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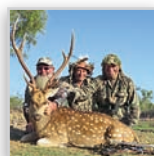
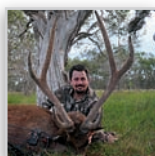
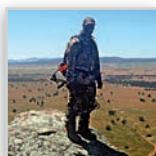
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## ◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Laurie Goudie takes advantage of a natural landmark for an undercover photo of his trophy class boar, taken during a hunt late last year.

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*The National Safari is done and dusted* for another year, and this year we have additional cause to celebrate because the ABA's flagship event was held for the first time at ABA Park, the Mudjee property owned by the Australian Bowhunters Association. The weather was superb and the venue was wonderful. A full report will be in the next issue of *Archery Action*, so you'll read all about it then. But as I sit here contemplating the event, my mind turns to other aspects of the competition, like the fact that any member of the ABA can attend and compete.

With many sports, you need to be one of the elite—virtually at the top of the game—before you're able to compete in a national competition. And while competition is good, it's not all there is to life.

To me, the Safari has been designed as an inclusive event rather than an exclusive one. There's an air of friendly competition. That's not to say that people aren't serious about their archery. Some are definitely there to win and I'm sure everyone is looking for a personal best. But the whole atmosphere of the bush, the camping, the friendships and the quiet way that people give each other a hand behind the scenes is some of the best that



Australia offers—mateship, the wide Australian sky, views of nearby forests and far-away blue hills, the smell of a campfire and the chance to be part of a good, honest competition that's conducted without too much fuss and fanfare.

Here, you can have been shooting a bow for less than a year and still have the experience of competing in a national competition, at your own level. You have wonderful opportunities to interact with a big group of like-minded people, to have amazing experiences, learn more about almost every aspect of the sport and meet some of the people who are so passionate about archery and the ABA that they have put in thousands of volunteer hours over many years to keep the association not just viable but striving ahead.

Of course, with an association that has 7000 or so members, we can't all attend the Safari. That would be a logistical nightmare! But it's something that can be very rewarding, so if you'd like to be part of that amazing scene in the future, start popping a bit of money into your piggybank today. Next year's National Safari is at Alice Springs, so you can have a wonderful holiday in some of Australia's most iconic countryside while you're there.

*Jenel Hunt*  
Editor

## DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

**editor@archeryactionmagazine.com**

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Vol 42 No. 6	July-August	1 June
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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





# BACKPACK *hunting*

**TIM OPIE**

*Heading uphill.*

**A**fter a leisurely eight-hour drive, half a dozen members of West Gippsland Field Archers arrived at the property we had booked for our annual club hunt.

We were a bit surprised to see nothing but waist-high grass and we knew immediately that this hunting trip was not going to be a walk in the park.

Pigs and goats were on offer and the occasional deer had also been taken, according to the property owner, who also informed us that he had not seen the grass this long since 1956!

After sorting out our belongings, we decided to have a quick look

around the place. Within the first 10 minutes we had spooked a small group of fallow deer but apart from our exit from the property they were not seen by us again.

The land was as flat as a pancake except for the 214m high ridge right on the back of the property. This was going to be fun! The thing with flat land and waist-high grass is that the only time you're likely to see a pig is when you just about stand on it, and by then it is too late to do anything except apologise to your hunting partner for screaming as the pig bursts up and out of your way.

We knew that the ridge was our only real option if we wanted to make

this trip a success. The following day we split up and started to assault the ridge from different positions. It didn't take long to realise that not all of us would be getting to the top ... this beast was damn steep for the first three-quarters of the way and basically vertical for the last 50m. We could hear goats on a regular basis but always above us.

Hayno (Jason Haynes) had gone for a solo scout and was lucky enough to come across a sow meandering along a well used trail. He was lucky enough to take the first animal—and in fact the only pig—for the trip. We all thought it a great effort, considering the visibility on the flat.





*Tim at the top.*

The next day saw some determination pay off for four more of our party. Tim Vandenberg and his dad Paul took a couple of goats from around three quarters of the way up the ridge line and Blane and I also had success about the same height. These animals were not big by any stretch, but each was a hard-earned trophy in a very inhospitable area.

The following morning, Hayno, Paul and Tim hunted while Trev, Blane and I rested due to the exertions of the previous day. A couple of hours before dark, Hayno contacted us with news of bigger goats on top of the ridge. He had somehow made it to the top and we were in awe of his climbing skills.

An hour later, Hayno had knocked over the biggest goats seen in the area.

It was then that the drama began. These goats were spotted while he was having a sit down. Of course, Hayno's full attention was on the goats as he grabbed his bow and went after them. After half an hour chasing goats, he realised he had not put his pack back on!

Half an hour before dark, Hayno found himself on top of the ridge, animals in hand, but no pack. No pack means no water, no light, no first aid, no anything.

We were getting anxious back at base as the dark rolled in and

there was no contact from him. To cut a long story short, he made it down two hours after last light. He had dropped his two-way during the descent, but thanks to Tim and Paul and their use of driving lights he made it down unscathed, all be it a tad embarrassed and dehydrated. That night was spent around the fire contemplating the day's events, and what could have been ...

Buoyed by the fact the summit had been reached, most of us decided to go with Hayno the following morning and attempt to find the missing pack.

As we started to climb, Trev and Blane decided to sit on a wallow a





*Hayno took the only pig of the hunt.*

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*Hayno surveys the scene from the top.*

quarter of the way up in the hope of getting a pig. Tim and I followed Hayno, excited at the prospect of reaching the top. Halfway up, we spooked a sow with piglets. The piglets ran straight past Blane and Trev but they let them go and just enjoyed the sight of the piglet train as it snorted past them.

The last 50m of the climb was intense and we were having to throw our bows to rocks above and heave ourselves to the next level. It took well over an hour to complete the last stage. Many times during that final climb I was at the point of giving up, but seeing Tim and Hayno persevere got me through. If

I had been alone I would not have contemplated undertaking such an arduous climb.

The view from the top was well worth the effort and I was happy I had done it. The three of us spent the next hour wandering around the top looking for the pack with one eye, and game with the other. We scoured the area Hayno believed the pack to be in ... to no avail. Some time later in a different area Tim gave out a shout. He had found the pack sitting out on a ledge. Hayno was almost overcome with emotion as he told us he had some very personal things in it.

The descent was not as perilous





*Above and below: Goats from the hunt.*



*The elusive pack.*

as the climb as Hayno came across the route he had used the previous night. While not as rocky, it was quite dense with shrubbery and Tim and I marvelled at how Hayno had done it in the darkness. We stopped

just once on the way down and that was to pick up the fallen two-way radio. We met up with Blane and Trev, who'd had a relaxing day sitting in the shade by a wallow watching us with their binos. They told us

that there had been goats close to us for the majority of the climb but we could not see them.

All in all, we ended up with eight goats, one pig, the missing pack and a heap of memories.

*The writer of this story wins a pack of three*  
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## PROTOCOL

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

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## BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows  
(Vice-President Bowhunting)



## 2016 season Bowhunting Awards

The 2016 awards show a decrease in the number of claims submitted from 1621 in 2015 to 1446. Claims comprised 315 Trophy Class (down from 425 in the previous year), 82 Record Class (down from 100) and 1031 Game Award claims (down from 1096). The Greater Victoria Branch again submitted the largest number of claims with 435 (up 46 from previous year), followed by Northern NSW with 237 claims and North Queensland with 188.

First Kill (39 claims) and First Kill of Species (151 claims) were down



on 2015 with a total of 189 submissions (down by 49 claims). This was a little disappointing as with the overall increase of our membership in recent times I would have hoped the FK and FKOS would have increased. I've said it lots of times over recent years—we need to be seen to be active in bowhunting and the best way to do that is to claim your game. Measurers and BPC officers need to be instrumental at club and branch level in encouraging new and old members alike to get their claims in, so please encourage all your members to claim all that they hunt.

The TBA Bowhunter of the Year was a very close event with John Teitzel taking out the award on a countback from David Luxford, with both taking seven measurable species one of which was Record Class, however of the measurable species John also had five at Trophy Class with David one back on four—a very close event indeed and both are to be congratulated. Tyler Atkinson also deserves mention with five measurable species consisting of two Record Class and one Trophy Class as does Scott Meadows also with five measurable species consisting of one Record Class and two Trophy Class (in separate species)—a great effort by both.

## Master Bowhunter

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

Helen Duff (E) 580, Graeme Duff (E) 520, Scott Meadows (E) 490, Tyler Atkinson (H) 470, John Teitzel (B) 330, David Luxford (G) 320, Jay Janssen (B) 320 and Bradley Seagrott (H) 320.

## Trophy Bowhunter

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

David Rethus (H) 290, Donald Moor (H) 280, Jamie Molloy (D) 250 and Stephen Fairbrother (B) 230.

## Bowhunter Award

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

Graham McComiskie (B) 180, Zebulon Jones (G) 170, Stephen Kidd (B) 160, David Pender (D) 160, Benjamin Ireland (E) 170, Michael Luxford (G) 170, Tim Pitt-Lan-

### 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



caster (H) 150, Jason Short (E) 140, Anthony Tatterson (G) 140, Toby Gall (B) 140, Neville Ashton (F) 130; Dylan Evans (H) 120, Nigel Morris (J) 120, Graham Wienert (B) 120, Roy Sutherland (D) 100, Carol Teitzel (B) 100 and Paul Withers (C) 100.

### Australian Record

Rusa deer	Jay Janssen (B)	236pt
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### 2016 Ladies Bowshot Records

Rusa Deer	Emma Johnson (B)	195 6/8pt
Fox	Helen Duff (E)	10 14/16pt
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell (B)	25 4/8pt

### Overall Best of Species

Buffalo	Michael Luxford (G)	99 6/8pt
Feral Camel	James Reece (D)	31pt
Feral Cat	Nigel Morris (J)	7 14/16pt
Fox	Helen Duff (E)	10 14/16pt
Feral Goat	Ben Chambers (J)	130pt
Feral Pig	John Mitchell (B)	31pt
Chital Deer	Paul Eagle (G)	155 1/8pt
Fallow Deer	Stephen Kidd (B)	219 4/8pt
Red Deer	Wayne Kruger (C)	304 6/8pt
Rusa Deer	Jay Janssen (B)	236pt
Hog Deer	Douglas Bourman (J)	93 7/8pt
Sambar Deer	Christopher Bourne (G)	182 1/8pt
Shark BHFF	Graham McComiskie (B)	32 3/8pt
Stingray BHFF	Stephen Kidd (B)	8pt

### 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

### Ladies Best of Species

Rusa Deer	Emma Johnson (B)	195 6/8pt
Pig	Emma Johnson (B)	28pt
Buffalo	Debbie Larkings	80 6/8pt
Feral Goat	Carol Teitzel (B)	124 1/8pt
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell (B)	25 4/8pt
Stingray BHFF	Cheryl Morris (J)	7pt

### Juniors Best of Species

Feral Pig	Shaun Knuth (B)	28 4/8pt
Fox	Dylan Evans (H)	9 9/16pt
Feral Cat	Dylan Evans (H)	7 5/16pt

### Overall TBA Bowhunter of the Year

John Teitzel (B) has been named the Overall TBA Bowhunter of the Year, having achieved Master Bowhunter with seven measurable species consisting of one Record Class and five Trophy Class.

### Female TBA Bowhunter of the Year

Helen Duff (E)

### Tusker Broadhead Trophy of the Year

Malcolm Meehan (B) 34 2/8pt Record Class Boar. (This trophy was taken in December 2015 and awarded in the January-February 2016 magazine.)

### Most Game Award Claims

Gary Ashworth (E), cleaning up the rabbit population with 68 game award claims, closely followed by Nigel Vaughan (H) with 65 claims (all of which were for carp), Donald Moor (H) with 60 claims (37 of which were for carp) and Jonathan Layton (H) with 51 claims. Special mention also goes to Joy Wood (A) with 34 claims, 33 of which were for carp out of a total of 209 across all branches.

### All So Close

This award, for just under TC, goes to Darren Risson (F) for his goat of 94 5/8pt.



## CLAIMS BY BRANCH

Branch	Record Class	Trophy Class	Game Award	Total
A	0	4	52	56
B	21	77	90	188
C	5	10	47	62
D	10	35	75	120
E	14	72	151	237
F	2	18	72	92
G	9	26	129	164
H	14	48	373	435
I	0	1	21	22
J	7	24	39	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>1446</b>

## CLAIMS BY SPECIES

Species	Record Class	Trophy Class	Species	Record Class	Trophy Class	Species	Record Class	Trophy Class
Buffalo	8	2	Pig	3	74	Hog Deer	2	2
Camel	3	3	Chital Deer	2	4	Sambar Deer	1	0
Cat	6	11	Fallow Deer	11	11	Shark BHFF	1	11
Fox	13	109	Red Deer	7	4	Stingray BHFF	0	5
Goat	22	72	Rusa Deer	4	0	<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>308</b>

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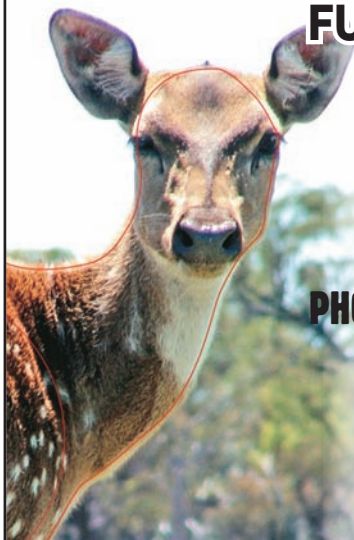
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# Best of Species



Feral goat—  
Ben Chambers (J), 130pt



Buffalo—  
Michael Luxford (G) 99 6/8pt



Sambar deer—  
Christopher Bourne (G), 182 1/8pt



Hog deer—  
Douglas Bourman (J), 93 7/8pt



Red deer—  
Wayne Kruger (C), 304 6/8pt



Shark BHFF—  
Graham McComiskie (B),  
32 3/8pt

## Overall Best of Species





Chital deer—  
Paul Eagle (G), 155 1/8pt



Feral cat—  
Nigel Morris (J), 7 14/16pt



Stingray BHFF—  
Stephen Kidd (B), 8pt



Feral camel—  
James Reece (D), 31pt



Feral pig—  
John Mitchell (B), 31pt



Fallow deer—  
Stephen Kidd (B), 219 4/8pt



Fox—  
Helen Duff (E), 10 14/16pt



# Best of Species

Australian Record



Rusa deer—  
Jay Janssen (B), 236pt



# Ladies Best of Species



Stingray BHFF—  
Cheryl Morris (J), 7pt



Shark BHFF—  
Lynda Fell (B), 25 4/8pt



Buffalo—  
Debbie Larkings, 80 6/8pt



Feral pig—  
Emma Johnson (B), 28pt



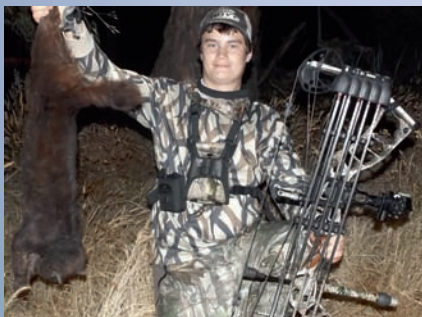
Feral goat—  
Carol Teitzel (B), 124 1/8pt



Rusa deer—  
Emma Johnson (B), 195 6/8pt



# Junior Best of Species



Feral cat—  
Dylan Evans (H), 7 5/16pt



Feral pig—  
Shaun Knuth (B), 28 4/8pt  
(photograph not displayed)

Fox—  
Dylan Evans (H), 9 9/16pt



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



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  
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[editor@archeryactionmagazine.com](mailto:editor@archeryactionmagazine.com)  
**Subject: Gold Pen Award entry**

*All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition*

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award FK/FKOS	Size
B Ben Toohey	Townsville District Bowhunters	Pig	GA FK/FKOS	0
B Jay Janssen	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC	27 4/8
B Jay Janssen	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC	29 2/8
B Jay Janssen	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC	27 2/8
B Emma Johnson	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC	27
B Emma Johnson	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC	25 6/8
B Emma Johnson	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC	28
B Emma Johnson	Mackay & District Bowmen	Pig	TC	26 2/8
C Nick Moloney	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	RC FK/FKOS	119 4/8
C Nick Moloney	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	RC	113 7/8
C Sam Moloney	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	0
C Sam Moloney	Emerald Archery Club	Pig	GA FKOS	0
C Mitchell Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Stingray BHFF	GA FKOS	3 5/8
C Wayne Kruger	Wide Bay Archers	Red Deer	Prov Aust Record	320
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	27 2/8
B Brad Winks	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC	26 6/8

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D Wade Bygrave	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	TC	101 6/8
D Jamie Molloy	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	TC	96 6/8
D Jamie Molloy	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	TC	98 1/8
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland FA	Fox	TC	9 11/16
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland FA	Fox	TC	9 6/16
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland FA	Fox	TC	10 1/16
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland FA	Camel	TC	28 1/16
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland FA	Pig	TC	27
G Jason Haynes	West Gippsland FA	Goat	GA FKOS	0
G Jamie Harrington	West Gippsland FA	Fox	TC	9 11/16
G Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland FA	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
G Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland FA	Fox	TC	9 7/16
G Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland FA	Fox	GA FKOS	8 8/16
G Tim Vandenbelt	West Gippsland FA	Cat	TC FKOS	7 6/16
G Doug Cahill	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Goat	TC	95
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Stingray BHFF	TC FKOS	6 1/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Donkey	GA FKOS	0
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Pig	TC	26
G Ben Thompson	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Hare	GA FKOS	0
G Ben Thompson	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Scaled Fish	GA FKOS	0
G Evan Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Pig	GA FKOS	0
G Evan Jones	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	Goat	GA FKOS	0
G Simon Fuhrmeister	Bairnsdale Archery Club	Fallow Deer	TC	174 2/8
G Mark Burrows	West Gippsland FA	Fox	TC	9 7/16
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	TC	97 4/8
F Graeme Larkings	Lachlan River Archers	Buffalo	TC FKOS	80 2/8
F Debbie Larkings	Lachlan River Archers	Buffalo	TC FKOS	80 6/8
F Lucy Jefferis	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Carp BHFF	GA FK/FKOS	0
F Stuart Jefferis	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Carp BHFF	GA FK/FKOS	0
F Bradley Lange	Campbelltown District FA	Goat	TC FK/FKOS	104 5/8
H Allan Driver	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	TC	97 1/8
H John Edwards	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Pig	GA FKOS	0
H Brian Oliver	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Pig	GA FKOS	0
H Brian Oliver	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	TC	98 5/8
H Steven Old	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	TC	96 7/8
H Mitchell Old	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	75 2/8
H Geoffrey Blake	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	0
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Goat	RC	115 4/8
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Goat	TC	95
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Goat	TC	97 4/8
H Wayne Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Goat	TC	98 6/8
H Jordan Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Goat	GA FKOS	0
H Jordan Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Goat	TC	104 4/8
H Jordan Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Goat	TC	102 2/8
H Jonathon Layton	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Goat	GA FKOS	0
H Anthony Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Fallow Deer	GA FKOS	0
H Jason l'Anson	Swan Hill Archery Club	Pig	GA FK/FKOS	0
H Jason l'Anson	Swan Hill Archery Club	Goat	GA FKOS	0
J Thomas Chard	Busselton Bowhunters	Goat	TC	107 2/8
J Thomas Chard	Busselton Bowhunters	Goat	TC	102 5/8





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## Why become a coach?

This question has been at the forefront of thinking for every person who has ever considered becoming a coach—no matter what sport—and it is no easy question to answer.

The easiest way for me to answer this question is to tell you why I became a coach and I'm sure that some, if not all, of these will ring a bell for you if you have asked the same question.

My reasons included;

- To give something back to a sport that has given me so much,
- To gain more personal knowledge of the sport,
- To make my club stronger through having a coaching resource available through me,
- To make the club more attractive to new members,
- To help members become more involved in club activities,
- A genuine personal desire to help people.

There could be many more reasons for wanting to become a coach, but so long as the reason has a positive slant towards helping, encouraging and assisting those who are, and who want to be, involved in the sport then the reason for your desire to be coach has merit.

The coaching road is a long one. Firstly, you have to be an ABA member for at least 12 months. Then your club has to nominate you to the Branch to be accepted to do a Field Archery Instructor's Course that will be run by the Branch Coach. After 12 months of being a practicing Field Archery Instructor you can nominate to do the Level One Coach's Course.

You need to be actively involved in 25 hours of instruction per year to keep your accreditation. This can be on the practice range or doing bow checks at national and Branch competitions ... the role of the coach is widespread and active involvement in archery activities count toward your accreditation.

Just remember, although you are now qualified as an FAI/coach, you never stop learning.

A couple of years ago, as I was sitting around the campfire, a question was asked, "How do you coach kids?" We all put our two-bobs' worth in. A good friend told me that I should get down at an eye level with them. Being at eye level with them, you will get much more out of them. Being at their level and not talking down to them seems to be far more effective. Something so simple! Not to mention the praise you give

# COACHES CORNER

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Acting

National Director of Coaching



them when they hit the target and the huge smiles spread across their face and you see the joy they get from their achievement and your encouragement.

What would you do if a new archer showed up with a longbow, and all the gear, but as coach you only shoot compound? I'm certain that somewhere in your club you'll have an Old Rod or someone similar, who has been around the traps for a long time and is an experienced longbow shooter. I'm certain that if you took the new archer over and introduced them to Old Rod and ask if Old Rod would be willing to show the new archer the joys of using a longbow you will have achieved two things; one is the encouragement of a new archer into the traditions of the sport, and secondly, the inclusion of a valued club member and the opportunity to draw on their experience.

The alternative to this would be to ignore Old Rod's expertise and keep the role for yourself. I'm not sure that this is the best use of valuable experience plus it's always good to be inclusive of the people and their expertise that we have at our disposal. I hope you would go with experience and make the most of this situation and be a facilitator rather than a know-it-all.

The life of a coach is a very rewarding one. Without doubt it has its times of frustration and exasperation but these are far outweighed by the positive results and the enjoyment that you can help other people gain from a sport that has given you so much.

Coaching ... give it a try, I'm sure you'll like it!





# Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



## New plaques for TBA winners

At the National Safari during Easter, the Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club recognised the people who reached certain game milestones for the year 2016, and this year brand new plaques made a colourful entrance (*pictured*).

One of the TBA's published aims is to promote trophy bowhunting in Australia and in part the club does this through the Master Bowhunter competition. You will already have read the names of the people who took enough trophy animals to receive official recognition. Anyone who makes it onto any of the three lists is to be congratulated, whether it be Bowhunter Award, Trophy Bowhunter or the Master Bowhunter Award.

This year the Master Bowhunter Award was a very much a two-horse race, with John Teitzel just pipping David Luxford at the post to take out the coveted title of TBA Bowhunter of the Year.

Congratulations to all whose hunting year contributed to this award.



*You can find more information on the ABA website, [www.bowhunters.org.au](http://www.bowhunters.org.au), under the Quick menu link at the left of the page, "TBA Info Booklet".*



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## Welcome to TBA Dan Podubinski

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

I live in the small town of Jindera, which is located north of Albury in New South Wales. I've been into bowhunting for the past six years.

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

Two of my younger brothers had bows and an opportunity came up to buy a second-hand bow off one of their mates. It was a fair price so I jumped at it. I've been an ABA member for the past five-and-a-half years which started for me when the Wagga Wagga Field Archers hosted the 2012 State 3D Titles. I'm a member at Twin City Bowmen in Jindera (independent), and also at Wangaratta Archers (FITA). At the moment I don't hold a position at any of the clubs because of work and family commitments. I shoot at the clubs on a regular basis and I like to get out for a hunt whenever I can. I also travel for tournaments. In the future I would like to coach, but for now I'm just focussing on my own game.

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

It depends what I'm chasing. If it's rabbits I can hunt three or four times a week. When it's deer, I can get out once or twice a month and as far as pigs and goats, it's only once a year these days as I live so far from the hotspots and have to plan well in advance.

I use a Reflex Growler (compound). It's an oldie but a goodie, as for arrows I use Carbon Tec Whitetails or Feral X Pacifiers with Outback Supreme or





*Dan Podubinski, trophy class boar.*

Tusker Spirit Broadheads.

*How long has it taken you go get your first TC claim? How do you feel about this whole experience?*

The entire time I've been bowhunting! It's not like shooting a rifle. You have to work for your kills and there's lots of things involved so sometimes it doesn't work out as planned.

*Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?*

Yes, there's always time for more hunting. I get keen thinking about that next TC or RC.

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

Yes, I'd like to get all 18 species that the ABA recognises at TC or better. Not only that, I've been talking with my contacts in Alaska to tee up a moose hunt within the next two years. That's definitely a big one for the bucket list.

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

I knew it existed but didn't know how to become a member or much about it until I put in my claims. It was one of my greatest achievements for 2016.

*The TBA Committee congratulates you on your achievement, Dan.*

## *Dan's story:*

It was mid-August and we'd had a wet day at work so I arrived home early. It was about 1.30pm and I was debating whether or not to go for a sambar hunt ... the problem was it was going take me an hour and a half to get to my destination and the weather was bad.

I didn't need much convincing, however to go for a hunt, so I packed my gear and got on my way as soon as I could.

I arrived at the property and had a chat with the owner. The conversation seemed to take a lifetime as I was keen to hunt! With the light

fading and the rain, I didn't like my chances but the owner told me where some deer had been spotted on the boundary surrounded by State Forest so I decided to follow a game trail near the fenceline.

I pulled up at one of the gates, got set up and made my way down the trail. I hadn't walked very far when all of a sudden at 50m a fox trotted out in front of me. Busted! I froze as she stopped and looked straight at me, but I was in full camo and clearly she didn't feel threatened because she continued on her way. I was excited about the chance to pursue her.

When I caught up to her she was working the ground really hard and fast and I wasn't sure if she was going to stop. The ground was damp and I started my stalk in pure silence. Then she stopped behind a log ... but no shot presented itself. I ranged the log at 35m. She stepped out again, working the ground, and by this time I was out in the open and had no more cover. At that moment I thought, "When she stops, take the shot." She worked back towards me and I ranged her on the move at 23m, so I got ready and drew back and waited for her to pause. That's when the GT did its job. I couldn't believe it, I was super stoked as this was my first fox with the bow.

After taking some photos I went back to show the property owner my quarry and I think he was as happy as I was. To this day, it is my best hunting achievement with a bow.

I will be back to try for the sambar another time.

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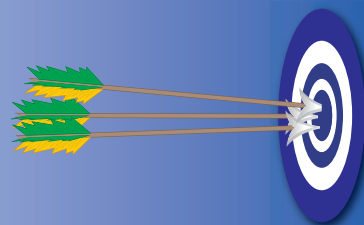
On this particular day I finished work, rushed home, had some lunch and then got my gear together as quickly as I possibly could. What followed was a fairly moderate day and I wasn't seeing much game.

I was heading up a slight hill to glass the surroundings when I spotted a fox about 80m ahead so I quickly positioned myself in front of a dead wattle tree and gave a soft squeak. The fox immediately turned its head in my direction as it looked for its prey. I gave a couple of slightly louder squeaks and in it came. I drew back when the fox went behind some bulrushes. The fox was now less than 30m away and still bolting in—it came around to my right looking for the animal in distress. At this stage I was twisted like a spring and I could feel my heart beating intensely. Luckily the fox paused in a slightly quartering-on position when it was about 15m away so I settled my pin quickly, took a breath and then squeezed my trigger and let the 125-grain Tusker Spirit fly. It was all over for the fox, which was still completely unaware of what had just happened.





# Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



## 2017 TBA MUSTER

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

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

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

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



ABA Park address is 600 Upper Piambong Road, Piambong

### **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.

### What's On

Information sessions from guest speakers on hunting topics

Question and Answer Session

DPI NSW Information

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

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# NSW State IFAA Titles



*words and pictures*  
by **LIAM MOWBRAY**



It was a fresh summer morning at the Capital Field Archers Club, which is situated in the old Ingledene Forest just south of the small town of Tharwa. The sounds of zippers unwinding and people tinkering with their kettles could be heard throughout the campgrounds, as keen field archers and bowhunters alike were waking up and preparing to shoot the NSW State IFAA Titles.

It was February 18, and 53 eager archers mustered for an early start. The first day was a double header, with a field round in the morning and an IFAA animal round in the afternoon. Unfortunately, the weather turned sour quickly, with showers of rain and gusty wind testing archers most of the day.

The ranges were in great condition, set out across box wood-

lands and rolling hills. Despite the weather, some big scores were produced including a 544 from young Peter Hearne. It was great to see a couple of the young cubs also shooting some massive scores. No doubt they'll provide some fierce competition as they come through the ranks in future years.

The wind only got worse as the day went on, making difficult conditions for the 14-target animal round later that afternoon. The wind got the better of everyone, as only a single archer, Jason Wales, was able to bring in a perfect 280 although many of the freestylers went close.

Everyone woke up a little slowly on day two. Perhaps some had enjoyed themselves a bit too much on Saturday night while others were putting off having to roll out of

their warm beds into the six-degree air. Fortunately, the weather lifted around 9.00am, providing beautiful weather for the rest of the day; temperature in the mid-twenties and bluebell skies. There was a slight breeze in the hills most of the day, however plenty of solid scores were produced. A majority of the scores in the sighted divisions were well into the 500s for both the male and female divisions. Plenty of quality scores were produced by unsighted archers too, making for some great competition, particularly in the bowhunter recurve and longbow divisions.

Overall, everyone had a blast. Great scenery, campgrounds, food and people. One thing's for sure, the guys from Branch F and Capital Field Archers sure know how to put on a fantastic shoot!



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*One day was wet with gusty winds, the other had bluebell skies and a faint breeze in the hills, which made shooting so much easier.*



*Winners with their medals.*



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# Vale

## Dennis La Varenne 1949–2016

Dennis started archery in the early 1980s after reading a story in a 1979 Shooting magazine about Win Coats hunting with a longbow. His first bow was a Wha Gok Archery recurve. He shot traditional bows of one sort or another ever after.

In the early 1980s, he flew the flag for traditional archery as he attended various local and interstate shoots. He was a regular at the Orange (NSW) Walkabout shoots prior to them coming under the control of the ABA.

Dennis learned how to make his own Flemish twist bowstrings and in the mid to late 1980s he made and supplied hundreds of strings to John Clark of Ausbow Industries when John was still in Victoria.

He also enjoyed his bowhunting and while on a hunt in 1987 with Jeff Challacombe, Daryl Schmidt and the late Kerry Ambrose he took his first game (a feral goat) with a John Clark longbow. In the years following, he enjoyed sharing many bowhunting campfires in all of the eastern States and the Northern Territory.

He was a master bowyer and was one of Australia's finest selfbow makers. His first attempt at making a self bow was back in around 1984. He really didn't know much about mak-



ing bows back then. He set about making one from Victorian mountain ash but it broke before it was even finished. His second attempt was to make an English longbow from some osage orange that he had cut and seasoned with the help of Alan Oswald from Albury. This bow took him two months to make—using pretty much just a kitchen carving knife. He took it very carefully for fear of the bow breaking but this time he had success and he had his first handcrafted longbow.

Over the years he made many types of bows from flatbows, a number of different types of American Indian bows and of course English longbows. The English longbow was no doubt his favourite type of bow and he made some excellent examples of these over the years. He made his bows from a number of Australian native timbers as well as from yew and osage orange and also bamboo.

Dennis always had a willingness to share his knowledge with others. He helped many people over the

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years with making bows and even ran small selfbow making workshops purely to help others learn the skills required to make their own bows.

He was on the committee that ran the Australian Longbow Musters. The musters started back in 1988 and I think it is fair to say they were the forerunner to the many traditional archery shoots that are held around the country today. The musters brought together shooters from all over Australia, New Zealand and even Europe. They ran until 1999 and the large numbers of longbow shooters who attended these shoots have never been seen since.

The musters did continue but with a name change to the Australian Longbow and Recurve Muster and were hosted by the Gladstone Bowhunters.

One of the main aims of the longbow musters was to pass on our traditional bowhunting/archery Heritage. To this end bowmaking, Flemish string making and arrow making demonstrations were held at each muster. Dennis was always very busy at the musters with not just helping to run them but also helping people with selfbow making, running Flemish twist string-making workshops and also turning his hand to judging for the



Arrow Craftsmanship Award.

He was instrumental in drafting up the criteria for the Arrow Craftsmanship Award where people could submit a set of three arrows for judging. These arrows would be judged and awarded points for such things as shaft straightness, nock and point alignment, correct FOC et cetera. If the set was of a high enough standard the craftsman would be awarded the Master Fletcher Award. He spent many hours each muster judging the sets of arrows that were submitted.

In 1997 Dennis was enrolled into the Australian Longbow Muster's Roll of Honour for his contributions to traditional bowhunting and archery in Australia.

Over the years he had a number of traditional bowhunting/archery

articles published in Australian bowhunting magazines, and he was a very keen traditional bowhunting/archery historian and would have had one of the most interesting libraries on this topic in the country.

Dennis also worked tirelessly for more than 10 years on the Shooting Sports Council of Victoria. During this time he spent hundreds, if not thousands, of hours compiling huge submissions to the Victorian Government both individually and via the Australian Bowhunters Association and I think it is fair to say he was a leading force in saving bowhunting in Victoria. For his work on the Shooting Sports Council of Victoria he received life membership of the Australian Bowhunters Association.

In more recent years Dennis had been an administrator on Ozbow, Australia's Traditional Bowhunting Forums. With his vast knowledge of most things to do with traditional bowhunting/archery he was able to assist many people through the forums.

His biggest contribution to traditional bowhunting and archery comes from his love of sharing his knowledge and skills with others, whether they be young or old. He was known for the hours he very willingly spent helping others with all things to do with traditional bows and arrows.

*Jeff Challacombe*

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# Around THE TRADS



To receive trad shoot information direct, email a request to:  
[swallace@wallacetradwoods.com](mailto:swallace@wallacetradwoods.com)

✱ With the weekend weather tipped to reach high 30s/low 40s, we were expecting quite a few people to pull out of the first official shoot held at the Chevallan Archery Park on the weekend of February 11 and 12, and were pleasantly surprised with the number of archers at Saturday morning's registration. We had placed plenty of water stops around the course and there were also shade tents to be found at some of the novelties. A tea tent was set up at the far end of the field course where

archers could rest and enjoy a spot of tea/coffee with biscuits or a cold drink of water before moving on to do the hunter round. On Saturday morning following the muster, most of us did the field course then rested in the heat of midday before continuing later in the afternoon shooting the novelty events which included the popinjay, 30-second speed round, clout and moving target.

When the archery park was approved by council, two local business people, Wes and Kaylene

Farnham, approached Tamara and Gary about sponsoring a special event. They suggested the first prize could be a set of one dozen custom arrows, uniquely stained with split fletching in the Chevallan colours, handcrafted by Wallace Woods. So plans were set and the Chevallan Top Ten Shootout was conceived. The archers to compete would be those who had accomplished the top 10 scores submitted for the 25-target two-arrow 3D field course event only and they would shoot a modified ver-

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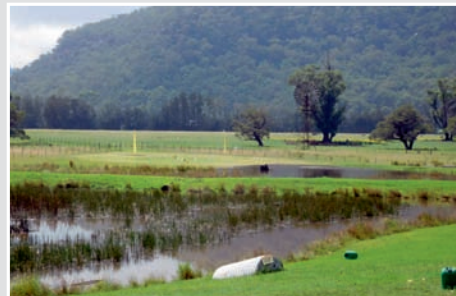




*Chevallan field course tea tent.*



*Stanthorpe 3D deer.*



*Wiseman's Ferry clout range.*

sion of the 30-second speed round. Competitors had to score a 10 within the metal circle on a small fox before they could go on to shoot any of the other targets.

As it happened, the winner of this event was the same archer who had handcrafted the arrows, so, in a show of true sportsmanship, he presented these arrows to the archer who was 11th on the shoot-out list, 14-year-old junior Ethan Diessel, who was less than five points behind the 10th adult, and let me tell you he certainly gives us a run for our money. To say he was chuffed would be the understatement of the weekend. The onlookers were all seated comfortably, enjoying cheese and biscuits, dips and chips, plus dim sims and spring rolls under the shade tent as they watched the archers in the shoot-off, with all applauding the winner's gesture.

Sunday was just as warm and most of us completed the 25-target two-arrow field course, plus speed round and rolling disk then were back at camp before the midday sun took hold. After an enjoyable lunch we had the presentations and raffle, to allow those from Brisbane to beat the traffic going back home.

It was a fantastic weekend enjoyed by all and we now all look forward to their next two-day event

on May 13 and 14.

✿ Granite Belt Bowmen Inc at Stanthorpe in Queensland held their Inaugural Trad Shoot on the weekend of March 4 and 5, having had to cancel their first weekend date back in October due to inclement weather. We kept our fingers crossed that the weather wouldn't close in on this weekend either, with all reports stating light showers. A couple of early arrivals were greeted by showers as they approached the archery grounds. Quite a few camps had set up Friday evening, and we hoped the drizzle hadn't kept too many away.

Saturday morning was looking hopeful, a little overcast and hopefully not too warm. There were a total of 44 archers, some from Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast, outer Brisbane/Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Dalby and as far afield as Gladstone. Registrations started on Friday evening and once we had picked our groups we were asked to hand the cards back in for range allocation Saturday morning. The club scattered us over the three ranges to begin Saturday morning. Once complete, we were free to choose which range to shoot next with the corresponding novelty event.

Range 1 was 20 ABA coloured animal targets, three-arrow round (diminishing score) shot with the run-

ning pig, Range 2 was 20 of the old style ABA paper targets with the kill/wound area only marked, and this was shot as a two-arrow round (both first arrow score), Range 3 was 20 all 3D targets also a three-arrow round (diminishing score). There was a one-minute hunt round moving from spot to spot shooting at six well laid out 3D targets and back again until time was called, and a static one-minute speed round shooting ABA coloured



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animal targets. We are not used to a static one-minute round, and having double time does not necessarily equate to double score total. These two events were shot with Range 2 and/or 3.

The club has certainly stamped their mark on this trad shoot. They have done a brilliant job with target placement and getting some of those backstops up and around the course which winds around some majestic boulders with magnificent views from the top of two ranges, would have been rather challenging. For those who didn't make it, the weather wasn't as bad as predicted and I'm glad we made the journey, so we can tell everyone to join them all again next year. Top job ... well done and thank you, Granite Belt Bowmen, for a most enjoyable weekend.

✿ It had been reasonably dry leading up to the 10th Annual Traditional Get-Together being held at Wisemans Ferry on March 18 and 19. The various weather sites were saying possible showers all week, with no excessive amounts, so we headed south with umbrellas handy, just in case. I'd been keeping archers up to date on the rain events at the end of each day where we were camped, and even though there was flooding on the south coast and some of the Sydney suburbs had large amounts of rain, there had not been too much on site ... until Friday evening when we received a downpour of two inches, so it was great to find that 110 archers had registered for the shoot by Saturday morning even though there was still patchy rain. Fourteen had travelled down from QueensIsland, four from the Taree area, two from Victoria, and about 15 had travelled

up from the new TAA club, South Coast Traditional Archers. Only one couple opted out during Saturday's morning rain, folded their camp and returned home. The rest of us stayed and shot between and during rain events (some downpours). With only about 20 per cent of archers doing scorecards it was declared a non-competitive event, so we all shot the field courses which had water cascading down and alongside the walking track, sloshed around the hunt round, and the speed round was made very interesting with the stream running right through the middle of the targets! The tide came in on the clout range and left an embankment we could walk along to get to our arrows, but falling short of the clout range left your arrows in the water. The moving target was full of moisture and running very fast. We did make a couple of concessions and removed the two sitting positions at this novelty. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces around the camps, and under the marquee many gathered during showers and shared a story or two. The weather did not dampen our enthusiasm and despite its best efforts was not able to stop all of us having a great weekend. We only have to wait until September 16 and 17 to do it all again ... even if it is raining.

✿ The following weekend Twin City Bowmen at Albury held their second Trad Shoot. I have only been able to find a short review at time of article submission: The weather was perfect, according to one of the participants. Apparently, on Saturday morning there was a two-arrow round at 20 3D targets then on Saturday afternoon two arrows at 20 novelty targets, plus the running pig, a novelty flu-flu shoot, followed

by the 'Whisky' shootout.

On Sunday morning there was a one-arrow round at the 20 3D targets, a short break then one-arrow at 20 paper targets. When everyone was in, there was a 60-second speed round shooting at various sized 3D targets down in the creek bed, for those who wished to participate. This was then followed by the presentations and the raffle draw.

✿ Traditional only shoots confirmed for June and July (at the time of printing) are:

Hunter Valley Gathering, June 10 and 11, mini weekend campover (in place of Caboolture which is not being held this year) at Chevallan Archery Park June 17 and 18, Norfolk Island 3D International July 3 to 6 (traditional archery in the afternoons), Jules Shield at Lakeside on July 22 and 23, Chevallan Archery Park on July 29 and 30.

✿ Reports from North Albert Field Archers Traditional Rendezvous, Gladstone Longbow and Recurve Muster, Chevallan Archery Park and Barambah Trad Bash will be in the next edition.

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

*Traditional Archery Australia:* [www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org](http://www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org) >

*Shoot Information – (link to flyers)*

*Traditional Archery Australia Closed Group is also on Facebook.*

*Wallace Woods:* [www.wallacetrad-woods.com](http://www.wallacetrad-woods.com) > *Shoot information (link to flyers)*

*Chevallan Archery Park:* [www.chevallanarcherypark.com](http://www.chevallanarcherypark.com) – *for Traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, products*

*Ozbow:* [www.ozbow.net](http://www.ozbow.net) > *Traditional Archery Events > Calendar*

See you 'round the trads.



# Boolaroo Bowmen to celebrate their quarter century



Boolaroo Bowmen have issued an open invitation to all members of the ABA and affiliated associations to attend their 25th Anniversary 3D on Sunday, July 16 at Fassifern in New South Wales.

It's billed as having something for everyone, and that can't be too far wrong, as the club has been working on setting up the range with 'unique shots'!

The shoot fee includes a burger lunch (choose

between gourmet burger, grilled chicken burger or sausage-and-bacon burger) and anyone who shoots will also receive a souvenir cloth badge and free entry into a three-prize draw. Division winners will receive personalised certificates.

The event will cater for all shooting styles and will incorporate a two-arrow round of 25 targets. Pre-nominations are required, and the closing date is July 13.

## Get a headstart on next year's National Safari at the NT Titles

If you like the idea of getting a headstart on next year's Safari, attending the NT Titles in July will give you the perfect opportunity.

The Titles will incorporate three days of IFAA, two days of ABA and two days of 3D—a veritable feast of archery.

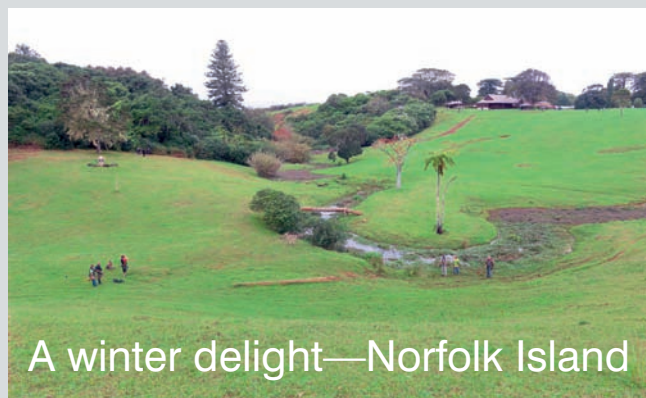
And next year when the Dead Centre Bowhunters club members host the National Safari at Alice Springs, the IFAA course will be exactly the same (no 3D at the Nationals next year, though).

The Northern Territory State Titles to be held from July 10 to 16 will be a more relaxed affair, with 40 or so people expected—although the club is, as always, happy to welcome more.

The big camping area is perfect if you're staying on site and there are bush showers and flushing toilets.

Those who went to the National Safari at Alice Springs in 2013 are still talking about it, so make sure you make your plans early to attend in 2018. The courses are beautiful—two flat ones which have the ranges as the backdrop and two that feature the hills and the valley behind.

And if you possibly can, plan to spend a little more time in the area as this is one of Australia's iconic places.



A winter delight—Norfolk Island

If your family has dreams of a South Pacific holiday this winter but you'd prefer to get out and about with your bow and arrows, make everyone's dream a reality with a trip to Norfolk Island from July 2 to 6.

Compete in the mornings on what's considered the best 3D field ever seen by many competitors at the Norfolk Island 3D Championships. In the afternoons you can do a kind of progressive fun event with trad gear or choose to see the sights, go shopping, do some fishing or take one of the tours for which the island is famed.

The Norfolk Island Travel Centre will help you organise your travel, accommodation and car hire. See the previous issue of *Archery Action* for more information.





Jeff's first carp.

# The REWARD

*Late last year, ABA National President Mike White, Vice-President Bowhunting Mark Burrows and I were at ABA's new headquarters at Mudgee building courses in preparation for the Safari and doing a number of odd jobs that needed doing. Well, what else were three semi-retired blokes going to do with their abundance of 'free' time? I have a feeling that we went to Mudgee to avoid the chores that our wives would find for us at home in the weeks leading up to Christmas!*

*Mark and I had been setting out the Safari courses; seven all told, four ABA and three 3D courses, while Mike spent most of his time on the welder building a weather protection shed for the generator. There was a lot to do, and as it was the middle of summer, it was hot.*

*The reward at the end, apart from knowing that things would be ready for the Safari next Easter, was during the return trip home. Mudgee is a 12-hour drive from home in Gippsland, and while the drive is not overly exerting, a 12-hour drive is not as easy as it used to be when I was a younger bloke! The return trip would include a couple of days of carp fishing which was part of a competition that Mark had organised as part of the New South Wales Bowfishing Trial.*

**by JEFF BELL**





This story actually begins six months earlier; as part of another trip to Mudgee. That time I was helping get ready for the National IFAAs that were held at ABA Park in June. We had used some of the time to inspect different venues for Mark's planned carp fishing competition that would be held later that year.

We had visited four or five different places listed on the NSW Department of Primary Industries website with the idea of finding suitable places for hunters to visit when the competition time came about. The optimistic view of the competition was that there would be lots of people interested and there would need to be a diverse number of places that people could go to within reasonable travel time of the Jingellic venue. It was certainly an optimistic view.

The gear I was using was pretty basic. My Martin Sceptra V hunting bow with a plastic bow reel attached where the stabiliser goes, 50m of braided nylon line and a fishing arrow borrowed from Mark. I was not exactly well prepared!

As we inspected and tried out different venues I had issues all day with unravelling a tangled line. At one stage I was walking along a riverbank and when I looked behind me most of the 50m of line was trailing out behind me. I spent so much time trying to fix my gear and then catch up to Mark that in half a day's walking I had not fired a shot and had seen one brief glimpse of a fish on the other side of the river. Mark, on the other hand, had already shot a couple of carp and was certainly enjoying his time

more than me. If it wasn't for my enthusiasm for archery and my keenness to help Mark make this bowfishing caper a success I probably would have given up on the whole thing as a waste of time.

By the end of the day, we had made it through to Jingellic. Some of the venues we had visited had potential and we were certainly in a better position to host the competition with the knowledge we had gained.

As a finish to the day, we decided to have a look along the Coppabella Creek upstream of the bridge. It was late in the day and our enthusiasm was waning somewhat. As we crossed the road bridge we could see carp swimming in the shallows! Maybe this wasn't such a bad activity after all!

It was certainly a challenge making our way down to the river. Make no mistake—while the Travelling Stock



Routes and waterway regulations in New South Wales gave us right of access, there was no easy way to make our way to the river. Stout fencing, a steep bank and long, prickly grass made getting to the riverbank a challenge in its own right. And, of course, I could still see the fish in the shallows of the river and my excitement in hurrying to get down there wasn't making it any easier.

After what seemed like ages we finally crossed the fence and made our way down the riverbank. There were two carp still in the shallows swimming against the current. Of course you can guess what happened ... a tangled line and a lack of knowledge about fish vision and I was lucky to even get a shot away before the fish escaped to the relative safety of the river depths. For the next 45 minutes Mark and I patrolled the banks of the river. An area about 100m long and 20m wide held our attention as we watched for the carp rising to the surface to give us a chance to shoot.

By the time the daylight had diminished to the point where we could no longer distinguish the fish clearly in the water, Mark had scored a couple more fish. I had shot one but it had pulled itself free of the arrow and I went home emptyhanded.

But that final 45 minutes had been full of adrenaline and the positive prospect of being able to get a fish with my bow. I was keen for the next trip—the upcoming competition—but there were a few things I was going to have to do before I would be ready.

The trip home to Drouin was full of discussion about the day, the venue for the carp competition, sponsorship for the event and, of course, my equipment set-up.

Mark was using a bow that he had purchased specifically for bowfishing; he had set it up with an AMS Retrieval Bowfishing reel and a simple set of sights to ensure accuracy. It was certainly an excellent set-up and I was envious of the ease with which he was able to hunt the carp. He certainly had not dealt with the challenges that I had experienced during the day.

On arrival at home, I went straight to the computer and started the search for an equipment overhaul. Of course the biggest challenge was going to be cost. Archery equipment is like most sporting equipment—it's not cheap. For me to replicate Mark's configuration was going to cost me more money than I was willing, or allowed, to spend! The challenge was then going to be how to build it by taking cheaper options or shortcuts but still maintain quality.

My first challenge was the bow. The solution was provided by Mark. Months previously I had visited the local tip and one of the workers noticed my ABA sticker on the car and asked if I wanted an old bow that someone had

discarded. I said yes and he gave me an old Hoyt Spectra compound ... all it needed was a new string. I had given it to Mark to make a string and then pass on to the archery club. Mark had rediscovered the bow on a recent garage clean-up and suggested I use it. Step one complete!

Step two was also relatively easy. I had purchased a set of cheap bow sights when I had been in the USA in 2014 and these had never been used.

Step three—arrow rest and arrows? I purchase these online at a cheap price; all good!

Step four—an AMS Retrieval reel. This was going to be harder. They are certainly not a cheap piece of equipment. Even if you buy one direct through the USA at a significantly cheaper price, by the time you pay for delivery and currency conversion there is little to be saved.

Then I remembered my friend Dave from Texas. When I had gone to the WFAC in Yankton in 2014 Dave had asked me to bring him some kangaroo skins, which I had done. I emailed Dave and asked about the retrieval reel. "No problems!" he said and I arranged to pay him when he was due to arrive in Australia for the Wagga Wagga WFAC.

Well, it worked out even better than I had hoped. With Dave, Bubba Bateman and his girlfriend Michelle staying on for a holiday after the WFAC and me providing them with possible itineraries and help with transport and other matters, Dave gave me the AMS reel as a thank-you gift. Dave's only proviso was that I had to send him a photo of my first fish!

Now I had the set-up and was ready to go! My wife and daughter thought I had gone crazy as I spent a considerable amount of time up on the raised pool decking in the backyard shooting pieces of paper with my fishing gear—I was that determined to make a success of this.

So, back in time to where this story started ...

We arrived at Jingellic the night before competition was to begin. The indicators were that the number of competitors was going to be well down on what had been hoped for. In fact, there were only a handful of fellow Victorians who arrived by Saturday morning start time. It certainly made it easier for deciding who was going to go where.

Mark, Mike and I decided to go back to the spot near the bridge, the place where Mark and I had been six months earlier. Apart from the fact that it had been a place where we had seen numerous fish previously it also provided Mike with a place he could prop and fish without doing a lot of walking. The competition was to begin at 8.00am and we were keen to be in position for the start.

We found a shaded place for Mike to station himself and then Mark and I headed upstream. We separated by 30m



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or 40m, with Mark ahead of me. I was busy scanning the pools we had fished on that earlier trip but didn't see much.

We crossed the creek and walked along the southern bank. We had moved well past the area we had fished previously. There were certainly carp about but they seemed finicky. We had been stalking for about 20 minutes when a carp fin appeared adjacent to the bank about 10m in front of me. I checked my gear—no tangles—all was ready to go! I crept along the bank until the range was less than 5m. I paused, held my breath, drew back and placed my single pin on the fin of the fish. I was concentrating hard on my form to make sure I executed the shot properly. Bowfishing for carp is nothing like hunting for goats or pigs or even shooting on the course. It's very short range, often with difficult footing, aiming a lot further down than 99 per cent of shots we normally take and with the added challenge of refraction added to the shot if the fish is under water.

I released. I felt the bow almost pulled out of my hands as I had arrowed a large carp and it was taking off! Mark yelled from upstream for me to put the bow down and hurry up and get it in! I did as was told and hand-lined the carp to the bank. My first!

After catching my breath and letting the adrenaline settle a little, I realised that there was still work to be done. Firstly I needed a photo for Dave. And then I realised that I was in contention for one of the prizes from the competition, the first carp. I grabbed my phone and realised I was almost out of battery. I raced to take the photo and send it to Mark before anyone else sent in their picture. Photo taken and sent, I chopped the tail off the carp to keep as a record for the competition and then disposed of the fish as we had been advised to.

Mark was having considerably more success as I heard his bow go off a couple of times and watched him struggle with landing some pretty sizeable fish. As we worked our way along the riverbank, the further we travelled upstream the more the number of fish seemed to increase. There were chances for lots of shots but no further success. Some of this was due to refraction (the difference between where the fish appears and where it actually is due to the light reacting with the water) and part of it was just poor shot sequence with the excitement, stance and positioning challenges.

We continued to work upstream until we came to a point where the creek divided. The fast-moving part of the creek took a slight dog-leg to the right and went out and around a number of trees. The other part of the creek was a sluggish backwater, very shallow with lots of water plants and small reeds. Even from a distance, I had seen movement that I thought might indicate numbers of fish

in the area. Mark followed the fast moving water while I made my way to the backwater.

As I approached the still water, the sight that greeted me was astonishing. There seemed to be fish everywhere moving through the shallows. Most of the water was less than 30cm deep except where it rejoined the main water flow, and the fish were swimming in small groups through the shallows. It seemed like they were playing chasey.

What was actually happening was the fish were spawning. Groups of five or six smaller males were chasing or herding larger females into the shallow water where the males pressured the females into laying her eggs and the males would fertilise them. The males harassed the females relentlessly and opportunities to shoot were plentiful. If I had taken as many fish as I shot at, the end result would have been a significant number of fish. As it was I was happy with the four I took and my recollection is that Mark took seven. Not a bad result for a few hours' work.

As lunchtime neared we were conscious that Mike was on his own back at the bridge. It was a very warm day and we were keen to make sure Mike was okay. Mark and I headed downstream to Mike and ran into Jamie Harrington working his way upstream after a late arrival and, therefore, a late start. We told Jamie of our findings and hoped that he, too, would do well.

We found Mike where we had left him, still under the bridge. We exchanged our stories and found that Mike, while he had seen a few fish, hadn't had the chance to shoot at any. From where we stood in the shade of the bridge we could see fish moving through the shallows further downstream but they would be safe as the bridge marked the boundary of the permit area.

We made our way back to camp. Even though the competition would still run for another day I was ready to head home. By this time I had been away for eight days and was keen to get back to the family.

The trip had been a very successful one. Not only were the courses ready for the Safari but my cheap-as-chips bowfishing gear had passed its test. Without a doubt it is a very rewarding form of hunting and worth the effort of persevering. It is just hoped that the NSW Department of Primary Industries agree and make bowfishing for carp an ongoing venture.

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





# Entries PHOTO COMPETITION

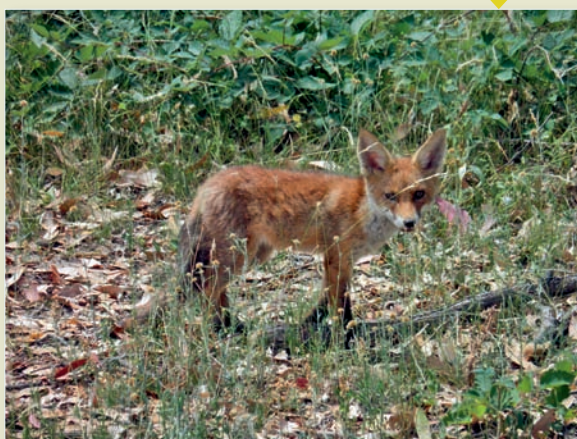


Left: Determination in the face of difficulty, Anthony Hunt

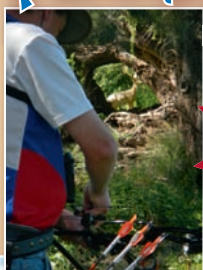
How can I miss? Matt Kelly.



Glassing for game, Heather Pender



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# NEWS

The eighth induction banquet honouring three legends of our sport through induction into the Australian Archery Hall of Fame took place on Saturday March 4 at the Gaythorne RSL Club located in the Brisbane metropolitan area before 100 guests. The evening was hosted by Neil Digweed, Treasurer of the Archery Alliance, and the welcome address was presented by Board member of the Archery Alliance of Australia, Brian Hagaman. Various presentations to archers from all codes of the sport preceded those of the three inductees into the Hall of Fame.

## Member Associations' National Awards

### Archery Australia:

Men's Olympic Bronze Medal Team:

*Presented by Grant Cole (Archery Australia Vice President)*

Ryan Tyack  
Taylor Worth  
Alec Potts

Men's Paralympic Bronze Medallist:

*Presented by John Hyde (Archery Australia Board Member)*

Jonathon Milne

### Australian Bowhunters Association:

*Presented by Trevor Pickett (ABA National Score Recorder).*

Joanne Bogie  
Nate Chandler

### 3D Archery Association of Australia:

*Presented by Robert Vayro (Vice President 3DAAA)*

Outstanding Shooter: Matt Bradshaw  
Service to Association: Grant Elsley

### Traditional Archery Association:

*Presented by Keith Speight (President TAA) and Perry Jackson*

National Medal: Steve Linaker  
Dave Keable  
Grant Cawthorn  
Glenn Newell

## 2017 Hall of Fame Inductees

Madeleine Ferris: *Presented by Alison Hagaman*  
Edna Gaisford: *Presented by Keith Gaisford*  
Roy Rose: *Presented by Eric Creighton*

A great night was had by all those in attendance at what turned out to be an excellent venue. The evening concluded reasonably early as many of those in attendance were required on the shooting line early the next day to complete their rounds in the Archery Australia National Open Event conducted at Samford Valley Target Archers. These Induction events could not take place without the assistance of our sponsor and thanks are extended to Tony Dalton at Abbey Archery and his representatives on the night, Jeanette and Kevin Dowd, for their assistance in promoting the night.





## Inductions



*Madeleine Ferris.*



*Edna Gaisford.*



*Roy Rose.*

### *Hall of Fame Inductee List*

2008: Bill Baker, George Scott. 2009: Allan Davies, Fred Gavin, Ross Herron, Hans Wright. 2010: Grace Drake, Simon Fairweather, Syd Green, Jim Larven. 2011: Eric Creighton, Murray Frith, Keith Gaisford, Tom Mitchell. 2012: Bruce Dillon, Tom Hannay, Jan Holmes, Ed Lanske, Terry Reilly. 2013: Terry Donovan, Kevin Whiting, John Womersley. 2014: Gretel Dabovich, Robert Dover, Stephen Jennison. 2017: Madeleine Ferris, Edna Gaisford, Roy Rose.

## National Medals



*3DAAA Medal Grant Elsley.*



*3DAAA Medal Matt Bradshaw (right).*



*AA Medal Olympic Bronze Medal Team (from left) Ryan Tyack, Taylor Worth and Alec Potts with coach Ya Ping Shah.*



*AA Medal Paralympic Bronze Medal, Jonathon Milne.*



*ABA Medal Joanne Bogie.*



*ABA Medal Nate Chandler.*



*TAA Medal Dave Keable.*



*TAA Medal Glenn Newell.*



*TAA Medal Grant Cawthorn.*





## Nick Lintern TRADITIONAL TRAILS

# How to build an English longbow Part 3

*Hello to all our readers and welcome to another edition of Traditional Trails.*

*We are right in the middle of the cooler weather now and plenty of traditional archery events have been shot already this year. Our tri-laminated English long-*

*bow is well under way and in this edition it will be glued up and awaiting the first stage of shaping. So here goes, for our*

*next edition of Traditional Trails.*

At the end of our previous article, we had our forms built, and the bow's hickory backing strip tapered and marked out. Now it's time to prepare the U.S. black walnut core.

### *The core*

So, as we have already established, we are going to use U.S. black walnut for our centre core. I am taking my stock from 40in boards so this means they must be joined. We can get away with this because it is the centre core lam. It will be supported both sides. I cut my stock to 1 1/2in and to 36 3/8in long. The extra 3/8in allows for a spliced joint. (more on that shortly).

Next, we have to decide our finished bow target weight again. If on the heavy side (70#-plus), your centre core can be as thick as 170 thou to 250 thou. If less, keep it to about 150 thou, give or take. This is because if we make the inner core too thick, the belly material can end up being too thin and a weakness will result. Next, cut your walnut to a thickness of about 1/4in. A table saw with a fence is ideal for this and a bandsaw with a fence will also suffice. Now I taper grind the lams to 2 thou per inch in exactly the same way as we did with the backing in the previous article, with the master taper and drum sander, only these are





*Walnut, tapered to be spliced together.*

shorter lengths so it's easier. Once ground, our next job is to join these lams at the butt or thick end. To do this, mark a line at about 3/8in up from the butt. Now we need to grind a taper over that 3/8in area. I find a bench liner works well, but a hand sander and a lot of elbow grease and patience will work (*see photo*). Next we need to join the lams. Grab yourself a straight edge and a scissor clamp or similar. Place some newspaper on your bench so you don't make these lams a permanent fixture, and apply some super glue (cyanoacrylate) to one side of the splice and glue them together. Use the straight edge to ensure perfect alignment and the scissor clamps to clamp it nice and tightly together. After five minutes or



*Splice joint glued and clamped along a straight edge.*

so you can remove the clamps and lift up what is now one, fully tapered lam. We aren't relying on the super glue to have any strength in the completed bow—it is just holding those lams together. Once the bow is glued up it will all be locked in by the back and belly lams and the structural epoxy we are using on this bow. Now we just need to prepare the belly stock.

### *The belly*

The belly is the easiest preparation of all three. Again, our belly stock is a plain-sawn, 72in, clean, straight piece of pignut hickory. We aren't tapering this stock. That will happen later. All we need to do is sand the side that will be glued smooth and it's ready for the final treatment pre-gluing.

Look down the belly board and see if it has a natural set or curve in it. If it does, don't fight it. We are going to glue this bow into a small amount of reflex to allow for set that will occur as we tiller. So mark a small pencil 'x' on the concave side as that will be your gluing side. This will ultimately assist with getting a bit of pre-set in the limbs. This is useful even if you are gluing up on a flat form looking for a flat basic stave. Before we put the final prep on our three prepared lams, it is a good idea to put a final check on the moisture content. Most moisture meters have a pin insertion system (*see photo*) so be wary that you test your lams on the areas that will not show up the little pinholes. The back and belly's gluing side and anywhere on the core are the spots. Now note down the moisture contents. Ultimately, you want the Hickory to be around 9 per cent to a maximum of about 12 per cent. The black walnut can be 12 per cent to even as high as 15 per cent, but no more. Remember, the part of the hickory tree we are using is actually the sapwood so it loves sucking up moisture so try to get it drier than 10 per cent if you can. If it is wetter than 12 per cent, place it in a drying box which is nothing more than a box with a series of light bulbs that keeps the temp to about 25 degrees (give or take). A period of 48 hours in an environment like that will generally get your moisture content

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A moisture meter reads the moisture content of the hickory.

where it needs to be. As you make any bow, I encourage you to keep extensive notes for future reference. One last job on your belly stock is to mark a centreline on the *side* of it, (in other words, not on the gluing surface or the opposing side), so a line at 36in. We will use this when lining up our stave later.

### *Preparation of lams for gluing (Part 2)*

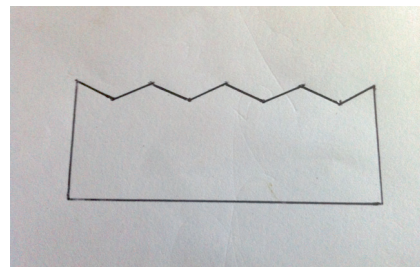
Well, here we are, getting close to gluing up our tri-lam ELB. There is one more prep job we must do to finalise our lams for gluing. I mentioned in the first article that we needed a toothing plane or hacksaw blade to prep our laminations. Here's why: By cutting



Using the toothing plane to prep the laminations gluing surface.

full length striations into our timber we are actually making the gluing surface bigger. Have a look at the attached drawing. I apologise for the crude pic but it makes the point quite well. The crown shape caused by the toothing plane, if straightened out, would probably add about 1/4in of gluing surface. This adds to the strength of the glue bond dramatically. It can also help with side shear in the bond.

Now, let's finalise things for the glue up. I cannot stress enough the importance of *cleanliness* when gluing up a stave. We must remove all oils and potential contaminants from the surfaces to be glued. Also, make sure you are organised. Once the glue is mixed and you are under way, the last thing you want is to have



something in the way or a hang up of some kind. I like two uncluttered benches for gluing up. One is covered in newspaper and is where the lams will be laid when prepped and the other has the form on it. Okay, here's how we proceed to finalise our prep:

Take your belly stock and lay it on an uncluttered bench. Now place your backing strip, gluing side up on top of the belly stock. This elevates it from the bench and makes it easier to work with. Clamp one end of both lams to the bench so it doesn't move while we work on it. Next, get some coarse sandpaper on your cork block – say 80 grit – and thoroughly sand the lam. This is the best way to remove oils et cetera. Some advocate the use of acetone et cetera, but I'm not a fan of this as residue can be left behind. I want clean, dry lams for gluing. Now, using either your toothing plane or your hacksaw blade, plane or scrape the entire length of your lam (see photo). Now unclamp your lam and sand the end where the clamp was. DON'T touch the prepped surface with your fingers. Our skin contains oils that will foul a glue up. Now, carefully

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place the lam on the newspapered bench. Now do the same thing with the core lam. Once one side of the core lam has been prepared, put it to one side where it won't get contaminated. We need to prepare both sides of the core lam but we can't just flip it over as the belly stock that we are using to prep our lams on is not yet cleaned. This means that if we put a nice clean, prepared surface on it to work the other side, we are potentially recontaminating the prepped side. So, put the core lam aside and then do the same preparation procedure on the belly stock. Once done, we can then flip our core lam onto the belly stock so we can prepare the other side of the walnut core. This means we are putting a clean surface to a clean surface so no contamination occurs. This may seem over fussy, but trust me when I say you cannot be over careful with this. If your glue joint fails, the bow fails.

Now we can lay all the laminations on the newspaper-covered bench ready to be glued.

### *Preparation of the form for gluing*

Now all the laminations are laid up ready to glue, we need to prepare our form. This same procedure applies to any form we choose to go with. I mentioned a couple of form variations in the last article and the prep is the same for any of them. For our bow, we are going to use the reflexed form. Simply all we need to do is cover the form in glad wrap and masking tape it in place so it won't move. This prevents glue from our glued-up bow stave from sticking our stave to the form. Also, tape the side stops so they also won't get stuck to the bow. Don't be tempted to use glad wrap on the side stoppers as it may get snagged up in the glued up bow as it slides onto the form.

Next, bolt the side stops in place.



*Hot box.*

Now your form is prepared to receive the glued-up stave. Make sure you have your 12 F or G clamps close by ready to use.

### *Hot Box*

A very useful thing to have when making bows that are glued is a hot box. This is not essential, but very useful. Generally, a bow that is cured in a hot box has a stronger glue bond as the consistent heat ensures better penetration of the glue and the glue itself gains strength from being heated. You want your box to keep a consistent temp of about 40 to 50 degrees. The hot box is easy to build. You are simply making a wooden box big enough and deep enough to house a full length bow, on a form with clamps. A length of around 80in and a width and depth of about 30in will work well. Line the box with some sarking or air cell to insulate it. It will need a hinged lid. The box gets its heat from a series of lightbulbs. You will need to experiment with the number and wattage of lights to achieve the heat needed. Space them evenly on the hinged lid to keep the temperature even in the

box. Wire them in succession so that if one blows the others will still work. If in doubt about this part, get an electrician to do this for you. My box has five 75-watt halogen bulbs. (see photo). You don't have to use a box to cure out your stave. You can air cure it but it will take a lot longer and don't glue up on a day that is chilly. I would aim to glue up on a 25 to 30 degree day and glue in the morning so the bow has all day at the warmer temp.

### *Gluing up your stave*

Our form is prepared, our lams are ready to go—toothed and clean. One final thing we need to do is add two wooden blocks to our bench. I find a 4in-by-4in pine block cut top about 4in high works well but it doesn't matter what you use. You will see what they are used for shortly. Also have your masking tape on standby as well. So now we can glue them up. The glue I prefer for this is Techniglu CA epoxy. I have used Techniglu in over 500 bows of varying kinds, from glass laminated bows to wooden bows and it has never failed. There are a couple of options though. One is the American epoxy. Smooth On.





*Techniglu CA two pack epoxy. The best glue I have ever used for all aspects of bowery.*

Many bowyers swear by Smooth On but I am not a fan. It is very thick and can be difficult to work with. Another option is Unibond 800. This is a urea/formaldehyde-type glue that is a liquid and powder two-pack. Good stuff for wooden bows but can be a bit finicky to use. Remember, if your glue fails your bow fails so my advice is to use the Techniglu. In order to use Techniglu you will need a clean dish (an old side serving plate works well), two spoons and a spatula. Techniglu is a 2/1 epoxy that must be mixed within 10% of this ratio by volume. I use a kitchen scale and mix it by weight. Both the resin and the hardener are the same weight so you can accurately mix it by weight and it is easier to get an accurate mix this way. For a tri-lam, mix 25 grams of hardener to 50 grams of resin. Put the 25 grams onto the dish on your kitchen scale, then zero it again. Then add the 50m grams of resin. Now thoroughly mix the two parts with your spatula until an even colour is achieved. You will find that Techniglu mixes really easily. Now apply the glue to all three lams on the bench. Now flip the core (walnut) lam onto the belly lam which exposes the non-glued surface of the core lam. Now glue this surface. We are gluing all contacting surfaces. Now flip the backing strip onto the other two and we are ready to go. Now all the glue is applied, we need to proceed to the next job. Carefully lift your stave onto the wooden blocks we discussed



*This an osage tri-lam but the stave taping process is the same.*

earlier. Now, with the stave elevated, make sure the lams are all perfectly aligned for length and then apply tape around the ends of the stave and in the middle of each limb, so four tape wraps in total (*see photo*). This will stop the lams from sliding about too much under clamping pressure. Now, lift the whole stave and place it onto the form with the bow's *back* facing down. It will slot down between the side stops. Use the centreline that we marked earlier to ensure your bows centre is in the middle of the form. This is very critical if using a reflexed

form, which we are. We want the reflex bend in each limb to be as even as possible. Place your first clamp in the middle of the stave. Now apply your other clamps working from the centre out to the ends. Apply them at about 6in increments. Apply solid, but not crazy pressure to the clamps. The glue should ooze out from the joints but if you really reef them down you can actually force the glue from the surfaces. Now we are ready to put the bow into the hot box. As mentioned before, I like my box to be around 40 to 50 degrees, no hotter. Turn it on, shut the lid and leave the bow in the box for about eight hours then turn off the lamps. *Do not* open it until another three hours have passed to let the box cool before opening it. If not using a box, leave it for 48 hours before stripping it from the form. Now we are ready to proceed to the next process which is roughing out the stave and preparing for tillering.

That's enough for this edition. I hope you are all still with me. As always any questions, feel free to message me on: [norseman\\_longbows@hotmail.com](mailto:norseman_longbows@hotmail.com).

Until next time, keep traditional.



*Stave clamped on form ready to go into hot box.*

# June 20 to 25 IFAA Field Archery Championships 2017

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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](http://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. Any queries to National Score Recorder - [abanationalscorerecorder@gmail.com](mailto:abanationalscorerecorder@gmail.com)

## DIRECTIONS:

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

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Turn off the Cunningham Highway at Swanbank exit.

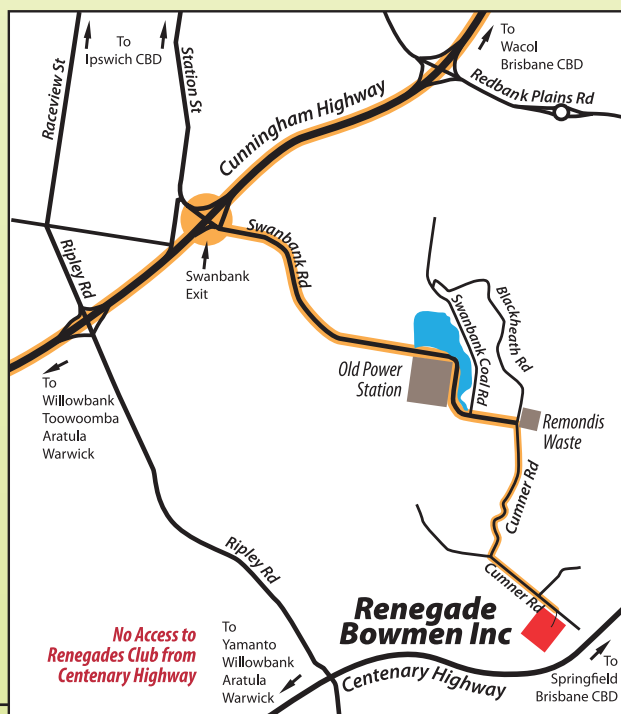
Keep the old power station site on your right.

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.



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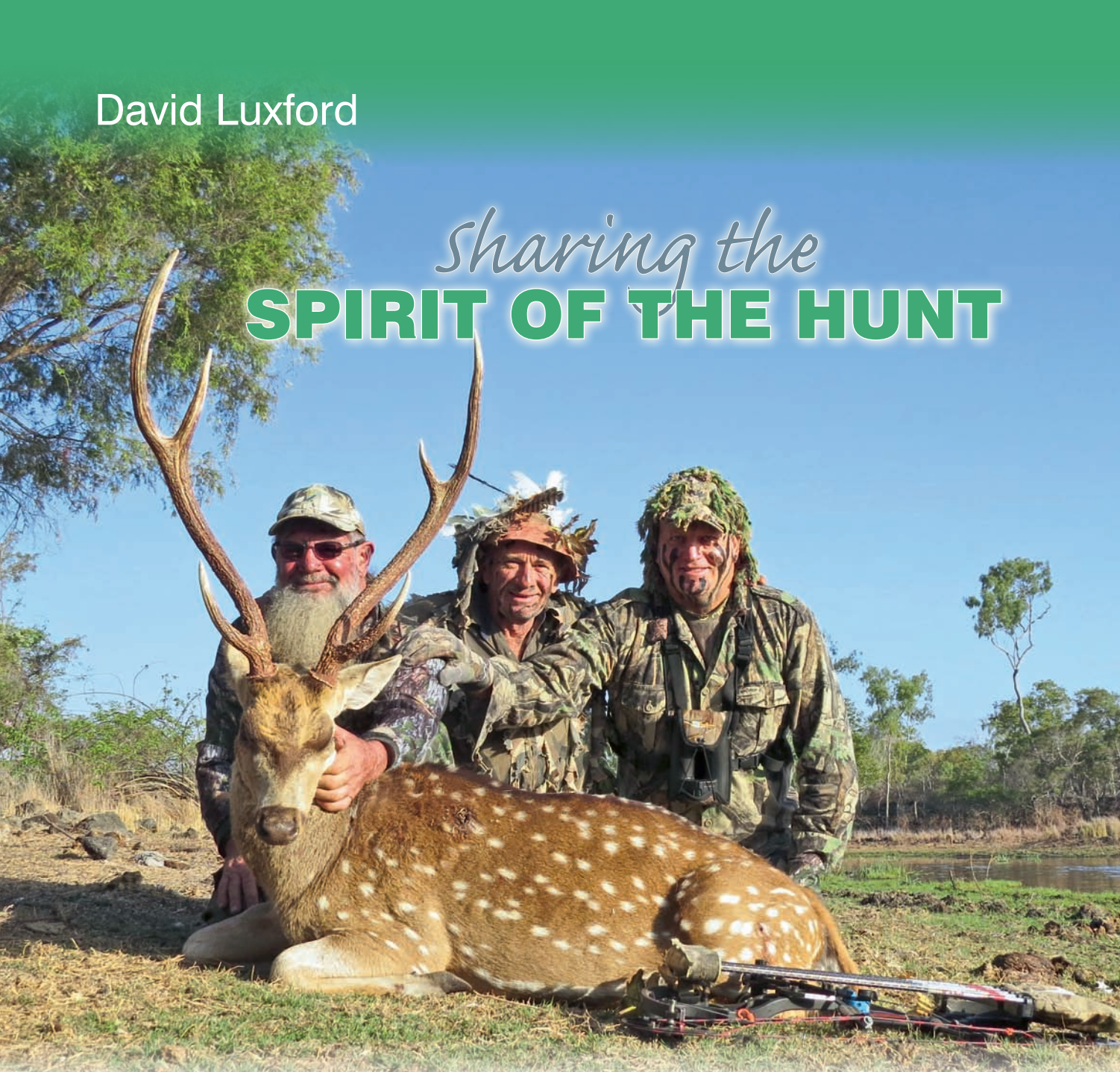
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David Luxford

# *Sharing the* **SPIRIT OF THE HUNT**



*From left, Graham McComiskie, David Luxford and Dan Smith with Graham's Record Class chital at Toomba.*

**M**any of us are driven by goals, achievements and accolades. For some, a thank-you speech from the podium is desirable while others are satisfied with a quiet handshake and a "Well done!". For me, it doesn't matter what your reason is for bowhunting ... as long as you are out there doing it.

I once hunted for bronze: I knew that if I could take a sambar stag with the bow I would be in with a good

chance of winning Safari Club International's annual hunting award—a bronze figurine. I remember the evening. I was tree standing for sambar when the realisation of what I was doing dawned on me. I left my tree went home and, for the better, had a good look at myself and reassessed my reason for being in the bush.

I was once accused of being a badge hunter. My defence to that accusation: If the desire to collect the

animal badges that the ABA awards in recognition of a hunter's efforts in the field sets you on a decade-or-so-long mission covering the entire continent, if it includes the interaction with a vast array of old and new friends and takes you to some of the remotest places in the country and if at times it tests your hunting and survival skills to the maximum, then the collecting of a handful or two of badges, with no podium or acco-



lades at the end, may not be such a bad thing.

I am still driven by certain goals; the Master Bowhunter Award is my annual challenge and every year I attempt to achieve it closer to home and in a shorter period of time than the previous year. I am not alone in my quest for certain levels of achievement and recognition within the bowhunting structure of the association. These days I take great pleasure in being of what assistance I can to any of my friends or associates who enjoy the spirit of the hunt, and appreciate the challenges and rewards that are associated with the grandest camaraderie and friendships that the bowhunting fraternity can offer.

In 2015, I was part of the team who helped Graham McComiskie celebrate the taking of his record class hog deer. Later that year I was again in his company at Toomba with Dan Smith. The hunting crew, apart from Graham and me, included Mark Curtis and Zeb Jones.

Hunting at Toomba is just marvellous; there's no better place to test your endurance and skills

against my nemesis, the chital stag. Between us all, we had a great trip taking a few good boars, a few hinds and a couple of stags. For me however, it was one hind and a pig, for although good opportunities were presented on a couple

of stags I failed to capitalise on the shot. Mark Curtis had the same experience. Zeb, on the other hand, was there for the hogs and shot a few nice boars along with a small stag. Graham was there for a trophy chital to add to his growing collection of trophy class species and to make a contribution to his year-long goal of TBA Bowhunter of the Year.

Graham, in typical form, succeeded in his mission, taking a nice record class stag. I had the pleasure of sharing the complete experience with Graham—the stalk, ambush, shot, that anxiety of the wait, the anticipation of the follow-up, the excitement of the recovery and the joy of triumph ... all the components of the hunt.

Before I left Toomba, I suggested to Graham that if he was serious about the TBA Bowhunter of the Year he should venture south and try for a couple more species; fox, goat and sambar deer. After a three-day drive, I crossed the Murray River into Victoria and called into Timberline Self-Guided hunts for a catch up with Russell and to check on the condition of ground blinds, tree stands and deer movements in gen-



*Graham McComiskie.*



eral. I had some input into Russell's hunting operation from its inception (what client's expectations are in respect to accommodation, availability of animals, positioning of blinds and so on). After an evening and morning tour with Russell, I reported positive news from the mountains to Graham.

Graham wasted little time in getting to Gippsland. Two hours after his arrival we were fox whistling, attempting to fulfill the final stages of a man's dreams and desires. Predictably on the second whistle a fox trotted in, presented a shot and Graham delivered an accurate arrow. The fox turned and disappeared back to a thicket of manuka from where he had come. The blood trail he left gave away his final resting

place, a wombat burrow.

Looking into the entrance of the wombat burrow, Graham appeared to be a little despondent. For me it wasn't an issue—refuge in a wombat burrow is no deterrent for a determined hunter. I assured Graham we would be back in the morning with all the necessary clearing and digging apparatus required for the retrieval, and we were. With axe, chainsaw, shovel, pick and crowbar, we cleared away the manuka. I then introduced Graham to the art of potholing—that is, anticipating the direction the burrow and digging vertical holes about two to three metres apart (it can save a lot of work). The first hole was right on the money ... and Graham had his fox.

The interesting thing about this hunt was that Graham and I followed exactly the same procedure as the previous year. The first whistle didn't work, the second a fox trotted in to the exact same spot as where we were however Graham's shot was not effective. It took a couple of more whistles in the same small gully before he had secured a fox however, it found temporary refuge in rabbit burrow, a simple retrieval and Graham had his fox. I hunt this spot only once or twice a year and whistle at exactly the same place—I mean the exact same tree—and rarely am I disappointed with the results.

With the fox out of the way we headed to Russell's Timberline Self-Guided Hunts. Graham was booked for five days and by the sound of



*Potholing mission complete ... the fox that didn't get away.*

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the weather forecast, he was in for one hell of an introduction to high mountain hunting in mid-November. Storms, rain, sleet, freezing conditions for a north Queenslander, daylight from 5.00am through to 9pm but the biggest shock of all was the noisy miner bird (me) that insisted he was up at 4.00am every morning, rain hail or sunshine.

The first day I insisted that he go bush for a stalk, I even, out of the goodness of my heart, drove him up the paddock to the edge of the bush line and assured him the rain would soon stop, before retiring back to the renovated shearing shed for a cup of tea. Graham had an eventful day he put up a stag, was honked at and found a cast antler, not a bad effort for the first day.

On the second day, I rallied Graham early and accompanied him to the stand where my son Michael and I had shot our stags. Graham opted for the ground blind so I dropped over the next gully and just watched. At first light, three does sauntered out from the lightly timbered pasture and made for the thick bush; a short time later a hind and a calf followed. I was intrigued how Graham's morning went, and when we caught up I was not particularly surprised.



*A hare in the morning sun.*

"Well I guess the tree stand is in the right spot," was his opening comment. Stand hunting is not for everyone. It can be boring and time generally drags on to an extent that all you want to do is go for a stalk. Graham may have struggled with time in the blind for he had opted to fill in a bit of time with his camera and while doing so and looking into the view finder, he saw two sambar deer moving his way. Doing the only thing he could do, he took some photos.

Over the next few days, conditions remained miserable but it seemed that nothing could dampen

Graham's spirits. He went out, sat in blinds and got drenched, went stalking and got soaked, sat in trees and froze ... and all the time I stayed in the hut drinking tea, cooking, keep up his spirits and planning another strategy.

The storms passed and the weather cleared. Graham took a nice big hare as it warmed itself in the first sun for a few days. It was only the second hare that Graham had taken so it was a memorable moment. With clear skies and

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*Graham with the 40-incher.*

enough sun to dry a mountain track, we opted for a chance at a goat hunt. The track across the range was dangerously greasy and the goats were as far up the hill as could be. It is only a small herd that has been there a long time. Access is difficult and complicated, but the

rewards are there.

We embarked on the slow trudge up the hill. The goats appeared to be miles away, however, by the time we crested the first rise they were heading for lunch in the blackberry-infested gully below us. I felt Graham was a little anxious, for heading in our direction was a fine selection of trophy goats and just one would more than likely secure his quest for TBA Bowhunter of the Year. We concealed ourselves at either end of a blackberry bush and as the goats passed with in range I anticipated that Graham's arrow would find its mark. However, it was not to be, he was shattered, a lost opportunity and as we all know sometimes they never present themselves again. But today Lady Luck was riding on Graham's shoulders and the goats slowly fed up the side of a hill, allowing us to intercept them once more within the cover of the blackberries.

I participated in the stalk by observation and could hear goats

moving towards Graham. As he drew I knew that one was about to meet its maker and one did—but jubilation was not forthcoming to the extent I thought it may. The big-bodied billy only had one horn. We could hear more goats moving up through the berries. Graham indicated that I should take one, in return I asked him to get me one with two horns.

Within five minutes, we were both tucked up under a blackberry bush with a couple of good goats feeding in to the 10m or 15m mark. As I was behind Graham, I watched as he came to full draw and looked down his arrow as he positioned his pin and released. The shot was fatal and within a minute or two we sat beside a great mountain trophy, a 40in goat. Graham was quite emotional ... it was only his second 40in goat in his many years of hunting, a remarkable and unexpected bonus for the trip and as far as his mission went, it was complete.

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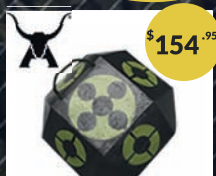
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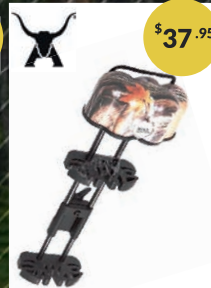
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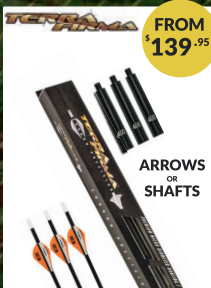
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E.&O.E.



In the final couple of days at Russell's mountain deer camp, Graham evolved into a determined sambar hunter. Every opportunity was taken to stalk during the day and sit quietly in the evenings or at first light and he was almost rewarded on the last morning when a deer materialised in the bush in front of his stand. But the deer game is never guaranteed, and the deer jumped the string and trotted off into the abyss.

With a more-than-successful trip under his belt, Graham was content to leave the mountains, head south to Stratford, back to Melbourne and then onto Cairns, but I had another plan. After a short intense discussion, we headed across the rooftop of Victoria, the Mount Hotham snow fields, and then down into the Myrtleford Valley. After the

standard introductions to a friend, I told Graham he had an hour to sort his stuff, have a cuppa and get his hunting gear on and organised because we would be walking at six thirty for a final two-hour hunt.

At 6.30, we headed straight up a rather steep hill, dropped into a gully and followed a contour around to where the gully forked into small feeder gullies covered in ferns, lush grass and surrounded undisturbed open forest just down from the top of the ridge.

When we got to a certain spot I said to Graham, "Wait here at the tree until dark." He questionably looked at me and replied: "*This* tree...?" I understood that it didn't really make any sense—after all, we were standing in the middle of a forest. "Yes, this tree or another

that takes your fancy, but this is the spot. Or if you want to walk up the top and follow the fence around back to the gate, you're welcome—it's your choice."

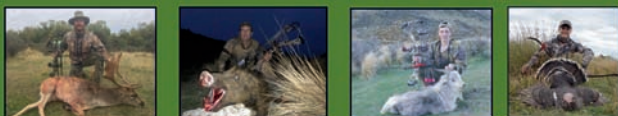
Naturally, Graham opted to stand near the tree while I sauntered up through the bush and onto the perimeter track.

Graham selected a tree not far from the one I'd suggested and within an hour a small antlered stag trotted down from the ridge across one of the feeder gullies and propped on a game trail amongst the ferns within bow range of Graham. An uneventful arrow was dispatched and the deer retreated to his wilderness. I was overwhelmed with the results of Graham's eleventh hour stalk—I had positioned my friend in what appeared a random spot within the forest and not only had he seen a deer, and a stag at that, but he had managed to take a shot!

The hunt was finished. We returned over the High-Plains road to home the following day and Graham returned to Cairns.

We'd had a great time, shared some very memorable moments both in the bush and around the fire, and Graham had met new friends. Every conceivable aspect of the hunt had been shared but the most important of all for me was that we had shared the *spirit* of the hunt.

And when Graham rang me some months later to inform me that we had done it—achieved TBA Bowhunter of the Year—I was filled with pride.



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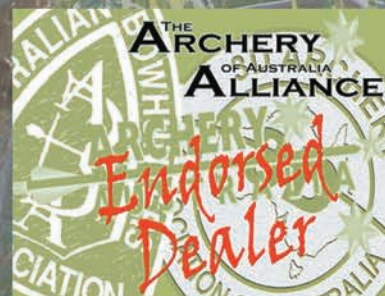




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## Victorian State Series

### Twin City Archers (February 18 and 19)

People started arriving from mid-Friday, with the balance of archers coming on Saturday morning before the start of the shoot. Assistance with equipment was offered and there was the added benefit of a little workshop, bow parts and accessories on site.

The indoor range is a huge building and the club allows all archers the option to camp out, sleep indoors or get accommodation in the local motels.

The ranges are set out around the clubhouse. It's a comfortable walk between shots which range from sand mounds across flats through to treed areas. There's also a tree stand shot from an elevated platform.

After the first day's shooting, archers went to a local RSL for dinner.

The courses were reset for day two, which was filled with its own challenges, then every-one gathered for the presentations.



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# *Southern State Series*

## Diamond Valley Archers (March 25 and 26)

The dedicated 3D shooters in the State look forward to the 3D AAA Series of events and the clubs in Victoria have learned the meaning of working together.

Diamond Valley Archers in Victoria has an extremely busy calendar. Without our hard-working team, these events could not be run and managed so thank you to all. Visit the website <http://www.3daaa.com> and support our sponsors who assist us with gift vouchers and giveaways.

The shoot begins weeks before with decisions on how to lay out the field course to make it different and challenging yet safe and fun for all competitors; from the dedicated 3D archer to the novice coming to an event for the first time.

For those who have not shot the Diamond Valley field course; it is considered by some as one that has unique challenges from shots taken through gullies, flat shots and incredible shadows that can change the whole profile of a target.

On Day One, seasoned 3D archers are paired with new members in the groups to make the event easier and more enjoyable for the new members.

The field course is special and respected by all archers who come there to participate in Diamond Valley's events. Last year there were ducks coming right up to archers as they came down to the field, and this year the course had kangaroos lying down on the course as archers walked down to start the event.

This all adds to the atmosphere of the course and the event. All archers know that these animals are so used to seeing people on the course that they can be lying only a few feet away watching you take your shot and not flinch. Shrubs also held some more fun creatures and you will



see a photo of one later (we knew where she was and did advise competitors). It showed the importance of following the markers laid out on the course.

In no time the ranges were filled with archers of all ages and the sound of arrows making their mark was often greeted with a sigh of relief.

In time the archers came back with scores, all challenged and all determined to do better the following day.

The indoor range buzzed with last minute-tuning, sight tape adjustments and then competitors went to the target range to cross-check the outcomes. While this was taking place the ranges were being reset.

Two range setters worked across the two ranges, each broken into segments so that no one person really knew where the pegs would be placed or the targets changed (one range setter was not competing but gave his time to help out).

Day two and the competitors were asking all sorts of questions. "Was this the same as we shot yesterday?" and "Why is the shot looking familiar, yet so different?"





Congratulation to Drew Orton (one of our youth archers), who shot two perfect rounds in succession—200 points out of 200, great work.

Presentations were made and the talk turned to the next 3DAAA event at Mornington Peninsula Bowmen on April 8 and 9, and also to the new one-day events that Diamond Valley Archers are going to undertake (there will be a series of five of these in 2017). These are designed to complement the two-day sanctioned shoots by giving new shooters to the event the opportunity to go along to a one-day event and enjoy a 3D event.

The first one-day event will take place on April 30 at Diamond Valley Archers.

In closing, here are some words from one of the cubs on how she found the weekend.



## My 3DAAA weekend—a cub's perspective

On the weekend I went to Diamond Valley Archers to shoot 3DAAA for two days. I had so much fun shooting with Cordell, Jason and Mitch.

I was shooting barebow and it was my first time shooting from the red peg. Last year I was shooting off the blue peg. Some of the targets were tricky but it was so cool shooting across the gully and down the big hills. My favourite targets were the turkey, crocodile and honey bear. When I was about to shoot the honey bear I saw there was a big kangaroo behind it. I stopped and took my arrow out and laughed when Jason shoo'd it away a little bit just in case I missed the target. I didn't miss, though!

At presentations I got a framed certificate for first place and a voucher from all the sponsors of 3DAAA. Thank you to the sponsors. I'm going to buy a new target ball!

I love my archery friends and can't wait for 3DAAA at Mornington next month.

by Shaylen Lowe, aged 8

## You're in with a chance to win a bow every time you compete at a sanctioned event



3DAAA platinum sponsor, Hoyt, has once again come on board this year by offering a brand new 2018 bow to one lucky adult in a prize draw with a difference.

Adults who compete at sanctioned shoots throughout the year will receive one entry for each sanctioned shoot they compete in and two entries if they shoot at the 3DAAA National Titles.

The winning entry will be drawn at 3DAAA's National Annual Presentation on November 12 and the winner will be able to choose a bow from the 2018 Hoyt bow line-up.

Winner of the 2017 bow was Paul Eagle, who was presented with his new Hoyt bow by Marcus from Urban Archery. Paul was very excited about winning his prize and said he hadn't won anything before. What a way to start winning!



# Queensland State Series

## Caboolture and District Bowmen (March 25 and 26)

It was another great shoot hosted by Caboolture and District Bowmen. The shoot was held off club grounds again (thank you John and Heather for the use of the grounds again this year—always greatly appreciated) and the courses were set several weeks in advance. We all hoped that the weather gods would be kind to us this year, knowing that we had changed our shoot from September to March in anticipation that we would be in a better position weather wise at that time of the year. But Friday came and there was the set up crew huddled under a tarp while 72mm of rain dropped in just 40 minutes. There was a torrential river flowing near the canteen area and we could only imagine what it was like on the courses particularly the targets that were set in the gullies.

When the bucketing rain was over, the team could only say, in true Caboolture style, “Well gang, time to reset some of the those targets.” (Maybe there were a few more choice words added in there too.) The work could not be achieved properly till the next morning as some rain continued throughout the night. Very early the next morning, the rain had stopped and the crew went out to rearrange the targets so the shoot could go on. This meant delaying the start time to 8.30am to ensure the safety of all. Hey, but this didn’t stop the keenest of archers in attending the shoot. (We just thank our lucky stars that Tropical

Cyclone Debbie happened the week after the shoot and not on that weekend ...phew!)

Some of the targets located in the creek and gully areas could not be retrieved as they were underwater. Well, those targets just needed to wait to be rescued when the water subsided. New targets were set within the existing courses. And what courses they ended up to be; not hard courses but tricky and very challenging, as they always are. You had to really think about what you were shooting at, given where and how those targets were positioned. That croc saw a few archers come unstuck and certainly did a few people’s heads in! Well done to the course setters and their band of helpers—a job well done again, although there were still a few 100s shot over the weekend.

Some 86 shooters attended the event and it was good to see all the familiar faces—and new ones too—come out and support the club. Saturday and Sunday saw sunny and steamy conditions but everyone came out and endured.

On the Saturday an archer’s string came off his cam and the other shooting team members assisted in getting the string back on the cam (not in a conventional style ... but with the aid of a snatch strap), so that the archer could continue shooting. How fantastic that is, to see such camaraderie on the course and in the sport. Well done fellas.

The canteen also provided a delectable array of food and drinks to satisfy those hungry and thirsty archers. Again another fantastic band of helpers did a magnificent job all weekend and might I say always with friendly and smiling faces behind the scenes.

The Top 10 shoot-off was held on Sunday prior to the presentation in a slightly different style, teaming two shooters together and having 10 teams. The scores of each team were totalled and the highest scoring team was the winner. That was Jason Van Hass and Elva Smith. It’s always good for clubs to try different styles of Top 10 shoot-offs, as it keeps it interesting and entertaining.

Congratulations to all of the placegetters who achieved in their respective divisions and to everyone else who shot in the competition whether competitively or non-competitively. The Committee would like to thank you all for attending our shoot; it was a pleasure to have you there and we hope you had an enjoyable weekend of shooting.





# MISTAKES I have made

*We've all done it. Made mistakes. Some of them are simple oversights, some are so bad they're absolute screamers. But if there's one thing you need to learn from any mistake it's how not to do it again. Here are a few of the mistakes I have made throughout the years in my bowhunting ventures.*



John A. Barlow

## Sleepless in Sierra Nevada

It was August 15 and the temperature inside my little dome tent was below freezing. It was hard to believe that when I had left my home in the central valley, that very same day, the heat was well over 100 degrees F (38°C). The cold was a welcome relief.

My deer camp was nearly 9000ft in elevation, high on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The next day would welcome the opening day of archery deer season and I was excited. I would be bowhunting mule deer, a much larger species of deer than the smaller blacktail deer I was accustomed to bowhunting. Instead of the thick, brushy and heavy tree growth terrain I was used to bowhunting, the eastern side of the Sierras was much more open. The vegetation that did grow here was short and close to the ground with the occasional white-barked aspen trees in many of the deep draws between the hills. This offered me a perfect opportunity to spot game from long distances and then stalk them, which is my favourite method of bowhunting.

As I crawled into my down sleeping bag, visions of velvet-antlered bucks filled my head. I knew I would have a hard time getting to sleep.

My young bowhunting companion sat next to me staring at the wall of the tent as if in a trance. Derek was my best friend's son, and when his father asked me if I could take him along, I was more than happy to say yes. I had bowhunted with Derek before, and on a previous bowhunt I'd helped him drag a little forked horn blacktail out of the woods ... Derek's first deer. I suggested to Derek that he might want to unpack and get some sleep due to the fact that we would be getting up well before sunrise to begin our bowhunt. That was when, with some embarrassment, he told me he had forgotten his sleeping bag, canteen, and a few other items critical to our hunt.

It was going to be a long night. Down-filled mummy bags were not built for two people nor were they designed to be unzipped and spread out like a blanket, but that is exactly what I had to do. Wearing every piece of clothing we had brought, we made the best of it and tried to stay warm as the temperature continued to drop through the night. Morning was a welcome relief.

Because of that experience and others like it I have



learned over the years to not only compile a check list of the bowhunting equipment I need for myself, but I double-check with my bowhunting companions as well, before we head out on a hunt. I take special care to check the equipment of younger bowhunters I might take along. We all have forgotten an item on occasion. A friend once told me he had gone on a bowhunt and forgotten his bow. It is always better to take the extra time to make sure one's equipment is in order before beginning one's bowhunting journey.

## Lazy llamas

One year my friend Darrell Webster offered to go with me on a wilderness bowhunt and use his newly acquired llamas to pack our gear. Darrell was not a hunter himself, but he loved the backcountry and welcomed any chance to hike into it. Over the years I had seen llamas used in the backcountry along with mules, horses and even goats. I thought of all the extra food I could bring and welcomed

his invitation. I welcomed the thought of not having to carry 40lb on my back for 10 miles.

I could not believe how light I felt walking the steep trails with nothing more than a water pouch on my back. This was going to be a great bowhunt! But like people, pack animals get tired, and because my friend had not done much packing with his llamas prior to our adventure, they were not in the best shape. At 7 miles into our hike, the four llamas simply stopped and lay down on the trail. No amount of tugging, yelling, or pulling was going to move them. Add to the fact that darkness was closing in and rain was beginning to fall, and I found myself wishing we had not brought them, no matter how much extra food they could carry. It was not until we had unloaded all our gear off their backs that they stood up and moved. The rest of the evening was spent shuttling all of our food and equipment on our backs the rest of the way to our camp while the llamas rested in a high mountain meadow. I had never eaten llama meat, but I was beginning to think about it that night!

Hunting magazines are filled with articles about the importance of physical fitness for the bowhunter, but I

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cannot remember ever seeing one on its importance for pack animals. Whether it be llamas, goats, mules or horses it would be wise to make sure they are physically prepared for the trip, as you should be also.

## Bows: No safety in numbers

Several years ago in the back country I ran into a bowhunter who was bowhunting alone. That was not unusual because many bowhunters choose to do that. It is one of my favourite ways to bowhunt. What seemed a little unusual was the fact that he had two hunting bows with him—a beautiful custom-built recurve and a state-of-the-art compound. When I noticed the two bows I questioned him as to where his bowhunting companion was and he again assured me he was alone. He told me he was not that proficient with either of the two bows and he had brought both so that he could find out which one he could shoot better. Many bowhunters I know will bring a back-up bow, but generally they leave it at the trail head in their vehicle, just in case they may need to hike out and retrieve it. This was the first and only time I had seen someone in the backcountry with two hunting bows. I am not sure how his bowhunt turned out, but I have always wondered.

Bowhunting season is not the time to decide what style of bow you may want to shoot during your hunt. That decision should come well before the season. Whatever your choice may be (recurve, longbow or compound), make your choice and then sharpen your skills with it until you can harvest an animal with skill and do it humanely. When I was younger I sometimes made the mistake of going from my recurve to my longbow and back again just days before a bowhunting season opened. It usually occurred because of a shooting slump I might have been

having and my desire to remedy that slump by switching bows. It did not help because if I was having a shooting slump with my recurve that slump would generally transfer to my longbow as well. I now decide well in advance what bow I want to shoot during a particular bowhunting season and stay with it until that season is over.

I have found that instead of switching to a different type of bow if I am having problems with my shooting, I discipline myself to getting back to the fundamentals of good form, follow through, and a crisp tight release. My shooting slump will diminish and I find myself back on track. Switching back and forth in one's choice of equipment can be detrimental. Make a decision and stick with it.

## Optical delusion

Other than my bow and a set of well matched arrows, nothing is more important to me for success than a pair of well made optics. In some ways they may be more important than my bow. Always be sure you have them along on a bowhunt even though you may think you won't need them. As a backcountry bowhunter I am always looking for ways to reduce the weight of items I carry into the backcountry. One year I chose to leave my bigger and more powerful set of optics at home and replaced them with a pair of smaller ones. The weight reduction was enough to look inviting, so I did it.

To be honest it was nice not to have that heavier set of binoculars around my neck and shoulder as I climbed steep inclines in order to get to country that held game animals. The shock of my mistake came when I found I could not see nearly as far or as clearly with the smaller optics. They weren't much better than my naked eye. And they hurt my eyes far more than my bigger and stronger pair. I know on that bowhunt I missed seeing game ani-





mals just because I did not want to carry the extra weight. It was a mistake, and one I have never made again. It is an old adage, but buy the best optics your budget allows and use them as though they are a second pair of eyes ... which in many cases they are.

are bowhunting must be sound. As our skills improve, we become more complete as a hunter.

## The importance of purity

Always purify your drinking water. I learned this lesson early in my bowhunting career when I believed that if water was moving it was good to drink. I am not sure where that type of thinking came from, but like a bad parasite it was stuck in my thinking process. Unless it comes out of a household faucet or bought as bottled water from a grocery store, I go through the process of making sure my water is free from microscopic hitch-hikers. Even in the cleanest looking environments water can be contaminated. In many of the public land backcountry areas I bowhunt in, cattle and sheep may be present. Ranchers are often granted permission from land agencies to graze their livestock in summer and early fall. It is common for water sources to become contaminated with livestock excrement. No amount of water velocity in a stream is going to singlehandedly de-contaminate it. There are dozens of products on the market that will get the bugs out of your drinking water in the bush, so please use them. Your insides will be grateful.

Each bowhunting season gives us an opportunity to improve our skills so we can enjoy our sport even more. Like you, I can hardly wait for the next one to arrive.

*Photos, from left: Have a hunting list and check each item off, choose your bow well before your hunt and make sure it is one that will enable you to take game humanely, lay everything out before you pack it, a good set of optics may be your most important piece of hunting equipment, when you're on the trailhead is not the time to discover you left something back at home, preparing yourself physically is as important—and so is preparing pack animals if you're going to use them.*

## You can't do it all

When I was a young boy, many of the Bear Archery advertisements that were placed in hunting publications caught hunters' attention with the caption "Be A Two Season Hunter." The point was that with archery gear you could hunt an early archery season and then hunt the general season with a firearm when regulations permitted. Looking back, it was an excellent marketing campaign to get hunters interested in hunting with a bow. And while many hunters throughout the world are indeed two-season hunters, there is a different mindset that prevails with the bowhunting archer. I believe this difference comes because of the distance requirements imposed upon these two different pieces of hunting equipment. You have to get very close to an animal to take it with a bow. Bowhunters think of distance in feet. Gun hunters think of distance in yards; sometimes several hundred yards when contemplating a shot.

To the serious bowhunter, thoughts concerning wind direction, noise, movement, camouflage, smell and a variety of others variables fill our mind during a bowhunt. And while those same areas of concern can occupy the thoughts of a gun hunter as well, they are not as critical due to the distance a modern hunting rifle can be shot. We have chosen to limit ourselves because of our choice of weapon. But in some respects we have expanded ourselves as well. Our knowledge of woodsmanship skills must be excellent. Our knowledge of the game animal we



## BUSHBOW 3D - RABBIT BLOCK



When I stripped away the packaging encasing my delivery from Bushbow 3D, my first impression as I lifted out the robust block of foam was how solid it felt and just how well turned out the product seemed to be, quality and presentation wise. A tiny smirk of perhaps pride raised a corner of my jowls as I thought to myself, "You little Aussie beauty!". My mind then raced to readying gear and honing broadhead flight in preparation for some early winter fox whistling. I now held the perfect tool to aid in my excited preparations for times soon to come.

The rabbit block is no dinky toy; the scales confirmed its solid demeanour at 8.6kg (19lb) but remains quite portable for field-based practice. It measures 375mm (or just over 14.5 inches) from face to face and its six sides are cleverly adorned in either a protruding rabbit image or a circular target face. I say cleverly, because the two round, non-protruding target sides are positioned so that regardless which of the four protruding rabbit sides you are shooting, the block has a stable flat face resting on the ground, preventing rocking or dislodgement of the target while shooting ... a nice touch. The circular faces aid in focussing your aim on a spot when you are using the block to adjust your bow sights where a precise point of aim is more beneficial than an animal shape.

I have shot the block for over a month now with a variety of gear and having previously shot out a number of these style of targets from different manufacturers, I found this product compares extremely well with other products available.

Signs of wear after hundreds of arrows with both broadheads and field points from a variety of bows are so far minimal and the finish and integrity of the target is holding up exceptionally well. I have tested with everything from heavy wooden arrows with broadheads to super fast field-tipped target arrows. Even my daughter has had a go with her tiny alloys from her little recurve bow (which I thought might bounce out, but certainly did not). All arrows pulled from the target with ease—even the fat woods. It pulled up a very sharp 3:1 two-blade broadhead tipped 500grn arrow from a 70lb compound with ease.

Chatting with Dave Fent, the new owner of Bushbow 3D, I learned he is now making all his targets in a climate-controlled environment, which means full control of consistency throughout the product range—no soft or hard variances. I was also excited to learn Dave is planning to roll out a new pro/competition range of life-sized 3D Australian game animals from later in the year along with a couple of other surprises ... that's just awesome news.

So, how do I rate the rabbit block? It's right up there with nothing under 9 or 10 out of 10 when I consider presentation, arrow stopping and pulling, mobility, longevity, value (retails very competitively at \$240) and the fact that it's Aussie made. Check out all the 3D targets at [www.bushbow3d.com](http://www.bushbow3d.com) or give Dave a call (details are in the advertisement on this page).

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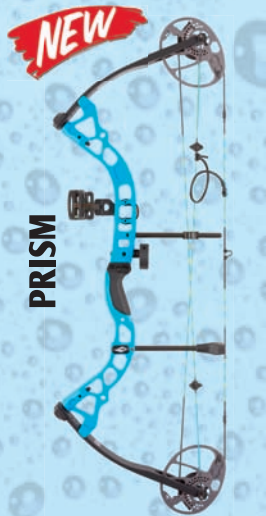


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## RANGER LONGBOWS

### The Perentie

by PHIL STEELE

We live in an ever-changing world of technology. Of that there can be no question. You only have to hark back 50 years to see how far mankind has progressed in this field. Take computers as a prime example. Where would we all be without computers and the immense changes computers have made to the world we live in? I can still remember back, when as a small boy, my father took me to Wollongong University to see my first computer. It was immense—the size of an average second bedroom in any modern household—and really, all it could basically do was add numbers. It was an oversized calculator. Wow, things have certainly changed in that department.

These days computers virtually run the world. We keep in touch,

shop, bank and pay bills with them and our cars wouldn't run without them. Computers tell us what the future may hold as well as being reservoirs of vast amounts of information that remind us of the past. They have become indispensable to our modern society and unlike that prototype I saw all those years ago, they now fit in the palm of a hand.

We all know that even the ancient art of archery has not escaped the clutches of technology. I present to you the modern sighted compound bow as exhibit A.

I am not a die-hard traditional archer. Sure, I only use traditional bows, but I have a preference for modern carbon arrows over the more traditional wooden shafts. So for this reason, I prefer to see myself as a

shooter of traditional bows rather than a traditional archer. I am not a fan of modern sighted compound bows and I actually see them as a bit of a blight on our sport. Fast, accurate and easy to use. Why wouldn't any potential archer who does not want to spend hours practising and learning his or her craft the hard way, want to use them? And therein lies the problem. Most of us look for the easiest path to success in just about everything we do, but sometimes a few like to keep to the past and, in my opinion, earn their right to shoot A Grade or try their skill at taking game the hard way. Like many others, I too was also lured by the ease at which one can quickly adapt to shooting a sighted compound bow accurately. Fortunately, it did not last

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and I turned my back on compound bows and returned to my first love, traditional bows.

I suppose I am far better acquainted with the eccentricities of a recurve bow but of late, I find myself slowly being pulled towards longbows. There is something so uncomplicated, so elegant (and frustrating!) in learning to shoot a longbow. I once read that longbows are the most addictive bows you can shoot and I cannot argue this point.

I have no idea how many longbow archers there are out there, but I do know traditional bows as a whole are making somewhat of a comeback in both hunting and field archery. There will always be those who prefer the easy way and use sighted compounds, but I find it quite heart warming when I see youngsters trying their

hand at field archery armed with a recurve rather than the cumbersome compound bow and its subsequent gadgets and gimmicks.

To coincide with this surge in popularity, traditional bowyers both here and abroad are in demand and the waiting list for a custom traditional bow can be quite lengthy. About a year or so back, I contracted Stuart Wearne of Ranger Bows down in Goulburn NSW to make me a recurve bow from local material. The end result was a very pleasing, man-sized takedown bow made from Tasmanian blackbutt and red jarrah from WA. It is a lovely bow and shoots like a dream. Since then Stuart and I have kept in touch and then one day late last year he asked me if I would be interested in trialling and testing one of his new

longbows. Naturally, I accepted.

Ranger bows make (at this time) several different model longbows and all feature local hardwoods. Stuart also likes to name his bows after Australian wildlife. The bow I received is called the Perentie and is made from Australian she oak with compressed bamboo with black glass limbs. It is quite striking, especially when viewed in the direct sunlight which is where the real beauty of she oak can truly be appreciated. With black limbs and the almost iridescent features of the wood, I can see why he would name it after one of our spotted monitor lizards.

The Perentie is 68 inches in length and reflex/deflex in design. The riser is well shaped and not too overpowering. Some of the designs I see emanating from the States have all but eliminated the classic lines of a traditional longbow by shaping the risers in a way more befitting a recurve bow. The Perentie, I am pleased to say, has stayed with tradition in this regard. The bow Stuart sent to me is 53lb at 28in. I was a little apprehensive about this poundage simply because I don't shoot bows of a heavy poundage. Add two and a



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*The riser of the Perentie is made from native she oak. In strong sunlight, it is truly beautiful to behold.*

bit more inches for my long draw and the scales start to climb until I am left holding somewhere in the vicinity of 57lb to 58lb at full draw. Fine for a few shots here and there, but for a day's field archery with this sort of poundage is quite taxing.

I need not have worried, as the Perentie draws very smoothly with no stacking and is a real pleasure to shoot. I would say the 68in over-all length has something to do with that. What did surprise me most of all while shooting this bow was the almost complete lack of hand shock. Longbows are notorious for hand shock and some are worse than others. I have another longbow in my stable which is a bit of a brute to shoot even though it too has a slight reflex/deflex shape to the limbs. The limb design on this bow, I am pleased to say, has all but eliminated this annoyance although you do get used to it in time and it can be tamed even further if fast flight strings are used ... or so I am told.

I suppose at this point you are expecting me to start raving on about how accurate and tight my groups were right from the outset? I wish it were true but it wasn't. The Perentie's

arrow rest is not cut to centre like just about all recurves and some longbows. Subsequently, arrow spine is paramount if you want this bow to perform. As I mentioned earlier, I do not shoot wood arrows and all I had in my quiver were 400 carbons which did not perform. They grouped quite well but about 8in or 10in to the right of where I was aiming. I tried heavier points, different cantering degrees, but with no luck.

I was fortunate that my mate, Doug Cane, was on hand with me at the range and I grabbed a handful of his heavier 340s. The results were much better and when I added 140grn field points to the shafts, that did the trick nicely. I shot a few five arrow groups from various distances out to 25m and I was surprised at how good the bow felt to shoot. I cannot give you facts and figures regarding arrow velocity as I do not own a chronograph nor was there one on hand at the range, but cast was good out to 30m.

I tried my luck on a few longer targets with mixed results. One thing is for sure, even a relatively heavy longbow does not cast an arrow like a recurve and while it is not noticeable



*Reinforced limb tips make the Perentie compatible with fast flight strings.*

at close-to-medium ranges, arrow flight drop-off out past 40m is significant. Not to worry; it's just a matter of getting used to ... and besides, for hunting purposes I would hope no hunter would contemplate trying to arrow an animal beyond 30m.

For the rest of the test I took the bow on a round of ABA which included a morning three-arrow shoot followed by a one-arrow in the afternoon. I had a great day. The bow was passed around a bit and a lot of fun was had by all. As far as scoring is concerned, I shot okay. I was certainly a few points shy of my regular recurve scores but that was to be expected. I am quite sure with a bit of practice the gap will narrow considerably.

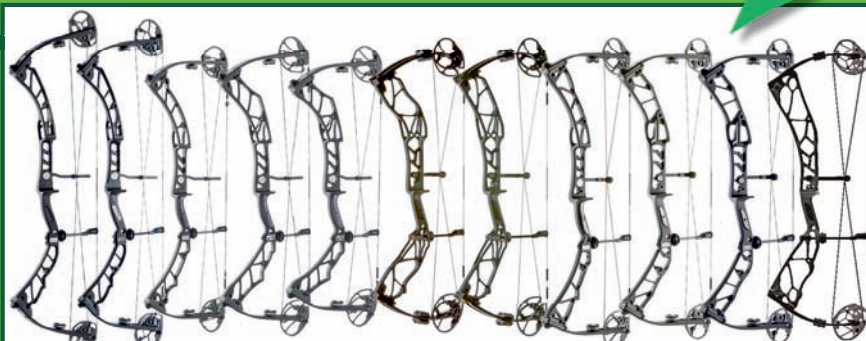
Stuart Wearne has done a fine job on this bow and indeed, all of his Ranger collection. Even though making longbows is only a part-time hobby/business for him at present, his love and many years' experience working with local timbers really shines in his products. All Ranger bows come with a fast flight string, leather arrow rest, bow stringer and woollen string silencers attached. At \$550 plus freight (at the time of writing) these bows are very economically priced. If you have ever thought about trying your hand with a longbow, then perhaps you should contact Stuart through his website [www.rangerbows.com.au](http://www.rangerbows.com.au). Who knows, maybe you too will succumb to the lure of the longbow.



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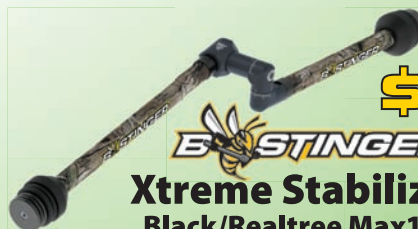
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## Leatherwork Basics

# All stitched up

*So far in this series on leatherwork, I've covered the types of leather that you can use and the tools you need to get started. I guess the next thing is to show you what to do with those tools. In this article, I will go through the basic principles you need to know in order to hand stitch leather pieces together. It's not a complicated process and with a bit of practice your neatness and proficiency will improve and you'll be making quality gear or repairs in no time. The stitch that I am going to show you is called the saddlers stitch' and uses two needles—one either end of the thread. You can use a single needle to stitch using a backstitching method, which is also effective, but I find this the easier method to perfect.*



**TONY JENSEN**

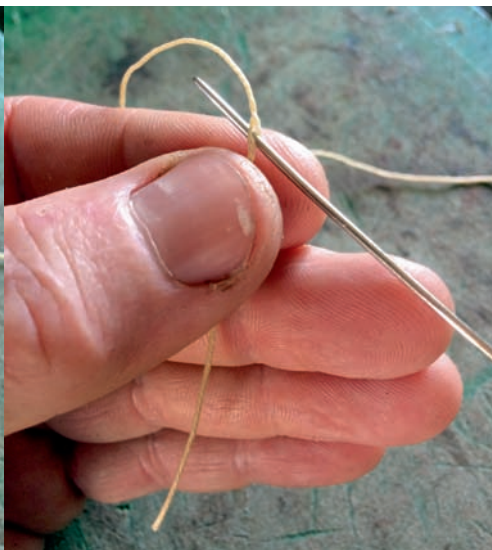




1.

First of all, prepare your job to the point where you're ready to stitch. Pick up your thread and estimate the amount you might need. As a guide, I use 25cm of thread for 25mm of stitching. As with most leatherwork, it will depend on how thick the leather is and the number of stitches per inch you are using but I have found this works pretty well in most situations.

Once you've estimated how much thread you need, take one end and lay it over the blade of your hand, running over your pointer finger with the end finishing level with your little finger (*photo 1*). Take one of your egg butt needles and push it through the middle of the thread against your pointer finger (*photo 2*). Push the needle through the thread about halfway along the needle and then pull up a small loop of thread from behind your pointer finger and again push the needle through the middle (*photo 3*). At this point you should have a loop of thread sitting above the needle. Now, take the end of the thread that was in line with your little finger and flatten out the end of the thread and pass it through the



2.

eye of the needle and pull it through until you have a small loop of thread below the line of the needle. So now you should have two loops; one above the needle and one below the needle (*photo 4*). With one hand, hold the point of the needle and with the other, pull the main line of the thread, back down along the needle so that the loops slide off the needle and make two knots in the thread. Do

4.



3.

the same to the other end and you're ready to start stitching (*photo 5*).

Place your job in your saddler's clamps or stitching pony. Have the job positioned so that you are stitching from right to left. Pick up your Diamond awl and place your index finger along one of the long sharp edges of the blade and rest the butt of the handle into the swell of your hand. Place the tip of the awl against

5.



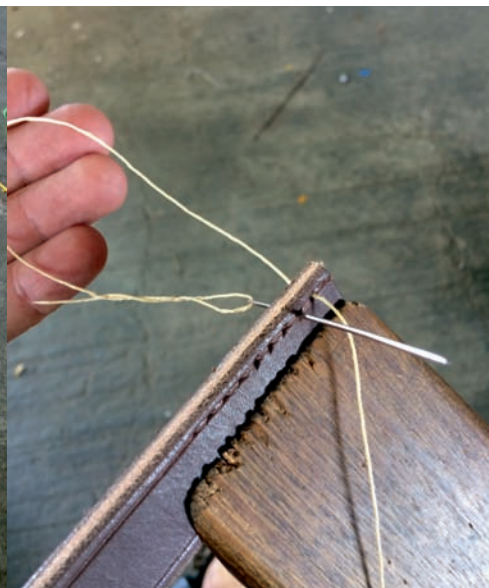




6.



7.



8.

your stitching mark. Turn the long blade of the awl to approximately 30 degrees, angled back towards the right of the job (*photo 6*). It is important at this point to make sure the angle that you go into the leather is going to match the angle that you are going to come out of the leather so if you want, place your finger at the back of the job and draw an imaginary line from the awl point to your finger. Once you're satisfied everything's good, then take your finger away and push the awl through the leather. Do this for the first two stitching marks. It is important to note that

the reason I say to have the awl at an angle of approximately 30 degrees is so that the thread when pulled goes to the centre of the diamond and not to the top or bottom of the hole. It also helps keep the strength of the leather especially if you are stitching close to the edges.

Take your thread and pass one end from the top through the first hole you punched until you get to about halfway. Match up both ends of the thread so that they are equal (*photo 7*). Take the bottom thread and pass it through the second hole you made going from the bottom to

the top (*photo 8*). Pull the needle through the top side, leaving a loop on the bottom side. Take the second needle that was originally on the topside of your job and pass it through the same hole you just passed the bottom strand through, going from the top to the bottom, and pull it through, leaving a small loop on the top side. At this point you should have two loops, one on the bottom side and one on the top side of your job (*photo 9*). This next part is important, so pay attention. Take both strands and pull them up equally at the same time so that they



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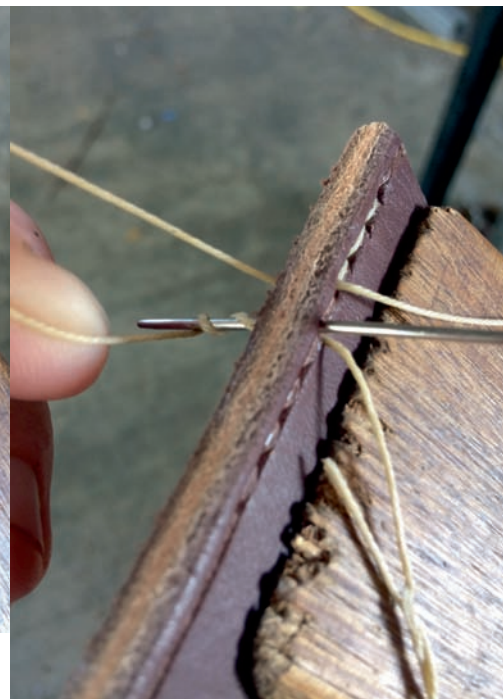




9.



10.



11.

create the stitch at the same moment. The reason why this is important is that if you pull them unequally then you'll end up with different length strands to try and finish your job. This is really only important for the first stitch and doesn't apply to the rest of the stitches. (*photo 10*).

Now, it's simply a case of repeating that process. Pick up your diamond awl, place it on your stitching mark, turn it to an angle of 30 degrees, make sure you match the angle going in to the angle coming out, punch your hole. Start from the bottom and move your bottom

thread from the bottom through to the top, leaving a small loop on the bottom side. Take your top thread and pass it through the same hole from the top to the bottom, leaving a small loop on the topside. Collect the ends and pull the threads up, creating the stitch. Continue the process until you get to the last stitch.

The last stitch is important, not just because it's the last stitch and you can put the job down and enjoy the rest of your beer. (Once you get good enough you can actually hold your beer and stitch at the same time ... might explain some of my

work!) The last stitch is important because if you don't lock it off correctly then your stitching is likely to come undone at some point, so here's how we do it. Start your stitch the same as before; bottom to top, leave a loop, top through the same hole but don't pass your needle all the way through the job. Have the needle about half way through then take the bottom strand of the bottom loop and wrap it around the top needle twice, then pull the top needle all the way through (*photo 11*). This makes a knot and ties the job off so that it doesn't come undone.

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12.

Almost there ... you can taste that beer, can't you? If you want to you can finish the job there but it would look somewhat messy having one thread sticking out on the top, so in order to keep it neat, take your round awl and push it through the second last hole you stitched (*photo 12*). This will make the hole bigger and allow you to take the top needle and pass it back through. Now, you'll have both threads on the back of the job (*photos 13 and 14*). Take your scissors or a knife and cut the thread, leaving 3mm or 4mm of thread.

If you're using a polyester thread, you can simply burn the ends and they will melt and also stop the thread from pulling back out (*photo 15*). If you're using a cotton thread that won't melt, just cut the threads off so that they're flush with the job



13.

and can't be seen (*photo 16*).

So there you have it, that is the basis of all hand stitching. From here you can now go on to create almost anything. The only down side I have



14.

found from learning how to hand stitch has been that whenever a button comes off a shirt or a pair of pants, my wife always passes it on to me, saying, "You're the professional."

15.



16.



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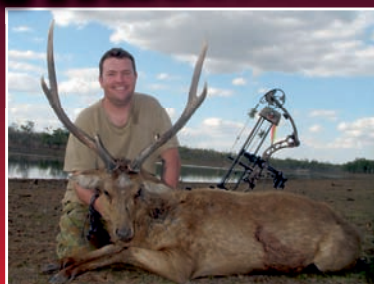
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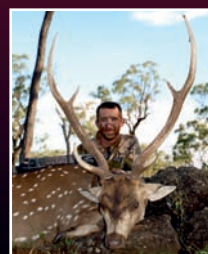
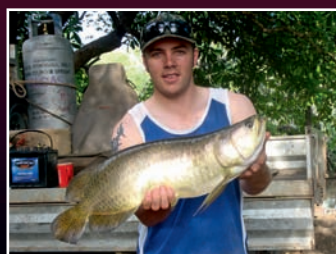
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# OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

## Ready to hit the indoor archery events running

*As we are getting closer to indoor season, I have begun to get my bows set up and tuned ready to hit the indoor events running. I have always said I love shooting indoor as I find it is a great chance to get some nasty habits I have developed over outdoor season ironed out and build on my form and mental game. One of the best things about shooting indoors is that the environment is consistent. This consistent environment allows us to work on the repetition required to build our form up without having to fight the wind, rain and heat! In this month's article I will discuss some of the steps I take to begin ironing out my bad habits and build my form up for shooting both indoor and outdoor archery.*



by STEVE CLIFTON

When moving from shooting outdoor to indoor, I always like to check over my shooting logs to look for any common themes of issues I may have had during competitions and training sessions. Things I am looking for are the usuals—dot not holding in the middle, poor execution under pressure, leaning back too much, not pulling into the wall. These types of issues are perfect to resolve with some indoor training. Once I have compiled a list of things to work on, I usually try to order the areas of improvement by priority; where will I get the most points from? It is much



better to spend your time working on parts of your shooting where easy points can be attained, rather than spending a lot of time on something that really won't get you many points.

Once I have my list of areas I need to improve identified, I need to start coming up with solutions as to how I will accomplish these. The beauty of present times is that 99 per cent of the information we need can be found on the internet. There are tons of forums, books, articles, YouTube tutorials and so on that can provide you with many different perspectives that can help identify solutions to your problems. Something I have found that makes a large difference to how people resolve problems is by following the way that appeals to you

the most. There are literally dozens of different ways you can activate a release aid and there might only be two or three ways that will suit how you want to shoot. So my advice is to make a list of the ways that appeal to you the most and try them out in training. Worst case is that you try the few ways that initially appealed to you and they don't work, and you go hunting for different ways until you find one that helps solve your problem.

Once I have my list of improvement and solutions sorted, I then need to see how I will incorporate these into my training sessions. I like to split my training sessions up in to four key parts, starting with warm-up, the improvement training, scoring, and finishing with a warm-down. As always, keep a log of everything you are changing! We need to record how the changes go so that we can refer back to them later down the track (if things don't end up working out). I recently made a large change to how I activate my hinge release so I will use this as my example for the below sections.

### WARM-UP

The warm-up process is the easiest of the four processes for me, I like to start out each training session by shooting at least 30 or 40 arrows at

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the target to get my muscles warmed up and the body ready to start shooting seriously. During these arrows I like to make sure that the bow and my form are the same as they were the last time I shot (unless I had to do bow maintenance, of course). The reason I feel this is important is that to get myself comfortable in making good shots, I need to be comfortable with my bow and with my form. Even if my form is not 100 per cent at the time, I need to feel that I am able to make good shots so that I can make small changes and expect to see results from them (either good or bad!). So for me, I would have planned to change my release method but I wouldn't yet try anything new until I am warmed up ready to go.

## IMPROVEMENT TRAINING

This is the part of my training session where I will make changes to my form/equipment and measure how they perform. What I am looking at doing firstly is making a single change only and seeing how that affects my shooting/form overall. If you have a list of things to try, I suggest picking your favourite one first

and trying it out for 50 to 100 arrows. This may seem like a lot of arrows but it really is hard to tell if a change in form is working or not without giving it time to settle in. If it seems to have a positive effect on your shooting, stick with it for a while and see how it goes throughout the rest of the training session. If not, try one of the other changes you had planned and see how that goes. At this point make sure you write down in your logbook all of the things you have changed, and how the changes have affected your shooting.

As an example of this, when I decided to change how I activated my release, I knew that there could be many different ways I could accomplish this. The issue I was having was that under pressure I found I was taking a lot longer to release the arrow than I would normally. Taking longer in the shot lead me to become more unstable which made it harder for me to execute as the dot was moving around too much. Needless to say it was costing me a lot of points. After speaking with a buddy, I narrowed down a few ways I could try to resolve this and the one I decided to go with was that I would change my point of focus from my

dot to a feeling in my back shoulder and to pull harder in the shot (prior to this I was more of a static shooter). By doing this, I was able to focus on my release process rather than my dot and almost instantly my shooting improved back to a much higher level. For me this change was pretty much an instant improvement, however not all changes are instantly positive so stick with them for a little while to get comfortable before judging whether it works or not.

## SCORING

Once I have made a change to my shooting and I am comfortable in my shot process, I like to shoot a scored round or two to see how the changes go under scoring conditions. I think it is really important that all changes are tried under a scored round as often we can shoot better while relaxed and in training mode, however when it gets to competition shooting (in this case scoring the shots) we can start to notice any flaws our new changes may have. The added pressure of shooting a scored round is enough for most people to begin to notice small changes in the new process. I know I have certainly noticed this many times before: I will come up with some new great idea







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—for example, a new lens combination I had with a ring and a dot in the middle. In practice, I found it was really good and I could aim with it great. However when I started scoring a round, I found I was focussing too much on where the ring was in comparison with the scoring zones and it made me start to overthink the aiming of my shots. Had I not practised scoring a few rounds with it, I may have not found this until I had got to a competition and by then it might be too late to have tried to recover the day's shooting.

## WARM-DOWN

Once we have completed our training, it's time to wind down our shooting and note what we have learned/changed over the practice session. Typically after a scored round, I like to shoot a couple more ends just to recheck my shooting outside of a scored round and make



sure I still feel comfortable with the changes. After this, it's writing down what I have changed and anything I noticed about how the changes have gone. For example, if the change I have made to my release has worked, what exactly has 'worked'? In my example, I wrote down how I

was able to change my focus point from the dot to my release process and specifically my new focus point is a muscle group in the middle of my back shoulder. The more specific you can be with your notes, the better you will be able to understand the little details next time you need to review your notes.

When changing form and gear, it can sometimes take multiple training sessions before you begin to notice larger changes, so if you are planning on making a large change to your shooting, try breaking it down into smaller parts and test these things with the above method. It is much easier to make smaller changes than to try make one large change and expect it to work. Hopefully this has provided some insight into how I like to structure my training schedules, you can even break parts of this out and incorporate them into your own training methods.

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# *The sinister side of* **BOWHUNTING CARNIVORES**



*The Duffs love fox hunting.  
This coloured pencil drawing  
by Ann Parkes hangs in their  
lounge room.*

## **GRAEME DUFF**



This article is designed to create an awareness of a potentially serious disease which can be contracted by people from dogs, dingoes, their hybrids and of course, foxes. I'm talking about the disease hydatidosis.

Firstly, I would like to clear up a misconception regarding hydatid. Almost without exception, people will say, "Yes, I've seen hydatid in rabbits," but the lesion they've seen is almost certainly a serialis cyst—the intermediate stage of the tapeworm *Taenia serialis*.

This cyst is commonly seen attached to the serous surfaces between muscles in a rabbit. It may also be observed in the abdominal cavity near the kidneys, for example. They do vary a little in size, however one can see a number of white objects (about the size of grains of rice) on the inside of the wall of the transparent cyst. There may be six or more of these white objects. They are in fact laval tapeworm heads and on close inspection it is sometimes possible to see a small amount of movement.

The lifecycle of the tapeworm is somewhat similar to the more serious one of hydatid. In this instance, the fox or dog may eat the rabbit with the serialis cyst, allowing the laval tapeworm heads to partially pass through the digestive tract. When these laval heads or solexes reach the host's (the dog or fox) small intestines, they attach themselves to the wall by means of hooks and grow to maturity. These parasites don't have a stomach as such but throughout their length they absorb nutrients which were intended for the wellbeing of the final host.

These tapeworms grow to a considerable size and in doing so, produce enormous numbers of eggs which in turn are passed out in the fox's droppings. Some of



*There is a sinister side to bowhunting foxes, says Graeme Duff.*

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these eggs may be consumed by grazing rabbits.

While still on the subject of the fox and its association with rabbits, most of us who have bowhunted foxes where they are known to exist always check out rabbit warrens for the presence of foxes. Rarely do we find an active rabbit warren that doesn't have fox droppings or scats in close proximity.

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Mitchell Brewer, stingray FKOS.

This is how rabbits are involved in the role of starting the lifecycle of this tapeworm again—by consuming microscopic tapeworm eggs.

Hopefully I've been able to shed some light on this parasite's lifecycle.

The above parasite's lifecycle is very insignificant when compared to that of *Echinococcus granulosus*—hydatid.

The reason for this is that we can inadvertently become involved as an intermediate host—with serious, and sometimes fatal, consequences.

We as bowhunters knowingly pursue our sport in the knowledge that there can be potential risks. Some of the risk factors involved in bowhunting water-borne game, for example, are: Stepping on a stonefish, stingray or having uncovered skin coming in contact with highly venomous marine stingers. Sharks and crocodiles also pose risks.

Some land-borne feral game, as we all know, are very capable of defending themselves in no uncertain manner when threatened.

The not-so-obvious hazards which may be lurking within the bodies of the feral game animals we hunt include: Q fever, brucellosis, tuberculosis, toxoplasmosis and of course hydatidosis, just to name a few.

Talking specifically on the bowhunting of foxes, there are ways by which the unsuspecting hunter can come in contact with hydatid. I shall give examples that regularly come to mind.

Consider this possibility: An arrow has been shot at a fox and passed through the heart/lung area, exiting through the abdomen. The small intestines have been ruptured and the arrow is observed on the ground and covered with intestinal fluid. We do our best to retrieve the

arrow for two reasons: Firstly, the arrow may be in good condition and fit to be reused at a later date. Secondly, it is not good PR in my opinion to leave arrows for others on the property to find. So in picking up this contaminated arrow, we get something like a handful of grass and we use that to wrap around the arrow, making sure that none of the arrow touches our skin or clothing. We wipe the arrow through the grass then if possible wash it in a gully or small pool of water. The arrow is sprayed liberally with Dettol Glen 20 before being returned to the quiver.

Our hands are washed with water and sugar soap then secondly a disinfectant is used, following by Glen 20 after photographs are taken and the head removed for trophy purposes. Special mention should be made of our hygiene practices with our bows after the photos have been taken. The handgrip is also sprayed with Glen 20, as cross-contamination is an issue that must be addressed.

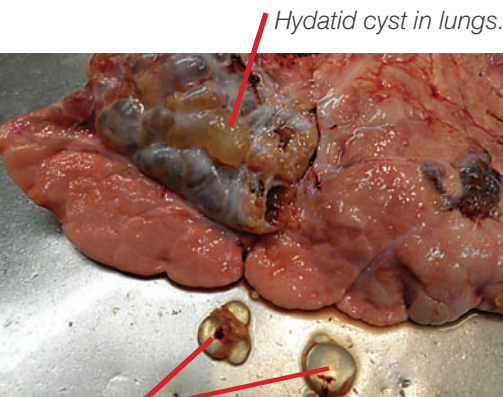
Assuming a fox has been taken with an arrow which has clearly only passed through the heart/lung area and embedded itself in the dirt, we still adopt the same hygiene procedures.

Another place of likely hydatid contact is the mouth of the fox. On skinning out the skull and removal of the jaw or mandible, cleanse your hands as previously mentioned. Don't forget to thoroughly cleanse your knife too.

Never pose with a bowshot fox for photos or video footage and do what I've noticed some hunters do—unintentionally wipe a hand across your mouth while giving some commentary on the events leading up to the bowkill. This is giving hydatid or any other infectious organisms a real head start.

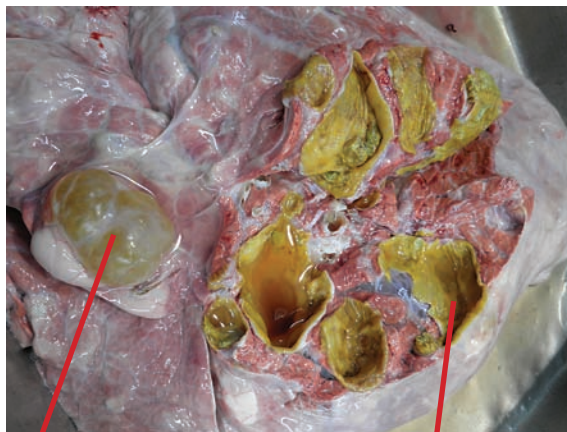
Furthermore, at the end of the





Hydatid cyst in lungs.

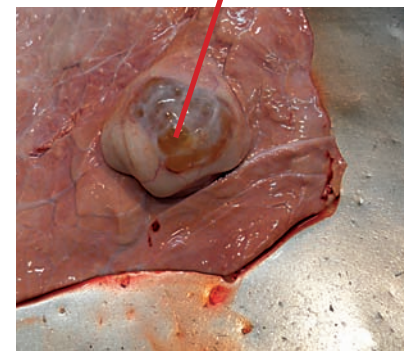
Sterile cysts which came from within the large cyst.



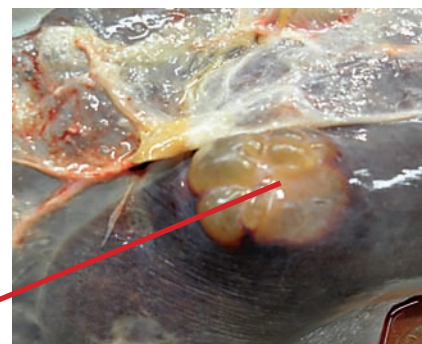
Active hydatid in lungs.

Ruptured calcified cysts in lungs of cow.

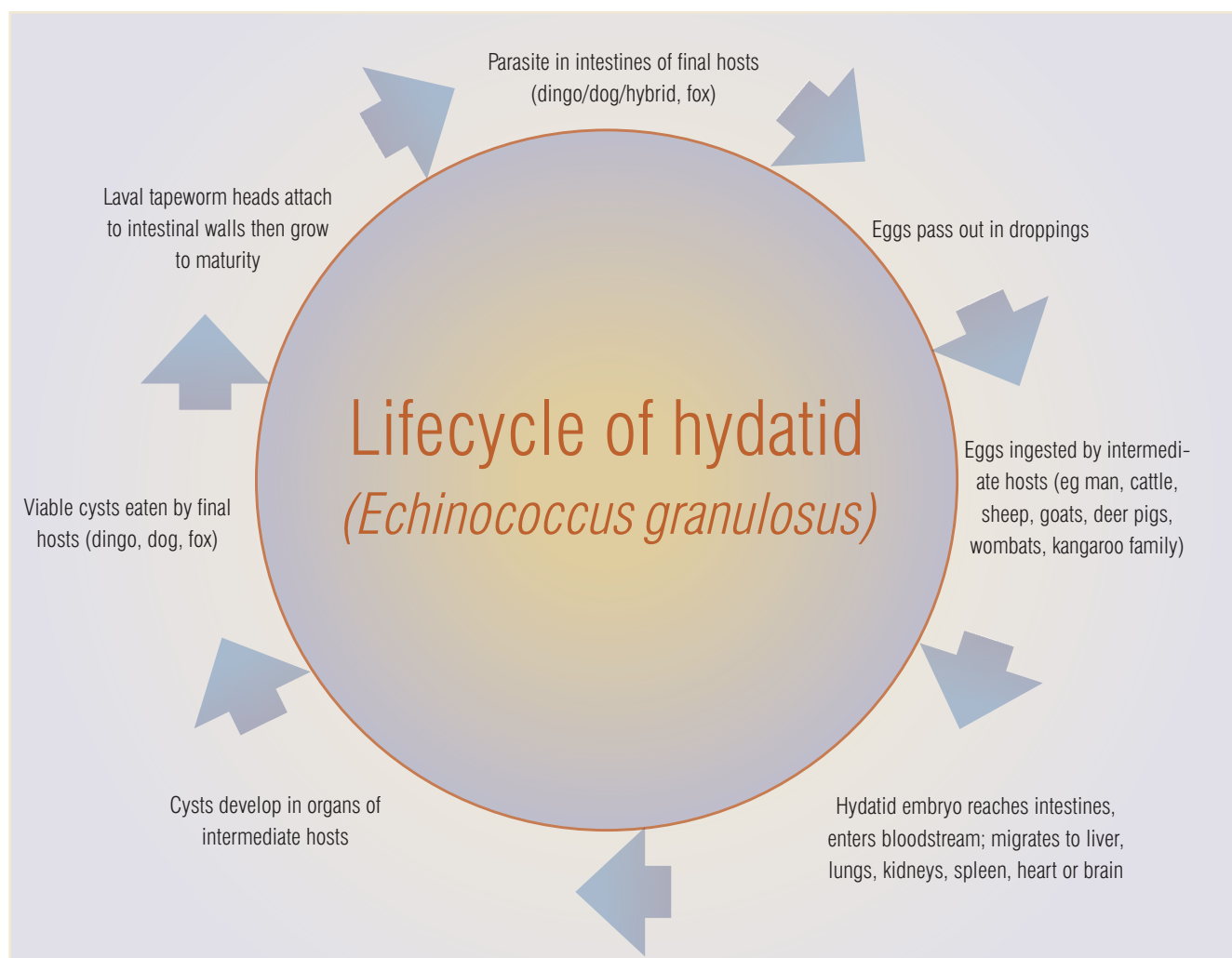
Active hydatid cyst in the lung of a cow.



Large calcified hydatid in liver of a cow.



Hydatid cyst in the spleen.





day's hunt, any arrows that have contacted feral animals are given a wash and light scrub with a scouring pad and metho.

Getting back to the main purpose of this article and that is to basically explain what information I have gained over the years regarding hydatid and how (Heaven forbid) it can affect us, the bowhunters.

I've mentioned the previous tapeworm associated with rabbits (and occasionally hares) as being of considerable length. Not so with the hydatid tapeworm. Upon maturity, it can reach a length of about 6mm—very small indeed and it would be easy to dismiss it as insignificant. But how wrong it would be to think this way.

There may be only two segments of this parasite which produce eggs, but each segment may produce 20,000 eggs and if the small intestines of the fox, dog, dingo or hybrids are literally carpeted with these tapeworms, the number of eggs passed out in their droppings would have to amount to millions!

Compounded by the fact that these eggs can withstand extremes in temperature and remain viable in the environment for three years certainly gives rise to concern when having anything to do with the host animals (most often foxes in our case).

The hydatid eggs are so small

they can actually be windborne for up to 1km! In reality, it's possible for some of the windborne eggs to reach roofing of farm homes and be flushed into rainwater tanks ... a somewhat sobering thought.

One noteworthy point is that a fox which appears to be in excellent health may still harbour very large concentrations of adult hydatid tapeworms and show absolutely no visible signs whatsoever as hydatid worms have virtually no effect on their wellbeing.

Unlike the serialis cyst found in rabbits which clearly show laval tapeworm heads seen as white grains of rice-like objects, the hydatid cyst in an organ of the intermediate host may be very small, pea-sized or even very large. I have seen cysts in cows' livers which were absolutely huge. The largest hydatid cyst I ever saw would have contained approximately 10 litres of fluid.

In an active or viable cyst, the laval tapeworm heads will be found in the inner lining of the cyst, known as the germinal layer. Depending on the size of the cyst, the germinal layer could contain hundreds or possibly thousands of laval hydatid worm heads.

It should be mentioned that not all hydatid cysts remain viable for what could be considered a long period of time, because the inter-

mediate host's body can eventually calcify the cyst. The common places for these cysts in the intermediate hosts are liver, heart, spleen, lungs, kidneys and brain, although despite the many food animals I inspected over a 34-year period, I have never seen a cyst in a food animal's brain because the affected animal would rarely survive long enough to be taken to an abattoir for processing.

Hydatid disease can occur in the following intermediate hosts—man, sheep, goats, cattle, deer, macropods (kangaroo family), wombats and pigs. I have little doubt there are other species that could be included.

I once thought hydatid disease was unique to Australia, but that isn't the case.

In the opening paragraph of this article, I stressed that my reason for writing about this was to create an awareness of the hydatid disease. It is definitely not my intention to deter people from bowhunting feral carnivores. I'm merely making this known because to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Personal hygiene is incredibly important when handling these parasite-infected animals.

The photos used for this article were taken just prior to my finishing my career as a meat inspector. Only photos of affected organs of cattle were obtained.

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# outside In the zone

## Time and money

by Nils Spruitt



I will admit that thinking about what I would do if I were rich takes up more of my time than it should. Time that should be spent repainting the walls in the house or removing the weeds from my vegetable garden. I might add, said weeds are of the well established kind and are completely subjugating my feeble

attempts at self reliance, but you know what I am talking about in general terms. Chores ... household chores; the sort of chores that do not eat up much time of those fortunates who are in fact rich. However, do you realise how much the cost of being rich has gone up? It is getting so bad that a reasonable man today

can hardly afford to daydream about becoming rich without getting just a little embarrassed.

I used to feel pretty comfortable within myself when I dreamed about owning a Bear Super Kodiak when they only cost \$325. Now that the base price of such a bow has moved up to \$1,200 and that only puts me on a waiting list (well, the truth of the matter is I simply cannot afford it). A friend of mine recently sold a much loved Norseman Barbarian for \$600, and all the while I had been dream-



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ing of owning a new one at the imaginary price of \$350. I suddenly feel as though I have been in a coma for several decades.

I am quite confident in my thoughts when I suggest to you that there would be some like-minded souls out there who, for 12 months or so, have been dreaming about hunting Dall sheep in British Colombia for a week and all for \$8000 or \$9000. (Try doubling that and then some!) How about a big game safari in Africa, one on one with a top notch professional hunter for \$200 a day? You have more chance of going completely unnoticed riding a horse down George Street Sydney during rush hour, wearing nothing but your hat. In other words, it's an idea, but it just will not happen.

It's not only the big ticket items either. It is, as far as I am aware, completely across the retail spectrum. My tobacco, which I could once purchase for less than a dollar, now costs over \$50 ... and don't start me on whiskey. Why even a bottle of 'walk out the door', below

bottom shelf and doubles as a drain unblocker, costs almost double what I earn an hour. When did this all come about? Where was I at the time? Perhaps there is something to the rumour I often walk around with my head up my you know what.

About the only thing that has managed to stay down to a reasonable level is our income—unless of your course you are a CEO of some big corporate conglomeration or Australia Post. I don't know about you, but my wages have so far ducked and dodged inflation quite admirably.

With this in mind, I have had to lay off the dreaming a bit and try to put more effort into handling the day to day. I was always a bit pedantic about being dressed just right when venturing into the field. That is, being neat and clean and not wearing two-year-old stained overalls which were last washed three months ago, and coupled with grubby boots. But my favourite hunting pants—they used to cost \$18 a pair and I would go through two or three pairs every win-

ter—now start at nearly three times that amount. This now means I must pay more attention to the width of the strands on barbed wire fences and to be a bit more mindful when stalking in and around blackberries.

I am perfectly willing, of course, to let my thoughts wander to what might or should have been, but even these thoughts are considerably scaled down. These days, reality is about as far as the mind is permitted to travel without being overly taxed.

With money now being quite out of the question, we come to the subject of hoarding of time and find, rather sadly, that time—like money—has sifted through our fingers like the sands of a broken hourglass. You can still dream about time, but like money, such thoughts are now very much tinged with sadness.

I would say we have all looked ahead to owning time that could be spent in lieu of other commodities. Time to fletch our own arrows for example. Time to sharpen a few broadheads. Time to try making a few bowstrings. Time to craft our own

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leather, gear, knives or even make a bow. And let's not forget, time to learn how to use them well. Time to find the source of that stream, time to look over the hill, time to listen to the birds and time to smell the eucalypts after rain.

Can you remember when time was cheap? I can. We heard songs that told us we had time on our hands, that time stood still and that tomorrow would be time enough. Now we find it is not so. All of a sudden, times to come have become times past, and we must hoard it and spend it as cautiously as we would a small windfall because that is precisely what it was all along, but no one ever took the time to tell us that.

I now have only just realised that the skills I once dreamed about are scant and virtually nonexistent. The time to choose between spending money or time, and most of us choose money, was an easy decision even though I really didn't have much money wise, but it was more than I had in time.

My arrows are all stock standard, off-the-shelf numbers. They are pathetic to look at and do not inspire any sense of pride or ownership. My broadheads are cheap, pre-sharpened, throwaway numbers. A mate does my bow strings and all the knives I use were not shaped by my own hands. Why, even my leather gear has none of the warm idiosyn-

crasies of my own stitching or artistic carving.

I buy or borrow the bows I once dreamed of making. The source of the stream I longed to find has now been lost beneath the still waters of a huge dam and that hill is now covered by a new housing estate. You can still hear the birds if you listen, but they are primarily Indian Mynahs and the eucalypts after rain have a distinct urban odour about them.

I have heard it said, regret cannot be bundled up like a newborn and left late at night on another's doorstep. Not all has been lost and although I did few of the things I once dreamed of doing, I have done a good many other things that pleased me.

Having made my bed, so to speak, I thus find myself lying in it with less discomfort than I might have had, or dare say, even deserved. Should I someday be faced with a reconciliation of what I have achieved in a lifetime, then I don't believe the scales will tip one way or the other.

Rather than my own hand-made arrows, I have always used what I deemed to be the best—arrows that all and without exception fly straight and true. My broadheads may not be honed from the finest steel but they are sharp and kill without question. My leather quivers and arm guards are not exotic, but they are well cared for and smell ... well, they smell like leather. I have more than

just the one German-made knife in my pack and every now and then you will see me shooting a bow I am not ashamed of. I may not have found the source of that stream but I drank from its untainted flow many a time. And beyond that hill was just another hill. Maybe in time I might see what lies beyond, but in truth, I probably won't.

A leading CEO of a big company was once overheard telling some of his managers, "You show me a man who plays to a single handicap in golf and I will show you a man who doesn't give too much thought or put much effort into his job."

You show me a man who has a veggie garden badly needing some TLC, a handful of bows in the closet, walls covered in prints taken at various shoots and afield, old and outdated furniture and half a dozen back quivers filled with arrows, and I will show you a man who spent his life dreaming with very few regrets.

The money I have earned in my lifetime, I have spent like a drug addict in need of a fix. The time I promised to put in on useful endeavours, I have spent frivolously wasting with like-minded friends; exchanging daydream for daydream about what magnificent things we would have if we were rich and the wondrous things we could accomplish if only we ever had the time. Think about it.

Until next time.



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# *Painted* **SKULL**



by **SCOTT HEIMAN**



*An American-Indian take on skull decorations.*

## **DIY**

You will need:

- A suitable skull and antlers
- A bucket that will comfortably fit the skull
- Two or more cans of acrylic spray paint of different colours
- Masking/painters' tape
- Access to clean water—to the volume of the bucket, and
- A stirring stick

As hunters, we appreciate our quarry. Depending on who you ask, the highest appeal may be in challenge of the stalk, the food they provide or because an animal offers the prospect of the Tropaion of a lifetime ... or a combination of all of the above.

For trophy hunters, the process after a successful hunt may be fairly straightforward. Typically, we start by removing the skullcap (complete with antlers, horns or lower jaw, et cetera). From there, many of us will sit the trophy on an ants' nest to denude it of flesh. After that, it may be sufficient to apply a splash of white paint before mounting the skull on a polished shield.

An alternative is to offer the trophy to a taxidermist to create a lasting and realistic interpretation of the beast. Of course, that's something we do after we've successfully capped the animal (and how many of us have stuffed that up from time to time?). The trouble is, with horned or antlered species, shoulder mounts start at \$750 to \$900. And this sort of investment may be either out of reach or reserved for only a small number of particularly worthy specimens.

But there is another option if the cost of taxidermy is prohibitive but you're still keen to display a skull in a more decorative way than a simple shield-mount. Enter the painted skull.

In Australia, there's not a tradition of decorative skulls in indigenous custom. But in cultures elsewhere in the world there are millennia-long traditions of this practice. For example, in Western Europe, the oldest ceremonial burial of a modern human (around 33,000 years ago) was discovered with a mammoth skull alongside it. The mammoth skull was smeared in red ochre, suggesting that it was prepared as part of a religious practice. More recently, Mexican tribes have traditionally celebrated the dead by decorating skulls and skeletons of family members. And in Austria there's a site with over 1000 painted skulls that date back to the early 1600s (though the origin of these skulls appears to be in persecution rather than in celebration).

More commonly known (and less macabre), the North American Indians have a tradition of painting bison skulls (and more recently, cattle). The origin of this practice is associated with the culture's reverence for the bison as a source of sustenance and the skull is made into a tribute to be brought to ceremonies and hung at doorways to ward-off evil spirits from entering the family home.

Building on this rich origin of skull painting, it was encouraging to see a web-vid recently showing that the aesthetic appeal of a painted animal skull is





not lost among our modern hunting fraternity. The web-vid was on a bowhunting chat site and it showed the marbling effect that can be achieved with a good-looking deer skull and antlers, a bucket of water and three spray cans of paint. We reckoned the technique and result looked good so decided to give it a try. So we retrieved an antlered fallow skull we'd been keeping under the house and set to work. We were delighted with the result and reckoned the process was worth sharing.

- 1: Cover the base of the horns/antlers with masking tape to protect them from both water and paint.
- 2: Fill the bucket with water (sufficient to immerse the skull but not overflow).
- 3: Spray long blasts of each paint colour into the centre of the water in the bucket, repeating as many times you can, alternating colour with each blast.
- 4: Slowly immerse the skull into the bucket, being careful not to immerse over the masking tape.
- 5: Utilising the stirring stick, swizzle the surface of the paint a little.
- 6: Slowly retrieve the skull from the bucket (lifting it up straight).
- 7: Put aside to dry.
- 8: Leave the paint and bucket to one side. The paint will sink to the bottom overnight. Siphon off the water, allowing the paint to either dry in the bucket or decant into the waste bin.
- 9: Mount the skull on a backing board or a skull mounting hook that mounts straight to the wall like a coat hook.

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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**

## Southern NSW & ACT Branch

### ABA/3D Branch Shoot

Hosted by **Capital Field Archers**

**Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 May 2017**

**Saturday**

8-8:30am Registrations & Bow Checks  
9am Muster & Start 2 Arrow Round  
Lunch 1 Arrow Round  
Presentations ASAP

**Sunday**

7:30-7:45am Registration & Bow Checks  
8am Start 3 Arrow Round  
Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round  
Presentations ASAP

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

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

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

**Facilities include:** Camping, Showers, Toilets & Canteen

Evening meal available Saturday, for those that pre-nominate meals will be provided - Availability of meals will not be guaranteed for those who do not pre-nominate.

**NO DOGS POLICY APPLIES TO THIS SHOOT**

**NO SMOKING ON RANGES WHILE SHOOTS ARE IN PROGRESS**

## 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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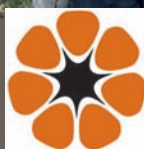
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Mobile 0468 483 264

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## SHOOT CALENDAR

**May-June-July**

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
<b>May</b>			
29th Apr-1st	Townsville District Bowhunters*	B – Branch	ABA Invitational
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 and 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 and 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
<b>June</b>			
3rd	Eden Field Archers*	NSW	Field QRE
3rd-4th	Bairnsdale Field Archers*	G – Branch	Branch ABA
3rd-4th	Penrith City Archers*	NSW	Golden Arrow
4th	Hills Archers*	SA	Clout
4th	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	President's Shoot
4th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
4th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
3rd-4th-5th	Greenough Archery Club*	J – Branch	ABA
9th-10th-11th	Townsville District Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Branch B Safari ABA
10th-11th	Moranbah Bowhunters and Field Archers*	C – Branch	Branch Interclub
10th-11th	Gloucester District Archers*	E – Branch	State 3D
10th-11th	Mallee Sunset Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA, 3D and IFAA
10th-11th	Northern Rivers Field Archers*	NSW	State of Origin
17th	Samford Valley Target Archers*	Qld	SQAS Short Range
17th-18th	Forbes Lachlan River Archers*	F – Branch	Branch ABA and 3D
17th-18th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA



18th	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
18th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	3D
18th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
20th-25th	Renegade Bowmen*	D – Branch	National IFAA
24th-25th	Western Plains Archers*	J – Branch	State 3D

## July

1st-2nd	Hinterland Field Archers*	Qld	3D AAA
1st-2nd	Mackay District Bowmen*	B – Branch	Invitational
1st-2nd	Wide Bay Archers*	C – Branch	C vs D Challenge
1st-2nd	Macleay Valley Archers*	E – Branch	Branch ABA
1st-2nd	West Gippsland Field Archers *	H – Branch	Branch ABA
2nd	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	President's Shoot
3rd-6th	Association of Norfolk Island Archers*	NI	3D
8th-9th	Silver City Archers*	I – Branch	ABA, 3D, Indoor
9th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
9th	Full Boar Archers	B – Branch	ABA
13th-16th	Dead Centre Bowhunters*	A – Branch	Branch ABA
15th-16th	Wagga Wagga Field Archers*	F – Branch	Branch 3D
15th-16th	Western Melbourne Field Archers*	H – Branch	ABA
15th-16th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
16th	Boolaroo Bowmen	E – Branch	Special Event
16th	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
16th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	3D
16th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
22nd-23rd	Blackwood River Archers*	J – Branch	Invitational ABA
22rd-23th	TBA – Mail Match*	TBA	National Indoor Titles
29th-30th	Granite Belt Bowmen*	D – Branch	ABA
30th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA

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

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