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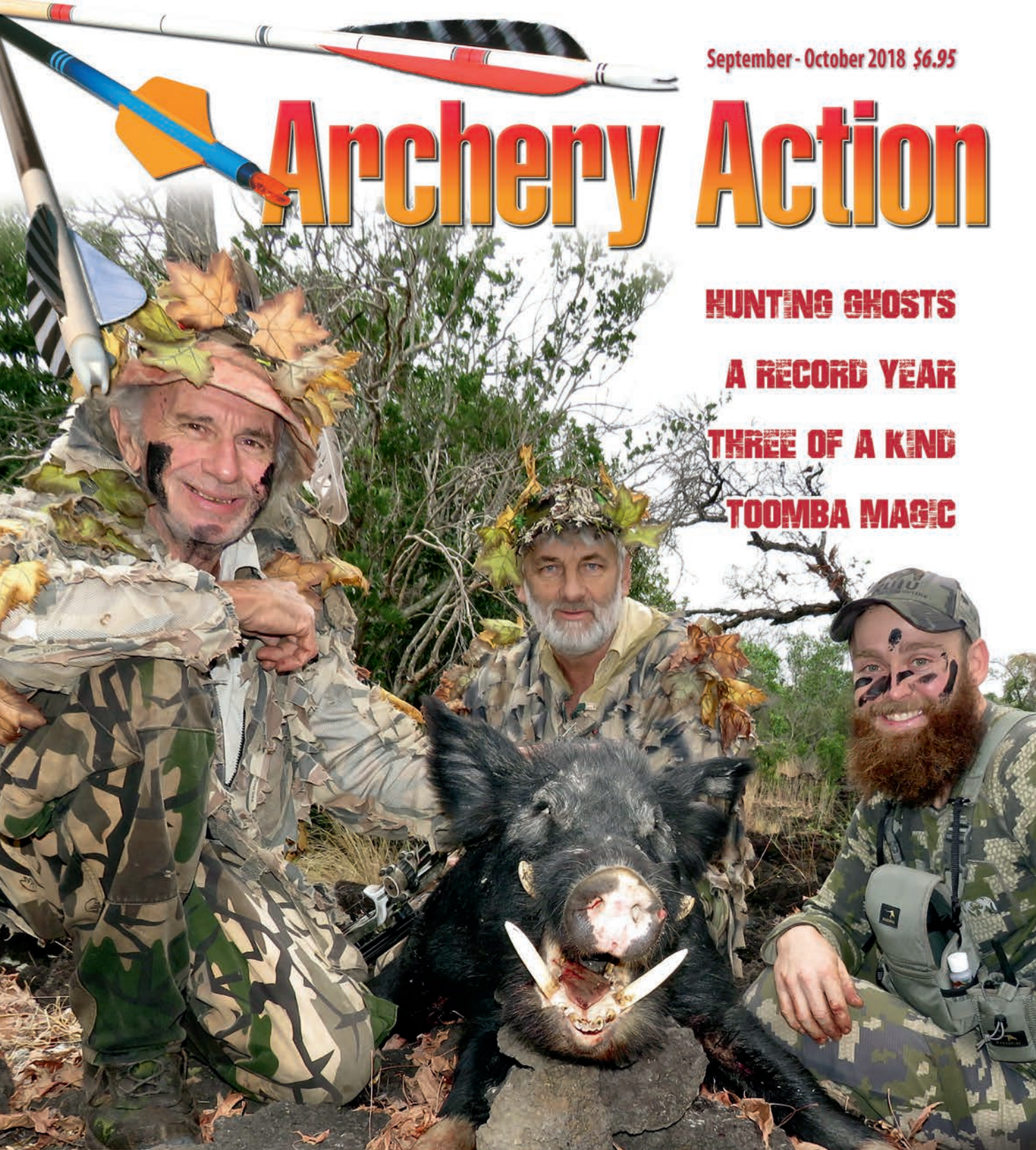
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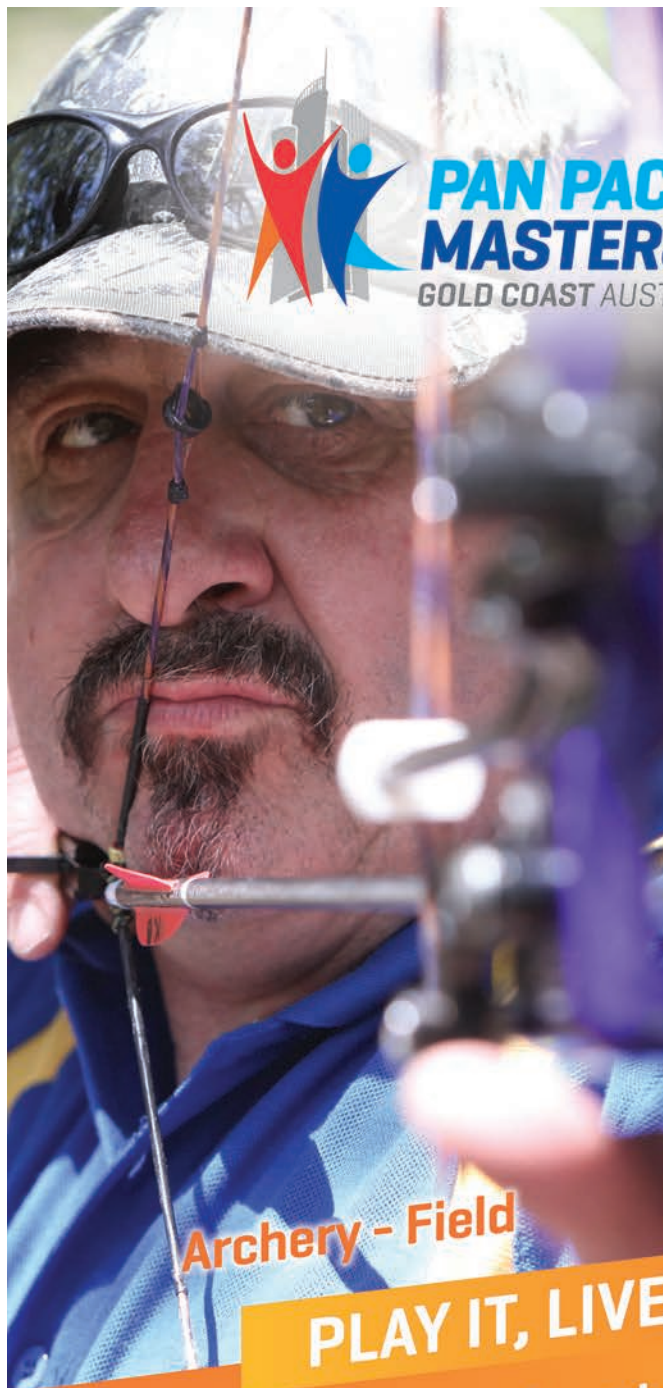
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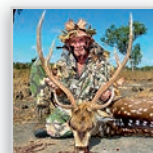
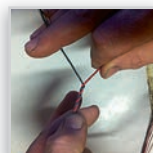
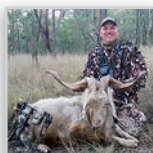
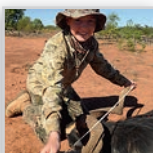
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## ◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

From left: David Luxford, fellow hunter Mark Burrows and guide Rowan Kane celebrate a trophy class moment.  
See story on Page 66

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*In this era of the sound bite*, the tweet and the emoticon, is storytelling dead ... or if it has not yet breathed its last, then mortally wounded? Has everything been so condensed that we no longer receive pleasure from the expansive, the descriptive, the excitement and humour that we can weave into our personal tales? Are the companionable nights around the campfire gone, replaced by solitude and the glow of the smartphone?

Good storytelling is an art. You don't wake up one morning and find that overnight you have magically gained all the talent of the great storyteller. Like anything worthwhile, it has to be practised, perfected, crafted into a thing of beauty. The glorious individuality of a person's writing, their deepest feelings and wisest thoughts, cannot be communicated by a few emoticons.

We are bombarded day and night (we don't even call it that anymore—we call it 24/7) with a tsunami of news and views and information and entertainment ... so much so that it has made us sophisticated consumers. But being a consumer and a creator are very different things. Does our consumption of the endless information coming out of every digital device



help us, truly, as individuals? We can enjoy the art of the film and appreciate the music of others, but unless we are telling our own story and playing our own instrument, much of the depth of the experience is simply not there.

Everyone deserves to have a chance to tell their story, and here at *Archery Action*, we offer a platform where people can have their hunting and archery stories published.

Today we are celebrating the creators of stories as we announce the winner of *Archery Action's Gold Pen Award*. Drumroll, please! And the winner of a red deer hunt with Trophy Bowhunts Australia, and of course a gold pen, is Bert Hofer with his story, *Just another Territory tale*, published in the November-December 2017 issue. We try to judge on quality of both story and photographs, and Bert gave us both, with lashings of humour thrown in. Congratulations, Bert.

Special commendations also to two writers who gave us heartwarming tales involving children—*We're going on a deer hunt* by Michael Luxford and *A father's gift—Scout's first hunt* by Scott Heiman. And thank you to all writers who take the time to tell your tales. Your stories have the power to enrich our lives, so keep working on your craft.

*Jenel Hunt*  
Editor

## DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

**editor@archeryactionmagazine.com**

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Vol 44 No. 2 November-December	1 October
Vol 44 No. 3 January-February	1 December
Vol 44 No. 4 March-April	1 February



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#### FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

are welcomed by this magazine and articles should be addressed to: The Editor, Archery Action, at the above address. The Editor accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Colour photographs or high resolution scans are suitable for publication. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your articles to enable notification of acceptance or otherwise and return of article if required. Photographs returned only if stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

Emailed contributions should be sent in plain (editable) text only and any photos should be sent as separate attachments, not embedded in the story text.

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REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS  
Traditional Trails—Nick Lintern



# Hunting GHOSTS



Nick Moloney

Nick's 185 7/8pt chital—also his FKOS.



The alarm was set for 4.00am but I was already awake, doublechecking in my mind that I had packed everything. To say I was a little excited would be an understatement for in about seven hours we would be in the heart of chital country, hoping to tag a majestic chital stag. Rob and I had booked a six-day hunt with Dan Smith Safaris about six months prior and the wait was finally over. We grabbed a coffee and hit the road and soon arrived in Charters Towers where we refuelled and grabbed a few last-minute items before setting sail again.

We reached our destination where we were greeted by Dan and Helen, who had arrived the day before to have a scout around for deer. Formalities out of the way, we sat down to a cuppa and some quality education from Dan as we

both had limited experience hunting deer, especially the elusive chital.

Cars and gear unpacked, we were soon flinging arrows at the practice butt to make sure our bows had stayed in tune and nothing had moved during the trip. No issues were found and with our packs sorted for the next day, we enjoyed our tea followed by a couple of coldies and stories around the campfire.

We were up at 5.00am for a light breakfast and it was decided that Dan would guide Rob, while Ben would be my guide. Dan and Rob would go on the quad and we would take the electric bikes. About 10 minutes after leaving the camp I spotted my first deer, a hind broadside looking straight at me. Upon looking through the bins there were in fact five deer with a nice shooter stag amongst them. The

deer were not alarmed by the bikes and just milled around and fed down over a small creek, so we decided I should put in a stalk. I had about a 100m crawl across a grass flat, which I made in good time, reaching the base of a good gum tree for cover where I ranged the deer at 70m. Off to my left was a deep broken gully that led to the creek and would give me perfect cover and bring me to about 30m from the stag, which was just feeding around on the opposite side of the creek. I made it to the gully and I began to slip down the bank when a kangaroo I hadn't seen jumped from his bed and hopped across the creek right past the deer which in turn ran up the hill, tails in the air ... and were gone.

Making our way back to the bikes, we chatted about the stalk and how close it was to being successful. Ben





said, "No one stalks in and gets a chital stag the first morning of their first chital hunt; just doesn't happen. If it did happen, it still wouldn't be fair!"

Back on the bikes, we continued up the road through a gate and into a laneway, glassing the creek every so often as we went. All of a sudden, Ben stopped, pointing to his left and there was a stag smashing into some bushes about 80m off. A quick look through the binos revealed he had one of his tops broken off level with his inner, but gee he would have been a cracker if he'd been intact. Passing him up and walking back to the bikes, Ben pointed again and I turned to see a massive set of velvet antlers sticking up out of the grass. Stalk on!

After going through the fence and crawling in to a couple of bushes, I popped up and had a look through my binos and realised there were in fact five stags: The one with the broken antler, two other nice hard-antler stags smashing into some bushes, a smaller stag out behind them and the big velvety stag lying in the grass facing away from me. I crawled for the next tree I had picked out, which would put me well in bow range. Reaching

my mark undetected, I went to range the velvet stag and as I did he stood up and wandered off, followed by his four mates and vanished ... never to be seen again. How something covered with spots with huge antlers pointing skyward can do this is amazing and I now fully understood why they are referred to as ghosts.

Back at camp, we had a late breakfast and told the tales of the trials and tribulations of our morning hunt then had a nice siesta before heading out for the afternoon. The afternoon hunt was a bit quiet, with only a few deer sighted and no stalks taken but it was still very enjoyable as we were in some beautiful country.

The next morning I was guided by Dan and we took the electric bikes. Just across the creek from camp, Dan spotted a stag with a group of hinds out in one of the cooler paddocks behind the cattle yards.

"He's a nice stag but it'll be a hard stalk," Dan said. I nodded and replied "Let's have a go," so we formulated a plan. We rode the bikes up along a fence, dragged them under the fence and rode along the top of the cooler paddock on a shady treeline. Parking the bikes and stalking down into some cover, we saw the deer were feeding straight out towards us. For reasons unknown to us, the mob had split and the stag and four hinds were feeding away from us and the rest of the hinds fed back out behind us. Once the hinds had gone through the fence we made a move in on the stag, closing the gap to about 80m. We ran out of cover as the deer moved under the fence into the next cooler paddock. As we approached the fenceline one of the ever-alert hinds spotted us and the game was up. He was a cracking stag too and looked impressive running off in the early morning sunlight.

Back on the bikes, we covered heaps of country glassing and glassing as we went on, only seeing a big cast

stag blow out of his bed just in front of us. We were in some good deer country as there were rubs everywhere but the grass was about waist height, which made spotting deer the luck of the draw.

It was about 10.30 in the morning when we rode out on a big black flat that led off to some nice ridge country and started glassing. We had glassed for about 10 minutes and I was thinking we would be heading for camp soon when I heard Dan say, "Big stag." I swung my binos up the ridge and there was a huge stag smacking into a shrub. The brow tines immediately got my attention—they looked impressive.

We rode the bikes up along the fence to the top of the ridge to get the wind spot on and walked back along the ridge, and hopefully back to the stag. We had gone about halfway across the ridge glassing as we went with no sign of the stag. I remember thinking, "Bloody ghost," as I was glassing around where we had last seen the stag when what I'd thought was a stick in the grass caught my attention. I moved off it, slowly glassing around the bushes he was smashing into before moving back to the stick. I was looking at it for about a minute and next thing it moved, "I got him," I said, trying to hide my excitement and keep calm. As I pointed him out to Dan, we realised there were two stags; the one we had seen in hard antler and another just tipping out just as big.

We crawled in to a good tree and ranged the stags at 51m. The big hard-antlered stag was broadside as I drew my bow. As I came to anchor, the stag bedded down and a spiker we hadn't seen got up and moved to a different bed. Letting down and taking the opportunity to move closer to the last of our cover, I was now at 40m from two massive chital stags. I nocked a Black Eagle Rampage on the string of my Hoyt Spyder turbo set at 66lb and waited. And waited. (Dan later told me



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*Nick with his boar.*

it was over an hour.) Whichever stag rose from his bed first, I was ready and was constantly taking deep breaths and trying to relax and think, "It's just another shot."

I had waited behind the tree for quite some time when I felt every

bowhunter's nightmare, wind on the back of my neck. Thinking the game would be up very soon, it was a relief to feel the breeze back on my face again. The velvety stag was out in the sun by now and I was thinking he would rise soon, when all of a sudden the hard-

antlered stag's antlers began to rise up from the grass. As they did, I came to full draw, anchored and settled my 40m pin on the big stag's vitals and a razor-sharp G5 Striker was on its way.

The other two deer exploded from their beds, hitting warp speed as the

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hit stag stumbled behind some bushes about 40m from where he had been bedded. I saw his huge antlers go crashing to the ground.

I began to fist pump, thinking the job was done and adrenaline filled my veins, but to my surprise the stag hit his feet and ran into a small thick patch. We waited a bit and followed him up, finding good blood as we went. We blew him out just into the bush and he looked hurt. We followed some more and saw a big stag explode out of some cover. Dan said "He's running like nothing is wrong with him," and my heart began to sink. But it turned out to be a different stag and we heard a noise off to our left and there was my stag leaning against a tree. He blew out again and we decided to leave him be as if he blew out again he would be back in the long grass and nearly impossible to find.

We rode back to camp for lunch and to have a look at the video of my shot as Dan had filmed it. We couldn't tell where the stag was hit as the deer was obscured by my head as Dan was videoing from behind me, but my release looked pretty smooth.

After lunch Dan and I rode back on the quad, parked up and walked in to where I had put a mark with my GPS. We followed the blood trail about 50m through the bush and

were glassing around when Dan put down his binos stuck out his hand and said, "Congratulations, you got him." I shook his hand as my gut began to unravel and a smile came back on my face. "He's just up there past those little bushes," Dan said as I looked through my binos and I spotted his antler sticking up.

Walking up on the stag and putting my hands on his antlers for the first time was a feeling I cannot begin to describe, but I'm sure other bowhunters will know what I mean. There was gratitude, elation and fulfilment, even a touch of remorse as I admired the magnificent beast lying at my feet.

We set up for some happy snaps before removing the backstraps, back legs and of course the head which is destined to take pride of place on my wall. The antlers later measured 185 7/8pt and if a couple of broken points had been intact it would have taken him into the 190s and he would have been the biggest stag ever taken on Dan Smith Safaris to date. Most importantly for me, though, are the memories I'll take to my grave.

Waking up just a little under the weather the next morning, Ben and I went off to a dam to see if we could find ourselves a pig. Helen had seen a good pig at this dam previously and with a

nice shady creek east of the dam we thought would be a good spot to walk. About 2km into the walk Ben spotted a nice little boar rooting around on the grassy bank on the opposite side from us. Ben stayed where he was to film the hunt as I doubled back, crossed the creek and stalked right up on top of him. I ranged him at 15m before punching an arrow into his engine room. I was shooting down on him broadside from on top of the bank and my arrow was through him before he moved. He bolted a short distance before he paused and looked around, wondering what the hell was that, then walked off up over the bank and expired. He was a nice solid young boar and although he had no tusks to speak of, getting a pig with a bow is still a trophy to me. More photos were taken then we strolled back to the dam. I was thinking of my mate Rob hoping he would have a change of luck as it had eluded him so far this trip. Unfortunately his luck didn't change ... but that's bowhunting, I guess. Most likely it'll be my turn to be unlucky next hunt, Rob.

For the last three days of the hunt I tried to get a chital hind as I wanted to get a hide tanned to use as a floor rug. Although I had some really good stalks it never eventuated, as I either stalked in on big stags or got busted by hinds with fawns. The hinds are that switched on they bolt at the sound of a bird farting, never to be seen again ... bloody ghosts.

Before we knew it, it was time to pack our gear, say our goodbyes and head for home. This had been my first ever deer hunt and paid safari, so it was an all-new experience for me. Hunting with Dan and the knowledge and experience I gained was well worth it and to spot and stalk a massive chital stag on the second morning of my first ever deer hunt was just amazing. What can I say? It wouldn't have been possible without Dan and the Duck.

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

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## BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows  
(Acting Senior Vice-President)



### Hunting ethics

In the past two months I have participated in two radio interviews—both with the ABC, at their request, in relation to arrows being found in our native wildlife. In both these interviews I quoted our hunting ethics and rules of fair chase. I explained our Bowhunter Proficiency Certificate system and what the ABA does

as a whole to encourage correct hunting procedure. I generalised that perpetrators of these types of crimes were highly unlikely to be legitimate hunters and just as unlikely to be members of any archery-related association.

As a result I was asked how could the ABA and legitimate hunters influence or educate



non-members and those likely to do the wrong thing. Hard question. The bottom line is we can't directly—but we can make sure that every time we put something in the media, any media, be it social or magazine, we make sure it is the correct and ethical option. Lots of people new to bowhunting read all that they can in magazines, Facebook et cetera and they take it all as gospel. We owe it to the future of bowhunting to promote what we do in the right and ethical way.

Some good stuff comes out of Facebook, pieces of what I have said below have been taken from there. But just as much, if not more, incorrect and irrelevant material is dispensed. If I was a cynical person I would believe that all the negative material that has ever been posted on social media with regard to bowhunting is being stored by someone to use against us at the most opportune time.

Hunting ethics, like hunting itself, is a personal thing. What suits some won't suit others and having a discussion in this type of forum is right up there with politics and religion, but I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't

at least open some discussion on the topic. After all, as ABA bowhunters we have already agreed to abide by a code of ethics and rules of fair chase.

So I'm opening up with one of my main gripes. Long shots. How far is too far to shoot an arrow at game? If you go by social media then the sky is the limit ... as far as you can shoot. I come from an era before sights and release aids, actually from before compound bows, so my personal limitations have come from that era, where anything approaching 30m was a long shot. I have no doubt there are bowhunters out there who regularly and successfully take game at long distances ... but is there any need to quote those distances? Don't get me wrong: I am not against posting hunting-related photos of both dead and alive animals; it is just how we go about it.

Bowhunting should be about how close you can get. Getting into that particular animal's personal space: that is the goal, the achievement; it is what keeps me coming back. I won't pretend that I haven't taken long shots—I have. It is not my preference

but sometimes it is just the way it works out. To me, a long shot is anything over 40m. That distance is my preferred personal maximum distance. However under certain circumstances I would consider stretching that a little. Is it really a worse thing to see your quarry walk away unscathed than to make a shot that is generally more a possibility than a probability?

I consider myself a reasonable shot. I have been doing this a long time and know what I can hit and at what distance. I regularly practise at distances that far exceed any distance I would ever shoot an animal at. But that is just what it is, practice. My tennis-ball-size groups (with broadheads) at 70m mean very little to me in a hunting environment.

The problem is the new kid on the block sees and reads all the social media posts about game being shot at extraordinary distances and thinks that is the norm, that it is okay to shoot at those distances, that everyone else does. The trouble is they just don't have the experience and it doesn't always work. The more that particularly long shots are posted

## Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

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

## Ladies Best of Species

Boar	Kristan Bell	34 4/8pt	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 BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986



and celebrated, the more they will seem the norm to the sport, which will encourage more people to compete with others to have, the 'longest shot'.

The big problem isn't the accuracy of the shooter (mostly) because with today's gear you can get reasonably proficient relatively quickly. The problem is about lack of experience in when, and if it is at all possible, to take that shot, at any distance. Animals move, and they rarely do it backwards, so what could have been a good shot can turn really ugly, very quickly. The arrow is in the air a long time at shots over 50m, no matter how fast your bow is.

Whatever your personal definition of success is, be it an animal on the ground, a challenging stalk, or a decision to let your unsuspecting quarry walk in the hope of a better opportunity later on, only you will be able to judge your actions for the most part. I suppose the goal we all should have is that our actions are something we are proud of, rather than something we would have to embellish before telling others. At the end of the day, bowhunting is a solo sport for the most part and you should be your own worst critic.

It is up to you how you handle it. Do what you are comfortable with. But remember there are a lot of people watching and not all are as keen on hunting as we are.



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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award	FK/FKOS	Size
A Troy Bullen	Fred's Pass Field Archers	Stingray	GA	FK/FKOS	0
B Tony Manthey	Cape York Archers	Red	TC	FKOS	178 3/8
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		25 2/8
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	RC		30
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		25 4/8
B Laurie Goudie	Independent	Pig	TC		28 6/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC		26 4/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Shark	TC		24 3/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC		26 4/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Rusa	GA	FKOS	0
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Pig	TC		25 2/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Sambar	GA	FKOS	0
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Shark	TC		16 4/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Stingray	TC		6 6/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Shark	TC		17 7/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Stingray	TC		7 3/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Shark	TC		20 4/8
B Graham McComiskie	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Stingray	TC		8 1/8
C Nicholas Moloney	Emerald Archery Club	Chital	RC	FKOS	185 7/8
C Nicholas Moloney	Emerald Archery Club	Pig	GA	FKOS	0

## Your 2018 World Field Archery Championships

The World Field Archery Championships are one of the pinnacles of the IFAA game. Archers get the chance to compete on a world stage, testing their mettle against the best IFAA practitioners in the world. The Champion of Nations (CoN) event at the World Field Archery Championships is a competition within a competition where each country can select a representative team of archers. A team is selected from a country's competitors (before the shoot commences) and the team's daily points are awarded based on each team member's scores on that day of competition. The team with the most points at the end of competition wins the coveted Champion of Nations gold medal.

Australia has had a long association with the World Field Archery Championships, having hosted several of them, and our archers have always done well at this competition both at home and abroad. Some have set world records, many have won individual gold medals and our CoN team has always done us proud. In 2010 at the World Field Archery Championships in Dahn, Germany, our Australian CoN team won the gold. This is an outstanding achievement.

At the Elgro River Lodge, Potchefstroom, South Africa in October this year, the World Field Archery Championships are on again. As usual, there is an Australian contingent competing, and from this group the ABA National Executive has selected the Australian Champion of Nations team.





D Colin Ross	Darling Downs Field Archers	Fallow	TC		170 2/8
D Colin Ross	Darling Downs Field Archers	Red	GA	FKOS	0
D Ethan Wilson	Darling Downs Field Archers	Goat	GA	FKOS	68 1/8
D Troy Hughes	Darling Downs Field Archers	Red	GA	FKOS	148
D Brenton Mitchell	Renegade Bowmen	Fallow	RC		219
D Brenton Mitchell	Renegade Bowmen	Rusa	TC	FKOS	156
D Brenton Mitchell	Renegade Bowmen	Red	RC		212 3/8
D Chris Brooker	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	TC		25 6/8
D Damien Norris	Renegade Bowmen	Fox	TC	FKOS	9 9/16
D Darin Carruthers	Renegade Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FK/FKOS	0
D Gary Percival	Renegade Bowmen	Fox	TC	FK/FKOS	9 7/16
D Gary Percival	Renegade Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 8/16
D Gary Percival	Renegade Bowmen	Cat	GA	FKOS	6 10/16
D Wade Bygrave	Renegade Bowmen	Fox	TC		10
D Wade Bygrave	Renegade Bowmen	Fox	RC		10 3/16
E Peter Fryda	Dubbo & District Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
E Gary Lander	Central Coast Moonterra	Hare	GA	FKOS	0
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		123 7/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		111 5/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		116 3/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		105 3/8
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Fallow	TC		175 6/8
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Fallow	TC		174 7/8
E Bernie Hayne	Namoi Valley Archers	Fox	GA	FKOS	9 1/16
E Bernie Hayne	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	GA	FKOS	0
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 5/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 5/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16

## Champion of Nations Team

by **TREVOR PICKETT**  
Acting National Vice-President Field, ABA

The team members are:

- Jeanette Dowd (Bowhunter Unlimited)
- Diann Benson (Freestyle Unlimited)
- Joanne Bogie (Bowhunter Limited)
- Steve Barratt (Barebow Compound)
- Peter Judge (Bowhunter Compound)
- Bill Van Oosten (Longbow)

If you see these people (or anyone attending the WFAC) at a shoot somewhere, wish them all the best: I'm sure they'll appreciate it. I know that they and the rest of the Australian contingent will do their best and make us all proud. As for me, I have the unique privilege of being team manager; I get to travel to South Africa with the team and the rest of the Australian contingent, looking after them and generally having a great time.

The 2020 World Field Archery Championships will be in Estonia (Europe) so make a commitment now and go and shoot it. Who knows, you could be representing your country as well.



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E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		10 1/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 12/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	RC		10 2/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 14/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 12/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 9/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 15/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 3/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 14/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 9/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 14/16
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 5/16
F Jennifer Vanderburg	Campbelltown Field Archers	Fallow	TC		186 2/8
F Theo Vanderburg	Campbelltown Field Archers	Fallow	TC		170 4/8
F Theo Vanderburg	Campbelltown Field Archers	Chital	GA	FKOS	0
F Theo Vanderburg	Campbelltown Field Archers	Chital	RC		161 4/8
F Jason Lesnik	Capital Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
F Jason Lesnik	Capital Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
F Jason Lesnik	Capital Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 7/16
F Jason Lesnik	Capital Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 11/16
F Jason Lesnik	Capital Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 14/16
F Robert Mihalyka	Capital Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
F Robert Mihalyka	Capital Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 15/16
F Debbie Larkings	Forbes Lachlan River Archers	Chital	TC		154
F Graeme Larkings	Forbes Lachlan River Archers	Chital	TC		150 2/8
F Peter Moore	Orange & District Bowhunters	Goat	TC		133 7/8
F Clint Perry	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
F Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Fallow	TC		185 3/8
F Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Fallow	TC		167 4/8
F Luke Sampson	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
G Colin Brownlie	Independent	Fox	TC		9 6/16
G Colin Brownlie	Independent	Hare	GA	FKOS	0
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunter	Chital	RC		170 7/8
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunter	Hog Deer	TC		85 6/8
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunter	Fallow	RC		210 4/8
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunter	Pig	RC		30 2/8
G Marc Curtis	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunter	Fox	TC		9 3/16
G Mark Burrows	West Gippsland Field Archers	Goat	TC		107 2/8
H Anthony Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC		105 6/8
H Anthony Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	RC		126 3/8
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC		101 4/8
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC		95 4/8
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 10/16
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Goat	RC		120 4/8
H Don Moor	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fallow	RC	FKOS	203
H Jonathon Layton	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 6/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC		9 6/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC		9 10/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	RC		10 3/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC		9 14/16
I Russell Watherston	Lower Eyre Archers	Red	RC	FKOS	240 3/8
I Malcolm Clements	Mallee Sunset Field Archers	Goat	RC		127 6/8
I Neil Graham	Mallee Sunset Field Archers	Cat	TC		7 1/16
I Brett Raymond	Yorke Peninsula Field Archers	Fish	GA	FKOS	0



Mitchell Brewer.





# Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



## Introducing **NEW TBA MEMBER** *Mitchell Brewer*



### *What club do you belong to?*

I have been a member of the Emerald Archery Club since it was formed in 2014.

### *How long have you been bowhunting?*

I have been bowhunting since I was about four or five years old, so about nine years of long hard practice.

## Bowhunting achievements to July 31, 2018

### **Master Bowhunter**

Helen Duff	650
Graeme Duff	610
Tyler Atkinson	460
David Luxford	390
Luke Sampson	330

### **Trophy Bowhunter Award**

Nil further since last report

### **Bowhunter Award**

Luke Hebb	190
Donald Moor	150
Jason Lesnik	140
David Rethus	130
Dan Podubinski	120
Elissa Rosemond	120
Brenton Mitchell	100
Theo Vanderburg	100

### **Bowhunter Royale**

Jason Lesnik

### **Bowhunter Imperial**

Nil further since last report

### **Bowhunter Supreme**

Donald Moor

### **Senior Member of TBA**

Nil further since last report

### **Members Admitted to TBA Club (membership granted after taking first Trophy Class or better animal)**

Christopher Brooker  
Gary Percival  
Malcolm Clements



*What started you in bowhunting?*

My father, David Brewer, started me off with normal ABA and then took me on my first hunt to attempt to get a young billy goat or young pig. To this day we still go to this spot and every time my Dad always makes it memorable. Even if we're at a dam for three hours waiting for anything to come in and water, he will always keep me focussed and entertained.

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



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## Introducing NEW TBA MEMBER Drew Edwards

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*What town do you live in?*

Brisbane.

*How old are you?*

I am 15 years old.

*How long have you been hunting?*

I have been bowhunting for three years.

*How long have you been an ABA member?*

I have been an ABA member for about two years.

*What got you into bowhunting?*

My dad and going to his house and seeing the heads and hearing his stories as well as other friends of ours such as David Littlejohn, Alan Podlich, Graham Newell and Alan Robertson.

*Are you a member of an archery club; if so what one? Do you hold a position in the club?*

I am currently a member of the Grange Bowmen at Albany Creek. I don't officially hold any position but my Dad is the range captain so I help out with setting up shoots and doing things around the club.

*How often do you get to go hunting?*

Not as often as we would like because it has to align with Dad's work and school holidays.

*What equipment do you use?*



I use a compound bow. It's a Bear 70lb with a 30in draw.

*Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?*

No, but it has encouraged me to claim more game.

*Do you have any bowhunting goals?*

Yes, I want to go to Africa and spot and stalk a warthog and impala.

*Did you know much about TBA before this?*

No.

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





# President's Report

I am constantly amazed at the number of phone calls, texts and emails that come through the National Office and direct to National Executive members. The topics they cover range as much as the diversity of groups and people they come from.

Without doubt, the increased and improved access to technology has a lot to do with this.

When I first joined the National Executive almost 20 years ago, phone calls—particularly interstate calls—were very expensive. Now they can be free depending upon the phone plan you are on. Email was only used by a minority of people and social media was not even thought of. To go along with this, the majority of communication was via the Post Office and although we baulk at snail mail now it was certainly a major method of communication. Just to note here, people were as reluctant to write letters then just as they are now!

With this increased speed of communication and ease of access to so many different forms, there



*Jeff Bell.*

has come an increased desire for immediate information and immediate answers to questions. People are now readily prepared to pick up the phone and call, text or quickly write their query in an email and send it with the expectation that they will get a reply almost straight away.

In theory, this is certainly achievable.

So what has this got to do with archery? Well, the dilemma for archery administration is that the very

important lines of communication and the hierarchy of administration are often bypassed and ignored.

While from a personal standpoint, getting almost immediate answers is a good thing, it also has a significant downside. This can be looked at from a couple of perspectives.

Firstly, there is a specific hierarchy of administration that should be followed. A question has a number of levels that it needs to pass through before it gets to National. An ABA member with a question about one of the rules, for example, should approach his club committee to seek an answer in the first instance. If the club does not have an answer then the question would then proceed to the Branch level. If the Branch doesn't have the answer either it is then that the question would go to a national level, whether that is the office or a National Executive member specifically.

This may seem a long way of doing things in a society that wants immediate answers but it is the right



way. By going through the hierarchy, those questions that have answers at a local level are responded to immediately and responded to with local knowledge and understanding.

If the question makes it to the next level (Branch) and the question is answered, then there is also a shortening of the response time and there is a dispersal of information from Branch to club and then to member. The breadth of knowledge is increased as there is a greater breadth of knowledge of the answer.

So, should the question make it to the national level the breadth of understanding becomes even greater with the reply being passed from National to Branch to club to member. The educational process is complete.

If you follow my line of thinking, the dilemma of individual members

contacting National Officers narrows the knowledge base severely. Instead of a number of archers and administrators having the answer to the question, there are now only two! And if this is the approach that is used most of the time the knowledge base remains very narrow.


By following the hierarchy, the knowledge base of the association is increased markedly with every question that is answered and our members become much more knowledgeable.

Secondly, all Executive Officers are volunteers and give freely of their time to administer the sport so that everyone else can enjoy shooting arrows. Often much more time is committed to these administrative tasks because people want the immediate satisfaction of an answer

right now! Often the questions asked are ones that could have been fielded by others at a more local level and this would place less load upon the time resource at a national level.

To explain in a rather oversimplified manner, if 10 members from one Branch rang Vice-President Field with the same question then the question must be answered 10 times by the same person. But if the question was asked through the club or Branch level it would be answered once by VP Field and then every other time at a local level. It spreads the administration load, don't you think?

So, the next time you have an archery question that you'd like an answer to, try asking someone at a local administration level first. You might be surprised at how quickly you get an answer!

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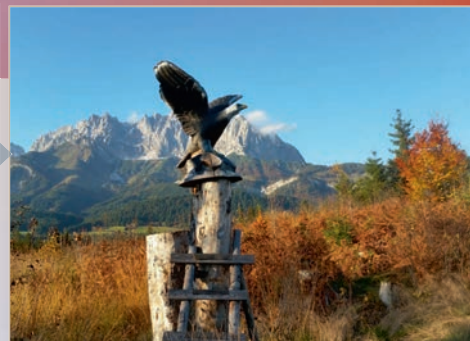


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Headgear,  
Bevan Blacklock.

Ready to soar,  
Helmut Lener.



Above the clouds,  
Luke Hodges.



A lick and a promise,  
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# Norfolk does it again—competition gets tick of approval



*Keeping score.*



*There's a bear in there.*

Norfolk Island Archery recently completed its 16th annual 3D Archery Championships and once again there was a fantastic field of local and visiting archers. Local club members performed strongly, with four of the top five placings in the Men's Hunter Class belonging to Norfolk Island club members—no easy feat with the quality of archer in this division.

The tournament was structured to offer a holistic Norfolk experience. Following a warm welcome at the airport, competitors and their families enjoyed a low-key gathering on the club verandah before tucking into freshly caught fish at the official welcome in the stunning 100-acre grounds of the historic Melanesian Mission and St Barnabas Chapel.

The competition was shot over four days, either morning or afternoon on four totally different 20 target courses. The week was structured to provide time for archers to chat about their round over lunch and a quiet refreshment or two before setting off to explore the island or enjoy a fishing trip in the afternoon, or for the traditional shooters, more shooting thanks to Mark and Maura Harvey. With the winners coming from the best three of four scores, there was ample opportunity to take in that special tour or fishing trip without jeopardising a place on the winners' podium.

Now that this year's event is over, club members are busy extending from a 12-target to 24-target FITA field to complement the club's 90m FITA target range, 3D courses, 18m range and axe throwing targets.

Ask any archer who has competed in an annual Norfolk Island Travel Centre Archery Championships and it's likely you'll hear words like fun, welcoming, friendly, brilliant course. Norfolk Island certainly seems to have it all when it comes to an archery holiday.

For a small island club, their members have competed internationally in target archery—and placed well above their weight! At the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games they found themselves up against big-member nations such as England and finished with a very credible middle-placed ranking. On Norfolk, the club has an enviable course providing a variety of terrain from open flat fields and scrubby valleys to creek crossings and steep uphill and downhill.

One of the most amazing ways the Norfolk Island club stands out is the way they encourage juniors to join up, learn the sport and compete. This happens not only during weekly club meets, but also during their championships when local children compete alongside visiting archers. Timed to occur during the July school holidays and including events for cubs and juniors as well as adults, the competition really is a family-friendly event and holiday.





*Kids love this event.*

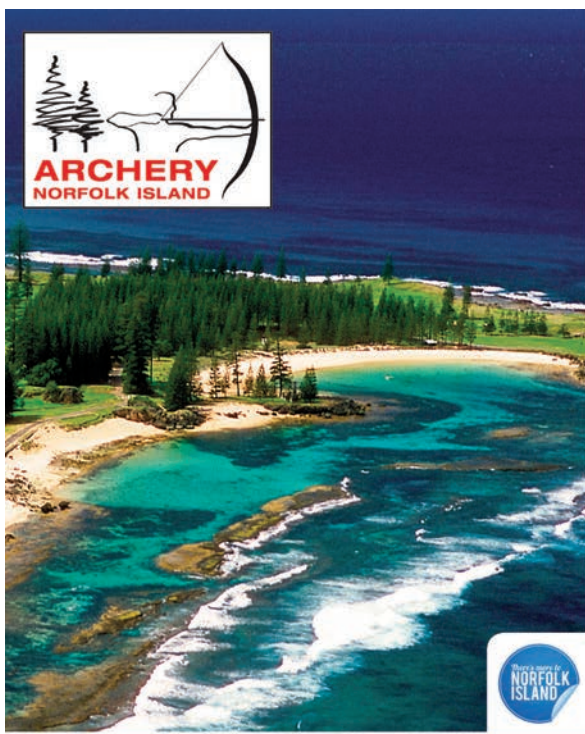


*An unfriendly shot.*

To gain an idea of the atmosphere at the Norfolk Island Championships, check out a video put together by club member Jonno Snell at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHX8ODoYDu8> (or by googling Norfolk Island Archery Youtube).

Locally based Norfolk Island Travel Centre continues its long association and sponsorship of Archery Norfolk Island's Championships. Contact Helen Reeves at [helen@travelcentre.nf](mailto:helen@travelcentre.nf) or on 1800 1400 for details on their seven-night holiday package to bring you to the 2019 Championships from July 7 to 12.

**Results:** Womens Compound Unlimited: 1st Elvie Purkiss, 2nd Lurline Graham. Mens Compound Unlimited: 1st Ian Summers, 2nd Owen Kirkman. Womens Hunter Class: 1st Tracy Redgrove, 2nd Donna Gilroy. Mens Hunter Class: 1st Jonno Snell, 2nd Andrew (Drew). Junior Boy Hunter Class: Steven Baker. Mens Barebow Compound Bow: 1st Shannon Hitchen, 2nd Wayne Knight. Womens Barebow Recurve: 1st Estelle Boshoff, 2nd Penny O'Dougherty. Mens Barebow Recurve: 1st Hugo Lobb, 2nd Mick Turner. Cub Limited Girl: 1st Tahlia Azzopardi, 2nd Timi Snell. Cub Limited Boy: 1st Cameron Christian, 2nd Callum Clay. Cub Barebow Boy: Liam Hogden.



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**RECORD**  
*year*

**BEVAN BLACKLOCK**



Fitting hunting trips around my work schedule means plenty of planning. I often refer to it as being 'stuck in the rut' ... when we all know there is a different kind of rut I want to get stuck into!

This year's pre-hunt story was no different. My buggy needed work. We'd broken the back differential in North Queensland in October 2017 and the steering gearbox needed replacing. Not only did this add cost to the hunting budget but also meant time away from practice and scouting.

Our hunting block is about six hours' drive south around Inverell. Four years ago I went down with Pete Robinson to learn about fallow deer. This property provides excellent opportunity for fox, rabbit, pig, goats and fallow deer. It's also a great place to catch a Murray cod. (This has become a bit of an

obsession.) It is a difficult property to hunt as it has a dominant ridgeline that causes all sorts of stalking issues and a hunter has to be prepared to slog through plenty of long walks to get in the right areas.

Our reconnaissance visit in January presented several insights into the future hunt. We saw more female deer than in recent visits. The season meant long grass and plenty of cover for small deer like fallow. Pigs were in good numbers but we saw nothing exceptional. Goats were scarce and there were even less rabbits. The river was the best we had seen it. The only arrow touched off for the trip was at an unlucky rabbit that stayed out of his bed too long and met his fate with a well-placed Judo tip at about 35m. We set range cameras in strategic positions to gather as much

information as possible. It is amazing how much is learned this way—when the does have their fawns, when the bucks show up, when scrapes become active and how many different bucks use the same scrape ... even what other animals use the scrape. Amongst it all there was footage of pigs, foxes, and plenty of birds.

Peter and I are trying to time our hunts with the moon phases as it seems there is more activity generally. We still have a lot more to learn about this, but we think the idea is worth pursuing. The conversation around the hunting/fishing almanac is endless, but it seems to get results.

This rut would mean we could visit the property twice in the hot time of the moon phases. There was one at the end of March and one at the end of April. Unfortunately we had to plan a

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long way out so we knew we wouldn't be able to take advantage of any of the subtle local influences on the rut. Once our plans were set, we were stuck with them.

The first trip started like most others. As we unloaded the gear at about 2.30am, it became clear that our prediction was right. We were early for the rut. Normally the bucks would be croaking now and then, keeping in touch with each other during the night. Not now though. As tired as we were, we didn't go to sleep straight away. We had a nightcap and sat in the silence in the hope of catching just a little croak, but alas it didn't come.

The next morning, with normal chores complete, we made plans for a bit of a run around the property and to gather the range cameras. There was good sign but nothing exceptional. My camera at the southern end showed good regular activity early in the morning. The areas that the other

cameras were placed in were also worth investigating further.

Peter had an unsuccessful stalk on an old billy late in the afternoon. He had a shot, but without blood on the arrow or any other signs of harm to the billy, the search was called off.

We decided that the next day I was going to work my way down to the southern end and sit off the scrape that my camera was on while Peter was going to an area we'd named the Cattle Pad. We would meet up once we got in radio range and I was to be picked up by Peter, as he was taking the buggy.

Our next priority was to drop the canoe into the river as Peter was going to try to catch a fish ... not just any fish but one particular fellow we had named Ugly on an earlier visit. At that time, Ugly had been hooked but not landed. He was a biggie, maybe even over 1m in length—a great river fish. We had a video of him on the surface,

but we wanted the real thing. We thought we might have a chance just on dark with a modified lure or a snake lure that Pete had been given by a fisho mate.

Walking in the dark down to the southern end took forever. The excitement of the first hunt of the season on a full moon is all that we hunt for. It is worth the wait. Each step is valued as you try to avoid breaking sticks and work to keep the wind right (although there is bugger-all wind to speak of at that time of day). I hit the last ridge right on 5.00am as planned. There was not a single croak. The deer were very quiet. There was the tell-tale barking of a dog up the river. My wind checker confirmed the wind was in my favour. It took another half an hour to get to the position I wanted about 25m back from a well used scrape. From last year's rut I knew it was likely this spot would be okay until about 9.30am when wind would probably change. I

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sat tight and low as possible on my little three-legged chair. It was the same chair from which I'd taken my first red stag the season before.

Did I say it was quiet? It was *really* quiet. For quite a while, there was only the sound of the odd nightjar, but eventually the kookaburras and butcher birds started their morning chorus.

As soon as there was enough light for my rangefinder to work, I nocked an arrow and started a small, half-hearted rattle. My rattle is an old sock that holds about five or six red stag antler pieces about six inches long. They make a pretty good noise and with a bit of imagination it sounds like a couple of stickheads sparring—enough to annoy another more dominant buck to come in to give them a hiding, anyway. I only did this a couple of times and gave it away.

As it became lighter, the day turned into a beautiful autumn morning, the birds making it a nice place to be. The morning dew was collecting every ray of sunshine, making a silver carpet across the open areas.

My game caller was away from me a few metres toward the scrape. I was now wishing it was further. Not wanting to give my cover up, I made the decision to leave well enough alone. Without much else happening, I hammered the game caller for about three minutes without letting up but changing the sequence of calls to make it more realistic and to mimic the calls that are generally heard during the early rut.

Then I left the caller alone and in no time I could hear him coming down the ridge slightly to my left. My prediction was spot on. I came to full draw without thinking. My heart felt like it was bursting through my chest.

The stag kept on his path past the scrape and then past the trees to my right. I followed his line but my vision was obscured by the trees until he

was to my right. The tree immediately in front of me just needed to move about 3cm: I was stuck. Slowly I rocked back and put him in the ring of my sight, not trying to get a sight picture at this stage. He was on high alert but somehow different in his response (HECS suits may work).

The buck looked at my movement and turned away from me at about 30m. I thought my chance was blown, but strangely he looked away up the gully towards the other side of the scrape. I then split my 20m and 30m pin and put that on his nearside (left) quartering-away torso. I decided the range was 25m. His nearside ear was dropped, letting me know that I was still on his mind. He then took a couple of steps away. I was now directly behind him. The point of aim was adjusted slightly and then the arrow was released. A Texas heart shot ... but below the bullseye.

As the arrow was released, the fallow buck dropped slightly in the way they spring in their fight-or-flight response. This dropped his forequarters down and his rear end stayed still. The buck jumped forward and then moved for about 20m before failing in his stride. He didn't make it more than 30m before expiring.

This was a momentous point in my bowhunting career. The gravity of the situation hit me in a spiritual sense. I was grateful that we would have venison to share, and yet humbled by the experience and honoured to claim such a magnificent trophy buck as my first kill of this species.

I sat for a while looking in the direction of the fallen buck. Emotions welled up within me. There was enough antler showing for me to know he was long. His white coat and distinctive black dorsal strip was showing so vividly. In their natural state these animals are almost impossible to see. He was truly a great trophy. It took forever for 20 minutes to pass. It was

only 7.20am and my trophy was on the ground. I took a few pictures and then short-gutted the carcass before packing and walking back to radio range.

It wasn't long before the little red rescue buggy was on its way. My old mate was so happy. As a butcher he had something to do. (Just kidding! If you know Peter, you will know what the photo session was like ... lots of gardening and getting the sun right just in case this was going to be one of those elusive cover shots. As soon as practical, the carcass was taken back to camp and skinned. It was put in a carcass sock (code for calico sleeping bag liner) to age in the cool. We were done and dusted by 10.00am.



*The little red rescue buggy.*



*Carcass preparation.*





*The venison, beautifully butchered. From left, rump, Robo's rolled backstraps, 1kg mince bags, round.*

I was walking on air. We did a few camp chores, I put a feed on and then put it in a thermal cooker so we could hunt as late as we wanted to and then we set out on an afternoon trip to see if we could entice Ugly to have a go at a surface lure.

On the way, we thought that we

might try to catch up with the old loner billy that Pete had unsuccessfully stalked the day before. He was an old billy with brushed-off horns, and we both thought he would be better than trophy class. We headed off but decided to go around a couple of fire trails to get a better look at the areas the old billy might be feeding in the late afternoon. Sure enough, up high in an open area of a gully we could see him feeding into the wind. Peter decided

to have another stalk. He covered the distance quickly with plenty of cover until the last stages of the stalk. This was a huge effort in his current lame state (recovering from ankle surgery that didn't quite work out as well as it could have). As the billy moved directly toward Peter at the end of some downed timber, he moved into perfect range but slightly quartering on. The weighted arrows with extreme FOC (+17%) with single-bevel Outback broadheads are lethal on any game. The billy expired quickly. We took photos, the trophy was recovered and we loaded up again.

With the shadows getting longer, we were off for an encounter with Ugly. Like all good plans, both sides needed to play the game, but on this day we were not successful so the legend of Ugly goes on. We got to the house in the dark as usual for a well earned meal.

The next morning the carcass was boned out and butchered and then refrigerated. To make the most of backstraps, they were prepared together end to end and rolled to make



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*Pete's billy.*



a generous roast. A mincer was used to recover all trimmings and forequarter meat.

We hunted hard for the next five days without success. The highlight of the trip was to be invited to have lunch with our hosts and their friends visiting the property from all over for the Easter break. It was a very nice afternoon. We provided a rolled loin (Rob's rolled backstrap) of venison for all to share. The loin was rolled in a dry rub and then smoked for about four hours. Unfortunately we left before the tasting, but have been assured it was beautiful. I prepared a piece as a roast the next night for dinner with roast vegetables; ours was excellent as well. A buck early in the rut does not have a rank flavour as you might expect and we encourage you to try to recover the meat from fallow that are in sound condition.

The next chapter started just three weeks later with a much anticipated return on the next full moon right on time with the almanac. We stopped in Warwick for steak, eggs and chips—excellent as usual. We were caught by an unexpected cold wind which reminded us of the long weekend ahead. There were heaps of roos between Warwick and Texas. During a driver change at Texas we decided to count roos to Inverell. The count got to 12 and before Ashford, number 13, a large doe, was the first victim for the night. We counted 53 roos and wallaroos on that leg of the trip. There was only one other incident where a buck decided to take a shortcut behind the ute, only to collide with the buggy trailer.

As expected, we clean missed the rut. If it was quiet the trip before, there is no describing the early morning on the first day of this trip. We just soaked it up and couldn't believe our luck to be again hunting and doing what we liked most. There were plenty of jobs to do around the house so we got

into them to warm up. The fireplace was buffed back and reblacked, the chimney resealed and tightened up. A door was repaired, a gate rehung, the grass around the house tidied up and a few other necessary jobs like cleaning attended to.

Hunting was going to be tough. Heading to the main house, we ran across a couple of deer, but not much more. With the fishing rods loaded up, we thought we might get a bunny on the river after we tried for a cod. Both quarry were safe that day. On the way back, we made a call or two at a place where phone reception was possible. It was nice to hear voices from home and to assure them all was okay.

The next day I went for a walk one way and Pete took the buggy to a place where he could walk in to a likely spot and set up. We agreed to make contact

at about 10.00am. Neither of us had a chance at anything.

After a quick lunch, Pete went to sit on a dam and I was to walk up a creek and meet him at the dam by about 3.00pm. Taking my time, I went tree to tree, glassing as I went and trying to be as quiet as possible. In a very thick bushy area, I had a fall over the top of my bow. I brushed myself off and straightened out my gear and was ready to go again, just a bit sore. Those who know me know I always have a Judo-tipped arrow as my last arrow in the quiver. After carefully checking and checking again for game that might be watching my circus, I fired that arrow at a cow pat about 25m away. The arrow went a little to the left but still hit what I aimed at. My bow seemed intact.

I whistled, but my whistling only



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*Bevan with his record class goat.*

resulted in birds until I got above a dam not that far from where we were staying. It was about 20 minutes after my fall. A vixen came to the whistle at full tilt. She propped about 20m right in front of me chest on; I was already at full draw and touched off the arrow but missed. I didn't get a second chance. The arrow did not provide any further evidence of a hit. I put it down to my excitement. I was still shaking. A fox is a pretty small target in that pose. I was full of all the usual excuses, but I needed to cover more country so off I went.

The walk was great. I came across two lots of deer ... fallow does and fawns, no bucks. There were plenty

of roos and wallabies and plenty of pig sign from about two weeks earlier when it had rained. But I found nothing really worth following up. All the while, I was in fox mode and made plenty of stops to whistle when it looked and felt right. Adjacent to the grid that led down to the dam that Pete was sitting on, I set up for another whistle; this did feel good. On the second wail of the Tenterfield fox whistle, a big robust bright red dog fox bounded straight at me up a cattle pad that I had set up about 3m away from just in case. Right on cue, he stopped at 20m. I was at full draw and released to once again cleanly miss. The fox just looked around at the now dormant arrow, looked back to where it had come from with an expression of bewilderment. I had already nocked another arrow, and was into my draw when he hightailed it out of there. I had again missed just to the left of his right shoulder ... talk about frustrating! This time I adjusted my sight following the arrow by about half a millimetre

(then killed about half a dozen cow pats without looking like missing).

Pete is a legend in bowhunting and it is a pleasure to hunt with him, no matter how hard it is to recover from missing two great opportunities at foxes. I just know he was trying his hardest to be supportive (to the point where I think he might have been taking the mickey out of me in his own dry way). It is hard to stay cross when in his company.

We finished the day both catching a cod. I kept mine—a nice 70cm one for the table—and Peter's was force-released while trying to take a video at the same time as landing the fish. He wriggled back into the water and was on his way. We only take a fish every now and then and release about 99 per cent of what we catch (or what I catch, more to the point).

The next day dawned as our last for this trip. The plan was to have a hunt in the morning and then in the afternoon head over to the area we knew as Loopy and try for a cod. Like

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all hunters, we had a few areas we wanted to whistle at on the way before sneaking in to see if a pig was at home. But generally we headed over to Loopy to have lunch and go fishing. I was keen for a good trophy class goat this trip. Spotting goats a fair way off, I thought I might get in close to see if the billies were as good as they looked through the binos. Sure enough they might have been trophy class but we decided to pass them up this trip ... only to move off and see a beautiful billy over the next ridge in a mob with another couple that appeared to be that solid trophy class stature. I only saw one horn of the white goat and promised I would try my best to claim him, even if he only had one horn.

That was 12 noon on the dot. As if on cue, the wind hit the back of our necks and you could see the old nanny in the mob change her posture and they were off. They were the wildest group of goats I think I have seen or hunted to date. My best bet was to stay high and to try to work the wind in my favour. To cut a long story short, I never made positive contact with them again until 3pm after my Fitbit said I had walked 25K steps and 85 flights of stairs. I was knackered. It turned out that a big nanny in the mob was coming into season. The large group of smaller billies were making it extremely hard to get in close.

A cat and mouse game ensued. I would get in close enough but could not get their eyes off me or a shot at the big bloke or his mate. Both were excellent trophy class goats or better. As the day drew to an end, the little billies went straight up the mountain to goats calling without much fuss. This just left the dominant billies and a couple of nannies. Their focus was on Cinderella. They were not likely to leave her for another suitor overnight so I was safe to stay focussed on her as well.

When all hopes were fading, the

mob took fright at something and took off into the wind again like they had done all day. This was strange behaviour and not something I had seen before.

With this, I had a sip of water and headed in their general direction but up a gully out of sight. I hadn't moved far, maybe 80m and I could smell that strong scent of billy goat. I moved back to get into the scent and then walked directly into it. As I approached the crest of the ridge, I lined a gum tree up to where I thought they might be and moved in on my belly until I was at its base.

Still on the ground, I ranged a tree in front of me that I presumed they were beneath. The tree was 30m; the closest that I had been to them all afternoon. As I got to my knees, I nocked an arrow and hooked up. My heart was racing. As I stood up and braced my stance, the big bloke moved away to charge his nemesis away. At about 32m he stood there quartering away.

The rest is history; the Outback single bevel did its work well and he only moved about 5m and died as gallantly as he had lived. There was no ground shrinkage in this trophy. His light-coloured curly horns looked like the ABA goat patch. After a short time to soak up the moment, tidy my gear and recover my broken arrow,

I called Peter to bring in the buggy to take photos and pick me up. This would be my most memorable hunt in my bowhunting career—a truly magnificent trophy and not much left in the tank, and I hadn't had lunch or thrown in a line. How our plans change when we are playing this game!

It was still daylight on the way back. Pete put a really good stalk in on a mob of pigs only to have his release let go when he was within 20m of a large sow. (I think the resulting smack in the mouth was karma for the philosophical coaching he gave me the day before.)

The next morning came around quickly. I'd slept the sleep of the dead. I don't need to harp on about this, but packing up sucks. We both got a bit solemn. There was not a lot of talking to be done. We both knew our jobs and we got on with it.

Since the hunts, we have reflected on being stuck in the rut and how we missed it following the almanac and not going with local on-the-ground knowledge. But it worked. The fallow buck went 191 4/8pt, Pete's goat went 100pt+ and my goat went 115 1/8pt. These were my first record class game taken since becoming a TBA member.

And it had cost nothing to learn new things and to grow in bowhunting by trying a new approach to our challenging sport.

## gear used

### Peter Robinson

Bow: Hoyt CRX32 @ 58lb

Arrows: Easton Powerflight 340 spine, 28 1/2 inches, 3x4 inch vanes, 545gn total arrow weight FOC +17%

Broadhead: Outback Single Bevel 125gn

### Bevan Blacklock

Bow: Mathews Z2 @ 68lb

Arrows: Easton Axis 5mm 300 spine, 28 1/2 inches, 3x4 inch vanes, 509gn total arrow weight FOC 11.5%

Broadhead: Outback Single Bevel 125gn

# Around THE TRADS

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

**Sue Wallace**

✿ It was a glorious day for a shoot, with the Sunshine Coast Bowmen holding a trad club day on Sunday June 3. There were many locals who were joined by archers from Brisbane, others from the Gympie area and one travelling couple from WA, making a total of 46 trad archers.

Twenty-five 3D targets were set out in some very interesting positions, where a few required a small amount of foot shuffling to shoot around the plantation obstacles ... those palms can be tricky, you know. The shoot groups went out to their allocated targets and commenced shooting when the blower sounded, so all finished for lunch around the same time.

It was a brilliant way to spend a Sunday morning, with great company and so many smiling faces.

✿ The following extract was sent to me by a HVTa member covering The Gathering held on the NSW June long weekend: There were around 100 archers from as far afield as Cairns in Queensland and Dunolly in Victoria. The campground once again looked like an instant village as folks arrived to set up everything from caravans to hammocks swung between the trees. There were three 10-target one-arrow ranges. Range 1 was the

small target range where a target hit automatically scored 10. Ranges 2 and 3 were placed to take in the beautiful bushland and wetlands, complete with bellbird chimes. Having no butts to catch wayward arrows always makes for interesting times. The hanging mosquito on Range 3 had as a backstop a large paperback tree several metres into the swamp. The photo shows the archer position from the target and also the arrow-catching tree. A club volunteer used waders to retrieve the arrows. Novelties included a 30-second speed round, running pig, rolling disc, hunt round and bow bird.

Saturday afternoon saw Towball set up the spinning deer. This event was very competitive as archers used three arrows to build a score. Knockout rounds finally led to the winners. This novelty event raised money towards our charity shoot which is being held at the end of September. The broadhead range was added on Sunday. It's always a fun shoot and kilt wearing is becoming more popular as the years roll on. A nice downpour of rain on Sunday afternoon reminded everyone that they were once again at the HVTa gathering.

✿ There was no sign of rain on the horizon for the weekend of June 16 and 17 at the Chevallan Archery Park

Trad Shoot, and it was rather warm during the days. The travelling couple from WA, who had been camped on site for a couple of days, were joined by quite a few of us arriving on Friday. It cooled off quickly as the sun started to dip below the treelines and we soon had a few fires going.

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear, with more archers arriving to set up camp for the weekend, plus the locals. Breakfast and muster out of the way, we set off. We had a choice of clout, popinjay, 30-second speed round and rolling disc. The 60-second hunt round had been set up near the tea tent down the bottom, with the gamble shot as target 21 leading to the new 'hide' targets, then on to the moving target and picking up the lolly-popinjay as you walked back up to camp.

For the winner of the Top 10 shootout, there is a set of 12 matched hand-crafted arrows by Wallace Woods. This is sponsored by Wes and Kaylene Farnham. For this shoot there were 11 in the Top 10 as the 10th score was tied. Once everyone was gathered at the 30-second speed round I gave them some interesting information. If we had decided to run a Mystery 10 instead, it would have been the people from 4th place to 13th place, as there





*A shot through the greenery.*



*Javelina at Sunshine Coast.*



*The HVTA mossie shot.*

was only 11 points difference in these scores and it would have included three females. Now that would have been an interesting shootout.

The objective of the shootout was to get an arrow within the steel ring on the fox target before proceeding to shoot the next target, using the same rules as the speed round. After the first round there were three archers who went into a second round shootout, with the winner—by one arrow—being Steve Wallace. The winner's arrows will therefore be carried over to the next shoot.

With the Top 10 run and won, it was time to have a go at the combat archery. The special bows, arrows and helmets were handed out and the teams were quickly decided—one with a grandson quite happy to be

against his Pop, and two pretty good mates on opposite teams to make it interesting. The first round of 10 minutes ended in a draw with one member of each team on the sidelines having been hit and both sides having shot three of the centres out. The next game saw each side with an additional member which makes it even more interesting and was called a draw after 10 minutes. After a small break it was on again, and the match between two mates was ramping up. This session just kept going and was a lot longer than usual—we were having a bit too much fun to stop. We eventually just swapped sides and had another half an hour and by then it was getting a bit late in the day. Both teams had two people out on the sidelines, so we decided to call it a draw, and after

taking a few photos, packed up the gear and headed back to camp to start the fires and get dinner under way.

Sunday had fine skies and a light breeze which was going to keep the temperature down. With no muster, each group could grab the day's scorecard and go out at any time to do the rolling disc, 30-second speed round and the field course, including the hunt round.

After lunch we held the raffle, followed by the award presentations. It was the second time we had presented the Kylie Cousins Encouragement Award and emotions were running high so there were some tears as we handed the award to our newest archer Stephanie.

Chevallan Archery Park is more than just another archery venue; it is

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*Chevallan pig.*



*A Chevallan hide.*



*Lakeside's turkey shot.*

a large family that just keeps growing. Thanks to all who attended this weekend, and we look forward to the next shoot at the end of July.

✱ The winter weather has been quite mild in Queensland, and with possible showers forecast leading into the weekend of July 7 and 8, we were hoping it would hold off for the Lakeside Bowmen 40th Anniversary and 9th Annual Jules Shield Trad Shoot. As their camping area is a bit cosy we had arranged to spend the weekend with a fellow archer. When we arrived at their club grounds there weren't very many in the camping area, however the day visitor numbers were increasing by the minute, and by muster time there were 82 archers registered to shoot. Some had travelled from Gympie, Kingaroy, Tenterfield and even Newcastle NSW and also a fellow who has recently moved north from Victoria.

For this shoot we had the choice of two 15-target 3D courses, the Red as a two-arrow round and the Yellow as a one-arrow round for Saturday. The speed round is close to the beginning of the Red course, the moving target is toward the end of the Red and close to the start of the Yellow, with the rolling disc at the practice butts and the 60-second hunt round toward the back of the camping area. Our group walked through to the Yellow course to start with the one-arrow round, and

over the entire course we only saw one other group. Once that was completed we did part of the Red two-arrow range by slipping into a gap between groups at target 11, then through to target 15 which, by the time we got to it, was literally on its last legs! One of our archers shot and hit right on the join seam. The next archer shot and the back end fell off completely, much to our amusement. The back end of the target was reattached, the next archer shot the first arrow and the target stayed together, however when the second arrow was shot the back end fell off again. As I was the last of our group to shoot I told them to leave the back end off, I'd be right with the rest of it! I took my first shot and the head fell off, leaving me with the mid-section, and I thought "Well, that's where the score zone is, that's all I need," and what do you know, I got it. The next couple of groups did some realigning, until the target was then replaced. We were having fun seeing who could shoot without disassembly while we waited to do the moving target before heading back to the clubhouse for a short break, and to then start on target 1. There were just a couple of short showers of rain that fell while we were out doing this part of the course.

On Sunday, which was cool with clear blue skies, there was no muster so we arranged to meet about 8.00am and this time we started on the Red

range which was the one-arrow round, as others headed to the Yellow two-arrow round. We flowed from the Red range to the Yellow range, then we had a short break before doing the shoot-through-the-hole-at-the-eagle's-claws target using flu flus with blunts, and then the rolling disc. Once everyone was back and had lunch, they called out the Top 10 archers for a shootout on the 30-second speed round. The archers had to shoot the targets in a specific order, with the eventual winner being Dave Pender.

While the scores were being tallied, they ran an event for the juniors and cubs. After the raffle the presentations were run then there was a very special announcement when Heather and Dave Pender were made life members of the Lakeside Bowmen Club. They both then cut the special 40th anniversary cake, and we all grabbed a piece before heading home.

Congratulations must go to the Range Captain (and his helpers) for setting up the targets in some quite realistic hunting situations, and we won't say any more about target 15. A big thank you goes to all who helped run the shoot and also to those who participated to make it a successful shoot. Here's looking forward to next year's which will be special, being the 10th anniversary.

✱ As we headed toward the weekend of July 28 and 29 the daytime



temperatures in Queensland were starting to climb into the high 20s, This would have been especially welcome for the visiting archers from Newcastle, Sydney and the Shoalhaven areas of New South Wales. They were joined by archers from Toowoomba, Warwick, Brisbane, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast for the trad shoot at Chevallan Archery Park. By dinner time Friday there were quite a number of camps set up, and as we were all enjoying our meal, the moon began to rise along with a very bright small light beside it, which, as it wasn't flashing, I decided, must have been a planet. Now I'm not one to read horoscopes, however I am fascinated by the night sky, and this weekend there was going to be a blood moon and also five of the planets would be in line and going to be visible. Luckily for us there were two chaps who had star-gazing apps of some description on their phones, so there was quite a few of us standing in the middle of the gravel driveway gazing skyward in search of the elusive planets. Although we had to wait a little while to time it right, we did see all five planets. The bright light near the moon was the planet Mars. There was also going to be a blood moon, which was to begin at 3.00am and last until 6.30am Saturday morning. A few of the chaps reckoned they could be doing weed patrol within those hours so they might catch it. On the Friday evening I may have celebrated life just a little too well, and at 5.45am I heard a voice saying "Sweetie, sweetie, are you awake?" to which I responded, "Well I am now!" He said, "Quick, come and look at the moon, your jacket is on the tailgate." So I dragged my fragile head out of my nice warm sleeping bag into the early morning cool, and yes I must admit, it was worth it to see the blood-red eclipse of the moon, and surprising to see many others up and looking skyward as well. The things you learn at an archery tournament!

Following a hearty breakfast, everyone was getting their gear ready for the day's shoot, and then gathered for the morning muster. As we had many newcomers, I gave a little more detailed information regarding the different events and where they were situated on the property, and then we all went off to enjoy the day.

Our group was joined by a lady who had only recently taken up archery with our small band of archers and this was her first tournament, so she learned quite a lot. We did the rolling disc, followed by the 30-second speed round then wandered down to the clout range, and for once, there was hardly any breeze at all ... not that it makes the event any easier to shoot! Then we shot at the owls on the popinjay, not an easy task this time of year as you look straight into the sun.

While we were having a break, Gary offered to do the running pig for us, so we walked down the centre of the property, did the lollypopinjay then went down to the running pig. Once complete we walked through the paddock to start at target 1 through to 25 also doing the blue hunt round, which is an untimed event shooting from a blue plate at the targets on the 60-second hunt round with the scores being A=8 points, B=4 points and rest of body=2 points. Then we shot from the orange plates as the timed 60-second round. All events now done, it was time for lunch, albeit rather late.

As readers may know there is an event at Chevallan Archery Park which is sponsored by Wes and Kaylene Farnham from @Realty, with the prize being a set of hand-crafted Wallace Wood arrows. At the previous shoot these had been won by he-who-makes-them, so they were donated back. For this shoot we decided to run a Mystery 10. What I was looking for was the 10 closest score totals and 18 points was the closest I could get. The object of the shootout is to first shoot

an arrow into the steel ring on the small fox target, and crowd participation is encouraged. I always sit an objective person off to one side to keep an eye on the arrow being in or out of this steel ring, but this time I need not have worried about it, as everyone was soon letting the poor shooting archer know if their arrow was in or out, with a loud chorus of "NO!" if it was out, and a very raucous "YAY!" if it was in. It's not easy standing on the platform shooting an arrow with an audience pointing

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out you've clearly *not* made the shoot correctly. The event was won following the first round with a two-arrow, five-point margin by Tom Panic, who was presented with a fine set of arrows.

It had been a very full day of shooting and some who had planned to have a go at combat archery had run out of steam, but we still found 10 willing people, kitted them out, explained the rules and the battle commenced. There was also a large spectator group giving encouraging tips from the sidelines. We had fathers shooting with sons, then swapping sides. For one round there was one male and four females against five young guns. Combat archery is very much an equaliser, as everyone is shooting 25# bows using long arrows with spongy fronts and wearing a helmet. (Your anchor point goes out the window.) At one stage they were raining from the sky. One very clever dad, who had one of his sons on the opposing side, got his attention, lobbed one high in the air, and as the son was watching the arrow coming down, his dad shot him with another arrow. Very sneaky, and a great strategy. The catch was, though, if the son had caught either of the arrows then dad would have been out. The games went on and only ceased because one family still had to put up their tent and didn't

fancy doing it in the dark.

After dinner, we all settled around and enjoyed the warmth of the fire and company of friends sharing stories, and jokes while watching the fog roll in, which meant tomorrow was going to be another good day.

Sunday we had the field course, rolling disc, 30-second speed round and hunter round which our group blitzed through. The layout of the field course lends itself to being able to walk on until a free target is available and then shooting them on the way up.

With everyone back from the morning shoot, the scores were entered and tallied as lunch was being served. Once complete we did the raffle which was really well supported, then onto the presentations of the various divisions. The Kylie Cousins Encouragement Award was awarded to a young junior lady Lydia, whose mum had driven from Warwick so she could shoot at her second archery tournament.

The sponsors still wanted to have a second set of arrows to be given away for this shoot, so instead of another dozen the same, Steve crafted six footed arrows with red/grey split fletches. We decided that the untimed blue hunt round would be a good event to run for this shoot, so we labelled the scoring as noted

above hoping we would get a clear and efficient winner. This fine set of footed arrows was presented to Ian Parsons from Sunshine Coast Bowmen who had achieved the highest score.

☀ Trad shoots confirmed by the clubs for October and November are the TAA National Trad Shoot at Tenterfield on October 6 and 7, Coffs Harbour Trad Shoot on Oct 13 and 14, Sunshine Coast Bowmen Trad Day on November 18 and Chevallan Archery Park on November 24 and 25.

☀ Reports from North Burnett, Dunolly Trad shoot (Victoria), Bega Trad Asian Experience, Sunshine Coast Bowmen Trad Day, Chevallan Archery Park Mini, Swan Hill (Victoria), Silver City (Broken Hill), Mallee Sunset (Mildura) and White Rose Memorial Trad Shoot will be in the next edition. Reports for the HVTa Charity Shoot and Chevallan Archery Park, both being held on the long weekend September 29 and 30, will be in the following edition.

For those readers who are on Facebook, check out Travellin' Round the Trads. You will find the further information and available flyers for the traditional shoots on the following websites:

*Chevallan Archery Park:* [www.chevallanarcherypark.com](http://www.chevallanarcherypark.com) – for traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO approved African 3D targets, customised medals/medallions.

*Wallace Woods:* [www.wallacetradwoods.com](http://www.wallacetradwoods.com) > Shoot information (shows the 2018 calendar, and has links to the shoot flyers as they become available)

*Ozbow:* [www.ozbow.net](http://www.ozbow.net) > Traditional Archery Events > each shoot has an individual thread

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

See you 'round the trads.

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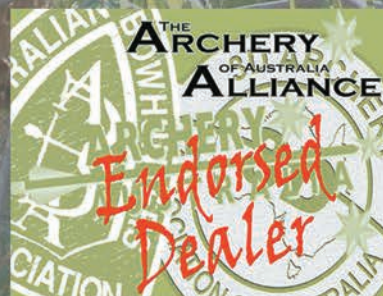
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- You CAN NOT shoot any arrow in a bow. They MUST be matched to the specific draw length & weight of the bow.
- NEVER fire a bow without an arrow on the string. The resultant forces could result in SERIOUS injury.
- Permission to hunt on private property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



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## *Behind the scenes at*

# LAKESIDE BOWMEN'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY SHOOT

As I am the caterer and cook for Lakeside Bowmen, my work started a week before the club's 40th anniversary shoot. I set off for the bulk-buy store near the Gateway Bridge to buy supplies and take it out to the clubhouse ... there went half a day.

On Thursday, we went to Caboolture to get the meat for Saturday evening's main meal, which was going to consist of two roasts and corned silverside with mustard sauce and roast veges. Friday was earmarked for the fruit and veg markets to get lettuces, tomatoes and veges then on to the supermarket to pick up whatever tinned food was needed and the cream and custard for the apple pie dessert.

On Friday night we always put on fish and chips with salad for those who arrive early and need a meal so while that was happening, my mate Adrianna was cooking the savoury mince for the next day's rolls.

Saturday morning is the full monty breakfast cooked by my nieces Joanna and Danielle. I entered the clubhouse at 8.00am loaded with four dozen flat hamburger buns and hot dog rolls for the savoury mince rolls, then it was time to start preparing the lettuces, tomatoes, beetroot and commandeer a couple of unsuspecting male members to cut up two bags of onions. Tears were flowing, eh, Dave and Barry? Thank you boys.

I was cooking the burgers and onions while Adrianna was preparing the rolls, and by 11.30am everything was ready for the hungry hoards. We sold out of burgers and mince rolls, the vanilla slices didn't last long and the beautiful anniversary cupcakes, made

by JANE 'SARGE' BELL

*Apparently it's not just an army  
that marches on its stomach*



*There were mountains of bread rolls to prepare.*



*The eye-watering job of cutting up two bags of onions.*



*Gorgeous anniversary cupcakes.*

by one of our lady members, Jo-Ann Craigie, were walking out the door.

Lunch over, it was time to prepare for the evening meal. There were vegetables to cut up and meat to be dealt with all before 3.30pm when the meat was started cooking. But the day wasn't all work—there was time to put the feet up for an hour or so with a wine or two.

I hate plastic/paper plates and cutlery so you can imagine all the dishes. Two members, Dirk and Jo, volunteered to do the dishes. (I don't think they will be in a hurry to do it again!) The next day there was more

cooking to do. My army of helpers and I fed approximately 100 shooters for two days ... and boy, can those trad shooters eat. There was nothing much left except a few salad rolls which I gave away.

Heather Pender was in charge of the raffle table with 33 donations for prizes and I was given the honour of presenting Dave and Heather Pender with life membership awards. They were also asked to cut our 40th anniversary cake, which was shared with everyone there.

The victors were presented with their trophies, the clubhouse tidied, then we were off home with a bag of dirty tea towels and tablecloths to be washed. By Monday I was ready to just veg out all day.

It was a great weekend, with members jumping in and helping out ... which is why Lakeside is such a great club.



*Sarge presented life membership awards to Dave and Heather Pender ... who then had the honour of cutting the cake.*



*Left: The artistry of the anniversary cake.*



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## **Second Annual Traditional Archery Australia National Muster Australian Championships**

**Held at Tenterfield Traditional Archers  
6th & 7th October 2018**

Camping is available at the showgrounds which is situated a short distance from the club's grounds at a cost of \$12 a night, please book a site through Heather when nominating.

There will be a free sausage sizzle Friday night at the showgrounds. Tenterfield Club will provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday at the club grounds with Saturday night dinner at the showgrounds. To help with catering please indicate when nominating.

### **COMPETITION EVENTS**

20 Target 3 arrow Field Round  
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Rolling Disks

20 Target single arrow Field Round  
The Hunt  
Running Deer

### **NOVELTY EVENTS**

Axe and Knife Throwing, Hog hollow and other Novelties.

Nominations close two weeks prior to the shoot. Late entries will only be accepted if space is available. A late fee of ten dollars on top of the entry fee will be charged.

Nomination and camp site booking forms available on our web site

**Nominations and Camp Site bookings to: Membership Officer: Heather Pender  
hndpender@bigpond.com or mail to: PO BOX 927, Morayfield, Qld. 4506**

Entry is available to all Traditional Archers and the shoot will be conducted according to TAA equipment and shoot guidelines. Copies are available on the website.

**Cost:** Family: \$95 Two adults and children under 18yo. Adult - \$45. Junior - \$30.  
Cub if Parent/Guardian competing - FREE. If no P/G competing \$30.

**Divisions: Male, Female, Junior and Cub.**

**We have 5 Bow Divisions as per TAA Equipment Guidelines:**

1. Longbow Division. (other Associations call Traditional Longbow).
2. Recurve Division. (as recurve/ trad peg in ABA).
3. Hybrid Division. (as modern longbow/ trad peg in ABA, deflex/reflex, short flat bows and bows that do not comply with our Longbow or Recurve Guidelines).
4. Historical Division. (self bows, bamboo backed bows and ELB's).
5. Asiatic Bows Division. (all Asian style bows including horse bows).

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# Second great trad event

Gather up your camping paraphernalia, pack your traditional bow and a quiver of wooden arrows and head for Tenterfield for the second National Traditional Muster on the weekend of October 6 and 7.

The excitement is already building for the event, which promises to be even better than the inaugural Muster held at ABA Park at Mudgee last year. Archers travelled from every State in Australia to attend that event, and South Coast Traditional Archers (NSW) won the club trophy. This year eight TAA clubs will be competing for the prestigious perpetual trophy, which was donated by Tully Bowhunters in North Queensland. Archers will also be competing for gold, silver and bronze medals in their divisions.

Great mate and fellow archer Cleve 'Shrek' Wood, who passed away early this year, will be remembered with a special perpetual trophy.

The weekend will be packed with fun. As well as the main competition, there will be novelty events and knife and axe competitions. A superb dinner is planned for Saturday night at the nearby showgrounds (also the venue for camping), as well as entertainment. Other meals will be available at the club (details on entry form, downloadable from website).

The National Traditional Muster will be the first shoot at Tenterfield Traditional Archers, which will be officially opened at the start of the event.

TAA secretary Les Simpson said it was hoped the Muster would develop into a world event for traditional archery.

*Photos courtesy Heather Pender*

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# THREE *of a kind*

Cape York isn't the first place to spring to mind when looking for deer, but this is where I had to go if I wanted to add Moluccan rusa to my list of rusa sub-species. It wasn't my main ambition to collect the trifecta of rusa sub-species but it was a good excuse, if one was needed, to have another hunt in the Cape. I would be hunting with David Luxford and Graham McComiskie. Both David and I had Javan rusa and Timorese rusa, so a Moluccan would be a bonus for both of us. The adventure of the rusa started for me more than 20 years ago when I

first hunted in Papua New Guinea.

It was in the mid 1990s and I was to hunt Timorese rusa on the open flood plains of the Bensbach River. It was certainly an exciting place to bowhunt, and adding to the adventure was the fact that the locals still lived as they had done for millennia and the bow and arrow was still their main tool for obtaining their daily protein needs.

We would be on the water at daylight each morning in our 18ft tinnies and head down the Bensbach River for the hunting grounds. There were two hunters, our outfitter,

by MARK BURROWS



and two local guides. We motored past villages that hadn't changed in hundreds of years and where the dugout canoe the main form of transport.

I clearly remember the morning I got my first rusa. We were slowly motoring down the river, stopping periodically to glass the many mobs of deer as we looked for some that might offer a reasonable approach to within bow range on the flat open flood plains. It wasn't long before we spotted

a small mob of five deer bedded in a low depression 50m or 60m from the riverbank about 100m ahead.

We pulled the boat quietly into the bank and I slid out, dropping straight into mud up to my knees, which definitely impeded any graceful forward movement. The bank here was about a metre high so I had a bit of cover to hide my unwieldy extraction. I then proceeded to crawl and slide along the water's edge, making my way to a small side creek that was now

relatively dry but would have helped with the draining of the plains only weeks before. My ambition was to get up into the dry side drain as quickly as possible, as the huge crocodile slide we had seen earlier was preying on my mind.

The little side creek, or drain, was about half a metre wide and not quite deep enough to completely hide me but provided enough cover for me to move forward about 5m or so and get into a position for a shot. I risked



*A Moluccan deer was needed to make it three of a kind in the rusa sub-species.*





*Retrospective: Papua New Guinean flood plain, Mark's Timorese rusa stag and the PNG version of packing the deer out.*

a peek and the deer were still bedded about 45m from me. All I had to do now was wait until one stood up.

I looked back towards the boat and one of the local guides, Kapai, seemed to be trying to signal me to shoot the one at the front. I am not much good at New Guinea sign language but I tried

to indicate that I was waiting for one to stand and I didn't really care which.

I resumed my monitoring of the bedded deer and prepared myself for a shot. Ten minutes later I felt something crawling up beside my left leg and nearly had a small heart attack. As it turned out it was only Kapai come to

enquire while I wasn't shooting. He asked in broken English whether I had something against shooting 'sleeping' deer. I tried to whisper back that the shot would offer a better target if the deer stood up.

At that point the biggest deer from the mob decided to stand. I





don't know if it was our little extra activity or it just felt at that time it should stand. Now this was in the days before laser rangefinders so a quick estimation of the distance at 45m found me settling my pin and releasing with my fingers (no release aids either). I had my first rusa and only my second deer with the bow.

My second rusa was a Javan rusa taken while hunting with Queensland Bowhunting Safaris. A bit over 10 years had passed since the New Guinea adventure and there had been a lot of other species in between. This 'Australian' rusa was to be the last species I needed to take all the species recognised by the ABA.

That day I was hunting with Alben Perrett, owner of Diaper Station. We were up on a ridge overlooking several rusa that were feeding on the side of the hill. Although I could clearly see a good-looking stag, he was well out in the open, limiting my ability to get close for a shot. But I had to have a go. I mapped out an approach in my head, discarded any equipment I didn't think I would need and played like a snake.

The grass was probably 300mm high and felt like it was going to give me a bit of cover. I had one advantage in that I was above them so could reduce movement by using gravity to help me

slide down the hill on my stomach. Forty metres or so later I found I was in a bit of an unseen depression possibly half a metre deep. This caused me to change my plans a little and use the lay of the land as long as I could.

Now that I was completely out of the deer's sight, I slithered another 50m with a little more confidence. My initial plan would have given me a shot from above but my new track put me more on level terms with the mob. There were two spikies, several hinds and the stag I had my eye on—a lot of eyes, ears and noses to catch you out. I risked a little peek and discovered the stag had actually moved from the other side of the mob to my side.

I took bearings using an old dead tree and slid back into my depression hoping the stag would not move far. I needed to cover another 20m and I would be in a position for a 30m shot. Less than five minutes later I was eyeing off a couple of small thistles. They were the only thing I could use to hopefully break up my outline. I knew only too well that this was going to be the critical moment. The problem here was that as soon as I rose to shoot some of the deer would spot me for sure. But I couldn't lie here all day; I had to give it a go. I wiggled into the preying mantis position and drew my

bow as I came up with my bum sitting on my heels. That was about as small as I could make myself.

The stag was still there quartering and thankfully looking away from me. Out of the corner of my eye I spotted one of the spikies—he had seen me but was obviously unsure of what I was. It's that two-second advantage that



*Ten years later, a Javan rusa.*

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*Moluccan deer.*

good camo gives you. I dismissed him from my mind as there was nothing I could do anyway and concentrated my shot on the stag. The arrow was away. In the open I could easily follow his progress: He didn't travel far. I had my Javan rusa.

This brings me back to the start of this story and my decision to try to get a Moluccan rusa. I was hunting with Luke Dickson who is from Weipa and was doing the guiding at the property in the middle of Cape York, north of Laura. David Luxford and I had driven up from Victoria and picked up Graham McComiskie up on the way. David was after a trophy class rusa, Graham was after a rusa as a species and I just wanted a Moluccan rusa ... with the chance of a pig or two as well.

This is an unusual property in that it has a huge man-made lake, or dam,

and a great deal of deer. The lake is probably a 4km or 5km walk to get around. The deer come in every day to drink and feed and can often be seen in the middle of the lake with just their antlers showing while feeding on water plants. It is unusual not to see a deer from camp at any time of the day. However this certainly doesn't mean that the hunting is easy.

That many deer have a lot of eyes and the surrounding area is very dry, making stalking a challenge. To make things a little harder, the wind seems to be very inconsistent at that spot. I don't know if it's because of the water or simply the lay of the land, but the wind gave us away quite a few times. We had several stalks between us on that first day but the deer won out.

I had the opportunity the next morning to spend it with Luke walking

the creeks around the property looking for pigs. A lot of these were completely dry so when we found one with a few small waterholes we thought it would be worth an extended walk. Coming from down south, I don't get the opportunity to do this type of pig hunting and really enjoy it. Action is often fast and close.

We had only gone a few hundred metres up the main creek when Luke spotted a young wild dog making his way down a side creek. Luke signalled across to me and I quickly got into position. As the dog pushed through some long grass I came to full draw and was ready to release when he came out. He didn't go very far. As far as the property owner is concerned, the only good wild dog is a dead wild dog.

We continued up the creek and twice were done by the wind at the



last minute with good hogs breaking cover right at our feet. It gets the blood pumping and the heart going when you get that big 'whoof' and a black blur erupts from under a big clump of grass or an undercut in the creek.

It wasn't long, though, and we were again onto pigs and I managed to take a big sow at about 2m as she rooted around in a bit of swampy ground. This area looked as though it should hold a boar or two and we had only gone another 20m when we spotted a good-looking boar standing in a wallow wondering what was going on. An arrow behind the shoulder had him

down very quickly.

But I wasn't here for pigs, so with the morning session done and dusted we headed back towards the lake where the majority of the deer seemed to hang out. On the drive in I spotted a reasonable stag feeding on aquatic life just below the lake wall and got Luke to pull so I could have a look through the binoculars. He looked pretty good and for a change there weren't a lot of other eyes around. There were several deer in the vicinity but he was 50m or so in front of them, offering a good opportunity for a stalk.

I got my gear together and dropped

well down the gully to get the wind right, crossing over an old creek bed and around to the other side of the wall. This would put me in a position to come in behind him and further down from the other deer that were nearby. I could see his back at water level and moved quickly forward when his head was down feeding.

Using the lay of the land, I quickly got to about 25m undetected. The stag was quartering away with his head down and had no idea I was there. I drew, split my 20 and 30 pin and released. He bolted a short distance but was down very quickly. I had my



*Man-made lake.*





Moluccan rusa, making it a trifecta—three sub-species of rusa and the bonus of a wild dog, boar and deer in the same day.

During the next few days we had some great hunts. This is an unusual property in many regards and I can highly recommend a hunt there. Graham got his deer and so did David, which gives David the trifecta as well. If you are interested in a hunt here, give me a call.

*This page: The dog, the boar and the sow, all taken on the same day.*



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*The final animal for the rusa sub-species trifecta, a Moluccan stag.*





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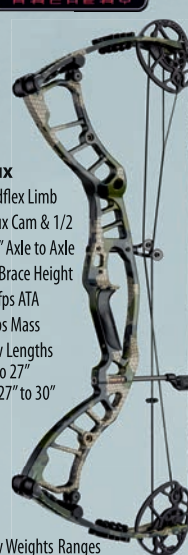


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# Nick Lintern TRADITIONAL TRAILS

*Hi to all our readers and welcome to our next instalment of Traditional Trails. I hope you've all been getting out there and shooting and enjoying this cool, beautiful winter weather, albeit we need rain really badly.*

## Bow strings

### PART 3

Continuing from our last article, let's have a quick refresher: At the end of our previous article, we had our two-bundle string laid up; one red bundle and one black. Each bundle has

six strands each, making a total of 12. This is a good thickness for the 50# bow we are aiming at for this string, being that we are using Dyna 97. If we were using Dacron, it'd be 14 strands.

Now we can get on to finishing our string. This part of the article will be photo heavy. The reason is this is much easier to learn from pictures than from words. Hopefully the combination of



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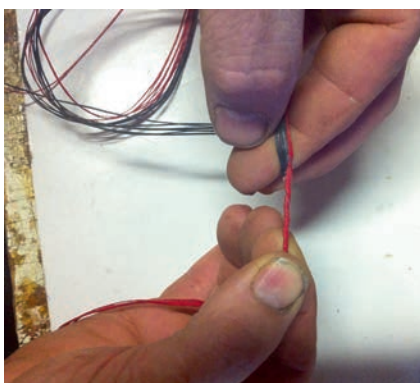




*Start with the strands in line and lay them out straight without any kinks.*



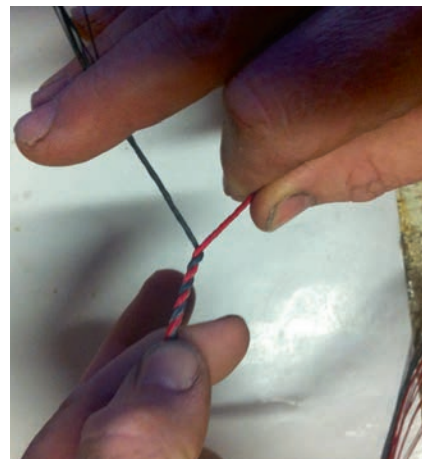
*At the 31 ½ inch mark, trap the two strands between your index finger and thumb.*



*Twist the red strand farthest from you **away** from you tightly.*

text and pictures will get you on track to making good, neat strings. So here we go for our next stage of making a Flemish string:

Our next job is to place our two bundles at the end of the bench so the ends are in line with each other. I place them on my left as I'm right handed, but either end is fine. Now stretch out the bundles so they are lying straight and have no kinks in them. Next we need to measure the total length of our bundles. Once this is achieved, halve that number. This is the exact centre of our lay-up. Now, we want our string to be 64in in total, so from halfway measure up to the right, 32in. Subtract half an inch to allow for the eye or loop and then grasp the string in that spot (*see photos*). We now start our plaiting process. This is really critical. If we get this wrong the string can unravel and a disaster ensues! Trap the two strands next to each other by laying them over your left index finger roughly in the line of the first joint and then pinning them there with your thumb. To make this easier to comprehend, let's start with the red strand furthest from you. Now, also trap the black strand with your left middle finger (*see photos*). Now with your right index finger and thumb, twist the furthest (red) strand away from you clockwise—or away from you—then pull it over the nearer (black) one and bring it towards you. At the same time, using your right middle and ring fingers like tongs, grip the black strand and take it under and away from the red one. Then trap the red one in between the left index and middle fingers where the black one was. Then do the same again with the black one. The twist each time is quite tight. This process is the same for all splicing on any Flemish string. It sounds complicated but once you get the hang of it, it is really quick, strong and simple. Let's look at the splicing principle. We are twisting the string *away*, then bringing it *towards*



*Now pull the red strand **towards** you over the black one then do the same with the black one and so on.*



*Keep going until you have gone about one-and-a-half inches.*

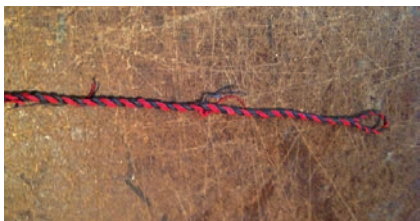


*Now form the eye and match the colours.*





*Continue to plait down until the last tail is spliced in.*



*One end completed. Note the nice taper.*



*Finish about one inch after the last tail.*



*Now hook your completed eye over your bolt and stretch the string out.*

us, and so on. This means that as the string tries to unwind, it has to unwind *into itself*. This locks it in place and it cannot slip or move. See that in your mind. If you were to wind the other way (that is, twist towards you instead of away) then pull it over towards you, it would unravel. Get used to it: Twist the bundle away, pull it towards you over the other. We want to do this plaiting process for about 20 twists. This will form the eye or loop of our string. You can make this as big or small as your bow requires but most bows work well with around 20 twists. Generally, a recurve needs bigger loops and a longbow smaller ones. Now to form the eye, loop the plaited area around so that the ends of the plaited areas meet. Trap them in your left hand in between the index finger and thumb and marry up the short ends with the main body of the string. Black to black, red to red. Use a bit of friction by rubbing your fingers down the married strands to melt the wax in so you now have two large strands.

Now continue as before, plaiting down the string from the eye. Keep tension even and reasonably tight so as to get a good, tight, neat string. Continue down and as you go you will see that the tapered ends we achieved with the jig in the previous article start to splice in, giving the string a nice, even, tapering effect. Keep going until you've gone about an inch past the last taper or strand. Don't worry about the terminating strands sticking up a bit; we can trim them later when



*After pre-twisting the strands, grip the string at the 64 1/2 in-mark and repeat as you did the other end.*

the string is on the bow.

Now you need to hook your completed end over the bolt that you used from the previous article to lay the string up and lay the two ends out to our left. With the first eye, there was no need to consider the string twisting and knotting up as you spliced because the ends weren't trapped and could unwind as they needed to. Now, however, they can't unwind as you do the second loop because the end is spliced in. To combat the knotting that will occur, you need to pre-twist the strands in the opposite direction. To do this, grasp the strands one at a time somewhere above the 64in mark (the string's length) and twist the strands *towards* you around 21 times, one twist is a full spin with your fingers. After you do the first one, trap it so it can't unravel again as you do the other. Now pull on the two strands to get a good even, tight pressure, then grip the strands 1/2in above the 64in mark. This allows for all the loop forming and splicing and will give you the correct length string in the end. If using Dacron you would start approximately 1/4in below the 64in mark. This is because Dacron stretches a lot more than Dyna or Fast Flite.

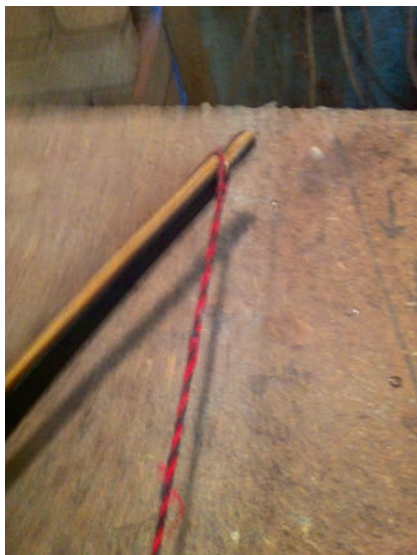


*After the second loop is completed, the body of the string will still be separate.*

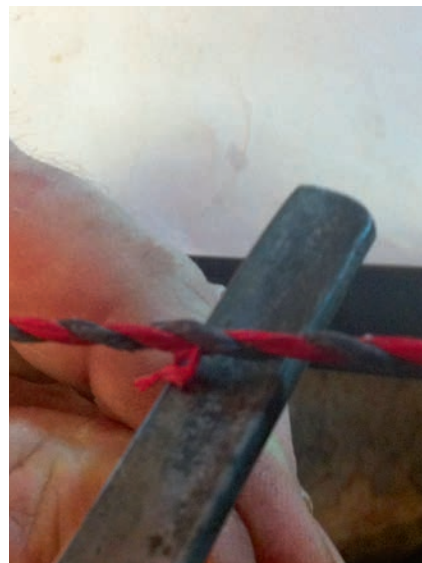




Twist the string clockwise until it is a nice barber-pole effect, then rub vigorously **between** the end splices.



Now hold your breath and string your bow.



Use a sharp knife to trim off the end tails.

From this point we start plaiting once again. As I mentioned before, this splicing process is the same throughout all Flemish strings. If you are planning on making a few, it's worth your time practising this splicing procedure. As before, make your eye around 20 twists or so then marry the ends up with the main body of the string as you did before and once again continue to plait all the way down till the last short strands have been spliced in plus an inch or so. You will need to unhook it from the bolt after a few inches so the string can react to the splicing process and the pre-twists can unwind naturally. The pre-winds we did will mean the string shouldn't

have knotted up, and the 21 pre-twists or so should mean that the string is basically two clean, unknotted strands with two neatly, tightly spliced ends.

Next, fit one of the loops over the bolt again. The length should be around 64½in or so. You now want to shorten the string about ½in and make the two separate bundles in between the end splices become one, homogenous whole. Grab the non-bolt end and twist the string in a clockwise direction—or away from you—so that the string shortens and becomes a unified string. It will have a barber-pole twisty look to it. Once the string is on about 64in long, pull the string tightly against the bolt and

rub the string vigorously *between* the spliced ends. Don't touch the spliced ends for now. You need to trim off the little tails that have stuck out when the string is on the bow. You will notice the string lengthens slightly. This is due to the heat and tension you have just applied to the string. Now you have a bow string ready to go on your bow.

Next, hold your breath and put your string on your bow. God willing, it will be about the right brace height and—most importantly—sit firmly and not unravel! Now, using a very sharp knife, (I like a cut-throat barber's razor) and exercising care, trim off the little tails that may be present in the spliced ends fairly close to the string. You can

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ignore the really short ones, they will just wax in. *Never ever* be tempted to burn them off—you will watch in horror as your string disappears before your eyes!

As time goes by and you become more proficient at this, sometimes there are no ends to trim off, but there usually are a few that need a haircut. Now, re-wax the entire string and rub again, including the end splices this time. Try to rub the end splices in a twisting motion the way the string is made. This will bed down the little ends better.

And there we go; one bow string ready to serve. If your brace height needs adjusting, your string can be shortened by twisting—as before—clockwise. If the string is too short, you can unwind a little to lengthen it, but be careful. If you unwind too much the string can actually unwind completely! It is incredible satisfying when you first make a string and it works and you're



*Then rewax the entire string and rub it in.*

shooting arrows from your own string.

That will do us for now. In the next article I'll go into servings in some detail, then we will look at a three-splice string. I hope you can follow this and aren't too lost at this



*There you have it, one completed two-splice bow string.*

point. My best advice is to grab some string material and practise, practise, practise. As always, any questions can be sent to: [norseman\\_longbows@hotmail.com](mailto:norseman_longbows@hotmail.com). Until next time, keep traditional.



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# ROY ROSE

## *Meanderings*



## Recurve form: Stance and alignment

The goal of every competitive recurve archer is obviously repetitive accuracy. We are all aware that this is only possible if each shot we make is a duplicate of the previous one. Being human, mental and physical shortcomings make this task a tough proposition, particularly for the Olympic-style archer. And yet the absolute elite nudge perfection repeatedly in major competition.

Clearly, the form and execution process from when the arrow is nocked until its exit to the target must take on video-replay-like status. To attain this level of performance, a number of steps incorporating comfort (because comfortable is repeatable) and proper alignment, along with a fluent rhythmic execution phase, must be in place. The time frame is just a few seconds but each step of the shot sequence needs to be as duplicative as is humanly possible. Let's examine the initial essentials.

Our form sequence starts out with stance. Your stance is the foundation on which all else is built, and it needs to be precise. Stance is the initial duplication requirement. Elite Olympic archers may appear to step to the line in head-to-head matches without any particular focus on stance, however these are quality shooters with literally thousands and thousands of practice arrows behind them and their stance is set in stone and perfectly positioned each time they step to the line.

So what are the essentials needed for proper stance and how do we go about making that final determination on where to place our feet?

Shoulder-width positioning will place our centre of gravity in a favourable state of stability. We are going to be seeking 180-degree alignment as our goal at anchor, so it would be convenient if we could place our feet along that side on, straight line to the target. Of course this is not feasible for two reasons: Firstly, it presents a very unstable

point from which to try to draw the bow as the archer would be prone to toppling forward. Secondly, it is clearly impractical from a clearance viewpoint, with the string unable to clear the torso and arm. So in order to stabilise stance and obtain clearance, the archer must open up the stance. The salient question is, how much?

It would be ideal if there was a specific distance the rear foot needed to be positioned in opening the stance that worked for every archer, but of course the distance will vary from archer to archer because we are not all built exactly the same. The amount you open your stance of optimal stability and alignment is dependent upon your physical make-up.

So is correct stance somewhat of a guess and simply where you think you feel the most stable and comfortable? The answer is no. There is a drill which can determine your most favourable positioning.

At close range 10m or so, set up five small targets quite closely adjacent to each other. I use the field bugs eyes 20cm targets. Now line yourself up with the centre target so two targets are to your near left and two are to your near right. Now set your stance relative to the centre target, in what you feel is your most stable and comfortable line.

Now as a shooting drill, spend the next 20 minutes or so shooting at all five targets, maintaining the stance you've chosen. You don't need to specifically do this in any order, but give each target its due number of arrows as the drill proceeds. What will eventuate will be a pattern of holes on each of the five targets and as your shot drill continues there will emerge one target on which your grouping is superior to the other four. Now if that best grouping target is the middle target, your original assessment of your stance for comfort, stability and line was spot on and you can then practise that positioning until it becomes second nature.



A good idea is to use markers to identify the distance and angle of your stance initially until you are sure it can be duplicated each time you step to the shooting line.

Now let's suppose it's not the centre target that has yielded the best groupings and that you are a right-handed archer. Lefties, you will need to work on an opposite procedure, sorry.

If your best target is on the right-hand side of centre then you have not opened up your stance quite enough to bring your alignment to the direct centre of the targets. If it is the right-hand target closest to the centre, then quite a small adjustment in opening will line you up correctly. If it is the second target to the right, then a more pronounced placement of your rear foot will be needed. This being done, you can once again repeat the drill and see now if your best group is now the centre and you have made a valid correction.

On the other hand, if your best grouping target is one of those to the left of centre, then you have opened up your original stance too much and you will need to close it up either marginally if it is the target immediately to the left of centre or a bit more if it is the widest left target.

For left-handers, the left side targets will be the ones needing to be opened up more, and obviously if your best group is to the right then you will need to close up

somewhat to put yourself in the middle.

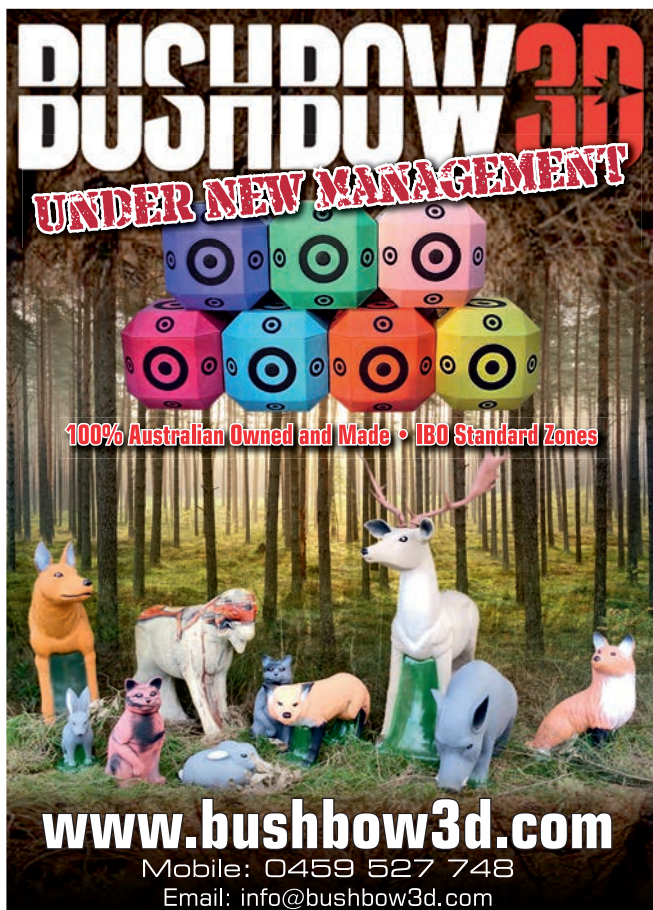
Now with shoulder width, correct opening positioning of your stance you will have your best stability and alignment to the target. Your torso's centre of gravity will shift slightly towards the target as you extend your bow arm and anchor. Some top shooters tend to lean slightly backwards to alleviate that situation; usually compounders with big stabiliser weights out front. It is a very marginal situation and not a specific adjustment in the form of elite recurvers.

Now having gone to the trouble of maximising our stance to create a really direct 180-degree line to the target, the next obvious query is why is such a definitive alignment so necessary? There are two critical reasons why alignment is absolutely a vital form requirement, and particularly for a recurve archer. Firstly, all Olympic-style archers who shoot competitively utilise a clicker. Negotiating passage through the clicker, which triggers the release, is attained by scapula motion (a pulling action, often referred to as back tension). Basic physics tells us that if a pulling action is involved, the most advantageous and effective way is to function in a straight line. If at anchor the drawing arm is off line, then pulling through the clicker becomes much more difficult. Today's elite regard passage past the clicker as a one-second to three-second exercise and any prolonged clicker passage invariably results in a lesser scoring arrow.

If your drawing elbow at anchor is off line, then the scapula motion is impaired and at worst, arm muscle becomes a negative agent and a less-than-effective release is inevitable. This brings us to the second reason that straight-line functioning is so imperative.

Recurve archers shoot with three fingers on the string. They don't have the luxury of a one-point release off a string loop as a compounder has. As a result, when the string is released, no matter how efficiently, it will oscillate quite violently, immediately presenting the possibility of horizontal variance at the target. This oscillation cannot be avoided completely but it must be duplicated and minimised to attain the best resulting accuracy. If the alignment is poor, then the string oscillation will be not only more extreme but also less likely to be duplicative. If the alignment is straight, then the release has its best chance of keeping that oscillation to a minimum, consequently being much easier to duplicate.

In my opinion, bone-to-bone, 180-degree alignment is absolutely vital in attaining fluency through the clicker via scapula motion and in achieving a quality release. If you are proficient through the clicker and your release is in line, then you are well on the way to being the best recurve archer you can be.



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## *Victorian State Series*

### Diamond Valley Archers

The time came round for the second 3DAAA event to be run at Diamond Valley Archers Inc for 2018. As the competition was to be held on June 23 and 24, the course setters had the chance to review the layout and the grounds from the summer event and make some decision on how to manage the ranges in winter.

The seasonal changes in foliage meant that the tracks and pathways used in summer had an altered look and new shot lanes could be created, adding to the options of where we could place the 3D targets.

With the layouts planned and the targets checked, the courses came together with the assistance of the DVA team. The competitors started arriving and the day events soon began.

The ranges emphasised target size and placement to create depth and perception challenges, combined with the use of dead ground. All tested the competitors to think about their shots

and consider or reconsider that first distance estimation.

Day 1 scores soon reflected this and the comments such as "That was so much closer than I estimated it to





be”, “The crocodile easy enough, but why an 8?”, “That honey bear looked so simple, until we were getting our arrows and realised the perception of shot placement into a riverbed”, “The black panther on the rock made me think twice about what I had set my sights to when looking at the target at full draw”. It was pleasing to get the feedback from the competitors across all divisions as they came in with score cards in hand. One archer had a perfect round on the third range—great work, Drew Orton.

With the first three rounds completed and dinner preparations made for members staying over, it was time to re-lay the courses—team one was already out and pulling up the furthest range targets while team two (comprising of some of our junior archers) took to the field to learn and assist in re-laying the 20 targets for the next day. It did not take these juniors long to get the idea of how to make

shots interesting and challenging. Added to this, each one in the team was responsible for a different component on each target and this created some very interesting shots for day two.

The following day the weather was again kind to us and the archers worked their way across the ranges easily and once again the field course was alive with comments of success and otherwise. Once again the courses delivered as promised and people came back excited about how close they’d come to the perfect round, how it was not their day, but all about how much fun they had working their way across the ranges. Yet again another archer took out his first perfect round of 100; congratulations Sam Mufale.

With the assistance of the new team-in-training, results were up and finalised about 30 minutes earlier than expected, and presentations and announcements were completed ahead of schedule. After that, some

competitors headed home, some stayed back to practise on the target ranges and others spent the extra time planning their next trips.

The next event at DVA was July 29 for a one-day 3D followed by an evening of 3DAAA Indoors.

Some recollections of the two days from Sam (CUBA):

“ At the 3D at DVA I had a good time and a good shoot, claiming my first straight 100 as well as breaking my personal record. The targets set across the field were great, with some challenging and difficult targets. I couldn’t have completed my straight 100 without the support of Cordell Martin and Shaylen. I had a great shoot as well as many other people.



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# Queensland State Series

## Hinterland Field Archers

We welcomed 98 competitors to our club for the June 30-July 1 shoot. As it was winter, it was the usual cool brisk morning so we had a warm gas heater and open fires at our newly renovated undercover area.

Five ranges were open, making for a fairly smooth shoot and most seemed to enjoy the ranges.

Canteen was very consistent with hungry competitors to be found there for most of the two days.

The Top 10 was held on the Sunday to make it fair to all shooters over all the ranges.

The recurve Top 10 winner was Billy Watson and the compound winner was Ian Ferguson. Congratulations to all the shooters. They all did a wonderful job.

Five 100s were given on the weekend which proved it was a fair shoot.

Hinterland had a small auction of old targets and got a good response in the bidding.

On the Sunday after the shoot and the Top 10 was finalised, we had



presentations and the raffle. We had lots of prizes and most people got plenty of prizes each.

A big thank you to the person from another club who helped to bring in targets. I don't know his name but it

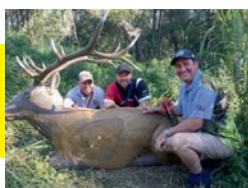
was very much appreciated.

The rain gods held off until after the presentation and after such an exhausting weekend we were blessed that everyone left without getting wet.

Hope to see you again next year.

## Caboolture and District Bowmen

What a weekend we had at our shoot. Everything about the weekend was great—the ranges, the fabulous food and of course all of the awesome people who braved the cooler weather to come out and shoot and also the people who didn't shoot but volunteered their time to help out. The guys outdid themselves setting up some very challenging courses. They certainly set a very high bar for others to follow. The ladies put on some fantastic yummy tucker in the canteen. It was good to see competitors travel from far and wide, especially the Roma and Casino crews. Well done to everyone who shot and good shooting to all those who gained a placing. The Top 10 shootoff was an event not to missed, with our very own Josh Smith taking out the Sighted Top 10. Well done Josh. It was his first Top 10 win. We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone for all your support and assistance for our shoot. We were very happy with the turnout, which was just shy of 100 competitors.





*This page, clockwise from top:*  
Tim Messer TC goat 93 2/8pt,  
Rebecca Darby goat,  
Troy Morris TC shark 16pt,  
Wade Bygrave RC fallow 203 7/8pt.







*This page, clockwise from top left:*  
 Luke Sampson RC cat 7 12/16pt,  
 Thomas Hooker RC red deer 205pt,  
 Drew Edwards RC fox 10 4/16pt,  
 S. Moloney TC goat 100 1/8pt,  
 N. Moloney RC goat 126 1/8pt.







*This page, clockwise from top:*  
Brett Raymond, game fish,  
Theo Vanderburg RC chital 161 4/8pt,  
Jason Lesnik TC fox 9 14/16pt,  
Colin Ross TC fallow 170 2/8pt.



*Facing page, clockwise from top:*  
Thomas Buxton pig,  
Dean Thurtell rabbit,  
Tony Manthey TC red deer 178 3/8pt,  
Chris Brooker TC pig 25 6/8pt.







## COMPETITION

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## This issue's WINNER



Jim Beehag.



# TOOMBA *magic*

DAVID LUXFORD

Record class boar



I first visited Toomba Station near Charters Towers in Queensland back in 1992 in the company of Bill Baker. This was a year or two before he began Pacific Bowhunting Safaris (PBS) at Toomba. As a newcomer to the sport of bowhunting, I found it a remarkable experience. Up until then I had never shot a pig with a bow and arrow, but before I left Toomba I had more than a handful under my belt including one exceptional trophy; a boar that scored 32 6/8pt, but if doubled on the long

tusk, the score would have measured 37 6/8pt, exceeding the long-standing Australian record for boar.

It was a memorable venture into the abyss of the basalt and the greatest introduction to a world where modern man is the inferior visitor; challenged physically and mentally in the pursuit of his dreams ... not to mention the challenges of the basalt, swamps, duck lice, floating grass, extreme heat and the occasional disgruntled boar.

My first Toomba experience was,

geographically, an epic journey and one of unforgettable comradeship and adventure. But what impressed me the most, apart from quality game, was that while hunting one trophy species it was not uncommon to encounter another species of trophy quality. A quarter of a century later, nothing has changed. If anything, there is a greater chance of running into more trophy chital stags than ever before and boars of exceptional quality are still par for the course.

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In conjunction with input from SMEs in the back-country hiking industry, we have developed a frame that will flex at the same rate as the human back. (Too little flex forces the hips and shoulders to fight with every stride, which is fatiguing. Over flexing forces the shoulders to fight angular momentum as the load swings wide with each step.) The DG frame set flexes just right, hips and shoulders move freely, stride is longer and less exhausting. Active ventilation keeps things cool. The whole shoulder harness yoke assembly can be quickly extended up or retracted down with three height settings built into the webbing attachments.



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I have hunted in many locations across the country and have been on a variety of guided hunts and have become somewhat of a regular with PBS and with Glenn Carlson's red deer camp. During the red deer roar there is no better place to be than Glenn's camp, and with Toomba there is just no better place to be at any time of the year. Unlike the mighty red stags that move back into the mountains, the chital stags continue their normal routine. The commonality between both these locations and outfits is that they get into your soul, your heart and your dreams and every aspect of the adventure is set in concrete in your memories. And even more importantly, the operators and guides of both camps are dedicated to the cause and committed to doing their best to fulfil your dreams; no one could ask for more.

Since 1992 I have returned to Toomba about eight times, attempting to harvest a representative chital stag. The trips during those 26 years were full of heartache, disappointment, frustrations and dreams that often turned into nightmares. That appears to be what chital hunting is about for some of us—dreams, frustrations and nightmares. However, sometimes it

requires considerable dedication and persistence to achieve our dreams and in all honesty the advances in technology and archery equipment made it all possible to realise my end goal; a record class stag. The finger tab has long gone, as have the 2219s with four five-inch feathers. I now use a Hoyt Factor 30 Spyder bow set at 53lb with 340 Axis arrows armed with either Viper or Slick Trick broadheads. The combination is, at the moment, working very effectively.

There is generally a certain amount of anxiety associated with a hunt, guided or not; however, this hunt was different. I was rather relaxed, having taken a trophy class chital stag a few months prior and I felt that the angry 'chital-stag monkey' was off my back. Still, I hadn't driven for four days just to enjoy the scenery. I wanted a good stag, even though I had no expectations because I had failed so many times in the past. Why would this trip, in reality, be any different?

On the first day, my guide Daniel and I crossed the basalt wall at first light and were immediately in striking distance of a nice stag quietly feeding in long grass and rushes at the edge of the wall; distance 40m. Arrow on the string, arrow away, deer away, jumped

the string, reality check; it could be a long week.

We crossed the wall once more, but further down. Before we reached the grassed flat below, a stalk had been planned and was in its first stage of execution. "Boots off, line up the tree between us and bedded stag, the tree is 34m, from the stag. Don't shoot while he is lying down. He will stand, wait until he stands," were Daniel's words as I made my way to the tree. I followed his advice and eventually the stag rose to his feet, took a pace or two, scratched his hip with his antlers, took another pace then stood for a second. My arrow found its mark. The stag trotted for 40m, stood momentarily then collapsed. Day one, I had a deer down and he was all I could have ever wanted. The moment was over 20 years in the making, the past disappointments evaporated into the ether. Here at my feet was my majestic chital stag. It was a magic moment.

Content with events and quietly revelling in my success, I focussed on the beautiful ambience of where I was and endeavoured to find a trophy boar. In my pursuit of a boar I wandered familiar stamping grounds and enjoyed a trip down memory lane




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PHOTO BY DANIEL FERGUSON

*Twenty years in the making ...  
David Luxford with his amazing  
Toomba chital stag.*





*A couple of other pigs taken on Toomba.*

*David, fellow hunter Mark Burrows and guide Rowan Kane celebrate a trophy class moment.*

... hit one here, missed one there, took that one here, fell over here, almost drowned there, was lost somewhere in the basalt over that way I think, and so on. Early success gave me the freedom to enjoy stress-free days and choose if I wanted to stalk a deer or look for a pig. There was no shortage of either. By mid-week I had taken a few pigs but no trophy boar. My guide for the day, Rowan, asked


what I wanted to do. Pink Lily was the obvious answer. However, I was mindful that seasonal conditions, long grass and excess water could hinder our chances of taking a good boar or even finding one. As it turned out we only found one pig for the day and that pig happened to be a boar, and that boar just happened to have very large tusks. The truth of the matter is, that boar and I found each other! We came around a corner and he came around from the other way, and for a moment both parties stared at each other. Then an arrow was dispatched from the Spyder and the boar retreated into the basalt.

Without the expertise, agility and determination of Rowan it would be fair to say that the basalt may have absorbed the boar for all eternity, but it wasn't to be; Rowan kept a visual on the boar as it wove its way through the basalt and into the Never-Never. I endeavoured to keep pace with Rowan, knowing that the boar would halt momentarily or turn and ready himself for combat, offering a short window of opportunity for a finishing shot. Rowan played the boar's game,

following him and pushing him to his limits until we had him in checkmate and the game was over. At our feet lay an impressive basalt boar that scored 30 2/8pt—the second largest boar I have ever taken and ironically only a swamp or two (or three or four) from where my ninth pig had died.

My trip was the best it could be; all I'd dreamed of (and beyond) had been achieved—a record class boar and chital is as good as it gets. I give the experience at Toomba Station under the guidance of Brad Kane, his son Rowan and Daniel Ferguson of Pacific Bowhunting Safaris a big five stars. They offer bowhunters a unique and extraordinary hunting experience. It is first class in every aspect and is a must-do for every bowhunter, male or female, old or young, experienced or novice ... even if it's for no other reason than to understand the pure magic of Toomba.

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The writer of this story  
 wins a threepack of  
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 broadheads





*The low-down on survival blankets:*

# OILS AIN'T OILS

by SCOTT HEIMAN

Scan the tabloids and there's hardly a week goes by without a tale of near death involving a pig-dogger, hunter, shooter, bushwalker, station hand or 4X4 driver.

For example, just the other month an Army Officer with survival training had to be rescued from a snowy peak in New Zealand. He was caught out with a 10-year-old SPOT tracker with dodgy AA batteries. The main issue here was that the bloke's old SPOT device was identifying his location as being in one of two places ... which isn't a great situation

when you're hoping to be rescued. And it's probably the main reason that the parent company released an updated version of the device a couple of years ago. This was clearly an occasion where a modern Personal Locating Beacon (PLB) with a built-in five-watt battery would have been a far better choice.

The bottom line is that, even when we think we've got our bases covered when we head into the outdoors, sometimes near enough isn't good enough. When the chips are down,

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f in



*When the chips are down,  
you'll find that near enough  
isn't nearly good enough...*

you need gear that you can rely on to help get you out of a pickle—and the knowledge required to use it properly.

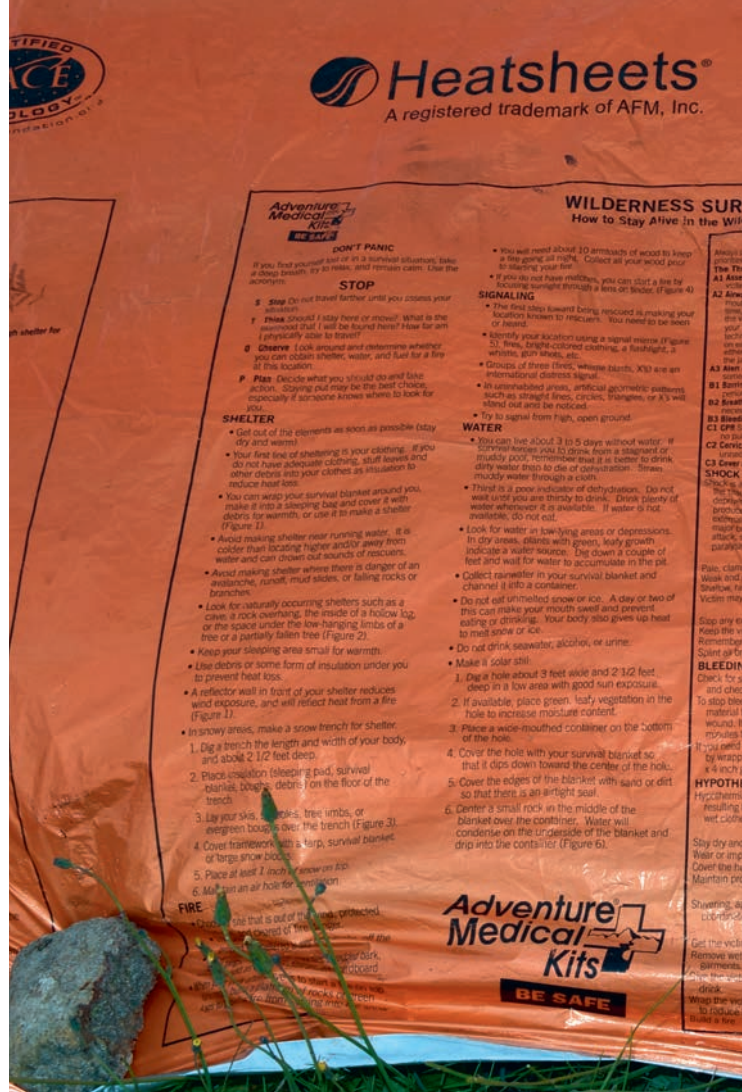
ABA's National Bowhunter Education Manual aims to set us on the right track. It has chapters on first aid, navigation and survival topics. But remember that the issues are (necessarily) covered in brief. These topics are all worthy of books in their own right. So when you think about the principles covered and the equipment recommended, picture in your mind what is actually involved and ask yourself whether you're properly prepared for the unexpected.

Here's a good example:

### Survival blanket or first aid item?

The National Bowhunter Education Manual identifies the need to carry a survival kit and tells us that we should consider including a survival blanket. We say, "Good idea," but what does this actually mean? Picture this bit of gear in your mind's eye. Are you thinking of the square of small shiny blanket found in most standard first aid kits? If you are, you might like to think again. Believe it or not, there is a vast difference between a space blanket, casualty blanket, survival blanket and a first aid (or emergency) blanket.

The original space blanket (from which survival blankets derive) was created in the 1960s. It started life as bathroom waterproofing material created from a strong, plastic, vacuum-metallised film. It didn't take long for NASA to see



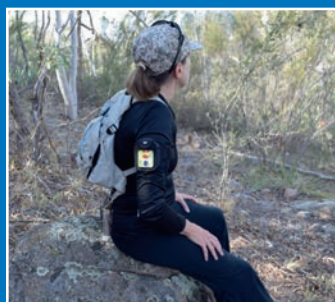
the potential uses of this man-made material for use in the final frontier. After that, the US Army adapted the idea for specifically military purposes and called it a casualty blanket. The difference between the casualty blanket and NASA's space blanket was the development of a multi-layered construction, making the blanket sufficiently strong to double as a shelter, stretcher, or ground sheet, et cetera. The military opted for shiny silver on one side and green



SEND devices - Garmin inReach SE+ and SPOT.

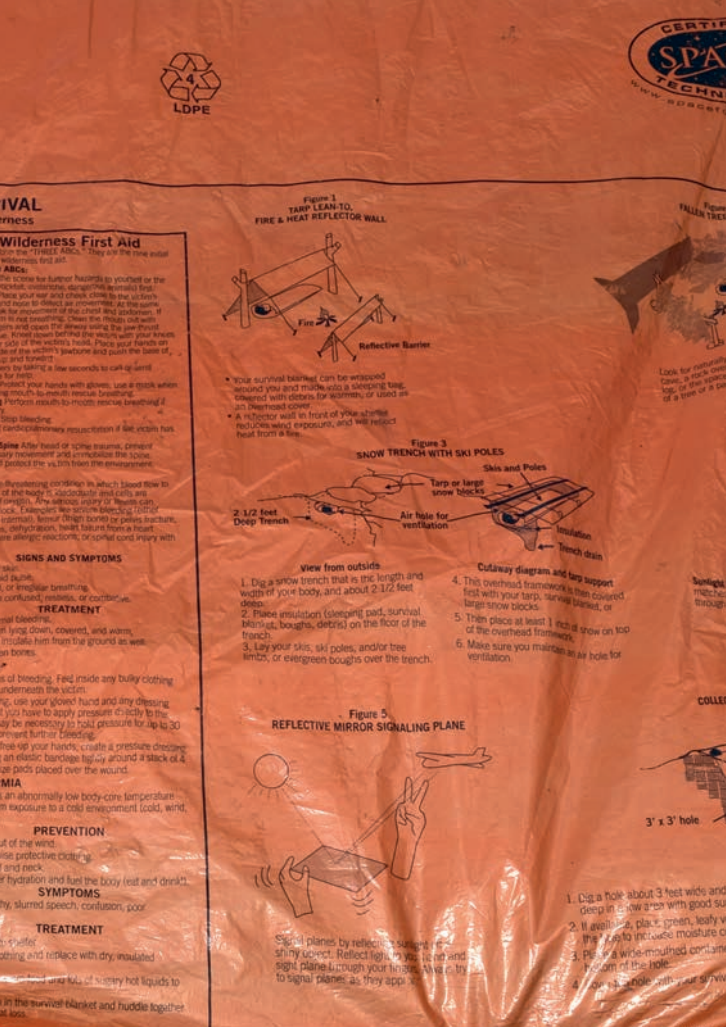


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Not all of us are walking encyclopaedias, which is why this survival blanket has first aid and survival tips printed on one side.



(or desert sand) on the other, the idea being to have the drab colour side outward facing to enable the casualty to achieve warmth from the reflected heat off the silver, while still achieving some form of concealment from the enemy. The strength and durability of a casualty blanket is unparalleled—but it can still fold up to the size of a good hardcover book and has a weight of just 500g. Some feature an unprecedented 95 per cent heat reflectivity. This is all pretty impressive, but it may still be a little large for your hunting day pack.

This is where the survival blanket comes into its own. A

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*Take advantage of the environment when setting up an emergency camp.*



*From left: Some emergency shelters come with parachute cord and quality lightweight pegs. This emergency blanket is so tough it has grommets. No grommet? No problem—a simple bushbutton will be suffice.*

true survival blanket has much of the strength of a military casualty blanket with a significant reduction in bulk and weight. Some have grommets in the corners—as do most casualty blankets—and are strong enough to make a shelter. Some have silver on one side and are ‘rescue orange’ coloured on the other. This type of blanket can operate particularly well as a marker panel to alert rescuers to a casualty’s location. An added benefit is when the orange-side has survival information printed on it. Survival blankets typically weigh around 90g to 200g (depending on the brand and strength) and pack down to the size of a small paperback. Due to their strength and durability, they are re-usable—which is more than can be said of the emergency blanket (also known as a first aid blanket) that is probably tucked away in most people’s first aid kits.

If the space blanket is a lightweight compared to the casualty blanket and survival blanket, then the emergency blanket is a flyweight. Emergency blankets are typically all made from the same type of material. It’s called Mylar (a DuPont-registered trademark) and most companies have tried to create these squares of silver to be the cheapest, smallest (or most lightweight) product available at the minimum possible cost (which is why they are given away in showbags).

Instead of being small, waterproof, windproof and *strong*, many emergency blankets are so flimsy that you should expect single use only. While we’ve been told that you can make a shelter out of these types of blankets, we’d suggest you don’t waste your time and energy. Our experience is that they are too small (individually) to be of much use



# NOT JUST A BLANKET



## *Other uses for your survival blanket*

Here are a few more uses for your survival blanket.

- **Increase radio emissions range:** Metallised film reflects radio, radar and microwaves – and thereby increases the signature and the effective range of your emergency beacon, handheld CB or even your transistor radio and mobile phone. So, if you find yourself needing to employ a PLB, simply place the device in the middle of the sheet (silver side up) out, in the open, with a clear view of the sky. Turn on your device on ... and voilà!
- **Heat reflector:** When using a survival blanket as a shelter, face the silver side to the fire. The metallised film will reflect the heat of the fire back towards you (*pictured above*). This amplifies the heat you would have missed so you only need a smaller fire, which equals less wood which means less work for more benefit.
- **Water collector:** Survival blankets are waterproof, so they're ideal for water collection (for example, solar still or dew trap).
- **Rescue 'tinsel':** If you have a spare blanket (such as your emergency blanket), tear it up into lots of smaller strips and tie the strips to a tree like Christmas decorations. This will act as a passive signalling device, reflecting the sun to attract a search party's attention (*pictured at left*).



and you'd want to be duct-taping two blankets together (at least) to achieve a reasonable thickness so as reduce the likelihood of tearing. Sometimes they aren't much chop as a signalling device either. While you might think that a large square of silver sheeting would attract attention, it all depends on the situation. When we tried it, the emergency blanket we used had been stuffed (still wrapped) in the bottom of a backpack since purchase. Unfortunately, the friction and creasing that had occurred during many miles slogging through the scrub had dulled the shiny surface to a dull grey. And when we wrapped ourselves in the blanket and sat under a tree (think of sheltering from sun, wind or rain), the tree's shadow made the blanket even harder to see in its faded form.

In short, emergency blankets are designed for use on

a bed, or an ambulance gurney or as an over-blanket in controlled sterile conditions. In practical terms, this means that when you're out scrub and needing warmth, these little suckers will inevitably shred and tear when they come into contact with rocks, twigs and other rough surfaces, or when they get whipped by the wind. It's likely you'll end up with two smaller 'blankets' that won't be doing the job.

As they say, oils ain't oils. Having the right gear with you when it matters is the aim—not just carrying any kit. So, while emergency blankets are so cheap they're probably still worth tucking away in your quiver or belt rig, don't plan to rely on them to keep you warm and dry. When a decent survival blanket will set you back only around \$30, it's a tiny investment to make in your own safety ... and that of your mates.



# Outside In the zone

## The good wife

by Nils Spruitt

In the old days—and I am referring to primitive times in this case—the wife of a hunter was kept involved with his fortunes in the field a good deal more than is the case today. When man went forth with his matched pair of spears and returned in his own good time, his wife got down to the chores of skinning, butchering the meat, and then discussing with him the advantages of having a full leaf camouflage pattern fur instead of the standard mottled pattern. She was interested (as well she should be) in how her man felt about the balance of his spears, axes, and the like, and clung to his every word as she patiently chewed the animal skins to the suppleness of his liking.

The nostalgic beauty of such a tranquil scene is, of course, almost irrevocably lost to us in the modern world. You arrive home from a hunt tired, thirsty, but still eager to tell the wife what a damn fine fellow she was lucky to be espoused to, only to be reminded, in no uncertain terms, that she has spent the better part of the day vacuuming and mopping the floor. This causes you to look at the trail of mud and grass you and your dog have just walked in and you think, “This would not have happened had we still lived in a cave”. We, as a matter of course, attempt to apologise, but the sincerity is just not there and she knows it. So instead of being served a cold ale if



it is summer or a stiff whiskey in the winter, then told to just put our feet up while she removes our soiled boots and replaces them with soft slippers, we are subjected to words which no woman should even know about let alone use, then told to clean the floor.

It has become painfully obvious to me the modern wife has simply distanced herself from her ancestors and what is more concerning, she has done this on purpose. In my household for instance, a long and detailed conversation about brace height or the perilous indecision to shoot off the shelf or stay with a raised rest, often causes Mrs Spruitt to become a little inattentive to say the least. What's more, this lack of respect is in no way disguised or hidden. It is displayed in full view of all those present (those being me and my spaniel Chloe). Yet truly, I have tried so hard to be a good and loving husband.

Was it not I who taught her how to

butcher various game animals? Never mind that I could have got the same job done for a moderate amount down at our local butcher ... after hours of course. I am sure some of that deep pleasure Mrs Spruitt exhibits whenever she serves up a piping hot rabbit casserole is due in no small part to the new Puma folding knife I purchased for her last birthday along with lessons on how to use it. And never mind the game cookbook I sourced a few years back and gave to her as a Christmas present. It would seem all my hard work highlighting various ways to do a venison brisket and wild pork loin was in vain. I actually shudder when I think I was on the verge of purchasing for her a new fletching jig (the six clamp version) so she could make up a few arrows whenever I am entertaining Digs and the like. It makes perfect sense to me ... or at least it did.

Perhaps, these examples of ‘only thinking of her’ were not enough



and trust me when I say I have been pondering this conundrum for some time. Right now I am part way through negotiating with a flooring manufacturer to come up with a new product which will reproduce exactly muddy size 11 boot prints along with dirty spaniel paw prints on their range of linoleum flooring. I am hoping the reproduction will literally look like we just stepped out of the swamp. When completed and put down, it should obviate the necessity of mopping and waxing the floor forever. I am thinking this alone will bring tears to her eyes, but wait, there is more.

The time Mrs Spruitt will have up her sleeve once relieved of her floor duties, can be spent mending my bush clothes, fletching some shafts and keeping my boots well waxed up with SnoPruf. I would say this is time well spent or at least time spent productively. In the quieter winter evenings in front of a nice warm fire,

the three of us can spend quality family time together ... so important in any relationship, don't you think? I can see it now. Chloe gently snoring, fast asleep upon her favourite rug and Mrs Spruitt lovingly waxing up my bow strings whilst I read to her a few choice snippets from the latest *Archery Action* magazine. Once in a while I will really treat her and recall exactly every decent score I ever shot on an ABA range—shot by shot, of course.

I am also contemplating a phone call to the Editor expressing, with the utmost conviction, the need for a special section within the magazine to cater for our wives. This section would include patterns so they can make our hunting clothes for us, taxidermy tips and an in-depth study of trophy measuring which would include how to prepare a fox and cat skull.

As you can plainly see, I am not insensitive to a woman's needs. Like most men, I can get a little too self

absorbed and need to be slapped across the face (figuratively speaking only, of course) every once in a while to make me see sense. It kind of reminds me of a couple of stags butting heads and chasing each other about during the rut period. They have only one thing on their mind and become so selfish with their own needs they fail to see a third stag who just happens to saunter along and steals the ladies right out from under their noses. (Although at my age, even if I did win the tussle I'm not sure I'd know what to do with the ladies anyhow.)

On the subject of the good wife, you know you are on the right track when you personally witness the ingenuity of woman as it really kicks in and she discovers—as mine did—that with a 30lb recurve at 15m, the arrows she made will penetrate right up to the fletching through a copy of Germaine Greer's, "The female Eunuch". Think about it. Until next time.

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Laurie Goudie, Independent, Feral Pig, 30 pts Record Class



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Graham McComiskie, Twin Rivers Bowhunters, Sambar Deer, GA



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Anthony Atkinson, Ballarat Bowmen, Feral Goat, 126 3/8 pts, Record Class



WINNER  
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TUSKER BROADHEADS



## Anthony Gargett

Tony, my best mate, lost his brave battle against cancer in March this year. Tony was a real constant in my life, as I met Tony when I first joined our archery club Geelong Trophy Bowhunters some 31 years ago.

Tony is survived by his wife Vicki, sons Mathew and Jason, Jason's wife Heather and their son Fletcher.

Tony's first love was his family, closely followed by his love of the outdoors and the outdoor lifestyle.

Tony served many roles at the club over his time since joining in the mid-1970s. Tony has also been active at the Branch level, serving as Branch Field Representative and in later years was a Branch Measuring Instructor.

Tony and Vicki travelled all over the State and Eastern Seaboard so the family could participate in various national and world events hosted here in Australia.

Once Tony retired, he and Vicki made a few trips around the world including Tony's first trip back to his birth country, England, and a trip to Canada to see his beloved wildlife.



As far as archery was concerned, Tony loved nothing more than being in the field with his bow and arrow, his quiver full of razor-sharp broadheads. He would stalk his chosen game then retire to the fire at the end of a successful day to reminisce with his companions and see who could tell the biggest tales.

Goodbye mate, until we meet again in the place where your arrows always hit the centre regardless of where they are aimed.

**Bruce Kelleher**



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**Australian Bowhunters Association Inc.  
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## ABA Branch Titles

**Hosted by Wagga Wagga Field Archers**

**Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September 2018**

### Saturday

8-8:30am Registration & bow checks  
9:00am Muster and start 2 arrow round  
Lunch Start 1 arrow round  
Presentations

### Sunday

7:30-7:45am Registration & bow checks  
8:00am Muster and start 2 arrow round  
Lunch Start 1 arrow round  
Presentations

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

**To pre-nominate or for further information contact:**

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

**Facilities include:** Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen  
Evening meal available Saturday, for those that pre-book meals will be provided.  
Availability of meals is not guaranteed for those who do not pre-book.

*No Dogs Policy Applies to this Shoot*

*No smoking on ranges while shoots are in progress or restricted areas*

Contact WWFA: [www.facebook.com/Wagga-Wagga-Field-Archers-196356697151359/](http://www.facebook.com/Wagga-Wagga-Field-Archers-196356697151359/)

**Australian Bowhunters Association Inc.  
Southern NSW & ACT Branch Presents the**

## State ABA Titles

**Hosted by Southwest Slopes Sporting Field Archers**

**Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 October 2018**

### Saturday

8-8:30am Registration & bow checks  
9:00am Muster and start 2 arrow round  
Lunch Start 1 arrow round  
Presentations

### Sunday

7:30-7:45am Registration & bow checks  
8:00am Muster and start 2 arrow round  
Lunch Start 1 arrow round  
Presentations ASAP

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

**To pre-nominate or for further information contact:**

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

**Facilities include:** Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen  
Evening meals available Saturday, for those that pre-nominate meals will be provided.  
Availability of meals is not guaranteed for those who do not pre-nominate.

**NO DOG POLICY APPLIES TO THIS EVENT  
NO SMOKING ON RANGES WHILE SHOTS ARE IN PROGRESS**

Contact SWSSFA - [www.facebook.com/SWSSFA](http://www.facebook.com/SWSSFA)

## Qld State ABA Titles

**Hosted by**

**Mackay District  
Bowhunters**

**Yakapari Rd, Seaforth, Qld  
29th & 30th September 2018**



### Saturday

(Nominations close 8am 29/9/18)  
8:30am Bow Check  
9:00am Muster  
9:30am Start 3 Arrow Round  
Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round  
Novelty Events after 1 Arrow Round  
6:30 to 7pm Dinner

### Sunday

8:30am Muster  
8:45am Start 3 Arrow Round  
Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round  
Presentations will commence ASAP  
after scores have been finalised  
*\*Times are a guide only and are subject to change*

**Camping Available**

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**When nominating please provide the following:** name, ABA number, age  
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**Nominations before 10th September  
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**Shoot Fees: Adults \$25, Cubs/Jnrs \$15,  
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**Complimentary Meal Friday Night  
Strictly NO Dogs**

**Program times are a guide only and  
may be subject to change.**

### Saturday 29th September

6:30am Breakfast  
8:00am Bow Check & Muster  
8:30am ABA 3 Arrow Round  
Morning Tea  
11:00am ABA 1 Arrow Round  
12:30am Lunch  
2:00pm Fun Rounds, Knife & Axe  
6:30pm Evening Meal

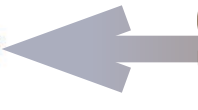
### Sunday 30th September

6:30am Breakfast  
8:00am Muster  
8:30am ABA 3 Arrow Round  
Morning Tea  
11:00am ABA 1 Arrow Round  
12:30am Lunch  
2:00pm Fun Rounds, Knife & Axe  
3:00pm Presentations  
6:30pm Evening Meal

### Monday 1st October

6:30am Breakfast  
8:00am Muster  
8:30am IFAA Round  
12:30pm Lunch & Presentations





# SHOOT-CALENDAR

September-October-November

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
------	------	--------	-------------

## September

1-2	Emerald Archery Club *	C	3D
1-2	Tully Bowmen *	B	ABA
8-9	Gloucester District Archers *	E	3D Branch Titles
8-9	Mallee Sunset Field Archers *	I	Traditional / IFAA
8-9	Mornington Peninsula Bowmen *	Vic	3DAAA
9	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters *	G	ABA
9	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
9-10	Towers Bowhunters *	B	ABA
22	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	PCA September QRE
22-23	Charleville Field Archers *	D	ABA Gold Cup
15-16	Wagga Wagga Field Archers *	F	ABA Branch Titles
15-16	Lilydale Bowmen *	H	ABA
15-16	Break O'Day Field Archers *	H	ABA
15-16	Southern Yorke Field Archers *	I	ABA / 3D
15-16	Swan Hill Archers *	H	Traditional
22-23	Gladstone Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA
23	Freds Pass Field Archers	A	ABA
23	Katherine Archery Club	A	ABA
23	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A	ABA
29-30	Cessnock Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
29-30	Mackay and District Bowmen *	B	ABA Qld State Titles
29-30	Silver City Archers *	I	Branch Safari ABA

## October


7	West Gippsland Field Archers *	G	3D
7	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
7	ArcherySA - Mylor Oval *	SA	State Target
7-8	Mount Isa District Bowhunters *	B	ABA
13-14	Northern Tablelands Archers *	E	ABA Branch Titles
20-21	Gympie Field Archers *	C	ABA Titles
20-21	Pacific Bowmen *	D	ABA
20-21	Southwest Slopes Sporting Field Archers *	F	ABA NSW State Titles
20-21	Western Melbourne Field Archers *	H	ABA
20-21	Busselton Bowhunters *	J	IFAA WA State Titles
20-21	Burnie Bowmen *	TAS	Luttrell/Clarke Memorial Shoot



21	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	Troy Adams Halloween Clout
26-28	Lady Northcott—Bacchus Marsh		ABA AGM
28	Freds Pass Field Archers	A	3D
28	Katherine Archery Club	A	3D
28	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A	3D
<b>November</b>			
3-4	Sapphire City Archers *	E	IFAA Indoor Titles
3-4	Playford District Field Archers *	I	3D SA Titles
4	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters *	G	IFAA
4	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
10-11	Nambucca Heads *	NSW	3DAAA National Championships
11	Great Southern Archers *	SA	State Field
11	Freds Pass Field Archers	A	ABA
11	Katherine Archery Club	A	ABA
11	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A	ABA
17-18	Granite Belt Bowmen *	D	ABA Club Challenge
17-18	Eurobodalla Archers *	F	ABA / 3D
17-18	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters *	H	ABA

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

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Renewal ☐

New Member ☐

ABA Membership N°: .....

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

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

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

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

Email address.....

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

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

Signature of Applicant .....

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

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

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

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

Parent-Guardian Signature ..... ABA Number if Applicable: .....

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

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

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Signature .....

17/05/2017



APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE  
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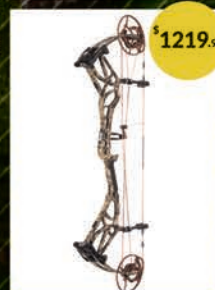
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