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Archery Action

Surprise of the hunt

A sambar story

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Staying motivated

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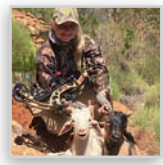

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

David Luxford savours a special sambar moment that took him many years to achieve—a six-point representative sambar stag.

Photo by GRAHAM McCOMISKIE

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Social media is wonderful for giving us our 'fix' of getting our message out there straight away and telling our tribe what's happening in our lives. It's fantastic for giving us instant feedback too, but usually there's more to our tales than a caption that goes with a small picture that's here today and scrolled out of our lives tomorrow.

When it comes to telling the story behind the picture and sharing the highs and lows of the entire experience, there's nothing to compare with a magazine story. Magazine readers aren't looking for a three-second news byte. They are happy to relax and enjoy a good hunting story. Maybe it's a story with a moral. Or a tale with a twist. Or just a rollicking yarn about a bush experience.

For the writer, presenting a story for a magazine means more time and thought have to go into the actual writing, but it's a pleasurable challenge and there's a sense of accomplishment when you're finished. And when you think about it, the special memories that are made on a hunting trip are as important as any trophy you might take home. Having a reminder of those moments in properly published, permanent form is pretty special. Good stories also receive payment!

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE		DEADLINE
Vol 42 No. 5	May-June	1 April
Vol 42 No. 6	July-August	1 June
Vol 43 No. 1	September-October	1 August

Archery Action Comment

Yes, there's a delay in gratification between writing your story and seeing it in print if it is accepted for publication … enjoy the sense of happy anticipation!

And now the moral of this editorial: Your hunting story will be sadly compromised if your photographs are not up to standard. By that, I'm talking about two separate issues. One is the presentation of the shot. Don't sit on your animal or in any other way disrespect it. Please don't use the you-beaut thumb salute or stick your tongue out or indulge in any other momentary silliness that will spoil an otherwise good photo. Place your animal with care and make sure you have cleaned up blood, using dirt to cover the stain if water is not available.

The other half of the equation is the digital quality of the photo. Even in this issue we unfortunately had to use some hunting photos small because of the size of the images. There's a vast difference between how photos look on a screen and what pixel-per-inch resolution is required for print media. Your jpeg should be at least 1MB and if it's a great picture that we could conceivably use for the whole page it's better to be at least 5MB. So change your settings on your camera or phone before you leave on your trip. And start writing your next hunting story now.

Jenel Hunt
Editor

Archery Action

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND STILL LEADING ARCHERY MAGAZINE

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

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

Surprise of THE HUNT

NIGEL MORRIS

Nigel with his 97 5/8pt goat.

The morning air was chilly for the middle of summer in the West Australian desert and the wind was blowing hard across my body as I sat shivering in anticipation of seeing some big billies. It wasn't long before the shivering stopped as the morning sun rose and started heating up the day ahead. I checked my surroundings for any game movement and stripped off my extra shirt. Just as I looked up, I was staring at my first mob of goats coming in to the water.

Before I knew it, goats had come in from every direction. Now I was surrounded by a large number of billies, with some cracking *big* ones among them.

Excitement caused confusion as I set my sights on one of the billies. As he turned broadside at 32m I drew back and placed my second pin on a brown spot on the goat's chest. I watched my arrow disappear into the brown spot tight behind his shoulder and the goat jumped and walked 10m before falling down without a noise. As it turned out, this goat wasn't one of the larger billies I

had previously glassed but he was a good trophy all the same and my first trophy class goat, so I was rapt.

The next day started in much the same fashion: As soon as the sun stuck its head up, goats started coming in from every direction. As I sat glassing over the different array of billies my mood suddenly changed when a King Brown snake appeared

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This one measured 105 6/8pt.

out from the end of a piece of poly pipe and decided to come straight in my direction. I steadily stood up and moved to the other side of my blind and the snake went underneath the chair I'd been sitting on.

By this stage, the goats were staring at me trying to work out what that noise was as I stamped my feet to warn the snake of my presence and hoping he would move away.

With the 2m snake only 1.5m behind me, I suddenly realised one of the bigger billies was now only 19m away and was staring straight at me confused about who or what I was.

I had one last look over my shoulder at the snake that was now facing the other way. I took the opportunity and drew back, locked in and placed my first pin in the sweet spot, I released and watched the arrow hit the mark. Immediately I looked back and saw the snake in the same position unmoved. I turned back to watch the billy drop down on one knee and then roll over not more 5m away from where the fatal arrow had hit. In the blink of an eye I grabbed my pack and jumped out of my blind as I couldn't wait to be clear of my slithering friend and to inspect my trophy goat.

The next day I was greeted with an overcast sky as a cold front

moved in, so I decided to pack up camp and head to a new location. After finding myself a new campsite I headed to my new hunting hole for what was left of the day. Daylight was starting to fade as I headed into the last hour before sunset and I decided to put some last-minute branches on to the walls of my blind.

As I stood up, I noticed a black creature—silhouetted against the red dirt—slowly walking in towards the waterhole. At first I thought it was a big fox and then I realised it was a big feral cat. It actually looked like a black panther from a distance. The cat strolled in to the waterhole then stopped and I quickly ranged him at 32m. I drew back and released, only to watch my arrow sail past him. He jumped and spun in the air, landing an extra metre away, then looked around and walked back to the water's edge!

I took a deep breath and settled myself down, placing my second pin in the middle of his chest and let the arrow fly. The big cat pounced into the air five to six times before he expired within metres of the arrow's impact. I was stoked! I fist pumped the air before running over to inspect my first ever cat. As it turned out, I had shot myself an absolute doozy of a feral tomcat.

The next day, the weather turned bad, with light rain settling in and only a few smaller goats coming in to visit the waterholes. I decided to pack up early and head home.

Going on a goat hunt and shooting my first two trophy goats was extremely rewarding, but to finish it with a massive feral cat was the surprise of the hunt.

The cat that was the surprise of the hunt.

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

Australian Bowhunters Association INC

AFFILIATIONS

BOWHUNTING: WORLD BOWHUNTING ASSOCIATION
FIELD ARCHERY: INTERNATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION
CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT

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PROTOCOL

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

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Tasmania – see Victoria		
Trophy Bowhunters of Australia	Ralph Boden	(02) 4392 6810

BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Vice-President Bowhunting)

DPI responsible bow use

The NSW DPI had its launch of the "Stay on Target—Be an Ethical Bowhunter" program in December. This was held outside the Aussie Disposals store, Crown Street Mall, in Wollongong. This location was chosen due to its proximity to illegal bowhunting activities along the Illawarra escarpment, likely impact with Christmas shoppers and support from the Aussie Disposals franchise who are a well known and reputable outdoor retailer who sell bows and archery equipment. This program is the culmination of 12 months' work by the NSW DPI with all hunting organisations and animal welfare groups consulted and participating in its format. As mentioned in my previous report, this program is hoping to get all archery retail

stores in NSW on board to promote responsible bow use. This is a New South Wales specific program.

The launch had a good response from the public with Daryl Venables, the ABA representative on site, being interviewed by Illawarra radio. Representatives from Traditional Archery Australia and Booloroo Bowmen were also in attendance. The DPI has a booklet available along with promotional material for any archery retailer in NSW.

The NSW DPI is to be congratulated on their positive work with bow users in that State. They are supporting those who want to hunt with the bow and arrow and do the right thing. The responsible bow use program is indicative of this.

The DPI has also fully supported the Bowfishing for Carp trial. The culmination of bowhunters being able to bowfish inland waters started several years ago when Daryl Venables started the ball rolling with the old Game Council. Daryl worked with the NSW Fisheries and the NSW DPI to see this come to fruition. Hopefully with enough support it will continue on after the trial period is over.

The ABA and its members working with, and supporting the NSW DPI, can only benefit all of us in the long run. Believe it or not, they're on our side. We are working here in a State that banned greyhound racing overnight (although this has since been overturned) with the stroke of a pen. What hope do you think we as bowhunters would really have if the government got it in their mind that we are of little use? We need to support those who are supporting what we do.

Hunting About

In this day and age of increasing social media, we are often missing out on the full story. I have lost count of the facebook posts I have seen that gave a short description of a hunt that took place. They are often full of great tips and information that becomes lost in the system almost overnight, swallowed up by the facebook frenzy. Many of these informative little posts, slightly expanded, would make ideal magazine stories.

I feel that we are cultivating a culture of 20 seconds of interest. Hundreds, if not thousands, will see a post but by the next day it is gone. Unless you can manage to remember who posted it you may never see it again. It will be there somewhere but with the volume of information now going online every second, the post gets swallowed up.

It would be great to see bowhunters put pen to paper and create something that all our members can see and participate in. Next time you take that picture and drop it straight onto facebook take a few more pictures and put a reminder on your phone to write a story for *Archery Action*.

Trophy Bowhunters of Australia

In an effort to make more of our bowhunting members aware of what role the TBA Committee plays within the ABA structure, it was decided that

Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

Species	Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Boar	Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29	25
Goat	James Finlay	151 2/8	110	95
Buffalo	John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Camel	Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Fox	Dave Parker	10 15/16	10 2/16	9 3/16
Cat	Tim Pitt-Lancaster	8 5/16	7 10/16	7
Red Deer	Dan Smith	315 3/8	200	175
Fallow Deer	Jason Robinson	264 5/8	190	150
Chital Deer	Dan Smith	204	160	140
Hog Deer	Stephen Tilley	111 7/8	70	55
Sambar Deer	Dean Scott	203 5/8	162 7/8	140
Rusa Deer	Jay Janssen	236	170	150
Shark BHFF	Barry Feeney	35 2/8	28	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	9 1/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

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 6/8pt	2016
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell	25 4/8pt	2016
Shark BF	Lynda Fell	23 5/8pt	2000
Stingray BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986

the TBA Committee try to promote itself more effectively. Part of this process will be to re-introduce a display at the National Safari, which will be at ABA Park, Mudgee next month. The TBA Committee will also look at the possibility of re-introducing some competitions and the sneaker round. So if you have anything hunting related be it photo albums, skins, craft, knives or leatherwork, bring it along for all to see.

2017 TBA Muster

Don't forget the TBA muster will be on later this year, September 9th and 10th under a similar format to the previous musters, i.e.; guest speakers for all types of activities, skinning, caping, fox whistling, deer hunting, first aid, survival, orienteering et cetera. This will be subject to what volunteer speakers we can get. There will also be a non-competitive 3D round. This will be held at ABA Park Mudgee and we hope to have a full programme ready for display at the Safari in April.

TBA shirts

I still have TBA shirts available for purchase. These are $40.00 each picked up or $50.00 posted. More information is available on the ABA website at www.bowhunters.org.au.

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

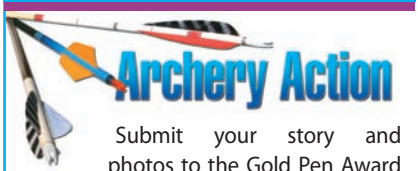
0418 514 841

email white3317@gmail.com

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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award	FK/FKOS	Size
A Shane Argent	Katherine Field Archers	Pig	TC		25
A Shane Argent	Katherine Field Archers	Pig	TC		27 2/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Shark BHFF	RC		32 3/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Shark BHFF	TC		16 4/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Shark BHFF	TC		15 4/8
B John Mitchell	Towers Bowhunters	Pig	RC		31
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	Cat	TC		7
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	Cat	TC		7
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		26
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		26
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	Pig	TC		29
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	Buffalo	RC		88 2/8
B Stephen Fairbrother	Cape York Archers	Shark BHFF	TC		21
B Neville Westerveld	Cairns Bowhunters	Pig	TC		25 4/8
B Neville Westerveld	Cairns Bowhunters	Pig	TC		25 6/8
B Neville Westerveld	Cairns Bowhunters	Pig	TC		26
B Toby Gall	Mackay and District Bowmen	Chital Deer	TC		154 2/8
B Toby Gall	Mackay and District Bowmen	Donkey	GA	FKOS	0
B Toby Gall	Mackay and District Bowmen	Buffalo	GA	FKOS	0
B Toby Gall	Mackay and District Bowmen	Pig	TC		25
B Ashley Collinge	Mackay and District Bowmen	Pig	TC		25
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		26
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		25 4/8
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		27 2/8
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		28
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		29 4/8
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		28
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		28 4/8
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		25 2/8
B Graham Wienert	Independent	Pig	TC		28 6/8
B Graham Wienert	Independent	Pig	TC		27
B Graham Wienert	Independent	Pig	TC		25 6/8
B Shaun Knuth	Towers Bowhunters	Pig	TC		28 4/8
B Ashley Collinge	Mackay and District Bowmen	Pig	TC	FKOS	25 6/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Stingray BHFF	TC		6 2/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Stingray BHFF	TC		6 4/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Pig	TC		27 4/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Pig	TC		28 6/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Cat	TC		7 13/16
C Geoff White	Wide Bay Archers	Goat	TC		95 4/8
D Dale Winks	Renegade Bowmen	Camel	RC	FKOS	30 5/8
D Jack Winks	Renegade Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
D Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters	Fox	TC	FKOS	10 5/16
D Roy Sutherland	Barambah Bowhunters	Fox	TC		10 1/16
D James Reece	Renegade Bowmen	Camel	RC	FKOS	31
D Wade Bygrave	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	RC		115 1/8
D Neil Hope	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	FK/FKOS	102 2/8
D Neil Hope	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC		99 6/8
D Justin Murphy	Darling Downs Field Archers	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	92 4/8
D Robert Hegarty	Darling Downs Field Archers	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
D Jamie Molloy	Renegade Bowmen	Buffalo	RC		91 4/8
D Jamie Molloy	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	TC		25 4/8
D Dean Thurtell	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	GA	FKOS	0
D Jason Chapman	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	FK/FKOS	102 2/8
D Jason Chapman	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC		103 4/8
D Jason Chapman	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC		104 6/8

D	Peter van der Molen	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
E	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		111
E	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		102 6/8
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 9/16
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		10 5/16
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 7/16
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 10/16
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 4/16
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		10 3/16
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 14/16
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 12/16
E	Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 5/16
E	Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		10
E	Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Cat	TC		7 9/16
E	Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Goat	TC		95 7/8
E	Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Goat	TC		97
F	Robert Mihalyka	Independent	Fox	TC		10 1/16
F	Jason Lesnik	Independent	Fox	TC	FKOS	9 12/16
F	Leanne Williams	Campbelltown District FA	Goat	TC		98 7/8
F	Sean Micallef	Campbelltown District FA	Cat	GA	FKOS	0
F	Neville Ashton	Campbelltown District FA	Pig	TC		27 6/8
F	Jennifer Vanderburg	Campbelltown District FA	Goat	GA	FKOS	0
G	Christopher Bourne	Macalister Trophy Bow's	Sambar Deer	RC		182 1/8
G	Jamie Harrington	West Gippsland FAs	Scaled Fish	GA	FKOS	0
G	Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland FAs	Donkey	GA	FK/FKOS	0
G	Paul Vandenbelt	West Gippsland FAs	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
G	Paul Vandenbelt	West Gippsland FAs	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
G	Tim Vandenbelt	West Gippsland FAs	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
G	Tim Vandenbelt	West Gippsland FAs	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
H	Steven Lea	Bendigo Field Archers	Cat	TC		7 7/16
H	Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 15/16
H	Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Fox	RC		10 6/16
H	Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Cat	RC		7 11/16
H	Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC		104 1/8
H	Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Goat	TC		100
H	Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC		10 2/16
H	Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 9/16
H	Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 8/16
H	Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 12/16
H	Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 6/16
H	Juan Maronian	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Pig	GA	FKOS	8 4/8
H	Juan Maronian	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Goat	TC		110 4/8
H	Ronnie Yap	Lilydale Bowmen	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
H	Craig Mitchell	Lilydale Bowmen	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
H	Jonathan Layton	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 9/16
H	Dylan Evans	Mount Clay Archers	Cat	GA	FKOS	6 13/16
H	Dylan Evans	Mount Clay Archers	Cat	TC		7 5/16
H	Dylan Evans	Mount Clay Archers	Fallow Deer	GA	FKOS	0
J	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	TC		28 2/8
J	Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	TC		27 3/8
J	Richard Hodgkinson	Peel Archers	Stingray BHFF	GA	FK/FKOS	0
J	Richard Cross	Southwest Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 15/16
J	Murray Bridges	Southwest Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 14/16
J	Murray Bridges	Southwest Bowmen	Shark BHFF	TC		15 2/8
J	Murray Bridges	Southwest Bowmen	Hare	GA	FKOS	0
J	Josh Balsley	Southwest Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 9/16
J	Josh Balsley	Southwest Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 5/16
J	Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
J	Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
J	Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC		9 15/16
J	Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Cat	RC	FKOS	7 14/16
J	Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC		105 6/8
J	Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC		97 5/8
J	Scott Way	Western Plains Archers	Pig	GA	FK/FKOS	0



Submit your story and photos to the Gold Pen Award competition until the end of June 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

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www.amso128.com.au

Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club

Q & A

Who is Ishi and why is he the symbol of TBA ?

The Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club uses the head of an American Indian as its symbol. But why?

Ishi was the last of the Yahi Indians and straddled the traditional Indian culture and that of the white man's world. Befriended by Professor A. L. Krober and Dr Saxton Pope, Ishi introduced Pope to archery and the art of hunting. Pope became passionate about hunting and along with Art Young hunted big game in both America and Africa. Their many adventures spawned books that created an unquenchable interest in others who also took up the bow and arrow.

As well as being a name, the word Ishi means 'man' in Yahi and is therefore not only representative of one Indian but also symbolises all men and all nations with a common history of archery and hunting. Archery's beginnings are so lost in the mists of time that no single nation can claim to be the founder of archery.

Ishi, the word, represents the spirit of bowhunting while Ishi the man was arguably the father of modern bowhunting and what that one man stood for is of such importance that the Trophy Bowhunters of Australia has honoured his image as the club's symbol.

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 Scott Hannah

Hi, Scott. Where do you live, and how long have you been hunting?
Rockhampton, Queensland. Approximately two years.

What made you start bowhunting? Are you a member of a club?
I injured my shoulder motorbike riding. I'd done archery as a kid with my father and thought it would be a good way to build up the strength in my shoulder again. I'm a member of Capricorn Field Archers in C Branch and am currently the club treasurer and coach.

How often do you hunt? What sort of bow do you use?
I suppose this is the standard response from any bowhunter when asked how often they hunt. Not enough! My hunting bow is a PSE DNA.

How long has it taken you go get your first TC claim? How do you feel about this whole experience?
It has taken me two years, but I highly rate clean and ethical kills.

Scott Hannah, trophy class boar.

Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?

Not really. I'm just loving the time spent in the bush and encountering what nature has to offer. Getting the TC is just a bonus.

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

The only goal I have is to keep learning from the couple of great bowhunters who have taken me under their wing, teaching me the right way of getting the job done. Then one day when close to perfecting my skills, I hope to pass them on to my son and other up-and-coming juniors.

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

No, not really, as accolades don't make the stalk and the pleasant time in the bush any different. The memory of a great stalk and a perfectly executed shot last longer than any accolade, anyway.

The TBA Committee congratulates you on your achievement, Scott.

Scott's story:

It was a picturesque North Queensland Gulf country afternoon. It had been several days of good hunting with some great guys and we had a few pigs under our belt. The sun was blazing and there was not a cloud in the sky on this particular day. Jayson and I decided to wander some watering holes in the late afternoon. After spotting two pigs bedded up under a tree, we stalked in and closed the gap to 20m. After watching them for a little while, we decided to let them be on their way as we had spotted another much more attractive mob on the other side of the dam. We backtracked 100m to get the conditions right and proceeded our stalk in, closing in to 30m. Out of the corner of my eye I spotted two tusky boars bedded up 200m-plus away. We decided to feast our attention onto these guys instead. As there were two of us hunting we were both spotting and going shot for shot. Jayson was up next. As we closed the gap to 30m, Jayson let one fly and hit the spot. We followed the blood trail up through a timbered area, along the ridge and stumbled across what we thought was Jayson's boar. Under closer inspection—and to Jayson's disgust—it wasn't his. Using the thin, shrubby timber for cover we closed the gap to 15m as the boar was bedded up facing away from us. With the wind in my face and knowing it was my shot, I settled my top pin and sent an arrow through his ribcage, exiting his chest. He expired in under 5m. We quickly got our photos and high-fived each other. We then set upon the task of finding Jayson's mystery lost boar before sundown.

Latest bowhunting achievements as at January 2017

Bowhunter Supreme: Stephen Fairbrother
Bowhunter Imperial: Tyler Atkinson
Bowhunter Royale: Richard Morrison, John Mitchell
Senior TBA: Tyler Atkinson, Nigel Morris

Changes to nomination process for National Safari and future national ABA events

TREVOR PICKETT

With the Safari not far away, it seems timely that I let you know about some changes to the way you will nominate for it and future ABA national events.

All Safari nominations must be entered and paid for *online* via the ABA website. This is the *only* method of nomination—no email, post, telephone or walk-up nominations will be accepted. Now before you all race off and send me hate mail, please understand that there are some compelling reasons for this change to the nomination process.

First and foremost, it is easier for us and for you. All nominations are entered electronically via a simple web form which emails us (and you) when your nomination is complete. This means that we don't have to worry about forms arriving by post (which wind up getting lost) or email or phone or having 50 people roll up on the first day of shooting and wanting to nominate (Mildura). The registration process at the shoot will be much easier as well. You will simply bring your confirmation email and your ABA card(s) and we will mark you off and give you your score sheets.

Secondly, and just as importantly, you have already demonstrated that you can do this. Everyone who shot the WFAC at Wagga Wagga (500-plus shooters) nominated this way.

Now I know that there will be some questions so I'll answer some obvious ones.

Where do I nominate?

There will be a link to the nomination form on the ABA website.

When do nominations open?

Nominations for the Safari should be open by the time you read this. You must nominate before nominations close or you will not be shooting.

I don't have or can't use the internet. What do I do?

Unless you live a nomadic existence in central Australia there is a pretty fair chance that you know someone who does—a club member, partner, child, grandchild et cetera. Ask them for help.

How will I be able to pay?

Payment is online via PayPal when you nominate. It is secure.

I nominated and paid and now I can't attend. What do I do?

Contact us and then email a request for a refund explaining the reason you are unable to attend to the ABA general secretary. She will forward on your request and it will be assessed. All assessments will be made on a case-by-case basis. If your request is approved, your payment will be refunded minus an administration fee. Here is a hint: My car blew up/I was unexpectedly called into work/my kids were all vomiting are good reasons and will probably be treated favourably. It was too hot/too cold/too wet/I was too lazy are poor reasons and you may not receive a refund.

I entered the details on the nomination form incorrectly and submitted it. What can I do?

Contact us and we will help you with changes.

I have more questions how can I get an answer?

Contact us and we will do our best to answer them promptly.

Can I walk up on the day and shoot?

If you don't pre-nominate and you show up on the day, be prepared for disappointment. You will not be shooting.

I'm secretly in love with the National Score Recorder—what can I do?

I threw that one in to see if you were still reading. If you do have this problem, my advice is psychiatric help.

Remember, this is a new process for us and for you. We know it works, because it did at the WFAC. We just need to iron out any small bugs—please be patient and you will find that nominating for a national event is a painless, easy process.

How to get a PayPal account

PayPal is a secure way of handling payment transactions over the internet. You sign up for free and it costs nothing to use PayPal for purchases within Australia. There are two steps to get started:

Go to https://www.paypal.com then sign up for a personal account with your email address, a password and a few personal details.

Link your credit card, debit card or bank account.

Safari 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.

A close encounter of the DEADLY KIND

by DAVID LUXFORD

On a recent trip to the far north I had the pleasure of revisiting old haunts with old friends. There is nothing better … the reminiscing, the camaraderie, the catch-up and stories that can tolerate being told another hundred times or so. The experience of being with such friends in such locations as the big properties of the Gulf is fulfilling and rewarding with hunting taking a secondary place, although for some reason an abundance of arrows is packed for such visits.

This trip however, was a little bit different from the word go. My wife Karen was with me and we were on a rather extended tour of the far north, but this little story is not about a couple of nomads on tour. It's about how close you can be to your last hunt—that's right, your last hunt; the last encounter with a boar, your last walk through a tea-tree swamp, the last walk up a dry creek, the last crossing of the Mitchell River and so on.

Prior to our trip away, I had experienced a couple of health hiccoughs. Initially I thought they were associated with over-exertion, anxiety, stressful situations, heat, getting older or maybe even the smokes. The first of these incidences was while hunting fallow deer with a couple of friends who were in their early thirties. I struggled to keep up with them on some of the big rolling hills of southern New South Wales and put my pain and suffering down to the hills and the generational difference between us. Then there were a couple of moments when I had to take five while out fox whistling. But I only needed a short rest then I was on my way. The same occurred during our journey to the Gulf, so by the time I arrived at the station I was a little anxious about my hunting capabilities.

When the time came to pick up the bow and accompany Graham McComiskie on a hunt, I realised the 5km-plus creek walks that are standard practice for a Gulf pig hunt were not for me. The decrease in my mobility and fitness was pretty sudden and never did I think there might be a more sinister reason for my lack of stamina other than advancement of age—or maybe a few thoughts did cross my mind briefly, but I didn't want to face reality.

Graham and I headed for a couple of drying tea-tree swamps. The first swamp was full of potential but the only thing that eventuated was that I required a short rest stop during our rather short walk. The next swamp contained all the ingredients for an action-filled afternoon. However, we only came upon one boar having a siesta under a tree not far from the last of the water in the swamp. I fired one arrow from 20m and the boar died within seconds. That was it, our hunt

concluded. We had achieved greatness between us. A beautiful big 29 2/8 boar, a clean one-arrow kill, one can't ask for more than that. As we left the boar at his final resting place I couldn't help but think that this boar might well be my last. At that point of time I didn't realise how close to the truth I was.

When I arrived home I went to the doctor, and to make a long story short, within a few weeks I'd had heart surgery—a triple by-pass. Despite the signals of tiredness, I hadn't seen it coming. I was a fit man, not overweight, very active … and yet I was a walking time bomb.

So what's the lesson here? Men's health. Take nothing for granted. Listen to your body. If you have a pain, a twinge, an ache, don't do what I did and ignore it or think it might be something else—get to your doctor and get it checked out. Because if I hadn't gone to the doctor when I got home, that tea-tree swamp boar would have been the last boar that I ever shot—actually the last thing I ever shot with my bow and arrow, period.

Around THE TRADS

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

The weekend of November 19 and 20 saw Manning District Bowhunters in Taree hold the final NSW Trad shoot for the 2016 calendar year, and thankfully the weather this year was more comfortable for the archers than the previous year's scorcher. A couple of archers travelled down from Queensland and quite a few came from the Coffs Harbour region. I was told that on Saturday there was the 20 target two-arrow field course which was shot in the morning with various novelty events being held in the afternoon. There was the shorter clout of around 100m, then the long, long, long, very, very, very downhill pig which was 70m or so. A quote from one of the archers: "Of the 20 arrows fired from our group at the pig, only one actually landed on the target." My description seems quite appropriate from the angle of his hand as he tried to describe the position of this particular target. There was also a moving pig, a bow bird event using flu flus with points, rolling disks, a speed round and the ol' through the-hole-in-the-hessian using flu flus with blunts. On Sunday only the 20 two-arrow field course was shot again. At the presentation, there were trophies for the field course and separate ones for the novelty events. This event is growing in both ideas and support, which is great.

There was one traditional event held in December 2016. Over the weekend of December 10 and 11 the Christmas Break-up Shoot was held at Chevallan Archery Park. This year the weekend weather was comfortably cooler as we shot the novelty events of moving target, 30-second speed round, hunter round on the Saturday afternoon. The clout event was interesting as a gusty breeze was blowing across the range; I even had trouble keeping my hat on. The popinjay was only attempted by a couple of groups when the wind dropped off a little bit, so to make it fair to all archers, the score for this event was not included in the day's shoot total.

Once we had all enjoyed the festive Christmas dinner, we did the presentations for the various novelty events we had shot that afternoon.

Sunday morning dawned bright and those of us who had camped had a very hearty breakfast and were then joined by some more locals who'd been unable to attend Saturday's events. Once everyone was organised we went off to shoot the 22-target two-arrow 3D field course plus the 60-second hunter round. We then had a barbecue lunch with all the trimmings, which was followed by the presentations for the day's events. It was a thoroughly enjoyable way to end the traditional shoot year with good friends and great company. Thank you to all who were there.

We have been keeping a low profile at Chevallan Archery Park as the application wove its way through the council. It is with great pleasure, I can advise the process is finally complete, with conditions being agreed to. This makes the park the first privately owned traditional-only archery facility in Australia. In the next issue, there should be a full report on the park's first official two-day shoot on February 11 and 12.

There was only one shoot on the calendar for January 2017, being the Ballarat Trad Shoot, which was once

Christmas moving target

Taree bow bird.

Taree rolling disks.

again not held. As this is the second year in a row the shoot has not been held, it would be understandable if it was removed from the calendar.

- Trad shoots confirmed for April and May (at the time of printing) are North Albert Field Archers Traditional Rendezvous (April 15 and 16), Gladstone Longbow and Recurve Muster (April 29 and 30), Chevallan Archery Park shoot (May 13 and 14) and the Barambah Trad Bash (May 27 and 28).

- Reports from Inaugural Stanthorpe Trad Shoot, 10th Annual Get-Together at Hawkesbury Field Archers plus Twin City Bowmen Albury will be in the next issue. Find more information for the traditional shoots at the following websites:

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

Traditional Archery Australia Closed Group (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

See you 'round the trads.

Be part of the celebration as Norfolk Island presents its 15th 3D Archery Championships

Beautiful Norfolk Island.

In July, Archery Norfolk Island will host its 15th annual 3D Championships. Over the years the club has consistently delivered an event that not only offers a large and varied field, but also has a reputation as one of the friendliest shoots you'll ever experience. While the competition is great, this is also a genuinely family-friendly event that offers the opportunity to have a South Pacific holiday at the same time!

Norfolk Island has so much to offer as a destination. Being small, it is very easy to get around, yet has a great diversity of landscapes from lush rainforests and hidden valleys to spectacular cliff tops and coral filled waters. As well as its famous beautiful views, the island also offers a multitude of activities, tours and things to do outside of the competition. The island is a very safe destination and with the competition occurring during school holidays, it's held at the perfect time for families to be involved.

One of the additional archery activities to join during the week will be a Traditional Shoot each afternoon. This will take archers to some of the hidden and 'behind the hedges' properties around the island, making it a perfect combination of archery and island tour! The 3D course

Bowhunters Lodge

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Cape York Boars and Bulls ex Cairns
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Cape York Moluccan Rusa ex Cairns
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Northern Territory Buff Hunt ex Darwin
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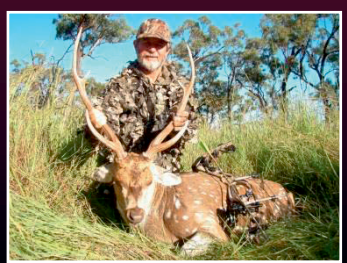

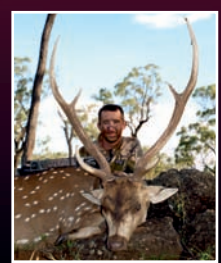

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itself has earned plenty of praise, having been described as the best 3D field ever seen by many of last year's competitors. The competition has categories for all ages including cub divisions, adult compound, recurve and longbow.

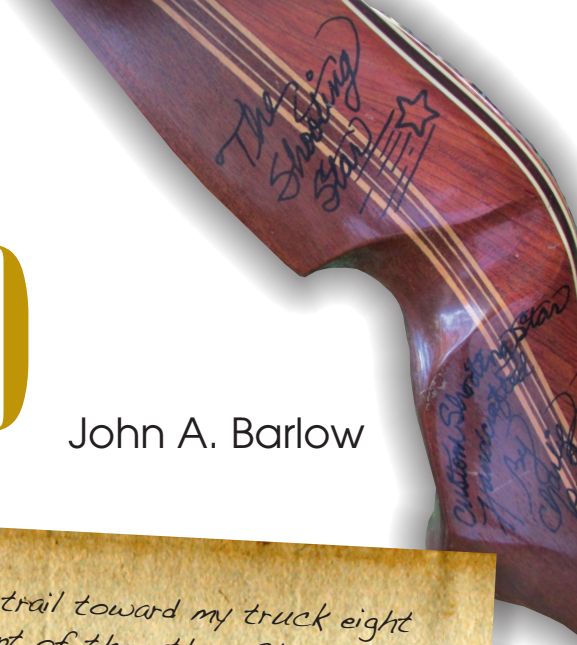
The locally owned and operated Norfolk Island Travel Centre is the major sponsor for this event which runs from July 2 to 6. Special packages have been prepared for travel from Brisbane starting at $1049 per person and from Sydney starting at $1099 per person for a seven-night twin-share stay. The prices include return economy

class airfare (seat + bag) to Norfolk Island, airline taxes, meet and greet at the airport, seven nights' twin share accommodation, seven days' car hire, discount shopping card, complimentary miniature golf and complimentary 'A Walk in the Wild'. Prices are subject to availability. For those participating in the competition, archery registration is additional—add $100 per adult and $50 per junior or cub—to the above packages and includes four competition days and social functions. The Trad Shoot entry is $20 per person and you need to bring your own trad gear and wooden arrows.

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

Staying MOTIVATED

John A. Barlow



It had been a hard hunt. As I walked down the trail toward my truck eight miles away, I could barely move one foot in front of the other. Physically, I was beaten. After 10 days of climbing mountains, the lack of sleep, and eating nothing more than freeze-dried food, my body had had enough of back-country bowhunting. At that moment all I wanted was a warm meal, a hot shower ... and my wife to tell me that things were going to get better.

Emotionally, I was a mess. The 10 gruelling days had produced little in the way of seeing game. And when I finally had gotten close enough to shoot at a nice Trinity Alps buck, I had shot a foot over his back with my longbow. The shot was straight down a very steep incline. The conditions were perfect. I just missed. And because I had no one or nothing to blame I was haunted now by my lack of shooting accuracy. Instead of walking down the trail with a pack full of venison I carried a pack that held nothing but empty food wrappers and dirty clothes. At such moments, and I have had more than one of them, I wonder why I even bowhunt? Ten days away from my family. The cost of food, licences and other items required for such a hunt. A wave of discouragement and guilt swept over me and I wondered how I was going to face those I loved when they asked me if I had shot anything? Or could I answer my wife honestly when she asked me if I'd had a good time? Had I had a good time? As I continued my journey to my truck, I was not sure that I had. I was weary of failure, and telling others and myself that it was nice just to be away in the mountains. My goal was not just to be in the mountains, but to bring home an animal. I could be in the mountains without a bow in my hands, but I was a bowhunter. Not just a sightseer.

For eight miles I pondered my 10 days of bowhunting. I had hunted some very rugged country. I had not given up and I had pushed myself to my limits. I knew deep inside me that I had done things that many of my friends would not or could not do. I was living life, not lounging in front of a television screen watching others bowhunt while I sat a spectator. After every mile, I would stop and look behind me to view the steep and rugged hills I had climbed. Was I really on top of so many of those mountains? Had I stalked within yards of a wild animal and shot a traditional bow hoping to bring him home to feed my family? I had. For 10 days I had done what many of the early indigenous peoples had done. Suddenly my discouragement dissipated. My body and my feelings felt refreshed. The smell of the pine trees filled my nostrils. My senses seemed enhanced. And once again, I felt alive.

Bowhunting in remote country takes its toll both physically and emotionally.

Henry David Thoreau once said to "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." For you and me, it is stalking through the woods or bush with a well made bow in hand, anticipating what lies ahead. To us, that is living. If for some reason that excitement or enthusiasm gets diminished, as it can, here are some things to consider.

If it was easy, anyone could do it

Trying to harvest any game animal with a bow is difficult. Add to the equation that many of us try doing it with a traditional bow and all kinds of things come into play. The biggest I believe is the killing range of a traditional bow. I know that game animals can be downed at long ranges with a traditional bow, but for most of us using traditional equipment, the distance has to be closer. Putting a number on that distance is going to be different for each of us, and depending on the animal being bowhunted, the range can also be different. Animals like elk can be called in to the waiting bowhunter and often very close shots occur. Whitetail deer are often bowhunted out of tree stands which can offer closer shots. Mule deer, which live in more open country, are often shot at longer distances just due to the fact that it is hard to stalk them in open terrain. But whatever the species you and I are after, we have to get much closer than a rifle hunter where distances are measured in hundreds of yards, not feet. The excitement of our sport comes from the fact that we have to get close to make a shot. Stalking, woodsmanship and knowledge of the animal being bowhunted are essential. There are no short cuts. You have chosen a different path in your hunting pursuits. Embrace it.

Bowhunt a variety of game

Archery deer season is a big deal in this country. A few years ago, I made my first visit to the State of Utah to deer hunt. After driving all night, we stopped at a local grocery store to load up on food for our six-day bowhunt. The clerks, as well as the store management, were dressed in camouflage. It was opening day of deer season—a day of celebration. In some Western states, schools are closed for opening day of deer season. While deer season is an exciting time for bowhunting, it can be very short—often just two to three weeks. There is far more time spent in preparation than actually bowhunting.

Wild pigs are a different matter. Here in California and in some other States, the season is year around. The bag limit is one per day, and pig numbers are increasing. Smaller game like wild turkeys and rabbits can also be bowhunted for much longer periods as well. It took me some time to learn that there was a variety of game

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Although recurves are still his favourite bow to shoot, when John started shooting longbows he found a new enthusiasm for archery

There are a variety of bowmakers if you are in the market for a change.

that could be bowhunted other than deer, and when I began to move toward other game, my enthusiasm for bowhunting became refreshed and I had much more fun.

Not only does bowhunting a larger variety of game increase your enjoyment of the sport, but shooting at game animals will make you a far better shot than shooting at paper. Billy Burger, a traditional bowhunter who hunts with his self-bow, even shoots at dragonflies near his home. No matter where you live, there are more than one species of game to try your bowhunting skills on.

Shoot a different bow

My oldest son Jake laid down his recurve two years ago and began the sometimes painful process of learning to make and shoot self-bows. My garage looks like a broken bow boneyard as he has experimented with a variety of woods and designs. He even has made bows out of PVC pipe (that has been a learning experience as well!). He has immersed himself in these primitive bows and has had a lot of fun doing it. Each bow gets better— as does his skill in shooting them.

It may not be necessary for you and me to build self-made bows, but sometimes a change in scenery can be beneficial and help to rekindle our interest. After using a recurve for many years, I went crazy for a few years shooting a longbow. The longbow is a different beast when it comes to holding and trying to shoot with proficiency. It became a whole new learning experience and forced me to move out of my comfort zone. To be honest, I became transfixed with the longbow, wood arrows, back quivers and "Hitting 'em like Howard Hill". Well, I am not the great archer as was Mr Hill, but the learning of something new was exciting. My bowhunting became better because I felt like I had gone backward in some respects as well as forward in others. I moved slower in the woods and became a better stalker because of the shooting limitations I had with the longbow. I got closer to game animals just because I had to. And it is such thinking and experiences that turns many back from modern equipment to more traditional gear.

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Bowhunt different country

On the west coast where I live the terrain is steep and covered with thick vegetation. It is hard to spot animals and even harder to get within bow range. But if I travel just a few hours to a neighbouring State, the landscape changes dramatically. The country becomes very open and spotting game becomes easier. When you're sitting on high vantage points with a good set of optics, game animals like deer become far easier to spot. Getting close is always a challenge with any game animal, but the fact that they become more visible gives the stalking bowhunter a better chance. Seeing more game always is a positive experience because it helps to wash away fatigue and helps to keep us going.

Someone once made the observation that insanity was doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. It may be much easier to bowhunt areas that you are familiar with and are close to home, and then do that time after time again. If the areas we bowhunt are productive then we should continue to hunt there. But if not, you might want to try somewhere new.

Sometimes the cost of bowhunting new areas can be a factor. If I bowhunt in a State other than where I live, it is going to cost me far more than if I stay close to home. But many times it is well worth it if other areas are more productive regarding the species I want to hunt. I put a little money away each month for my hunts so if I do decide to bowhunt in another state, I do not put an undue financial burden on my wife and family. I have even worked a second job a few times so I could enjoy a bowhunt in another part of the country. But in the wash it has all been worth it. Half the fun of any hunt is the excitement in planning. Bowhunting in another area that may be new to us may refresh the excitement of the hunt. Learning new country and planning those hunts increases our knowledge and empowers us. You do not have to sell your home to hunt somewhere different—just plan ahead and your dream to bowhunt somewhere new will materialise.

The planning is half the fun! Hunting in a new area is one way to keep the passion for bowhunting alive.

Teach a new bowhunter

It is always a joy to teach a future bowhunter and can inspire the teacher as much as the student.

It has often been said that the teacher learns more than the student. When I take a new bowhunter with me on a hunt, usually a grandchild, I seem to learn far more than I can teach. It helps to remind me how fun and exciting our sport is and how passionately I feel about carrying a primitive tool into the field. There is a feeling of responsibility to my student because I want them to succeed and love the sport as much as I do. This is always a humbling experience which I believe many of us need in today's world. The newcomers to the sport of bowhunting must succeed, and we can play a large part so that they do. As we help them to love our sport, our excitement for the sport of bowhunting will become new to us again as well … and that is always a good thing.

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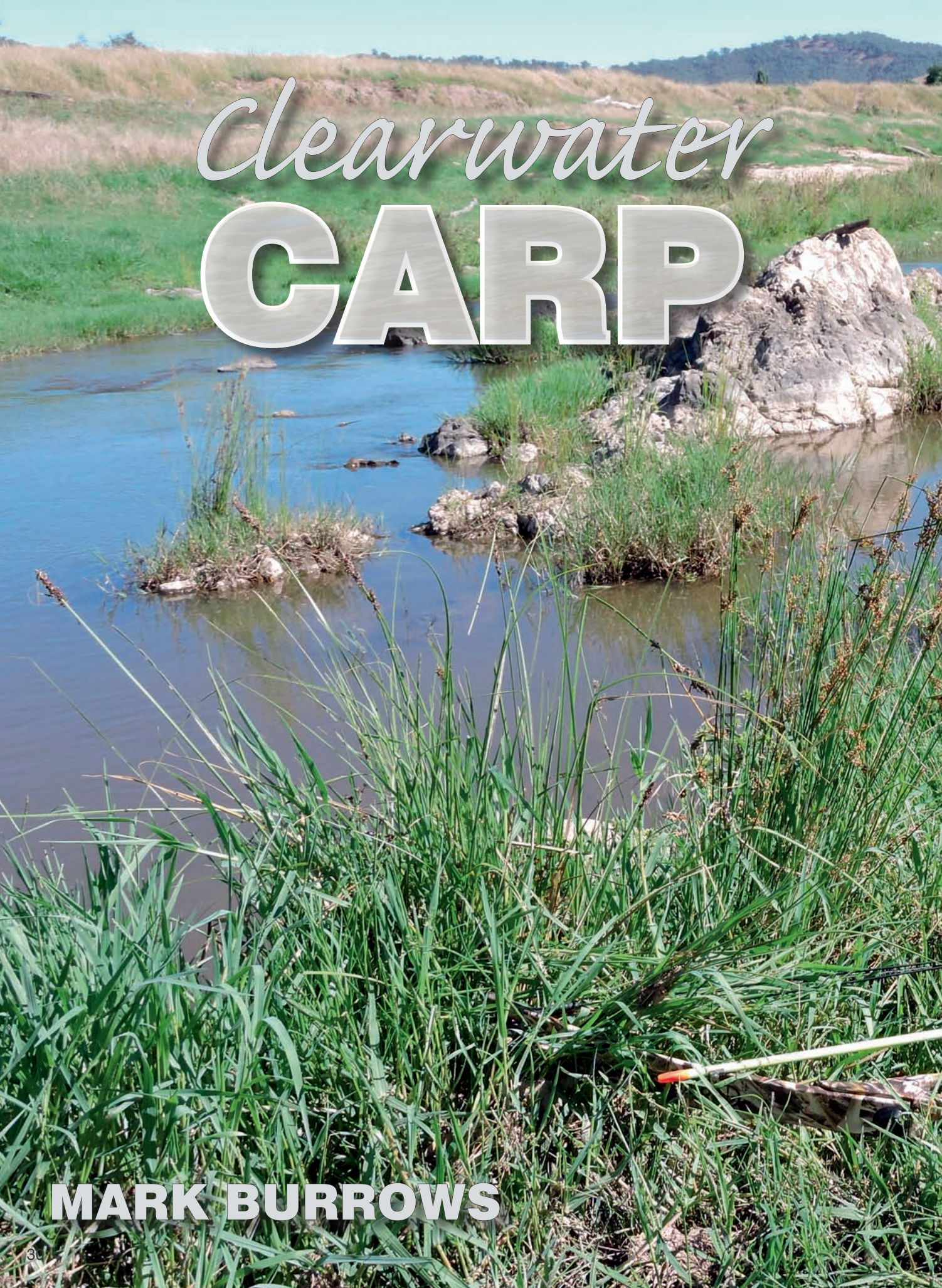


Clearwater CARP

MARK BURROWS

Raging torrents of water over many hundreds of years had chiselled out the rock ledge I was standing on. I have stood here several times over the past 12 months overlooking the waters of Jingellic Creek, several kilometres upstream from where it enters the mighty Murray River. From this vantage point I could see several carp, all facing upstream, seeming to be just floating and holding their own in the current without any effort at all. They were at all levels in the water, from just below the surface to right on the bottom.

I was two days into a three-day trip dedicated to some inland bowfishing. Under the NSW DPI administration I could, at least up until June this year, shoot carp in specific inland waters. Other than tributaries of the Murray River in South Australia this happens nowhere else in the country. I love to bowfish. Actually I was thinking of becoming a professional bowfisherman. The walking is relatively flat and easy going. You don't have to get up at daylight and if you get a bit hot you can have a rest in the water. How good is that? Being a Victorian I rarely get the opportunity to bowfish, so I was taking it while I could.

My first stop on this lap around the mountains was Billabong Creek, about 50km North of Albury. The creek here is like most NSW inland waterways, fairly muddy. My idea was to walk the banks looking for the tell-tale sign of a carp's back protruding from the water as it fed along the creek edge and in and around any log jams. It wasn't long before I spotted one, although he didn't stay up long. Carp here only have to drop a couple inches under the water's surface and you have no idea where they went.

I continued along the creek for quite some distance without any luck. I don't know if I was too early or too late but they just didn't seem to be feed-

ing with any sort of sincerity. Eventually one stayed up long enough for me to get a bead on him and I finally had my first carp for the trip. An hour later, I had two more but it was frustrating work. I decided to move on and hoped Jingellic Creek would give me better luck … which brings me back to the opening paragraph.

The waters of this system are relatively clear. Not gin clear, but clear enough to see your shoelaces in water up to your knees. This makes it possible to 'polaroid' or spot-and-stalk carp, which is what I was up to. From the several that I was watching, I picked out one loitering behind a large rock on the other side of the creek. To get to him I needed to move back downstream to the rocky ford I had crossed only 10 minutes before. The rocks were a little slippery, so I took it easy—a dunking would not be good for the electronic gear that we all seem to carry nowadays.

I relocated the rock and slowly worked my way up to it. Sun angle, shadows, reflections—all can be critical in these situations. Get it right and you can see fish 40m or 50m away. Get it wrong and you have to be nearly on top of them before you see them. At 10m, I could again see my target. He was in midwater which put him about 12 inches below the surface. Refraction was going to come seriously into the equation here. The closer I could get, the better my chances were going to be.

I inched in to about 2m. I thought I was pushing it at this. Clearwater carp seem to be generally a lot spookier than their dirty water cousins. Any sharp movements and they are out of there. However, the problem with coming up behind fish is the diminishing width of the target. If you get your line right then you have a little more lateral forgiveness with the up and down of refraction. But if you get it wrong the arrow can pass harmlessly down to the side.

I watched the fish for a couple of minutes. Every now and then he would turn slightly side on to re-align himself in the current. I thought I would hedge my bets and wait for one of these movements which would slightly increase my target area. I didn't have long to wait. As he started to turn I came to full draw, aimed way lower than I thought necessary,(but at that depth it definitely is), and released. Instantly the line peeled off my reel. Hook up, but it was a battle the fish was unlikely to win and a couple of minutes later I had my fourth carp for the day on the bank.

After a few happy snaps I continued upstream and was soon onto the telltale smoke trail of a feeding carp. I am definitely no expert on feeding carp but judging by these particular fish, they seem to have three basic patterns. There are the sitters like the one I'd just shot. I am not sure if they are feeding at all, or just resting. Then there are the cruisers.

They will move up and down a particular pond, following a circuit. You can often wait at a given position and they will come round again. Again I don't know if they are feeding but I have seen them attracted to an object landing on the water.

Then there are the definite feeders. They are head down and tail up and can be a lot more approachable, possibly because their vision is impaired by all the mud they stir up. As they work into shallow water, their backs can often be right out of the water. This takes refraction right out of the equation. Like the one I had in my sights right now. This fella was so intent on turning this creek into a mudhole he had no idea I was there until it was too late and another carp bit the dust.

I also have a theory on carp and their ability to see above the waterline. This seems to be more so with carp in the clearer waters. Whether this is because they are potentially preyed upon by birds or not I don't really know. Initially I was pretty blasé about bowfishing for carp. They are just a dumb fish, right? But I am pretty sure that my blaze-orange hat, blue shirt and nonchalant demeanour was the reason I struggled to shoot any in the early days of the trial.

Under the DPI rules for the bowfishing trial, we have to wear an item of blaze orange—the DPI even gave us a free hat. This is all fair enough. We have been given the ability to bowfish where we have never been legally allowed to before. We have been given the same rights as fishermen, so we want to stand out. We do not want the property owners that abut these river ways to think we have something to hide. However, I have made a couple of changes. I now wear a camo shirt and put my item of blaze orange on the back of my pack. This has seen my success rate go up a lot. I don't know if I am just making all this up, but I do know it is working for me.

I was now approaching one of the bigger ponds in the system. It was about 100m long and had waterlilies and other aquatic plants lining both sides. The plant life was an ideal spot to ambush a carp or two feeding along the edge. I spotted my first target right up against the bank. He was so intent in filling his face that his whole head was coming out of the water. I studied the situation for a couple of minutes and I timed my approach to catch him the next time he came up. At less than 1m away once his head broke the surface, it was all over very quickly.

I could see several cruisers moving up and down the creek but they were just a bit too far out. There was a small promontory just up ahead so I positioned myself there hoping a carp would come close enough for a shot. As I mentioned, I have seen carp check out objects in the water so the next time a fish came past I threw a bit of rabbit dung into the water just

in front of me. To my amazement, the nearest fish turned at right angles and came straight in for an inspection. That was his last mistake.

I'm not trying to convince anyone that bowfishing for carp is an extraordinarily hard or complicated affair. It's not. Realistically it is probably the easiest thing you will shoot with a bow and arrow. But it is a lot of fun and we are helping to rid the waterways of another pest. The NSW DPI is on our side here and with some support from bowhunters we may be able to continue to do this long after the trial period is over mid-2017. But it will take our support.

June 20 to 25 IFAA 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.

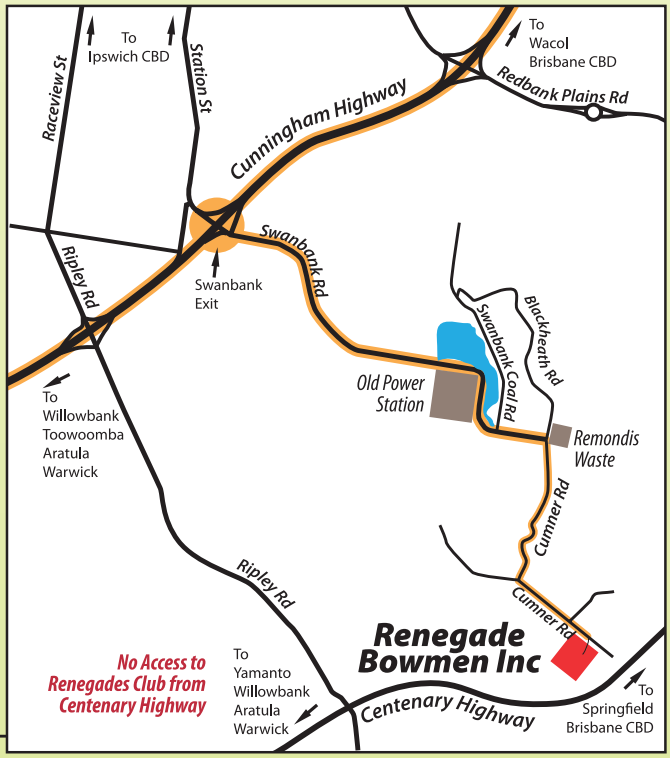
Keep the old power station site on your right.

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

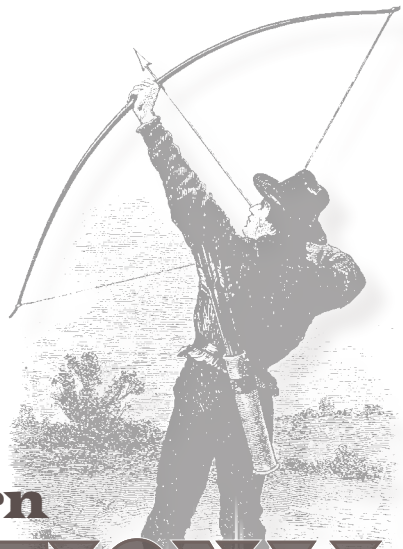
Turn left into Cumner Road.

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
- Ipswich Caravan Village is also offering reduced rates for competitors, mention archery when booking. Ph: 07 3281 7951
- The Club has modern toilet and shower facilities • Catering provided by the Club from the evening of the 20th June
- Food and drinks available on the ranges on shoot days • Clean toilets provided on the ranges
- Commemorative shirts available for purchase by pre-order by 30th April. Email: ifaa.shirts@gmail.com for prices and payments
- For general inquiries contact the Club via website - renegadebowmeninc.com



Nick Lintern

TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Hi to all our readers and welcome to another instalment of Traditional Trails. The weather is starting to cool down as we head towards Easter and that gets most of us really thinking about getting out with the bow. The number of traditional shoots is really growing, with one almost every month and spread across all the States. If you are looking for a shoot near you, simply keep an eye on the pages of this mag or look up Traditional Archery Australia or keep an eye out on sites like Ozbow.

How to build an English longbow

Part 2

In the previous issue, we embarked on our next bow-building project—an all-wood composite English longbow. Leading on from our last column, we now have our tools assembled, plus a quarter-sawn pignut hickory slat for the bow's back, a plain sawn pignut hickory board somewhere in the vicinity of 1in thick by 1 ½in wide and some U.S. black walnut for the core. Before we continue on to prepping all our timber, let's have another look at the timber, the choice and the grain orientation. I know I covered this in some detail in the first article, but in hindsight I could have been a tad more thorough on this important subject. So let's have another quick look at what we are using and why.

As I mentioned in the previous article, we are using hickory because it is reasonably priced (the biggest cost is freight from the U.S.), and because it is as tough as it comes. It also performs well and is tolerant of tillering errors. I strongly recommend the belly stock be *plain* sawn. This will mean that the bow will not be quite so willing to twist as tillering proceeds, and that even if it does—as ELBs are prone to—it will respond well to being straightened. For the back, I always go for clean quarter-sawn wood. This is because with quarter-sawn

wood a growth ring doesn't have to be followed. Because the rings run vertically the bow will not fail under tension. It must however, be really clean, knot-free wood. In quarter-sawn wood, the knots and pins will run left to right which means the wood will want to fold at these points. This is obviously not what we want our backing strip to do … so make sure the quarter-sawn backing strips are clean and knot free and you will have strong, fast responding backing strips that won't fail. If you were to use plain-sawn wood, which you can, you *must* follow a growth ring. If you don't, the bow would almost certainly break under the tension a bow's back experiences. Remember, a bow's back must be one continuous membrane. If a growth ring is violated it is like having short pieces of timber stuck together. As the bow bends outwards through the back, these will ultimately bust out.

For the centre core, any growth orientation is fine because the timber is supported both sides. You can actually use almost any timber here. I like U.S. black walnut as it is attractive and strong.

Back to the hickory. Length wise, this hickory comes in from the United States in 72in lengths so that is the maximum length we can achieve. This is a good ELB length in general, though, and even the longer draw archers (over 29in) will be okay with a 72in bow. I like my ELB blanks to be 1 ½in wide, so all the lams and boards will be cut to that width.

How to make a gluing form

Before we proceed any further, we need a form to glue this stave up. The simplest form is simply a 72in long by about 1 5/8in wide flat laminated beam. These types of beams can be purchased at any good timber merchant. They are typically known as LVLs. Once the beam is cut to length, screw a couple of feet onto it so it will stand on its own and place a piece of insertion rubber—available from Clark rubber—along its length. All that is needed then are four side stops. These prevent the stave from sliding side to side out of alignment as the clamps apply pressure. Eight flat pieces of steel around 6in long, 1in to 1 ½in wide and 1/8in thick, are ideal. We are placing side stops in four locations along the form, one at each end and one each side of the handle area, say 8in each side or so. Each side stop will be made up of two flat pieces of steel, hence we need eight flat pieces in total. Simply drill holes in them—and in the form— so that four bolts with wing nuts can hold them in place. This set-up is the easiest form to make. It will also provide us with a flat bow stave that is easier to tiller. Usually, a tri-lam bow that is flat laid in this fashion will settle to about 2in or so of string follow. String follow is normal in any wooden bow. It is a natural phenomenon that is unavoidable. We can however, take steps to allow for

Ensure your form is square along its length.

Completed form with side stops in place and insertion rubber along the form's length.

it and thus ultimately reduce follow in our bow. I will discuss other tricks for reducing string follow shortly, but one method that works well is to make up a form that allows for this settling of the bow by pre–reflexing it. I always glue up my laminated English longbows on a form that reflexes the bow about 1 3/4in. This gives a finished bow that is pretty close to dead straight, give or take a bit of follow or reflex, after tillering and shooting in. There are a couple of ways to do this. One way is to make a form as above, but rather than leaving it flat, lie the beam on its side and make a mark at the centre point of 36in. Now measure down ½in at that point and make a mark. Now at each end measure down 2 ¼in and make marks. Now drive in a couple of thin nails at these points keeping them square. Now using a long parallel lathe, hook each end under the end nails and place the lathe over the centre nail. This will form a nice even curve. Draw a line around this curve then it's off to the bandsaw to cut this shape out. Once cut, check with a square to ensure it is square along its length. You don't want to build twist into your stave due to a crooked form.

Once you are satisfied, proceed as with the flat form. In both cases we will be putting the glued-up bow into the form with its back *down*.

Another way of building reflex into a stave is to use the flat form and then simply add end stops that are 1 ¾in high. We then put the bow onto the form with the back up instead of down. The staves ends will sit on the blocks and then we squeeze the mid-section down, thus building in reflex. We still need side stops to prevent side movement *(see photos)*. With the first forms we will use G or F clamps to clamp the stave to the form. With the latter form with end chocks or stops, we will need scissor clamps.

Let's look at preparing our tri–lam stave components for gluing up.

Preparation of lams for gluing (Part 1)

This is actually a very involved procedure. I will outline it fairly thoroughly, but don't panic if it seems beyond you. I can sell you a glued-up stave, ready for shaping and tillering if you'd prefer to run that way.

The bow's back

Your bow's backing strip will be 72in by 1 ½in wide and approximately ¼in thick. It must also be straight. You ultimately want the back and core lams to be tapered. This is going to make for a faster shooting bow,

Flat form with end blocks to build reflex into the stave. In this case, the stave will be clamped back up

and also one that doesn't follow the string too much. If you made your backing parallel, it will most likely overwhelm the belly—which will definitely be tapered down in the tillering process—and this will cause excessive string follow. Why does this happen? Let's have another look at the forces at work in a bow. I know I have covered this in some detail in the past, but I'll touch on it again as it is a good concept to understand. The bow's back is actually trying to lengthen itself when the bow is being stressed—or drawn. The belly is trying to shorten itself, or put another way, the forces on the cells of the wood are trying to crush it down as the load comes on. In the middle there will be an axis where these forces come together and they 'cancel' each other out. This is called the neutral axis. At this point, there is only a shearing effect and the wood is not trying to lengthen or shorten itself. So there is a kind of arm wrestle going on in any bow between the two opposing forces of tension and compression. This arm wrestle is always won by the tensile forces. The compressive side of the bow—the belly—will struggle to match the back's ability to resist the tensile forces placed on it. In other words, the back of the bow will win the arm wrestle. The result is a degree of string follow. The amount of follow will depend on the belly material's ability to resist the compressive forces coming onto it. As archers, we want

Using the drum sander and master taper to taper the hickory back.

our bow to perform. It has to be fast and possess the necessary cast to do the job required of it. Excess string follow will rob the bow of cast, so we have a vested interest in helping our bow's belly to perform better in this contest. In order to assist the belly wood to perform better in this arm wrestle, we can do a few things to help it. Regardless of how compression strong our belly stock is, we still need to help it. As mentioned already, we can taper the backing strip. This means that it will more match the taper that will be coming onto the bow's belly. Also, by tapering the black walnut core we are helping get this effect amplified. Later on in the build, we will be arrasing the bow's back as well, to effectively take some strength out of the bow's back so as to help the belly match its strength. As in many areas of archery and the science of bows and bowyery, balance is the all-conquering necessity for all-round performance.

So that's why we taper the back and core components … but how do we taper it? My preferred method is to use a conveyor-fed drum sander and a master taper *(see photo)*. A master taper is a 36in piece of timber or bamboo around ½in or so thick and 1 ½in or so wide that has been accurately tapered. I have two. One is 2 thou per inch and the other is 1 thou per inch. (It's best to get used to working in imperial measures as all bowyery work, and fletchery for that matter, is in imperial measures). So one will remove 72 thousandths of an inch over its length and the other 36 thousandths. I tend to taper my backing strips 2 thou per inch if they are around 3/16in to ¼in thick to start with. This means I get a good taper but still have some thickness left at the tip. If my backing stock were slightly thinner, I'd taper it 1 thou per inch. The method is to place the thinner end of your master taper to the middle of your 72in backing strip so then the thicker end of the master will be level with the end of your backing lam. Next we turn on the drum sander and feed the backing stock into the conveyor. As the sander removes material, it will take more from the end than from the middle, which gives us the taper we want. I measure the lam's thickness before I start with the Vernier caliper and then subtract 72in. So let's say the lam starts out at 250 thousandths of an inch (¼in). We then want to keep feeding the lam through the sander until the end measures around 178 thou. I don't go further as I don't want the overall thickness at the handle to be reduced too much. Once this is achieved, simply flip the backing stock around and do the other end in the same way. The accompanying photos will make more sense of this. A way of manually doing this, not as accurately, but accurate enough for our purposes here, is to mark your stock in 9in increments. Now with a sharp block plane, plane from the first mark nearest to the end, then from position 2 over both marks to the end, then from position 3 and so on. That in tandem with a good sand will create a rough taper. This is accurate enough because we will adjust any irregularities when we tiller and the wood starts 'talking' to us.

Our next job with the backing is to mark it out. Pick the side that you want to mark, which obviously means the other side is going to be glued. If the lam appears to have a slight cup in it—this can still slightly occur even after sanding—that is the side you want to glue. Once the marking side is established, mark out thus: Measure down 36in (or halfway) and scribe a line across. Now mark a line 2in each side of this centreline. We are making a symmetrical bow as this is

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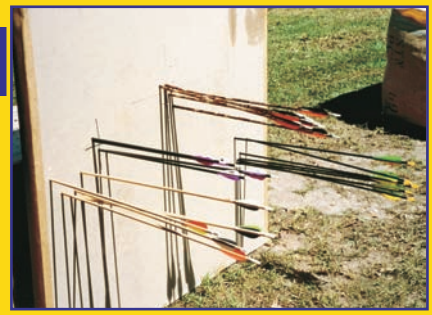

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Mark the centre of your stave.

Mark the limbs with a steel rule.

Mark a centre datum line through the backing strip.

Depending on bow weight require mark the bow's width at the hand. This one is an inch and an eighth.

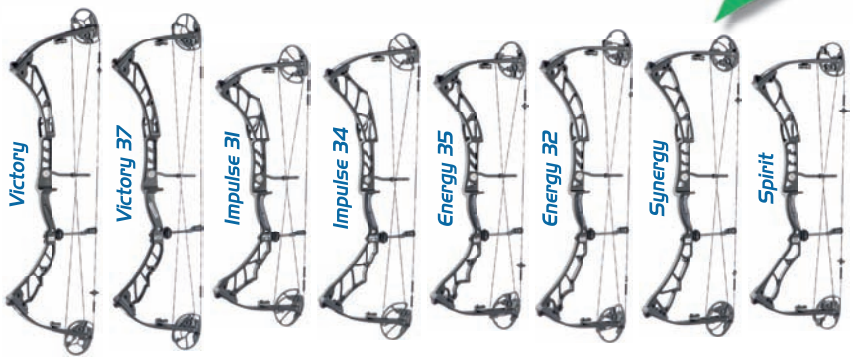
my personal preference. If you want to make an asymmetrical bow, measure up 1 ½in and down 2 ½in. Next, measure across the lam ¾in. This should be halfway on your 1 ½in stock. Measure across at the centreline and at one end. Now run a straight edge down the lam through the two marks. Now draw a centre datum line straight down the lam. The reason you are better off marking one centre mark in the middle instead of at both ends is that if the lam is a bit off straight it is better for it to run out at the end and not in the handle area where you need more width. At the tip it only needs to be ½in wide so even if your lam is a bit off straight it will be fine. Next, mark the tips ¼in each side of halfway. Now we need to think about our intended bow weight. If you are aiming at about 40# to 70# mark, mark your lam at the 2in handle marks 9 /16in each side of halfway. This gives a handle area width of 1 1/8in. If you are wanting a big beast, over 70#, mark the width to be ¾in each side for an overall width of 1 ½in. This is because in an ELB we want it to be in the 8-5 ratio (width to depth). In a heavier bow it will obviously be thicker in depth and a lighter bow will be shallower. Therefore the width must also alter. Now join your handle area marks with the nock marks with a steel rule or straight edge and mark your limb profile. Use a biro. This is because we want these marks to survive the hot box. They will be sanded off later in any case so don't be afraid to mark it with a bold biro. That will do for now on the bow's backing strip. That will do us for this issue. In the next issue we will move onto the core and belly stock preparation and get this bow glued up.

As usual, if you have any questions, please feel free to email on norseman_longbows@hotmail.com.

Until next time, keep traditional.

Completed markout.

Archery Addiction®



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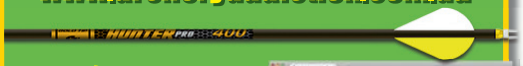

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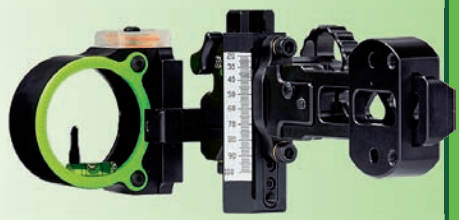

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DAVID LUXFORD

This stag slid for about 50m before finally coming to rest.

PHOTO BY RUSSELL CORNALL

A sambar story

"He's yours."

A couple of simple words followed by a man hug from Graham were enough for me to realise something of epic grandeur had occurred. Partially dazed from a cocktail of emotions, I stood with Graham above a sambar stag that lay at the end of a relatively short blood trail. We were both in awe of the enormity of the stag's motionless body before us: He was a big animal. My arm was around Graham's shoulder and I was lost for words. It had happened. I had taken my first six point representative sambar stag, Australia's greatest trophy.

PHOTO BY GRAHAM McCOMISKIE

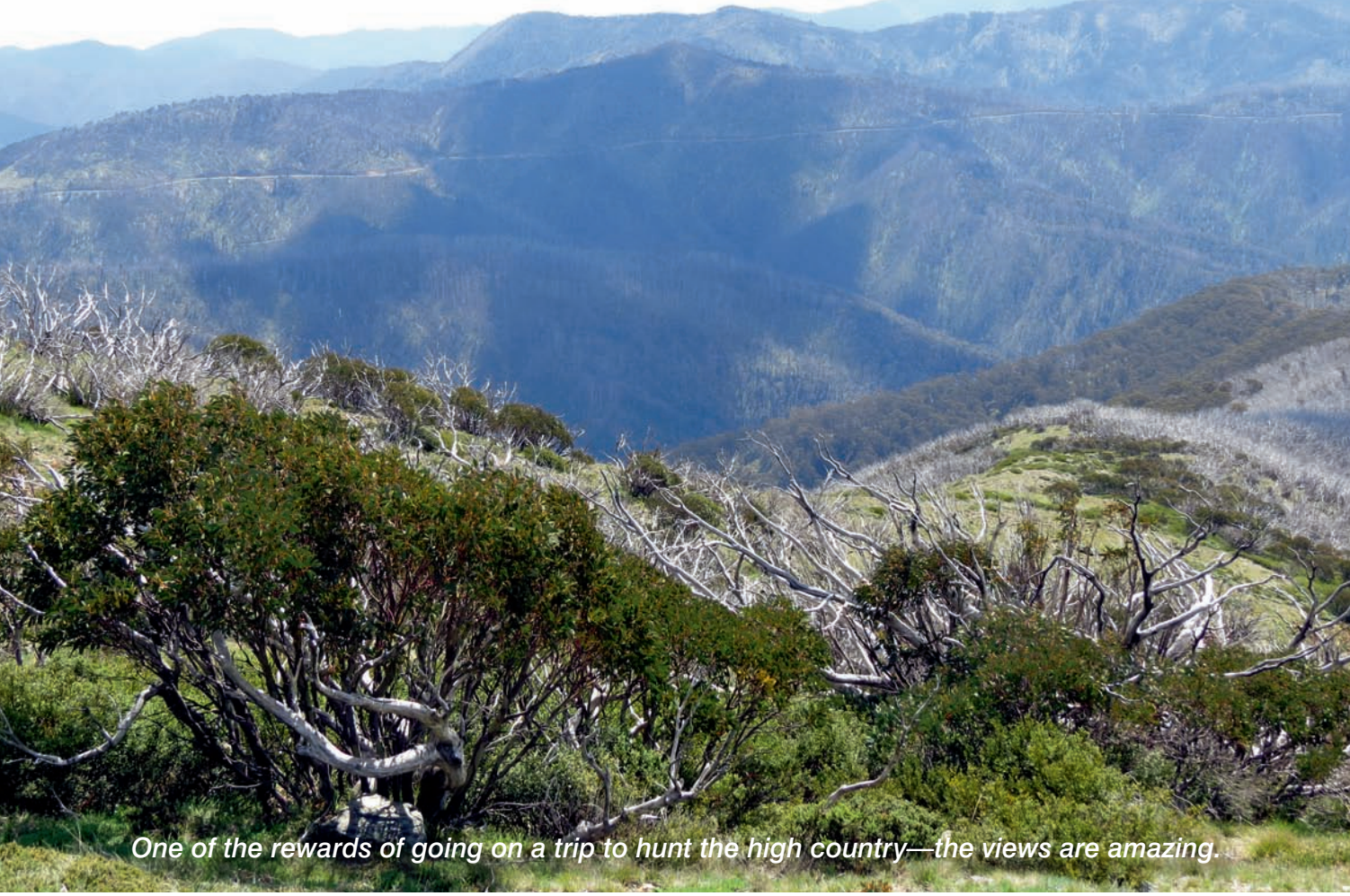
Graham McComiskie (left) congratulates David on his wonderful sambar stag.

For me, it was the end of a very long road that started almost 20 years prior when I took my first sambar, a hind in 1998, followed by a malformed stag in 1999 and then almost two decades later I harvested two stags within a month. The long gap between successful hunts was not necessarily all doom and gloom.

During those years I had many close encounters with sambar, numerous stalks, observed many deer from my tree stands and on at least five occasions my arrows deflected from blackberry canes and small twigs hidden from view.

But what sequence of events changed the dynamics of the hunt and makes the modern bowhunter appear to be a more successful than ever before, when it comes to hunting sambar deer?

The answer is relatively simple: Technological advances in archery



One of the rewards of going on a trip to hunt the high country—the views are amazing.

equipment and an explosion in the population of sambar deer. And not disregarding the 10,000-hour philosophy. Do the time, learn your trade, understand your quarry, be patient, observe listen and remarkable things might just happen. Combine that with some great friendships and access to good country and anything is possible.

However, a lot involves the butterfly effect, and my two stags died as a result of circumstance and chance. If I had not been hunting with a few mates in Queensland then I would not have called into Russell Cornall's Timberline Self Guide Hunts on the way home and shot the first stag. And if Graham McComiskie had not come down for a few days sambar hunting I would not have been in the mountains and shot the second.

The hunt at Russell's was never intended as a serious endeavour at the sambar, rather it was an opportunistic hunt as I made my way home. I decided not to camp at the hut, opting instead to camp in the bush because I was worried that after a three-day drive the comforts of the hut would be detrimental to an early rise. The name of the game with sambar is to be as close to the action as possible at daylight. As far as tree stands or ground blinds go, if you are not sitting tight before the very first break of day, then as a rule, it's too late; go stalking instead.

The evening was exceptionally warm for the high country and due to an unfavourable breeze I forfeited an evening hunt. As I settled on my

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stretcher under the trees and stars, I felt a degree of contentment. I was sleeping in the heart of sambar country, a new hunt had begun and as I had played the game so many times before I had no expectations of what could eventuate. Well before light, a gentle easterly breeze swept across my face … perfect. Before you could say its time to get out of bed, I was halfway to my tree stand. As I picked my way through the bush to the stand in almost total darkness, a fallow buck had barked at me and a sambar honked.

I settled into position, my bow across my knees with arrow on string just before the break of day. Within five minutes, the figure of a large deer materialised in the gloom of morn on the top edge of an old track. I couldn't believe my eyes. As it walked closer, the characteristic ruff around its neck told me it was a stag. By this stage I was standing up and had drawn, settled and fired as he presented a side-on shot. To my absolute horror, I clean missed this big deer at 30m. The stag turned and quietly walked parallel to me, staying on the top edge of the track. He paused. I fired. The stag fell.

What was truly remarkable about this event was that the stag slowly slid for about 30m back along the top edge of the track to where he had been then slid down across the track over the edge and continued down clearing a path through fern, undergrowth, small trees and shrubs before coming to rest against a large tree some 15m from the bottom of my tree stand. I dispatched another arrow. The stag continued slowly sliding for another 20m coming to rest against the perimeter fence of the property. By this stage, I was down from my tree and greeted the stag where he came to rest. What had happened before my eyes was a rare and extraordinary event … and it seemingly played out in slow motion.

After an extended moment of silence and tribute between the deer and myself I made my way back to camp and then to where Russell was staying. I found him feeding his dogs, asked him to put the kettle on then proceeded to tell my story with tears running down my cheeks. I doubt Russell was surprised at my emotions for we understand each other's commitment to the hunt and what the taking of a sambar deer means.

I returned home with a truckload of venison and in a state of disbelief. It all seemed too simple, but maybe there was an element of the 10,000-hour philosophy attached to this deer.

By mid-November, Graham and I were in the mountains. Graham spent a week at Russell's hunting in difficult conditions (as related in a previous story). We then headed for new hunting grounds over the mountain.

After leaving Graham at a vantage spot, I trudged up the hill and onto the perimeter track of the property then strolled slowly along, staying as best I could within the shadows and bush on the edge of the track to avoid being caught in the open.

Sambar spiker at first light.

In the late evening, deer have a habit of just appearing on the edge of such tracks and clearings. I was

Sambar hind at dawn.

also very aware of maximising the remaining daylight and descending from the tops at the sambar witching hour. That is when the deer move and begin feeding in a comfortable manner with an apparent disregard for predators such as man. But make no mistake, they never let their guard down. They don't have big ears for nothing.

I was mooching along when a hind stepped out. I watched her for a little while then she retreated back to the bush. A short distance on, I followed a small stag as he walked in and out of the bush on the edge of the track. I stalked to within 15m of him as he stood concealed in thick dogwood, then he honked and vanished. As I made my way down the hill I couldn't have been happier—there had been a bit of action and although the light was fading fast there was still a minute or two of shooting light left.

I was thinking of hunting, friends and deer when I almost walked into a stag standing under a wattle tree feeding on fresh shoots and broadside to me. I froze. I could see antlers but due to poor light couldn't judge their size. I came to draw and went to settle the pin but had difficulty defining exact placement. So I let down, focussed on the chest of the stag, came to draw again put the pin behind his shoulder and released.

The stag dropped and lunged forward and exited at a thousand miles an hour. My heart sank. In my mind, I had totally fouled the shot and gave myself one-in-a-thousand chance of finding the deer.

I returned the next morning with Graham and we began the task of trailing the deer, looking for blood, running marks—anything that could indicate a positive direction to follow. It was not looking good and my heart was in my boots until I spotted a swipe of blood chest high on a small stick, then another.

Graham moved forward, following running marks in shale and leaf litter while I stayed on the blood trail, continually finding more swipes of blood chest high on saplings. It wasn't long before I heard those beautiful words, "He's yours."

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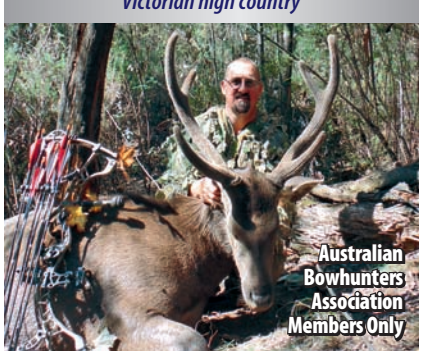

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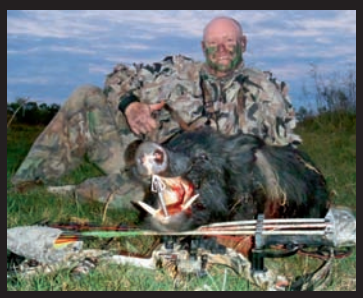

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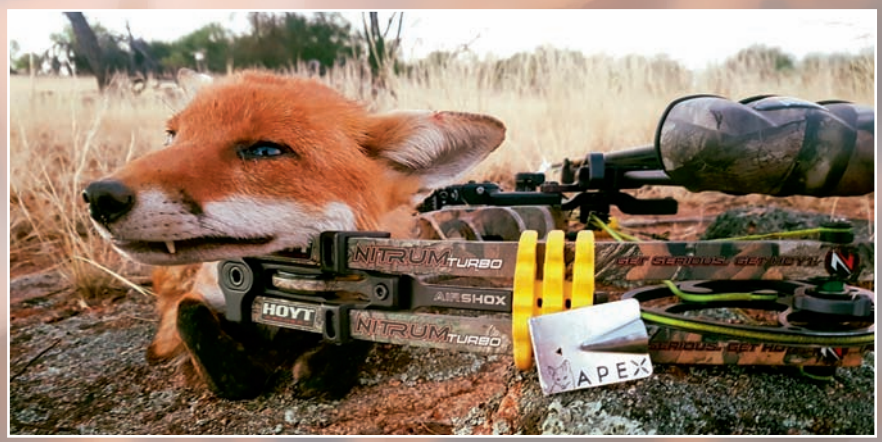

Josh Balsley's TC fox, 9 5/16pt.

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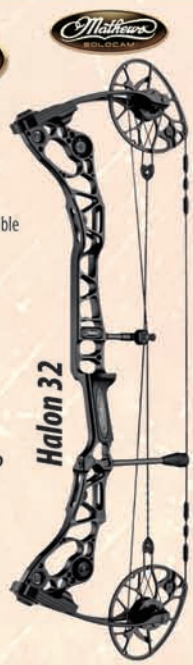

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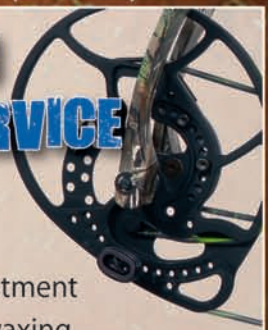

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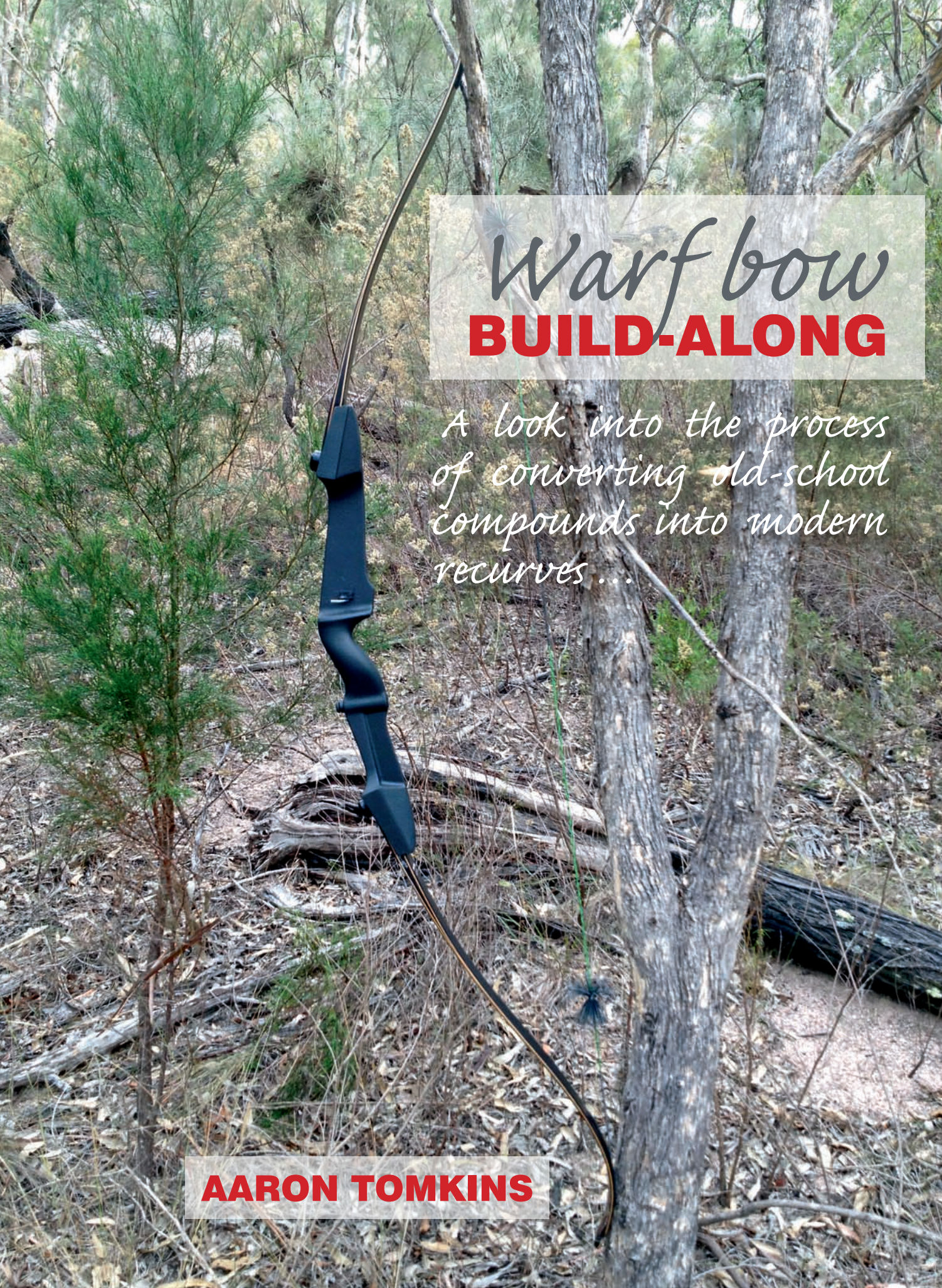


Warf bow
BUILD-ALONG

A look into the process of converting old-school compounds into modern recurves...

AARON TOMKINS

I have this great old Proline bow. A beautiful wheeled compound of well over 40 inches axle to axle, it boasts attractive limbs of cross-laminated timbers and a lovely riser that fits the hand just so beautifully. The bow, a Proline Tornado II Magnum, was my first real bow and I shot it for a good few years before ever considering an upgrade.

The Hoyt Spectra (or Rambo) in its original donor state.

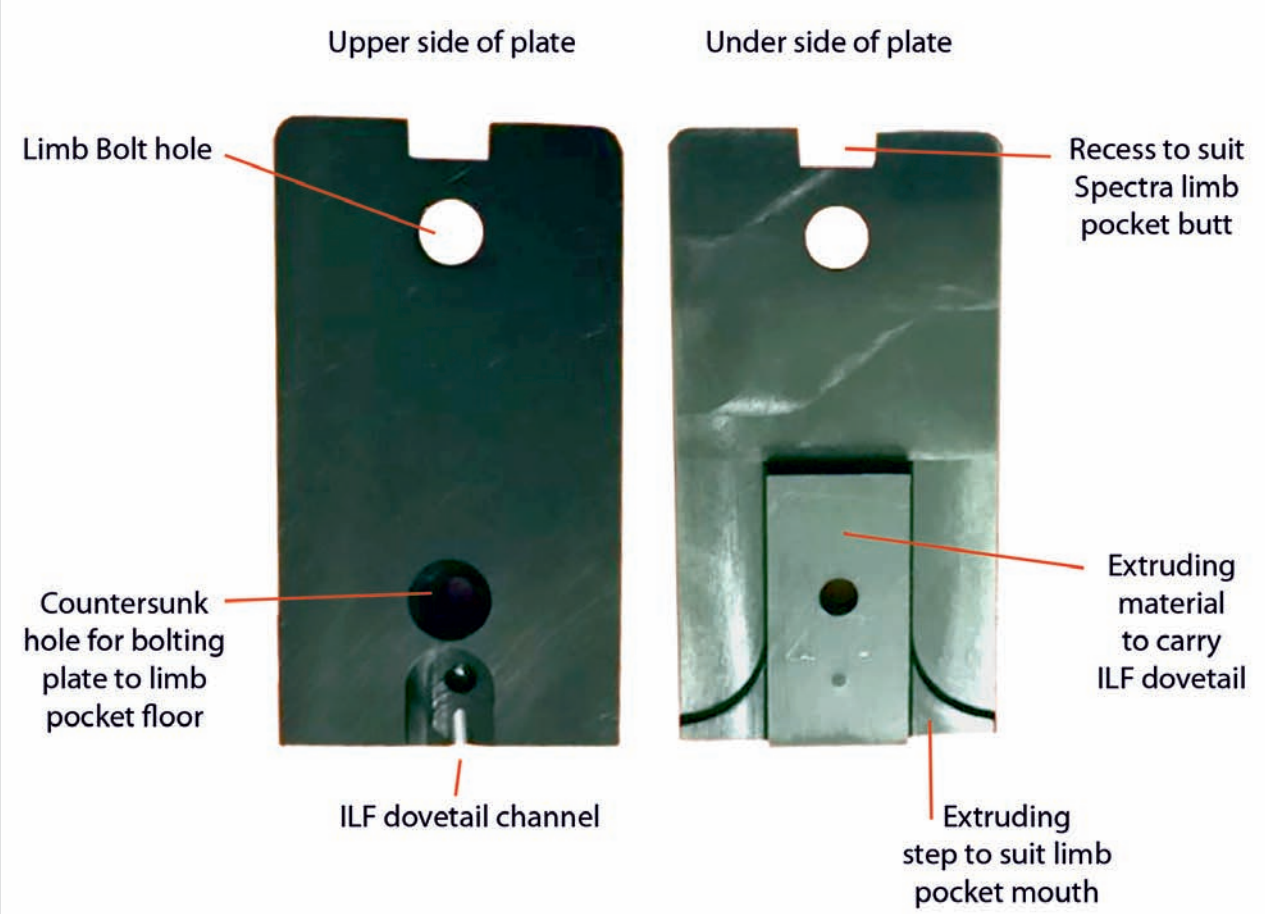
The years have rolled by and I've shot many bows since then, but the old Proline came back to the fore of my thoughts when I happened upon the process of upcycling old compound risers so they would carry the dovetail channel that is required to convert the limb pockets to accept the fittings of the ILF (International Limb Fitting) system. This would allowing me to fit almost any ILF limb made by almost any limb manufacturer. This process has been reasonably popular for many years and the term WARF of Warfbow was apparently coined by its inventor in the US.

Long story short, some research on the internet made it clear that the geometry of my Proline, mainly the limb pocket angle, wouldn't really suit my 29.5in draw length. This bow suits an archer with a shorter draw. I'd need to source the riser from a Hoyt Spectra or a Bear Black Bear if I was going to make this project work. The opportunity to pick up a Spectra riser came up and so my journey into the world of WARFing began.

There are many ways to convert a riser to ILF, but I plan to just show you how I did it with my riser. Much more information and ideas can be gained by doing a quick Google search on WARF BOW and building your knowledge and understanding from there. I found out that I could buy 'plates' made exactly for my riser that would fit inside the limb pockets and carry the ILF dovetail and allow me to attach my ILF recurve limbs so I went with this method. But you can also machine the dovetail into the floor of your limb pockets if your riser has the required material there to allow this.

After disassembling the limbs and cables from my Spectra, the first step was to modify the pocket a little to take the extrusion on the underside of the plates, then basically glue the plates in with JB Weld (an epoxy glue for metal). The following images illustrate that process.

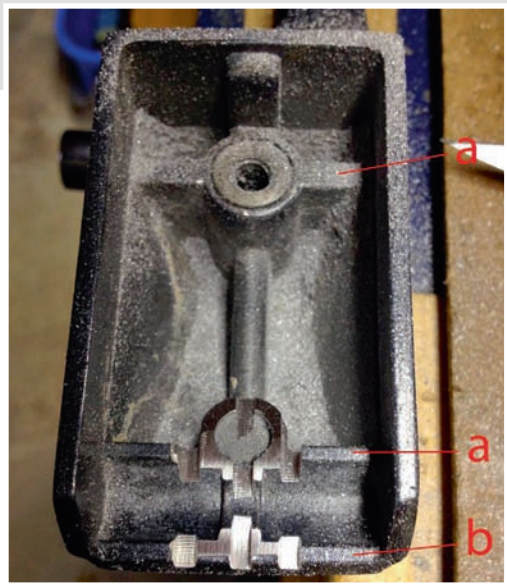
1



Showing here are the upper and lower sides of the conversion plates. Its features are designed to fit the Spectra limb pockets and carry the ILF dovetail.

2

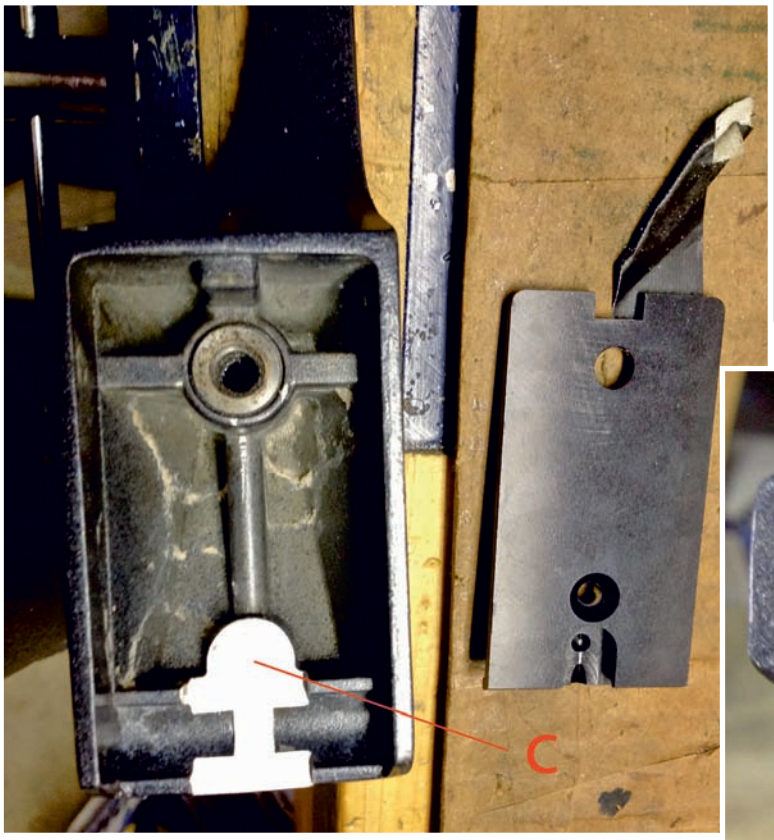
I had to take some material away from the pocket floor so the plate underside extrusion would sit down under the floor of the pocket.



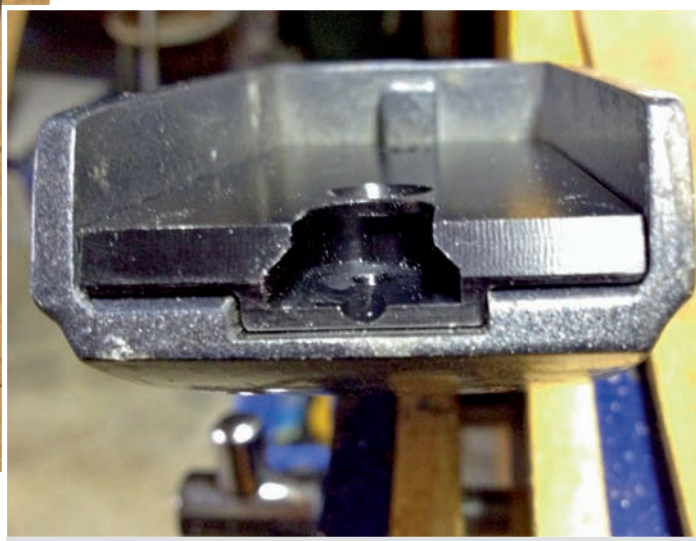
3

Areas (a) and (b) form the 'floor' for the plates. Area (b) is a little lower than (a), but there is a lip or shelf on the mouth of the plates to match so that the plates sit flush on the three points of the pocket floor.

4



Area (c) needed a hole drilled and tapped to accept a countersunk bolt that, along with the limb bolt, would help to anchor the plates to the pocket.



5

Test fitting the plates to make sure there is room for the dovetail channel and some JB Weld.

The next step was to clean up the pockets and strip and paint, get the JB Weld mixed and plastered on all contact surfaces and screw the plate down tight in the pocket to set. I started on the top pocket, then when I did the lower pocket I added some lead weights to the void in under the plates—this was to act as a vibration damper and also to weight up the lower part of the riser to add some point and stability to the bow in the hand while drawing, anchoring and shooting.

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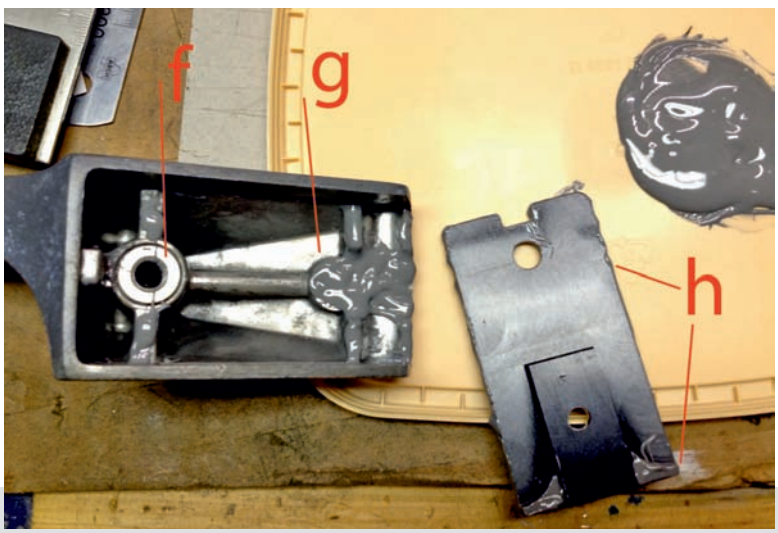
6

Pocket all cleaned up, limb bolt hole all degreased and paint stripper in action (d).

In and around the pocket area (e).

All requirements at hand for the glue-up. A final wipe-over of all surfaces with Lacquer Thinners. Mix two equal parts of the JB Weld and let it sit a bit then mix again.

7



8

I didn't put glue at point (f), the limb bolt hole, as it needed to be clean and free of glue. But I wanted glue at point (g), the counter-sunk bolt hole, for maximum strength. A little on the plates at (h), sides and lip/shelf at the mouth of the plates.

Plates all glued in and screwed down. I didn't disrupt the setting of the JB Weld for two days.

9

10

The lead that I added to the void under the plate in the bottom limb pocket for stabilisation and vibration dampening. The sinkers, once arranged symmetrically, were flooded in Araldite then covered by the plate for good.

11

I test fitted an old limb to the new plates and found that I didn't like the gap around the limb butts, so I had to come up with a plan to make it look a little tidier.

Working on filling the gap in the limb pockets was next. I got a really thick sheet of perspex and cut some blocks that would fit snugly into the pockets on top of the plates. Then I measured and marked the limb butt shape on the blocks, giving the limb butts a good 2mm space all the way around. I used a bandsaw to cut away the perspex blocks, then set about filing and sanding and fitting till the spacers fitted nicely inside the pockets. I glued them in with JB Weld and used that to fill any gaps—JB Weld is awesome stuff and you can file it or sand it or polish it when it sets. I sanded the upper edge of the perspex back to the height of the limb pockets and smoothed all that up nicely so that it would be unseen when painted.

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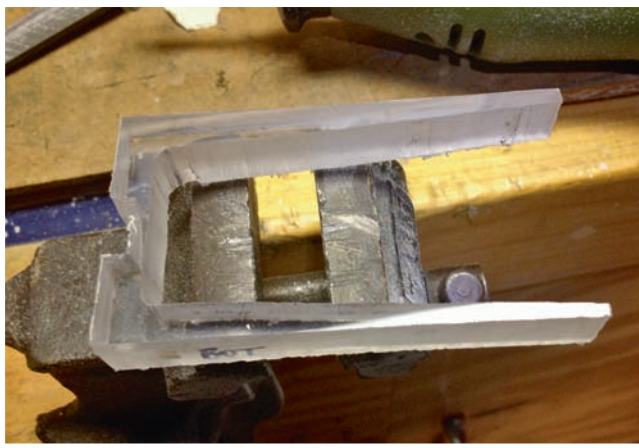
12

Perspex blocks, made to fit the pockets.

13



Limb butt shape cut away from the blocks—starting to look like a spacer now.

14

Test fitting the spacers to the pockets with the limbs in place. I had to make sure I had a nice uniform space around the limb butts themselves as any irregularities would really stand out. Lots of filing and checking.

15

Spacers all JB Welded in and sanded and shaped back to the pocket walls.

16

Spacers all done and ready for the next step - Paint prep.

The next step in my build was to prepare the riser for painting. I basically just needed to use a chemical paint stripper on the entire riser, modern paint strippers are very effective and easy to slop on in a gel form, comes off easy too with a light plastic scraper and a wash down under a tap.

I then took to the riser with fine steel wool - it came up all shiny and clean.

17

Riser all stripped and after one beer's worth of steel wool rubbing.

18

After two beers' worth of steel wooling, the riser was looking ready to be etched/primed.

19

The paint job was just a rattle can job. After a quick clean up with Lacquer Thinners I got the primer on fast before any oxidation could set in. Went for a textured Truck Bed Liner in matt black for the top coat.

A couple of light coats of primer followed by a few careful top coats with the truck bed liner and the bow was all done bar fitting a rest and stringing her up. I've been extremely happy with the results and the bow is just great to shoot. It feels so natural in the hand, draws right through to 30+ without any stack with the Trad Tech Black Max medium length limbs. Its got a nice dull thud on the shot and spits an arrow where you point it. It's no slouch either—I am shooting 500 spine Easton Lightspeeds at the moment on the field range.

So if you have one of these old compounds in the back shed at home, it's not just something of a past era that is resigned to be collecting dust … it's potentially a new adventure in archery. A doorway to some real fun and even serious competition. Look up Warfing bows or adapt my build-along and have a go yourself.

20

Close-up of pocket all done and limbs mounted.

The finished reincarnation of the Hoyt Spectra as an ILF recurve.

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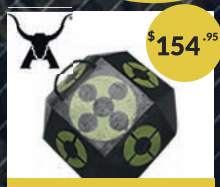

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A new experience on the eve of A NEW YEAR

Sarah, dressed and ready for her first hunt.

by **Luke van der Plaat**

My partner had been sighting in and practising with her compound bow in the past year and had really started to get the hang of it. Sarah had heard my stories and seen photos of my last couple of hunting trips down in South Australia and was very keen to get her first bow kill.

So for part of her Christmas present I decided that I would take her to my best mate's family property in South Australia to bowhunt goats. I phoned my mate's parents and explained what we were wanting to do. They were more than happy for us to come over and camp in their top block. So, it was on … we were going hunting and camping between Christmas and New Year.

Christmas had finally come and we were going through our gear just to make sure we had everything before we started to pack the ute on Boxing Day to leave. Sure enough, we had overlooked a couple of items—so bang went the 5.00am start I'd planned. With 16 hours-plus of driving to do in the next two days, it would have been good to get an early start. But it wasn't until 10.30am that our new items had been purchased and the ute was all loaded up. We planned to stay the night in Mildura, which would mean about 10 hours of driving on the first day.

The next day, after another seven-and-a-half hours on the road, we'd made it to our destination. We arrived at the campsite that we would be calling home for the next week and set up camp. I decided to show Sarah around the areas that we would be hunting and to see if we could spot any goats at all. There were good signs that there were goats still around even though there was no water to be found. We pulled up at the first spot and came across a good-looking little black nanny with two kids. We sat down and watched them for a little while before heading over to the second spot we would be hunting. Sarah spotted a young tan billy there.

After seeing those couple of nice-looking goats, we had high hopes for the next couple of days. As we started to head back to the camp we saw a massive cold front starting to make its way towards us. By the time we had cooked dinner and bunked down for the night, the cold front had hit us and hit hard. With gusts of winds up to 90km/hr, we thought the tent was going to come down around us.

We didn't get much sleep on the first night but woke

Sunset at the campsite.

Glassing over the next hill.

up surprised and pleased to find the tent still standing strong. We left camp a little later than planned and went to the spot where we had seen the nanny and kids the previous day. We didn't see them at first so we started to make our way around to the second spot. Sarah spotted them in the shade of a tree roughly 1km away down the mountain so we decided to leave them and keep on going along the route we'd planned earlier. On our way over we spotted a nice little mob of goats on the top side of the gully in the scrub line. We made our way down to where they were making, sure that the wind was in our favour. We started to stalk them and got in to about 40m when the wind changed and they caught our scent. Even though that little mob spooked, we still had high hopes so we continued to the second spot.

We got in view of the second spot and sat down on a

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nice high grassy hillside in the shade to glass out where we were expecting to see the goats. It was a good 10 minutes before we spotted our first little mob on top of the next hill over from us. With that, we started to spot more goats grazing along the top of the same hill. We made a plan on how to get over there using the little cover we had and headed off. We got halfway up the hill and decided to drop our packs. Sarah picked out the goat that she was wanting to go for. It was a nice little billy feeding by itself heading away from the rest of the mob. We made our way up the hill slowly towards him and using only a small rock as cover we made it in to 7m. It was a great shot opportunity for Sarah and she drew her 40lb PSE Fever back … but as she reached full draw the young billy took flight, taking the rest of the mob with him. They didn't go too far, so we followed them and in doing so we intercepted another small mob of billies and there was the young tan billy we'd spotted yesterday. Sarah had made her way around the bottom of the hill where she spotted them while I took a different path halfway up the hill using a dead fallen tree as cover. I got within 15m but a shot opportunity was not presented before the mob moved on a little bit further to a small gully.

Sarah came up and met me on the hill and we discussed a plan of action. We were going to have one last go at this little mob of billies. We made our way to the top of the gully where we got to within 10m of the young billy that we were after. So we sat and waited patiently for the wind to calm down as it was in our favour but still very strong from the previous night's storm. We waited and watched then for a good 15 minutes before a shot opportunity came around. Sarah drew her bow back for the second time that day and tried to line up her shot but the wind was just too strong and she couldn't keep her bow steady enough to feel confident about taking a clean kill shot. We called it quits for the day and headed back to camp.

After surviving another stormy night in the tent, we were able to get up early and head out at sunrise. We headed back to the first area that we looked at yesterday where I normally see goats at this time of day coming down from the hill to feed. We got five minutes into our walk and it started to pour on us and we couldn't see any goats or any sign of them so we headed back to camp and waited for the rain to pass.

It was 10.30 before we went out again. We headed straight back to the second spot where we'd seen the goats the day before and walked along the same ridge line to see if any goats were feeding down on the flats. Sure enough, there they were … a nice-sized mob feeding towards a valley with a lot of cover in it. Sarah and I decided to make our way over to them and try to get in front of the direction they were grazing. Well, that was a bust. When we got there, the mob had moved on and there was no sign that they were still around, so we went back down the valley and spotted another small mob taking rest in a clump of trees out on the flats. There wasn't much cover between us and the mob—just a small bush and a couple of dead trees. We tried our very best to gain some ground on the mob but before we knew it we had been spotted and the hunt was over. As we headed back to the car, we discussed the game plan for the following day and decided we would come straight back to the same place first thing in the morning.

The next day was the halfway point in our hunting trip … and all we had to show for our time so far was the memory of a few close encounters. I had set my alarm for 5.30am so we could make it out to our hunting spot in time to spot the goats coming down from the hills to warm up in the morning sun. I parked the car on top of the ridge from the hill opposite to the one where we were hoping to see goats. Before making a move, we sat in the car glassing the hillsides looking for any signs of goat. It was a good 20 minutes before I spotted movement of a little white kid two hills back. We sat and watched where they were heading and made our game plan. I worked out

the most likely spot they were heading for and it was just off the same fenceline where we were parked. We headed up along the fenceline to try and intercept them before they got to the back side of the mountain.

As we made our way up the fenceline, we lost sight of them but still could hear them walking through the scrub just above us. By the time we got a visual on them they had bedded down exactly where I'd thought they would, at a nice big rock on the side of the hill directly in the morning sun.

Sarah and I dropped our packs and started to head up the hill using the cover of the thick scrub and trees to make our way towards them. We took our time to close the gap between us from 70m to 10m. By the time we had got to the top of the rock, we thought we had put in that stalk for nothing. There was no sign of goats anywhere. We headed down the rock to the last place we'd seen a goat and sure enough Sarah spotted a young billy with a nanny and two kids sitting on the shelf just below us. I hadn't been able to see the shelf because of my path of approach. I nocked an arrow and approached the shelf as quietly as I could. As I came into view of the goats, I saw they were standing looking straight at Sarah so she couldn't move or they would spook. I drew my 55# Stalker Stick recurve back and took a shot at the young billy. As soon as I let the arrow loose, I felt myself punch the bow and I missed my target. My arrow hit a rock six inches from the front left leg of the billy. That was it; they were gone. My pride and VPA broadhead damaged by that very disappointing shot, I was happy for us to call it a day and go for a swim in the dam as the temperature was reaching the high 30s.

We started the next day the same way but our chances of getting three goats were starting to look very dim. We got back out to the hunting spot just on sunrise again. I'd put in several hours of target practice late the previous day to make up for that disappointing shot. Sarah did some practice too and showed me up slightly on the targets.

We parked the car a little bit further back from where we'd parked the day before and walked up the hill to glass the mountain for goats again. Sure enough, within five minutes we spotted a good-sized mob of goats on a little hill directly in front of us about a kilometre away. We could see the little tan billy that we had spotted the first two days. We both started to get very excited and made our move towards them. As we started to get closer to them it started to look like they were moving into the little valley and heading back up into the scrub line.

Sarah stayed at the base of the valley while I walked up the far side to see if I could spot them. I had made it to the top of the valley without seeing or hearing them and my heart dropped. Oh no, today was going to be another bust! I made my way back down to Sarah and told her the bad news and just as I did we heard that lovely sound of goats talking to each other. It just so happened that they hadn't moved up the valley; they'd just moved to the other side of the hill. We looked up to where we heard the noise and there they were, coming back. Our faces lit up with joy and the stalk was back on.

We moved up the hill to a small tree using only the long grass to help cover us. As we were moving up the hill, we caught the interest of a nice big billy that wanted to come and suss us out. We made it to a little shady tree that offered us a bit more cover then the grass and sat for a good 10 or 15 minutes watching this billy come closer and closer towards us. Sarah and I both wanted to put an arrow straight through him and take him home but as we didn't have permission to take trophies, the only thing we could do was watch him come within 7m of us and lose interest and move away. From where we were sitting, we couldn't see the rest of the mob so we headed back down the hill to get a better view. Once we were at the bottom of the hill again, we found that the goats had turned tail and started to head back up into the scrub.

I made a quick decision to try to intercept them on the top of the hill. When I got to the top, I looked down to

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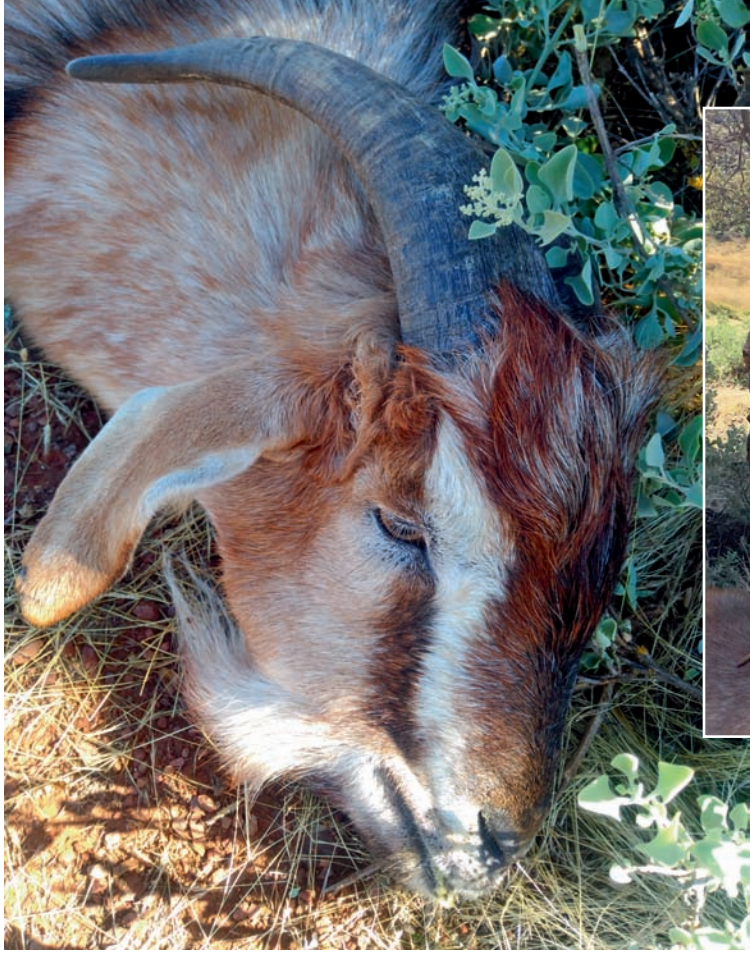

The nice looking little tan goat (left) and (above) Luke with the billy.

where Sarah was … she had started to make her way a little bit further up from me to a small gully in the path of the goats to intercept them if I spooked them.

I had made it to the top of the hill by the time half the mob had gone through. I could hear the young tan billy that we were after talking to the other half of the mob. He was coming in from my right-hand side so I nocked an arrow, drew my bow back and waited from him to come out from behind the bushes. I took aim and sent the arrow straight through his lungs. He didn't know what had hit him. He looked around and saw me and tried to run off. He made it about 40m and came to rest in the shade of a nearby tree while the rest of the mob took off. Well, that was one goat to show for our efforts so far, and we had just one day left.

It was now New Year's Eve and our last chance for Sarah to get her first bow kill. We'd had a late night because the night before we were gutting and skinning my goat. As well, my mate and his girlfriend had come up to camp for a few drinks.

So we were a bit late getting away and got out to our hunting spot about 9.00am. We sat on the same ridgeline that we had glassed from during the past couple of days and it was a good half hour till we spotted a large mob of goats walking across the mountainside. We made our way across to the valley we thought that they would feed down. We got to the bottom of the valley and started to head up, making sure that we were being quiet. We got halfway up the valley and lost sight of the mob once again.

We walked up to the ridge to see if we could find them … we couldn't see them, but we could hear them—they had gone down into the next valley over. We made our way over and spotted them straight away feeding on small bushes and down into the flats. We tried to make our way around to get ourselves into a better position but while we were crossing the flats they must have caught our scent because they just disappeared.

We decided to head back towards the car and on the way we saw another small mob of goats with some very nice skins in them. We sat and watched them and I worked out what direction they were heading. They were coming straight up the hill towards us so we moved uphill a little more so Sarah would be shooting downhill and the wind was coming onto our faces. Sarah found a nice little spot about 10m off the track and bunkered down to wait for her opportunity. I sat back a bit to give her a bit of room. Not five minutes later the goats had made their way up to were Sarah was waiting patiently and quietly. A nice little brown billy came into about 14m of Sarah and she drew her bow back, found her mark and let her first arrow loose.

Sarah, about to take the white goat.

Sarah with her two goats

Backpacking out.

It found its mark, going in just behind the left shoulder and out just behind the rib. A nice little goat for her first bow kill. The little billy wasn't sure what had happened and started to walk back from the direction he had just come from. Before I could blink, Sarah had another arrow nocked and her bow drawn back again. She had another little billy in her sights—a little pure white one with a thin mohawk down its spin. It looked straight at her and took about three steps forwards but Sarah remained drawn and waited for it to stop … and she took her second goat in a matter of minutes. I couldn't be more proud of her. Two kills in two minutes! I was stunned, and so was she.

We sat back and watched the other goats pass then it was time to take a few pictures and backpack the goats out along the 2.5km track over two ridges back to the car.

Sarah took the little white goat and my bow because it was just a little lighter then hers. She walked out like a trooper before dropping the goat at the car with a huge sigh of relief. There was only time for a small break before we started to prep the goats. So we spent New Year's Eve skinning and butchering her first two bow kills.

It was a great ending to 2016 and an even better start to 2017. We got the three goats that we were after, we have goat meat to last us for months and three beautiful floor rugs to go with this amazing experience.

The writer of this story wins a pack of three **BONECRUSHER BROADHEADS** *compliments of*

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Gutting one of the goats (left) and (above) the meat from the trip.

Out of the box to shooting on the World Stage

Setting up a new bow

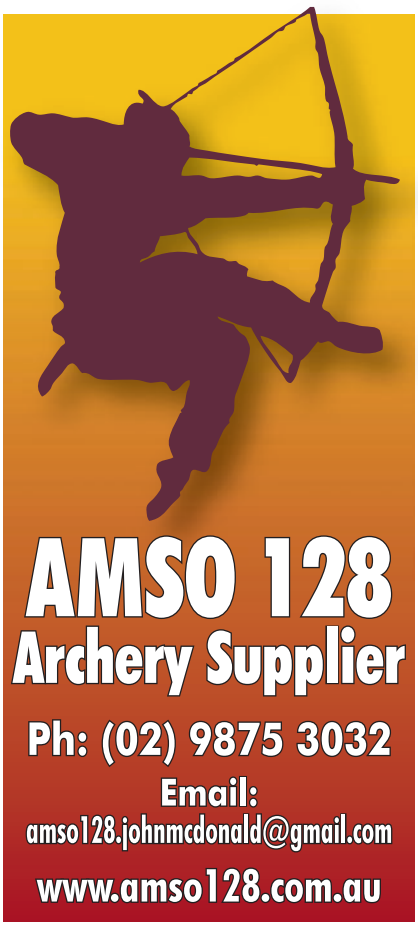
by STEVE CLIFTON

Over the past few months I have had quite a few people asking about how I set up a brand new bow when it arrives. There are many different ways one can approach setting up a new bow, and considerations also need to be given to what type of bow you are coming from. For example, moving from a 41in ATA bow to a 36in ATA can alter the peep height and D-Loop length, so learning how to adapt to these changes is key to getting the bow from the box to tuned ready for the competition field.

Strings

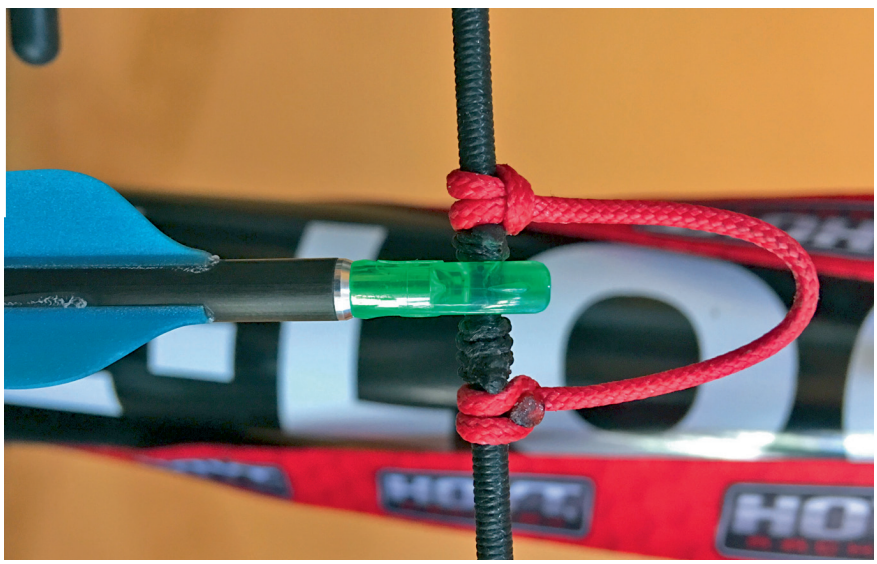
As I do all bows that I order, I like to straight away replace the stock strings with custom made strings; in particular I really like the ones that are made by Pat Coghlan (Scout bowstrings). As I have mentioned previously, these strings are second to none and give me the precision and consistency I want from a bow's performance. I have been using BCY-8190 string material for the past few years and I love it. However it seems most of the world still prefers the BCY-452x (and this is what 99 per cent of Scout bowstrings are made from) so if you are ordering new strings, a safe bet is to use the BCY-452x material.

From experimenting in the past, I have come up with a strand count that suits how I like the bow to hold. This consists of 28 strands in the cables and 26 strands in the string. The reason I like to have more strands in the cables is that I feel it gives my hold more stability, as well as a firmer wall. I shoot the string at 26 strands because I feel it is the least amount of strands in a string I can get away for additional speed and stability. Typically I like to shoot speedballs on my strings as the additional weight placed on the string can give roughly 3fps to 5fps of extra speed. Check with your bow-tuning guides to get these measurements, as placing them in the right place is critical to gaining the extra speed.



Nocking points and D-Loop

Once the strings are on the bow, the next thing is getting the nocking points and D-Loop set up for the rest and arrows I plan on using. It is important that the nock-points are set so that there is a tiny gap between the nock and the nock-points so that when you draw the bow back the nock-points don't press down on the



nock. I like to suggest that you have a gap around the thickness of one strand of nock-point thread *(see the pictures for reference)*. For my Hoyt bows, I have always found that the best place to initially set the arrow rest blade height at is just below the centre of the berger button hole and the bottom nocking-point level with this. I like to use around four or five knots for the bottom nocking-point and only two above. This allows me to get my release aid's jaw close to level behind the nock. For my D-Loop, I have a standard length of 22mm (internal measurement) which I use for my 35/36in ATA bows. If I was going to a longer ATA bow, say 41in, I would consider going slightly longer as the string angle would be a lot steeper and require my trigger hand to be further away from my nock (to be comfortable).

Arrow Rest Blade Angle

One thing I have spent a fair bit of time playing with is getting the angle of the arrow rest blade such that the arrow's fletches can pass over it with minimal disruption, but also so that the arrow flight out of the bow is as clean as possible. I have found that having the Trophy Taker 0.010in blade at between 35 degrees and 40 degrees gives me the clearance I like and have the arrow shoot through paper with a slightly high tear (which allows for the fletches to clear the blade better). While I am getting the nocking points and other rest-related thing sorted, now is the best time to set the angle how I like it, ready for me to be able to get a centreshot later on in the tuning process.

Peep Sight and Timing

Once the rest, D-Loop and nock points are in, simply insert the peep sight into the string at your desired height and you're mostly ready to go! What I like to do before I do any tuning is shoot 20 or 30 arrows (blank

butt) to let the string mould into the cams tightly.

I then check my timing and set this correctly. On the Hoyt bows, getting the cams to synchronise is as simple as adding or removing twists out of one of the cables. One thing I like to do before changing the timing is check to see if the bow's draw length is too short or too long, as this will influence what I do to the bow to get the timing correct.

For example, if the bottom cam's stop hits the cable first before the top cam, and the bow's draw length is too short, what I would do is add twists into the buss cable (the one with the yoke) which will increase the draw length as well as retard the bottom cam's timing slightly (bringing the two cams into alignment). However, say the bottom cam was still hitting first and I was happy with where the draw length was, I would simply remove twists from the control cable until they were both touching at the same time. Note that removing and adding twists into the cables will alter the draw length as well as the poundage so if you are adding many twists into the cables, check the draw weight to ensure it is still close to what you are expecting it to be.

Setting up the cam timing on a Hoyt bow can also be very straightforward. Typically, I set the top stop 1mm to 2mm ahead of the bottom cam (that is to say, the top cam touches the cable before the bottom one does). However, what I like to do after getting my draw length set correctly is to 'creep tune' the bow so that I get the nock travel correct which will allow me to pull at different levels into the wall and still ensure the arrow hits at the same height on the target. How I like to do this is typically set up a target at 30m, get an accurate sightmark and then start varying how hard I pull into the wall. Firstly I start out by relaxing right off the wall so that the bow is close to coming out of the valley. I shoot a few arrows from this point, and then try pulling quite hard into the wall and shoot a few more. If the bow is creep-tuned correctly, the arrows should all land at the same height on the target. However, if it isn't and the nock travel is not yet level, try adding or subtracting one twist out of the control cable to get the cable to hit the top cam earlier or later and repeat the process.

CENTRESHOT

One of the last things I do before getting out and getting sightmarks is to get my centreshot set up. There are several different ways people like to achieve this but the most simple way—and how I have done it my entire shooting career—is using the walk-back method. What this entails is setting your bow at roughly your 30m to 50m sight mark, standing 2m from the target and shooting an arrow at the centre of the target. Next, without changing your sight, go back to the further distance and shoot another arrow. If your centreshot is correct, the arrows should land in the same vertical line as the first one. If the arrow lands to the left of your first arrow, move your rest to the right to bring it back in, and if it lands to the right, move your rest left. Do this over and over until the arrows land at the same line as each other and you'll have a spot-on centreshot.

Finally, once I have the above sorted and the bow is tuned up nicely, I like to spent a bit of time changing the nocking point heights on the bow to see how it affects the holding of the bow. For those not familiar with the process, by changing the height of the nocking point, and thus the D-Loop too, you are actually changing the angle at which your front hand is pressed against the bow's grip. This is something I learned many years ago from Clint Freeman and found it to be an important step when setting up a new bow, particularly one I have not shot before. Typically, I will shoot the bow for a few ends and take note of how the bow holds. I then move the bottom nock point up and down (1/8in at a time) until I can find a good position where I think the bow aims the best. With the longer ATA bows I have sometimes found that the best place for my aiming is actually towards the centre of the berger hole, which is about ¼in higher than I set the bow up initially. However results will vary so this is something you might want to experiment with over the course of a few hours/days but it does slightly change how the bow aims so for me is a worthwhile exercise.

Hopefully this has given you some idea around how I like to set up my bows. The info above can be applied to all bows from all manufacturers so do experiment with things and see how your bow responds to the changes. Don't be afraid to try something new, if it doesn't work out, return it back to how it was and try something else! There are always extra points out there; we just have to hunt for them.

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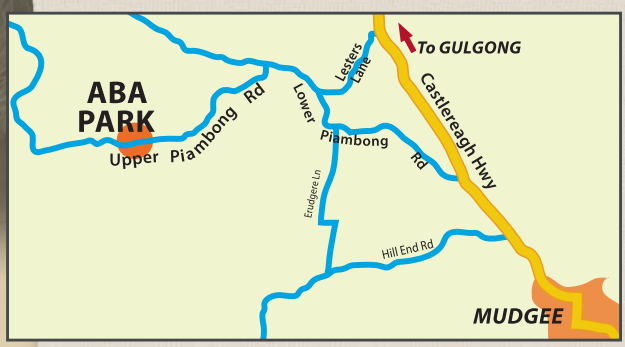

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Contact Ralph Boden: E: fulldraw@bigpond.com
P: 02 4392 6810 | M: 0413 054 722

TONY JENSEN

Leatherwork basics

There are any number of reasons why people take up leatherwork. It might be that you've suddenly given up drinking and fishing and now you're looking for something else to spend your money on that requires vast quantities of time in your man/woman cave away from the mundane madness of the household, or you may simply be like me and just enjoy being able to make your own gear.

As I shared previously, I made the move into leatherwork when I started working on stations. Working for a pittance, I had to account for each and every dollar I made and if that meant I could make or repair a bridle myself then I was all for it. I smile every time I think about what the manager used to say when I asked him about my wages: "It may not seem like a lot now, but the experience is worth more than money," he'd tell me. I would have happily Googled what I needed to know and have taken the cash!

Left: Diamond awl.

For anyone who is starting out in leatherwork, there is a basic set of kit that will enable you to make almost everything that you need. Here I give you a look at those bits and pieces and a description to tell you what they are and how they work.

The basic toolkit

Steel ruler
Diamond awl and round awl
Stitching groover
Edger
Stitching spacer
Knife; bootmakers knife and round knife
Hammer
Scissors
Egg butt needles
Thread
Contact cement
Saddlers clamps/ stitching pony

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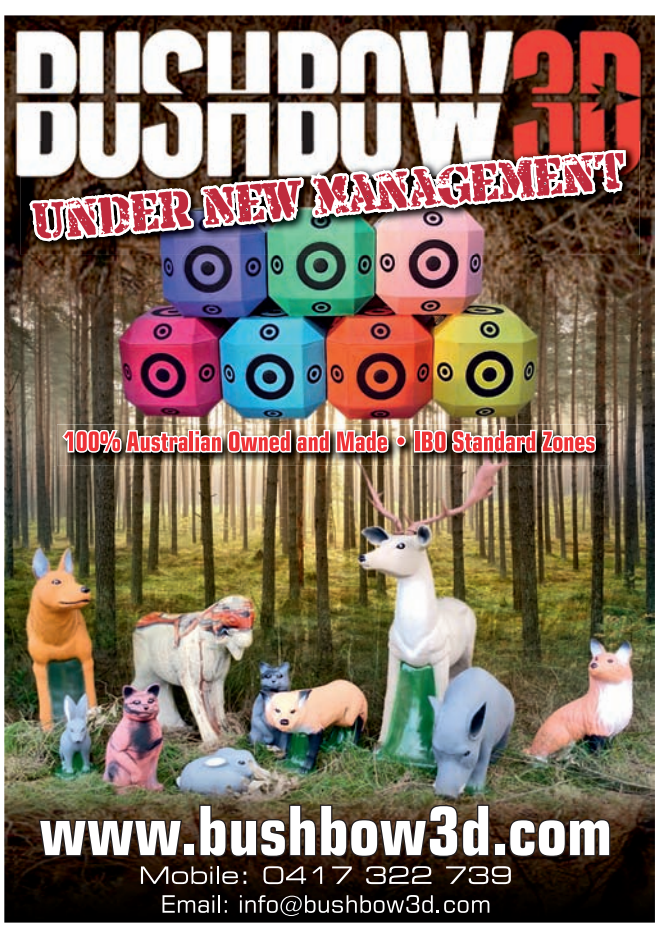
Steel ruler: Try to get a steel ruler as opposed to an old wooden ruler like we used in school. But realistically, as long as you have something that can measure down to millimetres you should be fine. I just find that steel rulers tend to stay accurate because they won't shrink or swell, it doesn't matter if you accidentally run the knife over them when you're trying to cut a straight line (although it doesn't do much for the knife) but the ruler's all good and the numbers won't fade over time. If you can afford it, also spring for a steel square rule and a metre rule as well.

Diamond awl and round awl:

Over time you will become very familiar with these two pieces of kit. The diamond awl is the thing that makes the hole for your stitching. The blade of the awl has sharp edges and slices through the leather and makes a diamond shape, hence the name. Be careful when using your diamond awl because it will also slice through thread if you happen to stitch back through a previous hole. That's where the round awl comes in. Some people call this a 'scratch awl' but it is essentially the same thing. The round/scratch awl is used to make a hole bigger if you need to back-stitch and can also be used to mark out a job on your leather, giving it the name 'scratch awl'. Just a point on using your round awl to mark out your job; be very careful if you do intend to use it for that reason because once the lines are marked, it can be quite difficult to erase them. That's why I tend to use a HB pencil. Even though it may leave an indentation on the leather, that can be worked out with a little bit of rubbing.

Round awl. (Diamond awl pictured on title page.)

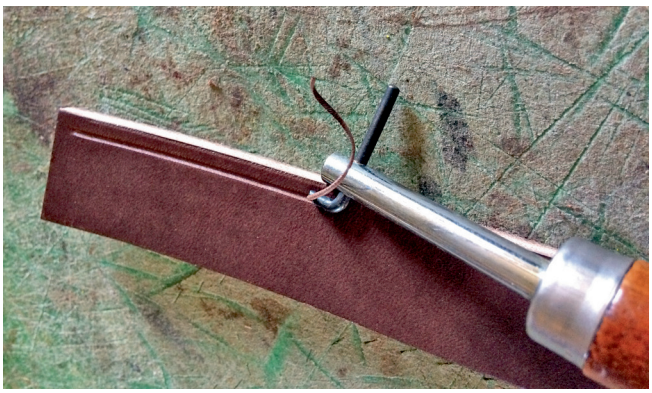


Stitching groover:

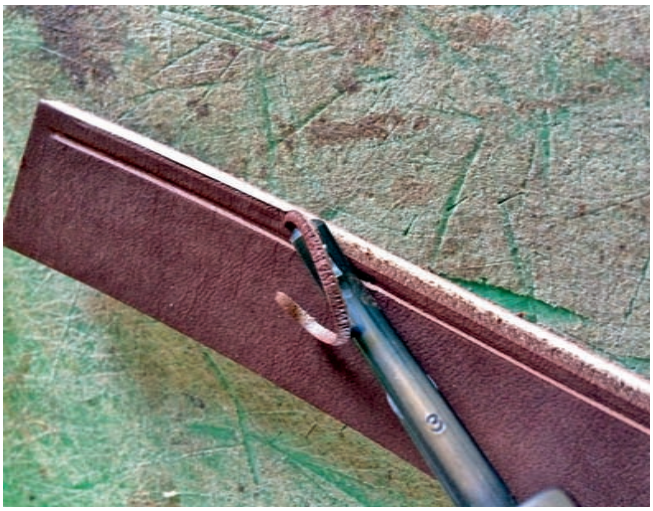
As the name 'groover' implies, it is easily the coolest tool in your kit. This tool is used to make a line for where you want to stitch. You can adjust the groover to any width you like and it will cut a small channel in the leather and will help keep your stitches from sticking out too high on your leather and possibly getting worn away. It is also a really useful tool for creating decorative designs. There are many styles of groovers available on the market but one that has joined my wishlist is a groover where the slide that does the channelling can be switched to either side for either right handed or left handed users and the cutter is located in the centre of the tool. By the way, if anyone is interested, my birthday is in July … just saying!

Edger:

Available in a variety of sizes, the edger is used to remove the sharp edge off your job. It makes a big difference to the feel of the finished product and is especially important if you are making gear that will go on an animal so that it doesn't rub or cut into them. It also makes it easier to burnish up your job for a really nice finish.



Stitching groover.



Edger.

Stitching spacer:

Again, one of those tools that has more names than uses. It can also be called a 'revolving pritching wheel' or 'pritching wheel' but it's all the same thing. These are available in a variety of configurations and are measured according to the number of stitches per inch of leather stitched. If you like a lot of stiches in your job because you enjoy using your diamond awl then go for a Number 8 wheel. If you're like me and think you can get by with the minimum then try a Number 4 or 6.

Stitching spacer.

Knives:

I have included two of the basics here that most people have in their kit. I managed to get through a lot of years with just a pocket knife but as I started getting a bit of money together—no thanks to my wealth of knowledge—I bought both a straight knife or boot makers knife and a round knife. They both do similar jobs but have different applications. The round knife is excellent for trimming ends or slicing strips. The straight knife is good for cutting out designs and both are good for tapering the ends of jobs. If you have to budget, I'd also recommend a Stanley knife or craft knife. These are a great option if you aren't too flash at sharpening knives because all you have to do if you get a dull edge is just replace it.

Hammer and scissors:

A good quality hammer is a must and so is a good pair of scissors. Make sure if you buy a pair of scissors that they are heavy fabric type of scissors that will stand up to

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Knives.

cutting felt or light suede. I use a saddlers hammer which has a very small tapered head and an elongated flat back, similar to a claw hammer without the claw. This lets me put tacks into a job without bashing my fingers which is a good thing when you've got butcher's hands like mine. It's also good for flattening out and seating stitches once your job is finished.

Egg butt needles and thread:

Don't be afraid to walk into your local leatherwork shop and ask for a packet of 'egg-butt' needles. They might look at you funny, but guaranteed it won't be because you asked for needles! These needles are specifically designed for leatherwork and have rounded ends so that you don't hurt yourself if you do manage to 'jab' a needle into your finger. The thread you use will vary depending on what you're working on. Most hand stitching is done with a 0.5mm thickness thread that usually comes waxed to protect the thread from being exposed to the elements. You can choose from braided, linen, cotton or polyester threads, prewaxed or stuff that you can add wax to yourself. I like to use the 'speedy- stitcher' thread that comes prewaxed.

Hammer and scissors.

Contact cement:

Any glue that bonds on contact will do. There are specific glues that saddlers use but essentially they all do the same job and it's just the brand that's different. Using glue to hold a job in place was a trick I learned very early on after getting sick of trying to wrangle bits of leather and hold them in place with nails to get them stitched.

Saddlers clamps:

Saddlers clamps are a throwback to an early time when saddlers used to hold their leather jobs in order to stitch them together. Lefflers leather in Melbourne are the only stockists I have found that still carry the traditional saddlers clamps. There are variations on the sys-

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Needles and thread.

tem called 'stitching ponies' where you sit on a stool that holds the clamps to do your stitching. Either is fine and simply comes down to your personal preference and availability.

But wait, there's more:

You could very easily add a hole punch to this list of tools but I have found that you can get by without one provided that you have an electric drill. If you desperately need a hole punch because you don't have a drill then by all means get one. There are two kinds, either the loose punches that you can buy in packs or separately or the all-in-one revolving punch that looks like a set of pliers.

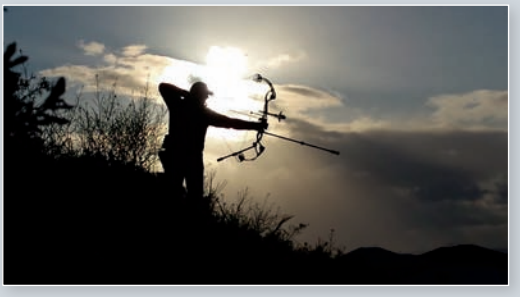
The list of gear I've discussed is far from comprehensive and I'm sure there are a few people out there going, "What about the…?". This is enough to get you started and then once you've well and truly developed an interest and skill level with your leatherwork, you will without a doubt spend all your extra hard-earned cash buying more bits and pieces that you find you just can't live without.

Saddlers clamps and stitching ponies help make the job easier.

If you are interested in leatherwork, here are a few places that should be able to get you started: Mac Lace Leather, Birdsall Leather and Lefflers Leather.

Entries
PHOTO COMPETITION

Left: Consequence of arguing about opening the gate, Heather Pender.



Late afternoon field practice, Danie-Louis Oosthuizen.

Sticks, Jeffery Evans.

Salting a skin, Allan Driver.

Water and buffalo, Debbie Larkings.

Taking aim, Andrew Deck.

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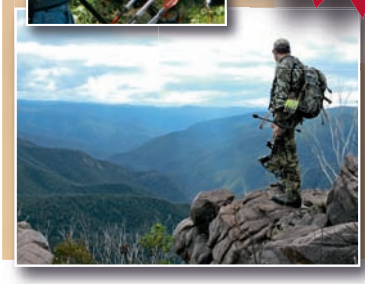

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~~In~~ outside the zone

Unfamiliar territory?

by Nils Spruitt

I would say every single person on this planet has at least a dream, an aspiration or a goal they would like to achieve at some point in their lifetime. Such thinking is normal. It is part of our make up or our psych. It's a trait exclusive to our species and it's ongoing, but what do you do when a goal, dream or aspiration is eventually realised? To be honest, I have no idea because the attainment of a long desired ambition is something quite foreign to me. I can't really recall ever reaching a set goal before although for the sake of peace and harmony, I should point out that the day my wife said yes to my rather off-the-cuff marriage proposal was, and still is, a dream come true. (This is my warranty should mid-management happen to become bored one day, pick up this particular magazine and for once in her life, actually read my editorial.) Such a miracle has not happened as yet nor is it ever likely to, but one does have to be on one's toes when referring to delicate matters of the matrimonial heart. As Digs says, "Happy wife … happy life."

Anyway, back to what I was saying. I am now at a total loss. My world has been turned upside down. I am

not sure what to think and—more importantly—how to act. I feel kind of empty inside. This is very much unfamiliar territory for me. Is this normal? Is this how I should feel? In order to avoid total confusion, perhaps I should elaborate and bring you all up to speed with what has recently transpired. Not only did I succeed in reaching a goal, I actually made good on two. Yes, you heard me correctly. Old Nils has attained two long-term aspirations and both within a matter of days of each other. I never dreamed I would accomplish one goal, let alone two, even though success is the whole concept and basis behind setting such a goal in the first place. To set a goal without any hope of attainment would be akin to lunacy. That would be like Digs dreaming one day he will become prime minister. It just will not happen. Public schooling, you see. Puts him behind the eight ball right from the outset.

I suppose I should start at the very beginning and give you the background behind my latest successes. When I took up field archery quite a few years back, it was always my ambition to shoot a perfect round. Now many of you fellow field archers out there would automatically assume at this point I am referring to 400 points, but that is a perfect score not a perfect round. As a diehard, traditional bowman who stubbornly refuses to shoot wooden shafts and therefore must shoot my carbons from the red markers, the dream was to score on all 20 targets in the one-arrow round. At this point if you are thinking, "What sort of goal is that?", then I can quite confidently assume you are not a traditional, off-the-shelf archer who is trying to shoot from the red markers. You would be a sighted shooter and probably a compounder at that. I am not saying that such an ambition is an impossibility nor am I saying it hasn't already been done by probably many traditional field archers before me. What I am saying is

that for a no-talented, low credentialed bowman like me, scoring on 20 targets at ranges out to 48m with only 20 shots was (you will note the use of past tense), a lofty pinnacle to climb. In fact, at times it seemed insurmountable.

Once or twice I came close to achieving my goal, but in the main it was generally four or five complete wipes every one-arrow round. I don't have to remind those who are in a similar position just how frustrating this can be, especially after you have shot a very good three-arrow round during the morning session. It can also mean a make or break when it comes to mounting the dais at medal presentations.

About four months ago I gave away field shooting completely. In my sometimes deranged state of mind, I actually blamed competitive shooting for my failures and frustration in the hunting field. At the time, it all seemed so simple and obvious. Field shooting from red markers was unrealistic and not in harmony with the distances I expected to shoot when out hunting. Excuses … and that's all they were, but the sad part is for a while I actually believed it. I came back down to earth when my hunting shots did not improve one iota and if anything, they actually got worse. Then there is another reason why I decided to go back to field archery. In a nutshell, I missed competitive shooting.

And so it came to pass that on my first return shoot, the unthinkable happened and I scored on all the targets in the one-arrow round. Maybe the break did me the world of good or perhaps it was simply an act of God. I would like to think that just for once our creator might have felt sorry for me. Whatever the reason, I shot my personal best ABA score on that day and in doing so I proved to all and sundry that when the humidity is low and the air is still, Nils can actually shoot a decent round.

It was unfortunate that nobody else present on the day had the state of mind to contact a major news crew or at least the local newspaper. I would have thought such an achievement to be newsworthy. Now I think back on it, perhaps I did detect a faint twinge of resentment/jealousy towards my performance from one or two competitors. If that is the case then I most humbly bequeath to those few unfortunate souls a simple line from the book of Nils, "Let the common folk feed upon the carcass of their own inadequacy whilst I alone drink wine and bask in the glory that is victory"—Chapter 5 Verse 8. Ooh, but I do love being a winner, and so that was goal number one.

Six days after this momentous occasion, I realised yet another long term aspiration. Those of you who do actually read *Outside the Zone* and not just look at the pictures, might remember back in the September/October issue where I admitted to all and sundry that I was the worst fox whistler in the world. All my adult life (and some of the teenage years as well), I have felt this way. No matter what I did or how I did it, I could not seem to lure a fox. If anything, I was more adept at scaring them away than anything else. And if you

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remember correctly, I also stated in that particular issue how I was going to try to remedy this problem. Well, I did and now I can openly proclaim and in glowing terms I might add, that I am not the worst fox whistler in the world. I am merely the worst shooter of foxes in the world, but that is a major improvement. At least I can now get them close enough to have a shot.

The weekend following my triumphant return to field archery, Digs and I did an overnighter on a new property situated a couple of hours drive from home. It isn't a big property, but there was a little pig sign about, a few deer rubs and plenty of rabbit middens. We began our hunt around 2.00 o'clock on the Saturday afternoon which was basically as soon as we set up our camp beds in the shed. I wasn't expecting much due to the early hour, but we did need to familiarise ourselves with the overall layout of the property. I had two fox whistles with me and I took my first stand about 300m from camp. For the next 10 minutes, I screeched away with both lures, but not a single fox came in to investigate. Was I surprised? Heck no. This was normal. Nevertheless, I had made a promise to myself that I was going to give this fox whistling lark a fair go, so Digs and I walked about 200m further before I again made a stand.

This time, and to my complete and utter amazement, I saw a fox come tearing towards me out from the gully of a narrow creek even before the first shrill notes of the whistle had drifted off into the big unknown. Wow, this was exciting stuff. Digs couldn't see the fast approaching fox, but he knew by my body language something was up. The reynard pulled up about 40m short. Too far for a shot so my immediate thought was, what would Graeme Duff do in this situation? He would not use the whistle, that's for sure, so I made little squeaky noises through pursed lips and much to my surprise this worked and in he came. I took the shot with my 'curve when the fox was about 12m away and still closing. Alas, my arrow smashed violently into a tree right alongside the fox and disintegrated into a thousands pieces. Naturally the fox didn't take too kindly to this and bolted back the way he came.

Was I disappointed? No, not really. I still couldn't get over the fact I actually called one in. Of course I would have liked to have nailed him, but that would have been asking for too much, I feel. Already I had reached my goal, but could I do it

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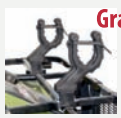

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again? That was the real question. By the end of the afternoon I had whistled in three more foxes plus a feral cat … and what did we have to show for it? Two broken arrows. Digs missed the cat at about 10m and I missed another fox at about 20m. It was poor shooting … can't argue with that, but as every experienced whistler out there would already know, the vital chest area of either animal, when it is head-on, is not a big target. This was new territory for both Digs and me and it was much harder than we both thought it would be. Don't interpret this as an excuse: I am merely stating fact.

The next morning we hunted separate gullies and I again called in another fox only to miss him at about 8m. As I said, world's worst shooter of foxes, but at least I could call them in now … and with some degree of regularity, or so it would seem. Even Digs was impressed with my new-found abilities. Four weeks later, we gave it another try. Same place, same routine and just to prove the first hunt was no fluke, I whistled in four more foxes. This time however, only Digs was presented with a shot which he of course missed.

The more I think about it, the more I am convinced I am being a little too severe upon myself. When I miss, I do so with much grace and poise. Digs, on the other hand, just misses. I am thinking it should be he who wears the world's-worst-fox-shooter cap … and seeing as I am the one telling this tale, I will gladly hand over the mantle to my mate. For once I don't mind playing second fiddle and besides, he uses sights so to my mind his shooting is worse than mine.

So there you have it. Two goals reached in less than two weeks. Unheard off in my lifetime and yes, I am pleased, but as I have already alluded to, I am also feeling it is a somewhat hollow victory. What do I do now? Where do I go from here? I suppose I will just have to come up with a replacement goal or two. After all, we men must have more than just one purpose in life. We all need a target to strive and aim for, figuratively speaking of course. The obvious one would be to become an all-round better archer, but as I said near the beginning, only a complete idiot would set a goal that is unachievable.

Rest assured, I will eventually come up with something befitting my one individual strength and my many weaknesses. In the meantime, I am thinking perhaps a name change is called for now that I am a proven fox caller and besides, the name Nils Spruitt sounds so uninspiring. How does Nils Duff sound? No? Well, what about Graeme Spruitt? Yes, I like the sound of that. Until next time.

What's On

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Branch B Safari

Hosted by
Townsville District Bowhunters
Bohle Rd, Townsville
10th & 11th June 2017

Saturday (Nominations close 8am 10/6/17)
8:30am Bow Check
9:00am Muster
9:30am Round 1 Start
11:30am Lunch
12:30pm Round 2 Start
2:30pm Round 3 Start
Novelty Events after Round 3
5:00pm AGM
6:30 to 7pm Dinner

Sunday
8:30am Muster
8:45am Round 4 Start

Lunch and Presentations will commence ASAP after scores have been finalised

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

Camping Available

Nominations to be emailed to:
branchbscorerecorder@bowhunters.org.au
Early nominations will go into the prize draw for lucky door prize
Costs: Adult - $25.00, Junior/Cub - $15.00, Family - $50.00

Townsville District Bowhunters Inc. Invitational Shoot 2017

29th – 30th April and 1st May 2017

Saturday
7.00am Breakfast
8.00am Muster and Bow Check
8.30am 3 Arrow ABA
10.30am Morning Tea
11.00am 1 Arrow ABA
12.30pm Lunch
1.30pm 3D/Hunters 1st Round
4.00pm Knife & Axe/Novelties
6.00pm Dinner

Sunday
7.00am Breakfast
8.00am Muster
8.30am 3 Arrow ABA
10.30am Morning Tea
11.00am 1 Arrow ABA
12.30pm Lunch
1.30pm 3D/Hunters 2nd Round
4.00pm Knife & Axe 2nd Round/Novelties
6.00pm Dinner
7.00pm Presentations

Monday
7.00am Breakfast/Go Home

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

- 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

Branch A • Northern Territory State Titles

10th to 16th July 2017 to be held at Dead Centre Bowhunters in Alice Springs

Comprising 3 days of IFAA then 2 days ABA, finishing with 2 days 3D

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Families $40/$70/$90,
Adults $20/$30/$40
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Contacts for Booking & Enquiries

President - Geoff Bond
Mobile 0434 690 188
bondieburg@gmail.com

Secretary - Chris Manners
Mobile 0407 012 332
mannerschris11@gmail.com

Treasurer - Stuart Renwick
Mobile 0468 483 264
stuartrenwick38@gmail.com

SHOOT CALENDAR

March-April-May

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
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	West Gippsland Field Archers *	G - Branch	State 3D
4th-5th	Granite Belt Bowmen*	D – Branch	Traditional
5th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
11th	Liverpool City Archers*	NSW	QRE Target
11th-12th	Mount Clay Archers	H – Branch	Hunting Awards
10th-12th	Tuggeranong Archery Club*	ACT	Aust Field Open
11th-12th	Playford District Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA/3D/IFAA
11th-12th	Northern Rivers Field Archers*	NSW	3D
12th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
12th	Full Boar Archers	B – Branch	ABA
18th-19th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
18th-19th	Roma and District Bowmen*	D – Branch	Branch 3D
18th-19th	Lithgow Valley Archers*	F – Branch	Branch ABA/3D
18th-19th	Peel Archers*	J – Branch	ABA/3D
19th	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
19th	Mackay & District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
18th-19th	Hawkesbury Field Archers*	NSW	3D
25th-26th	Diamond Valley Archers*	Vic	3D
25th-26th	Caboolture and District Bowmen*	Qld	3D
25th	Latrobe City Archery Park *	Vic	TCAG 720
26th	Phoenix Field Archers *	G – Branch	Rendezvous
26th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
26th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
26th	Latrobe City Archery Park *	Vic	Short Range Championships
April			
1st	Western Valley Archery Club*	ACT	State Clout
1st	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
1st-2nd	Liverpool City Archers*	NSW	National MP
1st-2nd	Mendooran Archers*	E – Branch	ABA Invitational
1st-2nd	Lake Glenbawn Field Archers*	NSW	3D
2nd	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
2nd	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
8th-9th	Mornington Peninsular Bowmen*	Vic	3D
9th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
9th	Full Boar Archers	B – Branch	ABA
15th-16th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
15th-16th	North Albert Field Archers*	Qld	Traditional
16th	Penrith City Archers*	NSW	Field QRE
16th	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
16th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	3D
17th	Penrith City Archers*	NSW	Field IFAA
13th-17th	ABA Park Mudgee*	National Safari	ABA & 3D

22nd-23rd	Emerald Archery/Central Highlands*	C – Branch	ABA Invitational
22nd-23rd	Mount Petrie Bowmen*	Qld	SQAS Target Championships
23rd	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
29th-30th	Renegade Bowmen*	D – Branch	State IFAA
29th-30th	Western Plains Archers*	J – Branch	State IFAA
29th-1st May	Townsville District Bowhunters*	B – Branch	ABA Invitational
30th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA

May

6th-7th	Hunter Bowmen*	E – Branch	Branch IFAA
6th-7th	Ipswich Field Archers*	Qld	Ipswich Classic
7th	Boola Valley Field Archers	G – Branch	IFAA
7th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
7th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
7th	Penrith City Archers*	NSW	Forest Round
14th	Archery SA*	SA	Max Manual Memorial
14th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
14th	Full Boar Archers	B – Branch	ABA
20th-21st	Saxon Archery Club*	C – Branch	Branch IFAA
20th-21st	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
20th-21st	Lakeside Bowmen*	D – Branch	Branch IFAA
20th-21st	Capital Field Archers*	F – Branch	Branch ABA & 3D
20th-21st	Colac Ottway Archers*	H – Branch	ABA
20th-21st	Border Bowmen*	I – Branch	Branch ABA
20th-21st	Western Plains Archers*	J – Branch	ABA & 3D
20th-21st	Lake Macquarie Field Archers*	NSW	3D
21st	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
21st	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
21st	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	3D
28th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
28th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	3D

Black type shows ABA events, green type represents Archery Australia events and blue type denotes 3DAAA events
ABA national events are in red. *Shoots marked with an * are cross-participation events*

12/ 2016

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Preferred method of receiving Archery Action
❒ digitally online
❒ hard copy (mailed)

Post completed form to:
General Secretary ABA
PO Box 5124
Brendale Qld 4500
Phone (07) 3256 3976 Fax (07) 3256 3985

Renewal ❒
New Member ❒

ABA Membership Nº: .....

I, (full name) ..... (M-F) .....

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

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

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

Email address.....

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

I am a member of ..... (Club)

Signature of Applicant_____

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

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

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

I am prepared to accept the responsibility for the above applicants who are under the age of 18 years, until they attain such age.
Parent-Guardian Signature _____ ABA Number if Applicable: _____

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

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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.

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❒ *Mastercard*

Expiry Date *(mm yy)* Signature _____

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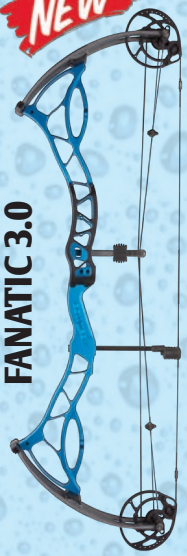
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