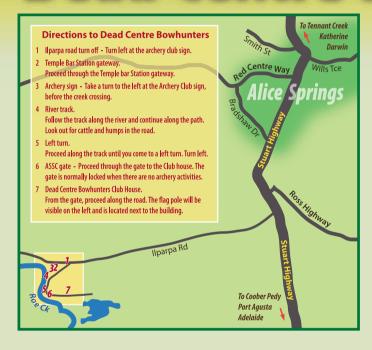




2018 Barebow and Sighted Championships 2018 3D Championships • 2018 IFAA Championships

Dead Centre Bowhunters



Nomination Fees:

All nominations must be completed online at www.bowhunters.org.au

Nominations will close on 12 March 2018 and NO late nominations will be accepted.

ABA Adult \$55 Jnr/Cub \$45 Family \$125 3D Adult \$60 Jnr/Cub \$50 Family \$135

IFAA Adult, Young Adult, Veteran \$45 three days and \$60 five days; Cub/Junior \$35 three days and \$50 five days Family \$125 three days and \$160 five days.

Closing Date for entries is 12 March 2018. Last date for grading is 26 February 2018

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

Camping: Camping is ample at the Range, anybody wishing offsite accommodation should go to www.centralaustraliantourism.com. Definitely, NO DOGS allowed.

All ABA members are cordially invited to compete at the 2018 ABA Safari, 3D Championships and IFAA Championships to be held at the Dead Centre Bowhunters, Alice Springs.

To find the course drive south out of Alice Springs through Heavitree Gap. 2kms south of Heavitree Gap turn right onto Ilparpa Road. 7.7kms along Ilparpa Road, turn left at a T-junction sign posted "Archery Complex". Follow the signs for 2 kms to the club's camping and parking areas.

Timetable:

ABA/3D Muster 8am each day

Thursday 29 March - Registration for all events and bow checks **Friday 30, Saturday 31 March -** consisting of 3 and 1 arrow each day

Sunday 1, Monday 2 April - 3D followed by Presentation Monday evening

IFAA Muster each day at 8.00am

Tuesday 03 April - Registration for IFAA and bow checks / Rest day from shooting

Wednesday 04 April - 28 Targets Field/Hunter

Thursday 05 April - 28 Targets Hunter/Field (afternoon bow checks)

Friday 06 April - 28 Targets Field/Hunter

Saturday 07 April - 28 Targets Hunter/Field

Sunday 08 April - 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.

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

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■ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Picturesque chital scene. See Michael Luxford's story, Bowhunting Level 50, on Page 24.

Photo by DAN FERGUSON

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In this issue, we feature the same hunting trip as told by two hunters. In the first (Page 6), Alan 'Robbo' Robertson celebrates the end of a long and difficult battle with target panic with a trip to the Gulf alongside his long-time hunting mate Graham Newell. Graham's version of the same hunt (Page 62) is part of a retrospective on 18 years of annual hunting trips to the same spot in the Gulf. We thought you'd eniov the slightly different perspectives of the two men.

Winners are grinners or so they say, and two people who put their entries in for the Abbey Archery Photo Competition will be grinning from ear to ear when they discover they have each won a \$250 voucher to spend at Abbey Archery. See their photos at the back at the magazine on Page 94. Jeffery Evans won the "In the Field" section with his photo titled Aquiver, taken at a 3D shoot. The "In the Bush" section went to Craig Rose for his bowhunter and sunset photo, titled Sunset at Jackal's Hide. Congratulations. Highly commended for both perspective and humour was Heather Pender with her Consequence of arguing about who opens the gate. The photo was of a hunter lying spreadeagled between two crisply defined wheel tracks.



Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

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The image certainly made me chuckle when it came across my desk. No prizes for highly commended, unfortunately!

Speaking of photos, it must be time for a pep talk again. Please do not send in small images for hunting stories, field reports or competitions. Some of the photos which are sent in truly are only about the size of postage stamps when converted to the correct resolution for printing. Obviously the solution is not to take small images in the first place. Set your phone or camera to a decent resolution (a large image or large file size is the key) because there is *nothing* you can do retrospectively to change low resolution into better quality. It doesn't matter how good it looks on your screen, an image that is going to be used for printing needs to be 300DPI at the published size. Small photos are disappointing from a couple of points of view. You don't get to see your lovely photos in the magazine—or at least not at a reasonable size—and I get frustrated because I have very reduced options for how I can display the images. This is one of those situations where bigger is definitely better. And if it's a great photo and is 5MB or bigger, it may also have a chance of featuring on the cover.

Jenel Hunt

Editor



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FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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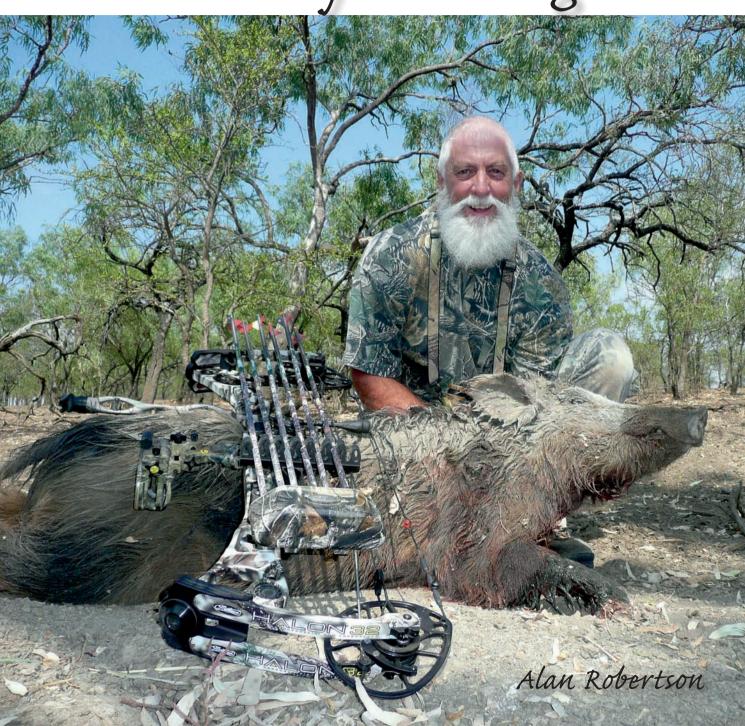
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CELEBRATING the end of the drought



He's back! Robbo celebrates his triumph over target panic with a successful hunting trip.



am back! For so long I had to use that famous saying "I shall return" but now I am confident that I have at last found my form again.

Those of you who can still remember past yesterday will recall a recent article I wrote in *Archery Action* about my struggle with target panic. Things have continued to progress and I have not long returned from my annual trip to the Gulf with my old mate Graham Newell.

I have made these trips for many years but last year I decided it was not worth going as I was in the depths of my disease and considered it would be just a waste of time for me ... and a drag for Graham as he tried to let me arrow all the pigs only to probably stuff it all up.

With me pulling out of the trip, Graham had to find someone else who would be prepared to put themselves out and go on a twoweek pig-hunting trip to the Gulf.

Luckily another friend, Brett, decided he would help out and force himself to go to the Gulf with Graham.

Graham has already told the story of that trip so I will not go there.

This year after getting my cat, I was feeling pretty good about the annual pilgrimage north and was keen to go (sorry, Brett).

This is a pretty easy trip for me as Graham is a great organiser so I really just tag along.

This year, however, he did throw one small spanner in the works. Graham had recently purchased a new Isuzu MUX and after the trip to Birdsville he was concerned about all the mileage he was putting on the new vehicle. He let me know that if we were to go to the Gulf his MUX would not be going and we would have to take my vehicle. My vehicle is a 14-year-old Hilux and while I have looked after it like a baby (so my wife says), I did have concerns that it would cope with the trip.

Anyway, I love pig hunting and having missed out the year before, I was very keen to get back into it so it didn't take me long to agree to take my vehicle.

With that decided, plans were laid and it wasn't long before we were anxiously waiting for the date we were to drive out.



Graham went for a bit of a swim to collect this pig.

There was one other hiccough before we were to leave. About six days before we were due to leave, my bow suffered a bit of a mishap which I will not go into here (but suffice to say I am a dickhead).

This resulted in me having to get a new bow at very short notice and have it all fitted out and sighted in before leaving for the trip. With the help of Abbey Archery, this was accomplished in enough time to give me one practice session before leaving. Luckily I have shot Mathews bows for years so I adapted very quickly to my new Mathews Halon 32.

The trip to the Gulf is a pretty big effort, but Graham and I have done it so many times we have it down pat. The first day is a 15-hour drive to Winton then there's about another nine hours the next day to the first property. We used to camp beside the road but these days we are getting old and soft, so we opt for a good night's sleep in a caravan park cabin.

In the good old days, we would do these trips and come away with 40 to 50 pigs taken for our time up there. Things have changed a bit in recent years with pigs being harder to find and coming under a lot of pressure from constant baiting for dogs which has also wiped out a lot of pigs. Added to this, most properties usually have a procession of hunters/doggers chasing the pigs ... not to mention the ringers and bore runners working on the properties who usually love to spend time chasing pigs as well.

This year we didn't do too badly, with about 20 pigs taken between us for the trip. We arrowed some good big boars and managed to get a couple of sets of tusks between us, although there was nothing too big.





ABOVE: Robbo with another pig.

A couple of the pigs are worth a mention, as they involved each of us having to go for a swim to retrieve them. The first pig Graham got was a good boar which didn't even react when he put an arrow through its chest and made us both think it must have already been dead. Luckily it finally moved a little bit so he whacked it again and it reacted that time but ended up in the lagoon. Graham had to go for a swim to retrieve it.

I also at a later stage had to go swimming to drag out a boar I had shot as he seemed to think that the only way to get away was to take to the water.

Bear in mind that this is the Gulf Country where all the land gets covered by flood water every year so it is possible that almost any water source could hold a salty crocodile.

Regarding my target panic, Graham had decided that the first pig of the trip was to be mine to get me used to sticking arrows in pigs

again. (No pressure!) The first pig I came upon was a good-sized boar lying completely in the water of a lagoon so of course I was up. I had to stalk out around the lagoon so as to get the wind right and managed to do this without incident. I did not really know where the boar was until I came back to the water and as luck would have it there he was still in the water right below me about 20 yards away. I am still using the Panic X but was pretty calm about it all and the arrow was on its way first touch. I don't know who was more excited-Graham or me—as the boar came charging out of the water up the bank and expired right at my feet. I think I could hear Graham praying that all would be okay as I was preparing to take the shot.

With this monkey just about completely off my back, I had a great trip and took quite a few good pigs after this one. I was feeling confident with my new bow after this trip.

Even my poor old Hilux made it there and back—more than 5000km—with only a few little incidents. Mechanically there were no problems; it chugged along beautifully. However on the trip it did manage to collect a total of four roos, got a cracked windscreen courtesy of a road train and lost a centre cap off one of the wheels (a roo trying to get revenge).

It also had to contend with the ever-present bulldust. We left the last property to head home at 2 o'clock in the morning and decided to take it pretty steady until daylight. As luck would have it, I missed seeing a huge patch of bulldust and drove straight into it.

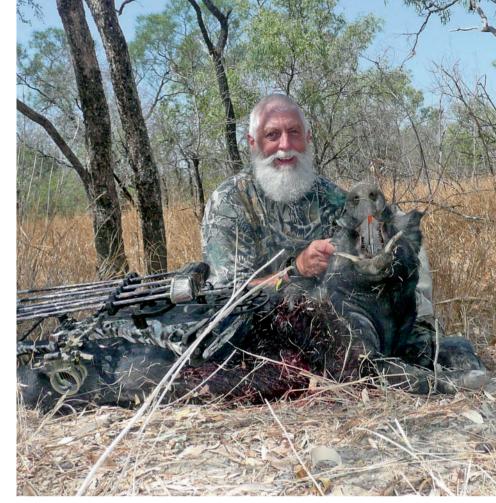
For those who don't know, bulldust is pretty weird stuff. I reckon this patch was about three quarters of a metre deep and about 40m long. When the Hilux hit it, the dust just flowed over the car like a wave. It went right up over the top of the vehicle

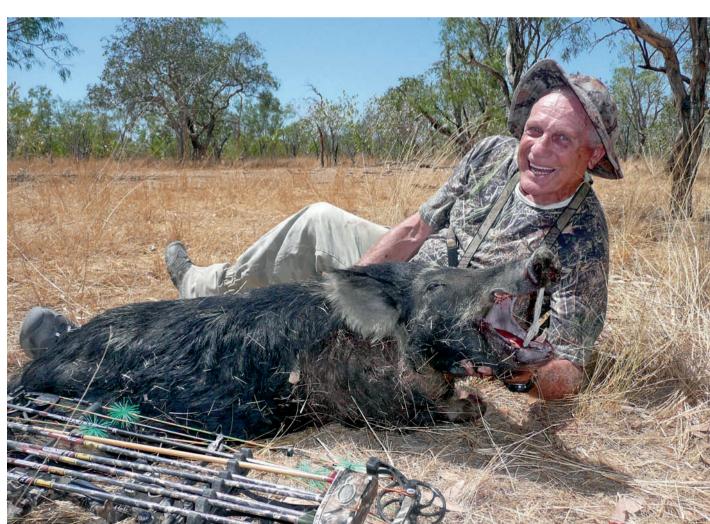
and was so thick that the lights and spotlights went completely black. We were on a dirt road in the middle of nowhere and suddenly could not see an inch in front of us. I could not stop as it's easy to get bogged in this stuff so had to keep the car moving albeit slowly and just hope I was still on the road and not heading for a tree. Eventually the dust started to settle and we made it through okay.

Hopefully this is the last update I will have to give on my target panic saga and it will just be back to enjoying the hunting again from now on. I am not into pushing products but if you suffer from target panic or just want to improve your form, get hold of a Panic X release and give it a go. I don't feel I would ever have got over the disease of target panic if Allan Bowman hadn't put me onto it.

Roll on deer season!

RIGHT: This one had nice tusks. BELOW: Graham with one of his pigs.





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Australian. Bowhunters Association

AFFILIATIONS

BOWHUNTING: FIELD ARCHERY:

WORLD BOWHUNTING ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT

WEBSITE http://www.bowhunters.org.au

NATIONAL OFFICE

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

PROTOCOL

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

NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT (Acting)

Jeff Bell 0429 358 636 SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT (Acting) Mark Burrows (03) 5625 2390 VICE-PRESIDENT, BOWHUNTING

(Vacant)

VICE-PRESIDENT, FIELD (Acting)

Trevor Pickett (07) 3282 7078

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(Vacant)

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DIR BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

Ray Morgan (03) 9743 5595 DIRECTOR OF COACHING

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North Queensland	ABA Office	(07) 3256 3976
Central Queensland	David Brewer	0411 156 428
South Queensland	Brett Willaton	0484 322 966
North New South Wales	Peter Stubbs	(02) 6743 1559
South NSW and ACT	Rod Moad	0417 695 316
Gippsland, Victoria	Tim Opie	0418 177 054
Central and Greater Victoria	Wendy Gallagher	0429 959 402
South Australia	Brett Raymond	0418 810 598
Western Australia	Ken Neil	0418 926 862
Tasmania – see Victoria		
Trophy Bowhunters of Australia	Balph Boden	(02) 4392 6810

BOWHUNTING **DIVISION REPORT**

by Mark Burrows (Acting Senior Vice-President)



What does the ABA do for me?

Over the years I have heard the above query many times or the other; what do I get for my money? This question seems to be cropping up more frequently but maybe this is just because social media has the ability to make a bigger issue of what can be sensationalised more easily. Either way, I thought it time to run through some of the advantages of being a part of the Australian Bowhunters Association.

Archery is a funny sport. You either really like shooting arrows and stick with it for many years—in a lot of cases even a lifetime—or you give it a bash for a few years and move on. Those who move on don't always pass on the history of what has happened in the past and the new people, without time-consuming research, have no idea of the processes of the past, so the same questions continue to arise.

Now, I'm not going anywhere as far as the ABA is concerned. I personally think we have the best association in the country when it comes to covering all aspects of the archery games we play and the animals we bowhunt. However, as noted in the previous *Archery Action*, I am moving on from the management of the Bowhunting Division so I see this as an ideal time to pass on some general information—information not specific to bowhunting but to what encompasses all within the ABA.

So, what do you get for your \$65 annual fee? First up, most importantly, you get a public liability insurance policy which covers you while you are doing any legal activity under the banner of the ABA, whether out in the field hunting or on an archery course. You also get a personal accident policy cover under the same criteria. Clubs also have a directors and officers liability insurance which is provided to the club management committee to protect them against any possible legal action.

Clubs also have access to financial assistance through both grants and interest-free loans. There is also access to national coaching, game measuring and bowhunter education programmes by which club members can gain qualifications which gives more access to game award registration and a recognition system at national, state and club level.

The ABA sanctions organised field and 3D archery competitions at club, branch, state, national and international levels. We have field archery training and coaching programs. The ABA also owns its own field archery headquarters, thus safeguarding our future. On top of this you get six free copies of *Archery Action* each year.

The Australian Bowhunters Association is also part of an Archery Alliance with 3DAAA, Archery Australia and the Traditional Archers of Australia. This Alliance was formed to cater to the best interests of all our members.

The information I've just outlined should be ample reason to part with your annual membership, however this is just all the stuff that you can see that you are getting for your money. It is written down and identifiable. It's what you don't see that I consider even more important. It is the time spent constantly dealing with government departments and groups that are against hunting and bow ownership.

Many, many times since I have been involved at a National Executive level, the ABA has gone in to bat for its members on bow ownership issues and hunting-related issues. Delegates representing our members have had direct meetings with nearly every Police Minister in the country. We have also worked directly with most DPI or equivalent departments in the country. Recently we spent a great deal of time interacting with the NSW and Victorian DPI on hunting related issues. We continually submit submissions on your behalf to associated government departments.

One of the biggest advantages we get from governments we deal with is the ABA's ability to self-regulate, especially from a hunting perspective. The introduction of our Bowhunting Proficiency Certificate and corresponding manual over 20 years ago, long before regulation was thought to be required, has been a huge advantage to us when working with any government. Victorian, NSW and West Australian government departments have all used, or based their regulations on, our BPC manual.

Several years ago Victoria were looking very closely at banning the compound bow for hunting. This would have also caused problems in the target arena as there is not a lot of difference, if any, between the two bows. Quick and decisive work and several meetings with the appropriate government departments alleviated that problem. We had a similar issue in Western Australia

Major prize draw at the 2018 National Safari

at Dead Centre Bowhunters
ALICE SPRINGS







At the presentations for the 3D Competition, a random draw will be conducted to determine the winner of seven nights' twin share accommodation provided by Fletcher Christian Apartments and seven days' hire provided by Eldoo Hire Cars. Prize is non-transferrable and valid for 2018 Norfolk Island Archery Championship travel dates only. (Flights not included.)

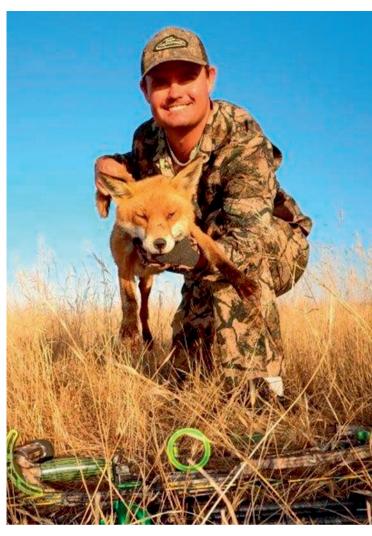
and sent a delegation, along with 3DAAA, to meet the WA Police Minister. Also, over the past few years, we have had several meetings with NSW Government departments over both bow ownership and hunting related issues. Who knows where we may have been at this stage without this action?

The above is just a small part of what has happened and what will continue to happen on a nearly weekly basis. It is all done on your behalf by volunteers giving freely of their time to make sure you can go about your archery. The time is given freely but there are associated costs and part of your membership goes towards fighting for you, so you can continue to do your archery and bowhunting.

Personally I think \$65 is cheap for what you are getting. I would be happy to pay far more than this each year for someone else to do all the managing and worrying for me so I could just shoot my bow.

In the wash-up of all this; all people who own a bow benefit from what is done by the ABA ... that's just the way it is. The Alliance makes this acceptable. But remember when push comes to shove it will be those volunteers within the ABA, and the Alliance, who will be making the difference to the future of your ability to continue to use a bow and arrow. At not much more than \$1 per week, it's pretty cheap insurance.





Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29	25
James Finlay	151 2/8	110	95
John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Graeme Duff	11	10 2/16	9 3/16
Tim Pitt-Lancaster	8 5/16	7 10/16	7
Dan Smith	315 3/8	200	175
Darryl Bulger	276 4/8	190	150
Dan Smith	204	160	140
Stephen Tilley	111 7/8	70	55
Dean Scott	203 5/8	162 7/8	140
Jay Janssen	236	170	150
Barry Feeney	35 2/8	28	15
John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Barry Feeney	11 3/8	9 1/8	6
Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10
	Michael Dacre James Finlay John Lopes Kimberley Nicholas Graeme Duff Tim Pitt-Lancaster Dan Smith Darryl Bulger Dan Smith Stephen Tilley Dean Scott Jay Janssen Barry Feeney John Van Den Heuvel Barry Feeney	Record Record Michael Dacre 37 2/8 James Finlay 151 2/8 John Lopes 108 2/8 Kimberley Nicholas 32 6/16 Graeme Duff 11 Tim Pitt-Lancaster 8 5/16 Dan Smith 315 3/8 Darryl Bulger 276 4/8 Dan Smith 204 Stephen Tilley 111 7/8 Dean Scott 203 5/8 Jay Janssen 236 Barry Feeney 35 2/8 John Van Den Heuvel 51 6/8 Barry Feeney 11 3/8	Record Class Michael Dacre 37 2/8 29 James Finlay 151 2/8 110 John Lopes 108 2/8 86 4/8 Kimberley Nicholas 32 6/16 29 Graeme Duff 11 10 2/16 Tim Pitt-Lancaster 8 5/16 7 10/16 Dan Smith 315 3/8 200 Darryl Bulger 276 4/8 190 Dan Smith 204 160 Stephen Tilley 111 7/8 70 Dean Scott 203 5/8 162 7/8 Jay Janssen 236 170 Barry Feeney 35 2/8 28 John Van Den Heuvel 51 6/8 41 4/8 Barry Feeney 11 3/8 9 1/8

Ladies Best of Species

Boar	Kristan Bell	34 2/8pt	2017
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Christie Pisani	87 4/8pt	2017
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 14/16pt	2016
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt	2014
Fallow Deer	Margaret Cowin	150 7/8pt	1997
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt	2010
Hog Deer	Elizabeth Proctor	11pt	2017
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 BHFI	F Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986



President's Report

Alice Springs! For the second time, we take ourselves to the 'red centre' for our National Safari. And for the second time we are taking all three field disciplines of our sport-ABA Field, 3D and IFAA championships will all be held at the Dead Centre Bowhunters' ranges. If the archery, camaraderie and hospitality are anything like our last visit to the Alice, then we are in for a wonderful nine days of archery.

And, in reality, that's what the Safari is all about: Good archery, good friendships and good times, enjoying the sport that we have all chosen as a major pastime. Camping at the range, relaxing around the campfire and enjoying the sights and hospitality of the host club are all integral parts of the Safari experience, which has been enjoyed for many years in a host of different venues.

The experience of travelling to a new venue, experiencing new ranges and enjoying the varying hospitality styles of the variety of archery clubs that have hosted our National Safari is something that most archers look forward to.

Some seem to think that with the establishment of ABA Park at Mudgee that hosting of the Safari is now a thing of the past that, in fact, all future



Safaris will be held at the National venue.

This is not the case! While it is hoped that, over time, ABA Park will become a well used venue and host a variety of different archery and sporting activities, one of the main purposes of establishing ABA Park was to ensure that there was always a venue available if a host club could not be found.

While the Safari last year was at ABA Park, the National IFAA Championships were held at the Renegades' club in Ipswich, Queensland. This year's Safari, all three events, as you know, are in Alice Springs. Both Renegades and Dead Centre Bowmen nominated to host these events.

But for 2019, no one has vet put

their hand up for any of the championship events.

The last thing the National Executive wants to do is chase around all of the clubs trying to encourage someone to host the event. It is vitally important that there is enthusiasm within a prospective host club to host a national event or things just don't get off the ground.

If a host can't be found, that's where ABA Park comes into its own.

Without a doubt, it is always hoped that we can encourage clubs to host the National Championships. Financial and technical assistance is always available to support clubs in this venture and all of us. new to the sport or those that have been participating for many years, look forward to the experience of new and different venues.

So, if you have a club that might be interested in hosting a Safari (it might be ABA and 3D; it might be IFAA; it might be all three events), what is it that you need to do? There are a few important elements that you need to check out.

Firstly, you need to get the support of the majority of your club members and the support of your Branch committee. These are pretty important people to have on your side.

Secondly, you need to download a couple of documents from the ABA website. These are:

- Club/National Agreement on Hosting National Safari, and,
- Accreditation—it's a good tool to find out where you're at as a club.

Thirdly, you need to put in an application/proposal to the National Executive who will work with you to present your proposal to the National Management Committee for approval.

It may sound complicated but, I assure you, it's pretty straight forward.

So where are we going to next? Maybe it's your club! What I do know is that we are heading off to Alice Springs in a few short weeks for this year's event. Make sure you're well prepared. Make sure you take advantage of all that the centre of our country has to offer and I'll look forward to having a chat with you over a cold one at the end of the day's shooting.



Submit your story and photos to the Gold Pen Award competition until the end of June 2018 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

Send your entries to

when your story is used.

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

All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition



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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Awa	rd FK/FKOS Size
A Kenneth Henderson	Freds Pass Field Archers	Buffalo	GA	FK/FKOS 77 2/8
A Wade Lockwood	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	GA	FKOS 0
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	TC	26 2/8
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	RC	29
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	TC	26 6/8
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	TC	26 2/8
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	RC	32 2/8
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	TC	26 4/8
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	TC	25 4/8
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Goat	TC	101
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Cat	TC	7 7/16
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Fallow Deer	RC	222
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Fallow Deer	RC	194 4/8
A Rohan Walker	Freds Pass Field Archers	Stingray	TC	6 4/8
A Rob Mayfield	Dead Centre Bowhunters	Buffalo	TC	FKOS 81 2/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	RC	31 4/8
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District	Pig	TC	26
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District	Pig	TC	26 2/8
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District	Pig	TC	26
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District	Pig	TC	26
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District	Pig	TC	27 6/8
B Richard Morrison	Mount Isa District	Pig	TC	28
B Kristan Bell	Mount Isa District	Pig	RC	FK/FKOS 34 2/8
B Nick Bell	Mount Isa District	Pig	RC	29 4/8
B Nick Bell	Mount Isa District	Goat	RC	110 5/8
C Paul Graham	Capricorn Field Archers	Goat	GΑ	FK/FKOS 90 1/8
C Brad Lane	Emerald Archery Club	Rabbit	GA	FK/FKOS 0
C Brad Lane	Emerald Archery Club	Hare	GA	FKOS 0
D Riaan Krause	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	GΑ	FK/FKOS 0
D Drew Edwards	Grange Bowmen	Pig	GΑ	FK/FKOS 0
D Drew Edwards	Grange Bowmen	Goat	GΑ	FKOS 0
D David Teitzel	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	TC	106 4/8
D Kurt Teitzel	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	RC	114 3/8
D Dave Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Pig	TC	26 4/8
D Dave Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Pig	TC	27 2/8
E Charles Gardner	Sapphire City Archers	Fallow	RC	207 6/8
E Charles Gardner	Sapphire City Archers	Fallow	RC	226 2/8
E Robert MacIntyre	Manning District Bowhunters	Scaled Fish	GΑ	FK/FKOS 0
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 6/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 3/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 11/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 8/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 13/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 4/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 5/16
E Gary Lander	Central Coast Moonterra	Goat	RC	112 2/8
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 6/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 7/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 12/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 9/16
E Graeme Duff E Graeme Duff	Northern Tablelands Archers Northern Tablelands Archers	Fox	TC	9 11/16
	NIGHTOUR IGNICIONAL ARCHORS	Fox	TC	9 15/16

E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Pig	TC	27 4/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Rusa	TC	FKOS 153 2/8
G David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	162
G David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	152 7/8
G David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	9 4/16
G David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	9 5/16
G David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	9 6/16
G David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	9 10/16
G David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		RC	10 3/16
G Douglas Cahill	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	108 3/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	FKOS 22 4/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		TC	106
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	-	TC	26 2/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	•	TC	25 2/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	•	RC	29
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	•	RC	30
G Tamara Thewlis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters		GA	FK/FKOS 0
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers		TC	16 4/8
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers		RC	30 1/16
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers		TC	15 2/8
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers		TC	15 6/8
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers		TC	17 4/8
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers		GA	FKOS 0
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers		TC	153 6/8
G Michael Luxford	West Gippsland Field Archers		RC	10 2/16
G Mark Burrows	West Gippsland Field Archers		TC	25
G Matt Bateson	Independent	Sambar	GA	FKOS 0
G Colin Brownlie	Independent	Fox	TC	9 15/16
G Colin Brownlie	Independent	Fox	RC	10 7/16
G Colin Brownlie	Independent	Fox	RC	10 1/16
H Charles Cawood	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat		FKOS 87 5/8
H Steven Old	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FKOS 0
H Cameron Webb	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Fox	GA	FK/FKOS7 15/16
H David Oliver	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Fox	TC	FKOS 7 13/16
H Jeremy Gannon	Ballarat Bowhunters	Rabbit		FKOS 0
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Fox	TC	10 1/16
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC	99 4/8
H Renee Sullivan	Bendigo Field Archers	Goat		FK/FKOS 0
H Renee Sullivan	Bendigo Field Archers	Cat	_	FKOS 0
H Renee Sullivan	Bendigo Field Archers	Rabbit		FKOS 0
H Renee Sullivan	Bendigo Field Archers	Hare		FKOS 0
H John Scott	Break O'Day Field Archers	Goat	TC	109 2/8
H John Scott	Break O'Day Field Archers	Goat	TC	108 2/8
H John Scott	Break O'Day Field Archers	Goat	TC	97 5/8
H John Scott	Break O'Day Field Archers	Buffalo	RC	92 6/8
H John Scott	Break O'Day Field Archers	Pig	TC	27 2/8
H John Scott	Break O'Day Field Archers	Pig	TC	25 4/8
H Paul Virgo	Lilydale Bowmen	Goat	RC	117 7/8
H Paul Virgo	Lilydale Bowmen	Goat	RC	113 6/8
H Don Messenger	Lilydale Bowmen	Goat	TC	106 5/8
H Chris Henry	Lilydale Bowmen	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS 0
H David Lea	Independent	Pig	GA	FKOS 0
H Cheryl Looby	Bendigo Field Archers	Pig	TC	FK/FKOS 25 4/8
H Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland Field Archers	Hare	GA	FKOS 0
J Jarred Brown	Peel Archers	Pig	GA	FKOS 0
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Pig	GA	FKOS 0
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Fox	TC	9 7/8
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Camel	RC	FKOS 29 3/16
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers Western Plains Archers	Fox Fox	RC TC	10
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers Western Plains Archers	Shark	TC	9 9/16
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers Western Plains Archers	Shark	TC	18 2/8 16 2/8
J Lloyd Scott J Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers Western Plains Archers	Chital Deer		16 2/8 FKOS 0
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Bowhunting achievements

as at February 1, 2018

Master Bowhunter Award for those obtaining 300 points or better in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula):

Graeme Duff	700
Tyler Atkinson	560
Helen Duff	520
Scott Meadows	440
Marc Curtis	420
Lloyd Scott	370
Toby Gall	330
Rohan Walker	330
Luke Hebb	320
Luke Sampson	310
David Rethus	300

Trophy Bowhunter Award for those obtaining 200 points or better in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula):

David Luxford	280
Michael Luxford	260
Darryl Bulger	230
David Brewer	200
Dave Pender	200

Bowhunter Award for those obtaining 100 points or better in a minimum of three species of game under the Master Bowhunter Award formula):

Bradley Seagrott	190
Joshua Balsley	190
Ben Ireland	180
Daniel Ferguson	160
John Scott	160
Stephen Fairbrother	160
Neville Ashton	150
Ben Chambers	140
Dan Podubinski	140
Nigel Morris	140
Troy Morris	130
Dylan Evans	120
Mark Burrows	120
Colin Brownlie	110
Jason Lesnik	100
John Teitzel	100

J Josh Matthews	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC	FKOS	107 7/8
J Josh Matthews	Western Plains Archers	Pig	GA	FKOS	23 2/8
J Josh Matthews	Western Plains Archers	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
J Tayla Campbell	Western Plains Archers	Rabbit	GA	FK/FKC	OS 0
J Tayla Campbell	Western Plains Archers	Shark	GA	FKOS	8 5/8
J Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Sambar De	er TC		148 3/8
J Nigel Morris	Western Plains Archers	Shark	TC		24 1/8
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Cat	GA	FKOS	0
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Cat	TC		7 5/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	RC		29 4/8
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	RC		29 4/8
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	TC		25 6/8
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	TC		28
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	TC		28 2/8
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	TC		28 4/8
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	TC		25 4/8
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Pig	TC		26 2/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Hog Deer	TC		67 4/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Donkey	GA	FKOS	0
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Pig	TC		25
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC		105 3/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC		106 3/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Goat	TC		95 1/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Goat	RC		112 7/8
J Lloyd Scott	Western Plains Archers	Goat	RC		113 6/8
J Doug Bourman	Western Plains Archers	Stingray	TC		6 1/8



NO AGE LIMIT

Introducing Tim Boden

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

I live on the NSW Central Coast. I have been a member of the Central Coast Moonterra Archers club for 14 years. I do not hold any positions in the club but in the earlier years I would help Dad out when he would run measuring and bowhunting courses for the club or branch. I have not been bowhunting for a year or so now due to the lack of time with work and finishing school.

How long have you been an ABA Member?

I have been an ABA member for 15 years as I was signed up when I was 4 or 5 years old ... not that I knew it then. Dad would take me to the archery club and spend a bit of time there just having fun shooting arrows and learning a few things about archery skills from Bob and Colin.

What equipment do you use?

I started off with a 15# one piece recurve which I used for a couple of years. I now use a Halon 32 at 70lb.



Tim Boden with the goat that won him membership into Trophy Bowhunters of Australia when he was only nine years old.

How often do you get to go hunting?

Not very often at the moment due to work and school commitments. Team sport also gets in the way sometimes. When I do go hunting, however, it is often on a large trip that goes over a few days and I've come to appreciate the time in the field a lot more. My most recent trip was during the rut last year when I spent several days in the bush hoping for a good opportunity to shoot a fallow buck. This trip was unreal because I had my younger brother, Travis (10) with me and at first light we had grunting bucks within 20m of us. It was an experience that got us both hooked on hunting deer.

Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?

Definitely! I've never had so much adrenaline going through me at one time in a hunting situation. Even my younger brother was keen to get up early in the morning which normally doesn't happen unless it's Christmas time. Because of this, Dad and I have arranged a big trip to Arnhem Land toward the end of this year with Gary Lander. Based on Dad's past experiences, this trip should yield some good results.

(continued)

Bowhunter Royale Joshua Balsley Luke Hebb

Bowhunter ImperialNil further since last report

Bowhunter SupremeNil further since last report

Senior Member of TBA

Dylan Evans Gary Lander Joshua Balsley Luke Sampson Luke Hebb Nick Bell

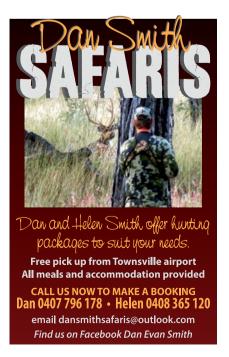
Members Admitted to TBA Club (membership granted after taking first Trophy Class or better animal) Cheryl Looby Flynn Moore Kristan Bell Renee Sullivan Paul Virgo



Tim has enjoyed hunting from a young age.



A younger Tim helps out during a measuring course.



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

I hope to get a record class pig on my trip. I would also like to also get a fallow deer as I have been unsuccessful so far on numerous occasions. often getting to full draw but not having a clear shot.

Did you know much about the TBA before this?

I learned a lot about the TBA from being with Dad when he ran and organised measuring courses and bowhunter education courses. When I was young I didn't pay much attention to it, to tell the truth.

Tim Boden: My first TBA claim

My first TBA claim came when I was nine years old. Dad and I had spent a couple of days on a friend's property for the purpose of hunting goats. This trip was full of mountainous country which was infested with goats. We filmed them, watched them and got close enough to almost touch them. The nannies were on heat and the billies were stupid. Some times they were literally walking up to us. This made for good film but I wasn't confident at the time about shooting one so we just watched as they smashed and bashed through the scrub. Finally as we were packing up to leave, two large billies wandered past our camp and caught my attention. I quickly scrambled to get my bow and ran barefoot across the stinging nettles to see if I could follow them. After they went down a small creek bed and came back up, they noticed me. I was about 20m away and I was already at full draw as the first billy stopped and looked back at me. It was a perfect broadside shot which resulted in a double lung shot. If you're wondering why I'm in my footy shirt in the photo (previous page), it's because I was getting ready to go home. Obviously I was a bit younger then.





Bow checks

Most sports that we play have an inherent risk factor, and each sport has its own methodology for trying to minimise that risk.

In football, the umpire checks players' boots and hands and ears for jewellery, just as netballers are responsible for jewellery or other items they are wearing. Cricketers have to throw away their helmets if they've been hit with the ball. Cyclists must also throw away any helmets that have been involved in an incident that calls the integrity of their equipment into question.

From an ABA perspective, "all archers are responsible for maintaining their own equipment in good working order and condition."

To help facilitate this, archers are required to complete a bow check before competing in competitions.

So why have bow checks? It is a precautionary measure to ensure that nothing in relation to the functionality and condition of the bow and equipment has been overlooked. I'm sure all members of the ABA would agree: Safety in our sport is paramount.

Having coaches, FAIs and/or experienced archers carrying out bow checks should give peace of mind to archers. It is a free safety check for your bow and arrows and any other equipment you have. It also assists in identifying that you are competing in the correct division and goes a long way towards ensuring that your equipment is set up properly for the class you are competing in and that the equipment is in good working order. In the majority of cases, equipment is presented with minimal problems—a good thing—with the most common issue being unmarked arrows.

Clubs can alleviate many of the issues found at

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with **TOM CORNELL**National Director of Coaching



National and Branch activities by conducting bow checks periodically or routinely at a club level by their club coach or FAI.

Archers should familiarise themselves with the official Bow Check Policy of the ABA which can be found in the National Rules (reprinted on next page).

With the National Safari at Alice Springs nearly upon us, I take this opportunity to raise the subject of equipment changes. Personally, I would have made equipment changes already and have been practising and preparing over the past few weeks and months—not a week out from the competition. If you make changes it takes time to get used to them. You have to send a lot of arrows down to see if your changes work for you. If not, you need time to change things back to where they were. Give yourself enough time—don't make adjustments the day before competing.

I look forward to seeing you all at Alice Springs—equipment checked, prepared and all ready to go!

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ABA Bow Check Policy

taken from official ABA Rules of Shoot

Prior to an Official Shoot, all equipment shall be checked by the Shoot Director and/or delegates to ensure that equipment complies with the requirements and that the equipment is in good order and repair.

Who can complete a Bow Check?

The Shoot Director is the sole person responsible for the administration of bow checks.

The Shoot Director has the prime responsibility for selecting appropriate personnel for completing bow checks.

Bow checks should be completed, where possible, by an accredited coach or senior archer with a good understanding of the requirements of safety and bow division equipment.

Elements of Bow Check

- 1. To ensure that an archer's equipment complies with basic safety requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, inspection for faulty limbs/laminations, missing circlips, frayed strings and/or cables,
- 2. To ensure that an archer's equipment complies with the equipment specifications for the division that they intend to shoot.

On successful completion of the Bow Check the archer will be presented with a receipt that he/she has successfully completed the Bow Check requirements. This may include an indicating adhesive (sticker) attached to the archer's equipment or the signature of the 'bow checker' on the archer's registration or score card. It is this 'receipt' that the archer requires showing they have completed bow check successfully.

Actions following Failure at Bow Check

- 1. Should an archer's equipment fail any safety element of bow check, the bow checker must not complete the bow check or provide a "completed bow check receipt". The bow checker must request the archer complies with the safety requirements and then resubmit the bow for rechecking. Wherever possible, in the case of multiple bow checkers, the bow must be presented to the same bow checker. Bow checkers must note which archers they have 'failed' to ensure correct resubmission.
- 2. Should an archer's equipment fail any element of a "compliance with division" check then the bow checker will explain to the archer the reasons for the 'failure' and provide the archer with two options:
 - a) the archer should change the equipment so that it complies with the division required, or,
 - b) the archer should change to a division for which his/her equipment complies

Requirements for Bow Check

All archers must present their equipment, including arrows, for bow check. It is a mandatory requirement to compete in any competition that an archer's equipment has successfully completed an official bow check.

An archer who has not completed a satisfactory bow check shall be disqualified from the competition.

It is solely the responsibility of the archer to comply with the Bow Check requirements.

Should an archer experience equipment failure during the competition and chose to change his/her bow or arrows, these must be presented to the Shoot Director, or his delegate, for Bow Check.

Note: Successful completion of bow check does not safeguard an archer from protest in relation to the equipment he/she is using.

It is always the responsibility of the archer to ensure that the equipment that they use is safe and complies with the rules and regulations of the Australian Bowhunters Association or the International Field Archery Association as required.

Grievances

Should an archer present for Bow Check and be dissatisfied with the outcome of the Bow Check they may present their equipment to the Shoot Director for further scrutiny. The Shoot Director shall ensure that they communicate with the 'bow checker' to ensure they understand the reasons for the failure.

The Shoot Director has the final decision as to whether equipment complies or non-complies with the Rules for Shoot.

Bow Check Equipment:

It is important that the personnel completing the Bow Checks have the correct equipment to ensure that they are able to complete the checks accurately and professionally. The following is a list of essential equipment with which to complete Bow Checks:

- Bow square
- Ruler that measures inches and centimetres (at least 12 inches)
- · A tape measure
- Notebook
- Pen/pencil
- · Stickers/dots for indicating completed bow check
- IFAA Rule Book
- ABA Rule Book

Entries PHOTO COMPETITION



Coloured reflections. Jeffery Evans.



Sambar sky in Victorian high country, Graham McComiskie.



Hey Dad, wait for us. Eric Creighton.



A frosty morning,

obey Archery Photo Competition



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A 1km walk to get the wind right, ripped-up knees and cut feet over basalt, 200-metre belly slides across open terrain, then ... a hind spotted me; the wind sucked back; they just walked away; a mob of cows ran through; pigs spooked them; horses spooked them; birds flew over and squawked above us; the deer jumped the string; I got a deflection ... the reasons for blown stalks went on. It was just another day Bowhunting at Level 50!

roy Morris, Marc Curtis, David Luxford and I had chosen Pacific Bowhunting Safaris to guide us on a chital hunt. Daniel Ferguson, Graham McComiskie and Rowan Kane would do their utmost to see our chital stag dreams fulfilled.

At first it didn't seem that way, but the massive front that lashed the east coast was a blessing for our group bowhunting chital on Toomba. The rain came every night and often lasted all day, softening the usually dry leaves and bark and—most importantly—washing our scent away each day, resetting hunting areas.







Michael with one of the hinds taken on the trip.

By the time day four dawned (wet again), frustrations were high and pressure was building as the end of the hunt approached. When we had arrived on Sunday afternoon, six days' hunting seemed like an eternity, but now we had passed the half-way mark. Two stags had

fallen to David and Marc. Troy and I had taken hinds, but stags had so far eluded us. The hunting spirits seemed always to be on the side of the deer.

In the pre-dawn light, Dan and I moved through damp grass and over the wet basalt wall, slowly emerging

out the pop-hole to ambush chital as they moved from feeding areas back to the bedding areas. They leaped and bounded far from our ambush position. The spirits again were on the deer's side. Something had spooked them way out in the paddock. Back over the basalt we



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scampered to the ute and drove further along the wall.

"We'll park here and cross into the next pocket to look for the bachelor mob that was up here yesterday," Daniel said as he killed the engine of his Land Cruiser and rolled to a stop. We spotted the bachelor stags just as they spotted us. They weren't in the next pocket—they were just 80m away. We sat in the ute and watched them walk away and disappear into the basalt. We silently slipped out of the ute, donned packs and crept into the wall behind them. From behind cover we glassed, scanning the undergrowth. Their spots blended in well but the straight lines of their backs, flicking ears and antlers gave them away. The stalk was as graceful as crawling over jagged melon-sized rocks with three limbs could be! I kept telling myself, "I won't remember this bit tomorrow," and pushed on. I reached my target tree and carefully

moved some smaller rocks so I could kneel down in some comfort. A trophy stag thrashed a bush. He was now the last deer I could see. The rangefinder read 60m. I nocked an arrow, but the stag walked away and joined the others. I followed as quickly as I silently could ... but they had vanished.

We got off the wall and followed the creek, glassing as we went. "There's a stag!" Dan announced. It looked as if he was standing on a patch of basalt. We searched for other deer but could not see any. Dead ground along the creek allowed us to close the gap. "We'll move slow and push these cows off," he said, but they just stood and stared, one more than the others. Step, step, stare, step, step, and stare. Daniel pointed down to his right. A new calf lay curled up hidden in the grass only a couple of metres from us. Hunched over, we eased on. The cows still didn't move. We belly-slid into position behind some grass and deadfall 120m from the stag. A shallow gutter lay to our right.

The height of the basalt kept me concealed, and the crawl along a soft pad to the bush, marking the start of the gutter, was a relief. But during the crawl I lost the reference to where the stag lay. I lifted myself up and slowly scanned the low wall to relocate the stag before continuing. "UFF!" Ugh—he was further to the right! Caught now in the open at 50m, I watched as the stag wasted no time in departing the scene. Dan came over and together we watched the stag cross the open paddock and enter the bush, slow to a walk then disappear into the gums and pea bush. Lining up a fallen gum limb, Dan lead the charge as we marched hard to the treeline and glassed again, but we'd lost him. We sauntered back to camp.



"Stop! There he is!" Dan urgently whispered. The stag I had blown on the previous stalk stood looking toward camp 200m away under a shade tree. "He's gonna bed down. When he does, we go." Not 30 seconds later, the stag bedded down. "Let's go!" We lined up a large gum and headed in. We halved the distance quickly; to halve the distance again would take a snail's pace. I dropped my pack and commenced belly-crawling through the grass and pea bush to the next tree. Even at ground level. as I inched forward, I could feel the breeze was strong and consistent in my face. The storms coming from the coast had caused erratic winds the past few days; I just needed the breeze to hold for another five minutes. Relieved to reach the tree, I pushed my chest up and slowly looked around the right hand side of the tree, glancing through the grass and bush to make a final check of the stag. He was still there, still bedded broadside. I eased back behind the gum and got to my feet. I nocked an arrow. I ranged the tree: 45m. I positioned my feet so I could lean out from behind the cover. My muscles tensed, feeling the poundage of the

draw weight. Taking a deep breath I began the shot cycle, lifting the bow and started to draw. In my peripheral vision, I saw the stag run off to the left. The wind had sucked back seconds from the shot. We headed back to the homestead, looking forward to hearing the stories of how the other guys had fared for the morning, most likely their experience had been just as frustrating as ours.

The expression on Daniel's face was that of a man with a mission. "Lets go get a stag!" He had spotted a nice stag bedded with others on the wall, near the shade tree right behind camp. We jumped in the Cruiser and idled past them to get downwind. Using some low ground alongside a basalt ridge, hunched over, we closed in. Daniel proved his agility again, by crawling over the basalt like a spider while I struggled behind on three limbs, doing my best not to let my bow clunk on the rocks. The deer were spread out. The more we looked, the more we spied. The big stag lay in the middle of the spread. We pulled up in a hollow behind the shade tree. A tree just behind them ranged at 50m. We watched their movements. Hinds stood up and fed, subordinate stags stretched their legs, milled about then bedded again. We could only see the big guy's antlers as he lay contentedly. Daniel pointed at some deadfall beyond a small tree in front of us. "Get to there. Shoot him in his bed." I slipped over the roots of the shade tree like a snake. and over the basalt rocks like a baby giraffe. My knees were pretty much done! I reminded myself. "I won't remember this bit next week." Honestly, I surprised myself: I was sure I would get busted, but I made it to the deadfall and tree. I got to my knees, then into a squatting position. I scanned the grass for hinds on alert. The coast was clear. I ranged the tree behind the big stag; 35m. I estimated the stag was 10m in front of the tree. I nocked an arrow. I performed the drill in my mind—draw, stand, split the pins for 25 metres, settle and release. In a squatting position, I began to draw, but couldn't get over peak weight. I tried again, but couldn't get to full draw. Drawing from a squatting position was harder than I imagined. I gave it everything I had to get the Hoyt back, then slowly rose to my feet. Right at the front of my mind was getting busted. I expected the

Photo by Graham McCom

Not always easy to see.



scattering as I stood but I made it to a natural shooting position. I split the pins, settled and released. The deer all sprang up, rearranged themselves and looked around. What the hell had just happened? The massive stag just stood looking around. No entry hole. How the hell did I shoot under it? I stood frozen as the herd scanned for danger. I managed to nock another arrow, but the deer moved slowly away without presenting a shot. Daniel crawled over. "What happened?" I don't know if I answered, but the look on my face must have said it all. "They're just over here." And off he crawled. Daniel's enthusiasm was contagious. I was ready to skulk back to camp. I

to answer the burning question, but I also wanted to follow him. We slunk past. Daniel spider-crawled over the rocks while I impersonated a baby giraffe. I couldn't see the deer; I just kept up to Dan, trying not to think about how much my knees hurt. We came to a low, bald crest with one lone dead tree on top. "Get to that tree, you'll get a shot-70m."

I pushed myself over the rocks, not feeling any pain now. Nock arrow. There was the stag! Draw. Settle pin. I caught sight of the arrow midflight and watched it start to descend.

In the short time an arrow is in flight, it is amazing how much thought is processed in your brain. In the 1/100th of a second I watched a perfect shot. In the same 1/100th of a second, the stag's own perfectly evolved reflex triggered and it flicked its body. My thoughts went from perfect shot, to oh no, gut shot to relief-clean miss. This time the deer made a hasty exit. "Oh man, that shot was on the money!" Dan's words were a relief after the earlier miss.

"Can't hit 'em at 25 but dialed in at 70?" I replied. We collected the arrow then went back to look for the arrow from the first shot. It wasn't in the soil under the stag's bed. There it was, lying sideways just behind the tree I had ranged. I scratched my head. What had happened? CSI Toomba. One metre in front of the



stag's bed I noticed a cut twig 10cm off the ground. My eyes followed the line back to where I had taken the shot, the arrows path. Between the cut twig and the stag's bed, a small tree root protruded from the ground, only 10cm wide and 10cm high, with a bruise on its crown. My arrow had deflected off the root. The hunting spirits had said "Not today".

We went back to camp. I was happier to know I hadn't completely muffed the shot.

I had to ask, "How big do you think he is?" "Oh, every bit of 31 if not more," he answered. This is how it goes at Level 50.

As the day drew towards evening, Dan and I glassed over an open low area scanning for stags. As with every day on Toomba, there were plenty to be seen. We moved onto a sand ridge to get the wind right, always glassing ahead. To our front a lone stag fed in the open. Down on our knees, in what was now a familiar routine, lining up trees, we crept in. Watching the stag, we moved only when his head was down, while the grass would conceal his vision. At 80m I dropped my pack and left Daniel. I slid on my stomach towards a small gnarly tree then pulled myself to my knees. The stag fed quartering away, but was now lifting his head more often to look around. He knew something was encroaching his personal space. I waited for his head to go down and then ranged him: 50m. I nocked an arrow and settled myself. The 50m pin settled on the



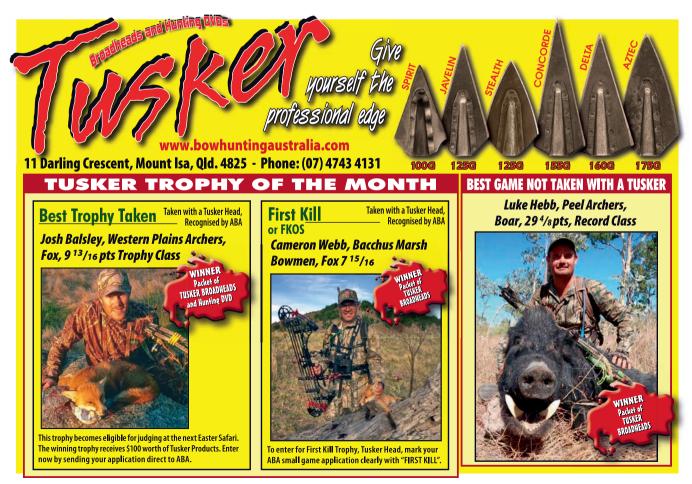
chosen white dot. I was completely relaxed into the shot, so much so, I finger released with a release aid. flinching horribly. I tried to catch the rapid let down, hit the trigger and the arrow sailed over the stag's back. The stag's head shot up. He looked around, not sure what was going on, and moved to his left. I nocked another arrow and ranged him again, still 50m. The stag flinched at the shot, but the impact sounded good. He ran only a short way then bedded down. Dan appeared and we broke down the shots. I explained the bout of target panic.

"See his tail wagging? Don't trust him," was Daniel's advice. The stag had conveniently bedded down facing into the wind, away from us. With that I started the most nail-biting belly-slide of my bowhunting career. Tree to tree I slid forward, always ensuring I knew exactly where the stag was before heading to the next cover. At 30m I stood up behind a large gum, but I was rattled. I couldn't convince myself I could make the shot. I had an arrow on the string. I was clipped on, but I couldn't do it. I put the arrow away and slid sideways to line up the next tree. I wondered what Dan must have been thinking as he watched. I stood again behind another large gum and ranged the bedded stag, his head held high in a healthy posture, 22m. It had been a traumatic day bowhunting. I nocked an arrow and took two steps forward to make an even 20. I'd already stuffed up at 25m today and wasn't leaving anything to chance. I chose a spot and released. The release surprised me. The stag sprang to his feet as nothing was wrong. He ran to my left and stood looking around only 15m away. The stag took four casual steps then fell over dead.

Daniel's grin was as big as mine. I gave him a big hug when he got to me. We'd been through the wringer but we got it done.

Hunting chital with a bow and arrow is bowhunting at Level 50! Chital are alert, fast and they live in challenging terrain. At Toomba, after a stalk is blown the next opportunity is only a glance through the bino's away. I had good opportunities each outing and at least one shot a day at stags. All four of our party left with trophy chital stags, and Marc had a haul of trophy boars including two record class.

I had a chance meeting at Sydney Airport with some high profile bowhunters just before this hunt; one of them said every bowhunter should hunt Toomba. I reckon he's right! For the hunting experience of a lifetime, to see hundreds of deer and the biggest chital stags you can imagine and every chance of cracking a 35pt boar, there is no other place like it.







The party of four with two of their guides ... success all round.



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Some of the activities that take you further into the island's environment include 4WD tours; fishing, kayaking and snorkelling trips as well as bushwalking, garden and bird tours. There are numerous tours and museums to take in the island's layered history and heritage and a spectacular golf course is also located in

World Heritage-Listed Kingston.

Eating out introduces you to the taste of fresh, seasonal and locally grown—as that is all the island has ever had! Try a sunset fish fry on the clifftop or eat at a choice of club restaurants and bistros (with great value kids and adult meals). Eating one of Norfolk's famous coconut, passion-fruit or lemon pies is a delight in the flavours of the Polynesian influence.

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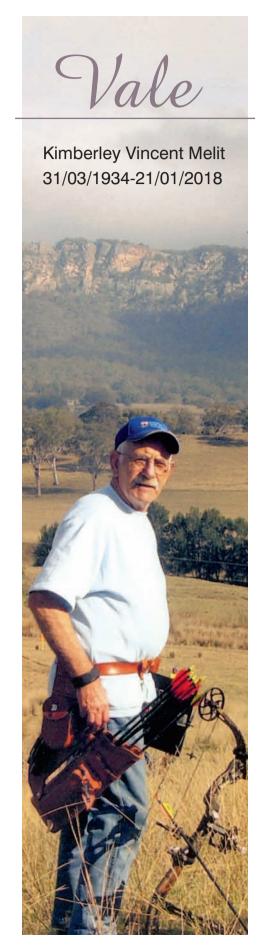
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Kim Melit grew up in southwest NSW in the small country town of Yanco. From early on, he had a love of projectile sports and was always playing with his old rusty .22 and shanghai. The day he graduated to a homemade bow was a pivotal moment, for from that time bows and arrows played an important part in his life.

His first 'proper' bow was a 42# Trueflite recurve. He bought it in 1952 and joined Parramatta City Archers. One of the clear memories he had of those days was that money was tight and if he wanted a sight for his bow, he would have to make it himself. With a little improvisation, he came up with a sight made from dressmakers' pins and a strip of sticking plaster.

It wasn't long before he started hunting with the bow and arrow, and he travelled throughout New South Wales on his hunting trips. Marriage and a family meant he swapped his archery interest for soccer and netball games where he spread his time between coaching and being Dad's taxi. Some years later during a chance visit to Benson Archery, he came across the compound bow and his fate was set.

He joined Northern Archers around 1974 but decided that the club was not a good fit for him since Northern was, in those days, a typical recurveonly AAA club. After some time there shooting the centres out of the strammit butts and being referred to as 'one of those bloody compounders', he thought it was best to seek out a club that did not consider the compound bow to be a 'tool of the Devil'.

He joined Manly Bowhunters (Manly Dam Reserve) in 1975 and became a member of the ABA in 1978, competing right up until his quintuple bypass surgery in 2006.

Kim took both an administrative and competitive view of the sport. He was extremely competitive in the Bowhunter Unlimited Class and medalled at the ABA and IFAA Nationals and State Titles during the middle 1980s and early 1990s. He shot NFAA Championships in Darrington (USA) in 1991 and in 1995 won the Men's Veteran Division IFAA 3D World Championships at Lake Glenbawn (Australia). He joined 3DAAA in 1999 and very much enjoyed the shooting style.

He believed in giving back to the sport he so loved. Administratively, he spent several years as a qualified AAA judge and acted as the Director of Shooting for several NSW State Titles at the Olympic Archery Centre at Homebush. He was the President of Manly Warringah Field Archers Inc from 1980 to 1985 and was the Secretary/Treasurer from 2005 to 2010. In latter years, Kim was the 3D Director on the board of the Australian Archers Hall of Fame.

Kim was a man of humble nature, had enormous talent and ability with his hands as many would know through his signature leatherwork, which stood him in great demand for quivers, tabs, armguards, pistol holsters, rifle holders and knife sheaths. He was President of the Leatherworkers Guild of New South Wales and won numerous Best-in-Show awards at the Sydney Agricultural Society's Royal Easter Show. Well educated, well mannered, a great bloke who was loved by many, Kim passed away quietly with his family around him. He will be sadly missed around the campfires at the archery shoots that he loved.

Kim is survived by his wife Jan, their three children Jon, Cassie, Anthea and numerous grandchildren.

Much of the information for this article came from the 3DAAA website (used with permission)

Around THE TRADS

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

Sue Wallace

The Gympie area of Queensland had been experiencing storms and torrential rain resulting in the substantial rising of the creek that runs through Chevallan Archery Park, and with the Christmas Mini-Trad shoot being held on the weekend of December 9 and 10, a course layout rethink was required. We had already received calls and emails from a few people advising they would not be joining us and as we drove out on Friday afternoon I was beginning to

wonder myself. However, the closer we got to the Gympie area, the lighter the skies became.

With the typical Aussie attitude, she'll be right mate, we set up camp. Friday was a social evening. There were 10 or so camping and we were feeding ourselves, so we wandered over to the outdoor kitchen area with eskys in hand. The shoot itself wasn't due to start until lunchtime the following day.

Around 9.00pm the wind started

to pick up, quickly followed by thunder, lightning and rather heavy downpours, so we all huddled together around the verandah table. With refreshments and nibblies on hand, we relaxed and chatted until the storm passed.

Saturday morning dawned with clear, blue, sunny skies. The cicadas had been chorusing since 5am, so we knew it was going to be a warm one.

After breakfast we had a quick tour of the course to check that the targets were all still in place, and noticed the river had come up a little further, although not enough to move any of the targets. With the river being quite high, we would be shooting in areas not previously used.

Many others had joined us during the morning and we had a sausage sizzle prior to setting out. For this mini-trad shoot we were doing the clout range, popinjay, 30-second speed round, rolling disks and the moving target, which was the only event had been affected by the rain.

When shooting the running pig we usually stand in front of, and shoot toward, the back wall of the dam.



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Shooting the moving target.

Popinjay.

Saturday's sunset.

however, this weekend it was rather full, so we needed to shoot from the side bank instead. This meant each group member was standing from a different distance, as we were lined up at a 45-degree angle to the target running line, making this very interesting indeed.

With the day's novelty events complete, everyone settled around a big table near the camps to enjoy refreshments with cheese and biscuits and dips and nuts and chips and cabanossi and salsa and chocolate and ... we wouldn't need dinner!

The Saturday evening sunset was spectacular to say the least and my photos do it no justification at all. We could hear the distant thunder rumpling and guessed we might get another storm, as the afternoon had also cooled off somewhat.

Dinner was barbecued marinated steak with a fresh garden salad, pasta salad and potato bake, followed by mini apple pies, icecream and custard. I'm not sure where I found the room to put all that food! With the washing up done (which in itself is a social event), we could relax and enjoy the rest of the evening.

Around 9.30pm a huge storm descended, with heavy rain, thunder and lightning. Thank goodness we had battened down the hatches before dinner. Once again we huddled around the table under the verandah and carried on with our party regardless of mother nature's best efforts. There was only one camp that experienced the full force of the rain, and it wasn't due to equipment failure. When the fellow erected his gazebo he had only brought two of the walls with him, so he had a choice, which two walls should he put up. Yes folks you've guessed it —he chose the wrong two sides and ended up sitting under the gazebo with wind and rain blowing directly into camp. Oh well it was always going to be a gamble wasn't it. He quickly threw bedding and body into his vehicle until it passed. Another camper had forgotten to close one of the top windows in his caravan and when he jumped into bed he discovered a rather large wet spot.

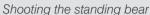
The storm eventually passed and one by one we toddled off.

Sunday morning was slightly overcast and a little cooler, for which we were grateful. I did a mini-muster for those who had enjoyed a hearty Chevallan breakfast, then I walked down and spoke to the others who were still in their camps, thus allowing the groups to meander off at their leisure. I left written instructions for anyone arriving later.

This morning we were doing the 20-target two-arrow field course. Where the river had come up, the course had been split, so once we had shot target 13 we needed to go back out of that area, walk around the top to the laned cutaways. We discovered that the sign indicating the direction to walk had been blown away, so the yell-at-next-groupand-point method was successfully implemented.

We walked around to discover another group doing the targets so went across to the 90-second hunter round. This had been set up at the bottom of an incline, with 11 targets set in groups at various distances. The added element was the large overhanging tree branches that were







The famous target '81'.



Happy winners.

above the shooting positions, leading to some shots as standing, some kneeling, some bending slightly. We stopped the clock for one participant when he lay down instead of standing up. He didn't fall-he just didn't quite get the momentum to get up from the kneeling position. No damage to body, bow or arrows was sustained. Dignity and pride was soon restored as he completed the round almost flawlessly when the clock was restarted. Arrows collected, sorted and scored, then it was off to targets 14 to 17. One of the local archers who we hadn't seen for a while was driven down to the hunter round on the personal personnel carrier, also known as a quad bike. Where else does an archer get such a service? On to targets 81 (yes, 81), 19 and 20 which was a leap of leopards out on the flat paddock. The course layout had been really well thought out, considering the amount of land that couldn't be used due to the rising water. As the last group was walking back toward camp a group of chaps on guad bikes with trailers set out to bring all the targets, stakes and signs back up to the shed, just in case the river kept rising. Our lunch was yummy burgers served efficiently by the hosts. Tamara had made two banana cakes to celebrate the birthday of two of the archers in attendance. I had already lead a noisy chorus of singers at breakfast time;

and now it was time for everyone to embarrass them. We had also discovered a little earlier one other soul had his birthday the day before. So cake all round, plus pavlova to celebrate the end of season.

Next, we had the presentations. The adult first place trophies were designed and made by one of our local archers who had also flintknapped the broadheads for them. I was very honoured indeed to receive one. Among some of our newer recruits of the past six months or so was a chap who had never done archery before. After he started, his partner and her nine-year-old son also began to come along. So with guidance and lots of encouragement they have come guite a way, and the smiles on their faces as they all received medallions for the weekend was definitely rewarding.

Those of us who attended the mini-trad shoot had a brilliant weekend. There was no rain during the day to dampen our enthusiasm, the target placements were varied and well thought out, and by the number of smiles seen over the weekend, a good time was had by all. We now all look forward to the next shoot which will be here in no time.

Trad shoots confirmed by the clubs for April/May 2018, at time of printing:

North Albert Field Archers Traditional Rendezvous March 31 and April 1, Chevallan Archery Park April 21 and 22, Granite Belt Bowmen (Stanthorpe) April 28 and 29, Gladstone Field Archers May 5 and 6. (Barambah Trad Bash still to be confirmed.)

For the next issue I expect to have reports from Chevallan Archery Park (February 24 and 25), Twin City Bowmen Albury NSW (March 10 and 11) and the Wisemans Ferry Traditional Get-Together (March 17 and 18).

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

Wallace Woods:

www.wallacetradwoods.com > Shoot information (is showing the 2018 proposed calendar most shoots still to be confirmed. Will have a link to flyers as they become available)

Chevallan Archery Park: www. chevallanarcherypark.com – for Traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO approved African 3D targets now with replaceable centres, customised archery medals/medallions.

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See you 'round the trads.

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Nick Lintern TRADITONAL TRAILS

Hi to all our readers and welcome to another Traditional Trails. Before we get down to business I have to report the sad passing of one of the archery world's greatest gentlemen, plus one of my greatest friends and mentors-Kim Melit. I have known Kim since I first started in archery with my Dad back in 1979. He loved his compounds with all the gizmos, but being a man whose archery career spanned right back to the lemonwood longbow days on the target ranges, he really appreciated all forms of archery. His leatherworking ability was truly world class, as many of our readers might know. His contribution to archery via running clubs and workshops for leatherwork have been outstanding. He will be sorely missed. He is one of the few men whose passion for archery and the fine arts associated with it matched mine. He was a true fellow traveller in the brotherhood of the bow. He never tired of my excitement at having discovered something new in the workshop or lost patience at my leather blunders in the early days. My condolences to all Kim's family at this difficult time. Travel well my friend!

American semi-longbow

The weather should be starting to cool down now (at least I hope it is) and with Easter approaching I start thinking of getting out to shoots and getting out there chasing ferals. In our last instalment I finalised our English longbow build-along. It was quite a long and comprehensive journey, but hopefully anyone looking to take on that challenge would have found the information valuable.

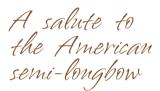
As most archers are aware, there are a lot of interesting shapes and sizes of longbows out there now. This can be very confusing to the new archer, not to mention some more experienced ones as well. It's not that there are any new designs,

far from it, all manner of shapes and tiller variations have been tried since ancient Egypt, many designs are clever when made to suit a specific need, but just as many are just enthusiastic efforts to re-invent the wheel. What I want to focus on here is an absolute classic and timeless bow design—one that has a proven track record in all forms of archery: The American semi-longbow. These classic straight-end bows occasionally get some bad press, normally from archers who've had a bad one or who don't understand how to tune one. Also, these bows have to be hand made by craftsmen if they are going to be really good. They just can't be mass produced,

and as such the commercial dealership world can sometimes criticise them as they want archers to buy their commercially available, mass produced bows. Let's be fair dinkum about this commercial reality point: There are good follow up sales and there are doodads and doohickeys to be sold to people who have bought compounds and that makes them a commercial dream. Also, there is a tremendous amount of misinformation out there as well as a lack of knowledge about traditional longbows so many well meaning people advise poorly with regard to American semi-longbows.

From a commercial standpoint,

a well made longbow needs no follow-up additives at all. Just string your bow and practise! There are almost only two types of American semi-longbows ... a really good one or a poor one. Any readers out there who have shot a good one and a bad one will know what I mean. Sadly, there are many slapped together semi-longbows out there. They may look pretty, but they shoot terribly. I have heard many bowyers say that semi-longs are easy to make, whereas in actual fact, they are the hardest to make well. In terms of the work involved to make one in the physical sense, maybe they are easier to assemble. There are less jobs to do than with a takedown recurve for example, less hardware to install. have the skill and understanding to make a really good semi-longbow is another thing entirely. A good semilong in the hands of a good archer is the ultimate in archery equipment. I've made and shot them for over 25 years now and I absolutely swear by them. They are the last word in simple power and efficiency: Very simple, and yet there is no living thing that can stand before them. All manner of game animals have fallen to the American semi-longbow, including Africa's big five, and many target archery records have been made. So let's embark on an in-depth look at this truly remarkable—and in my opinion, unbeatable-longbow.



A brief history

For the larger part of 1000 years, the wooden straight-end longbow in various lengths and tiller variations was the absolute mainstay archery equipment in most of Northern, Central and Western Europe. Recurves were mainly the domain of Asia. The stacked belly English longbow (that we have just built in the past seven articles) was



Standard American semi-longbow ... a graceful looking bow in all regards.





in primary use as a bow for hunting, warfare and eventually sport from the Dark Ages through till the 1940s.

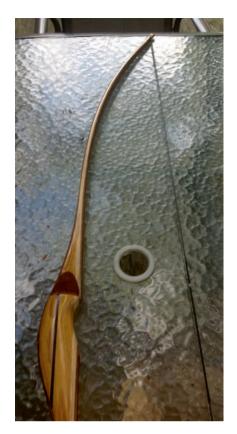
One of the first movements towards the American semi-longbow from the ELB was the advent of a non-working, stiff handle section that joined the limbs via gradual dips. These were named after the English bowyer James Buchanen who popularised them. The next major challenge to the stacked belly English longbow design came from three American scientists early in the 20th century-Nagler, Klopsteg and Hickman. They deduced that a bow that was of a squarer section would be able to store more energy and thus outshoot the rounded belly design. At this time, the average ELB was around 72in to 78in long, the new squarer section bows that were starting to appear were shorter, maybe 68in to 70in long ... still long and forgiving, but shorter than the ELB. These were among the first steps towards what we now call the American semi-longbow. During this same period, the legendary American archer Howard Hill was actively hunting and shooting with the classic English longbow. He realised that the traditional longbow still had a role to play but the slightly shorter and squarer American semilongbow had many advantages. Howard contributed enormously to the design we all know now and we must never take for granted the contribution Howard made to bow design. Furthermore, Howard Hill was a professional archer. He lived by the bow. He got paid to shoot in films, advertising campaigns and at sports fairs. He only shot semilongbows. He tried other designs but always came back to the only bow he knew got the job done every time, and cut him some slack when he needed it. As a professional archer, Howard needed a forgiving,

reliable bow and he found that in his favourite semi-longbows. The American semi-longbow therefore gets its name from the massive input from the Americans to this style of bow.

The American semi-longbow has not varied in its design for nearly 100 years. Materials have improved, with the use of materials like fibreglass and carbon and modern glues, but the design secrets of this seemingly simple bow haven't changed.

What makes an American semi-longbow?

For a bow to be a true American semi-longbow, it will be between 64in and 70in in length. This is the reason for the name 'semilongbow'. It is slightly shorter than the English longbow. The length is dependent on the archer's draw length. It will have a handle/riser section from 10in to 18in. Again, the riser length is dependent on the bow's length. The riser will sweep down or fade out to the limbs. The handle is normally on the bow's belly side but a reverse-handled bow is still classed as an American semi-long and its fades run down the bow's back. You can have your sight window cut to near centreshot or any amount past centreshot. You can have no shelf at all and shoot off your hand if it suits you. The handle and rest should have leather, though some archers prefer not to have a covering at all. I advise against this as the positive grip afforded by leather in all weather conditions means you will always have a true secure grasp of your bow. A semilongbow will have a squarish limb cross-section and be no wider than about 1 1/2in at its widest. It will normally have a grip depth of about 2in give or take and can be as wide as you like, depending on your hand size. Within this size you can have



Reverse-handled bow.

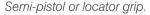


This picture shows the different limb configurations of unstrung semi-longbows. From left: String follow, flat laid and reflexed.



The perfect balance point on an American semi-longbow.







Dished grip, this allows for the thick area below your thumb.



Standard traditional straight grip.

any grip style you prefer. The normal grip shapes are straight, semi-pistol (more like a locator grip) and dished (see photos above).

It can be all wood, an all-wood composite or be backed and faced with fibreglass. Limb shape wise, unstrung, Its limbs will be straight, reflexed or may show string follow (see photos). Unlike a hybrid or deflex/reflexed, an American semilong's limbs will not curve in two directions. They will not deflex then reflex back. When the bow is strung it will have a classic D shape. All this design geometry means you have a classic American semi-longbow. These design characteristics are not simply 'pretty' or nostalgically traditional; nor are they a fluke. An American semi-longbow is the ultimate in stability, cast, reliability, manoeuvrability and forgiveness. Despite the relatively simple design, and to repeat what I said earlier, it is also one of the hardest bows to Semi-longbows build correctly. simply cannot be mass produced. There are many nuances that need to be allowed for as construction proceeds. As an example, you may have two bows at the same weight and draw length but one is to be used as a hunting bow and

one as a target bow, so one will shoot very heavy arrows and one lighter ones. The two bows will have a very different curve profile if correctly made. The bowyer must also understand the balance in the bow, the timing. A well-made semilongbow should not jar or give hand shock. It may exhibit a small amount of vibration, but shock indicates poor limb balance and timing. When you shoot a semi-longbow, you 'heel' the bow to some extent depending on your shooting style. That means the balance point of the bow should be right on with the heel of your hand, the part in line with your arm (see photo at left). Thus the main pressure through the grip occurs at this point. The bow should balance at that point. The limbs are then perfectly even, with your arm as the fulcrum.

There shouldn't be excessive string noise. When you see a bow festooned with silencers, it tells you the bow is not using all its available energy—the design is not optimal. The big 'twang' is unused energy petering out through the string. The silencers add weight to the string, further compounding the energy loss. A good semi-longbow rarely needs silencers, for it is utilising all of its available energy. The string should also track straight or very close to straight down the centre of the bow.

So that covers what a semilongbow looks like and how it should behave when shot. Now let's look at what many believe (myself included) is the number one feature of the American semi-longbow. It's forgiveness.

Forgiveness

What makes a bow forgiving? It is very simply a bow that will cut you some slack when your form wanders a little. Let's face it. who



An American semi-long lends itself to shooting moving targets due its superb manoeuvrability.



has perfect, textbook form 100 per cent of the time? Especially when hunting and shots have to be made in awkward positions and after walking for hours and being stiff and sore or hot. Or a target archer who is nearing the end of a day's competition and is tiring but still needs that last 8 in order to win.

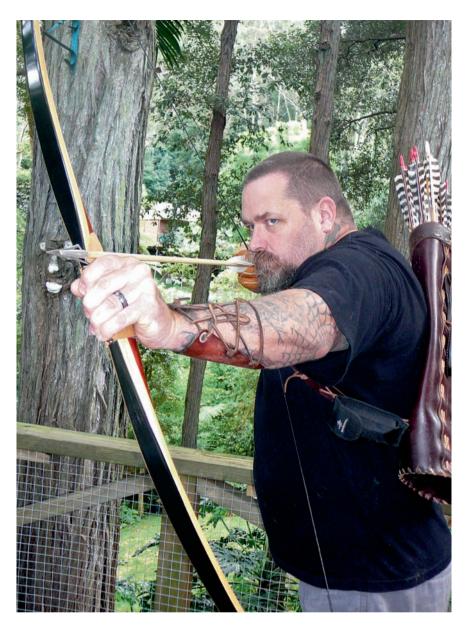
How is it that the semi-longbow can be so forgiving? The answer is many faceted. Firstly, the bow is long, therefore less finger pinch occurs on your drawing hand and thus a clean release is easier to achieve. Secondly, the bow has narrow, thick limbs which pull the string back into alignment very quickly if a poor release is made. In other words, the limbs simply will not twist. Thirdly, the handle/limb weight ratio makes it more forgiving and resistant of follow-through mistakes. If you were to weigh a semi-long's handle/riser section and the limbs separately, you'd find the limbs would either be heavier or similar in weight to the handle/ riser. This more even distribution of weight, rather than it all being in the handle as with most recurves and some hybrids, means the bow is less likely to really flog you for not quite following through as well as you could have. It will actually resist the mistake (to a degree).

What's the downside?

The downside is that a semilongbow requires practice. You must shoot it often in the early stages of learning to shoot one and learn its discipline. It'll be different to other bows you may have shot. A new bow, even a custom one, must be 'bonded' with-you almost have to build an understanding with your bow. Build a relationship. If you hang in there, you will have a bow that is like an extension of your arm. You point your bow and the arrow

goes there. Many folk who have tried and guit on a semi-long-or any longbow for that matter—usually haven't committed themselves to the journey. That said, these bows aren't for everyone. Those looking for instant gratification are best off leaving them alone. It's a bit like in the fitness industry; there are loads of fads out there-ways of letting people feel they are getting somewhere, or that they are training well. Machines that do this and that. Truthfully they are designed to allow you to be lazy. To pander to those who don't really want to work hard. If you want to be bigger or stronger or lose weight, get moving! Pick up weights and move through space, bust your guts and sweat. You'll be fit and strong in no time. The same is true with a traditional bow. Pick it up and shoot it. Simple, really.

Another benefit of a semilongbow is its simplicity: Way back in 1980, as a junior ABA shooter, I was shooting a barebow compound. The only doohickey was a berger button on the riser. I went through a phase of breaking records and filling my drawer with certificates and trophies. Then one day I shot the worst round I'd ever shot. My arrows were flying all over the place. When I got back to camp, an experienced club member checked the bow for me. The spring in the berger button had broken. Once replaced, things went back to normal ... minus a loss of confidence. Within a week I had a secondhand Bear Grizzly recurve. I can cope with having a bad day, but not with the thought that it may be the bow. And with the modern compound being like a NASA experiment, there is far more to go wrong than ever before. With the 'curve, it was a string and leather rest-that was it. My scores went down initially, but were back up to a similar level in no time. Some 15



An American semi-longbow at full draw.

years later, I got my first American semi-long bow—one made by Barry Johnson. My hunting success went up overnight, as did my overall accuracy. I was a bit hit and miss with the 58in Grizzly—it was a bit sensitive-but the longbow was a whole different thing. A short time later I followed a long-term dream and started making my own bows. The rest is Norseman Traditional Bows history. So if there is a downside, it's the need to practise. I personally don't think that's a downside. I love shooting arrows so if that's a negative, bring it on!

As a summary, an American semi-longbow is the last word in simple, reliable power. Why reinvent the wheel? It works well already.

Well, that's it for this time. I hope I have shed some light on this stalwart of the traditional bows' world and have whet your appetite to try one. As always, any questions can be sent to norseman_longbows@ hotmail.com. Feel free to ask any questions you may have. I may answer your questions in Traditional Trails so others can benefit from the answers as well.

Until next time, keep traditional.

COMPETITION

Email your game photos (minimum 1MB in size) to editor@ archeryactionmagazine.com (Subject: Northern Comp) to be in the running to receive one of two six-packs of ...



This issue's **WINNERS**



Megan Mackie



Will Caton



Nigel Morris, TC sambar deer 148 3/8pt.



Kurt Teitzel, TC Goat 114 3/8pt.



Dave Pender, TC pig 26 4/8pt.



Rob Mayfield, TC buffalo 81 2/8pt.



Scott Meadows TC rusa deer, 153 2/8pt.



Lloyd Scott, TC shark 16 2/8pt.





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archery equipment can
sometimes be a hassle, so here
are a few tips to make life
easier on your next flight.

1. Check your luggage allowance

On most international flights, you'll be allocated two pieces of luggage totalling 30kg, which is usually more than enough to cover your gear.

On the other hand, most domestic flights will only allocate you one piece of luggage to a maximum of 20kg. Keep this in mind when you're looking at flights, and add an extra piece of luggage to your booking. It works out to be a heck of a lot less hassle doing it this way rather than having to pay at the counter when you go to check in.

2. Go light with your bow case

Sometimes getting the most extravagant bow case with all the bells and whistles isn't a good idea. When buying a bow case, take note of their weights and go for the lightest and least bulky case possible without significantly sacrificing protection for your pride and joy. You may have to compromise a little. I've had many bow cases over the years, but my past few trips overseas I've gone back to a simple hard shell Cartel case which is super cheap, light and lockable. I took it to a local foam shop and got a block of foam to fit the case. Then using a sharp blade, you can cut out moulds in the foam to suit your particular bow shape. That way you know everything will be 100 per cent protected, even if the airline workers are a bit rough.



Brothers Liam and Adam Mowbray at the Departure Gates on the way to the World Indoor Archery Championships in Romania last year.



Bow packed up ready to fly in hard-shell case with custom cut-out foam insert.

3. Don't try to take any of your archery gear as carry-on luggage

This probably goes without saying for most (I hope!), but make sure you put all your archery tools and spares in your checked luggage, not your carry-on. Even things like spare points can create a massive stir if you try to take them through security as carry-on luggage.

4. Pack some of your clothes into your carry-on

Pack a bunch of your less bulky clothes into your carry-on bag. This will free up a few extra kilograms for your archery and bowhunting equipment in your luggage allowance.

5. Ring ahead

If you're going with an international airline you haven't flown with before, call ahead and make sure they don't have any rules about archery equipment coming on board. Some airlines get a bit funny about it and will try to tell you your archery gear is a firearm. These are usually just folks who have no experience in the area, so it helps if you've called ahead of time to confirm you are bringing archery equipment. When I call I usually ask for the person's name too, so if someone at the airport counter queries the archery gear, I can say I called prior and confirmed it was okay with so and so. Hopefully these tips will help you make your next flight plain sailing. Happy travels!





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Understanding ARCHUMAN AND ARCHUMAN AND ARCHUMAN AND ARCHUMAN AND ARCHUMAN ARCHUMAN

John A. Barlow

As I walked up the trail heading toward the lake campsite that would be our home for the next seven days I motioned for that would be our home for the next seven days I motioned for my wife to stop. Ahead of me, not more than 30yd away, was my wife to stop. Ahead of me, not more than 30yd away, was my youngest son Josh at full draw with his bow. I could not see my youngest son Josh at full draw with his bow. I could not see my youngest son Josh at full draw with his bow. I could not see my youngest son Josh at full draw with his bow. I could not see what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at, but my hope was a nice blacktail buck or what Josh was looking at his was looki

I would expect to find game.

As Josh released I heard a loud clanging noise as his carbon arrow hit rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone. Slowly my wife Kit and I moved up the trail rock. And then Josh was gone for But and the trail rock field that hoping to see Josh. He could not have gone far. But being in a rock field that resembled something out of a Star Wars movie made if difficult to see very resembled something out of a Star Wars movie made if difficult to see very resembled something out of a Star Wars movie made if difficult to see very resembled.

far ahead.

Another arrow hitting rock. Then another. Either Josh was having a poor Another arrow hitting rock. Then another. Either Josh was having a poor day of shooting or he was defending himself against an army of Imperial Soldiers. In a few minutes we saw him. Climbing down from a massive boulder with his bow in one hand, and a grouse—a wild bird that lives in high alpine with his bow in one hand, and a grouse—a wild bird that lives in high alpine with his bow in one hand. About the size of an average chicken, grouse are a terrain—in the other hand. About the size of an average chicken, grouse are a delicious addition to an evening backpacking meal. At least that night we would have some, wild game to enjoy. Josh was a proud bowhunter to be sure. And have some, wild game to enjoy. Josh was a proud bowhunter to be sure. And while Josh's hunt was exciting it took only a minute for him to realize what while Josh's hunt was exciting it took only a minute for him to realize what he had done. With seven days of wilderness bowhunting in front of him, he had significantly reduced his arrow supply. We often tease Josh about that had significantly reduced his arrow supply. We often tease Josh about that had significantly reduced his arrow supply. We often tease Josh about that had significantly reduced his arrow supply. We often tease Josh about that had significantly reduced his arrow supply. We often tease Josh about that had significantly reduced his arrow supply.



Longbows, wood arrows and back quivers always go together.



Proper targets will help to preserve the life of your arrows. There are a variety of targets to choose from on the market.

I love shooting my bow. But what I am actually shooting is the arrow. There are very few things in this world that are as fun as releasing an arrow from one of my bows and watching it spin through the air and then hit its target with a resounding thump. It is especially fulfilling during a hunt. Arrows are magical. And choosing the right arrow to shoot out of your bow may be one of the most important equipment choices you and I can make.

Woods

It is hard for me to think of traditional archery without thinking of wooden arrows (which I will refer to as wood arrows for the rest of this article). It would be like thinking of cookies without milk. The battles between the French and the English with the Gray Goose Shaft, the smell of cedar arrows in one's guiver, the beauty of wood shafts after they are stained and crested—it's all part of the romance. Wood arrows remind me of vintage automobiles. They may not be as fast or as proficient as the newer models, but they have a personality about them that the newer models do not. And like a beautiful woman, they are easy to fall in love with. Sometimes going back means going forward. Wood arrows fall into that category for me. The problem with wood arrows is that some people think that they cannot be shot with any kind of accuracy because they are not straight, and if they are straight they are going to get crooked after a certain amount of time. And while there is some truth to such thinking, remember that some of the greatest and most accu-

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ARCHERY ACTION 53



Good stains and lacquers will keep moisture from seeping into wooden shafts.



Staining and dipping arrows can be part of the arrow building experience.

rate shots of all time were accomplished by men who shot wood arrows through traditional bows. Men like Howard Hill, Ben Pearson, Fred Bear and the legends of fighting men through out history could hit targets with almost pinpoint accuracy with wood arrows.

The key to accurate shooting of wood arrows is to shoot quality arrows from a well known dealer in wood arrows, or, if you are the do-it-yourself kind of person, to purchase quality wood shafting. Most of these suppliers have been in the wood arrow business for many years, and because of this they know the ins and outs of the wood arrow business. Look for a distributor who has been in the business for some time. The reason they are still in business is because they sell only quality arrows or shafting. The completed arrows or shafting I have bought from such dealers has been almost perfect out of the box, with a minimum amount of straightening on

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my part. Wooden dowels bought from the local lumber store do not constitute quality arrow shafting.

There are a variety of different woods for your wooden arrows. Some of these woods include birch, Norway pine, Port Orford cedar and bamboo. Port Orford cedar is perhaps the most common, at least among North American bowhunters. Cedar has a wonderful smell and is an easy wood to work with in the construction of wood arrows. Because tips on wood arrows are held on with glue, switching from field points to broadheads on wood shafting takes more time than simply unscrewing points as on a aluminium or carbon shaft.

Another point to consider: If you decide to choose wood for your target or hunting arrows, make sure they are coated with a good quality sealer to keep moisture from getting into the wood. Moisture will soak into your shafting and cause it to warp and bend. Checking to make sure your nock and point are seated straight is important for all arrows, but especially with wood. I have found wood arrows to be quiet in flight and compared to other materials, quiet in a bow-mounted quiver or back quiver as well.



When Doug Easton began producing aluminium arrows in 1939, many were sceptical. After all, everyone



Quality shafting will be labelled with the spine.



Arrow shafting can be purchased in bulk.

shot wood. But when these (metal-like) shafts helped Larry Hughes win a national archery championship in 1941, competitive archers as well as bowhunters took notice. The rest became history, with aluminium becoming the industry leader in arrow shafting for many years. Even today with the onslaught of carbon shafting coming on strongly, aluminium still holds a major place in arrow sales. And why not? The choices offered in aluminium shafting are almost endless. According to some, Chuck Adams being one of them, aluminium is straighter and flies better than some of its competitors. Aluminium shafts are waterproof, strong, and can be easily fletched with feathers or vanes. Stripping damaged fletching off aluminium is simple and the variety of colours and designs are many, from orange to green to camouflage. And now, to wood-like patterns that look like the real deal. I especially like

the new traditional designs and cresting on many of the new aluminium shafts. They are easy to cut and take heat well when it comes to adding or removing inserts. Depending on the type of glue I use I can heat the business end of one of my aluminium shafts and easily turn my broadhead to my desired angle for hunting. They are less expensive than carbon and give the competitive archer as well as the bowhunter a wide spectrum of choices when choosing arrow spine for his bow, be it a compound or traditional bow.

My friend Dave Cade preaches to me that every time you pull an aluminium arrow out of any target it gets bent. Dave is an arrow connoisseur and is one of the finest arrowsmiths I know so I usually listen when he speaks about arrows. He tells me that it is impossible to pull an arrow out of a target and pull it out perfectly straight and that aluminium will bend. I have





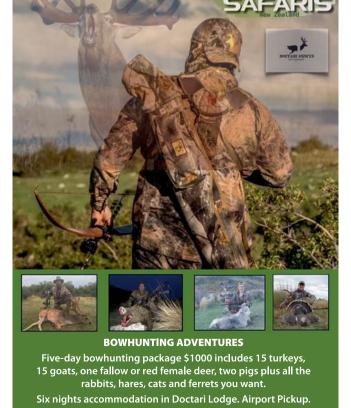
Aluminium arrows are still a quality choice and come in many different spines.



Wood, aluminium or carbon—find which shoots best from your bow.

not seen any proof on that, but doesn't any arrow go through a paradox when shot, which causes it to go through a bending process? Arrows are designed to go through some bending but a good quality shaft will bend back, or straighten itself after being shot. As with any arrow material it is always important to pull your arrows as straight as possible out of any type of target. This helps to ensure that it is not the archer who is causing damage to his or her arrows. Because aluminium arrows have inserts, it is easy to switch from field or target points to broadheads in a matter of seconds. This is especially helpful if a broadhead gets damaged on a hunt.

Aluminium shafting can be noisy when inserted in a back guiver where the shafts make contact one with one another. Aluminium shafting in a good quality bow-mounted quiver is generally quiet even when the bow is being shot. If there is unwanted noise it usually comes from loose field points or broadheads. I have found aluminium shafting to be a favourite choice over the years and would recommend it highly when looking for good quality arrows.



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M

Carbon arrows

Carbon fibre: The very words stir images of hightech products. From prosthetic limbs to high performance racing cars and more day-to-day uses like fishing rods and bicycles, it's such a big part of our lives that



It is always a good idea to safety check your arrows before shooting them. This arrow had lost a fletch.

we wonder how we ever lived without it. Actually, carbon fibre has been around for some time. It was at a British research centre in 1963 that carbon fibre's strength was realised.

It seems as though more and more bowhunters are turning to carbon fibre arrows for use in the field. Proponents claim that carbon arrows are smaller in diameter, which can help with centreshot, produce better penetration on targets, and are stronger and bend less than other materials. The higher velocity of carbon arrows also helps to overcome errors in range estimation. A flatter shooting shaft results in increased accuracy. The advantages of shooting carbon arrows are attractive. While you do want to shoot the best arrow you can, carbon fibre arrows are not going to suddenly make you a far better shot. That only comes from practice. That is something carbon arrows cannot force you to do.

Some find carbon shafting to be noisy when shot. And compared to other arrow materials it can be expensive. But like all things in life, cost can be relative if something works well for you. Spine choices are not as abundant and what one manufacturer claims to be a size 400 in their shafting may not be a 400 from another manufacturer. That is an important consideration if you are using carbon shafting from different makers.

But overall, carbon fibre arrows are a good choice for a modern compound as well as many traditional bows.

Arrow care

Arrows can get damaged in multiple ways. But by far the number one culprit is shooting them into materials they were not designed to be shot into. Like my son Josh's experience in grouse hunting, if you hit a rock, the rock is going to win. Hard targets will drive a target point or broadhead back into the shaft and will splinter it or cause the shaft to break in two. Even hardwood trees will cause damage. If you have ever tried to remove an arrow from a tree, the shaft will either break or your point and insert will pull out of the shaft, and have a new home in the tree. Nocks often will pop off or shatter completely when shooting into hard targets. Robin Hooding any arrow may seem fun at first but losing hard-earned dollars for fun does not seem fun at all.

Giving your arrows a quick check over before hunting with them or target shooting is always a good idea. Look for cracks, bends and loose fletching. I have put more than one feather into my hand over the years due to a loose fletching. It is not a pleasant experience.

You are going to lose and damage some arrows. That means that you are experiencing the joy of shooting them. And that is always a good thing.

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BUSHBOW OnCore 2D self-healing

TESTIMONIALS - First impressions and insights from club members after seeing and shooting the targets for the first time ...

ANNIE (Club Compound Shooter) - "They are something new, something different. I love the sound they make when my arrow hits with a thump. You've got to lean a bit harder to pull an arrow compared to a paper or vinyl target, but the arrow hole seems to close up when you do, they should last okay."

GARY (Range Captain) - "They'd be so easy to put out for a shoot, you could carry a whole range worth of targets no worries they weigh nothing and look pretty weatherproof. They'd be easy to store away without taking up the whole shed like the 3Ds."

DENNIS (Club President) - "Can I take one home and shoot it to bits to see how long it lasts? These would go great for a trad or hunter round; good to see something new. Need to see how well they stand up to a volume of arrows.

TIM (Club Longbow Shooter) - "These are cool, I like em. Good

Dave Fent from Bushbow 3D had sent me two targets from his new range of faces to try out. As archery targets go, these fall somewhere between paper targets and more expensive 3Ds. They are two dimensional (about 15mm or 5/8in thick) They are made from a self-healing closed cell foam called Ethafoam. They do need a backdrop like you would use with a paper or colour vinyl face as they are not designed to stop an arrow themselves.

The faces sent to test, a deer and fox, are part of a huge variety available, including deer targets, big game, wild pig, small game, predator and bird targets. There are also some fun targets and a choice of Jurassic faces that would lend themselves well to a novelty shoot or for coaching kids.

Upon close inspection, I found their foam construction to be guite tough, rubbery and pliable. The score zones, which include the equivalent of the typical A, B and C zones that most of us are familiar with, are marked very clearly and neatly, and also include a few 'pro-rings' that could be used to add another dimension to scoring if required.

I took my two targets out to the club for a proper testing and set them up on the practice range. They did an excel-





The tested targets mounted up well on a single wool bale.

A COLCA'S the monotone to the bountaine	such owner and archer
	VISCED
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archery targets

lent job and everyone was pleased with how they performed. We concentrated an extensive volume of arrows on the fox target over a period of time to see how long it would last. At around the 300 shots mark, it was still going strong with only some deterioration showing in the A zone area that was copping most of the punishment. The single string archers in our club determined that these faces would be great for a trad round and would last under those circumstances for

many shoots. Arrow holes from carbon arrows closed up beautifully, it was only the really thick wood shafts that seemed to show where they had been, but these also closed up pretty well.

If you're after something new at the club or for personal practice targets, these new faces are ideal. Contact Dave at Bushbow 3D about his new range of 2D foam targets; details are in the advertisement on this page.

Above: Everyone at the club was keen to try out the targets.

Left: Close up of the score zones, which lend themselves to a multitude of games.



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Broken Arrow Archery is an indoor range with six 18m lanes and is located in Nambour on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Broken Arrow offers tuition to beginners and also keeps a good selection of recurve and compound bows for casual shooters to use. A big drawcard is that the range is open until 9pm every day so a shoot after work is always an option.

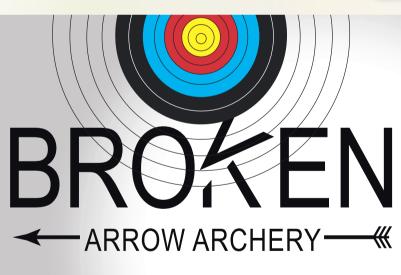
Regular competitions are held at the range and have been very popular amongst patrons—it's a great way to improve your form and pick up some useful tips from fellow archers in a friendly environment.

The techs at the range can also install peep sights, new strings and do general servicing of bows. The bow shop carries a wide range of compound and recurve bows from entry level to high end products like Bear along with a comprehensive range of accessories.

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HUNTING THE GULF across the years



October 2017 was my 18th year in an unbroken stint at hunting feral pigs on the same cattle station in the Gulf.

I had travelled there an extra three times on my own to meet new managers with the view to securing the cattle station for future hunts—of course I hunted each time as well. In fact, I have seen off seven station managers and experienced four different owners in the 18 years.

It was during this latest trip that I reflected with Robbo (this was his 11th trip) on the first time and how it unfolded for two really green hunters — Lew Wren (also a Grange Bowman) and me.



n June 2000, Lew and I flew to Cairns (with all our gear), overnighted in a motel, then flew to Burketown Airport via Mornington Island. The station manager's wife picked us up, drove us to the station and arranged air-conditioned rooms plus a Toyota Hi-Lux (Paul, the manager called it his Low-Lux) to travel the property-after all, one recommended hunting area was 60km as the crow flies from the homestead. The terrain was a shock to us as it is to all first-time Gulf hunters.

As first-timers in the Gulf and hunting big boars, we knew ourselves to be very privileged. We met some great hard-working men and women, ate our meals with them, drank their beer and yarned each day.

We had a huge learning curve in all areas of bowhunting from gear to stalking to hitting the vitals. We must have done a couple of things right, as we removed 26 feral pigs in six days.

Over the years, the tally of feral pigs removed has averaged just under 30 hogs per trip.

Even after 18 trips we still find the people and country a great adventure.

In more recent years, there have been challenges. The trip in 2015 was not so good. Prior to making the trip Robbo (Alan Robertson) had developed a nasty case of target panic, as you'll have read in his stories in the previous issue and in this issue.

To try to explain target panic I am on dangerous ground as I have not had the problem, however my simple explanation is the archer has an overwhelmingly strong desire to hit the trigger on his release aid prematurely and in some cases the arrow hits the ground several metres in front of the target.

During the September 2015 Gulf trip, it was heartbreaking to see

Robbo put himself through pure hell when he could not hit pigs at 20yd or so. It was very rewarding to see him both persist *and* eventually get a few kills, a very gutsy effort by Robbo.

The Gulf trip in 2016 was sadly a non-event as my story "Hunting the Gulf with Murphy" told. Robbo missed that one—smart man. Or at the very least, lucky.

Poor Robbo's target panic problems continued through to May 2017, by which time his several-times-a-week practice with a smart release aid was starting to pay off. On a trip to the Cooper Creek area in May, Robbo smacked a record class feral cat, so we thought he was back ... perhaps better than before.

Just to make Robbo's situation more interesting, he accidentally dryfired his Mathews, so a new bow was needed a week out from the hunting trip departure date. Maybe Murphy was following Robbo now!

October arrived and we were off. We travelled the usual route 1,350km (15 hour straight) to Winton on the first day then only 890km the second day to our first cattle station. We were in Robbo's truck—its first foray into the Gulf.

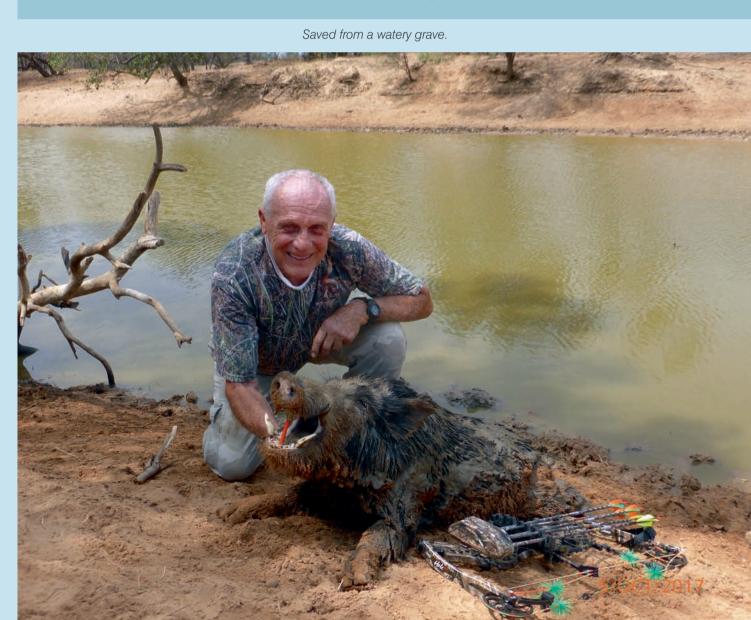
As you can imagine, Robbo was hot to trot for the first day's hunting—as was I— but sadly he did not nock an arrow, although he did call me in to a nice boar in a wallow which I walked up to as he was 12yd down

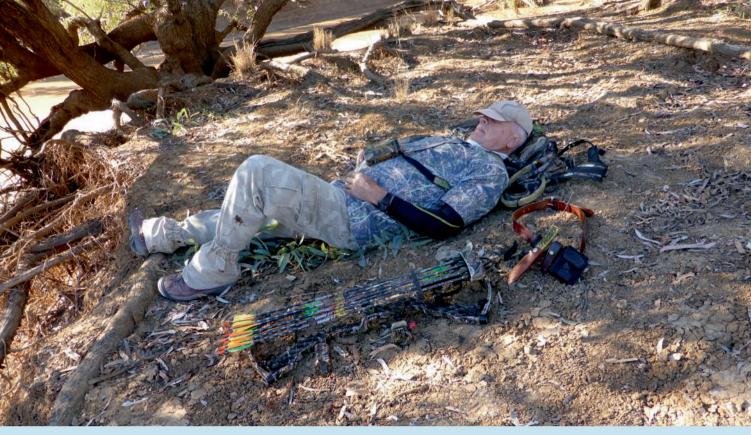
a vertical bank. Interestingly, the shot was good but the pig did not move a muscle. We both thought for a moment that I had shot a dead hog, but then his ear flicked so I hit him again. This time he jumped up and staggered into the water course where he expired. This meant a swim for me, in my jocks, with Robbo on the opposite bank, camera running.

We took the hooks, photos then visited three other waterholes for nothing so that was our only kill for the day.

Most bowhunters find our 'work' exciting, fun and rewarding. This was to be the case for me and especially for my mate Robbo the next day.

After breakfast at 7.30am, we





Bowhunting is tiring work ... time for a nanna nap.

geared up then were out at our first spot by 10.30am. It was a hot morning, there was a nice steady breeze from the northeast and we were hoping for boars on the water.

The first stop was a long waterhole of about 600m and we saw a nice boar asleep in a muddy/ watery wallow some 100m upwind. Robbo started his stalk.

Bowhunting affects people differently. I was excited as I was only 60m from the hog, well-hidden watching. It was about then I decided to ask for some divine intervention from the pig hunting goddess. "Please let all the years of hard work Robbo has put in come through," et cetera, et cetera. And it must have worked because Robbo got to within 20m and from behind a gum tree delivered the perfect kill shot. The boar only ran 20m and died almost at Robbo's feet. I looked at Robbo gave the thumbs-up and yelled, "He's back!"

But wait, there's more! After

photos were taken (hooks were too small to take), not 100m further along he was again at full draw and again got the Zwickey-tipped arrow into another boar's vitals. He was on fire and a happy hunter!

One more stalk on this waterhole was interrupted by a breeze shift and Robbo's prospective No. 3 for the day departed. Perhaps I should have called on the hunters' goddess again.

We had one more waterhole to visit and it was here Robbo almost tripped over a small family group so with another arrow from Robbo the mob lost a small boar.

It was indeed a great day and a real buzz to see Robbo (almost) controlling his target panic and with the new almost untested bow in action.

What a highlight for us both! If nothing else happened on our trip I felt it was already a huge success, but of course we had quite a few more days' hunting to do.

Despite having been on this

property for some 18 years, there are changes each year such as new fences, new tracks graded, dry water courses and rainy season. We use GPS trackers of course but sometimes even these do not show us the correct or direct routes.

The following day was to be a good day despite finding nothing in the first three waterholes, two of which were too dry. However at the fourth one after a long stalk, Robbo got another boar to expire. It was a very similar story at the next bigger waterhole. Robbo had a short stalk but a long tracking session. This time after photos, he removed the hooks. By this time, I was feeling as though I was just a spectator!

Our next stop was to be our favourite muddy, steep-banked (5m) creek. We straddled the creek, only about 30m across, and from 60m we saw several pigs wallowing (not sure if there were six or 16 hogs). This can make it confusing to pick a target hog, however I did and at 20yd I hit



Hooray, Robbo's back on form.

a small boar. He went up the bank and ran some 50m then died. Next, I heard a huge squeal as Robbo decked a boar, then I went back to the waterhole's lip to spot a ginger boar looking up the creek-at 15yd I put the arrow through both lungs. We both took photos but had no reasonable hooks.

As Robbo went back to bring up his Toyota Hi-Lux, I walked towards the last known place of the surviving, departing pigs. Suddenly I heard a couple of boars fighting over a sow on heat.

As I slowly moved in, another boar trotted parallel to my position so at 15m I sent the arrow through his lungs. He ran some 40yd then expired. Again, no hooks so only photos taken.

With a healthy six kills under

his belt, Robbo seemed on top of his current issue ... very pleasing indeed.

The next two days seemed to go quickly with us both getting a couple more pigs (Robbo got two sets of hooks) then our time on this property was up. Our tally of 14 feral pigsmostly boars—was not inspiring but it was a vast improvement on the three for all of 2016.

We had hung the three sets of tusks on a fence and with interest watched the crows and red meatants do a very good job of cleaning them up prior to us boiling them out

All in all, we were feeling that we were very fortunate, not just as hunters but also because on this Gulf cattle breeding station we enjoyed air-conditioned accommodation, laundry facilities, cooked quality/

This cat, taken on the previous hunting trip, signalled Robbo's return to form.

quantity meals in the staff kitchen, a recreation club, internet and mobile phone access, quality managers and staff. Unfortunately, they cannot sell us fuel so we needed to be selfsufficient in this regard.

It was time to go to our second cattle station some 220km northwest. almost on the Queensland/Northern



Robbo had to get wet to retrieve one of his pigs.

Territory border. Travelling via bitumen and gravel roads soon had us remembering how different the next three days would be-bull dust, rocky escarpments, brumbies and a mining camp on this new station.

We had been asked to deliver a 'package' by the previous property manager to this the next station so we had a passenger on board-a seven-month old kelpie dog pup for the manager's 11-month-old son. The pup was popular with Mum and son Angus but not with Dad. (Our comment was, "Please don't shoot the messengers".) They have three dogs now!

Our accommodation here was a tad spartan compared to our previous spot, however the dongas were airconditioned (used for the contract musterers) and had showers, toilet and a frig. We did have to cook for ourselves, though!

The previous year Brett Stokes and I had visited here only to find out they had double-baited for feral dogs (cattle killers) which had wiped out both dogs and pigs in all bar one



spot. Sad to say, over three days we had got one—yes, one—pig.

This year the managers were to bait in late October after our trip, thankfully.

We intended this visit to be short -but hopefully successful—so we carefully selected five potential waterholes as there were no flowing creeks on the property that time of the year. Over rough to very rough 'roads', we tried our first spot and

found some past action in the form of wallows ... but no hogs.

The next one was promising, with several good-looking pigs at the dam's water edges so we circled into the wind on either side and stalked in. I needed to stalk, crawl, stagger through some thick low scrub and yes, it was noisy.

Luckily for me, they left the water (cattle moving around had spooked them) and one boar stopped to look my way-not a good move on his part. I hit him good ... or I thought so.

He ran over the steep dam wall into a grassed area and there I lost sight of him. It was then I heard a pig squealing and knew Robbo was at it again. I circled back to check and watched him put in a finishing shot then, like my first boar of the trip, take a swim to drag him ashore for photos.

I decided to do a sweep to locate the critter I had hit earlier while Robbo,my Uber service, collected the 'limousine'. It was lucky for me that the boar had travelled only 50m and was dead just 3m from the track. It was another case of photos only, but two more to the tally for the team

The next day we hit the only spot in 2016 that I'd got a toothy boar, an interesting location at that.

The western edge of the dried-up swamp, which even in its prime would only be a metre deep at its deepest point in the wet season, had a rocky escarpment from which water seeped all year round into an area about 80m wide and 300m long.

This area was shaded by tall gums and paperbark trees with six or seven small sluggish streams about a metre wide flowing through it. It was in this water that we found the hog wallows.

Robbo was onto a boar but with the dry crackly leaf litter about 6in deep he decided on a 35m shot rather than risk too much noise stalking. He had the usual outcome—a quick run by the pig for 20m then down. No hooks despite the size of the boar, so only photos taken (again).

We moved on. Next I spotted two in a sandy shaded area and I signalled Robbo who could not see them. Eventually he got them sighted and as the boar was facing him, Robbo decided to risk a long shot.

It was a wound but a good one. He (the boar) and his mate ran into



Another fairly toothless tiger.



... and another.

my path. I waited till Robbo could drop his then I drove a Gold Tip into the mate from 35m. Just to be safe, he got another one into the vitals. More photos only and it was time to head back to our digs.

As this was to be our last night in this camp we had a few (more) beers with the manager and his wife, said our farewells and hit the sleeping bags.

Tally now 19 (or was it 20?), again not that flash for a 5008km trip but it still beat a day home mowing the lawn and washing the truck.

With Robbo now (almost) cured or at least killing the pigs, I would consider the trip a success

Our trip home was in two roughly 1200km stints—again, tough but rewarding every time.

For the past three years the trip has been made in late September/ early October, but we now feel that this is getting too late as much of the water has dried up and the feral pigs have left some areas before we get there. So come our 2018 Gulf trip, we will look at an early September start date.

Also on our preferred station, the first visited, we still have over 50 per cent untouched by bowhunters for the last three or four years, so again we will consider spending 10-plus days there to give it a 100 per cent coverage.

Until next year I will keep in contact with the manager, sending the occasional package of goodies and generally keeping the Newell-Robbo names at front of mind.

A couple of questions I will be asking: Are they baiting again, if so when? And who else is chasing the feral game? Even in remote areas



like the Gulf that's still an issue (for us, anyway).

This trip was relatively cheap as less than \$95 per day all up, alcohol for both managers, plus rum, plus other gifts not to mention fuel, accommodation up and back and some food.

The challenge for me is that in late 2018 I will turn 75 and I know if I drop dead in the paddock, Robbo will have a dilemma: Does he drag me to the nearest waterhole or go chasing another toothy boar?

Your call. Robbo.

OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Preparing for a field competition

Over 20 years ago I started my archery career out at the Massey Bowhunters Field Club. I spent several years shooting there before I even found out what target archery was. These days I spend the majority of my time on the target range, however I do try to compete in as many field shoots as I can, as for me field shooting is a whole lot more fun than target ever is! I have been fortunate in being able to win multiple national field championships as well as taking medals at Australian national championships too, so in this month's article I will cover some of the key things I always do to prepare for a field competition, and some of the ways I like to tune my gear to get the best results on the course.



by STEVE CLIFTON

The first, and one of the two most important aspects of a field set-up for me, is arrow selection. When it comes to picking an arrow to shoot for a particular event, there are several things I like to consider in order to give me the best set-up for the

day. The first is what kind of round I'll be shooting; if it's a long or short distance, targets or animals, marked or unmarked. The next is the type of course I'll be on; steep hills or flat, open space or bushy. I also consider if there is a restriction on poundage, arrow weights or speed.

These types of considerations really do make a difference to what arrow will give you the best chance of scoring your best. For example, if I were shooting an IFAA field round, which is marked distance, I would always choose a target-style arrow, such as an Easton Protour or Easton ACE, as there's no need to worry too much about getting the distance wrong (apart from cuts for hills, but we will get to that). However, say I was shooting an unmarked IBO round, which has a maximum distance of 50vd, I would then start to consider the other factors I have mentioned such as course design and restrictions.

One restriction that IBO has which is an important consideration is the speed/arrow weight limit, so it is important that I keep my arrow

about 5gpi and below 299fps. This means that if I am going to go for a light fast arrow (which I will if it is a bushy, not too windy course), I will be limited to an arrow that I can get down to around 5gpi, such as an Easton Lightspeed. I actually have found a really good set-up with these arrows that works for 90 per cent of the unmarked field I do, especially because a lot of our field courses are open and are quite windy, so shooting an slim arrow like this compared with something like an Easton Fatboy really suits most of the unmarked events I do.

Something I have mentioned in previous articles that I will reinforce here is that shooting a really light, fat arrow on an unmarked course does not always mean you will gain extra points. A fat arrow is great if you are able to judge distance very accurately, like the pros in the United States do, however if you are even 2yd out past a 40yd target, you might lose up to 2in of height compared to if you had shot a thinner arrow with more weight. This is where an arrow's ability to hold its downrange velocity





becomes so important as being just a small amount off in your distance judging can negate the positives of shooting a fatter arrow. This isn't to say that I don't shoot fat arrows for field myself, I often do, but I usually only choose to shoot an arrow like this on a very sheltered course (to avoid them being picked up by the wind), which I am familiar with (so I can judge distance more accurately) or when we are shooting a marked round. I will even sometimes pull the Easton Fatboys out when shooting a field competition with specialty targets or shooting at close range with hairpin-sized targets.

There is a lot more to choosing the optimum arrow for field than just pulling out whatever is in your quiver, so if you have time and patience, try to think about the types of courses and conditions you shoot in and start experimenting to see what works best for your set-up. I spent a fair bit of time changing fletches, point weights et cetera to see what would give me the least amount of drop on a 50yd target so that I can know that if I am 2yd to 3yd out on a distance esti-

mate, I am still able to claw back as higher scoring zone as I possibly can.

Once I have chosen the arrow for the course I'll be shooting, the next thing to do is get sight marks, and one of the best ways to do that is using a sight mark program such as Archers Advantage. The benefit of using a sight mark program like this is that you can get a couple of key distance marks, and let the software do the work to calculate the rest for you. Not only can it do this, but it will print the sight tapes for you (in both metres and yards), as well as provide you with a really useful cut chart. Cut charts are extremely important when you are shooting on hills as shooting uphill and downhill changes the actual distance on your sight that you need to dial up. I'll save explaining it here, as a quick Google search can explain exactly why, however if you are shooting any field course with hills, you need to be carrying (if the round you are shooting allows it) or learning to memorise some of the key angles and cut percentages for a variety of distances.

In New Zealand, many of the

courses we shoot have moderate incline shots, usually ranging between 10° to 20° throughout the day. Looking at the cut charts for my set-up out to 50yd, I can see that on a 20° shot, I need to be dialling up only 47.6yd. If I dial up 50yd exactly, my arrow will land about 10in or 14in above where I am aiming, enough to put me out of the scoring zone and costing me valuable points. As I have shot so many courses in NZ, I know roughly which ones are flat and which have major hills, so before the event I like to try to remember some of the key cuts (in those competitions where we are not allowed to carry any reference cards), such as 20° cuts at 30yd, 40yd and 50yd, sometimes even out to 30°, which at 50yd is a massive 5yd to 6yd taken off my sight.

Another very important aspect of shooting field is the sight picture. Often, we will be shooting in the dark bush and on a wide-ranging size of targets (especially when doing 3D), so it's important that we can find a scope and peep set-up that allows us to shoot in all conditions. One key thing I often hear from new shoot-

ers is that they can't see the target or their dot. There are several reasons why this can occur (even when it's not that dark in the bush), but a common one is having too small a peep. too small a scope or not a bright enough dot. When shooting in dark situations, we want to be able to get as much light through the peep into our eve as we can, so I always make sure I'm using a larger peep than I would normally for target. For my size scope (1.5in scope housing), I like to shoot a 1/16in Large TruPeep, which I have found gives me a much brighter sight picture than the smaller ones commonly used in target. I have also found that it's very difficult to shoot in the darker bush with anything more than a 4x lens, as when you are more zoomed in on the animal (this happens a lot for 3D) you can struggle to aim and are constantly trying to move the bow around to find where the animal or target is in your scope. Finally, if you are able to use a sight light and fibre pin, give that a go! It really does help brighten your dot up and makes shooting in the dark bush much easier than with a stick-on circle.

Something I have been experimenting with over the years is shooting with an angled front rod (10 degrees down) versus no angle at all. I have spent a lot of time trying to notice any differences between the two and I can say that for me I feel I can aim better on hill shots with a dropped front rod. It's common to see angled front rods in field shooting and a theory for why it helps that I have come up with is that by lowering the potential energy of the mass at the front of our rods, we are able to reduce the torque on our bow hand while we are at full draw, which means less fighting against the bow to stay on target. I have even been able to add additional weight to the front rod and have managed to become more stable when shooting on the hills so



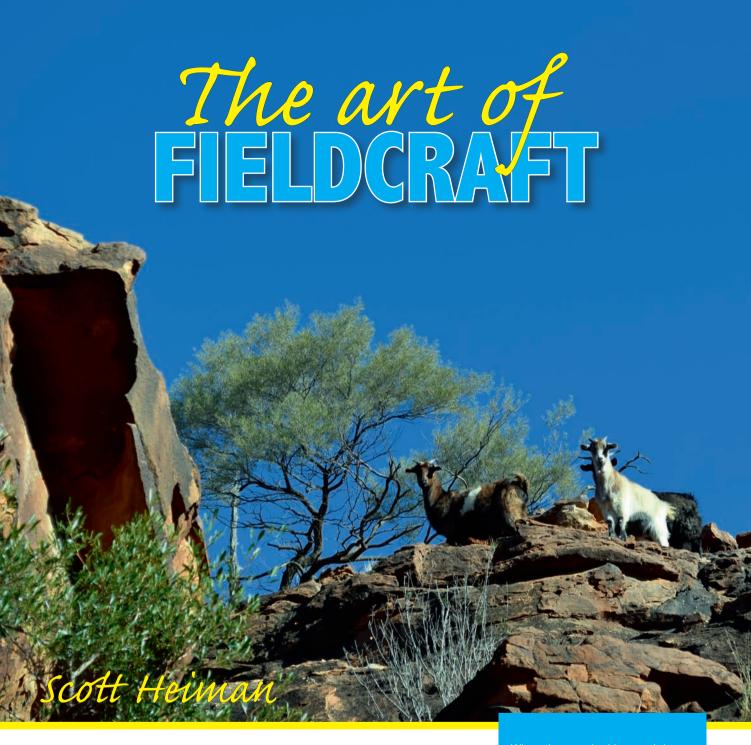
this is also something I recommend experimenting with and see if you can come up with a better set-up for shooting up and down the hills.

Once the bow is all tuned and ready to shoot, there are a couple of little things I like to ensure I do while out on the course to ensure I am able to pick up as many points as I can. This happens to me almost every time I am out shooting with new or intermediate field shooters, and is that they are unable to explain why they are constantly shooting left or right on a target, even when the shot breaks with the dot in the middle. Shooting along the side of a hill is commonly the issue here and what causes it is our poor perception of where straight up and down is. With our eyes, we see the sloping hill and we often try and draw the bow to the opposite way thinking the bow is straight up and down. But because the bow isn't, once we are at full draw the bubble is way off to the side and we need to torque our bowhand to get it back to level. Adding this additional forced torque to the shot is a reason why the arrows will often miss the centre. This really is one of the biggest point losers I frequently see and the solution is super easy: When

shooting on a slope, always draw your bow into the hill. By drawing with your top cam leaning into the hill, you are able to relax your hand (once at full draw) and the bubble should come right back to the centre without any force. This might be something you need to practise a little to get right, and once you have this method down you'll be hitting the centre more regularly and your scores will pick up.

Finally, one additional thing I will suggest is to try to create as level a foot position as possible by kicking out some of the dirt, or using more of it to flatten out your shooting position. It is fundamental that our form's platform is as stable as possible, and if our feet are not in a position that gives us that stability, we need to modify the surroundings as much as practically possible to give us that stability.

Hopefully that has given you some food for thought when approaching your next field event. As I keep mentioning in previous articles, don't be afraid to try new things and when you do, make sure you have logged them in your shooting diary so that you can always return to your original set-up if you need to.



or hunters to be successful in the field, they must be able to dispatch their prey before the prey detects them. This skill varies from prey to prey and can take years to fully develop. Achieving proficiency is not as easy as some people may wish you to believe.

Effective hunters are accurate in their shot placement, not just because they can effectively handle a bow, but because they have a sound understanding of their quarry's anatomy. In the end, the key is to accurately target the heart. But to get to that point, hunters need to understand their prey—how does it detect a human's presence, where does it live, eat and sleep? How will it know when a threat is present using sight, sound, smell, hearing, touch and— of course—its 'sixth sense'.

When they are looking straight at you, you know you have to work on your fieldcraft!

Many of our target species are highly sensitive to the presence of humans, so getting close enough for a guaranteed kill shot requires an attitude reminiscent of our primeval forbears or a member of our elite military. It's all about stalking. Stalking is defined as the act of pursuit, or approaching a target stealthily. It is also a type of behaviour that starts well before you get within bow range. Indeed, it starts when you hop out of the car and take care not to slam the car door, not to walk over the crest of a hill without cover, and not to stand in the open creating a silhouette announcing your presence to every vertebrate species within a 400m radius.

So let's look a little more closely at some of the basic elements of fieldcraft

A great vantage point ... but standing against the skyline can give you away.

Seeing is believing

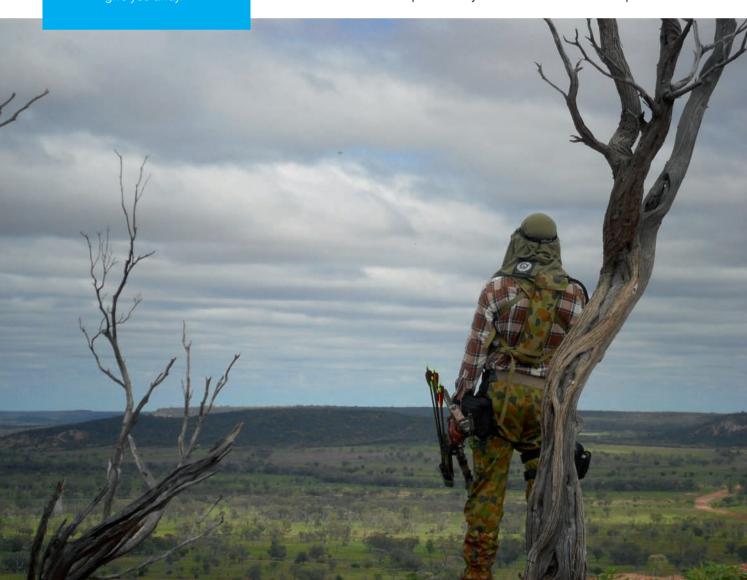
Long-time readers of the magazine may recall that, in 2013, we discussed the issue of why things are seen. But nearly five years seems a long time ago. So let's recap briefly. Things are seen because of their shape, shadow, silhouette, surface, spacing and radiation.

Shape

Humans are bipeds and have a distinctive shape. So if a prey has been shot at before, it will retain nasty associations with any other human that crosses its path. Besides, any creature with two forward facing eyes is a predator. So, it doesn't take an animal to have been pursued by

Elma Fudd for it to get the heebiejeebies. Even without having seen a human before, one look at our face will be enough to raise suspicion in the mind of any herbivore with an ounce of self preservation about it.

So, to hunt effectively, it's important to break up your outline. And it's not as simple as reaching for the latest camo offering from your local ex-military or Gucci-cam supplier. Remember, what looks good to you won't necessarily achieve the desired effect when you head out for a weekend hunt. The issue is that different animals see colour differently because of the anatomy of the eye. Some species we hunt (like goats) are diurnal, others are nocturnal, while animals that are active at twilight (like deer and foxes) are referred to as crepuscular. The





They may not be able to see you, but can they see your shadow?

relevance is that different species see colours differently. If you want to approximate how species that operate in the twilight will perceive your camo, put it under a blue light at night and watch how the camo changes before your eyes. Perhaps you're not as camo'd up as you thought you were.

Shadow

Have you ever taken a picture, only to be disappointed when you notice that your shadow is draped right across the front of the object that you were actually trying to capture on

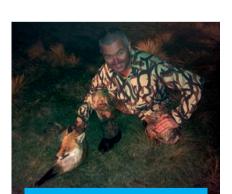
film? Instead of your prize-winning photo, you're left feeling like a dill for standing with your back to the sun and not noticing the shadow that's now so blatantly obvious.

It's called cast shadow, and whether you see it before it's too late depends on your situational awareness. For hunting, having your back to the sun can have its advantages by helping to conceal you from your prey's eyesight. More often, however, the animal doesn't see you—but it does see your shadow, with its strongly defined outline that contrasts so strongly with the shadows cast by the natural foliage.

So it's wise to keep off the crest of a hill or a spur if you're approaching from that angle. Instead, use nature's shadows to your advantage. After all, you're much harder to detect if you're concealed within another shadow as you don't cast a shadow of your own. So stay within the shade of a tree or overhang. Think also about using the south side of a spur or the north side of a valley to help conceal your presence within the mottled shadows.

Silhouette

When you think of a silhouette, you may immediately think of an outline of someone standing on a hill with a clear blue sky behind—but that's not the only scenario. Any time you stand against a flat background—like an open paddock, water, boulder, tree or anything of an even colour—you're going to stand out. So, to stay concealed, it's



Foxes are chiefly nocturnal (night-time) hunters, being most active in the evenings and early mornings (crepuscular).

Predator, multi cam and sand brown in visible light.





Predator, multi cam and sand brown in blue and UV-A lighting.

best to keep an uneven and multicoloured surface behind you like a bush or broken ground. This is likely to deceive your prey's depth perception and will assist in breaking up your outline.

Surface

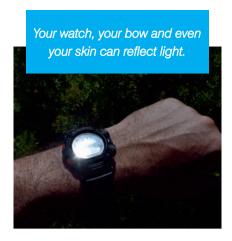
Any flat colour or texture will contrast with its surroundings. Just think of your bow limb, all flat and glossy. When the sun shines off it, it's going to be difficult to hide. Now consider what your sweaty face looks like if you've been out back of Bourke on the prowl for goats, camels and donkeys. The sheen of your face, even in shadow, will give you away. The same applies for the sun shining off the face of your watch. Even the flat surface of your favourite Akubra will 'shine' in the sun.

pacing

When was the last time you saw any wild herd animal walking two by two? Or evenly, 10m apart in a straight line? Natural objects are rarely spaced evenly. So, if you set out on a hunt with your best mates, and proceed as a hunting party in an extended line like the Magnificent Seven, you can probably kiss your quarry goodbye. You'll look like a cull line to a mob of pigs because you are a cull line.

Movement

Just like the adage, it's true that slow and steady wins the race. Nothing attracts the eye quicker than movement. Careful, deliberate movement won't attract as much attention as will quick short bursts. So, if you have to move quickly when you're on the hunt, make sure you're concealed in an erosion gully, on the other side of spur, or down under a dam wall.



Cadiation

Since the advent of night-vision devices and thermal imagery in the military, there's nowhere to hide. Thermal cameras on UAVs know where you've been and where you are. But don't think that humans have the monopoly on thermal vision. Some of our prey can see in low-end ultra-violet (UV) light while others can see in low-end infra-red (IR). Others can see a little of both.

For example, did you know that birds have tetra-chromatic vision with ultraviolet sensitivity? Interestingly, I've seen parrots respond to a new set of AusCam camo. They hate it. You should see the song and dance they make. And while we don't hunt parrots, our quarry will respond to the cues that their avian friends send. Think about it: How do you think a fox is likely to respond to a spooked bird?

Sound

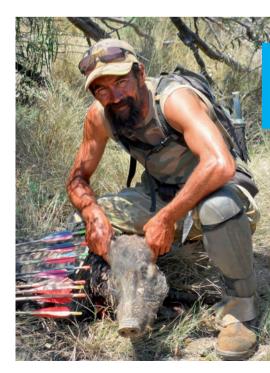
Many times, you'll hear your prey before you see them. You might hear kids calling for their nanny goat, bucks in the roar or the sound of an animal crashing through the undergrowth because they've heard your approach.

The fact is that many species of

quarry have hugely better hearing than we do. Consider the size of a pig's ear. It's twice to three times the size of ours and can move independently of the head and of its other ear! Now consider the frequencies you can hear. While humans manage about 64Hz to 23kHz, commonly pigs' hearing range is around 42Hz to 40.5 kHz. What does that mean? It means that pigs can hear everything we can hear ... and far more. The implications for hunting are wide ranging. And, for newcomers, remember that you'll have better success stalking in the morning or during/after rain because the ground is less crunchy.

Smell

Think of some of the species which we hunt like donkey, camel, buffalo, deer, goat, pig and fox. They all have large elongated heads. In these long heads they have jaws full of teeth and above their palate they have chambers that are made for picking up the scent of their own food sources, water, a female in heat ... and predators like you.





So consider what you smell like while you're out on the hunt. Did you get a shower last night and you now smell like shampoo or shaving cream? Do your clothes the chemically enhanced smell of frangipani-infused washing detergent? Alternatively, do you stink like a Digger on five-week military field exercise? And we all know what someone who has had too many rumbos smells like the following morning. Whatever the situation, your odours will carry over long distances by the wind, and will linger in low-lying areas. What do you think you smell like to a herbivore with your meat-based diet and associated flatulence? You guessed it - death!

Pigs have a sense of smell and hearing that far exceeds our own.

A talc powder puffer can help identify the slightest breeze.

Talking of scent, if you're new to the bush, do yourself a favour and work out which way the wind is blowing. A non-scented talcum powder puffer is a great addition to your kit. A quick puff of powder in the air and you'll be able to determine the direction and strength of the wind by the movement of the powder in the air. Now all you have to do is try and stay down wind.

ouch and go

If you bumble through the bush, you may get lucky and bump into something interesting. But most times you'll see nothing. Not even a rabbit. Think about it. Have you ever been in the vicinity of a rabbit warren and heard a thumping sound from under the ground? Thumping the back foot is a natural reaction among rabbits to the perception of danger. So your heavy-footed 'touch' on the bare earth above has alerted the nearest rabbit who has then used its back foot to alert the rest of the colony to your presence. So there'll be no bunny-pie tonight.

A bunny's whiskers aren't just used to find food and navigate in the dark. Rabbits, foxes and cats also use these highly sensitive tactile hairs to detect wind direction. They'll move their head into the wind to better smell what's upwind so they can avoid predators.

Meanwhile some animals don't like the rain falling on their face. Have you ever noticed that when it's raining, goats graze with their faces in the opposite direction to the rain? That is, they point their hind quarters into the rain regardless of wind direction. This allows them to keep their eyes open to graze. But it also creates a blind spot to the mobs' rear, quite unlike their normal grazing behaviour. So use it to your advantage when you approach.

Sixth sense

Have you ever had a feeling of being watched ... or that someone is walking up behind you? You turn around and, sure enough, there's someone there. It's called extrasensory perception (ESP). And while we may relegate ESP to the realms of



the 'gifted' and unusual among us, in the animal world it's hard to deny the existence of a sixth sense.

Just think back to the last time you were hunting. Chances are that you felt your prey 'knew' you were there, even though you were doing everything right. You'd put in the hard yards. You'd stalked like a pro, only to be faced by your prey looking you straight in the eye as you stood concealed in the shadows before it bolted off.

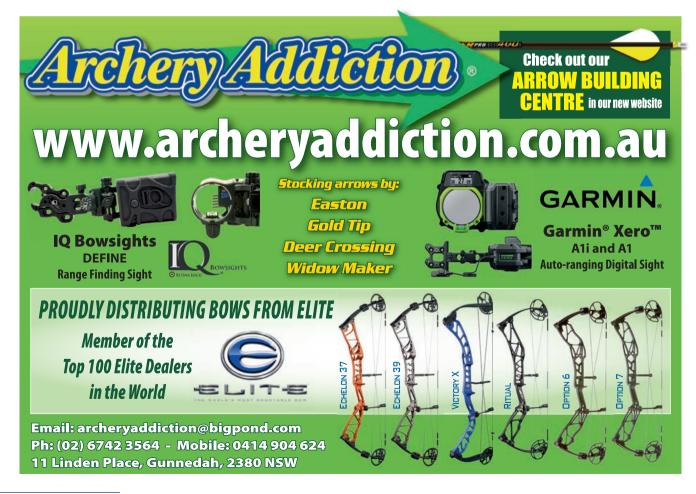
Animals have been known to detect impending earthquakes and tsunamis. How is this so? Most animals don't have another sense (that we know of), they simply have a higher level of sensitivity than most humans.

There is of course the exception to the rule, think about homing pigeons. They have magneto reception and navigate by the earth's magnetic field, as do salmon. Bats and dolphins use echo-location to find food while platypus and sharks have electroreception to detect the heartbeats of their prey! Now, there's a natural hunting advantage that we mere humans could only dream about.



The point is that hunting involves more than simply killing something. If all you're interested in is generating a carcass, then grab a suitable firearm like a .308 Winchester and head to the scrub. Looking down the barrel of a nice piece of steel, if you're a skilled marksman you may be able to achieve a clean kill from 800m away. But that's called sniping. And I reckon that hunting is different. Hunters can beat their quarry inside the range of the animal's own senses by virtue of their own fieldcraft. An advocate of fieldcraft can enjoy a hunt even while coming away empty handed. That's because of the respect and learning that takes place regardless of the outcome, and the satisfaction the hunter gains from engaging an animal at its own level. At this level, hunting is personal. As Aristotle is said to have asserted: hunting is a just and natural way by which a man claims what belongs to him—but to be just, the hunter must prove skill and knowledge. Perhaps some things haven't changed much since the mid-4th century BC.

In the end, fieldcraft is more than shot placement and it's more than the ability to read the land, feel the wind and to know when it last rained. It's about knowing how a target species will react—before it reacts. And it's about using this knowledge and behaving in ways that give you an advantage over your quarry. From here, the skilled archer can close in, draw back and take the shot ... just as the Greek philosopher indicated two-and-a-half-thousand years ago.



Anthe zone

Just another Indian

by Nils Spruitt

There are so many new books on the market and all based on the subject of self improvement. How to turn \$10,000 into a \$1,000,000, how to look 20 years younger, how to become confident and intimidate your boss (thus losing your job in the process I would think), how to be thinner, how to be bigger, how to be stronger, how to shoot a perfect round, how to be irresistible to the opposite sex or same sex, and so on and so forth. I am pretty sure most topics and then some, are completely covered. None of that stuff for me however, not on your life.

I am at the age and fairly close to the intelligence that screams to go for camouflage and fade into the pack. I want to be average or less, unnoticeable, and I do a fair job of it I might add. You may think it is a mere coincidence that people are clustered around people like Jeff Bell and Mark Burrows at the big field shoots and not around the likes of me, but it isn't quite that simple. After all, I shoot the same kind of bows they do, I use similar arrows, I wear an



Whaddya mean I'm not blending in with this rock? I thought I was camouflaged!

almost identical shooting shirt and I wear sunglasses when the day is bright. I even know how to be cool when the situation demands it, just like they do. The truth is that I really don't want to be one of the high profile members. I really don't want to toe the red markers

with the likes of Michael Welk or Steve Clifton.

When I want to have a cold beer and a sausage sandwich I can simply go and have one. No one is tapping me on the shoulder to go and watch them shoot tight groups on the 45m targets at the practice range. No one has ever asked me why I use 4in fletches instead of 5in ones or if I prefer cedar shafts over anything else and why. If anyone ever just happens to ask a match official if Nils Spruitt is shooting today the reply would be, "Who?".

There are far too many chiefs, leaders, experts and irresistibles already and what they need, is the likes of you and me. They can't try to sell their ideas and theories to each other; they have to have new markets, and that is where the rest of us fall into place. What good is being a chief if you don't have any Indians? From a spectator's perspective, I am worth a lot more laughs at a shoot than a dozen experts. I can make more mistakes in a single round of 20 than they make in an entire year. Somebody

has to take on the role of a bad example, and I volunteered.

As mere Indians, what we have got going for us is the wishing, the hoping and the sense of adventuring into the unknown. Jamie Bradshaw knows he is going to shoot a perfect round or damn close to it. I don't have the faintest idea how I will shoot, only that it will not be a perfect round or even close to it. There is no way you can compare the challenge we face with the sheer lack of it that Alex Elvin must contend with. All he has to worry about is matching his shirt, pants and socks. He already knows how to total great scores. With us it's a constant learning, or unlearning, process.

It's the same with hunting. Graeme Duff goes bush for a day, puts his whistle to his lips, nocks a broadhead-tipped arrow, plays his deadly tune and within minutes another fox has had its hen-raiding days cut short. We, on the other hand, pick a good spot, nock an identical broadhead-tipped arrow, use the same brand whistle and all we have to show at the end of the day is a moderate case of sunburn. A successful day's fox hunting is one where we don't ruin the crutch of our hunting trousers crossing a barbed wire fence. Graeme doesn't have any imponderables left, so to speak. We have got them by the hundreds so who do you think has the most to remember and the most to look forward to next time?

A person like John Teitzel can go out and shoot just about any

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GST tax invoice	Product (Prices include GST)	\$.	Qty	Size/Type	Cost
<u> </u>	ABA Cloth Badge	10.00			
	ABA Metal Badge	8.00			
ABA	ABA Car Sticker	4.00			
	ABA Proficiency Badges (eg, 300+)	5.00			
SHOP	ABA Junior Advanced Badge	6.00			
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ASSOCIATION OIL I	ABA Target ID Cards	5.00			
NI	ABA Coloured Identification Card	5.00			
Name	National Bowhunter Education Manual	19.00			
	Bowhunting Pocket Guide	5.00			
Address	National Measuring Manual	10.00			
Add1633	Welcome to Field Archery	14.00			
	IFAA Cloth Badge	10.00			
P/Code	IFAA Metal Badge	8.00			
., 000.0	IFAA Chevron (eg, Hunter)	4.00			
	Robin Hood Cloth Badge	9.00			
ABA number	Robin Hood Metal Badge	8.00			
	*TBA Car Sticker	4.00			
ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE	*TBA Metal Badge	8.00			
* Available to TBA members only	*TBA Cloth Badge	10.00			
# Available only to members who have qualified. Please	#Game Award Badge	9.00			
enclose copy of letter of acknowledgement from BH Division.	#Game Award, T/C & R/C Chevrons	6.00			
PAYMENT DETAILS	ABA Peaked Caps	15.00			
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bow and be successful with it. Not us. We have to have a bow that weighs just right, is cut to the centre (if you are a trad shooter) or features a drop-away rest for the compounders. The bow must be balanced and made from a nice grade of exotic timber, have laminated limbs (of course) and be of a poundage we can all shoot comfortably. I ask you, then, who would have the more enjoyable evening by the fire poring over bow catalogues? John doesn't much care if his shoes match, while we are seriously debating the merits of various hiking boots.

Be that as it may, I am still having a fine time with it. The all-important decisions about fletch colour, the shape and texture of the riser, the mind wrenching that goes along with choosing light or heavy tips should the wind pick up, are part and parcel of the whole scene. I am as reluctant to change as I am likely to.

Give John a recurve bow that's heavy, soft, light or wimpy and he will just alter his hold. I, on the other hand, don't have anything to alter. I remain a believer, despite facts to the contrary, that somewhere exists a bow which fits what I do no matter how awkward and amusing others may view it. Bowyers the world over don't really exist for the likes of Teitzel,

whereas they will eventually end up getting all of my savings and what ever else the bank will part with. I am a consumer. If I am perfect at anything, then that has got to be it. I have to believe that craftsmen both here and abroad, are working tirelessly towards the day when they will come up with something that will see me shoot straight into A Grade.

No doubt if I spent more time learning how to use what I've already got as opposed constantly searching something new and/or different, I would possibly be better off. I can't say I am an equipment malcontent, but you would be hard pressed to find someone who is more anxious to try a new idea in a bow than yours truly. Yes, I have a couple of favourites, but there is always room for another longbow or recurve. I gave up on compounds a few years back. Just to make the selfrevelation even more confusing to those with more common sense, I have hardly ever sold or traded a bow that sooner or later I didn't regret parting with. I have hardly ever sold or traded something and not gotten a little stung either, but I alone must shoulder the blame for that

I am like the archer who is always practising or almost so. It would seem that I am always trying out something new in every session. If it's not a recurve or longbow, then it's new ways of using one. No doubt one of the reasons why I never get bored at the archery club or in the field is that nothing is ever really the same as far as I am concerned.

I admit I have never really grown up and the child who constantly imagined himself to be Tom Sawyer, Yellowstone Kelly or Huck Finn has only found new and different heroes in his life. I spent a good half hour watching Alex Elvin warming up on the practice range and then I spent a week imitating him in everything but his scores. I shot a round with John Teitzel and I imitated him too, or at least tried. The problem with this is that the rabbits or the goats know who is who, and so too do the ABA target faces.

There is a saying that "Inside every fat man is a thin man trying to get out". There's another that goes, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder". I think these adages are likely true. I have no doubt, deep inside this arm-dropping, release-plucking, absolute washout as a distance decider, there beats the heart of one who dreams of greatness and the day at some archery range when I will hear those words uttered in sheer reverence, "Is it a bird, is it a plane ... no, it's Spruitt!". Until next time.





Meanderings



ADDRESSING TARGET PANIC

Our great sport, whether you are an avid hunter or an aspiring competitive shooter, has one aggressive, primary enemy—anticipation and aiming maladies, collectively referred to as target panic.

It is a fortunate archer indeed who at some point in his or her career, is not called upon to contend with some manifestation of target panic. My own earliest experiences as a competitive recurver were hugely hampered by this dreaded affliction. Its effects can be so horrendous that many prospective lifetime archers either depart in exasperation or soldier on with their enjoyment greatly compromised.

The reality is that even the great champions, in many instances, have been called upon to address this situation. So yes, it can be successfully negotiated, with focussed and specific drills.

It rears its ugly head in a cross-section of forms, but chiefly it is an uncontrollable desire to execute the shot prematurely, associated with an inability to set up a patient aim.

The first step on the road to recovery is to understand that shooting a bow involves a simple sequence of steps which must be patiently negotiated. The whole process only takes a dozen or so seconds but it must run its course in sequence, with each facet receiving its due attention.

What happens with target panic is a complete breakdown of that sequence, where our mind doesn't allow us to patiently progress form one step to the next but causes us to leap to the execution phase. So logically, to recover one's composure, this ordered sequence must be reinstated ... and this has to be done one step at a time. This obviously takes time, effort, focus and patience, but the rewards along the way tend to keep the archer on task as control gradually returns.

The process to mentally re-establishing shooting

composure hinges on putting back in place that desired sequence and there is a reasonable consensus as to the drills needed to facilitate this procedure.

Essentially, it consists of a cross-section of aiming without executing drills, along with shooting minus a target on a blank bale, then broadening those drills, and finally marrying the two together and working back to conventional target distances.

In some situations, this can achieve a result in just a few weeks. In more serious cases, it can take much longer, but if a determined effort is made it will produce a positive outcome. So let's address this journey in full detail.

Steps one and two work in conjunction with each other and function up close just four or five metres from the target butt. Whether recurve or compound, the archer at this very close range, with a full size 144cm face, draws up and anchors and aims at the huge gold with no intention of executing the shot. This procedure is easily achieved because the archer is up so close, with a dot in a large gold and the knowledge that it just needs to float there as he or she holds well beyond the normal time for execution. This drill, repeated over and over and over, creates a mindset and an aiming picture which is free from anxiety.

Along with this, the archer also incorporates a second drill, once again up close, this time with no target, performing the complete process to execution. With no target, no score involved and no concern about a miss, once more the archer is actually running the sequence with no pressure impending. The great compounder Reo Wilde advocates performing this drill with the eyes closed to reinforce the feel of sequential processing. Drilling this duo of aiming without executing and executing without the concern of aim, score or miss, are the first steps in putting the form and execution pathway back in sequence.

Now comes step three, the merging of the two drills into one complete sequence but still up close with a big gold, with no aiming tension, no score tension, no miss tension, just a rhythmic sequential passage until the arrow is dispatched.

Now should any apprehension still occur to mar this process, the archer must retreat to steps one and two and reinforce them. Most often, step three will function okay because the archer is up so close that the usual dramas of aim, score and possible failure are not in play.

Step four now logically has the archer retreat just marginally back to 10m or so, where the gold size, the float in the aim and the absence of score intent can continue to restore confidence. Subsequently, the archer gradually backs up in vardage, each time being reassured that the sequence is in place and occurring without anticipation or apprehension.

Clearly if, as this distance retreat moves to conventional competition distances of 20yd, 30yd, 40yd, the archer experiences a hiccough in composure, it's time to move back to the earlier steps for more drilling.

The gradual back-up in distance is critically important because target panic is often very much linked to distance panic. What we can calmly negotiate up close on a big gold is going to prove more challenging as the target distance increases and the gold becomes proportionally smaller.

As I alluded to earlier, this drill pattern can be of varying duration, depending on the severity of the panic issues involved.

I have seen shooters work through this successfully in just a month without undue drama from step to step with little or no retreating to really close range. On the

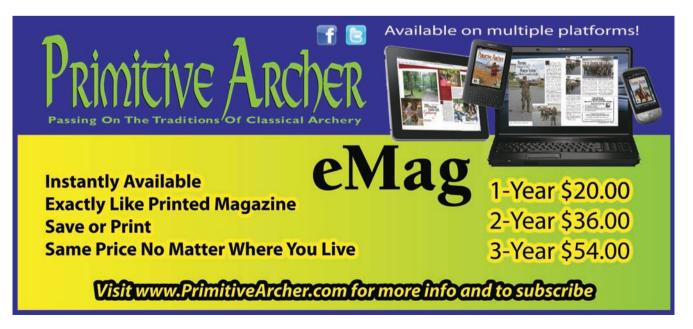
other hand. I have seen extreme situations where the archer struggled to even reach anchor before the shot was fired and in such cases, drills one and two needed quite arduous attention before drill three could come into play. Even then, the yardage retreat was a slow, slow process.

So yes, in many instances this sequence recreation takes discipline, time and focus, but if you wish to be a successful hunter or competitor and—most of all—one who enjoys their archery experiences, it's something you have to do. The drudgery and boredom which drilling involves is relieved considerably by the realisation that you are moving through the steps, things are on the mend and success is achievable.

Finally, testing yourself at competitive distances in training and then transferring that to tournament situations is going to add pressure. All archers experience nerves, even the very best, but gradual familiarity breeds confidence and the work you have put in will be repaid with the restoration of enjoyable archery outcomes.

Archers and coaches at the elite level have additional tips which can add to the basic drills I have outlined. For example, compounders who have panic issues with their index finger and thumb trigger releases may find a hinge release an easier proposition in their quest for composed form and execution.

As one who had real issues with my recurve initially and later with the compound, I can assure you that it is one of the best archery feelings you can have to regain your composure, shoot with confidence and go on to be the best you can be.





laying a role in the community and encouraging outdoor activity among children is paying dividends for the country Queensland club of Granite Belt Bowmen in Stanthorpe.

For the past two years during the Christmas school holidays, the Granite Belt Bowmen, led by president Dennis Burton, has run an archery holiday programme for children. It takes two hours a week and is run over a five-week period ... and when it finishes some of the children have enjoyed it so much they want to keep coming.

Dennis said the programmes had been capped at less than 25 children and there was so much interest they could have filled two sessions a week if they'd had the manpower.

"It blew us away how well it went. And getting new members out of the programme was a big positive. I see membership as an ongoing thing. We have to be constantly recruiting, and this is one way to do it," he said.

"The club's pretty new. We've only been at this site for four years so we don't have the advantage of being long established. But doing this has really helped us. Membership fluctuates, of course, but the club is growing."

For the benefit of other clubs that might want to do something similar, this is what they did:





Before you can hold any kind of come-and-try programme, you have to make sure you have enough gear.



There's so much to remember when you're starting out. A special programme for beginners makes it easier.

The club made sure it was cleared with the ABA (for insurance reasons) with this etter

Dear ABA

Following our phone conversation this morning, I am writing to detail the planned club activities for the 2017 Christmas School Holiday period. This activity undertaken this time last year was a great success in elevating local awareness and interest in our club and field archery in general.

We plan to run a weekly Wednesday morning session from 10.00am to 12 noon for schoolaged children to come, try and learn archery. We have capped the activity to 24 children per session for children aged 8 years and over. Dennis Burton, who is our club president and Field Archery Instructor, will run each session with help from at least three other senior club members per session including; Kerry Rowen, Kylie and Jake Stewart, Annie Mitchell and Brett and Katherine Willaton.

Sessions dates are planned for 14th and 21st December 2017, 2nd, 9th and 16th January 2018 running from 10.00am to 12 noon. We will be charging \$10 per child per session to cover any potential loss of consumable club equipment (ie arrows, targets etc).

Dennis plans to run the children through the introductory and safety information outlined in the ABA Field Archery Instructors Kit and as the children's abilities and understanding increases they will use our club practice range facilities.

Most children we expect will be using the club equipment, which has been inspected for damage, faults or wear using the guidelines of ABA's Field Archery Instructors Kit and will be checked and kept in sound order for the duration of the activities. Any child presenting with their own equipment will be required to submit that equipment to the Field Archery Instructor for the same checks as outlined in ABA's Field Archery Instructors Kit.

We have stipulated to attendees that children under the age of 10 be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All people attending the club grounds will be required to sign into the club's attendance record.

If you require any further information on this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely Secretary, Granite Belt Bowmen Inc.

They made their plans carefully. Dennis Burton explains:

Finding out about arrows.

I started out going to a couple of Branch meetings and threw it out there—what do you do in country towns, what works? I felt there wasn't really anything formal in place so last year Kerry Rowen and I decided to just put it out there—have a go.

The Warwick club was great to us. Two years ago we did archery as a Year 11 sport at the high school one day a week for nine weeks, and we borrowed gear off Warwick. Then we managed to get a grant off the Department of Sport and Recreation and bought a heap of gear—cheaper recurves, heaps of arrows, Mathews Genesis. We had a plan before we kicked off—you have to know how many kids you can manage, how much gear you can get. And you need some key members from the club to be part of it. One person can't do it.

We allowed two hours once a week at the club's practice range, but not on a standard club shoot day. We found it best to only have beginners and instructors—that way we could really concentrate on the kids. We had alternate days, because we wanted to make it as flexible as we could.

We worked out that we needed one instructor for every four or five kids so that the children could get good one-on-one time and really enjoy it. We started out the programme with a safety talk, explained the gear then checked their eye dominance before we gave them bows and arrows. They shot the practice butts at about 10m; the younger ones a bit closer. It was great fun, especially when we had a competition to see who could shoot the most balloons.

At the end of the programme, we gave them a bit of a sales pitch and invited them if they were keen to come and join in the club activities.

Last year we got three families out of it—Mum, Dad and the kids. This time we handed out eight membership forms, which is pretty positive. If you put in the effort, you get the membership reward from it. We also like to spend as





Having the right number of instructors for the children was considered very important.

much time as we can with our newbies. We allow two hours from noon to 2pm every weekend. One of the senior shooters is there, just to help the newbies with their form, arrow shoot trajectories, judging distance ... that sort of thing. They're going to stay interested if they're improving.

Archery is a great sport. Apart from the gear, it's about \$100 for a whole year for a kid to be a member of a club. That's a lot cheaper than soccer or footy.

Like any club, we have more members than we have people come to shoot on club days. We have about 45 members but we would only have 25 who shoot regularly. The time of year also has an impact. We find that during soccer and footy season our younger members drop off a bit. We're a farming community so we lose the dads at harvest time.

We're thinking that next we might do a programme just for ladies.

Parents were asked to sign a consent form so photos of their children could be published.

PHOTOGRAPH CONSENT FORM

I hereby consent that Granite Belt Bowmen may take photographs of my child and that the images may be published in the Archery Action magazine (an ABA

I agree I do not expect payment as a result of any publication of the images.

I am the child's parent and have the authority to give such consent.

Child's name

Parent's name ___

Parent's signature ___

Date __

If your club has had success with any kind of membership drive or educational programme, please write about it and send your story and photographs in so we can share your ideas.





ARCHERY ALLIANCE

RESPONSIBLE BOW OWNESTED AND USE WILL HALP DRAWFATE ATTENDED

- Practice is essential but NOT in a built up area unless it's a safe environment.
- NEVER fire an arrow in the direction of another person.
- Native animals such as kangaroos and birds etc, CANNOT be legally taken with a bow.

Please support those who support the Alliance

- Under some state legislation, it is an OFFENCE to be in possession of a bow whilst under the influence of

alcohol.

- You CAN NOT shoot any arrow in a bow. They MUST be matched to the specific draw length & weight of the bow.
- NEVER fire a bow without an arrow on the string. The resultant forces could result in SERIOUS injury.
- Permission to hunt on private property SHOULD be obtained each and every time you visit the property.
- -Some feral animals require a PERMIT to hunt them. CHECK your state legislation.

IOIN AN ASSOCIATION TODAY AND NAME YOUR NIMBERSHIP COUNT.



ARCHERY

www.archery.org.au



This is a story that was four years in the making. It involves two bowhunters, two red deer stags ... and two strange coincidences.



Glenn Carlson with his stag, 301 6/8pt record class red deer.

t is the second week of January 2018, a couple of days before the end of our Christmas break. I've been moping around the house in 35-degree heat and decided to find a cool spot and put pen to paper and write a story about my red stag of a lifetime.

As I run red deer hunts in the middle of the rut, there is not much time to hunt for myself, so before and after the rut is the time I get to do a bit. I am fortunate enough to have a couple of blocks reasonably close to home where stags come after the rut to feed up and regain their condition they have lost during that time. Usually mid to late May, I start to see the odd stag poking around.

To start this off I have to go back four years. It was mid June and I had just seen a good red stag in one of the blocks rubbing a tobacco bush. I flew home to get my bow and headed back to look for him. After

doing a big circle around where he had been, I came up with nothing. I was almost back to my car when I happened to look back and saw a red spiker walking back along the edge of the lantana to bed for the day. Quickly I got back there and set up for an ambush. I set up, arrow nocked and release set. I could hear the stag walking through the lantana towards a gap and shooting lane hoping he would pass at about 30yd. I had just taken my eyes off the gap for a second then noticed movement and next thing there was a massive 6x6 red, standing broadside looking straight at me. It was certainly not the spiker I was expecting!

Slowly I drew, not thinking he would let me get away with it but to my surprise he did. I split the 30 and 40 pin and put them tight on the shoulder. I would have punched that trigger well and truly. The arrow cracked him on the shoulder with Glenn Carlson puts pen to paper to tell the tale





good penetration. He ran 15 yards, crashed to the ground then thrashed around for maybe five seconds then got up and stumbled and ran back into the thick scrub. After half an hour of blood trailing with very little blood, I rang my good mate Luke Maher to see if he could bring one of his beagles to sniff out my supposedly dead stag. After a lengthy track, we put the stag up and never saw him again until he appeared 10km away

The arrow lodged in the shoulder blade.



Luke's red deer, taken some years ago, still had Glenn's arrow in its shoulder blade.

on one of Luke's hunting blocks. Luke successfully shot the stag, not knowing it was the same one I had shot months earlier until he was boning it out and found my arrow lodged in the shoulder blade. Neither of us could believe that my arrow placement had not killed the stag.

In early May last year, I got a phone call from Luke asking me to come and help find the stag he had shot, saying excitedly it was the biggest bush stag that he had ever seen. After we'd followed an incredible blood trail for a few hundred metres, he led us into a scrub. We both looked at each other, saying, "He's got to be dead in there." Within another 15m we heard a slight noise to our left. We had put him up.

This happened another three times—honestly, he was like a ghost. We never got a look at him. At one stage we lost the blood trail and discovered he had walked 30m in the water along a creek. We decided to leave him for a few hours.

Luke took his beagles back in the afternoon. Within seconds of letting them go they had the stag bailed up 30yd away, but in the process of getting through the thick lantana to get to him the stag charged one of his beagles, putting four of the lower tines straight through her and killing her on the spot.

Luke tracked the stag off and on for another two days, bumping him out of his bed on the last afternoon, never to be seen again.

In the middle of June 2017 when I was glassing one of my close blocks, I noticed two stags walking in a clearing towards cover for the day. One was a 4x4 and the other was a huge 7x7 with a limp (Mitch Standley calls it the Imbil limp) I took some video and called Luke and he confirmed that it was the one he had lost.

After patterning the stag for a few weeks with many stalks, I was

beginning to think that I was never going to get a shot at him. Every time I tried to close the gap to under 60yd he seemed to sense something was wrong and he'd head off into the scrub. A couple of mornings I waited in ambush in the scrub line with no success, barely getting a look at him.

Time was running out. By then it was the end of July and he wasn't far off casting (plus the fact he would probably go backwards next year, or I might never see him again).

On Sunday July 30, I got up at daylight and once again drove to the block. I started my 1.5km walk in, hoping he would be out. Sure enough, he was. This time I was prepared to take a long shot. He was feeding in a cleared paddock. Being improved country with long grass, it was almost impossible to range him.

Arrow nocked, I sneaked in until I guessed I was about 80vd away. I went another few yards and, sure enough, he was straight onto me. I drew, put my 60yd pin just over his shoulder and let it go. I watched the arrow disappear into the stag; it sounded like a good hit. He bolted flat stick and disappeared over a little ridge heading towards his favourite scrub.

I got to the ridge as quickly as possible, hoping to see exactly which way he went. There wasn't a sound ... it was eerily quiet and I thought he was gone until eventually I noticed an antler sticking out of the grass. It was one hell of a moment. He would have only run 50yd. The hunting gods had been with me.

I took a quick photo and sent a text to Luke and Dale: it wasn't long



The scar from Luke's earlier shot was still visible.

before they were on their way to help set up for photos and cape him out. He was taken with a Hoyt Spyder 34 bow, Carbon Power Flight 300 arrow and Northern Little Evil broadhead. The exit scar from Luke's broadhead was clearly noticeable on the stag's chest, leaving us both wondering how he had survived the wound. My stag was approximately 10km from where Luke had previously shot him, and we wondered at the coincidence. considering the stag he took was also approximately 10km from where I had shot him. The only difference was that Luke hadn't known his 6x6 was the one I had hit previously when he shot him.

I've called him my karma stag, and he will hang proudly on my wall.



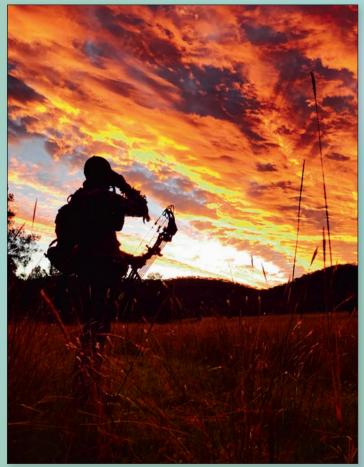
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Vinners PHOTO COMPETITION

In the Field

Jeffery Evans wins a \$250 Abbey Archery voucher for this photo, Aquiver, which appeared in the January-February 2017 issue of *Archery Action*.





2017

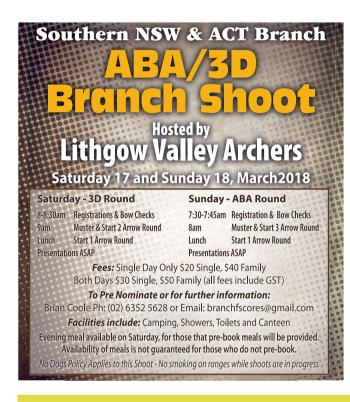
In the Bush

Craig Rose wins a \$250 voucher from Abbey Archery for this photo, Sunset at Jackal's Hide, which appeared in July-August 2017 issue of *Archery Action*.

Where applicable, please use this as your tax invoice:

Australian Bowhunters Association TM INCORPORATED (Inc in NT No AO1978) GST INVOICE GST ABN 79 750 431 225







• Snacks and Drinks available • All participants MUST supply ABA card

Nominations close: 27th April 2017

Nominations to: Shailee Day: 0417 943 931 • sorty-shailee@hotmail.com

Robin Woodfield: 4778 0140 / 0413 252 015 · robinandleone@optusnet.com.au

Dave Paulsen: 0487 325 155 • longbowdave11@gmail.com

LAST CHANCE! Get your story in RIGHT NOW to be in the running!

The Australian Bowhunters Association is interested to hear from you!

We are offering an opportunity for the youngsters of our sport to submit a story on their experience in archery and have the opportunity to win! How did you get involved in archery? What has been your most memorable event? What do the other kids at school think of your choice of sport? Are you a bowhunter? Let us know via a story.

The Competition Details:

- The competition is open to all cubs (up to and including the age of 12 at the time of submission)
- Stories should be no longer than 250 words long One entry per cub Open to financial ABA members

Competition winners will receive:

- The story writer cub will win a \$100 archery shop voucher Their club will receive a new set of targets of their choice from Action Graphics
- Any entry, including the winning stories, has the chance of being published in an edition of Archery Action (upon permission from parents or quardians)
- Any entry for Archery Action is welcome to accompany the story with a suitable photograph, minimum 1MB file in size (upon permission from parents or guardians)
- Entries open from August 2017 and winners will be announced at the 2018 National Safari in Alice Springs

How do I enter?

Cubs or clubs are to submit their entries direct to Amanda Skinner, National Treasurer via email amanda-skinner@bigpond.com All entries will be confirmed upon receipt - Any questions, please contact Amanda Skinner on 0438 573 792 after 5pm weekdays.











March-April-May

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
March			
3	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	PCA Field QRE
3-4	Wide Bay Archers *	С	Branch IFAA Titles
3-4	Hunter Bowmen *	E	State NSW IFAA
4	Boola Valley Field Archers	G	ABA
10-11	Renegade Bowmen *	D	Branch IFAA Titles
10-11	Playford District Field Archers *	I	IFAA SA State
10-12	Mount Clay Archers *	Н	ABA
11	Towers Bowhunters	В	ABA
11	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Α	ABA
11	Katherine Archery Club	Α	ABA
11	Dead Centre Bowhunters	Α	ABA
17-18	Twin City Archers *	Vic	3DAAA
17-18	Caboolture and District Bowmen *	Qld	Queensland State Titles
17-18	Collinsville Barebow Hunters *	В	ABA
25	West Gippsland Field Archers	G	IFAA
25	Western Melbourne Field Archers	Н	3D
31 Mar -1 Apr	North Albert Field Archers *	Qld	Traditional Two Day Shoot
30 Mar - 8 Apr	Dead Centre Bowhunters (Alice Springs	s) * A	National ABA/3D/IFAA Champs
April			
2	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	Target QRE
5-7	Townsville District Bowhunters *	В	Invitational
7-8	Peel Archers *	J	3D WA
7-8	Lake Glenbawn Field Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
14-15	Mornington Peninsula Bowmen *	Vic	3DAAA
21-22	Wide Bay Archers *	С	3D Invitational
21-22	Roma & District Bowmen *	D	Branch 3D Titles
22	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Α	ABA
22	Katherine Archery Club	Α	ABA
22	Dead Centre Bowhunters	Α	ABA
28-29	Tuggeranong Archery Club *	NSW	Australian Field Open
29	Hills Archers *	SA	Invitational Clout

_			
6	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Α	3D
6	Katherine Archery Club	Α	3D
6	Dead Centre Bowhunters	Α	3D
5-6	Saxon Archery Club *	С	IFAA Qld State Titles
5-6	Northern Tablelands Archers *	Е	ABA
5-6	Border Bowmen *	1	ABA
5-6	West Gippsland Field Archers *	G	ABA VIC State Titles
5-6	Ipswich Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA
12	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	Double Clout
19-20	Grange Bowmen *	D	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

F

NSW



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May

19-20

19-20 19-20





Capital Field Archers *

Colac Otway Archers *

Lake Macquarie Field Archers *











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MEMBERSHIP FORM

		/ I LIVI
Preferred method of receiving Archery Action digitally online hard copy (mailed)	Post completed form to: General Secretary ABA PO Box 5124 Brendale Qld 4500 Phone (07) 3256 3976	Renewal \square New Member \square
		ABA Membership No:
/ (full name)		•
i, (iuii name)		(M-F)

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

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APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE

Phone number			Date of birth/.	/
Email address				
if accepted, do unde and Code of Ethics sports conducted in full recognition of th in my/our power to p	ertake to conductof the ABA. Addithe natural environments of the Association's roreserve the goo	t my/our membership in tionally, I/we acknowled ronment which can imp requirement for respons	n accordance with t dge that Field Arche ose inherent risks a sible and ethical be d ABA. I/We unders	ers Association Inc (ABA), and he Constitution, Rules, Policies ery and Bowhunting are shooting and this application is made in haviour. I/We undertake to do all stand that members breaking the e Constitution.
I am a member of				(Club)
		Signature	of Applicant	
	re, also wish to n embers of my fa		ddress:	nc) on behalf of the following Date of Birth
attain such age. Parent-Guardian Sig	nature		ABA Number if Appl	der the age of 18 years, until they icable:
		•		ate the membership of any person A. Failure to provide information
		may result in application b		ASSOCIATION USE ONLY
NENEWALS allu/ol	12 months	3 years in advance	illellibers	M'ship #s Allocated
Adults	\$65	\$185		
Juniors-Cubs	\$45	\$130		

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

All fees include GST

\$390

Card Number ↓ NAME OF CARDHOLDER (p	print)
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard	
Expiry Date (mm yy) Signa	iture



Families

Adults

Families

Juniors-Cubs

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\$70

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