All turns will be sign posted. If coming from the North (Gulgong) after 16km it will be a right hand turn into Lesters Lane.

Contact Ralph Boden: E: fulldraw@bigpond.com P: 02 4392 6810 | M: 0413 054 722





Australian Archery Hall of Fame

Twenty five legends of archery have already been inducted into the Australian Archery Hall of Fame, witnessed by guests and archers from all disciplines of the sport. The 2017 and eighth Induction Dinner promises to be a great night celebrating the achievements of three more remarkable Australian archers. You are invited to join in the celebrations in Brisbane in March.

The Saturday evening Induction Dinner on March 4 will honour the service and contributions to the development of archery nationally and internationally of Roy Rose, Madeleine Ferris and Edna Gaisford.

The dinner will be held in conjunction with the 2017 Australian Open (March 3 to 5) to be hosted by Samford Valley Target Archers, allowing many of the archers attending this event to also have the opportunity to be present at the dinner to honour the induction of their fellow archers. The venue for the Induction Dinner is the Gaythorne RSL Club located at 534 Samford Road, Mitchelton, Queensland. Entry to the Club and parking is via Tel-Kebir Street and directions to the venue can be obtained through the website at: www. gaythornersl.com.au.

Dinner bookings at a cost of \$40 per person can be made through the link (below); also available through the websites of the four national archery associations.

Induction dinner proudly sponsored by Abbey Archery



https://eventdesq.sportstg.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&EventDesqID=20748&OrgID=8452

The rabbit and the silky cat







nocked an arrow as the rabbit came bouncing towards me. Another rabbit went down a burrow towards my left and I realised why they were running—there was a shiny black outline meandering around and between the bushes and logs. The cat was around 30m away heading to my right and totally unaware of my presence.

I had to make a move before it got downwind of me, so every time the cat was behind cover I moved quickly and quietly. I got in to 20m and drew back but the cat was still weaving and zigzagging through the logs looking for its prey and not presenting a clear shot. I gave a quick squeak and the cat paused.

The cat was slightly quartering on, so I settled the pin on the cat's shoulder. The 125-grain Tusker Spirit tipped Black Eagle Renegade flew perfectly—it really couldn't have hit better. The cat took two steps and expired.



KINDNESS for kids







n November last year, the Mackay District Bowmen hosted an archery fun day for children and their parents staying at the nearby Seaforth Pines Recreational Centre. It was a little different from the normal come-andtry event, as all the children had some form of cancer, which restricted what they could do.

When the group arrived at the clubgrounds, a quick introduction was given to explain the do's and don'ts including safety precautions. The practice range was set up with 10 square bales and Group 1 coloured targets, to be shot at a maximum of 6m. Each of the butts had a maximum of four people, with a coach or club member to supervise and explain how to shoot. Practice range captain for the day was Debbie.

The club has many small bows and arrows to suit young people. Most of the children were under 10 years old and a bit apprehensive at first ... until their parents were informed that they had to participate too.

After a shooting session—and yes, some of the young ones did show up their parents!—the group inspected the club's trophy room. After many questions were asked and answered, it was time to go back to the practice range. Each butt now had a string of balloons floating in the breeze and the look on each youngster's face was priceless. They all prepared their arrows and at Debbie's signal, the balloon carnage began. There were whoopees, cheers and high fives among the little kids and 'big kids' alike.

With all the balloons gone, it was time to see other archers in action, as members sent three arrows each to targets that were 40m away. Different bows were used so the children had a chance to see bows ranging from longbows to some with wheels, bells and whistles.

Back at the clubhouse, a smoko of chocolate slice and fruit platters (provided by Seaforth Pines) was served before the group left, armed with fruit poppers and lollipops to eat on the way back. The kids would have liked to have stayed longer because they'd had so much fun. But there were more activities organised for them by their hosts.

The club and Seaforth Pines donated all the facilities and gear for the day. Thanks to those who gave up their time to make this day a success for the kids and parents.

-Peter Ellis

Around THE TRADS



During the first week of September, a contingent of five traditional archers left our shores, destination, China

swallace@wallacetradwoods.com

to compete by invitation from the Chinese Government. The following is information as told to me by one of this year's participating archers:

We flew to the major city of Xining. We were then driven by police escort about 90 minutes to Gonche. There were many international teams present including Ireland, England, Spain, Greece, Poland, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Turkey, Korea, and the USA. Teams were made up of five or six archers per country. First there was the opening ceremony, followed by the archery event, which comprised of 36 arrows. This event was held at an indoor range which was 100 metres long and 13 lanes wide, allowing two people shooting per lane at targets 60 metres down the shooting lane.

The second venue was a 90-minute drive via Xining to Jianzha. Archery at the venue there was also 60 metres, this time at a triangle. For this event, each archer was allowed to shoot two arrows. There were three lanes 8 metres wide by 100 metres long. There were people lined up along the sidelines to view the shooting. Each lane had an arrow caller who would run across to the target and point out where the arrow hit the target. The winning team had to be at the top of the triangle, and scoring was similar to bowls.

Tournament equipment used was horse bows or bows with no shelf. Arrows had to be self nocks. Archery, especially horse-bow archery, has a long and celebrated history in China. The weather was very similar to here. The total travel time away was two weeks, and with each team being allocated their own personal tour guide, there was a lot of time to take in all the sights China has to offer.

I have done my best to check the spelling of the place names, and do sincerely apologise if they are not riaht.

It has been very quiet at Chevallan Archery Park this latter part of the year as it has been going through the council process. On the weekend on September 24 and 25, we had a fundraising mini-shoot for the Big Aussie Barbie campaign, and all of the raffle sales were donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Twenty-five of us had a grand old time enjoying the camaraderie and fun of all the novelty events on Saturday afternoon, with the field course on Sunday. There were special trophies

which had been hand made and donated. We would like to say a big thank you to all who were there.

On the long weekend of October 1 and 2, the Hunter Valley Traditional Archers held their annual Charity Shoot. The 125 registered archers who attended, plus many other visitors, successfully raised \$7000 from nomination fees plus raffle takings for Build a Road to HVTA. The club would like to say thank you to all the sponsors, and all the members and visitors who helped out. I beli eve there was the 3D field course, and a couple of novelties were shot.

The weekend of October 15 and 16 saw 77 archers gather for the Coffs Harbour Trad Shoot. They had come from far and wide, the Victorian State border, Shellharbour, Sydney, Newcastle, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and many places between. We had Cinderella weather (not too hot and not too cold), there was no rain and the little biting critters were at a minimum. There were two field courses, both had 15 3D targets, great layouts with very gettable target placement, which at times, I must say, was remarkably deceptive. Standing at the top of an embankment and shooting down into the darkness through rows of plantation







Coffs gamble.

Family snapshot.

The target is down there somewhere.

trees can change your perception of the distance, and the club range captain certainly took full advantage of the different lighting aspects. We also had the six-position moving target, a speed round and the jumping rolling discs, which is very tricky indeed. Their six-target hunter round is set up so you walk along a track. The targets are set at various distances from the track and the shooting positions are between the trees, not necessarily the targets. The new event this year was the Bundy bear shot, where you had to shoot flu flu's with blunts through the hole in the centre of the hessian. The hole itself was growing as people weren't quite making it through cleanly. Once again, there was the retrieval service for those arrows that persisted on going swimming. A big well done to all the Coffs Harbour crew who came together to help make this weekend a success for their club. Now we're looking forward to next year's shoot ... it's definitely worth the trip.

- Unfortunately the inaugural Granite Belt Trad shoot at Stanthorpe was postponed due to inclement weather and they are hoping for a re-try in March or April, so stay tuned for further information.
- Sunday November 12 saw the Inaugural One-Day Traditional Knot Shoot being held by the Sunshine Coast Bowmen at Forest Glen (Queensland), and what a brilliant shoot. It was a little on the tropical side, with

the weather being very warm indeed, plus there had been rain the previous evening. Many had travelled from between Brisbane and Gympie. We picked our own groups, then handed back the group cards to be allocated a target number, as was explained, the course was compact and they preferred to spread us around, so we all completed the field course first. It was very well laid out with 22 3D targets testing our skills, plus a static speed round with six interesting paper targets, and the rolling disks with a couple of off-centre 'middles'. They had barbecued steak and salad burgers which hit the spot at lunchtime. The raffle was well supported and the 48 archers had a jolly good time. Not too shabby for the club's first one-day trad shoot, and those of us who were there are quite looking forward to the next one. A big well done and thank you to all who put the hard work into making this shoot the success it was.

- Trad shoots confirmed by the club for Feb and March (at time of printing) are Hawkesbury Field Archers at Wisemans Ferry NSW 10th Anniversary Get Together March 18 and 19, Twin City Bowmen Albury NSW March 25 and 26. Keep your eyes on the websites for updates of the confirmations as they come to hand.
- Reports from the Memorial Trad Shoot, Manning District Bowhunters, Taree NSW 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 > Shoot information – click on link to flyers www.traditionalarcheryaus-tralia.org > Shoot Information – (link to flyers)

Traditional Archery Australia Closed Group is on Facebook. www.chevallanarcherypark.com

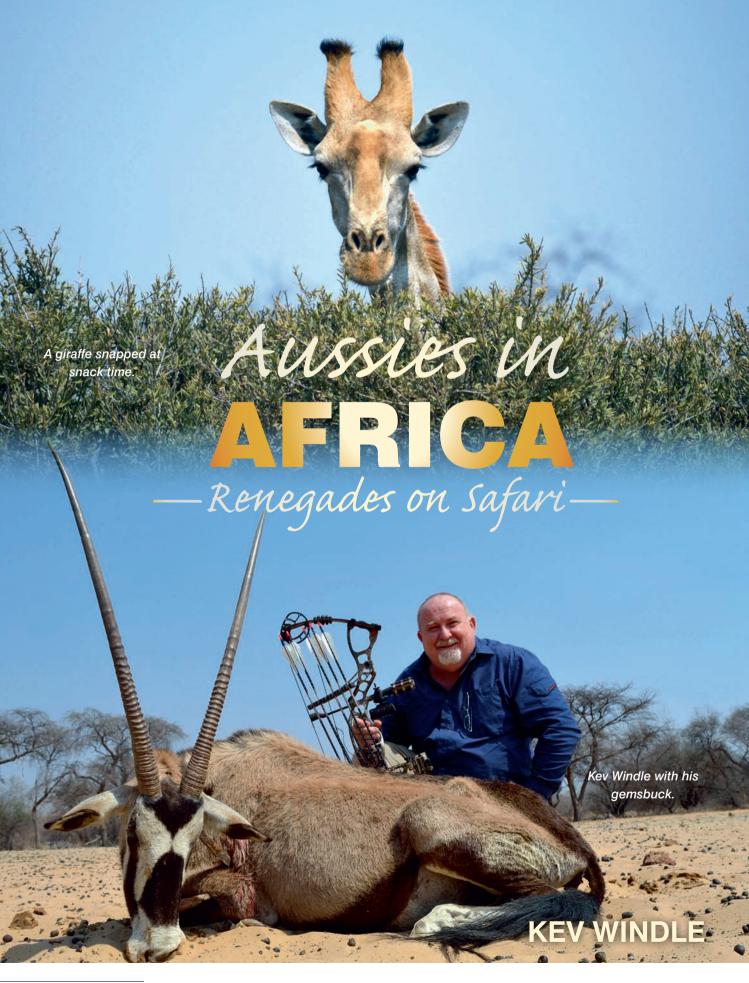
for traditional shoot calendar,
 flyers, information, IBO-approved
 African 3D targets, archery medals/medallions.

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

If you have any queries please feel free to contact me by email at swallace@wallacetradwoods.com.

See you 'round the trads.







uring Easter 2015, I was up at my hunting property that I affectionately call the Deer Farm. With me were a couple of my very good hunting mates and two South African cousins, Thinus and Brandt. During the weekend Brandt kept banging on about hunting in South Africa and the hunting safaris he and his brother Harry offer to archers around the world. With all the videos and pictures Brandt was showing me, it wasn't that long before the decision was made to go. Now I had to find a few people to go with me. My good mate Greg was

in and I tried to talk my brother Bob into it as well but with the IFAA World Titles and a pending overseas trip coming up he did not quite have the funds. After drawing a blank with others, I rang Butch and he told me he had been planning a North Queensland trip with his family. But pretty soon he'd decided to shelve that ... he and his son Dwayne were both in!

Then the organising began. Fast forward to September 2016 and the excitement levels were high. Tickets were booked, planning was done, credit cards were topped up and finally the day came and we boarded the aircraft.

The flight was long but we were well looked after by the flight attendants. After clearing Customs, we were met by Johan who loaded our gear into the car and then we had another three hours' drive to the lodge. It had been a very long day and bed was welcome.

The first day was warm and sunny. After breakfast and a few practice shots we met Harry (the owner) and our quides and soon were all off to different blinds. There were plenty of kudu, waterbuck, eland and warthog to be seen. Butch started things rolling by shooting a nice warthog that morning. We all met back at the lodge for a great lunch and to tell our stories of the morning's adventures. That afternoon Greg got himself a blue wildebeest. Dwayne had a very nice sable and impala come into him and decided on the sable. Bang went the budget-the sable is an expensive animal to shoot. I saw guite a few kudu and waterbuck at our blind and although I would have been happy with any one of at least six of these animals, Garry, my guide, said, "No. They are not big enough." I was itching to get myself under way when a group of blesbuck came along. I asked Garry if there were any worthwhile shooting. He pointed out one which was silly enough to come into range. I was up and running.

The following day started out cold and windy. We saw the same animals as yesterday but not as many. I was delighted and excited to see some monkeys and a mongoose. A large male warthog came close but he was very wary and did not allow me a shot. I was sick during the afternoon session and slept a fair bit in the blind. I woke to see two nice eland and a smallish warthog. A lonely rabbit came in and I shot him from 15m. I had travelled all



Dwayne's sable.

the way to South Africa to bag my first rabbit!

We were planning to stay out longer the next day so we took lunch with us. We saw more eland and kudu cows. There was a small bird attacking its reflection in the blind window and a squirrel kept running across the top of the blind. A female gemsbuck came in and I asked Garry if that was a good one and he said "That is a very good one." It took a while for the gemsbuck to push the eland out of the way and stand side-on for me. It was a 20m shot and she ran 30m before running out of puff. We ended up coming back for lunch and I spent the afternoon in bed asleep. We had some of Dwayne's sable for dinner and it





Kev's blesbuck.

was delicious—I would say it was the nicest meat I have ever eaten.

On the way to the blind the next day, I saw a very large warthog and we spooked two kudu bulls when we arrived at the blind. We saw pretty well nothing for the rest of the day. Butch had a nice gemsbuck present itself but unfortunately he hit it in the shoulder. He, Dwayne and Johan tracked it for ages before continuing their hunting. Harry was called and he spent some considerable time tracking it as well but to no avail. That turned out to be a costly shot without a result. We could only hope that it would show its face again before we left. Greg had several giraffes appear at his blind and took a heap of photos. He lined up on a nice gemsbuck but eland got in the way just as he was about to release and he could not shoot. We had a stirfry of gemsbuck, blesbuck, blue

wildebeest, pork and chicken for dinner that night.

It was cold and windy on our fifth day. There were some tsessebe around the blind when we arrived and they were not too worried about us. We sat in the blind and saw nothing for ages. Later in the morning the wind dropped and it started to warm up. Six kudu appeared and I kept my eye on Harry, who had come with us today, when about the fifth one appeared Harry gestured to me to get my bow and I knew it was game on. The kudu moved around a bit before settling at the end of a feeder at 28m. I lined up and let fly. Linda, my wife, asked, "Which one did you shoot?" to which Harry replied, "The dead one." I knew then that my shot had been good. Garry took a heap of photos before we loaded the kudu on the truck.

On the way back, I found out the meat from the animals we shoot go to mainly Harry and his wife's families and a little is sold to the city. The remaining meat is donated to a couple of orphanages. Greg shot a cracker kudu in the afternoon. He had not planned to shoot one but his guide, Mechial (Michael), convinced Greg it was worthwhile shooting. Garry took me for a walk along the river to try and get some warthog. We saw a few but never got within range. Another great dinner of pork ribs, chicken wings, sausage and a pumpkin bake that tasted like cake. It was fantastic.

Day 6 was a clear warm morning. We ended up at another blind and action happened almost immediately. Kudu and nyala were first and we could see some giraffe in the distance and unfortunately that is where they stayed for a while before walking off. It wasn't long before two warthog arrived then shortly after that another warthog and some eland arrived. A sable came in and took over the place, muscling everything out of the way to get to the feed. It was a great morning's viewing. After we accidentally spooked all the animals out of the area, we had to wait some time before they started coming back. Kudu returned and then about five or six

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warthog. One big sow came in and had a big grunt and squeal, shooing everything away from the feed. She then proceeded about 50 metres further and laid down. While waiting for the sow to come closer we noticed a tortoise making its way to the water. Linda said "Quick, get the camera!" Do you see the irony in this statement? I took some photos of the tortoise and eventually the sow came over for a drink. Sad to say that my first shot was not fatal but did damage the nearside shoulder and broke the far side front leg. We tracked her a short distance and finished her quickly with a shot from a 9mm Glock. As we set her up for photos I saw that the giraffe were back



and just watching us from over the top of the trees. When the photo session was over we got the car and loaded the warthog. She was going to be someone's dinner. The giraffe were still standing and watching so Garry drove us closer where we took some really spectacular photos. Linda was so chuffed to be so close to such a magnificent creature. We dropped the sow at the butchery and went back to camp for another great meal. I took the afternoon off again and slept until 6pm. During the afternoon Johan, Butch and Dwayne were out looking for a kudu for Butch. Butch took a shot at a big kudu bull and it stopped about 50m from where it was hit. It was a shot through the heart, which restored Butch's confidence. We were all so very happy for him and celebrated with him that evening.

The following day was warm with a light breeze. Having pretty well filled my quota of animals, I was only inter-

World Field Archery Championships

The 2018 WFAC is scheduled to be held in South Africa. Anyone who would like to express their interest in attending, please contact team leader Mike White 0418 514 841 or email white3317@gmail.com

Safail 2017



BE THERE FOR THESE INAUGURAL EVENTS HELD AT YOUR VENUE

Incorporating Bowhunter and Sighted Championships and 3D Championships

To be held at the National Field Venue ABA Park, Mudgee, NSW 14 to 17 April 2017

All ABA members are cordially invited to compete at the 2017 National Safari Championships.

Nomination Fees:

ABA Adult \$45 Jnr/Cub \$35 Family \$105 3D Adult \$50 Jnr/Cub \$40 Family \$135

Closing Date for Entries is Friday 7 April 2017. **No late entries will be accepted.**

Last date for grading is Monday 3 April 2017.

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

Timetable:

Muster each day at 8.00am for an 8.30am start

Registration and Bow Checks - Thursday 13 April from 9am and Friday 14 April from 7am

ABA - Friday 14 and Saturday 15 April (3 and 1 arrow each day)

3D - Sunday 16 and Monday 17 April

Camping:

Camping is ample at the range; anybody wishing for offsite accommodation can obtain further information from the ABA website.



ABA Park address is 600 Upper Piambong Road, Piambong

Directions:

From Mudgee take the Castlereagh Highway towards Gulgong for 12.5km and turn left into Lesters Lane and continue 3.7km to a T intersection and turn right into Lower Piambong Road (gravel road from here on). Follow Lower Piambong Road for 2.1km until you come to Upper Piambong Road on your left, take this turn and continue 6km until you find the gated entrance to ABA Park. All turns will be sign posted. If coming from the North (Gulgong) after 16km it will be a right hand turn into Lesters Lane.

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

Note:

All nominations must be completed online at www.bowhunters.org.au and be paid for at the time of registration.

Nominations will close on Friday 7 April and no late nominations will be accepted.



Kev's warthog.



Nyala bull.



Sable.

ested in a big impala or a male warthog. Garry took us back to the blind we'd been at on the second day in the hope that with the warmer weather it would bring out the animals I was after. On the way we saw more giraffe and took more photos. At the blind, a herd of impala cows came in and watered. I marvelled again at how pretty they were. A small warthog sow came in and ate for what seemed like hours and we had to spook her off so we could have a comfort break. Back in the blind it was not long when five more warthog came in. Two sows, two small ones and a small boar. Both the small ones hopped into the water tank but only one could get out. The smaller of the two struggled for quite some time before extracting itself from the tank. Another three boars came in but were not worthy of taking. Waterbuck appeared in a herd of 31. Two giant bulls stayed out the back for about half an hour before coming in to water and feed. Garry asked if I wanted a waterbuck and ranged the biggest one for me. I

knew the distance before he told me. The bull presented himself several times up to as close as 16m, but it was not in my budget and as much as I would have loved it I resisted temptation and only shot it with my camera. After lunch, Garry and I went back to the blind where I'd shot my warthog, hoping this time to find a boar. It was very hot and surprisingly no warthog appeared ... only some of the same animals we'd seen that first time. We had a beef stroganoff for dinner. (I wanted to take the chef home with me.)

Butch was not feeling well the next day so he elected to stay in camp for the morning and gave Dwayne permission to spend his money. Greg headed off with Mechial to their blind. During the morning Dwayne bagged a nice eland bull. Linda and I headed off to do some touristy things and see lions, leopards and elephants. We travelled about two-and-a-half hours to just outside a town called Bela Bela. The interaction with the elephants was amazing. We got up close, fed and touched the elephants. The handler had them demonstrate how intelligent they are. It was a very good experience. We headed off to the Thandake Lodge for a Game Drive, which also was an experience I would recommend. In addition to the usual animals we had seen during the week, we saw four rhino and about 10 white lions. The drive finished with a snack and drink while watching the sunset. It was guite beautiful. Back at the lodge, Garry had arranged a private session for us to cuddle a white lion cub. There were two cubs but they had had a big day of cuddles and were not really interested. The best we could manage was to pat one while the handler held it. We stayed at the lodge overnight in a tent. It was a bit of a surprise as that was the last thing I was expecting, but the tent was large and had built-in bathroom and toilet and a large double bed. It was quite a good tent.

There was light drizzle as we had a late breakfast before the experience of Walking with the Cheetahs. This was absolutely fantastic. To walk in the cheetah enclosure of about 70ha was unnerving, to say the least. They blended so well with the grass that we walked to within about 5m from them before we could see them. There were two cheetahs, both sisters, but only one would let you get close enough to pat. They have a very soft fur similar to a standard house cat. They also had very big claws! Linda almost had kittens (joke!) as she was so excited to see and touch the cheetah. We arrived back in camp later that afternoon to find that hunting had been tough and no game had been taken. We had a beautiful campoven feed of waterbuck for dinner.

No one held too much hope of getting anything in the cool, overcast morning that greeted us the next day. Garry and I went back to the blind where I had shot my rabbit and we sat around shivering—partly because of the cold wind and partly because Garry was not well. Surprisingly, there were waterbuck coming and going and three small impala came through and watered. After a couple of hours, I stood to stretch my legs. I was standing looking at my shoes and thinking that I would have to scrub them



Eland.







before we left so I could get through Customs easily and in the middle of that thought I looked up to see an impressive impala at the far side of the water. I nudged Garry and he immediately got interested and gestured for me to get my bow. The impala moved to the side of the waterhole and eventually presented side-on for me. It took no time for the arrow to travel 20m and the impala only ran a short distance before going down. Garry and I were both shaking with excitement as apparently this impala was a really big one. Plenty of photos were taken before we took him to the butchery. That was my hunt over-I had filled my quota. What a perfect way to end the hunt.

Butch, Dwayne and Greg had no success during the morning and Dwayne and Greg went back out again in the afternoon. Greg went for a walk and stalk with Harry and Mechial. They got close to gemsbuck a couple of times but not quite close enough. Dwayne shot a wildebeest late in the day. It was not a perfect shot and they trailed it until dark. After a dinner of gemsbuck and wildebeest steaks, Dwayne and all the guides went out again to find the wildebeest. It only took about 20 minutes. It had died under a tree not too far from where they had called off the search earlier, so the shot was not that bad after all. There was a lot of relief on Butch's and Dwayne's faces.

The next day was packing and going home day but

















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Mechial decided he needed to take Greg out early to get one of the last two on Greg's bucket list. I joined them at 4.45am for an early breakfast and to wish them luck for the morning hunt. They went to a blind recommended by Coen, Harry's dad, but saw nothing but a jackal which did not come close enough for a shot. On the way back to camp they passed the blind they'd originally been going to hunt that morning and the gemsbuck were there! Mr Murphy had reared his ugly head.

When it was time to leave it was surprisingly difficult and teary eyes were everywhere. We had new friends and were very sad to go. I am also saddened to report that Butch's gemsbuck did not show its face again and has been officially listed as MIA.

I've told you all about the animals but the hospitality story is just as good. African Arrow Safaris is in the Limpopo district of South Africa about 20km from the Botswana border. It's owned and operated by Harry Nel and his lovely wife Charleen. The staff are friendly and polite. The accommodation is wonderful and the meals are just something else. Your room gets made up daily and your dirty clothes are washed every day so you don't need to take much with you. The guides are professional hunters



Guides and Renegades on their South African safari.



and are definitely there to look after your best interests. They only want you to shoot a trophy you will be happy with, not something you find out later is poor or inferior. They go beyond the call of duty to help you get that elusive trophy. They also have a very dry humour and are just fun to hang out and hunt with. The climate is about the same as Emerald in Queensland. The countryside is very much like driving through properties in western Queensland and you had to pinch yourself when these exotic animals ran out of the 'Queensland bush'. It is going to be such a disappointment when driving to Winton next time and only see emus, kangaroos, pigs and goats! I can't speak highly enough of this place and its people. If you want to know more, leave a message on the Renegade Bowmen website and I'll be happy to talk to you about it. We all enjoyed it so much that plans are being made to go back in a couple of years.



Kudu.

Meet old friends or make new ones at Norfolk Island championships

Since 2002, many archers have taken a winter holiday to travel to Norfolk Island and compete in the 3D Archery Championships. Many friendships have been made between Aussie, Kiwi and local archers and many brilliant family holidays have been had. The call-out is now on to either come for your first or come again in July 2017 to meet new friends or re-unite with old pals.

Archery Norfolk Island has a solid reputation for organising an event with a large and varied field. The 3D course earns plenty of praise every year; in fact it was said to be the best 3D field ever seen by many of last year's 70 or so competitors. The most recent highlight added to the championships is a traditional archery shoot which runs each afternoon of the competition, taking archers onto some of the island's most

beautiful private properties.

The 3D events are organised for all ages including cub divisions, adult compound, recurve and long-bow. Timed for the winter school holidays, it's an excellent event for junior shooters to try their hand at international competition.

Norfolk Island is friendly, safe and accessible via a two-hour flight. Non-shooters are welcome to take part in the week's social events including welcome and farewell activities. The schedule for the week provides for archery to be enjoyed along with holiday fun with activities such as fishing, golf, a World Heritage-listed area, snorkelling, glass bottom boats, walks ... and plenty of shopping!

For 15 years, the Norfolk Island Travel Centre has been the major sponsor for the event and as a locally based and run business they know all there is to get you to the island, into your choice of accommodation and booked for tours and activities.

For 2017 they have special sevennight twin-share packages for travel
from Brisbane starting at \$1049 per
person and seven-night twin-share
from Sydney starting at \$1099 per
person. This includes return economy class airfare (seat + bag) to
Norfolk Island, airline taxes, meet
and greet at the airport, accommodation and car hire. Prices are subject
to availability. For those participating
in the competition, there is an additional archery registration cost which
includes four competition days and
social functions.

For more information, contact Norfolk Island Travel Centre on toll free phone 1800 1400 66, email kelly@travelcentre.nf or visit www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com.





TRADIO NATURATIES

Happy New Year to all our readers and welcome to another instalment of Traditional Trails. I hope you all had a great and safe Christmas and new year.

For the last two articles of last year, we looked at some bow performance facts. With that freshly in mind, we are going to start the new year by making a start on our next bow-building project. We are going to build a laminated, all-wood composite English longbow. Those of you who followed the epic osage self-bow build will identify some similarities here, but a laminated wooden bow, particularly an English longbow (ELB), is a different kettle of fish. It has some challenges all its own and can be a rewarding learning curve as well. So here goes with our next bow build.

How to build an English longbow Paret I

Beginnings

The English longbow was the main bow in use in Europe, England and the U.S. for target and hunting right up until the 1930s, when the flatter section American semi-longbow started to take over.

Of course, long before the ELB was a sporting arm, it was a weapon of war and a means of getting meat to our ancestors' tables. England's enemies were on the receiving end of the English warbow—basically the same as an ELB only longer and considerably heavier. England's medieval fortunes were made on the hard

shooting of her archer corps.

The ELB started to drop off the shooting lines all over the world until organisations such as The British Longbow Society (BLBS) started to preserve the bow's use in specialised tournaments. Well, now it is making a major comeback all over the world with a huge amount of interest in ELBs emerging. Here at Norseman, I make around 15 a year for customers, which is roughly a quarter of my yearly bow order quota. This number has steadily grown over the past few years and shows a solid amount of renewed interest in the traditional English longbow.

So let's get on with this build. We are going to build a basic, round compass tillered, stacked-belly traditional English longbow (ELB). There are many different lamination combinations we could use here. We could simply build a dual-lam bow; in other words, back a stave with a tension strong material. We can build a multiple-lam bow with anything from three to even six lams.

I am going to concentrate on a trilam bow. This will give us a strong, durable bow that will perform better than the average self bow. I say average self bow because there are those exceptions to the rule that are amazing performers, but as a rule, a laminated wooden bow will be more durable and possess better cast than the average self-bow. Why do tri-lams out-perform self-bows? The answer lies in the fact that there are three different materials performing the main functions of stretching (on the back), and compressing (on the belly). The centre lam has a bit of a bulge in that it really only offers thickness and added stiffness, which offers poundage and its presence also means an extra glue line which adds strength. It is not stretching or compressing much at all. It also adds aesthetic appeal as well if a contrasting timber is used. With that said, a good light, fast responding core wood can add quite a bit of cast as well. A self-bow must perform all these functions in one stave. In the self-bow world, this is where yew excels. Nature has laminated yew in the fact that the sapwood is a natural resister of tension and the heartwood a brilliant resister of compression. That said, yew is very expensive to buy and isn't very keen on hot, dry weather. So this is why we are looking at a tri-laminated bow. An ELB is an excellent place to start learning about tiller and bow shaping techniques. It also has the additional

benefit of having no actual riser and handle to shape, thus making it a little easier for a first time bow. In these articles I will cover how to shape, tiller and finish a bow from an all-wood composite stave. An allwood composite stave is one that is made entirely from wood, but is made up of multiple pieces of wood, once again, as opposed to a selfbow which is made of one solid piece of wood. A self-bow may be made up from two pieces or billets of wood and be spliced in the handle but the limbs are still one solid piece of wood. Our all-wood composite stave is made up of two or more pieces of timber. These timbers are layered from front to back to create a very stable and consistent bow stave. To reiterate what I said above: On the back of a bow (the part furthest away from the archer) there is severe tensile force; that is, the timber is stretching and trying to lengthen as we draw the bow. On the belly side (the part nearest the archer), there is severe compressive force; that is, the timber is compressing and trying to shorten itself as the bow is drawn. In the mid area of the bow, these forces oppose each other and there is a shearing force. This is called the neutral axis. At this point, the timber is not required to lengthen or shorten itself. The benefit of a bow made from a composition of timbers is that no one piece of wood has to do all these jobs and the load is shared by several pieces. We can hand select what timbers to use where in the bow, based on their natural ability to resist compression or tension.

Timber choice

There are many timber possibilities we could use in our English longbow. For our project, the stave we are going to make is made from a tapered, quarter-sawn or rift-sawn (grain running vertically or



Good, straight, clean hickory board.



Plain sawn pignut hickory board.



Mildly rift-sawn hickory lamination. These are Nick's preferred backing strips.



U.S. black walnut board. This timber makes great core because it is strong as well as being attractive.

diagonally in your stock [see photos]) hickory backing strip and a tapered U.S. black walnut core strip and a plain sawn piece of hickory belly stock. The hickory timber I use is pignut hickory (Carya glabra), a strain of hickory that is extremely tough. Always seek straight and clean timber to minimise any tillering challenges and to give you the best chance of success. The reason we definitely want plain sawn timber, (that is the grain runs left to right on your belly stock [see photos]) on the belly side of an ELB, is the belly section will be 'stacked' or built into a Roman arch shape. This shape means that ELBs love to twist during tillering. Plain sawn wood means we can much more easily manage this and keep a straight, well aligned bow. Quartersawn wood can work as well but avoid rift-sawn wood in a stacked-belly bow, as at times a bow will twist so severely that it can actually de-string itself. This happens due to greater grain density on one side of the stave in a rift-sawn stave. Rift-sawn stock is fine for flat bows, however, so save them for flat type bows.

With all timbers, we must use well seasoned wood. Various timber species have ideal moisture contents (M/Cs) and that will vary from species to species. Hickory is at its best in the single digits of M/C. I like my hickory to be between 7% and 10% M/C. This would be on the dry side with osage for example, but hickory likes to be drier. When you buy any hickory, it is actually the sapwood of the tree that the stave comes from. This could be why it prefers to be drier for a bow's performance to be at its best. If you have a moisture meter you can check this easily. Hickory is an excellent choice for a beginner's stave as it not only makes a fantastic, high performance bow, but also tolerates mistakes in the tillering process. The Americans have a saying that "Hickory takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin". This is really true and even with a few blunders along the way, a good, shooting bow can still be achieved. For those interested in building an ELB in this way but don't have access to quality timber, I can prepare you a stave or send you the individual components.

Tools required

In order to complete this bow you will need some basic woodworking tools and some other bits and pieces.

Those who followed the osage bow build will have seen these tools listed before. I recommend you buy the best quality tools your budget allows as these will not only be nicer and more precise to use, but also give long years of reliable service. They are all readily available at any good hardware store. You will need:

Ear muffs, masks, and goggles

A jack plane (If you only want to buy one plane, then I advise purchasing a block plane. It is preferable to have both, though, especially if you are doing major reduction work.)

A block plane

A spoke shave

A flat scraper

A curved scraper

A cork sanding block

A 1/8in chainsaw file

A wood vice

80, 120, 180, 240 and 400 grit sandpaper

Fine steel wool 00 -0 or 000 grade A straight, flat rectangular block of timber about 6in long

Pencils and a rule, marked in inches and a tape measure, also in inches.

A chalk line and a builder's line

A straight edge that is about 40in long A tiller post—more on this later (can be purchased from me)

A bow scale (Again, I can provide this for you, but a fishing scale will work. It is better if it is marked in pounds.)
A bare arrow shaft marked in inches for measuring draw length.







Toothing plane; The plane iron is serrated to achieve a good gluing surface. A coarse hacksaw blade will suffice.

A tiller post. These are easy to make.

Details on how to build one will be in a future article. These tools are adequate if working from a prepared stave. If you want to do a lot of the work yourself including gluing up the lams, you will need either a toothing plane (see photos) or a hacksaw blade. A vernier caliper marked in thousandths of an inch, a moisture meter and some sort of hot

box are not absolutely essential, but



A moisture meter is very useful if you are preparing your own stave.



Scrapers of various shapes. A hacksaw blade back will suffice as a scraper.



A vernier caliper marked in thousandths of an inch will be valuable if making up your own staves.



An arrow shaft marked in inches (starting from the nock throat) is an excellent means of testing draw length.





Sanding blocks of varying kinds.

Bow scales.



String line or chalk line.



Spokeshave, jack and block planes.



very useful.

our stave.



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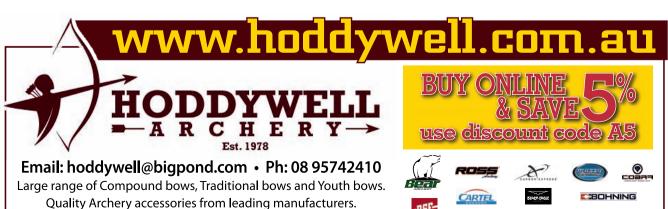
he smile on my young bloke's face is something I'll never forget. In fact, it was vaguely familiar—it was the same big grin I'd had stretched across my dial 35-odd years ago when my Dad entrusted me to go hunting with him for the first time. These are the moments we cherish, that stay with us long beyond that 'moment in time' ... in fact, they're moments we *never* forget.

As with any nine year old, 3.00am is a time that just doesn't exist, so I wasn't surprised when I literally had to prop Alex up and say "C'mon mate, today's the big day".

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Now I'm not sure if we have holy water running through our taps but damn, what a miracle a quick splash made. He was quickly changed and raring to go! We were finally on our way, and I knew it would be something Alex would treasure into adulthood and regardless of the 'critter' factor I knew there was a bucket load of firsts awaiting my young city kid.

After a four-hour drive to what has affectionately become known as The Hut, we hit the dirt road and were now only a few kilometres away. It was here at the



first of many farm gates that I saw Alex's face light up and his beaming smile was to become ingrained for the next 48 hours. I too was experiencing a feeling hard to describe, that euphoric feeling you get when you absolutely know your efforts are building an incredible bond between father and son. For me, this was to be the most rewarding hunting trip to date.

Arriving at The Hut, we were greeted by good friend and work comrade Keith Gough and his son Sean. Keith is an Army Cadet instructor part time so it came as no surprise that he quickly made Alex feel at home with a few bush stories which included some basic hunter education. Being a member of Grange Bowmen, Alex naturally had big ambitions with his bow on this adventure!

The events that unfolded over the next two days saw Alex learn skills that would be impossible to teach in a classroom. Besides experiencing the bush toilet, quad bike rides and his first night in a swag, Alex learned basic skills that would encompass grass-root hunter education, all while gaining a solid appreciation for nature's beauty, her fauna and flora. I would constantly ask him, "Which way is the wind blowing?", "Can you smell that?", and "Can you hear that?" He was being overloaded with new senses and he was loving every single minute. We walked, we stalked and

talked ...and we even shot some arrows!

The trip came and went like a whirlwind. Due to time constraints it was unfortunately limited to 48 hours, however I would do it again tomorrow if the opportunity arose. It was a monumental effort for Alex given the limited time we had but we certainly packed it with adventure and new experiences. The personal satisfaction that I got from taking him on this brief trip was the ultimate reward and I know that many years from now he will reminisce about this trip, telling his kids how he remembers his Dad taking him hunting for the very first time!

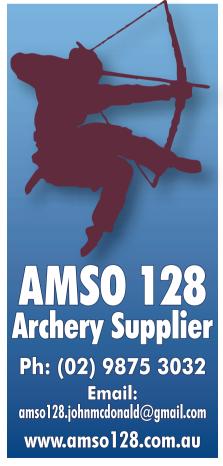
For those curious about critters harvested, we didn't kill anything ... we didn't need to, and the smile on Alex's face confirmed this! It will undoubtedly be the first of many trips and in his words, "It's the thrill of the chase that made it so exciting, Dad!"

Well, the thrill of the chase might have been exciting, but the trip home was a guiet one for him. Zzzzzz .

PHOTOS: This page: Memories are made of this.

Facing page: Rob Duncan and his son Alex on Alex's first hunting trip. Inset: All camo'd up and ready to hunt.







The water buffalo is native to South East Asia. So how come Australia has developed an export market that sends some 5,000 live animals overseas annually, mostly back to Vietnam in South East Asia ... with other destinations including Brunei?

The market price of buffalo in this country is relatively low when compared to cattle, with a live meat buffalo costing around \$1.50 a kilo (approximately half of the price of cattle). Equally, a safari-guided trophy buffalo is likely to cost a little

over \$1,300, while a heifer in calf would set you back \$1,600 or more at the stockyards. Despite water buffalo filling only a relatively small market niche in Australia, the commercial potential continues to grow for buffalo steak (local and international), milk, soap and more. Meanwhile, the impact of the feral population in northern Australia remains a concern for the environment and industry sectors alike.

So let's have a closer look at this species-why it's here in Australia in the first place, its spread and management since arrival, and the opportunities open to hunters to help reduce numbers of this feral species.

Where do Australian water buffalo come from?

Approximately 80 water buffalo were first introduced from Timor to Australia between 1825 and 1843. These original stocks were brought to Melville Island (north of Darwin) and Cobourg Peninsula (north of Kakadu) in the Northern Territory to

be used as beasts of burden and for meat and milk production in these remote settlements. It's generally thought that the first beasts in Australia were swamp buffalo which are predominantly farmed for meat. This species is distinguishable by its grey colouring and swept back horns and it grows to around 450kg to 700kg.

While it seems clear that swamp buffalo was the predominant import to Australia, the State Reference Library of the Northern Territory also holds photos of riverine buffalo taken in Darwin at the turn of the 20th century. This species, which originated in India and Pakistan, is black in colour with smaller curled horns. It is a dairy breed that is bigger than the swamp buffalo and can grow to between 600kg and 1000kg. The photos at the Library suggest that the riverine buffalo is likely to have been among the first arrivals too. This makes sense some animals were brought for meat and some for dairy.

When the settlements that imported these animals were abandoned in the late 1940s, feral buffalo spread unchecked across the floodplains, colonising the permanent and semi-permanent swamps and freshwater springs of the top end of the NT, disturbing the natural ecosystems. Over nine decades (from the 1880s) some 700,000 buffalo were harvested for meat, hides and trophies. But despite the efforts

of hunters—whether on foot, from horseback or 4x4—buffalo continued to multiply and spread.

In 1979, the feral buffalo population in Australia was estimated at 350,000 and comprised a crossbreed of the swamp buffalo combined with a diluted genetic influence of the riverine buffalo. By this time. the number of feral animals was becoming a cause for concern within the primary industry sector. With buffalo being a bovine species, fears existed that the buffalo population would carry diseases and spread them to domesticated cattle. This fear led to the initiation of the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign which targeted buffalo for eradication. The campaign lasted nearly 20 years and reduced the nationwide buffalo population to around 100,000. An example of the campaign's success was demonstrated in Kakadu National Park where an estimated population of 20,000 buffalo was reduced to under 250 by 1996.

Since the buffalo eradication program ended, feral numbers have begun to rise again, with animals reoccupying their previous territory in the far north. Ongoing cross-breeding between feral populations and domesticated animals has assisted this recovery. By 2008, numbers were back up to around 150,000 and they have continued to climb.

Big boy on the block

After the original population of buffalo went feral in Australia in the late 1950s, re-domestication of these animals occurred to support the domestic market in meat, hides, and horns. As demand for exotic foods and produce has continued to grow, owners of the swamp buffalo crossherds have continued to look overseas to enhance their genetic stock in order to improve productivity. The result has been a process of selective breeding to enhance particular characteristics.

Specifically, domestic stocks received a boost in 1994 with an influx of domesticated imports of riverine buffalo from the USA. Through cross-breeding with this bigger species, the body mass of domestic buffalo has been systematically increased, making it more productive for meat. The buffalo has also become a better dairy animal. This has occurred over the past 15 years as semen from an Italian dairy species has become available in Australia as a source of genetic variation to enhance milk production.

Buffalo are now domesticated in every state of Australia. Inevitably, some of these animals have escaped to the wild and have begun to crossbreed with the residual feral population. The resulting genetic mix, that

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combines three distinct 'sub-species' and several waves of introduction, gives the Australian Water buffalo the distinctive 'look' that we recognise out scrub.

Recent domestication

Their size and weight makes the water buffalo Australia's premier big game animal.

The horns of a mature feral buffalo bull can measure, from tip to tip, 90cm to 150cm wide. This is around 68cm to 90cm for each horn. The diameter at the base varies from 40cm to 48cm. A water buffalo bull weighs, on average, between 700kg and 800kg, but in exceptional cases they can weigh up to 1,000kg! And animals even bigger than this have been reported in areas where access to food and water is prevalent. Being so large, the buffalo has few predators, with only dingoes, wild dogs and crocodiles preving on the young and weak.

Habits

Water buffalo prefer to live in swamps and floodplains across the wet parts of northern Australia, and population densities can be as high as 34 animals per square kilometre. In years with low rainfall, many feral buffalo die (as do livestock). The remainder are restricted to the northern river plains and associated swamps and it generally takes a few wet seasons for the feral buffalo population to start spreading south once more.

During the dry season, bulls and cows live separately. Females with calves-led by a dominant older cow -generally occupy forested plains where food and shade are most plentiful. Males live in more open plains with little shade, or slopes with dryer vegetation. Old bulls can gather in small bachelor groups of three or so animals. When the wet season breaks, the older males join the females and drive away younger males. The mating season peaks around March and pregnancy lasts about 10 months.

In the wet, water buffalo camp overnight in woodland and move out to feed. They prefer to graze on aquatic grasses and grass-like wetland plants at dawn. After feeding, they move to water mid-morning to drink and wallow, returning to graze from mid-afternoon until dusk.

In drier times, feral buffalo will switch to grazing at night, spending most of the day in wallows to escape biting insects and to stay cool. During this time, they eat a broader range of foods including grasses, herbs and the leaves of plants like pandanus.

In the north of Australia, the wet

How they are hunted

season (and cyclone season) is typically late October to late March. That leaves April to October for a hunting trip (unless you like recovering bogged 4x4s).

Buffalo have an excellent sense of smell, they have good hearing and also fair eyesight. If you spook a buffalo, it'll likely run. But beware, if you alarm or annoy it, buffalo may charge as the species is known for its 'kill or die charges'. So don't underestimate them. They can remain hidden in little cover, so-in a similar way to pigs-it's not hard to come upon them unexpectedly in the middle of the day when they're resting. If they become suspicious of your presence, buffalo are likely to be startled enough to move away. But they are inquisitive, so if you remain still, you may be able to coax them to stop for a double-take if you imitate the sound of a non-threatening species, for example, a sambar deer roar or cough.

generally accepted bovids (like buffalo) can't see in colour like we do and may not even see any colours. That said, domestic cattle have partial colour vision; specifically, they are red/green colour-blind and see these colours as a version of grey or black. Buffalo have similar





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Back on the home range

While the buffalo is a feral pest in Australia, the endangered wild water buffalo has disappeared from most of its original range in South East Asia. Wild numbers are around 1000 animals in India, plus a few scattered herds from India to Indo-China that may have descended from original stock. However, water buffalo have been domesticated for thousands of years and have been widely introduced outside their natural range. So today, at least 130 million are found throughout the world in warmer climates, both as domestic and feral animals.



characteristics. With only two kinds of cone cells at the back of the eve. buffalo vision is two-colour (dichromatic) that detects colour in hues of yellow and blue. Like deer, they are likely to have more rod cells (for night time vision) and also a low level of UV

perception (UV being directly after blue in the spectrum) to assist them when grazing at night.

As is usually the case, the best tips for where and how to hunt come from the locals. It always pays to speak with property owners and

Aussie Targe

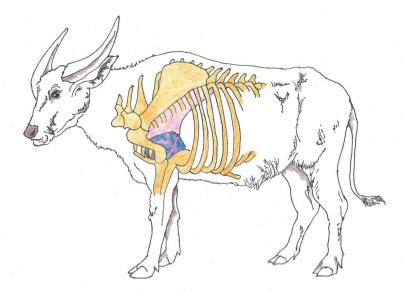
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Anatomy of a water buffalo. Drawing by Kath Heiman.

mustering helicopter pilots to get the good oil about the habits of the local buffalo population you're aiming to hunt.

More generally, here are a few tips that will get you into the zone.

- Hunting will usually be spot and stalk. However, tree stands and ground blind hunting can work with good recon
- Patrol in a 4x4 to spot them or see sign ... and then stalk in
- Herds are easier to find than individual animals so it's best to hunt in March-April when the bulls are distracted by mating and defending their claim to the herd
- Hunting a herd gives you an increased risk of being spotted
- Recon woodland next to permanent and semi-permanent swamps, and freshwater springs for sign
- When you find sign near water, get into position around dawn or lunchtime and watch for movement from the treeline
- If you're hunting from June to August, search for individual males in the open
 - · They will graze at night, so look for wallows and bogs
 - You can then stalk them as they return to these sites in the early morning or in the heat of the day

- Make sure you account for their
 - · Hunt into the wind and stay downwind during the stalk
 - Don't wash your clothing in UV brightening detergent
 - Consider a light-coloured camo with a bold pattern to break up your outline
- Remember water buffalo are a thick-skinned animal
 - So you'll be looking for a 70lb-plus bow and heavy arrows
 - · Strong two-blade broadheads are your best choice to get through such big ribs without breaking

One for the pot

Buffalo meat tastes similar to beef. When grilling or pan-frying, buffalo steak should be cooked quickly at high temperatures to seal in the natural juices and keep the centre moist. Avoid continual turning or over-cooking on the grill as it will tend to dry out the steak considerably because of the low fat content. In general, buffalo meat should be cooked slightly rarer than beef to retain juiciness. Buffalo meat also suits stews, casseroles and pies. So bring out the campoven or thermal Eco-pot.

When pairing with wine, find a red to your taste. Our favourite match with buffalo is the Italian grape variety barbera.

Disclaimer: The author is an environmental scientist and hunter and has drawn from personal knowledge and open source material in writing this article. Key research sources were the Federal Government Departments of Environment and Agriculture, and the equivalent agencies in the Northern Territory and Queensland.



Email: toowoomba.archery@bigpond.com

Web: www.toowoombaarchery.com.au

Lilydale Bowmen 3D NIGHT SHOOT by ROBERT STICHT

t started with this question: What can we do to get some new interest into archery? Attendance seemed to be down across all forms of archery and we really wanted to stimulate some new interest.

We had an idea to try running a 3D Night Shoot. Tony Brezic had a few interesting concepts and knew it would generate a lot of interest and discussion among the clubs and members. Most of the questions were about how you could run it and how you could shoot a bow effectively in the dark. How would we make it a safe and a viable option, and also have ABA sanction the event? This was our main focus.

Now came the challenge-making it safe and available for all styles of archers to participate.

Where on our ranges should we hold it? How would we get the archers to the targets in the dark? What did we require people to wear for safety? How were they going to walk the course in the dark with archery gear? It all had to be safe.

We decided to keep scoring the same as the 3D ABA scoring. Marked distances were a definite. We would do a single-arrow round only this time, but that could be expanded on for future options. We even thought of a fluorescent centre-ring marker but decided against this. We didn't want to make it too easy for the sighted shooters!

There was to be no searching for arrows around or behind targets. Competitors must stay on the tracks at all times and move to the next target as a group.

It had to be marked distances (yet unmarked would make it interesting to judge distance in the dark-now there's a challenge for all the elite end of the archery scale).

Key areas to consider were targets (size, placement and rotation), backdrops behind all targets being shot, enough lighting to clearly show the animal and score area and even pathway markers. Glowsticks were even placed along the tracks as oneway directional markers.

We decided to have a Lilydale Club member in each group so each group had a person who was familiar with the course being shot. There was also the safety siren and/or whistle procedure to explain just in case there was a problem that required all shooting to stop.

Glowsticks were on all shooters and even on bows for illumination.



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along with headlamps supplied by each shooter (archers used their own headlamps). It appeared to open up a whole new bow-archer-gadgetaccessory option. Some archers even had light-up pin sights and glow nocks which made for interesting viewing for group members. Binoculars are a definite advantage to make sure shot placement is where you believe the score zone is. Shadows and the darker appearance can make it look different to where the actual middle of the score zone is ... as some archers found out.

We decided to have all groups start at target number one and move on to the next target from here. This took a little time as we had to wait for each group of four shooters to clear before the next group could start. We only used every second target to add a safety buffer of an extra target between each group. They soon flowed through the course. Archers were quite visible in their illuminated glowsticks and headlamps. For future events we will utilise a staggered

start with groups being allocated a five-to-10-minute difference in start times onto the course but still retain the number one target as the starting point for all groups to access. We will still have a safety officer wearing a high visibility vest and standing at the first target to start the groups as they enter the course in staggered time frames.

Lighting was put to the side of each target. Light intensity and spread would depend on the size of the 3D animal. We had two-LED-style lights which would suffice to generate enough to give it an air of mystique but still able to see what the target is. Some larger targets may require further lighting but the sizes we used were lit by two-LED lights.

We followed the standard ABA shoot pegs for cubs, juniors, traditional and sighted options to accommodate all archers.

We thought it would be best held on the Saturday night of our two-day ABA after the club's venison dinner to make sure it was dark enough

to class it as a night shoot. It just happened to fall on a full moon but the cloud cover (being a Lilydale two-day) prevented any unwanted extra light.

After the night's shooting was completed, there was still a lot of discussion around the club room and it was all positive. Even the next morning at muster for the ABA round, there was still banter regarding the night shoot. Great to see the interest was high and people were looking forward to shooting this format again.

The event had raised enough interest to warrant fine-tuning the 3D Night Shoot and Lilydale Bowmen are considering making this part of our LB100 in March 2017 (most likely a 10-target single-arrow round on the Saturday night ... after the venison dinner, of course). It was a novelty event that had more than 30 shooters highly anticipating the start and eagerly competing for the accolade of winning the first 3D night round.

A big thank you to the members who helped make this happen and especially to Tony Brezic for the initial concept and making it all come to fruition.





MATHEWS

Introducing Mathews' new hunting line

After a very successful year with the 2016 Halon, Mathews is introducing its 2017 hunting line with three new offerings featuring the Crosscentric cam: Halon 32, Avail and Stoke.

Matt McPherson, owner and CEO of Mathews Archery, said this year was all about expansion of Mathews' Crosscentric cam technology.

"We want to make this extremely accurate, highspeed system available to all archers seeking a premium shooting experience," he said.

The new Halon 32 is a longer version of the award-winning Halon, providing an enhanced string angle and superior stability, while still delivering speeds up to 350fps. The Crosscentric cam employs a partially con-





centric string payout and AVS technology to produce a stealthy draw and consistent accuracy. Its true-centre nocking point ensures straight and level nock travel. enhancing shot-to-shot consistency. Outfitted with the FlatBack Grip and industry-leading Harmonic Dampener and Harmonic Stabiliser, the Halon 32 is rock solid and very quiet.

At less than 4lb with a 30-inch axle-to-axle and a 6in brace height, the Avail is compact and provides women with unmatched performance. Featuring draw lengths that range from 22in to 28in and draw weight up to 60lb, the Avail delivers speeds up to 320fps (IBO speed at 30in draw would be 340fps). Its Crosscentric cam and AVS technology produce a smooth draw and accuracy while delivering massive down-range energy.

The 2017 Stoke is the most advanced youth bow ever created. The Stoke also uses Crosscentric cam and AVS technology to provide accuracy and kinetic energy down range. At just over 27in axle-to-axle and speeds up to 314fps (IBO speed at 30in draw would be 344fps), this compact and lightweight bow offers young archers high performance and top-of-the-line craftsmanship.

Matt McPherson gave it a big wrap. "This is the finest youth bow that archery has ever seen," he said.

"With the high efficiency of the Crosscentric cam technology, the opportunity to create the highest performing



youth bow was right in front of us, and we had to do it."

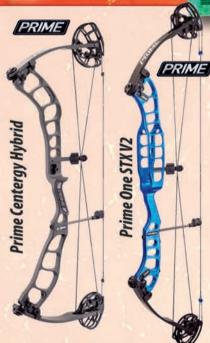
For 2017, Mathews is also offering new finishes, including Gore Optifade (in Elevated II and Open Country), and Under Armour Ridge Reaper Barren.

Go to Mathewsinc.com for full specifications, finish options, and more information on the 2017 hunting line, and experience them at your local Mathews retailer.









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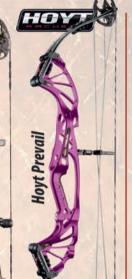
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n 2016, the 3DAAA National Titles returned to Nambucca Heads for the first time in seven years. This drew an impressive number of archers, with more than 250 competitors gearing up for the weekend.

The 3DAAA National Titles were held at the BIG4 Nambucca Beach Holiday Park on November 12 and 13. Registrations were held in the caravan park, while the ranges were located in the hills of the Nambucca State Forest, overlooking the park

below. Many thanks to the BIG4 park manager for allowing all of our archers to pass through over the weekend.

The 3DAAA National Titles Meet and Greet was held at the Nambucca Bowls Club, where a plentiful buffet was on offer. A great number of archers turned up to collect pre-registration forms—thanks go to those of you who managed to pre-nominate. The team was kept busy during the evening by the overwhelming number

of archers that still had to register, as well as merchandise sales, with some stock almost being sold out. A big thank you to Grace and Emily for taking care of the merchandise while the committee was still setting up.

Most archers started their weekend with a walk up what was described as Heartbreak Hill to get to the ranges. However, once up the hill they were treated to wonderful views and pleasant ocean breeze. Sadly, this breeze did not continue to the ranges.

The weather on Saturday started out promising, but this changed by the time most archers had started their first range. Dark clouds came overhead, then thunder began to roll in not long after it began to rain. At the first sight of lightning, range captains were prepared to stop the shoot. Thankfully, this didn't occur, and the weekend proceeded as planned.

The thunder and rain only lasted for a brief period, but that is all that it required to take a toll on most archers. Foggy clarifiers and lens blotched with drops of rain seemed to be common issues, and the lighting on dark targets only added more of a challenge.

Once the rain and clouds had cleared, the humidity hit its maximum level, making for trying conditions. Most archers chose to start on either A or C range, leading to delays. Although it may have taken some longer than they would have







Sharylen Lowe from Victoria at one of the 3D targets.



Matt Bradshaw—award for shooting 500 out of 500.



Smiles all around as Young Achievers proudly show their awards.

liked, particularly given the inclement weather, all of the archers managed to finish out the day.

Sunday began in a similar way to Saturday, another trudge up Heartbreak Hill to the remaining ranges. Although the weather was quite pleasant down on the beach and in the caravan park, the same could not be said for the ranges. The humidity of the previous day remained, and the heat from the sun may even have made it worse. Despite these conditions, most archers appeared to

perform better than the previous day (probably due to their peep sights being clear and their strings dry).

Ranges D and E experienced lengthy delays, as most archers had completed ranges A, B and C on Saturday. The weather conditions made this less pleasant than it might otherwise have been, with the heat and humidity taking their toll. The swimming pool at the BIG4 was certainly very populated after people eventually made it off range.

Later in the day, after some nec-

essary shoot-outs, the Top-Ten was held on the beach side of the caravan park. Mike Parker won the Barebow Top-Ten and Glen Bailey won the Sighted Top-Ten. Congratulations to everyone else who managed to make it in; there were some fairly close scores.

The 3DAAA National Titles saw a great number of perfect and double-perfect (200) rounds shot across the weekend. There were 22 perfect rounds shot, as well as three double-perfect rounds. Luckily, the commit-



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tee had enough spare badges to present to everyone who got their first perfect rounds for the year.

A massive thank you to our range officials, Chris Wakely and Rob Donnelly, and to everyone else who helped set up the ranges for the Nationals. The ranges provided were exceptional, delivering an array of challenging and enjoyable shots for all.

The 3DAAA National Titles presentation was held at the Nambucca Bowls Club, where again a plentiful buffet was on offer. The presentation was an eventful evening with plenty of raffle prizes to be won. The presentations also included three bow giveaways from Hoyt and Abbey Archery, one bow for a cub, junior and adult. This year 3DAAA gave away two 3D targets, the first going to the club that had the most representation at sanctioned shoots which was Lake Macquarie Field Archers. The other prize was a lucky draw which went to Ipswich Field Archers.

A moment's silence was held for our fallen archers. Jack Lawrence, Cliff Orley and Jake Collins. Shortly afterwards, Jake's mother, sisters, friends, and his partner, Nat, announced the new perpetual award created in Jake's honour. This is to be presented at the 2017 3DAAA National Titles by Jake's family and friends.

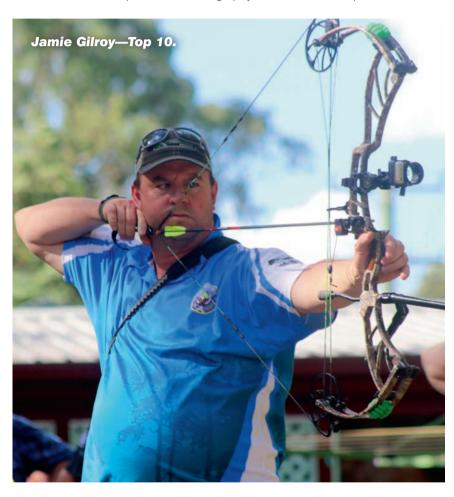
The major prizewinners for the

2016 year were Bridget Ryan as the Young Achiever, Jessica Lovering who was awarded the Marg Cowin Trophy and Matt Bradshaw who received the Steven Reeks Medal.

Many thanks should go out to all who made this year's National Titles possible. Without your efforts, the National Titles could not be pulled together. A big thanks also to all of our sponsors-your generosity this year was exceptional and greatly appreciated. And to those committee members who are now leaving us, thank you for your service to 3DAAA.

From all of us at 3DAAA, we hope you had an enjoyable time at the Nationals and an enjoyable year. We hope to see you all on the 3DAAA circuit during 2017.

Thanks to Spellbound Photography for contribution of photos





Entries PHOTO COMPETITION



We have an audience, Jeanette Dowd.



Mikayla and her smiley bow, Tania Harris.



Post-bowhunting tasks,
Allan Driver.



Take a knee, Jason Heart.



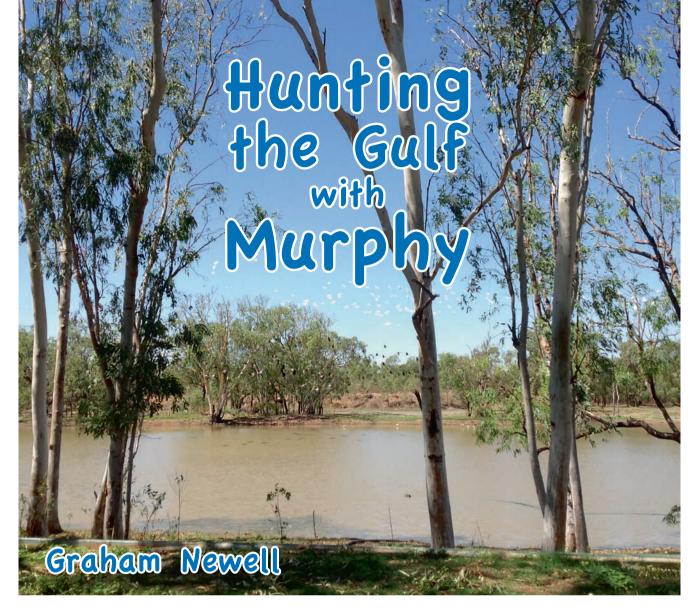
Aquiver, Jeffery Evans.



A well deserved break, Aaron Neal.



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he trip in September last year was my 23rd year to the Gulf country of north Queensland and I knew it was going to be different for a number of reasons ... but I didn't know then just how different it would be.

My hunting buddy of many great trips, Robbo, was unable to make it, so I enlisted another Grange Bowmen hunter Brett Stokes, our club's BPC instructor. It would be his first trip to the savannahlands. Someone else was to be on this trip ... someone who wasn't quite so welcome. His name? Mr Murphy.

There were other differences. We had to leave three or four weeks earlier than our usual timing and the properties had experienced a very good long wet season-so there was plenty of water around.

In an effort to demonstrate to Brett how I sharpen my broadheads, I managed a deep slice to my finger less than 24 hours prior to departure (wife/nurse said it needed stitches but there was no time for that).

The first day we travelled 1350km to Winton in western Queensland then continued to the cattle property with its western boundary at the NT border. The manager showed us our quarters (single rooms air-conditioned—excellent) and we joined the couple for dinner, hopefully getting the lowdown on the biggest pigs.

It was then they told us they had baited for wild dogs, double-baited in fact just five or so weeks earlier so the pigs could be a tad scarce (an understatement indeed). There was in fact only one swamp where the manager had seen any hogs, Goose 'Swamp'. I put the word swamp in inverted commas because actually, the swamp had dried up.

On one trip to 'the swamp', no pigs were sighted but I lost my treasured USA steel buck-hunting knife.

After three less-than-successful days we decided to leave and go to a property some 175km east of Doomadgee. We dossed down for the night intending to drive out the next morning, but 20mm of rain fell overnight and as anyone who has travelled in black soil country knows, that's enough to cause a few issues. We did eventually get out onto the hard stuff after 70km of mud,

water and sliding towards our destination.

It was on this short journey between properties that my truck started showing a noticeable drop in power once we got over 90kph. Now, that was just what we needed—vehicle problems 2565km from home. We were to discover the auto transmission usually has 10 litresplus of fluid but on checking had just over three litres. We called the RACQ and they drained then filled it up to the correct level.

We had the bush mechanic try to resolve or isolate the power problem but he could not. The truck was still drivable but not at speed. The trip home was slow, we used 16.8 litres of fuel to the 100km.

On our arrival at the second property, which incidentally I have been to for the past 23 years without a miss, the first disturbing sight was out front of the ringers' and workers' accommodation where there were three—yes, three—Toyotas with dog cages on the back. Not happy, Jan. In fact, the doggers had caught 20 pigs the evening prior to our arrival!

In one day we checked out no less than eight spots for a nil sighting of pigs ... very unusual indeed.

To top this off, both Brett and I misjudged the distance on two cracker boars.

It may now be obvious as to why we titled this short story *Hunting the Gulf with Murphy*. Murphy's Law had certainly applied itself brilliantly and whatever could go wrong, did.

By now I knew Brett was probably doubting the stories Robbo and I had told him of previous hunts with up to 40 or 50 kills. It was certainly not going to happen on this trip. In fact, I doubt we saw 40 pigs over the whole 10 days of hunting (I use the term 'hunting' loosely in this context!).

But there are always some positives when bowhunters are out in the bush. Brett did get his first Gulf boar. He saw some good-sized hogs and some interesting country, while I managed a couple of boars with decent hooks, so it was not a complete disaster.

The country from Cloncurry back to Brisbane (including Winton and Longreach) was as green as a field in England; it should be looking good for pig hunters later this year.

We did actually harvest a few hogs so 5350km was not a total waste of time and energy.

Hunting anecdotes

Brett soon discovered how handy binoculars are when at 150 yards I spotted a dark shape under a twometre prickle bush. While glassing the shape, I saw an



The boars were few and far between, but not totally missing from the hunting trip.

ear flick so I was off to investigate. Circling to the east to get the breeze in my face I closed to 22yd and got into position to (hopefully) slip the Piledriver shaft with 135-grain Zwickey up front into his chest. The plan (almost) came together the hit was good, penetration excellent—





Brett and the pig that didn't get away.

however, the boar ran off and out of sight and yes, we lost him (oh no, not Murphy again). We both did a grid search but had no luck finding the boar.

As this was the only spot on the property with no bait activity we went back the next day and found him, mind you 36 hours in 35-degree heat can do interesting things to the size and shape of these hogs. (Extracting the hooks from a fly-blown boar is a fun exercise but the bottom jaw came away very easily.)

Brett told me after that until I took the shot he still could not see what I was shooting at.

It was at this spot Brett got to see my 'golf swing' with my Mathews as a big hooky boar I had shot at (hit a branch on the way in) charged me. Thankfully no damage was done—Murphy must have been asleep for that one.

On the second cattle station we sighted some nice boars but all were too alert and aware, which we felt was because of the doggers giving them a hammering.

By now Brett was getting a bit toey as he had not taken a pig. That was about to change. We had walked through some small swampy areas to a turkey nest (an aboveground-level dam) when I spotted a couple of hogs in the shade of the leafy low trees that surround these nests. I put an arrow into one at 15vd and the next boar trotted out to the right of Brett who was ready and slipped the

arrow through the pig's vitals. Brett was off following the pig and its huge blood trail some 20vd or so away then wisely decided to put the insurance arrow into the pig. this one was definitely *not* getting away. It was Brett's first Gulf boar and he was a lot happier after that. So was I.

My last shot opportunity came when we had been to some very likely watering spots for hogs. We'd had no sightings but at one such waterhole we walked either side of a shallow waterway when I spotted another dark black and grey blob under some brush. On closer inspection I saw it was a boar, but he had heard my approach and trotted out the other side of the brush without giving me a shot. However, when Murphy was not watching, the boar then walked at slow pace around to my left and came out into the open. I had not moved from my spot and when the boar hesitated at 25yd, I had time enough to slip the Tusker-tipped Piledriver into the back of the heart where it cut a major artery.

The blood trail was significant and short, only 45vd. and the hooks weren't bad either. I wondered if we had broken free of the Murphy curse at last.

By this time we had only one more day to hunt. We visited our usually good spots but had nil sightings so we decided time was up and we would head home the next day.

Murphy had not guit yet, as the only dirt road on our trip home of some 90km had received about 20mm of rain overnight so another wet and slippery trip eventuated. (Murphy must have been running out of ideas by then—he was starting to repeat himself.)

We did the trip home in two days despite the truck issues and all I could do was hope the damage wasn't too severe on the truck or my pocket.

The beauty of the bush

One of the never-ending delights of being in the bush, or specifically the savannah country of northwest Queensland, is the scenery and the abundance of wild-



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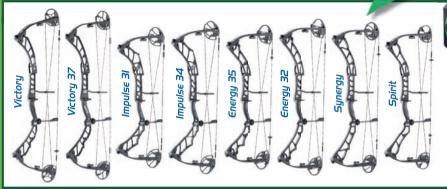
life—particularly the birdlife. Although I didn't take photos of them, I can name many of them. We saw brolgas, northern cranes, blue winged kookaburras (the non-laughing variety—they obviously didn't think Murphy was funny), magpie geese, corellas, sulphur-crested cockatoos, redtailed black cockatoos, pelicans, shags, ibis, grey cranes, wedgetail eagles, whistling kites, crows (of course), cuckoos, butcher birds, magpie larks (peewees), willy wagtails, swallows, magpies, plains turkeys, bustards, emus, doves and pigeons of many varieties. With the exception of the emus, eagles and black cockatoos, all the birds were around the homestead at some time during our stay. The corellas in their many thousands have stripped the gumtrees around the homestead so badly that the trees are in danger of dying. On several occasions, we saw kites catching small fish in the lagoon in front of the homestead.

Brett found the shed skin of a brown snake; the skin alone was well over 2m long. The number and variety of wallabies, wallaroos, kangaroos (red, blue and grey) was something to behold ... the great season has caused a breeding tsunami. It would have been nice if the pigs had been in the same sort of numbers, but that's bowhunting! (Aren't you just a tad tired of those words, Brett?) Still, the saying goes that a bad day in the bush is better than a great day at work ... and Brett seemed to agree.

More information next time

There are always lessons to learn from this sort of trip. Get accurate info on the state of play on the stations (other hunters et cetera). Let the country dry out to almost drought conditions prior to your trip. Avoid mustering times. Check for the presence of doggers and query the baiting timetable. Have a reliable vehicle. And, most importantly ... run as fast as you can the other way at the first sighting of that fellow named Murphy!

We hope that aspiring bowhunters will look over this summary and get some ideas on what *not* to do and what to avoid in their hunting adventures. Will we go bush again? Of course!







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Returning SARVIII

John A. Barlow

The black bear looked massive. At 400 yards his muscles rippled as he tore away at a rotted log on the steep hillside. His jet black coat glistened in the late afternoon sun. Through my binoculars, I could see his pink tongue licking away at the log as he dug for insects. He was enjoying his meal. Even at the distance I was from him I could hear the tearing and splitting sounds of the wood as his claws dug into it.

The stalk across the steep rocky hillside would be difficult. I knew I could be quiet enough, but the thought of crossing broken shale unnerved of snow. There is always the potential of it breaking loose. But the bear was tempting and soon all I could think about was drawing back my bow and watching my 2018 Easton Aluminium shaft disappear into the bear's thick wool socks, I began moving towards the bear. As I moved, the point. Bent over, I would take a small step and then sit down before might not be as hard as I thought. The bear never gave me a glance, but continued to focus on the meal hidden in the old log.

Looking back at that moment, I still am not sure what happened next. All I know was that the rock hillside under me was moving and taking me with it. The noise produced from the moving shale reminded me of the sound of a large ocean wave. Reacting in the way I'd been taught to respond in a snow avalanche, I lay on my back with my new Brackenbury recurve held high to the side of my body, and tried desperately to stay on top of would be buried. When the rock finally stopped moving, I found myself at the bottom of the hill and could only think of my family, and that I had survived to be able to see them again.







Survival items take up little space but can pay huge dividends.

Fanny packs and day packs are popular with back country bowhunters.

Layering is essential in ever-changing weather conditions.

Each year bowhunters get lost, fall, get caught in fast-moving water or meet animals that are less than friendly. Weather conditions can be brutal and dangerous. Most bowhunters make it back home from such conditions. On occasion, some do not. Our field of play is hostile and unforgiving. Yet, along with the animals we pursue, such conditions can make us feel alive and add to the excitement of our hunt. At times, bad weather conditions can be seen as a plus when they help to move animals around, giving the bowhunter an opportunity to see more of them. In the midst of all these factors, personal safety should be our goal, as well as the safety of those with whom we hunt.

Bowhunting alone

I love bow hunting alone. There is a sense of freedom being by oneself in the bush or mountains that is hard to explain. I can move when I want to move or I can stop moving. I do not have to worry about a bowhunting companion, the noise he or she is making or the human smell that is filling the woods. All I have to do

is worry about myself and what I am doing. I am in tune with what I am doing far greater when I am alone. That is, trying to see, then get close, to the game animal I am pursuing.

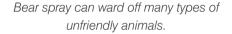
With the advent of cell phones, satellite phones and GPS devices, many of us feel safer today about bowhunting alone. More and more I see bowhunting articles as well as videos marketing the benefits of bowhunting solo. Solo this, and solo that, are growing in popularity. Some popular video makers can strap a go-pro camera to the top of their head and document their hunt. To be honest, I am amazed by the wonderful footage. How they are able to get close to a game animal with a camera on their heads and then shoot at that animal seems almost magical to me. But what the articles and videos that advocate hunting alone fail to relate are the number of solo hunters who do not return home-or have to be brought back home by a search-andrescue team. While the statistics are not always broken down between hunters versus non-hunters who get lost or injured in the wild, newspaper publications as well as major hunting magazines seem to have enough material about lost or injured hunters for one to be concerned.

Each year, "This Happened To Me" stories remind me of the reality that having a bowhunting companion close enough to be of assistance should I get lost or injured, may not be such a bad thing after all. The added help a companion can render in packing out an animal is always welcome. So while there are many advantages to bowhunting alone, a companion may help to make sure you return home safely, and have many more years to carry your bow into the field.

Going prepared

Thirty years ago while on a bowhunt not far from my home, I came a cross a lost 12-year-old boy. He had been out bowhunting the day before and had become separated from his father. He was cold and hungry and told me he had spent the night in the woods, waiting for someone to find him. Luckily, someone did. He was dressed in lightweight warm-season clothing. He carried nothing other than his bow. No water, fire starter, or emergency tarp or blanket. While the day-time temperatures were guite warm, the night temperatures









Bow hunting can be exhausting, so make sure you rest often.

were not, hovering low enough to freeze water.

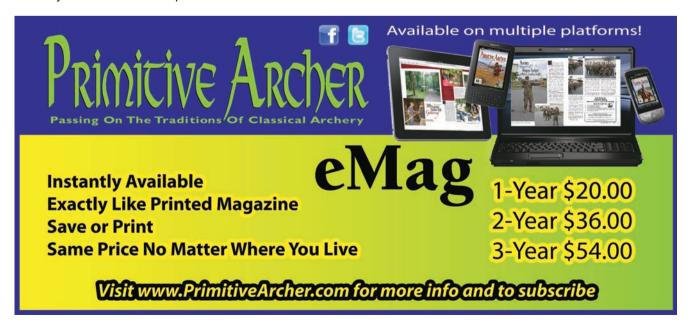
A close friend who leads a local search-and-rescue team, told me recently that most wilderness rescue efforts are ended within 12 hours (meaning that most individuals are located within 12 hours). But for most of those who are lost and/or injured, having to spend a night in the woods is common. Even for some seasoned bowhunters, a night in the wild can be intense. Back in the day, further back than I would like to admit, most of us ventured into the woods with an army canteen on our belts and a candy bar or two in our pockets.

Items like fanny packs and day packs were not common.

Today, things are different. Bow hunting articles and videos show bowhunters in the woods with large packs filled with survival items. Though I do believe less can be more, the point is that more and more of us are going into the wild more prepared for a night or two in the woods. As well as carrying emergency items like fire starters, tarps and space blankets, water, food and other items to keep us alive, I always carry a few others items like a signal mirror, a small road flare to help start a fire in wet conditions and a compass. Be sure to tell loved ones where you will be bowhunting and if possible the coordinates and when you plan to return.

Dangerous animals

Pigs with tusks, bovines with horns, snakes with fangs and wild dogs with teeth. At some time, you and I are going to experience a possible dangerous encounter with an animal. It may even be the one we are pursuing. Not long ago I saw a video where a traditional



bowhunter placed an arrow into a water buffalo. The animal was not pleased and began pulling down a well-sized tree. My heart raced. I thought that at any moment this enormous beast would see the shooter and attack. Luckily, the sharp broadhead did its job before our bowhunter was seen. I shiver when I think of the damage this animal could have done to that hunter.

Where I live, it seems that bears do damage to humans every year. Grizzly bears, especially with their massive size and short and aggressive temperament, kill and hurt people regularly. Alaska, Montana and Canada are hot spots for grizzly attacks. Though smaller in size and not so short tempered, black bears are also a concern. Add a mother bear with cubs to both of these species and you had better hope your life insurance is paid up. Wild pigs can be super aggressive. For me pigs can get my heart beating fast because most of the time there are more than just one. And while one is bad enough, a group of pigs can become overpowering if they attack you.

Poisonous snakes can do damage quickly. While many may not kill you, their venom can do damage to your heart or rot away human tissue. I always carry a can of pepper spray that can be used on any animal that may show aggression towards me.

Sprays can be effective, but even so, they are not a sure means for saving life and limb. Recently a bowhunter posted a short self-filmed video on social media of himself after a grizzly bear attack. The bear had done considerable damage even after the bowhunter had hit the sow grizzly full force in the face with bear spray. While attacks on humans are rare, wild game animals do cause damage to bowhunters who are pursuing them. Use caution. And if that little voice inside you tells you to not get so close. listen to it.

The weather

Weather can play a part in your success no matter where you are bow hunting in the world. I am always amused when I hear bowhunters and others complain about the weather. When it is dry and hot, they want wet and cooler weather. When it is raining, they want dry conditions. Weather is probably the most used excuse for bowhunting failure. In all honesty, it can play a factor in failure as well as in success. But weather also can be one of the outdoors-man's most dangerous opponents. Many bowhunting seasons fall during extremely warm conditions. Add heat to heavy physical exertion from hiking or packing

out downed animals and you can be in danger of heat stroke, heat exhaustion and dehydration. Cold weather has its dangers as hypothermia can overpower us even in temperatures we might normally find pleasant. Get wet, add a cool wind and extreme loss of body heat can easily occur. Be it extreme heat or extreme chilling, we can begin to experience changes in our body functions that can be life threatening. Add to the fact that such conditions can alter our thinking and all kinds of difficult scenarios can arise.

In hot weather, be sure to carry ample water and drink it often. Wear loose-fitting and lightweight clothing. Stay in the shade as much as possible and remember to rest often when you are looking for game or backpacking into a remote hunting area. In the cooler conditions be sure to wear your clothing in layers so you can add clothing or shed it as needed. Carry a lightweight waterproof jacket or some kind of waterproof tarp. Something to help get a fire going in wet and cool conditions is a must. Even with a small fire, you can withstand some very brutal conditions.

Bringing home a game animal to feed our families and loved ones is wonderful and brings with it great fulfilment. Getting yourself home safely to those same people, is everything.



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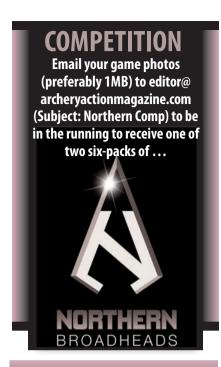
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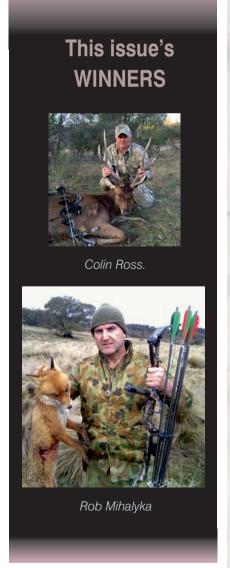
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INSURED HUNTING



Department of Primary Industries









This page: Wade Bygrave goat, (top); Graham McComiskie 32 4/8pt RC boar.

Facing page: Neville Ashton 25 2/8pt TC pig (top), Toby Gall 25 6/8pt TC boar (middle); Will Ellen 240 4/8 pt fallow deer (bottom left) and Laurie Goudie 25 4/8pt TC boar.











here seems to be a feeling in bowhunting that bigger is always better. I can understand why people get excited over a photo of a big deer or moose, but at the same time I think that the skill involved in getting smaller targets is underrated.

Any animal has its own disposition, behaviours and characteristics that need to be addressed when hunting them and most hunters will hunt a broad range of animals, but usually there's one that seems to be the favourite with every hunter. For me, that's the good old rabbit.

Rabbits have been in Australia for a long time and to say that they've adapted to their surroundings is an understatement-we have millions of them. They're small, fast, at times fascinating in their social interactions with each other ... and a target that I find hard to resist.

As with hunting most animals, for myself and the rabbits, there's three ways I'll go-spot and stalk, ambush or meet and greet, the last being a nice opportunity for a stroll where I'll have a go at what I come across. Nine times out of 10, I'll go with ambush, it might sound strange to the non-hunting fraternity, but for me, sitting in the weeds near a rabbit warren silently. waiting for one of them to come out into the light (and into my arrow) is something that I love. They can look right at you, or right into you at times and you can't help but stay blank and stare back, waiting for them to think you're part of the landscape, then once they redirect their attention and look away, you draw your bow, keeping a constant watch on them you release your arrow and for that second or two your heart stops. There is only you and your quarry; a hit brings overwhelming excitement and (for me) a sense of all the practice paying off, a miss is a miss, we take stock of what went wrong and endeavour to practise more.

The beautiful thing with rabbits is their diversity. They'll do well in poor areas, come back from decimation and are one of the few animals that you can find across the globe in one form or another. That small, jittery target is often elusive and the meat from them once a household regular here in Australia—is now all but forgotten. Even if it is to be found in the butcher shop window, it is often a farmed and much too expensive version of the organic and free range bounty that we bowhunters know.

In that respect we're lucky here, I'll get people on farms asking me to come and take a few rabbits that are causing damage to crops and trees, how many times has someone asked you to come take care of a deer problem?

We can hunt them all year round and have the best results in spring and early summer while the grass is still green. By mid-autumn the grass that was burned by the harsh summer sun has started to show specks of green again and most good rabbiting spots will have a population ready to harvest.

After we've found a good warren on a day beforehand, we'll get in before dawn and hide up, making sure we've got a good view of a few rabbit holes and wait. (At least in the cooler months there are no snakes to worry about: walking on a large brown or tiger snake in the early hours while you're a mile or so from your car is a trouble I can do without.)

Once the pre-dawn light starts to hit, when the darker shapes become more apparent as vegetation and trees, the rabbits usually start to move about. Though mostly nocturnal, they'll still be active at dawn and dusk, even throughout the day in healthy populations.



It's that waiting that gets me, because when you see that flash of grey fur in your periphery, you stop, you turn slowly and pray for a chance at a shot. Of course there's loads of other animals to hunt here as well as rabbits—goats, pigs, deer, even camels if you want, but rabbits are the top of my list, with foxes a close second.

We have hot, long summers that go right up to 46 degrees here, with weeks of no rain in sight and polarising winters of frozen landscapes with temperatures down to minus 8 degrees and yet the rabbits will always be there. As annoying as most people see them because they cause millions of dollars' worth of damage to agriculture every year, they're an undeniable part of the Australian landscape now ... which is why it's strange to me that no one tends to eat them, even hunters I've met profess to shooting them as a pest (which they are) only to leave them behind for the foxes and crows. What a waste of perfectly good meat! If only we could get them back on the Aussie menu like they used to be. Maybe I'll have to start making cooking videos and putting them on my Facebook page?

All things considered, I think our early memories have a part to play regarding what animal we tend to favour as our main quarry. A rabbit was the first animal I shot with my bow and the first kill from my bow that I ate. It was the first animal that got me truly excited about bowhunting and I think that's why the rabbit will always have a special place for me. If for some reason I couldn't hunt anymore, I'd still pick that bow up every day and practise target shooting, but if I could still hunt but not hunt rabbits, then I'd truly be disheartened.

Christian Monahan lives in Victoria and is a keen bowhunter, getting out into the field on a weekly basis and doing his bit to reduce the local rabbit population and put some meat in the freezer. He calls himself the Rabbit Ranger.









June 20 to 25 LFAA Field Archery Championships 2017

To be held at Renegade Bowmen Inc. proudly supported by Ipswich City Council









Timetable: Muster each day at 8.00am for an 8.30am start

Tuesday 20/06/17 Nominations and bow checks from 2.00pm

Wednesday 21/06/17 28 Targets Field/Hunter

Thursday 22/06/17 28 Targets Hunter/Field (afternoon bow checks)

Friday 23/06/17 28 Targets Field/Hunter Saturday 24/06/17 28 Targets Hunter/Field

Sunday 25/06/17 28 Targets Animal followed by presentations

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

Nomination Fees: Adult, Young Adult, Veteran \$45 three days and \$60.00 five days; Cub/Junior \$35 three days and \$50 five days; Family \$125 three days and \$160 five days

Nominations closing date: 5 June 2017

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

Last day for grading: 5 June 2017

DIRECTIONS:

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

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

Turn off the Cunningham Highway at Swanbank exit.

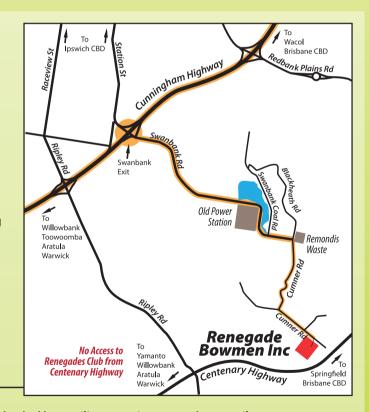
Keep the old power station site on your right.

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

Turn left into Cumner Road.

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

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



- Limited camping and caravan sites available, but site must be booked by emailing: camping.renegades@gmail.com
- Ipswich Country Motel, 250 South Station Road, Raceview is located only a short distance from the Club and is offering reduced rates for competitors, mention archery when booking. Ph: 1800 026 370
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- For general inquiries contact the Club via website renegadebowmeninc.com

OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Fletching and grouping

Over the years, I have spent a lot of time testing various components with my arrows to try get the most accurate arrow for all weather conditions. My primary aim is to build an arrow that will group great when the conditions are fine, and have the least possible drift when it's windy. Through all my testing I have managed to find a very forgiving arrow setup. In this article I will discuss the processes I go through to help readers make up arrows that help get the maximum score under all conditions and compare some of the most common fletches for their wind performance.



by STEVE CLIFTON

SET-UP

When building my arrows, there are a couple of things that need to be given serious consideration before stepping out onto the field. Ignoring for the moment the type of vane I am choosing to stick on (I will cover the reasons for choosing that later in the article), the most important thing I need to do is choose the best glue to ensure that my vanes stay on and never ever come loose. Over the years, I have been guilty of using some poor glue and it has cost me points, so I can tell you it is important you use a high quality glue above everything else. The glue I currently choose to use is the

Loctite 401 Adhesive as it holds the vanes on my shafts rock solid and is thick enough to prevent it running all over the place. Two other brands I have found to be just as good are the AAE Max Bond and Easton's Quick Bond. It might seem a little expensive spending \$20-plus on glue, but that cheap rubbish the \$2 shops sell won't hold the vanes on the arrows and should be avoided in every single case! Invest in a good glue as a loose vane will hurt your score every time.

The next thing that needs be considered is the angle that the vane is stuck on the shaft. Many years ago, I spent a lot of time setting my vanes at 1° differences and trying them out

to see if there was an optimal angle. Through my testing I have found that it is important to have a slight offset, somewhere between 1° and 3° as this will give the arrow some directional spin without slowing the arrow down too much (which can be important if you are shooting long distances such as 90m!).

Lastly, it is important that you don't fletch the arrow with the vanes too far forward or back as this can also impact on how the arrow flies and groups. One important consideration is to make sure that the vanes are not touching your face. I know when I am shooting my short ATA bows (Such as the Hoyt Pro Edge/Hyper Edge bows) for indoors, where I usually have my vanes located is too far back and the large 4in vanes touch my face. So the first consideration is they need to be far enough forward that they do not touch your face at all, and after this I like to suggest the vanes be somewhere around 1/2in to 3/4in from the back of the arrow. If you think of the vanes as a parachute on the arrow, the further back you have them the faster they will straighten up the arrow as it flies, which is important for short range shooting (and naturally this will impact many targets on the field courses).



ALIGNING NOCKS

The simplest way I have found to check that my nocks are aligned and that the fletches are clearing my blade is by powder testing them. Powder testing is a simple process of covering the arrow's fletches with powder (baby powder works perfectly) and shooting them out of your bow. What you will see down the shaft is lines from your blade tip (if you are using one) and this should be on the shaft only. You can see in my picture (bottom right) that the blade runs right down the middle of my shaft and does not touch the fletches. If the lines on your arrow shaft do touch the fletches, simply rotate the nock around slightly until it runs through the middle of them.

WIND TESTING

When it comes to wind testing my arrows, I do this by shooting the arrows made up with different vanes in the wind myself. I do not have a hooter shooter do this for me as 1) I don't own one, but mainly 2) because I like to see how the arrows respond to *me* shoot-



ing them in the wind. We all have experienced times shooting in the wind where we can 'steer' the arrow after the shot and successfully drag it back into the middle, so while my tests may not be completely scientific, it does give me the confidence in the arrow set-up by knowing what my 'steering' is actually capable of.

I have tried literally dozens of different vanes for shooting outdoors and in the wind, and the two I have always found to perform





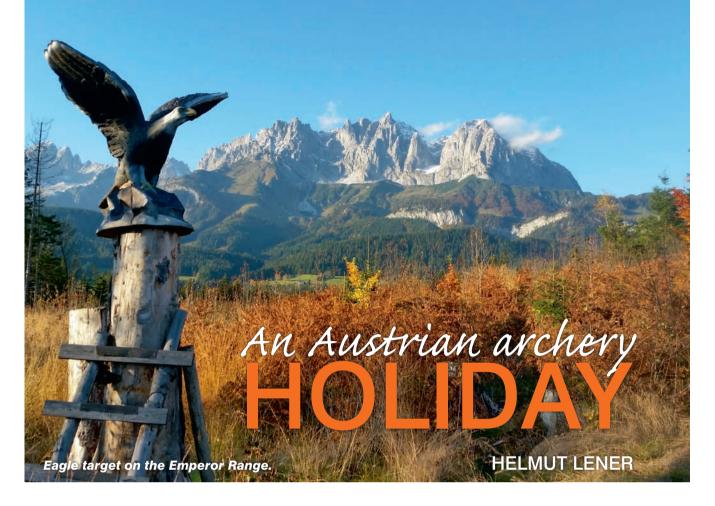
best are the Easton Tite-Flight 200s and the FFP187 vanes. The thing that these two vanes have in common is that they are 'shield cut' in design, meaning that they are aerodynamically superior to many other vanes available on the market. These two vanes are the most popular vanes on the international competition field and the reason is that they have enough surface area to straighten the arrow up as quickly as possible, however they are designed in such a way that they also experience minimal drag. This is really important when shooting in the wind as the more area the vanes have, the more they are going to be influenced by the wind. Other common vanes are often more rounded at the top and have a higher vane height which can cause them to be more influenced by the wind.

One benefit (if you can call it that) of shooting at the club I do is that you can always guarantee that it will be windy; this makes it a perfect ground for testing a variety of vanes to see how they perform. In the pictures you can see a number of arrows shot with four different vane types. The other two vanes I have chosen to use for this demonstration are the Easton Diamond Vanes and FFP150. These are not the most extreme of the non-shield cut vanes. however they are still quite popular vanes and used by target and field shooters alike. These arrows were shot from 50m (55v) in a moderate wind, forecast says 30kmph. You can see that there is no difference between the Easton and FFP shield cut vanes, however there are more arrows to the right of the target from the other two vane types. Again, this is not a scientific test, but it does indicate to me that some vanes are more consistent in the wind than are others, which allows me to make a decision on which brand and type I want to use at competitions.

Hopefully this article has shed a little light on vanes and given you something more to consider trialling for your own competition set-ups. What is important for your own confidence is to run these kinds of tests yourself and see the benefits that the various types of equipment can provide so you can get those extra points!



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had only been back in my native Austria for a few hours when my cousin Peter rang and asked me if I had brought my bow with me. I had, but only my old hunting bow, a Mathews z7.

That was good, he said, because he had registered us for a big tournament at a 3D archery club in the region.

Until recent years, I hadn't seen my younger cousin since we were little kids. But after reading the brilliant article by Ken Hutchinson in Archery Action about shooting at clubs in Germany, Austria and South Tirol, I decided to search for clubs in my home region and to my surprise found that there were countless very attractive and challenging ranges.

My cousin Peter's name came up because he was an Austrian champion so when I visited in 2015 we finally caught up and together we shot the range at his club which winds steeply around an old ruined castle on the way to Italy. Talk about picturesque!

That's when we got the idea to take Australian archers to Austria and show them some of the stunning scenery, visit historical, cultural, arts and sport sites, see alpine game (though no bowhunting is allowed in Austria) admire record trophies, taste delicious food and drinks and of course shoot in many challenging 3D ranges set in beautiful mountain terrain.

So last year in October, I set out to visit 14 different clubs and private ranges to see if it would be suitable for a group of 12 Aussies to travel there and enjoy the hospitality of the western region of Austria. The experience of shooting in lush pine forests or at high altitudes below some mammoth caves, with the backdrop of glaciers and lakes, quaint villages and postcard paddocks would be very different to drawing a bow in a sun-parched eucalypt woodland!

The tournament was to celebrate the club's 20th anniversary and they went to a lot of effort to make it a very memorable and enjoyable day. The range was a little squeezed by the farmer next door grazing his prized dairy cows in the lush green paddock next to the forestry track, so the chance to sight in and practise was limited as there were 78 archers ready to compete. The weather was dry but cloudy throughout the day and temperatures around 14 degrees made it an ideal day for flinging arrows. Peter and I were given target number 19 out of 32 and together with two very nice members of the local Flauerling club. we had to climb a very, very steep long and densely timbered slope to reach our first target. The set-up of the range was stunning: There were over 100 excellent 3D targets set in groups and I felt that they simply couldn't be more realistically presented. There was a group of deer perched in very dense undergrowth. Another was a sow and five little ones in a black swamp, and you had to count it as a miss if you hit a piglet, Five alpine





Above: A practice range. Left: Bison and grizzly in a ravine.

ibex at a high waterfall were very realistic and there was even a fisherman high above a rock pool with his fishing rod in his hands at which end a fat carp was dangling above the fastflowing creek. Apart from two really long shots, the distances were in the 20m to 35m range, which suited the traditional shooters well. There are many more shooters in Austria who use beautifully crafted recurve and longbows than there are compound shooters, but all of the ranges which I visited welcomed compounders too.

As Ken wrote in the *Archery Action* article that so inspired me, the people of the Alps love their nature and spend as much time as possible outdoors, pursuing a multitude of activities like

hiking, climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, camping or hunting in the lush mountain forests. There are also a great number of lakes which are an invitation for water activities, and it seems that every little valley has a gushing brook teeming with trout.

Naturally, amid all this, many people enjoy archery. Not all ranges are operated by clubs but by private farm/guesthouses which have 5ha or so of forest dedicated to their 3D ranges. Some are high up near the treeline and others are in deep valleys ... all except one that I visited had many challenging ups and downs.

There was a bison and a grizzly which was shot standing on a spur with the cliffs around you dropping



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Steep uphill shot.

almost 40m, a group of chamois across a deep ravine perched at the edge of a cliff, even wolves cornered by two ibex in front of a deep cave. Parkour directors are very creative in setting up these ranges and use all sorts of tricks to make distance judging difficult. They use steep up and down shots, light and shadow, features of the terrain, dead ground, dense vegetation and running water.

It's different in other ways as well. You don't find roots or rocks painted pink for visibility and there are no warning signs when you have to stand on a small platform to line up a shot. There aren't any high-vis traffic controllers telling you when to go and when to stop and nobody checks if you are an

experienced shooter—they trust that everyone will behave in a safe and proper manner and that each person is responsible for himself.

During my trip through Austria, I met a number of archers who had been to Australia. Markus, a carpenter by trade, lived in Port Douglas for a time building wooden boats. Then there was Wolfgang, a deer hunter from Kitzbuehel who worked as a ski instructor in Jinabvne. He found the love of his life in outback Queensland and took her with him to Salzburg where they now own a fishing and outdoor shop. Manfred, an engineer, said he had the best time of his life as a teenager travelling through Australia and learning how to surf. Marianne has been over here five times and eventually wants to stay here.

People were genuinely interested in meeting archers and bowhunters from Australia and were keen to set up a few Austro-Australian tournaments if I brought a group with me next time. So if you're interested in a trip to Austria this September, email me at archeryholiday@gmail.com.

There will be a website and Facebook presence in the near future.



Morning sun penetrates a cool forest.



OLD FRIENDS, NEW FRIENDS

JOHN McKAY

John's first two pigs.



t had been three years since I had last made the trip northward to a beautiful part of our country, Merluna Station Cape York. It's harsh, hard country but beautiful all at the same time. It's as remote as it gets and there's plenty of feral game ... every bowhunter's paradise.

This year due to work restraints it was to be a rushed trip-straight off night shift, drive the 1400km up, hunt for seven days then drive home with a night in Dimbulah and then straight back to work.

The trip up was anything but uneventful. I drove straight through from Mackay was held up by a terrible accident then managed to cop a small speeding fine on the Peninsula Developmental Road.

Things had changed since I was last driving this road. This time there was a little reprieve from the constant corrugations with sealed stretches, but I admit that at times it gave me a feeling of sadness to think that this beautiful but remote area will soon be easily accessed by every man and his dog. The Road Tek guys plan to complete the bitumen from Laura to Weipa by end of 2017. Anyway, I made the trip with only a cracked windscreen and a sore bum from 17 hours behind the wheel.

On the drive into the station I came across my first pig as he burst out of a wallow in one of the little creeks we cross on the driveway. He stopped at the top of the crossing and I kept on driving till he was just out of view, hoping he would go back to the wallow so I have a crack at him. I grabbed my bow, slipped my shoes off and headed back for a look. I didn't have long as the light was failing but had to be careful not to spook him if he was still up on the top of the bank. As I got closer to the crossing, I spotted some movement and the young boar walked out of the grass 45m from me and paused







in the centre of the road. I drew and then realised I was having difficulty seeing him because of the low light so I let down and let him go. Still, it wasn't a bad way to start the hunt.

When I arrived at the camp I realised how dry it was with oasis of green around camp set against the hard dry backdrop. I said a quick hello to Michelle and unpacked my gear, then it was time to meet the boys. This year I was hunting with Clint again from

Barefoot Bowhunting Safaris, but we would be hunting with a couple of Clint's mates from New Zealand. One was a true blue Kiwi (Dennis), the other a mad South African (Ryan) who now resides in Australia growing the never heard of Long Ens. Yeah, I never heard of them either. Ryan and Dennis were the best of mates. I'd call them two peas in a pod. Even though they were completely different blokes, they were also like an old couple and it wasn't long and I was proud to call them mates. It never ceases to amaze me the people I meet through archery. Some of my truly great friends have been met through this awesome sport. Both Dennis and Ryan were back at Merluna for their second year. Their first trip had been cut short when Ryan lost a nervewracking meeting with a wounded boar that burst out of his bed after being awakened abruptly by a broadhead slicing through his internals. Apparently it's not until a boar is heading straight towards you that you realise you are standing on his exit pad. Nevertheless, after a few operations on his badly damaged foot, Ryan was back this year with his trusty mate Dennis to have another go at the elusive Cape boars.

The first day of hunting saw us head out to an old carcass early in the morning. When we arrived, there were several pigs feeding on the old carcasses. As I moved into position a young boar walked out to my left towards me at about 30m. I drew on him and released on the walk, completely missing him. He exploded out of there to live another day. I regathered my composure, realising that I hadn't gone through any of my



The biggest pig of the trip.

shot sequence. Nerves are a pain! I returned my concentration to the pigs still feeding. Using an ant mound to shield myself from them, I made it to 19m from one unsuspecting boar and slipped a 605gr Slick Trick tipped Easton Axis into him. He only ran 30m and went down, so I had a nice young boar on the ground. Another better boar walked in nearby and was put down on this spot with a spine shot. The Bowtech CPXL was punching 605gr arrows out at 278 feet per second—not much was going to pull them up. These little Slick Tricks never cease to amaze me with their durability and out-of-the-packet sharpness. Not a bad first day, with two nice boars on the ground.

The following day saw three good pigs fall victim to Slick Tricks. The last one was lying in a wallow in a large open dam, so I used the lay of ground to get to 30m completely in the open. I didn't really have a really good angle-his vitals were a bit lower in the mud than I had allowed for. I shot the through the mud but the shot wasn't low enough and he erupted out of the mud away from me, only to turn and make a beeline straight for me. As I did my best impersonation of a tree out on the bare dam bank, the only thing going through my mind was I had told Ryan I would stand still in this situation. He reached the 10m mark, and I would be lying if I said things weren't getting very tense, then at the last second he turned and veered away from me. It just shows the importance of keeping completely still. He covered 30m quickly away from me and I let out a big sigh of relief and moved a little, he instantly turned and looked at me, chomping. Needless to say, I turned straight back into a tree! It must have worked as he soon lost interest and went over the bank. Due to some poor shooting it took two more arrows in quick succession to



secure this lump of a pig. He was the largest for the trip but he was a young pig and didn't have very big tusks.

I spent the next day working out some electrical harness dramas with Michelle's John Deere tractor. Lending a hand is sometimes as rewarding as the hunt. We were up early the following day and we headed out to a nearby dam with an old carcass on the end of it. Just before sun-up we arrived and moved as close to the dam as we could without spooking anything unseen in the dark. As the light just started to move I made out the outline of a good pig with his head deep in the carcass. I moved into place quietly and slipped an arrow into him, putting him down instantly. Clint then saw another boar walking onto us, as he came round the carcass he was keeping a keen eye on the pig already on the ground 10m away. He didn't notice me at full draw. I took him front on, and he only made it 5m. Two pigs down in 15m, woohoo.

The next day was by far the most exciting with the morning seeing a cracker boar taken with a single

arrow well placed from 17m. We later realised this good fella had a broken tusk. Ryan had spent a few days to no avail on a likely looking waterhole. The only day he had pigs come in he had lay down for a sleep in the cool, only to awake with pigs not far from him but his bow too far away not to spook them while retrieving it.

Needless to say, the temptation to relocate the one tusked-warrior for photos at the previously mentioned



The one-tusked warrior was relocated to the dam for a photo session.



dam to stir the pot a little was too much. Sorry, Rhino couldn't help ourselves.

Later that afternoon we decided to try a dam where we had seen good boars but hadn't managed to get our timing right yet. We decided to head out a little earlier in the afternoon than previously, and this paid off handsomely for as we rounded the dam there was a cracker in the end of the dam in a wallow. I headed back round the dam to get the wind right and came over the bank and drew down on the unsuspecting quarry. The shot was not the best but he blew out of his bed and paused long enough for another shot. Both arrows completely passed through. He went down just over the bank of the dam. We prepped him for our photos and went back to where the pigs were coming into the dam.

We hadn't waited long when a dingo appeared behind us. He drank quickly and headed over to where we had just shot the last boar. I raced back down the inside of the dam hoping to get a crack at the dog, only to see him circling right back around out wide. I was looking for my two arrows from before when we noticed a pig bedded out in the open just over the wall. A quick range and she

was down in 10m. I didn't realise it was a sow at the time but was very happy with the shot at 35m. It was shaping up to be an exceptional day: we decided to go back to the pads coming into the dam as the afternoon was moving on.

As we were nearing our ambush site we spooked a boar laid up in





some logs. He didn't disappear altogether but went back and forth and I went virtually around in circles trying to close the gap. I decided to try to pull him up with a whistle and take a long shot. It worked, but it wasn't the best shot at 47m. Still, it was enough to get another one into him and we had pig number four on the ground for the day. By the time all the photos were taken it was dark and it's always a nervous walk barefoot



back to the ute in the dark.

The next day saw two good boars go down and another messed up in the morning all feeding on some brumbies Ryan and Dennis had shot a few days earlier. Both going down to single arrows, the first one was looking straight at me putting his head down to get a mouth full to chew. I decided to put an arrow straight through him above his head and hopefully spine him. How I missed his spine I don't know but I took out his heart and lungs. He went down within 7m.

It was around this time that a prank had been set up for me to shoot a dead dingo. The dingo had been propped up realistically by Ryan, but the prank backfired on him. I realised, just in time, that the dog was dead. To get back at Ryan, I decided to shoot the dingo anyway with one of Ryan's arrows I'd found in the grass. Needless to say, the joke was on Ryan when, after much heckling about me shooting a dead dingo, he watched the video of me stalking a dead dingo only to pin it to the tree with one of his arrows.

In the heat of the day, I went and





checked some waterholes further downstream. A couple of brumbies fell to the bow as they were destroying the lily beds in one of the waterholes. At one of the waterholes we spotted a lone boar sound asleep under some shady trees at the edge of the water. A quick barefoot stalk saw me at 7m still finding it hard to pick a spot in the darkness of the shade. Finally, I settled on a spot and let rip. He erupted out of the bed and roared as he flew out. He came within 5m of me, went around then came to rest just behind me. He was another cracker pig.

The last day saw Dennis and me paired up. Dennis still hadn't bagged a good toothy pig. He had shot plenty of brumbies and dingoes and even smaller pigs-just no good boars. So in the heat of the day we went up a dry creek I had been up before. As we rounded one of



the many corners, I noticed a very likely spot but on inspection with the binos I still couldn't pick out any pig. I moved in closer and it wasn't till I was 15m from the hole in the ground I realised there was indeed a good boar in there. Dennis had hung back due to the noisy going; I nocked an arrow just in time to feel the wind swirl and the pig exploded out of his midday bed. He flew down the deep-sided creek away from me and tried to breach an overhanging bank about 4m high, only to fall backwards onto his back, not once but three times, before heading back my way. As I drew my bow, he paused in the creek for a moment so he could turn and head off in a different direction. I heard that distinct thwack as an arrow passed through him. It took me a second to realise what had happened. My arrow was still on my rest, so I let down. Dennis had shot him from where he was and I watched him go down within 20m of being shot. I was over the moon for Dennis but he still hadn't seen it go down. On inspection and photos we realised that this was the unluckiest pig as when Dennis shot at him he was aiming at his neck only to have him turn and cop it way back and high. He should have been able

to recover from a shot like this but unfortunately for him it took out his femoral artery. He turned out to be a good trophy class pig and Dennis's best ever. I stuffed up a couple more opportunities but it was hard going before we headed back to pack our gear for trip home.

After an eventful morning where ants got into my relays and set us back a couple of hours, we stopped at Ryan's for the night on the way home. It was great to meet new hunters and wonderful people. Thank you to my new and old mates who made this trip one to remember.

A big shout out to Clint from Barefoot Bowhunting Safaris for his unmatched guiding skills and great company. Anyone looking for a great outfit, you can contact Clint Roxburgh on Facebook.

A big thank you to Abbey Archery for supplying all the gear used on this hunt: Bowtech CPXL @74lb, shooting Easton Axis shafts with a brass insert and a standard 125gr Slick Trick, total weight 605gr. Spare Bow Hoyt Nitrum 34 @ 74lb. For hunting gear, feel free to contact Abbey in either of their two pro shops in Brisbane on (07) 3279 6400 or Sydney (02) 8850 6400.

In the zone

I rest my case

by Nils Spruitt

A brilliant idea, inspired by Greek mythology

ou know it, I know it ... we all know it: The single best method for improving our shooting scores and doubling our hunting success (constant practice and natural ability aside), is to buy a new bow. It stands to reason. It is common sense. Like men, all bows are not created equal. In fact, they vary considerably. Length, brace height, poundage, ergonomics and dimensions are just some of the aspects which can differ in bows. And because all bows are not equal, then it stands to reason only a certain bow will suit us as unequal individuals, if you get my meaning.

Then there are the overall cosmetics—and by cosmetics I am not referring to all those fashionable items woman seem to find irresistible but men find utterly bewildering. I am talking about the actual look of a bow-the aesthetics, if you prefer. Surely you would not want to be

seen shooting a bow which looks like it has just been resurrected from the garden after a season spent as a tomato stake! After all, appearance is everything in field archery. You might not be able to shoot for guids, but it's so important these days that you look like you can.

Now that we all agree that a new bow will greatly enhance our natural ability (or lack of), herein lies a problem of mammoth proportions. It is a problem that has plagued archers ever since man first bent a stick and put a string on it. The question as to which bow to buy is not nearly



as important as the really big question our respective wives will ask ... WHY? Why do we need a new bow? Why, indeed.

My wife does not shoot field archery, nor does she hunt; but that does not mean she knows nothing about bows and to a lesser degree the arrows they shoot. Years of my pointing out pertinent facts to her have imparted some knowledge about the subject, but I have yet to have a real evening of bow shooting talk with her. By that, I mean an open discussion on riser design, off the shelf or stick on, self bow versus laminates, recurve as opposed to longbow, fast flight strings, AMO length and other serious stuff. The sincere kind of topics that could eventually, given complete mastery thereof, result in a noticeable rise in our scores from the red markers or consecutive kills for the pot.

Without having had said conversation, it is futile to conceive that I can justify to her—as I of course can to myself— that the addition of a new Huntsman takedown or a Black Widow PL longbow, is the problem solver I have been searching for all these years. This then leads me into the topic of just how do I, and the many thousands of like-minded spirits, go about sneaking (yes, we have been reduced to sneaking), said new bow into the house without arousing suspicion.

Long did I ponder this very problem, but then it hit me ... and like nearly all great ideas, the answer was simplicity itself. Bow cases.

How often does your wife open and look into your bow case? In my case (pardon the pun), the answer is, never. Thus our humble bow case has now become our own Greek mythology come to life—our Trojan Horse, so to speak. With it, we can enter the city of Troy and win the war. Well, enter the home with our spoils undetected, anyway. In fact, we can sneak just about anything into the house with total abandon!

But here. I must add a caveat: Don't go too hard too early. I have thought long and hard about this and the right way to do this is to one day just walk in with an empty, used bow case, show it to the wife and say, "Thirty bucks at a garage sale." (Substitute 'garage sale' with 'club shoot' or 'an acquaintance' to suit your need of the moment.) Then say, "I'll get double that when I sell it at the next away shoot!" Naturally, your wife will be pleased at the prospect and might even congratulate you on the bonanza you have stumbled upon and suggest you get some more if you can. When this happens, you are in.

Over time, she will get used to seeing the comings and goings of half a dozen or more cases which of course she will believe to be empty, but be warned, for this to work you must come back one or two less every now and then (you can pick them up later under the guise of a new bargain purchase) and be prepared to hand over a dollar or two extra for the housekeeping. This fortifies your story of cornering the market in used bow-case trading. What's 50 bucks every now and then when you have so far managed to smuggle in two new bows, Swarvoski binoculars, new boots and an assortment of must-have camo jackets?! Chicken feed! I am sure the average wife will not go around dusting a wardrobe full of bow cases nor will she try to open them. What she will do is gradually become accustomed to your growing pile of bow cases lying around waiting for the second-hand bow-case market to get just right. Will she ask if one of them contains a new Raven recurve? She will not, but don't raise your average too quickly as this could arouse suspicion.

A word of warning: Avoid trying this scheme with bow cases which are adorned with stickers and labels. These must be removed at all costs to present nothing but a clean, albeit slightly scuffed surface. I don't know about the love of your life, but mine can spot a tiny 'reduced sale' sticker, partially hidden by a folded collar on an overpriced fashionable coat even before we have entered the store. A woman will remember a label and

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is not fool enough to think you sold one case only to pick up another with identical tags or logos.

Hard bow cases of the type used by compound shooters work the best, but the small zip up type cases designed for takedown recurves, would work well even though their smuggling capacity is limited. That type of case is perfect for a new takedown recurve, though! I have yet to try it on the long bags designed for one-piece trad bows, but I am sure with a little imagination they will work just as well. Just make sure you keep such bags full when in storage.

No doubt your wife is like mine. She can lift my wallet off the table and know instinctively that it contains three twenties and not the two fives I insisted was all I had. Never fear, although this is a trait all woman are born with, even the best of them would be unable to lift a full length bow bag and know with any certainty that the content is not a cheap Chinese-made longbow, but the new Norseman Barbarian you have coveted for nearly a year. I told you, this scheme is good, but don't over do it and carry it on for too far or too long.

There is not a jury in this country that will not side with a woman whose complaint is that her husband has a collection of over 50 bow cases in the spare room and has long ceased to notice when she has had her hair recoloured or has done a wonderful job of repainting the living room. Every plot has its weakness, and over indulgence is a sure fire way to ruin everything.

Digs and I once cooked up a scheme (pure genius) whereby we would impart gifts at appropriate times of the year: Arrow cases, broadhead boxes, a dozen shafts, new jacket and the like. Of course it was all a ruse and the gifts imparted were to be actually purchased for ourselves by ourselves. We were both very excited by our cleverness but what I didn't know was that Digs had a tendency to talk in his sleep. Within two days my wife received an unexpected phone call and our little subterfuge was over almost as soon as it started.

I even tried getting parcels delivered to a postbox at the local Post Office. I would leave the house in my same tattered old hunting jacket, then change into my new jacket which held the postbox key. I'd go about my business then change back into my old jacket again when I was coming home. This worked for a quite a while then one day, after a dram or five too much whisky in celebration of some event I have long since forgotten. I neglected to change my jacket and of course my postbox key was in the pocket.

There was a time when you could, if you were quick thinking enough, claim that the new Hoyt Carbon Defiant Turbo was a raffle prize at the local club and well, knock me down with a feather, but you won it even though you only purchased the one ticket. Nowadays, our womanfolk have caught on to these little follies for the most part by using mobile phones and chatting away with the wives of other club members. Time wasted, if you ask me, and certainly time that could be better spent cooking rabbit casserole for dinner or knitting camouflage pullovers. It is obvious the lines of communication have been drawn against us.

Digs even resorted to a wonderful little ploy of his own whereby he tried to completely restrict his hunting and competition companions to those affluent individuals who frequented the club. His cunning plan centred upon their vanity and lavish squandering of money when it come to owning the best of the best. It was his hope that he could liberate some of their high-priced bows at below cost price with a few well rehearsed words of discouragement here and there. But what he forgot, being Digs, was that he was left handed and all his new found friends were not. The scheme didn't hold together for long.

It is a crying shame we men have been reduced to plotters and deceivers. I shudder to think what would happen if I were to be completely honest and admit my full annual pay to the wife and proclaim that every now and then I actually could afford a new bow. The first thing you know our house would be overrun by complete strangers installing new electricity points, plumbing, carpets and blinds. Then it would be a new car to replace the other new car we purchased only 13 years ago and I can't imagine what else. I won't even try to guess where it would end, if it ever did.

All things considered, I don't for a moment feel bad about my little subterfuge. There is something exciting and a little bit devilish about the whole concept. I actually wonder if those who can openly afford to buy whatever they want whenever they want actually enjoy the process and appreciate the purchase. Perhaps, but one thing is for sure, I will never find out.

If you do try the empty case method-and I think you shouldbe aware that no matter how canny you might think you are, there is a good chance your wife is streets ahead of you. Don't just take my word for it. Perhaps it's time you checked all those supposed empty shoeboxes stored at the top of her wardrobe along with the innocent pile of shopping bags. You never know what you might find. And maybe, just maybe, getting that new bow might be easier than you think! Until next time.









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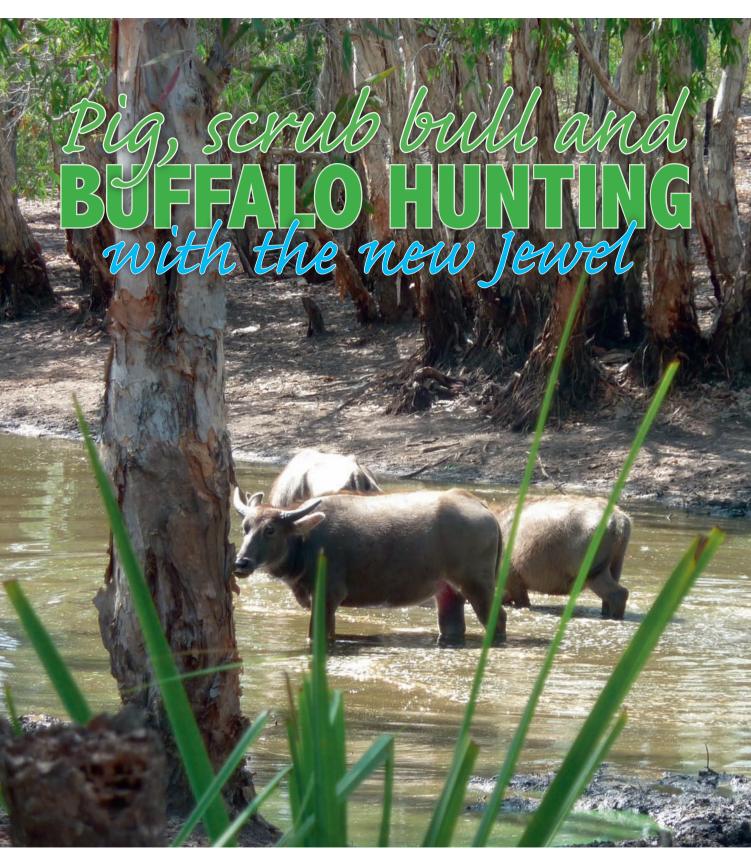








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DEBBIE LARANGS



t was late May, and I was feeling bored doing the same thing day in, day out. So I said to Graeme, totally out of the blue, "Why don't we go buffalo hunting?"

He looked at me as though he was hearing things.

"Yes, you heard me correctly. Let's go buff hunting!"

A moment later, we were both excited by a whole adventure opening up before us. We sat down and nutted out where to go, when and who to book through. We decided on the Bowhunters Lodge so we got on the phone to Pat McNamara straight away and started making plans for a September hunt.

After we'd made our arrangements with Pat, we realised that if I was going to hunt big game, I would need a bigger bow. After a lot of research. I decided on a Mathews Jewel. We called Renardo at Abbey Archery and he lined up the Jewel and all her accessories for me.

The weeks seemed to drag while we waited for September to come around, but finally it was time to go. The night before we left I didn't get much sleep. I think I mentally ticked off items all night long. Release aid? Yes. Arrows? Yes. I had everything, but was probably simply too excited to rest.

Our friends Bob and Bev dropped us off at the airport in Parkes and we were finally on our way to Darwin. We were picked up by Pat's guide Shane Yates then we collected the last of our supplies for the week and were on our way for our nine-hour drive to the coastline.

We arrived around lunch time Tuesday and unpacked the fourwheel drive, had a bit of lunch and then looked at each other excitedly. It was time to go hunting!

The first thing that had struck us was the change in weather. Back in Parkes we'd been wearing jumpers, but here the day was humid but bearable. Looking around, we noticed that the countryside had a lot of trees and the ground was sandy. We drove for a while before getting out to walk. About half a kilometre from the car we came across a big waterhole and slowed our approach. There were three pigs asleep so I stalked in to about 10m. I chose my pig. I was a bit nervous because it would be my first shot and it would be harder to be accurate because the pig was lying down. I pulled the bow back ... and ... fired.

I hit the pig right in the lung and it ran about 20m and dropped. Suddenly, from a hollow behind the pigs I'd seen, about eight other pigs jumped up and looked around to see what was happening. I quickly pulled the bow back and shot another pig







in the heart. It ran 25m and dropped.

It had all happened so quickly and I just couldn't believe my luck. Happily, we took photos before setting off again.

About 20 minutes later, Graeme and Shane glassed a buffalo sitting near a tree about 50m from the edge of the scrub. It was decided that I should stalk in. Shane and I stalked in but when I was about 8m away, the buff heard something and jumped up and ran. My reaction was nearly as quick. I drew the bow and shot, hitting the buff a bit back but still getting the lung. We followed it for 50m. The buff was staggering and I took another shot, this time right in the heart.

I had my first buffalo. Fist in the air! In less than four hours I had taken two pigs and a buffalo. Pretty good going, I thought. We would go back at a later time to get the horns.

After a good night's sleep and some breakfast, we drove down the track looking for buffalo. We saw heaps of buff but they were cows with young ones so we left them alone.

We pulled up to walk along a creek line. We noticed a scrub cow, so Graeme stalked in for a closer look and he saw more scrub cows and a good bull. He sneaked in a little closer but the wind did its normal trick and swirled at the wrong moment. The scrubbers smelled danger and moved on smartly.

We kept going along the creek and because I'm shorter, I noticed legs among the trees. I told Graeme and he stalked in to have a look. It was a scrub bull. Moving in closer, he noticed there were three good scrub bulls and a few cows. One bull was bellowing a lot and stirring up the mob.

Graeme came back out and then stalked in from a different angle so he could get a shot. He waited for the right opportunity to present itself and when it did, the scrubber was 25m away. Graeme shot and got the bull right in the zone. The bull walked 15m so Graeme gave it another shot and the scrubber dropped. Graeme was rapt!

On the way back to camp, we thought we noticed a pig near a waterhole. We kept driving until we were about 200m past the spot then stopped and sneaked back on foot. What we'd thought was a pig turned out to be a buff. I stalked in. There were so many trees it made stalking difficult. Then I noticed more buffalo. More buffalo means more eyes and a bigger chance of being noticed. I eved off a decent buff and waited to get a clear shot. After what seemed like an age, the opportunity came for a 25m shot. I fired and got it in the zone. The buff wandered off through thick bush. It must have travelled about 150m but it felt like kilometres. I followed, and finally an opportunity came to fire the second shot and finish it off. After that we made our way back to camp.

After lunch, Graeme and Shane went back to where I had taken my first buff to get the horns ... but it didn't go quite the way they planned.

They stopped at the waterhole where I'd shot the two pigs, and there were buffalo in the water. They were mainly cows and calves and they took off when they saw Graeme and Shane. At the other end of the waterhole there was a big bull in the water and he hadn't been disturbed by the hurried departure of the other buff.

But a big boar that had been sleeping unnoticed until then also took off, taking with him any chance of a shot. Never mind, the bull buff was still there. Graeme waited a while to see if the buff would get out of the water. It did, and he stalked in on it. Graeme took a quartering-on shot from about 25m. He thought it was a good shot but the buff took off, stopped, looked back for a moment and then wandered off. It was decided the buff hadn't been shot well enough. But a day and a half later the buff was found dead not far from where it was shot—a sad lesson for both the men.

Returning to the waterhole, Graeme saw a boar walking towards





them. There wasn't any stalking involved in this shot-Graeme just drew his bow and shot the pig in the zone from 7m away. It dropped on the spot and has to go down in history as one of the easiest shots Graeme has ever made.

On Thursday after breakfast, we decided to head out to the back of the property. On our way there, we spotted a mob of pigs near a waterhole. We pulled up about 150m away and stalked back to find them but they had escaped with their lives. We looked for a bit longer, but to no avail so we returned to the car and moved on. We drove to a creek bed and saw an old buffalo camp but no buff. Then we came across a paperbark swamp. There were buffalo there, but good old Mother Nature intervened

and you know the story; as soon as they smelled us they were gone.

After another 15 minutes or so going along the swamp, Shane and I noticed a buff walking slowly in the swamp and we decided to stalk it. We went through water to try to get this buff but once again Mother Nature was against me and they took off. Argh!

Shane said there was an old carcass not far away and that we should go and check it out to see if a pig might be feeding there. It was getting very hot and we were drinking a lot of water and Gateraid. but we walked a couple of hundred more metres to the carcass and saw nothing. Then it was time to go back for lunch so Shane went to get the car while Graeme and I waited under the shade of a tree.

After a couple of hours' break, we went way out in the hills at the back of the property to look at a spring that hadn't been checked for a while. On the way, Graeme saw a buff and had a go at stalking it but came back empty handed. When we got to the spring we wandered around for a while and I was thinking it was a nice place to have a barbecue. Graeme noticed a pig asleep on our track near the spring. I got into a good position to shoot and as I was about to draw my bow back, the pig jumped up and ran about 10m then stopped and looked around. For some reason, I felt a bit nervous shooting this pig. Shane said to shoot but there was a little branch in the way and I felt I couldn't get a clear shot. Then the pig moved a









little and I had the chance to get a shot away at 8m. It ran 25m then dropped.

By now it was starting to get late so we headed back to camp, happy with another good hunting day. On our way, we noticed there were buffalo walking around half wet and Shane didn't know where they were coming from so we decided to investigate the next morning.

I woke before nature's alarm clock (the mozzies) next morning and lay in bed thinking about our trip. I thought about how many animals we'd seen, what we had shot, the hut we were staying in, the ocean right next to us and how great it had all been. None of my thoughts prepared me for what the next two days held for us. There would be highs, lows, danger and unexpected sadness.

We first went back to the waterhole where I'd shot my two pigs the first day. At the waterhole there were buffalo coming and going, but nothing the right size. I was standing behind a tree about 25m away when in came a decent buff so I waited until it had a drink. It came out eventually ... but it seemed a long, long time. Anyway, it was just standing there so I drew my Mathews Jewel back and fired. I got it in the heart-lung area

Slowly. I started to follow it but Shane said to let it settle and we would get it later.

The three of us settled in near some shrubs about 30m from the waterhole just watching the birdlife.

After a while, Graeme saw a reasonable buff come in, so we stalked in on it. Graeme had a clear shot but took the buff a little too far back. The buff took off and we followed it. It went into thick bush and we lost sight of it for a bit but kept going until we saw it again. Luckily, it stopped near a tree in a small opening so Graeme took a second shot. Unfortunately the arrow hit a small branch and that was it; the buff took off and it got away.

We headed back to the waterhole to look for more buffalo, kicking the dirt and muttering not nice things.

We went searching for my buff and within a couple of minutes we saw a buff down. For a moment I thought he was mine but upon getting closer I realised it was the buff that Graeme had shot less than 40 hours ago and hadn't been able to find.

After a few speechless moments we kept looking for mine and it was only 50m from Graeme's buff. I had mixed emotions. Graeme was clearly feeling the 'low' of bowhunting at that time but I was experiencing the 'high' of getting my buff with just one shot.

After lunch, we went back out to where we had seen the wet buffalo to see if we could find their waterhole. We found it and there were buffalo in the water but they were too small.

We sneaked around for a while and suddenly saw a pig sound asleep down in a dry spot in the waterhole. I was 10m away, high on the bank. I pulled back the bow and sent the arrow into the pig's heart. Well, that pig jumped up, ran 8m to my left and then saw me and ran towards me to get me. Luckily for me, he couldn't get up the bank. I stepped back really quickly and apparently I said a few choice words.

The pig ran 60m and dropped. Well, his heart might have stopped but mine was still racing 10 minutes later. I remember Graeme and Shane having a laugh once they knew I was okay. Buggers, they are, and that's saying it nicely!

We looked around but saw nothing more so went back to the hut. After tea, Graeme and I were chatting and decided that as the following day was Saturday we might hunt for half a day then go fishing and have a few drinks.

Saturday was hot so we went to a waterhole and sat around for two hours. Nothing was happening so we walked around for a while, but still nothing so we went back to the waterhole. Not long after we got back there, two juvenile buffalo came in and wallowed in the water. They were only 5m away and we watched them play for ages. You might think we're crazy but we couldn't shoot them. It was great watching them. These trips make some wonderful memories, and this was one of them.

We went to the car to go back to the hut for lunch but on the way Graeme noticed a big buff. Quickly getting his bow, off he went. But every time Graeme got close the buff



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

would move off slowly. The buff didn't seem to know Graeme was there but he just didn't keep still. After what seemed an eternity, Graeme got a shot off. It was a great heart shot and the buff dropped. Graeme was all smiles. He and Shane caped the buff and when they got back to the hut they salted it.

I decided to have a shower before we went fishing, but while I was in the shower word came through that Graeme's mother had passed away, so it was a sad end to our trip.

It had been a wonderful experience. We'd taken plenty in the time we were there—five buffalo, five pigs and a scrub bull. The quarters were

great and near the ocean so you could fish if you wanted. We enjoyed ourselves immensely and want to thank Pat McNamara of Bowhunters Lodge and Shane Yates for a great hunting trip.

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Southern NSW & ACT Branch

Hosted by

Capital Field Archers

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 February 2017

Saturday - ABA Round

7am - 7:30am Registration and Bow Checks 8:00am

Muster - 28 Target Field Followed by 14 Target Animal 8:30am

Sunday - 3D Round

7:30am - 7:45am Registration and Bow Checks 8:00am

Muster 28 Target Hunter

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

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

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

Facilities: Camping Available, Toilets, Showers Canteen over weekend • Hot meal available Saturday night only

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

No Dog Policy applies to this shoot

AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

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Hosted by Orange and District Bowhunters Club Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 January 2017

Saturday - ABA Round

8-8:30am Registrations & Bow Checks

Muster & Start 3 Arrow Round 9am Start 1 Arrow Round

Presentations ASAP

Sunday - 3D Round

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

Presentations ASAP

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

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

Facilities include: Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen For Further Information Contact: Rod Schick Ph: (02) 6362 8581 No Dogs Policy Applies to this Shoot

Townsville District Bowhunters Inc.



Invitational Shoot 2017

29th - 30th April and 1st May 2017

Saturday

4.00pm

7.00am . Breakfast 8.00am Muster and Bow Check 3 Arrow ABA 8.30am 10.30am Morning Tea 11.00am 1 Arrow ABA 12.30pm Lunch 3D/Hunters 1st Round 1.30pm

Knife & Axe/Novelties

7.00am

Breakfast 8.00am Muster 3 Arrow ABA 8.30am 10.30am Morning Tea 11.00am 1 Arrow ABA 12.30pm Lunch 1.30pm

Family - \$50, Adults - \$25, Jnr/Cub - \$15, Knife & Axe - \$2

3D/Hunters 2nd Round Knife & Axe 2nd Round/Novelties 4.00pm 6.00pm Dinner Presentations

7.00pm

Monday 7 00am Breakfast/Go Home

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

Nominations close: 21st April 2017 - Nominations to: Robin or Leone Woodfield (07) 47780140; Tom & Lorraine Bruce 0430 560 310 Dave Paulsen (07) 47753157 - michellep632@bigpond Nicole Powell (07) 47890445 - nicole.powell2@bigpond.com.au

THE LAST WORD

The call of nature can come upon us at any time, even while hunting. Taking cover behind some bushes, a female hunter set about her business but lost her balance when trying to stand up. She put her hands on the ground to steady herself, only to receive numerous sharp pains in both hands. Sadly, this particular piece of bush had an abundance of three corner jacks—and she ended up with a field of them in both hands. There was nothing else for it; she had to call to her hunting partner for help. He arrived to find her with both hands outstretched, naked from the waist down ... and unable to do anything about it. Apparently she's been the butt of jokes about this incident ever since.

Archery Alliance of Australia











January-February-March

			January-February-March
Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
January			
1st	Diamond Valley Archers*	Vic	Target
15th	Phoenix Field Archers	G – Branch	IFAA
21st-22nd	Orange & District Bowhunters*	F – Branch	Walkabout
22nd	Sunshine Coast Bowmen	D – Branch	Interclub
28th-29th	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	Target
28th-29th	Ipswich Field Archers*	Qld	3D
29th	Eden Field Archers*	SA	Field
February			
4th-5th	Uralla Bowmen*	E – Branch	Invitational
4th-5th	Ballarat Bowmen*	H – Branch	Branch ABA
4th-5th	Playford District Field Archers*	I – Branch	State IFAA
5th	West Gippsland Field Archers	G – Branch	Branch 3D
11th	Saxon Archery Club	C – Branch	Interclub
18th-19th	Darling Downs Field Archers*	D – Branch	Branch ABA
18th-19th	Capital Field Archers*	F – Branch	State IFAA
18th-19th	Twin City Archers*	Vic	3D
19th	Yering District Archers*	Vic	Matchplay
24th	Weston Valley Archery Club*	ACT	QRE Target
18th-19th	Sherbrooke Archers*	Vic	Field
March			
4th-5th	North Burnett Field Archers*	C – Branch	Interclub
4th-5th	Renegade Bowmen	D – Branch	Newbies Weekend
4th-5th	Gloucester District Archers*	E - Branch	Branch ABA
4th-5th	Bairnsdale Field Archers*	E - Branch	State 3D
11th-12th	Mount Clay Archers	H – Branch	Hunting Awards
11th-12th	Playford District Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA/3D/IFAA
18th-19th	Roma and District Bowmen*	D – Branch	Branch 3D
18th-19th	Lithgow Valley Archers*	E – Branch	Branch ABA/3D
18th-19th	Peel Archers*	J – Branch	ABA/3D
26th	Phoenix Field Archers *	G – Branch	Rendezvous
11th-12th	Northern Rivers Field Archers*	NSW	3D
18th-19th	Hawkesbury Field Archers*	NSW	3D
25th-26th	Diamond Valley Archers*	Vic	3D

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

Shoots marked with an * are cross-participation events

Qld

Caboolture & District Bowmen*

25th-26th

3D

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Preferred method of receiving Post completed form to: General Secretary ABA Renewal Archery Action PO Box 5124 New Member digitally online hard copy (mailed) Brendale Qld 4500 Phone (07) 3256 3976 Fax (07) 3256 3985 ABA Membership No: I, (full name)(M-F) 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. **ASSOCIATION USE ONLY RENEWALS and/or Advance Memberships for existing members** 12 months 3 years in advance M'ship #s Allocated \$185 Adults \$65 Juniors-Cubs \$45 \$130 **Families** \$140 \$390 New Members (12-month membership including joining fee) Receipt Number Adults \$90 Juniors-Cubs \$70 **Families** \$185 Computer Entered PENSIONER DISCOUNT: Deduct 10% from fees listed. M'ship Forwarded 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. NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print) Card Number ‡

Signature



APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED (Inc in NT No A01978C)

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Mastercard

Expiry Date (mm yy)



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