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Safari Report**

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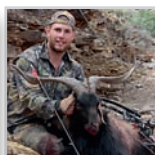
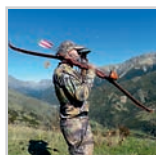
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◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Mark Burrows with an 87pt record class buffalo. See story on Page 30.

Photo by TROY MORRIS

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It's an exciting era in the life of the Australian Bowhunters Association. This is a time of adjustment—of growth, new infrastructure and a slightly different direction.

You all know that ABA is now the owner of ABA Park, a property just outside Mudgee bought recently and prepared in a short period of time for its first major event, the IFAA Field Archery Championships from June 8 to 13 this year. While ABA Park is not intended to become the sole venue for the association's events, it's good to know that it is available and that the infrastructure put in here will be used for the benefit of members for many years to come. The mission of the ABA in buying the property is to help grow the sport and to give all ABA members access to a national venue for shoots and courses that could be anything from bowhunting proficiency programs to coaching seminars to range-setting courses.

In Brisbane, the ABA office has also been undergoing reorganisation, with ABA House now up for sale and the association's administration headquarters moved to a commercial site at Brendale. (As a side note, the ABA now has a dedicated mobile number, 0491 243 085. Currently landline, fax and postbox address are the same.)

DEADLINES

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ISSUE		DEADLINE
Vol 42 No.1	September-October	1 August
Vol 42 No. 2	November-December	1 October
Vol 42 No. 3	January-February	1 December



Both of these changes affect the bottom line and show that while the ABA is growing in stature, it is also being responsible in its use of funds saved over many years of operation. The ABA has shown itself to be a sober, trustworthy organisation and its attentiveness to changes in government regulations, education of members, its response to events that could affect bowhunting's standing in the community and its internal decisionmaking processes all stand it in good stead for the future.

Congratulations to the National Executive for steering the association so wisely in these years of change. Those of us who are in the ABA should all be proud to be members of such an organisation.

Jenel Hunt
Editor



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FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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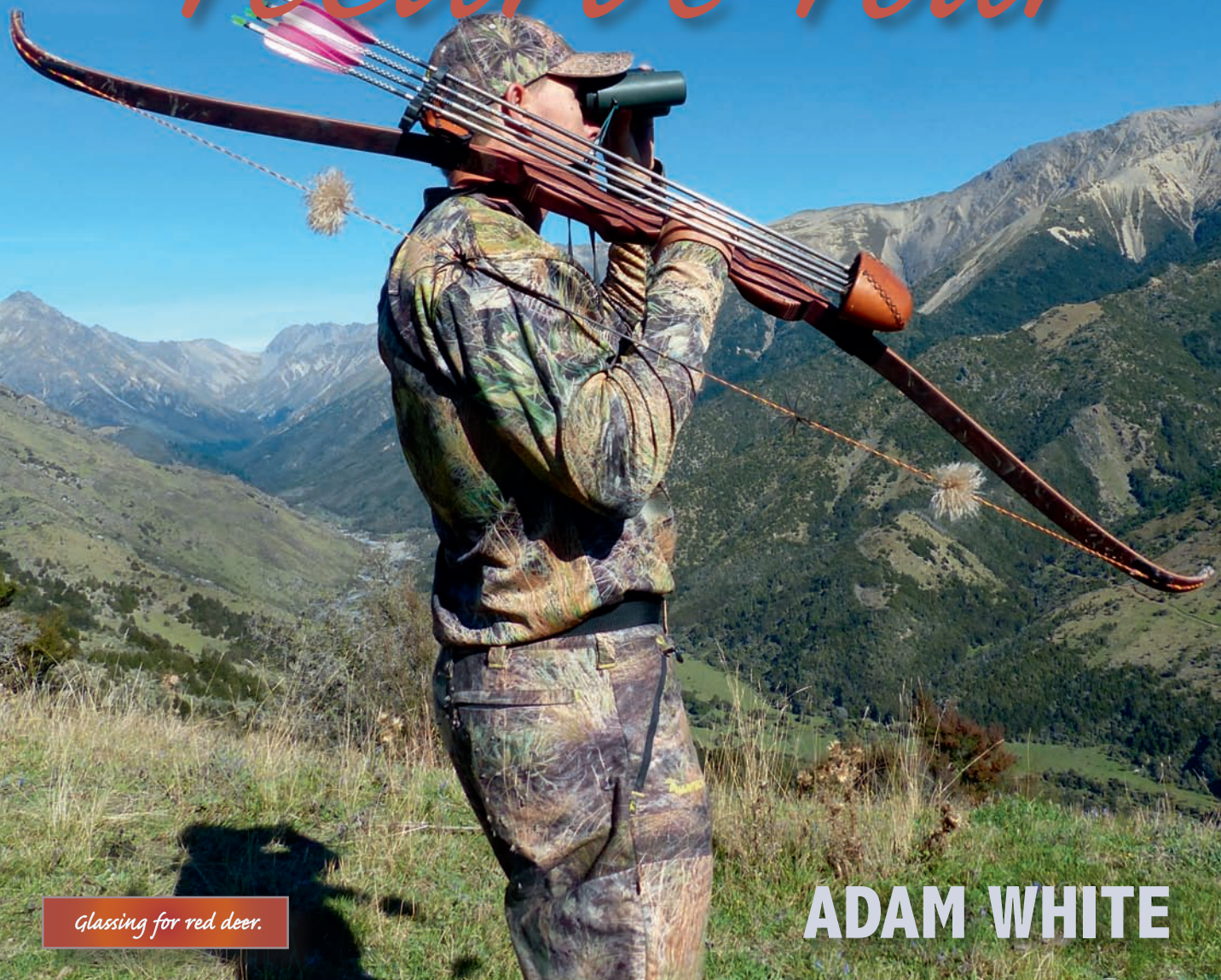
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REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS
Out of the Box—Steve Clifton
Traditional Trails—Nick Lintern

NEW ZEALAND

recurve roar



Glassing for red deer.

ADAM WHITE

All I could hear was my heart pounding in my chest, resonating into my head. My breathing was deep and shaky as I watched a huge figure emerge from the thick, wet scrub not 10yd away. Front on and roaring hard, the giant 14pt New Zealand wild red stag belted his violent vocal challenge at this cheeky intruder who dared enter his territory. The guttural roar was

so loud at this range in the still, but cold, damp air, I could feel the roar throughout my entire body. Still not pinpointing exactly where my mock roar had come from, the stag looked around hastily but did not lock in his target. Frustrated now, he took his aggression out on a tall mata-gouri shrub, rubbing and thrashing it violently. I was lying on the wet ground crunched up in a human ball

as small as an 85kg man can shrink with recurve in hand, arrow nocked, pointed at the stag's chest ready to draw yet hoping for a better shot opportunity. He abruptly stopped his war display and stared into my eyes. "Uh oh, he's spotted me!" raced through my mind. "Impossible, I am completely camouflaged from tip to toe with a veil covering my eyes, maybe I moved my bow? Wind is

good ... what the—" Boom! He was gone, just like that. I sat on the wet ground trying to work out what the hell had just happened, and how it had happened so fast. This wasn't to be the last time I had such a close encounter with one of these 350lb ghosts of war.

Red deer can be found in many parts of the world these days, and there are some magnificent herds that can be hunted, but if you were to ask any hunter across the globe where the best place to hunt red stags is, I'm sure the answer will be the high country of New Zealand's South Island. From the arrival flight descending over the Southern Alps on a clear day, until you actually step foot in your hunting grounds, you are always looking at the terrain for animals, and if you look hard enough you will see them! This place was designed to grow animals with never-ending folds of mountainous

valleys, peaks, scrub, creeks and pastures; any wonder it boasts some of the world's most spectacular hunting, and the red deer have made themselves quite at home. I am very fortunate to have made some great friends in New Zealand who have access to magnificent private land holding reds, so one of the highlights of my hunting calendar is the annual red hunt with the boys.

Flying in to Dunedin and driving up the east coast eventually heading inland near Kaikoura, travel time from home to hunting is around 17 hours all up, but this goes by rather swiftly with the anticipation of what may lie ahead for us this year in 'redskin' country.

Hunting reds has been part of my hunting life since inception so I was not unfamiliar with them, or their habits. Having hunted them with rifle before moving on to the compound bow over the years, it seemed only natural to chase them now with my

new-found passion—the recurve bow. After hunting with a compound bow for many years now I was under the false impression that it would be an easy progression to pick up a recurve and hunt. Talk about frustration ... months and months of not really getting anywhere!

I'd made a promise to myself that if I could not group inside a small saucer-plate-sized target at 20yd, I would not take on a living creature. I started with a cheaper 55lb curve just to get the feel for it; I had no idea about tuning or even setting up the bow for that matter at that point. Then I progressed to a slightly better 60lb bow, one that I felt would 'do the job' so after eight months of persisting I eventually shrank my groups enough that I thought I was ready to hunt. Long story short, after a few wounded boars and a lost chital stag I knew it was time to do everything in my favour to increase my chance

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of success, and a massive part of this was to acquire a decent bow, so along came my Stalker Coyote recurve. What a game changer. I could shoot consistently at 30yd now and I had wrapped my head around bareshaft tuning and bow set-up, so now—finally—I could go into the field with confidence.

With gear packed and my new best friend 'curve in hand, I set off into the hills after a roaring NZ red stag. I was still a little unsure of the damage such a weapon could inflict as I hadn't killed much with it to date so all I kept telling myself was, "If it's not a perfect shot opportunity, just walk away, there will be another."

These days with the technology of compound bows, you can afford to take 'most' shots and still have a quick, clean kill. I hadn't yet convinced myself this was so with a 60lb recurve. I'm one of those guys who needs to see and test things for himself to have a definite answer, and this is absolutely one of those things.

We'd hunted the same area the previous year and had seen quite a few decent heads. Now, having the advantage of knowing where they were, I headed straight to them. Day one had me up high just listening and glassing several average heads in the 8pt-to-10pt range, but I didn't

see any monsters. I did however tell myself that any stag is a good stag this year with the recurve, so any decent opportunity I was presented with, I was going to take. I had with me an electronic caller with the red deer card in it. It sounded very realistic—certainly better than I could ever do—so I put it to use and it worked a treat. Late that afternoon while sitting over a steep, grassy face with a well used wallow in some tight scrub below came a lazy groan of a red stag warming up the vocal chords for the evening's activities. Out of the scrub came a huge 8 pointer and not a young stag either. After a brief discussion with my hunting mate Scotty it was agreed that we had seen the same stag here last year, and knowing he won't ever throw a better head I decided to put in a stalk. The stag was rounding up his harem and heading into an adjacent gully to our right. I decided to gain altitude to keep an eye on things as I knew there'd be some fast action when the roaring game commenced. No sooner had the stag entered the gully when not one but three stags started bellowing. Hmm, which one was which? I managed a glimpse of the other two through some thick scrub as they raced around the slopes chasing hinds, a younger promis-

ing 11 pointer and a solid 12 pointer! "That's a ripper of a stag," whispered Scotty. Yes, it was.

We were on the hidden side of a sharp ridge peering over into the gully so I thought I would try to roar out the big 12 for a chance at a shot. I set up the caller on the ridge 15yd past where I lay, and had Scotty hit the remote button to activate a groan. In less than 30 seconds I could hear a stag crashing towards me roaring but I didn't know which one it was. I got ready for the shot, looking and waiting, then out of nowhere came bone tops ... three on one side, can't tell on the other! Then not 5yd from me stood a body panting and looking in the direction of the caller, the younger 11 pointer, of course! I opted not to shoot as even though I had my recurve in hand and I wanted any stag, my herd management ethics kicked in and I let it live as I knew this was the perfect young stag to have grow into something far better given the chance. It was not an easy call, let me tell you.

Then like it was some kind of mystic reward for my self-appointed good deed, a bunch of hinds trotted on to the ridge below me at around 15yd. I knew a stag would not be too far behind them as the rut was in full swing right here and right now. I swung my body downhill low and slow until I had my bow pointed at the rear hind and ready to draw, below to my right came the crashing of a stag in hot pursuit. Now it was only a matter of seconds. I could see antler not 12yd below me, three on one top, and three on the other, solid bone, yep it was the big 12! Perhaps fate steered him but he turned downhill away from me and reappeared 25yd downhill walking head down, right to left, but broadside to me. I led him by staring at a spot at the front of his chest and released my arrow, perfect height! As I released the stag

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stopped in his tracks, the arrow grazing the front of his chest. I was devastated. He didn't jump the string; he just stopped walking and sniffed the ground. What an intro to recurve hunting reds!

The next couple of days were spent playing similar cat and mouse type games with several close calls but without decent shot opportunities (another story in itself). During one of our lunch breaks on the hill I noticed a stag pushing hinds up to a high peak to bed for the day on the far side of a valley. He was a cull or management head if you like; he had age but not a great head, something you wouldn't want breeding long term in such a great wild herd.

By now it was the last day of my five-day hunt so I decided to have a crack at this stag, high up in the nasty scrub where he held his harem captive. I waited until the same time of day I had spotted him previously, around 11am. I knew it would take a good couple of hours to reach where I thought he would bed, which would put me there at prime snoozing time through early to mid-afternoon. I travelled light knowing it would either happen quickly, or not at all. The only other gear I carried was my electronic caller in case I needed to ambush him. I climbed, keeping the wind good, and gained a slight height advantage where I rested, waited, and listened. Not a peep could be heard. Downhill not 100yd away was a perfect little grassy bench with top-of-the-world views, he must be there ... I would be if I were him! Then, like a punch in the nose that unmistakable stench of rutting red stag wafted toward me, I could almost taste it. I slowly nocked an arrow expecting him to just pop out at any second but nothing stirred. Raising my veil to completely conceal my face including my eyes, I inched my way towards the

bedding area. I could still see nothing and I was only 40yd away, yet the smell was intense. I figured he must be just over the edge out of sight but by now I expected to see a hind or at least antler tips ... nothing. Then I was just 20yd out and still there was no visible sign of an animal. It was getting way too tense—time for Plan B. I set up the caller 10yd behind me and tucked myself into a shrub with just enough room to squat and draw. I was perpendicular to a well used trail—his highway no doubt. I was no more than 5yd from the trail when I hit the 'lazy stag groan' and got ready to draw. The stag erupted from nowhere inside 20yd from me, roaring and stomping towards the caller; now he was standing broadside 5yd from me panting and breathing like he was ready to fight! Holy crap! I knew I couldn't draw or he would see me for sure! He must have been bedded right under me—I just hadn't been able to see him.

I held the bow pointed at his vitals for what felt like forever, then suddenly he barked and jumped back. He'd seen movement—but what? Perhaps the tip of my 62in Stalker recurve had quivered, because I was shaking like a dog. He bolted back down the trail and stopped around 30yd. I gave a quick hind call and he turned to look uphill—whack! I heard that reassuring sound of my 170gr broadhead connecting with the point of his shoulder. I heard the crashing of timber and the roaring of a red stag but amidst the confusion wasn't one hundred per cent sure it was a death groan or a fleeing roar. I replayed the chaos that had just unfolded, stood where I released and thought hard about the shot. There was only a small shooting lane around two feet square down through some thick growth. I remember seeing shoulder, staring at it, and saying 'anchor' for a split second before watching the pink fletching float towards my tar-



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Taking this red deer was a totally different experience with a recurve.

get. I sat down to regroup and wait and listen. Nocking a second arrow, I slid on my butt towards where I had last seen the stag ... there was blood everywhere. I waited for the usual 15 minutes on a supposed good shot then inched towards where the crashing of timber had been. It was steep, slippery ground with very thick cover so if I hadn't made a good shot, it would take a hell of a search party to locate him, but there he was piled up in a shrub not 10yd from where he'd been hit, dead as can be.

I was over the moon. I seriously still cannot believe how effective the

recurve was at that range—the arrow travelled through the shoulder blade, slicing both lungs before hitting a rib and completely destroying it leaving an exit hole the size of your fist; unbelievable damage. The Northern 170gr Bull-Dozer was so sharp it was scary, this no doubt helped significantly but the momentum was seriously impressive. I was using an Easton Axis 340 spine cut at 29.5in with a 75gr brass insert to give a total arrow weight of 550gr.

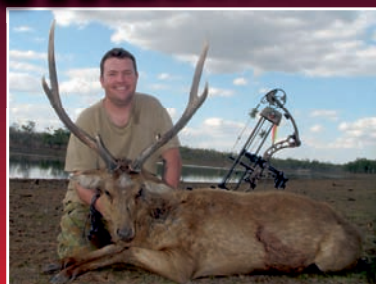
Normally I would be celebrating taking a big trophy but this was a different celebration for me. I was

solo, new recurve in hand, high up in some thick horrible scrub and I held it together well enough to take this stag with one clean shot, killing it almost instantly ... that to me was the real trophy. I couldn't give a rat's ass if it was a 12 pointer or a two pointer at that stage, all those months of practice and persistence had paid off but really, it was the sheer determination to be a successful and responsible trad hunter that made it happen.

This marks the beginning of a whole new chapter in my hunting life with so many adventures to be had with just my recurve in hand.

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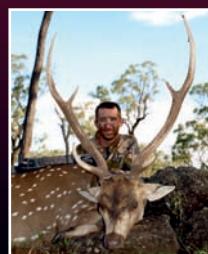
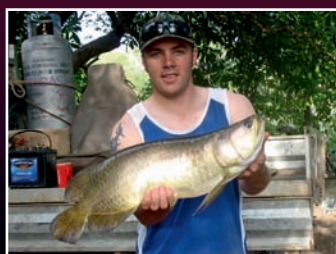
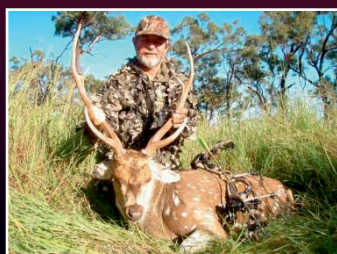
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PROTOCOL

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

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BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Vice-President Bowhunting)



Bowfishing comp

The first bowfishing competition run by the ABA was held on the Lachlan River between Condobolin and Forbes. This area was picked as there are several public access points along this section of the Lachlan River and by all reports prior there were plenty of carp around. The marshalling area was based at the Forbes Lachlan River Archers clubgrounds, which

is also a bowfishing access point. This was always going to be a trial activity as it was unlikely that a great volume of people were going to travel vast distances to shoot a few carp but we were keen to support the initiative of the NSW DPI.

Most bowfishers arrived in the area the day before to get in some practice and a few carp were

taken. Several participants were from Victoria and the rest were from areas scattered around NSW. The Victorians were extra keen as they currently do not have any form of legal bowfishing in that State. The weather was good, although potentially very hot, and everything else was coming together for a great weekend.

However as it turned out, unbeknownst to us, those who govern water distribution in NSW decided on an 'enviro flush' during the week before the event and released water from Wyangala Dam. As much as it helped the irrigators, it did nothing for the carp and actually put fish into deeper water, making it a lot harder to find the carp and shoot them. Still, overall, the event was considered a success both by us and the DPI. The DPI would like to see more people interact with the waterways in NSW and bowfishing is an area they are very keen to pursue.

I would like to thank all those who made the effort to attend and the Forbes Lachlan River Archery club for letting us use their grounds for

both our headquarters and competitors' camping ground. I would also like to thank Abbey Archery for their support and donation of the prizes for this event.

The winners on the weekend were Joy Wood, who took the most carp by a female and David Luxford, who just pipped Lee Solomon by one fish, to take the most carp by a male.



Mark Burrows with competition winners David Luxford (left) and Joy Wood.

Bowfishing

We still need to push participation in this activity. If we are to see this continue beyond the trial period as many people as possible need to get their NSW Fishing Licences and apply for their Section 37 permits. You also need to sit the bowhunting aspect of the R licence test. You don't have to apply for your R licence, just do the bowhunting-specific test. The only thing that costs you money is the Fishing Licence. But that is a small price to pay. Once completed the DPI will send you a kit and a password. You log onto the bowfishing portal and legally head off bowfishing.

I know that quite a few Victorians have made the effort and have headed north regularly over the summer period. After a slow start due to lack of practice, they are now getting a few carp.

Since the initial opening of bowfishing areas the trial has now expanded with 15 new locations. These include large areas of lakes Wyangala, Keepit, Burrendong, Split Rock, Poon Boon and Burrinjuck. More information can be obtained at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting

Don't forget we will be offering prizes for the most carp claimed over

Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

Species	Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Boar	Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29 6/8	25
Goat	James Finlay	151 2/8	113 4/8	95
Buffalo	John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Camel	Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Fox	Dave Parker	10 15/16	10 6/16	9 3/16
Cat	Tim Pitt-Lancaster	8 5/16	7 10/16	7
Red Deer	Dan Smith	315 3/8	190 1/8	175
Fallow Deer	Jason Robinson	264 5/8	180	150
Chital Deer	Dan Smith	204	150 5/8	140
Hog Deer	Stephen Tilley	111 7/8	70	55
Sambar Deer	Dean Scott	203 5/8	162 7/8	140
Rusa Deer	Toby Gall	231 6/8	168 5/8	150
Shark BHFF	Barry Feeney	35 2/8	28	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	9 1/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

Women's Bowshot Records

Boar	Lynda Fell	32 2/8pt	1991
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Emma Johnson	87 2/8pt	2015
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 11/16pt	2000
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt	2014
Fallow Deer	Margaret Cowin	150 7/8pt	1997
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt	2010
Hog Deer	Nil		
Sambar Deer	Nil		
Rusa Deer	April Stoneman	180 3/8pt	2014
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell	23 2/8pt	2014
Shark BF	Lynda Fell	23 5/8pt	2000
Stingray BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986

the 2016 hunting year. To keep it easy on claim forms, pictures can be of all carp on that day in one photo and total quantity in the claim section of the claim form. So make sure you get your carp game award claims in.

Next carp bowfishing comp

The ABA will be hosting another bowfishing competition in November this year. It will be different to the last one by being State wide. I haven't fine-tuned the details at his stage but I am looking at having two parts to the competition. There will be a central location where those who wish to bowfish within travelling range can register their catch on-site and compete for one lot of prizes. Then there will be a txt competition where those who wish to participate NSW-wide can register their catch to me via pictures over their mobile phone, competing for a different set of prizes. Both competitions will be based around volume of fish taken. We will have full details in the next *Archery Action* and on social media closer to the date.

Which airline? Qantas, of course

There has been some concern lately on which airline will carry hunters' trophies and which won't. Adam Naismith from Melbourne put in the effort to make contact with Qantas to see what their policies were. An excerpt from that letter reads as follows:

"You are able to take hunting trophies with you on your flights as long as it is within your checked baggage allowance or you can contact our freight team and make a booking with them." I have a copy of the full letter.

As I mentioned in a previous report, Virgin Australia replied to me in writing with the following excerpt:

"I regret to inform that Virgin Australia does not support the transportation of hunting trophies."

If you have any interest at all in hunting, I would suggest you not fly Virgin and make sure you let everybody else you know of Virgin's decision to denigrate law-abiding travellers.

Meeting on illegal bowhunting

As reported in the previous *Archery Action*, the ABA was asked to attend a meeting in Sydney directly related to the issue of illegal bowhunting. This is something that is going to affect legitimate bow owners even though the perpetrators of these activities are in the minority. You can be assured that the ABA will be doing its best for its members at all times. I would like to thank Scott Heiman for taking the time to attend

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

Bnch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award FK/FKOS	Size
B Carol Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Goat	RC	123 3/8
B Carol Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Goat	RC	124 1/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Goat	TC	113 2/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Goat	TC	102 2/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Goat	TC	109 7/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Goat	TC	95 7/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Goat	TC	105 4/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Goat	TC	112 1/8
B John Teitzel	Tully Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 15/16
B Stephen Kidd	Mackay District Bowmen	Red Deer	RC	223 5/8
B Lynda Fell	Cape York Archers	Shark BHFF	TC	25 4/8
D Roy Sutherland	Baramabah Bowhunters & FA	Scaled Fish	GA FKOS	0
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Pig	TC	28
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	108 2/8
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	102 2/8
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	106
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	RC	113 7/8
D Dean Thurtell	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	GA FK/FKOS	0
D Dean Thurtell	Renegade Bowmen	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
D Jamie Molloy	Renegade Bowmen	Red Deer	RC	206 3/8
D Jamie Molloy	Renegade Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 9/16
D Wade Bygrave	Renegade Bowmen	Red Deer	TC	186 5/8

that meeting on behalf of the ABA. I can't always be where I want to be and this was one of those times.

Measurer for Life

Eric Creighton joins Tom Mitchell to be the second person to receive this prestigious award. Both these gentlemen have put tremendous work effort, time and knowledge into the production and revision of our National Measuring Manual over many, many years—well done.



Mark Burrows presents Eric Creighton (right) with his award.

E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Pig	TC	25 6/8
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	TC	97 1/8
E Peter Fryda	Dubbo & District Field Archers	Pig	TC	25 2/8
E Peter Fryda	Dubbo & District Field Archers	Goat	TC	101 4/8
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	GA	0
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	RC	10 7/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 5/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 8/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 10/16
E Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 12/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	RC	10 14/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	10
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 15/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 9/16
E Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 5/16
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC	113 7/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC	111
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC	122 6/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC	121 6/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC	117
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Pig	TC	27
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Pig	TC	25
G Tammy Richards	West Gippsland Field Archers	Rabbit	GA FK/FKOS	0
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 9/16
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 13/16
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 14/16
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	10 2/16
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 15/16
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 9/16
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	RC	10 8/16
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Hog Deer	TC	64 6/8
G David Luxford	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Goat	TC	106 6/8
G Lee Solomon	West Gippsland Field Archers	Scaled Fish	BHFF GA FKOS	0
G Ryan Tatterson	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Hare	GA FKOS	0
G Anthony Tatterson	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	RC	10 6/16
G Zeb Jones	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Fox	TC	9 13/16
G Evan Jones	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Rabbit	GA FKOS	0
G Benjamin Thompson	MacAlister Trophy Bowhunters	Cat	TC	7 1/16
H Steven Old	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	0
H Jordan Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Fox	GA FKOS	9 2/16
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 7/16
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 4/16
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 5/16
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 9/16
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Fox	RC	10 12/16
H Nigel Vaughn	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters	Rabbit	GA FK/FKOS	0
H Brad Hadden	Mount Clay Archers	Goat	GA FK/FKOS	90
H Dylan Evans	Mount Clay Archers	Pig	GA FKOS	16 6/8
H Tim Pitt-Lancaster	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	RC	10 7/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC	9 3/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC	9 15/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC	9 13/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC	10
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC	10 1/16
H David Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Fox	TC	10 1/16
H Georgia Rethus	Mount Clay Archers	Rabbit	GA FK/FKOS	0
H James Reciszen	Stawell Bowhunters	Red Deer	GA FKOS	0
J Richard Cross	Southwest Bowmen	Shark	BHFF GA FKOS	0
J Richard Cross	Southwest Bowmen	Shark	BHFF TC	15 4/8
J Richard Cross	Southwest Bowmen	Shark	BHFF TC	16 3/8
J Richard Cross	Southwest Bowmen	Stingray	BHFF GA FKOS	0
J Richard Cross	Southwest Bowmen	Scaled Fish	BHFF GA FKOS	0
J Richard Cross	Southwest Bowmen	Fox	TC	9 10/16
J Gareth Elliott	Freds Pass Field Archers	Pig	GA FK/FKOS	24 4/8
J Gareth Elliott	Freds Pass Field Archers	Buffalo	TC FKOS	86



Submit your story and photos to the Gold Pen Award competition until the end of June and be in the running to **win a red deer hunt with Trophy Bowhunts Australia valued at \$2000** and a gold pen as well as the writer's fee you receive when your story is used.

Send your entries to
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editor@archeryactionmagazine.com
Subject: Gold Pen Award entry

2015-16 winner will be announced in the September-October magazine



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SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT *Report*

by JEFF BELL



World Field Archery Competition at Wagga Wagga

Are you going to the WFAC IN Wagga Wagga? If not, then you should! The last WFAC held in Australia was in 2006 and it will be 12 years before we can host another one, so make the most of this opportunity.

If you are going and you haven't competed in a WFAC before, there are some things you should be aware of that will make the experience more enjoyable. Aussie archers, particularly those in ABA, are a pretty casual mob. We have pretty friendly competitions and a relaxed attitude to rules. A WFAC is a much more formal event. In this article I'll try to cover a few 'gotchas' that you can easily avoid. I've tried to order them under relevant headings and quote a few relevant rules from the book along the way.

Nomination, registration and preparation

If you are competing, you must pre-nominate and pay online. The 2016 WFAC web page can be found at <http://www.wfac2016.org/> then just follow the links to register. If you plan on attending the banquet please register and pay for this online also. Banquet seating is limited, so get in early.

You will need to have shot IFAA before and have a current IFAA grade. You will need a Classification and Score Card as proof of this. The card should be correctly filled in and signed by an appropriate person. The Classification and Score Card template is downloadable from the WFAC web page.

Bring your ABA card. Bring proof of age if you are

competing as a cub, junior, young adult or veteran.

If you are shooting an unsighted style, don't assume you are in barebow. Barebow archers in IFAA may use long stabilisers, a level and multiple anchor points. The number of barebow archers here can be counted on one hand. If you don't use sights or release aid with your compound or recurve then you probably shoot Bowhunter Recurve or Bowhunter Compound.

Make sure you have nominated in the correct style. If you try to change at registration you may be disappointed. *A change in style on the day of registration at the tournament shall only be allowed if there is available placing in that style. (IFAA Book of Rules)*

Don't ask to shoot with your friend, your partner, your potential partner, your children, someone else's children or the dog next door. All competitors are peer grouped and cubs and juniors shoot in their own groups. It is likely that shoot groups will change every day so check the board.

You should read and understand the IFAA Book of Rules. I can't stress this enough. If anything in the rule book is unclear, ask a coach or an experienced archer for help. Not knowing the rules can cost you points and possibly a medal.

Bow checks

Your equipment will be thoroughly checked and you will be required to shoot your bow through a chronograph to ensure it complies. Arrow speed cannot exceed

300 feet per second. When you come to get your bow checked bring your bow, your score cards, your arrows, and any other piece of equipment you intend to carry on the range including binoculars, rangefinders, cameras et cetera. *It is the responsibility of the archer to maintain his/her equipment within the specified IFAA rules. Failure to do so may result in a protest by another archer which may result in disqualification.* (IFAA Book of Rules)

Each morning

Know which range and target you are starting on each day. These will be posted. You won't be told or led by the hand. After muster, it is up to you to make your way to the correct target before shooting commences. Groups and starting ranges/targets will change every day so don't assume you will be with the same group or starting on the same target.

Take food and drink with you. It's a long day so be prepared. You may also consider carrying a small fold-up chair with you or taking a golf cart/trolley. Food may be available on the course but be prepared.

Be prompt. Arrive at muster on time and get to your target in time to start. Be aware what your duties are. Are you a scorer, an arrow puller or even target captain?

Run through a mental checklist. Do you have your bow, arrows, finger tab or release aid? Binoculars? A pencil (or two)? The correct score and check score cards?

During the day's shooting

Be patient. A competitor may spend longer at the shooting peg than you would, but that is their right. If you are shooting two-up or in a fan, it is considered good etiquette to stay on the peg until the other person or persons have all shot.

Know when it is your turn to shoot and which peg you need to shoot from. If you shoot from the wrong peg or at the wrong time it will count as a miss. This is something your group members will happily remind you of *after* you have shot.

Walk up! Walk up! Walk up!

Know which target face you have to shoot. You are probably used to shooting eight faces (4 x 2) on the 'Bugs Eyes' and you shoot the left hand four from the left hand peg in a Z pattern—top left, top right, bottom left then bottom right. At the WFAC, a minimum of 16 faces must be used on all butts requiring 20cm faces. Faces shall be arranged 4 x 4 so that vertical rows of four targets result.

If you shoot first from the left peg, then you must shoot the *lower* left set. You still shoot your faces in a Z pattern.

You are probably used to shooting only two 35cm faces on a butt. A minimum of four faces will be provided at Wagga Wagga. These faces will be placed in a square—two up and two down, side by side, and the first pair of archers shall shoot at the lower pair of faces.

The 35cm faces shall be shot with all four arrows at a single face. Arrows shot from the left hand side shall be shot at the left hand target and vice versa, except on fan shots where the two arrows from the left-hand markers shall be shot at the left-hand target, and the arrows from the right-hand markers shall be shot at the right-hand target.

Once again, your group will happily tell you that you shot the wrong face and your arrows don't count *after* you have shot.

Group shoot order changes at Target 1 and Target 15 not on the 15th target shot as many archers seem to think.

During the Animal Round, archers shoot in sequence according to the score card order, and thereafter in rotation according to the score card order.

An archer who shoots from the wrong marker or at the wrong face will lose the score of that arrow. No new arrow may be shot. (IFAA Book of Rules)

Unless you are extremely lucky, you will experience hold-ups on the range. Be patient. This is a good opportunity to have a bite to eat or a drink or use that chair you remembered to bring. Don't talk loudly and distract others; just soak up the atmosphere.

At the end of the round

Check your score card and your total before you sign it. After the last round of competition, be aware that if you tie for an award you will be required to shoot a tie break, so don't start the celebrations just yet.

Lastly, if anything in this article sounds a little intimidating, don't stress. With a little bit of preparation most of these things will be non-events.

Have fun, enjoy the shoot and make new lifelong friends. Help us show all of our international visitors that shooting arrows in Australia is as good as it gets.



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TBA PROFILE



Introducing Trophy Bowhunters Association Committee member

GARRY PITT



Garry Pitt—or Pitty, as he is known—lives in Mount Isa and was made a life member of the Mount Isa club in 1993. He has been a member for more than 30 years.

Garry was target master at the Isa club for around 15 years and every now and then would jump in as the club vice-president before taking on the president's role on and off for about 10 years. In 2004 a work injury slowed him down considerably with the Mount Isa club, but he remains the club proficiency officer with the Twin Rivers Club, is the current Branch B Field Representative and has been a TBA Committee member for some years.

At this year's National Safari, Garry received the prestigious Syd Green Memorial Award for his services to archery.

During 30-plus years of participation in all areas of the sport, Pitty has seen his whole family go to the top of their grades, his son Robert bag a monster of a boar, and himself a world record bull, but says you cannot beat taking out a new member and seeing the look on their face when they take their first boar. He loves the bush and being out there in it.

Garry started out with a 70lb recurve and then moved to a compound. He even had a go at sights but prefers barebow.

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Frederick Vincent Alwyn Nothdurft 16 September 1940—27 February 2016

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of Fred Nothdurft, affectionately known as 'Freddy Fruit Loops'. Darling Downs Field Archers has lost a stalwart and life member of our club. Fred joined DDFA in the early 1980s with his son Robert. He was always a willing worker and provedore for the club, and over the years held many positions on the club executive. Fred organised and participated in many events held at the Darling Downs Field Archers and Branch D. He was well known and loved by many.

There were always lots of smiles and laughter when Fred dressed up to play Santa at Christmas break-ups. He devoted a lot of his time to the many children who came to the club and were eager to learn the aspects of field archery. Fred was an avid hunter in his day and claimed many a trophy class animal. He introduced many newcomers to the outdoors life and the enjoyment of hunting with a bow and arrow.

The first person to greet new members to the club was usually Fred. It would be very surprising if any member past or present could not say they were welcomed by Fred with his great big smile.

In his retirement Fred was instrumental, with some of the retirees, in looking after students from one of our local school's weekly archery lessons. He was extremely generous with his time and skills.

Illness became an inconvenience in his later years but never stopped Fred from being a happy soul. He never let his poor health get him down, and even in his last days he was positive and full of humour.

Fred will be sadly missed by his friends and family and the archery community of which he was so proud to be a member. Rest in peace, Fred.



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NSW State Series Shoots—Bonalbo, Lake Glenbawn, Lake Macquarie



Bonalbo

The first New South Wales shoot of 2016 was held in March in the quiet country town of Bonalbo near the NSW-Queensland border. The event was hosted by the Northern Rivers Field Archers and despite the fact that it was a long drive for many NSW archers, there was still a respectable turnout for the first shoot of the year with 111 shooters.

This was the first sanctioned shoot held at Bonalbo, and with a mixture of hills and open fields, the area lent itself well to the event. The camping was at the Bonalbo Showground, where the very first Australian cattle dog trials were held in 1950. The showground was an ideal site for camping with plenty of room for all our archers, a great canteen

run by the locals and ample space for the practice range in the corral, surrounded by fantastic views of the Bonalbo countryside.

The ranges were set out on the farmland surrounding the showground, where the land was lightly wooded with moderately steep terrain. This allowed the Northern Rivers rangesetters to set out their long open shots, with the addition of inclines making for exceptional ranges. This provided a good mixture of difficulty for all skill levels and archery disciplines.

Saturday began with a quite heavy fog, which deterred many from an early start to their day. The fog didn't fully clear until mid-morning, at which point the temperature began to climb and the humidity set in. Although it was cooler in Bonalbo

than in lower NSW, the NSW shooters didn't appreciate the high humidity, particularly when making the trek up the steep hill where the majority of ranges began.

By the time the Top-Ten was held on Saturday the humidity had dropped making for a more comfortable climate. The Top-Ten was held in an unconventional style, where aided shooters were paired with unaided shooters in teams of two. The teams then shot against each other, with a total combined score for each team. The winning team was comprised of Geoff Mercer and Lachlan Donnelly.

On Sunday the humidity reached 100 per cent; this was believed to be due to the rain, which continued on and off through the day. This made for some slippery tracks in steeper areas, but did not seem to

detract from overall scores, nor did it dampen spirits. However, many did not appreciate the return to saturated camping gear afterwards.

There were some amazing results posted, including nine new records, 10 perfect rounds, two double perfects, as well as a triple perfect and a perfect '500' shot by young Matt Bradshaw in YMR13-14. It seems that the rangesetters lost this battle.

In conclusion, this shoot made for a fantastic start to the NSW shoot calendar and there is no doubt that many shooters would be happy to return to the town of Bonalbo for another sanctioned event.

Lake Glenbawn

The second NSW shoot for 2016 was held by the Lake Glenbawn Field Archers at the Inland Waters Holiday Park, Lake Glenbawn, a fantastic place for a camping holiday. Located

not far from the small country town of Scone, Lake Glenbawn was a much shorter drive for many NSW shooters than Bonalbo.

The club grounds are located on the eastern side of the lake, where the terrain gets progressively steeper, making it a great area for challenging hill shots ... which the club delivered. The camping at the club grounds was minimal, but being a holiday park there were plenty of great camping spots available elsewhere. Many shooters chose to camp down by the lake, where beautiful views were on offer.

The ranges were all set in the hills surrounding the club grounds, which made for some good walking. The bushland around the club varies from dense scrub to sparse trees, allowing a diverse and challenging mixture of shots. The ranges were well set and that perfect score eluded many—a small win for Glenbawn's rangesetters.

Saturday began with brisk weather, but many still headed out early to avoid the heat that would come later in the day. The skies were clear and the sun was bright, which meant it was a fantastic day, but shooting in heavily shaded areas was difficult.

For the Top-Ten later that day, the sunshine provided great background lighting. A Top-Ten was held for the sighted shooters behind the club house, with the targets positioned high on the hill above. It lasted several rounds, with young Jake Collins at last emerging victorious.

Sunday started out much warmer than Saturday, with a few less shooters choosing to make the early start. Many probably wished they had as the day got progressively hotter. However, an increase in temperature didn't lessen people's scores, nor did it detract from the top quality of the ranges.

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Even though there weren't many perfect scores shot, the results were still impressive. Congratulations should go to Simon Gallen and Matt Bradshaw, who achieved perfects despite the rangesetter's best attempts. A second congratulations should also go to Matt for again managing to equal the highest Sunday score for his division.

Yet again the Lake Glenbawn club has put on another fantastic event that many enjoyed, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Lake Macquarie

"A good archer is not known by his arrows, but his aim."

– English proverb

The archery community gathered from far and wide to compete at the Lake Macquarie Classic 2016 in May.

Lake Macquarie Field Archers hosted this two-day 3DAAA State Series event at their club grounds at Wakefield. The club grounds consist of 46 hectares of undulating, wooded archery terrain which form part of the Sugarloaf State Conservation Area, lying just to the west of Lake Macquarie.

This year's Indian summer weather held out to present near perfect conditions for the weekend—a little overcast cloud early on the Saturday clearing to crystal clear blue

skies on the Sunday, with mid-20-degree temperatures and hardly a breath of wind throughout.

The weeks leading up to the event saw a small but dedicated team working tirelessly to prepare five of the most challenging of ranges, led by our mentor and grand master, Simeon 'Simo' Weir. Simo insists that he's not a mean person, but the glint in his eye when anyone mentions the less than kindly placement of the turkey way out there in the darkest of black tunnels on Range C may suggest otherwise. I think that all attendees at the event will agree that we must express a huge debt of gratitude to Simo for creating a set of top class ranges that tested us all, both mentally and physically.

Throughout the weekend, there were many great results achieved by archers.

- Only 2 points split the first and second in the MBO division, with Geoff Champman on 475 just edging out Matt McDougall on 473.

- Jenette Harvey took out first place in FBO, ahead of Jo Moffitt and Nicola Alam.

- Other hard fought results included Luke Collins and Lachlan Scott who were tied on 463 and couldn't be separated on countback. First place finally went to Luke Collins, decided by shootout.

- Another countback decision for

first place in Recurve Unaided went to Karl Peck after he tied with Paul Lovelock at the end of the second day.

- A sighted Top 10 shootout on the Saturday afternoon saw honours going to Grant Elsley.

- Despite Simo's best endeavours, a handful of perfect 100 rounds were scored, including two to Matt Bradshaw, one to Alyssa Mollema and one to Lake Mac member, Jason Sutton.

Overall, 148 archers registered to shoot which was a pleasing turnout, on par with attendance at last year's event.

There was a large contingent of campers enjoying the hospitality of the Lake Macquarie club, and all were kept well fuelled by Sharyn Dick and her tireless team of helpers in the canteen.

Lake Macquarie Field Archers would like to thank the following businesses for their kind support, without whom the event would not have been anywhere near as successful:

Carney Sports and Leisure, Abbey Archery, Ten Zone Archery, Benson Archery Warehouse, Lakeside Archery and Lakes Army Disposals.

"In archery we have something like the way of the superior man. When the archer misses the centre of the target, he turns round and seeks for the cause of his failure in himself."

– Confucius

Victorian State Series Shoots—Twin Cities, Mornington Peninsula

Twin Cities

The second shoot for the Victorian series was hosted by Twin City Archers Gippsland at Morwell in March. After much debate about moving the event to stop conflict with other events being run in Victoria on the same weekend and several club members being away hunting, the decision was made to go ahead with the scheduled date.

With the help of club members and volunteers on the weekend before and during the week leading up to the

shoot, the courses were set out ready to challenge those who entered the shoot.

The bush area, although flat, provided some tricky tunnel shots through trees and plenty of dead ground with long grass and low bushes to get the archers thinking about the distance to the target. The elevated stand in this area was also put into good use with two shots at different angles and distances proving to be a real challenge for some.

Out in the open field area the hills and mounds also

kept the archers focussed to try and make the right shot. This area provided some great long shots, made a bit tougher with a breeze coming up in the afternoon. The steep downhill to the front-on turkey showed it doesn't have to be a long shot to be difficult, and this sorted a few out.

The courses were reset in the afternoon for the second days shoot, with those involved thinking they had made it quite a bit tougher. Dale Walton, winner of the MBO division, wasn't deterred having a great Sunday scoring 100 on the second course. Well done to him.

All divisions were well contested with the MSR 1st and 2nd places being decided on a count back of 10s with Cordell McGuire taking the honour with 30 to 27.

Twin City Archers would once again like to thank all those that helped, participated and supported the shoot and hope that you come back again in August for another weekend of shooting arrows and enjoying good company.

Mornington Peninsula

During the weeks leading up to the shoot, a number of works were completed to the club grounds, including a fresh coat of paint to the entire clubhouse and storage facilities as well as some new roofing and fences put in place. The entire grounds and course were mowed and a number of downed trees were cut and cleared.

Most importantly, the entire practice range was replenished using some old target butts kindly donated to us from Sherbrook Archers. After a little bit of refurbishment, the practice range once again looked great. None could have been achieved without a number of hard-working members who came and donated their time to support the club.

The three courses were set on the Friday with the help of a number of club members.

The club recently purchased some new targets so

it was a great opportunity to place them with a lot of thought—it's good to make a course challenging and unique, making use of shadowy spots and crested knolls for tricky shots. There's nothing better than hearing reports of how a top shooter fudged a few of the targets!

On Friday afternoon, just as the course had been set up and some final work on the grounds was being done, the club was graced by the presence of a few 3DAAA top brass. Mike, Rob and Ron had made the effort to come down for the shoot—it was great to see the support from national.

The afternoon also saw a number of shooters roll in and make use of the camping facilities.

On Saturday, the shooting ran Smoothly as expected. All shooters were on the course by 9.00am. Most competitors had made it back in and handed over score sheets by 1.00pm and were welcomed by the canteen running full steam to supply them with a hearty feed including a selection of baked goods donated to the club by one of the members. As always, the members behind the counter did an amazing job of feeding the competitors.

On Saturday night the club had the bonfire cranked up and the usual crowd of campers gathered around. We organized a bulk order of pizza for dinner, which always seems to keep people happy.

With the courses being changed around, more opportunity for a few new tricky shots arose on Sunday.

Once again the shooting ran smoothly. Scores were collected and presentations went on without a hitch. A number of the club members took home some trophies as well as some junior members winning vouchers from the 3DAAA sponsors. (the kids were extremely happy with that).

A lot of time and effort went into the preparation of this event, so it was great to hear nothing but praise from the competitors.



Around THE TRADS



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

Sue Wallace

* Held over the Easter weekend, the **North Albert Field Archers** once again put together and ran a great trad shoot. The weather was warmer than expected with the days being dry, although there were a couple of showers in the evenings. One poor soul was sitting in the wrong spot as our tarp expelled water from the roof area straight down his back. On Saturday the 95-plus archers from Coffs Harbour, Darling Downs, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Wide Bay areas shot the two field courses, two-arrow round on one course, one-arrow round on the other, speed round, hunt round, rolling disks and the moving target. One of the club members threw up the disks for the

bow bird event, which is shot with fluflus. Following the showers on Saturday evening, shooting the two field courses on Sunday was pleasantly cooler. With this shoot, the course you shot your two-arrow round on the Saturday became your one-arrow round on the Sunday, and the one-arrow round from Saturday became your two-arrow round on Sunday.

* The **Barambah Trad Bash** was held in May. There were 73 archers, one of whom had travelled from Mackay, while many were from Brisbane, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, and the Sunshine Coast, with a couple from Wide Bay, all ready to enjoy the events on offer. We had a 20-tar-

get 3D field course which had been changed this year as the creek was fairly dry, so the club took advantage and placed some shots into, over and along the creek. There was also the popinjay, the clout with a small target zone, speed round, the skipping rolling disks, hunt round, running pig, all these to be shot on Saturday and score cards handed in by 5.00pm. On Saturday evening there was a night shoot which was light beams shining on and off six targets set up on the practice range, all via a timing device. The archer was not aware which target would be lit next. Then on the Sunday we shot the field course again, and the new novelty for Sunday was the war pig. This

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event had you sitting precariously in a saddle on a 3D pig which was suspended off the ground by chains and you were to shoot at five targets. Quite a few of us chose not to do this event, even though the scores were included in the day's total.

The new kitchen/canteen area seemed to be quite popular. A Mothers Day cake was enjoyed by all the mothers who were there just prior to the presentation.

* Trad shoots confirmed for August and September include three inaugural trad shoots. The first will be held at **North Burnett Field Archers** (Queensland) on August 20 and 21 while the second will be at **Silver City Archers** (Broken Hill, NSW)

on August 27 and 28 and the third will be at **Swan Hill Archery Club** in Victoria on September 10 and 11. The weekend before will be the fourth annual **Mallee Sunset Field Archers trad shoot** at Mildura in Victoria (September 3 and 4).

With three of these shoots scheduled for consecutive weekends, you could plan a holiday and see some of western NSW, or perhaps do a paddle steamer trip along the Murray River!

* Reports from the Hunter Valley Trad Shoot, the Caboolture Corral, Jules Shield at Lakeside Bowmen, and the traditional shoot section of the Norfolk Island 3D International will be in the next edition.

You will find further information

and available flyers for the traditional shoots at the following websites:

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Shoot Information – (click on link to flyers)

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Traditional Archery Australia Closed Group is also now on Facebook.

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A man with a grey beard and a wide-brimmed hat stands behind a large, dark-colored buffalo lying on the ground in a wooded area. The buffalo has large, curved horns. The man is wearing a camouflage shirt. The background consists of trees and foliage.

BUFFALO *The last one*

MARK BURROWS

“What do you think?” I whispered to Russell.

Although, I don't know why I was whispering; the bull buffalo was probably 500m away. “Well—he's a lone bull, that's a start,” Russ answered back, “and he looks reasonably heavy from this distance.” We hadn't long rolled out of the swags and were only 300m or 400m from camp when we spotted this big old bull making his way through the light scrub back to his bedding area.

I was in the NT just south of Arnhem Land hunting with Troy Morris and Russell Cornall. Russ was here checking out the potential of this property with the intention of setting up a guided bowhunting outfit. Troy and I were offered the chance to be guinea-pig bowhunters and we jumped at the opportunity.

Troy was after a buffalo to add to his ever growing collection of species and I was out to improve my game award buff with a TC or better to complete the ABA's game list ... I would then have all the measurable species at TC or better. This exploratory trip was going to be very basic. All we had with us as we landed in Darwin were our bows, hunting gear, and a few spare clothes. We picked up a hire vehicle, purchased some basic camping gear and supplies for a week and hit the road, staying the first night at Mataranka with the idea of leaving early enough the next morning to have camp set up in time to get in a hunt.

All went to plan and by early afternoon we had caught up with the station manager and were finally on our way into our hunt-

ing block. The country was different to my expectations of where you would normally hunt buffalo. As far as the Northern Territory is concerned, I would call this hilly. It was nothing like the vast river plains closer to the coast. Here there were large rocky outcrops, jump-ups and hills. There was a permanent river running through the property with several springs feeding into it from the many small gullies. Over the week these proved to be prime locations to find game.

A couple of kilometres from the homestead we spotted our first buffalo—a good sign, I thought. We hadn't even set up camp yet. The decision was made to have a quick look just in case a representative trophy was there and besides, a stalk would certainly get the blood pumping.



Mark with his RC buff.

I managed to draw the long straw, so if the opportunity arose I would get the first shot. Confirming the wind was workable, we moved up a small ridge to get above them. Ten minutes later we were sitting on a rocky ledge 80m above three buffalo, studying them intently through our binos. The biggest one was okay, but not really what either of us was after, especially this early in the hunt, so after taking a few pictures we made our way back down towards the vehicle.

Halfway down the ridge we spotted the rear end of a lone buffalo feeding in the long grass on the other side of the small valley. A few minutes with the glasses confirmed it was a cow, and she seemed to be alone. Troy was offered the opportunity to pick up his species and get one on the deck, so he and Russell headed in while I hung back to

watch the action unfold.

Using the lay of the land, it didn't take the two of them long to move into bow range. The cow was slowly feeding along the upper edge of a small dry creek and Troy was doing his best to stay in touch without being caught out. The buffalo wasn't going to make this super easy. Every time she paused she seemed to have the wrong end facing Troy. Eventually she stopped long enough broadside for Troy to get in a good shot and his arrow was quickly on its way.

I immediately lost sight of the quarry as I was watching the whole process through the binos from 100m or so back. However, as the buff disappeared into the grass I thought the shot looked pretty good. I stayed where I was, not wanting to stuff anything up, but keen to get down there and participate at the same time. I

could see Troy and Russell making their way up a small mound of rocks with Troy looking like he was getting ready to shoot again, but I couldn't see the buffalo. The next instant the bow was back and released, then I lost sight of Troy and Russ as well. Five minutes later I got the "Cooee!" I was waiting for. Troy had successfully added another species to his list and we had our first buff for the trip.

For the next five days, we were up before the sun glassing the flats until the heat began to build, spending the middle part of the day either still hunting the creeks, swamps and jungles, or just holing up somewhere out of the heat, then glassing the flats again during the last few hours of daylight. This process enabled us to cover a great deal of ground as we checked out scrub bulls, wild dogs and donkeys as well as many a bull

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Troy's first buff.

buffalo and some really good cow buffalo ... but all the good cows had young at foot so were left alone.

We also came across a few good boars. Troy had first crack at these one morning as we were just getting ourselves organised to hunt a particular creek system. There were two of them feeding together down

a small ridge heading into the thick stuff. Russ and I stayed back uphill for a good view of the action while Troy disappeared into the gully to get in close enough for a shot. Within a couple of minutes we could make out his hat moving out of the thicker vegetation. From our vantage point it looked as though Troy had picked out a tree to use as cover and was moving quickly into bow range. The pig was playing the game and was feeding at a slight tangent to Troy,

giving him an excellent shot opportunity and Troy didn't let it pass. The arrow was gone and the pig did a small circle, ran 10m and went down.

The second pig, intrigued by all the commotion, came trotting over to see what he was missing out on. As it turned out, I am sure it was not what he expected. Troy was caught in the open and immediately did the I'm-a-tree impersonation, which the boar believed and gave Troy the opportunity for his second shot in two minutes. Now I don't know if the pig sighted Troy as he shot, smelled him or heard the bow, but immediately upon taking an arrow to the boiler room he turned and charged.

From our vantage point it looked as though Troy was going to be in for a little 'bow in the pig's mouth' activity and we started to discuss whether we should help out, but the pig ran past Troy at near warp speed, missing him by a half a metre, and ran head first into the tree that Troy had previously used as cover. He bounced back about two metres and went straight down without a murmur. Troy had two good-sized boars on the ground in very short order. Disappointingly the first pig had both tusks broken off. The second boar went high TC and he also had a broken tusk.

This was to be Troy's day as later

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Troy with a boar that had a broken tusk.

that afternoon he and Russell headed off into the Never Never on the trail of a good buffalo. I went back to get the vehicle and meet them at a pre-arranged location. It turned out to be one of those long waits when you start to get a few anxious moments, but right on dark I saw the tell-tale sign of a couple of headlamps in the distance and couldn't wait for the story. It proved to be a positive one, and the buffalo had been left down by the river, ready for our return at

daylight for the picture session.

The next morning, on the way back to Troy's buffalo, it was my turn to get in a stalk on a pig. We had spotted one poking around under a fig tree right on the river's edge. Russell and Troy stayed back and let me head in on the stalk. Picking up a game pad among the fallen leaves enabled me to push in fairly fast and quietly. The pig had dropped down the bank so was out of sight for several minutes.

As I neared the understorey of the fig I slowed right down, taking a step at a time, trying to peer over the bank and look up and down the creek bed as I inched forward. After several metres I was beginning to think the boar had wandered away, but then I heard him give a bit of a cough. I edged forward a little more and could see over the river bank enough to pick up the tops of his ears about five metres away. I came to full draw and was just wondering how I was going to get far enough forward for a shot without spooking him when he decided to come back up the bank.

I am reasonably confident at 5m on a boar-sized target, so I picked a hair out just behind his shoulder and released. The arrow was instantly in the tree root on the other side of the pig. The boar spun 180 degrees, fell on his side, rolled down the bank and didn't move. Now that's how I like hunting pigs and a great boar he was too, going Record Class. A great start to the day.

We proceeded on to Troy's buff for the picture session and the on-site rendition of the hunt which I had heard all about the night before, but could now picture the whole thing much more clearly. Troy's buffalo went RC which was a great reward for effort put in. The day ended up as a bit of an R and R day, which was fine. We had been going pretty full on and needed a bit of a break.



Troy's TC boar.

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The next morning brings us back to the beginning of this story. Russ and I decided this buff was well worth closer inspection. We knew he was heading for the river which we were currently working parallel to and knew it turned hard left about 400m up ahead. This seemed to be his crossing destination. Leaving Troy to keep watch from there, Russell and I dropped over the river bank and made our way as quickly as possible up to the corner.

We slowly poked our heads up over the bank only to see the rear end of the buffalo disappearing down the bank about 100m further up. The river bank here was about 4m high. I checked the wind. It wasn't perfect, but providing we got up onto the top of the bank we should be okay.

My first thought was that the buff was going to go straight down the bank, across the river and up the other side. The river was only about half a metre deep here and about 20m wide, with another 30m of sand before another 4m bank. There was a fair bit of cover along the water's edge on our side of the bank; a few larger trees with quite a bit of understorey scrub. Consequently we couldn't see the buffalo. I decided to move along the top pad slowly and hope the buff was still on the sand flat on the other side.

We had only gone forward about 30m when the buffalo appeared in the middle of the sand flat opposite us on the other side of the river, slowly making his way over to a cutting which would enable him to easily traverse the opposite bank. I stopped. Russell, who was a little behind me and further out, stopped as well and the buffalo, sensing or seeing something, also stopped. Stalemate. He obviously wasn't sure what we were, but he knew something wasn't quite right. Now Russell reckons buffalo can outwait any

creature on the planet. After 20 minutes of not moving a muscle I began to believe him. I had outwaited deer quicker than this. Right about now I had reached my limit of immovability and I don't think the buffalo had even blinked.

I had to push things and see how they would work out. I turned to my right ever so slowly to enable me to shoot and also to use the rangefinder. There was a leafy tree branch directly in front of me which gave me a bit of cover to nock an arrow and range the buffalo—however, it also meant I would have to kneel down to shoot.

The bull was 41m away slightly downhill, but he was looking directly at me and I had no chance at all for a shot. He was still unsure what we were and I was hoping that would give me a little edge to get in a shot. I decided to draw and kneel at the same time and see what panned out. As soon as I hit my knees, the buff turned and moved back up the river bed in a bit of a half circle, not really

going any further away. Another step and he would be obscured again by the trees. A rough calf call stopped him at this point long enough for me to settle and send an arrow on its way. He was broadside with his head turned sharp looking back towards us. My arrow entered high in the shoulder, burying it to the nock, but going down because of the angle.

The bull immediately ran for the opposite bank, lurched up the cutting and ran about 20m and stopped. I thought that was a good sign. I like good signs. I could see him clearly in the binos in amongst the light timber, but was looking at the opposite side to the shot. Within moments he was in reverse, his front feet struggling to keep up with his back feet and now I thought that was a really good sign. Then he was going sideways and down. Now that was a really, really good sign.

I wasn't sure how I felt at this point. There was the obvious jubilation of taking a magnificent game



Mark's RC boar.

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





Troy ... RC buffalo.

animal with a bow and arrow, but there was also that tinge of sadness in doing so. When I first started hunting with the bow my ambition was to get all the species available on the ABA list. I did that several years ago. I then decided I needed to up that and try and get them all at TC or better. Well this buff, that incidentally went Record Class, was the last one.

It is the culmination of all that I set out to do. So no more stories to my wife about needing that next trophy, I will have to tell her the real reason I head bush. I just love hunting.

For those who are interested, my bow was a Hoyt Carbon Spyder 34 set at 70lb. The arrows were Easton 340 Axis, with brush cutter fibre placed inside as weight tubes. The

broadhead was the 150 grain Tusker Spirit, for an overall arrow weight of 550 grains. The release was a Carter Plain One.

For anyone looking for an excellent opportunity to bowhunt a buffalo at rates that are as good as you can get, give Russell Cornall a call. He has an advert in *Archery Action* for sambar hunting as well as buffalo.



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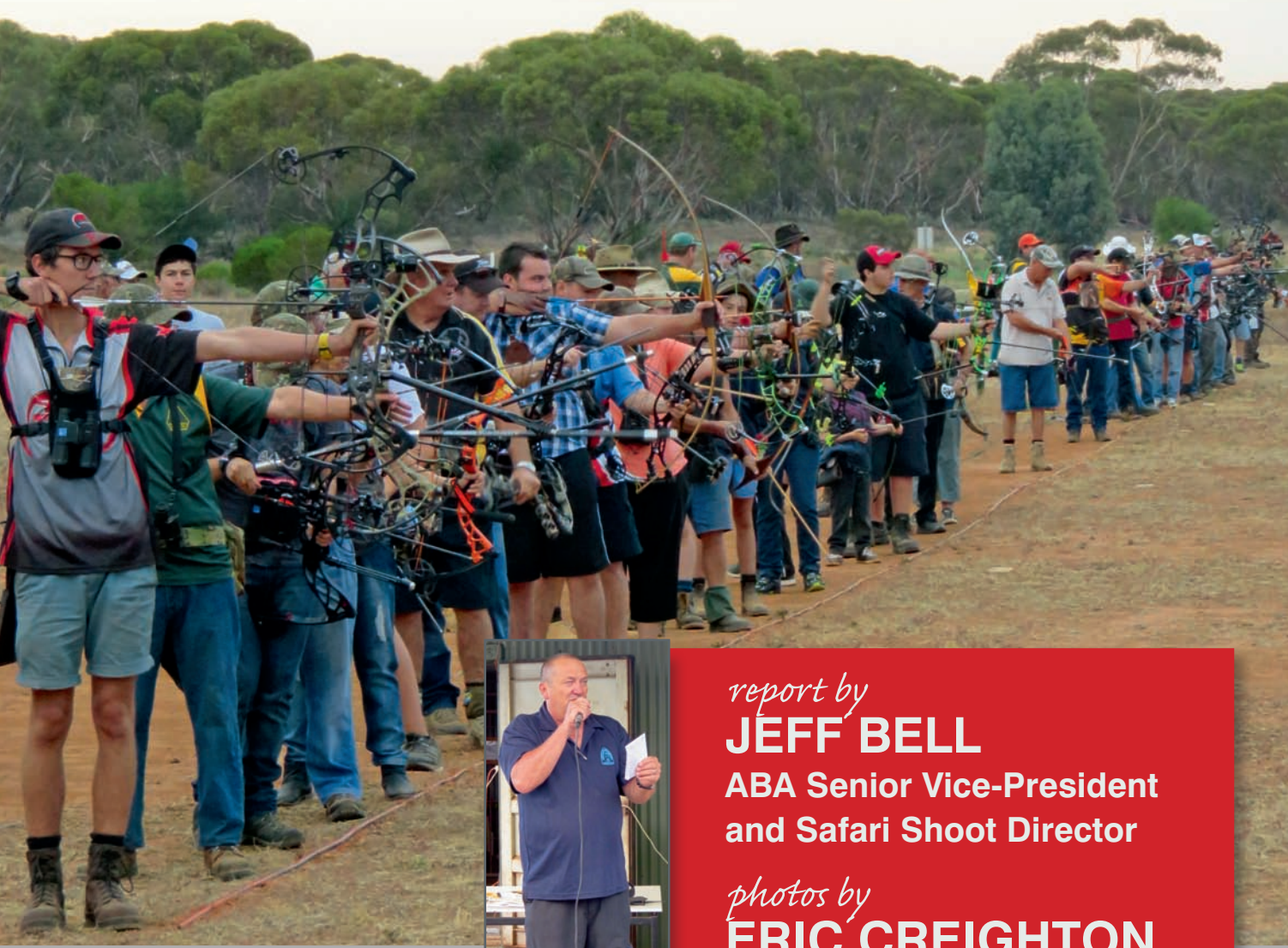









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report by

JEFF BELL

**ABA Senior Vice-President
and Safari Shoot Director**

photos by

ERIC CREIGHTON

2016

NATIONAL SAFARI and

The National Safari was the first of some serious competitions in the ABA's 2016 archery calendar.

With the first shoot at our new home at Mudgee in June and the World IFAs at Wagga Wagga destined for later in the year, the annual Safari and 3D Championships loomed as an excellent beginning to a very full archery year.

Leading up to the Easter event,

things looked very 'down' in terms of participation with pre-registrations showing reduced numbers. It looked like the Safari might be the poor relation due to people making choices with their limited finances and holiday times in such a full calendar.

But this proved to be not so! With over 250 competitors in ABA and 200 in 3D, the event was a tremendous success. There were a large number of last-minute entries, which provided

a challenge for the score recorders and administrators, but everything came together for the start of the event.

The Mallee Sunset Field Archers club grounds was an excellent venue to hold our championship event. Archers were confronted with four challenging ABA courses on the first day and a warm spell of weather to go with it. The local flies proved to be particularly friendly and were cursed



3D CHAMPIONSHIPS

by all who were there.

Mildura Rural City Council Mayor Glenn Milne was present to open the event. He welcomed everyone to the venue and encouraged competitors to sample what the area had to offer.

The first day of competition, in particular, was very warm, especially for those who had travelled from further south and had felt a spell of cooler weather in the previous week.

Scores from Day 1 showed how

challenging the courses and weather could be. There were a number of hotly contested divisions and the first day scores were very close.

After a good night's rest, Day 2 began with lots of promise. Scores were generally more consistent on the second day and two 'perfects' (400) were shot by Shaun Pratt (MFUA) and Nate Chandler (JBBUA) and a Robin Hood by Nate just to round things off! Some excellent

host club

*Mallee Sunset
Field Archers*



scores were shot over the two days. The boys in Junior Boys Freestyle Unlimited A Grade had only six points between first and third and they only dropped 64 points out a possible 4800 over the four rounds! Shaun Pratt only dropped eight points for the competition. There was a tie for the bronze medal in Ladies Bowhunter Compound B Grade between Rachel Joy and Kimberley Songberg and the South Australian trio of Geoff Blesing, Darryl Haywood and Ralf Kling took all the placings in the Veteran Men's Sighted Division.

Branch I had a great win in the ABA Junior Branch Team's event over Greater Victoria and Branch D beat all comers in the Adult Team's event ... again! It was good to see Branch I (South Australia) have a successful team event result not

only winning the Junior event but also coming third in the Adult section (after a miscalculation originally awarded it to North NSW).

The Axe and Knife competition was another hotly contested event. The crowd around the throwers was quite extraordinary and provided entertainment for a significant part of the evening. The edited format that was introduced meant that the activity was not long and drawn out and quite a few throwers were challenged by the back peg qualification rule.

Some other important awards were also presented. Garry Pitt was presented with his Syd Green Memorial Trophy and Eric Creighton was presented with an ABA Measurer for Life award for his outstanding contribution to the Association's hunting division.

Youngster Adam Storey, a Cub Recurve shooter, won the Norfolk Island trip! He was very excited!

The big question, still to be answered after Day 2, was this: How would the new 3D format go at a national event?

The 3D was not without its challenges. The targets had to be collected from Mudgee and brought back to Mildura, the courses needed to be measured and set and there were questions regarding grading and time taken to shoot the two-arrow round.

While the targets made the long trek from Mudgee the courses were set under the new format. On arrival at the course, targets were quickly distributed and placed in position and everything was ready to go.

In an effort to reduce time and

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allow for travel on the Monday, it was decided to shoot both of the two-arrow rounds on the first day. But what about the time factor? To overcome this, all archers were encouraged to shoot two up—one either side of the peg, for all targets where this was possible. This proved to be an excellent, and well received, initiative. So successful was it that shooting the two two-arrow rounds was almost as quick as a three-arrow and a one-arrow round in ABA!

Scores were down on the ABA rounds of the previous days, due mainly to the different scoring system of 20, 16 and 10. The best scores of the day were shot by Nate Chandler (JBBUA) with a 778 and Peter Hearne (JBFUA) with a 776. The best adult score went to Bradley Stephan (MBUA) with a 764.

Grading of 3D has been an ongoing issue and, until this stage, had been based on ABA grades until

sufficient data had been gathered. A national event such as this provided the data to make a better review of the grading system. After considerable deliberation, Trevor Pickett and Steve Barratt (National and Assistant Score Recorders) were able to make a better call on what appropriate 3D grades should be and these were applied to the overnight scores.

Day 2 saw the final two one-arrow rounds shot. Again the 'two shooters up' format was employed—again successfully—and the rounds were completed in good time to hold the presentations and allow people some travel time afterwards.

The best round went to Peter Hearne (JBFUA) with a 396 and the best adult round to Geoff Blesing (VMFU) with a 388.

In teams events, Greater Victoria won the Junior Branch Teams event and Branch D took the double, winning the Adult Teams from South

Australia and Greater Victoria.

Overall, the Safari was an outstanding success. While numbers may have been down a little, it was to be expected in such a big year, but attendance was still very good.

Justin Kerr (MSFA President), Glenn Hanemann (VP) and the rest of the Mallee Sunset crew should be very proud of what the club achieved in hosting their third National Safari. The courses and facilities were first class and the club is to be congratulated on what they have achieved.

The National Executive team should also be pleased with the outcome of the event as it was not without its challenges which the team met with a professional approach and aplomb!

We left, looking forward to the next major event on the calendar—the inaugural IFAA Australian Championships at the new ABA Park in Mudgee.



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RESULTS

ABA

Cub Girls Freestyle UnLimited C Grade

1	Charlotte Reciszen	1344
2	Ella Tilbrook	1156
3	Jazmin Everett	876

Cub Girls Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1	Vashti Reciszen	492
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Cub Girls Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Marnie Little	1216
2	Casey Ormiston	1054

Cub Boys Freestyle UnLimited C Grade

1	Max Tilbrook	1468
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Cub Boys Freestyle UnLimited B Grade

1	Nicholas Scarlett	1510
2	Hayden Ormiston	1438
3	Will Tilbrook	1408

Cub Boys Modern Longbow C Grade

1	Jordyn Stewart	640
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Cub Boys Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1	Adam Storey	792
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Cub Boys Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1	Hugo Lobb	1186
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Cub Boys Bowhunter Compound C Gr

1	Benjamin Perfect	872
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Cub Boys Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Anthony Fruin	1278
2	Caleb Brady	1192

3	Hamish Storrie	1090
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Junior Girls Bowhunter UnLimited C Gr

1	Nysha Willaton	1382
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Junior Girls Bowhunter Recurve C Gr

1	Hannah Morrissey	738
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Junior Girls Bowhunter Recurve B Gr

1	Christiarna Lee	832
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Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Emma Rethus	1050
2	Caitlin Storrie	1020
3	Bella Little	974

Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound A Gr

1	Georgina Graham	1318
2	Georgia Rethus	1178

Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited C Gr

1	James Mitchell	1388
2	Troy Walsh	1356
3	Brandon Stewart	1322

Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited B Gr

1	Andre Lea	1362
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Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited A Gr

1	Nate Chandler	1584
2	Adam Leigh	1536
3	Trafford Bishop	1398

Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited C Gr

1	Tommy Lawlor	1502
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Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited B Gr

1	Angus Dowling	1498
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Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited A Gr

1	Peter Hearne	1582
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2	Hugh Fabbro	1578
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3	Jaxsen Wells	1576
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Junior Boys Bowhunter Recurve B Gr

1	Harry Kairn	1036
2	Matthew Barkman	838

Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Matthew Walker-York-Moore	1250
2	Kameron Rowntree	1062
3	James Way	1002

Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound A Gr

1	Dylan Evans	1522
2	Jake Sparrow	1316
3	Shane Richards	1098

Veteran Mens Sighted

1	Geoffrey Blesing	1586
2	Darryl Haywood	1548
3	Ralf Kling	1544

Veteran Mens Bowhunter

1	Ron Williams	1166
2	Ben Cavallo	1146
3	Ray McHugh	956

Trad Peg Ladies Traditional Longbow

1	Joy Wood	888
2	Barbara Kelly	574

Trad Peg Ladies Bowhunter Recurve

1	Tammie Tait	808
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Trad Peg Mens Traditional Longbow

1	Trevor Pickett	990
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Trad Peg Mens Bowhunter Recurve

1	Larry Cavallo	1076
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Ladies Bowhunter Limited C Grade

1	Pamela Helmrich	1106
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Ladies Bowhunter Limited B Grade

1	Joanne Bogie	1390
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Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited C Grade

1	Amanda Tilbrook	1332
2	Karen L Connolly	1162
3	Jennifer Pellegrino	982

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited B Grade

1	Julie Mercer	1468
2	Donna Ormiston	1454
3	Lindy Allen	1198

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited A Grade

1	Kerry Chandler	1486
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Ladies Freestyle Limited Compound C Gr

1	Julie Morrissey	660
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Ladies Freestyle Limited Recurve C Gr

1	Wendy Gorton	1160
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Ladies Freestyle UnLimited C Grade

1	Sonja Wegert	1492
2	Belinda Dickinson	1440
3	Kym Williams	1284

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited B Grade

1	Rachael Vincent	1440
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Ladies Modern Longbow B Grade

1	Karen Deer	852
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Ladies Traditional Longbow C Grade

1	Tammy Richards	390
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Ladies Bowhunter Recurve B Grade

1	Pauline Hunter	788
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Ladies Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1	Glenys Allen	1140
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Ladies Bowhunter Compound C Grade

1	Alison Nicholls	646
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Ladies Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1	Sandy Lee	1204
2	Lorraine Black	1118
3	Rachel Joy	1034
3	Kimberley Songberg	1034

Ladies Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1	Wendy Gallagher	1364
2	Michelle Campbell	1214
3	Annette Christensen	1082

Mens Bowhunter Limited B Grade

1	Allan Hall	1416
2	Stuart Leyh	1352
3	Brett Cox	1260

Mens Bowhunter UnLimited C Grade

1	Anthony Smith	1478
2	Phillip Dowling	1440
3	Darren Everett	1428

Mens Bowhunter UnLimited B Grade

1	Iban Zapata	1546
2	Matthew Borchard	1500
3	Jason Mitchell	1490

Mens Bowhunter UnLimited A Grade

1	Bradley Stephan	1580
2	Damien Ormiston	1572
3	Michael Targett	1562

Mens Freestyle Limited Compound B Gr

1	Jeff Bell	1376
2	David Morrissey	1138

Mens Freestyle Limited Compound A Gr

1	Malcolm Gorton	1362
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Mens Freestyle Limited Recurve C Gr

1	Mark Dickinson	1222
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Mens Freestyle UnLimited C Grade

1	Dean Songberg	1392
2	Thomas Lawlor	1342
3	Mitchell Old	1328

Mens Freestyle UnLimited B Grade

1	Stuart Renwick	1546
2	Glenn Hanemann	1482
3	Steven Old	1472

Mens Freestyle UnLimited A Grade

1	Shaun Pratt	1592
2	Mark Burrows	1558
3	Vaughan Honeysett	1554

Mens Historical Bow

1	Peter Rogers	984
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Mens Modern Longbow A Grade

1	Geoffrey Blake	1014
2	Lindsay Yuile	962
3	Hayden Talmage	802

Mens Traditional Longbow C Grade

1	Peter Ellul	726
2	Raymond Morgan	624
3	Adam Murray	504

Mens Traditional Longbow B Grade

1	Ross Fleming	1020
2	Jason Chandler	732
3	Allan Driver	666

Mens Traditional Longbow A Grade

1	James Judge	1050
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Mens Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1	Craig Rowntree	754
2	Ivan Harrison	558

Mens Bowhunter Recurve B Grade

1	David Lee	962
2	Leslie Otto	890
3	Shane Walker	848
4	John Tulloh	800

Mens Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1	David McGuire	1302
2	Howard O'Connell	1186
3	John Deer	1178

Mens Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1	David E Jarman	1168
2	Shannon Hitchen	1100
3	John McNamara	1092

Mens Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1	Alvyn W Bell	1420
2	Brett Raymond	1388
3	Damian Kairn	1364

ABA Adult Branch Teams

1	South Queensland Branch	5952
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(Alvyn W Bell, Peter Judge, Bradley Stephan, John Erskine)

2	Greater Victoria	5886
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(Shaun Pratt, Tony Brezic, Wayne Atkinson, Damian Kairn)

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3 Northern New South Wales 5584
(Jason Mitchell, Glenys Allen, Brian Taylor, Vaughan Honeysett)

ABA Junior Branch Teams

1 South Australia 4868
(Christianna Lee, Angus Dowling, Kameron Rowntree, Jake Sparrow)

2 Greater Victoria 2984
(Dylan Evans, Andre Lea)

Knife and Axe Throw

Knife

Men

1 Steven Old

Ladies

1 Jodie Rethus

Junior

1 Dylan Evans

2 Hugo Lobb

3 Max Tilbrook

Axe

Men

1 Peter Ellul

2 Howard O'Connell

3 Lindsay Yuile

Ladies

1 Jodie Rethus

2 Kym Williams

3 Rachel Outtram

Junior Boys

1 Dylan Evans

2 Shane Richards

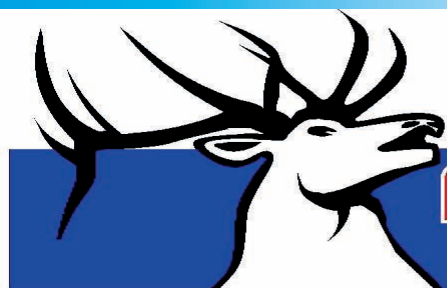
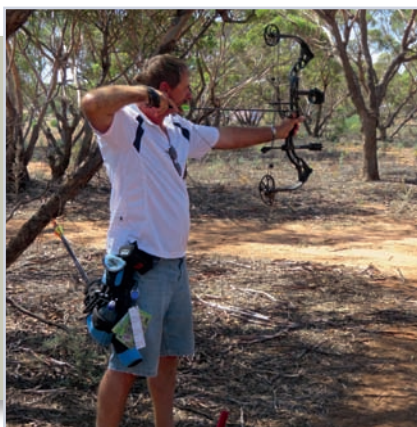
3 Sean Evans

Junior Girls

1 Hannah Morrissey

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Vashti Reciszen, Jordyn Stewart



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3D Championships

Cub Girls Freestyle UnLimited C Gr

1	Charlotte Reciszen	1662
2	Ella Tilbrook	1256

Cub Girls Bowhunter Recurve C Gr

1	Vashti Reciszen	496
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Cub Girls Bowhunter Compound C Gr

1	Kayley Phillips	414
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Cub Girls Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Marnie Little	1360
2	Casey Ormiston	1284

Cub Boys Freestyle UnLimited B Gr

1	Will Tilbrook	1838
2	Hayden Ormiston	1832
3	Max Tilbrook	1774

Cub Boys Freestyle UnLimited A Gr

1	Bayliss Gould	2140
2	Nicholas Scarlett	2054

Cub Boys Bowhunter Recurve A Gr

1	Hugo Lobb	1266
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Cub Boys Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Benjamin Perfect	1252
2	Hamish Storrie	1030
3	Xavier Reciszen	992

Cub Boys Bowhunter Compound A Gr

1	Anthony Fruin	1624
2	Caleb Brady	1570

Junior Girls Bowhunter UnLimited B Gr

1	Nysha Willaton	1700
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Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound C Gr

1	Bella Little	902
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Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Georgia Rethus	1268
2	Emma Rethus	1194

Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound A Gr

1	Caitlin Storrie	1318
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Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited C Gr

1	Troy Walsh	1526
2	Andre Lea	1420
3	Brandon Stewart	1338

Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited B Gr

1	Trafford Bishop	1834
2	James Mitchell	1766

Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited A Gr

1	Nate Chandler	2322
2	Adam Leigh	2106

Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited A Gr

1	Peter Hearne	2330
2	Hugh Fabbro	2270

3	Jaxsen Wells	2246
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Junior Boys Bowhunter Recurve B Gr

1	Harry Kairn	802
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Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound C Gr

1	Joshua Deacon	504
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Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Kameron Rowntree	1360
2	James Way	1196
3	Shane Richards	1112

Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound A Gr

1	Dylan Evans	2040
2	Jake Sparrow	1600
3	Matthew Walker-York-Moore	1508

Veteran Mens Sighted

1	Geoffrey Blesing	2210
2	Ralf Kling	2122
3	Darryl Haywood	2106

Veteran Mens Bowhunter

1	Ben Cavallo	1088
2	Ray McHugh	1072

Trad Peg Ladies Traditional Longbow

1	Barbara Kelly	398
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Trad Peg Mens Historical Bow

1	Ross Fleming	894
2	Peter Rogers	846
3	Roadie Cawthorne	662

Trad Peg Mens Traditional Longbow

1	Trevor Pickett	824
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Trad Peg Mens Bowhunter Recurve

1	Larry Cavallo	1156
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Ladies Bowhunter Limited B Grade

1	Joanne Bogie	1766
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Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited C Gr

1	Donna Ormiston	1720
2	Lindy Allen	1338
3	Karen L Connolly	1330

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited B Gr

1	Amanda Tilbrook	1722
2	Kerry Chandler	1718

Ladies Freestyle Limited Compound C Gr

1	Julie Morrissey	608
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Ladies Freestyle UnLimited C Gr

1	Deborah Jones	1466
2	Kym Williams	1204

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited B Gr

1	Sonja Wegert	1860
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Ladies Modern Longbow A Grade

1	Karen Deer	1054
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Ladies Traditional Longbow C Gr

1	Tammy Richards	386
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Ladies Bowhunter Recurve B Gr

1	Glenys Allen	1176
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Ladies Bowhunter Compound C Gr

1	Rachel Outtram	1000
2	Sally-Anne McGrigor	978
3	Belinda Williams	958

Ladies Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Sandy Lee	1224
2	Rhonda Pitt	1174
3	Rachel Joy	1156

Ladies Bowhunter Compound A Gr

1	Wendy Gallagher	1674
2	Michelle Campbell	1336

Mens Bowhunter Limited B Grade

1	Allan Hall	1456
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Mens Bowhunter UnLimited C Gr

1	Anthony McCallum	1736
2	Darren Everett	1674
3	Adam Robinson	1666

Mens Bowhunter UnLimited B Gr

1	Justin Kerr	1928
2	Brett Willaton	1916
3	John Gear	1884

Mens Bowhunter UnLimited A Gr

1	Bradley Stephan	2262
2	Michael Targett	2214
3	Damien Ormiston	2170

Mens Freestyle Limited Compound B Gr

1	Malcolm Gorton	1630
2	David Morrissey	1448

Freestyle UnLimited C Grade

1	Mitchell Old	1710
2	Thomas Lawlor	1666
3	Raiden Jones	1510

Mens Freestyle UnLimited B Grade

1	Scott Way	1986
2	Glenn Hanemann	1922
3	Steven Lea	1912

Mens Freestyle UnLimited A Grade

1	Vaughan Honeysett	2150
2	Mark Burrows	2140
3	Stuart Renwick	2054

Mens Modern Longbow C Grade

1	Adam Jones	574
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Mens Modern Longbow B Grade

1	Hayden Talmage	788
---	----------------	-----

Mens Modern Longbow A Grade

1	Lindsay Yuile	922
---	---------------	-----

Mens Traditional Longbow C Grade

1	Peter Ellul	636
2	Raymond Morgan	566
3	Adam Murray	380



Mens Traditional Longbow B Grade

1	Geoffrey Blake	868
2	Jason Chandler	858
3	Alain Gouault	806

Mens Traditional Longbow A Grade

1	James Judge	1002
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Mens Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1	John Tulloh	818
2	Wayne Wilson	806
3	Brett Cox	566

Mens Bowhunter Recurve B Grade

1	Howard O'Connell	1098
2	David Lee	928
3	Leslie Otto	926

Mens Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1	David McGuire	1358
2	Andrew Mc Gregor	1298
3	Karl Peck	1274

Mens Bowhunter Compound C Gr

1	John Alexander	940
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Mens Bowhunter Compound B Gr

1	Anthony Atkinson	1356
2	Brian Taylor	1272
3	Shannon Hitchen	1268

Mens Bowhunter Compound A Gr

1	Alvyn W Bell	1882
2	Wayne Atkinson	1708
3	Peter Judge	1666

3D Adult Branch Teams

1	South Queensland Branch 7892	
	(Peter Judge, Alvyn W Bell, John Erskine, Bradley Stephan)	
2	South Australia	7304
	(Shannon Hitchen, Geoffrey Blesing, Ralf Kling, Brett Raymond)	
3	Greater Victoria	7184
	(Steven Old, Wendy Gallagher, Tony Brezic, Damian Kairn)	

3D Junior Branch Teams

1	Greater Victoria	3540
	(Andre Lea, Dylan Evans)	

Kids on Safari pictures Page 71

The next major event on the ABA calendar ...



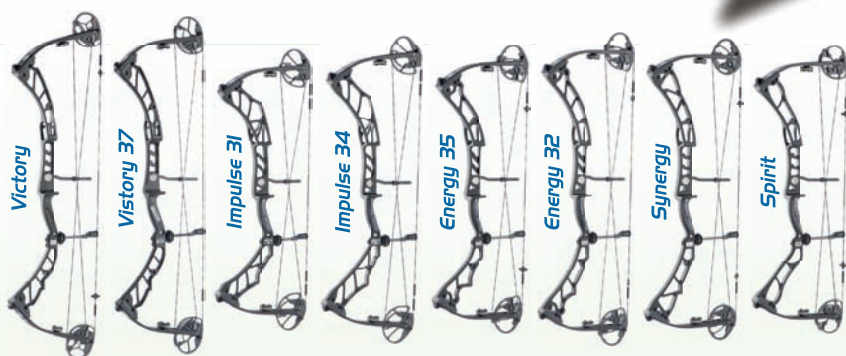
The next major event on the ABA calendar and the first official event at ABA Park in Mudgee, the IFAA Field Archery Championships, was held from June 8 to 13. See the full report in the next issue.

Archery Addiction

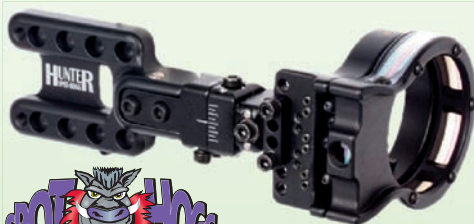
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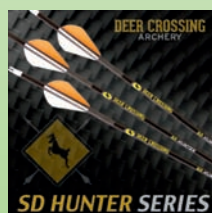
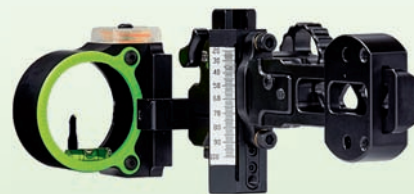


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EDITOR

GONE
~~FISHIN'~~
HUNTING



Eric has been an asset to the magazine and of course to bowhunting as a whole over many years. He will be missed by clubs all across Australia—especially Mount Isa—for the way he has helped in so many ways. Many of us regard him as a good friend as well as admiring the way he always seems to do a great amount of work effortlessly.

Garry and Rhonda Pitt
(Garry) National Measurer
Tusker Broadheads, Mount Isa District Bowhunters

Eric's foresight and hard work has seen our magazine go from black-and-white newsprint to a publication of a professional standard. Thank you, Eric, for all you've done over the years.

Heather Pender

Under Eric's guidance the magazine has consistently provided a window into the world of Australian archery through which we can see ourselves laughing, playing and generally having a bloody good time.

Trevor Pickett
National Score Recorder

Tribute

Apart from him having a lot to answer for in regard to getting me on the National Executive in the first place, Eric has certainly taken the *Archery Action* magazine where few 'newsletter' magazines have ever been before. Considering that *Archery Action* was originally designed as a newsletter for ABA members and is now one of—if not *the*—premier hunting magazines in Australia shows Eric's professionalism and foresight both for the magazine and the Association. The publication still plays a critical role as a communication document for ABA.

When Syd Green was the Editor, he once asked me to take over the writing of the editorial section of AA. It was a significant task to complete on a bi-monthly basis. Eric took over this task from me, thank goodness, and has handled this—and all of the other elements of putting the pieces of the magazine jigsaw together—with enthusiasm, and look where the magazine is now! Quality, and not quantity, is certainly Eric's prime consideration when selecting material for the magazine and the results speak for themselves.

Without doubt, Eric's enthusiasm and passion for ABA and the importance of AA within the Association speaks highly of his skills and his dedication.

Jeff Bell
ABA Senior Vice-President

A year or two back, Eric mentioned to me that he was really making a conscious effort to get out and about more often to enjoy bowhunting, camping and general touring about the Australian bush. My response then was and still is that if any one person here in Australia deserves to participate in and enjoy the fruits of the rightfully legal and wonderful sport of bowhunting here in Australia it is Eric Creighton.

Eric and I have not always seen eye to eye, especially in the mid 1980s when I was heavily involved in the formation of Trophy Takers here in Oz, however I unreservedly acknowledge that during his many years of Bowhunting Administration and in later years as editor of *Archery Action*, he has always gathered the facts and made a stand or moved forward in a way that he felt was in the best interest of we bowhunters in Australia.

I have watched in admiration from afar the decades of hard work that he has done for our sport and the AA magazine and can only say well done and thank you Eric for a job extremely well done.

Dave Whiting
Chairman, Trophy Takers

Eric set out from the very beginning of his editorship to make the *Archery Action* magazine the biggest and best archery-related magazine in this country. I believe he has done that in spades. I have seen it grow from a black-and-white newsprint newsletter to what it is today—a bowhunting magazine that can hold its head up high in any company. It has been a privilege to work with Eric in the small capacity that I have. His work ethic is second to none and he should be congratulated on where he has taken *Archery Action*. The only upside to his retirement as Editor is the new Editor is much prettier.

Mark Burrows
ABA Vice-President Bowhunting

Eric has done great work throughout the years. He had always been consistent with his support and advice to us. Best wishes for the future, Eric!

Andrea Farraher
Collinsville Barebow Hunters

Eric has brought *Archery Action* and ABA into the modern times. He has helped propel our sport into the 21st century.

Bruce Kelleher
National Communications Officer

And the last word goes to ...

You have been fantastic to work with, Eric, and I very much admire where you have taken the magazine during the years you have been Editor. Thank you for entrusting this job to me. The only tiny question I have for you is, does this have anything to do with the fact that my surname is 'Hunt'?

Jenel Hunt
Editor, *Archery Action*





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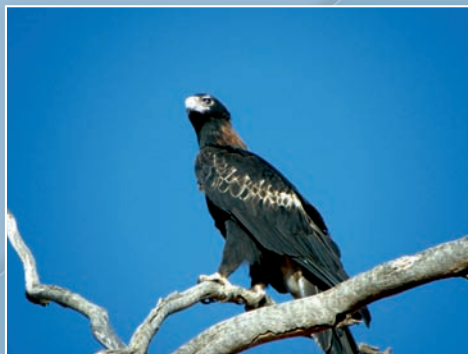
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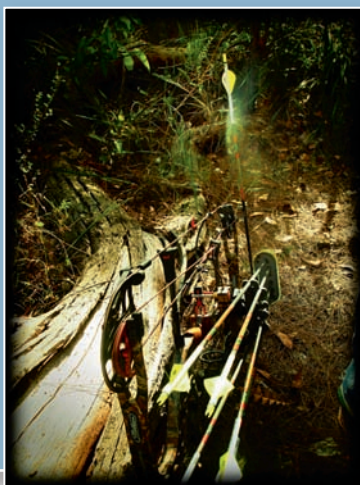
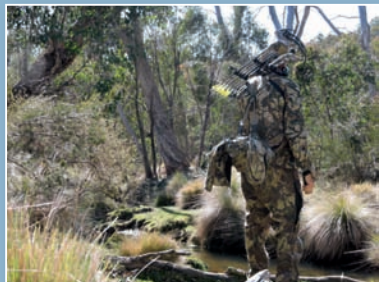
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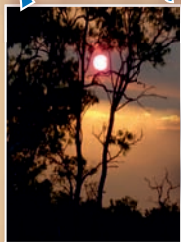
Entries PHOTO COMPETITION



Top, from left: *On the watch*, Dave Pender; *Goats don't make it easy*, Daley Wood; *A pair of bowhunters*, Tim Messer. Bottom, from left: *High country*, Will Ellen; *Concentration*, Jason Heart; *Romance of the bow*, Jeffery Evans.



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Nick Lintern

TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Hi and welcome to our next edition of traditional trails. Up till now we have covered (in fairly intense detail) making our osage bow. By the end of the previous article, we had it to the stage where it had been shot and was fairly settled in. Now all that remains is to finish the bow. All in all this has taken up six editions of Archery Action to complete, but I really feel that if you follow these steps you will arrive at somewhere near a shooting bow and will have achieved a great degree of satisfaction in making your own bow. Even if everything didn't go according to plan, you should have learned some things along the way that will set you in good stead for subsequent attempts. At the end of the day, if bows fail you can learn a tremendous amount about bow making from that failure. Perhaps more than if a poorly made bow stays together and shoots. That can be a false sense of security. I have seen this sort of thing many times with glassed bows. Fibreglass being such an amazing material, many terribly made bows

will last almost indefinitely, whereas the same badly built bows would almost certainly break if being of all wood construction. So the maker of the poor glassed bow learns nothing about important bowmaking principles. That is why you will find that many glassed longbows are

awesome to shoot—quiet, stable, balanced and accurate—while some are awful. The difference is the bowyers' knowledge of why he is laminating what he is and setting up the bow for its intended purpose.

So here we go, the last part of the osage self-bow process:

How to make an osage flatbow

Part 6

Finishing your bow

At this point your bow should be well on the way to settling in. The tiller balance should be right, as should be the alignment. You will still be between 5# and 10# heavy as well at this point. Some of the initial 10# or so we left on will have almost certainly come off and the bow's back will have a burnished and pol-

ished finish that was established at the start of the tillering process. Everything else will now be either roughly sanded with 80 grit paper or be scraped in the final tillering process. Now, all that is left is to finish your bow off. Firstly, we want to put the final shape on the nocks. You can use some artistic license here,

but be sure that the nock throat on the belly side is cleaned out enough to ensure the string won't rub as the bow is drawn. Also, make sure that there are no sharp edges anywhere that can cut your string. In the photos you will see the nock style I have favoured for many years. These are strong, practical for stringing and aren't excessively heavy.

Now, all that remains is sanding the belly and handle area. Use 80 grit, then 120, then 180 and finally 240. When this is done, string your bow and check everything again. Check the tiller balance (3/16in positive), check the alignment and the draw weight. It should have dropped a few more pounds in the final sand. Ultimately we want her about 3# to 5# heavy at this time. As the months of shooting progress, these pounds may shoot off. Once you are completely satisfied with every aspect of the bow, it is time for the final grit. Sand the entire bow, the back included, with 400 grit wet and dry paper and then burnish the whole bow with 00/0 steel wool. Remember that burnishing is friction polishing—you'll need to use some elbow grease. It will get hot so be careful!



Finished nock's strong and light design.

Now take your new lady out into the light and have a good look over her. Make sure that all sanding marks, file marks et cetera are gone and that she shines with the burnishing. When all is well, you are ready to proceed to the next stage—applying a finish.

Applying a finish

There are many ways you can finish a bow including lacquers, polyurethanes and varnishes. I am not a fan of these as they rarely penetrate into the timber, but more form a shell over the top. If this barrier is breached via a scratch or dent, the protection is then gone. Also, all wood finishes will eventually need recoating—all of them. There is no such thing as a finish that never needs retouching, whether it is a deck or a boat or a bow. With lacquers, the only real way to touch up or refinish the bow is to scrape the entire old finish off and start again. Many larger companies like to spray their bows with these finishes because it is quick. The hand rubbed finish I am about to explain is a little labour intensive, but it's ideal because it not only penetrates well into the wood but also is very easy to touch up as necessary. It is simply a matter of applying another coat over the old one with very little preparation. That said, it will be many years before this finish needs any attention anyway. I have tried many different finishes over the years and have found the following method the best all round finish and method of application:

You will need: A bottle of shellac. I prefer a fairly strong mix French polish, waxed is fine. Feast Watson Mastertouch is my preferred brand but there are many that will work. You will also need a bottle of Birchwood Casey Tru-Oil. This oil is an excellent combination of oils and synthetics that provides a non-cracking, non-yellowing and highly durable finish



Birchwood Casey Tru-Oil and Feast Watson shellac. A great finishing combination.

that lends itself perfectly to hand rubbing. It is extensively used on gun stocks all around the world.

Proceed thus: After you have burnished your bow, remove all dust with a dry soft cloth. Now with a soft, lint-free cloth, apply a smooth even coat of shellac over the whole bow. Shellac dries very fast so you'll have to move along fairly quickly. I hold the bow by the middle of the handle and work the riser and limbs from there. You are going to put leather over the handle so not applying much in the central handle area is no issue. Once this is done, set your bow aside for about an hour to dry. After an hour, rub the whole bow again with 00/0 steel wool and recoat. After another hour, repeat the process for a third time. This time, leave the bow overnight. In the morning, have a good look over the bow. If there are any streaks or runs, rub them out with 400 grit wet-and-dry paper and then re rub the whole bow again with steel wool. It should have a soapy, smooth feel. The shellac has the effect of choking the grain and standing up the fibres slightly. After the three coats, your bow will have a really



Mapping pen and ink, for writing on your new bow.

silky smooth feel and appearance. At this point, wipe away any dust and now write on the bow. I prefer to use a mapping pen and ink for this. If you wrote on the bow prior to applying the shellac, it would tend to bleed into the grain of the osage. Even if it didn't, it would likely fade under the alcohol-based shellac mix. Writing after the shellac coats will give a nice sealed surface to write on. It is normal to write the bow's poundage and the date you made it, however you can naturally write anything you want on your bow. Once the ink has dried, apply the first coat of Tru-Oil. Apply this in the same way as the shellac. For the oil though, use a lycra cloth. An old pair of tights is ideal. Lycra is a fatty type of material with very little pattern, which is ideal for applying a smooth even coat of oil. Be sure not to over-apply the oil. It is better to apply many thin coats than fewer thick ones. Allow about 24 hours after the first coat, then rub back with steel wool again, only this time go for 000

grade which is slightly finer. Be sure the coat is dry though. The 24-hour time frame is only a guide—sometimes, depending on weather conditions, it may take longer. The drying time becomes shorter as the coats proceed. In the end you can get two coats on in a day. Keep applying coats until you have a glassy beautiful finish. It usually requires about eight coats of oil on top of the shellac. After you have applied the last coat, allow 24 hours then we are going to buff the bow and apply a wax coat.

Buffing and waxing

In order to remove any microscopic 'fur', we are going to buff the finish. This is an elbow grease affair again. My preference is Meguiars paint cleaner car polish, however any cut and polish type car polish will work. Apply to the bow in a smear and then dispense it over the whole bow with a soft, lint free cloth. Rub and polish using clean sections of the cloth as you rub. The finish will shine and the bow will feel like it has a coat of plastic over it. Next apply a good quality car wax in the same way. Again here, I like Meguiars products. Their carnauba wax finish is excellent. Now we are ready to apply our leather.

Applying a grip and rest

The only job left now is to apply a leather grip and a rest if required. With the bulbous handle we have no built-

in rest so if you don't want to shoot off the hand you will need a rest. The easiest way to do this—even though it is a little non-traditional—is to stick on a tile wedge. These are little plastic wedges that can be bought from any hardware as cheap as chips. You simply glue the little wedge into position with shock-proof superglue at the 2in up from the halfway position on the side of the bow that suits your left- or right-handed status. Although not very natural, toothbrush rests have been around forever as well, so we might accept this as well! I prefer a more natural approach though and do the same thing with a piece of horn. Any similar material will do. You can even build up the side with layers of leather. Once the rest is dry, we now apply the leather grip. To do this, cut a piece of leather that is about 6in long by 4 1/8in wide. The best leather for this job is suede that is no more than about 2mm thick. This will mould around your handle and stretch where needed and give a good positive grip no matter how sweaty or wet it gets. The 4 1/8in depth is the length that runs up and down the handle. Wrap it around the grip and mark the centre of the back of the handle which is where the join will be, firstly on one side of the leather, then the other (*see photos*). Next, cut the leather along the marks you have made and then check the fit again. It probably will need several

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Punching out lacing slots with the lacing chisel.

re-trims until you have it so that the join is even all along the grip. The bulbous handle and the little wedge arrow rest can make getting a good fit challenging, but perseverance pays dividends. Again, you will have

a degree of flexibility with suede as it will stretch a little if necessary.

Once the leather is a good fit, you have two options available. You can simply glue the leather on as is, or lace the join. I prefer to lace the

join. To do this, you will need a lacing chisel (*see photo*), a lacing needle and a plastic mallet. You will also need a wooden anvil. This is simply a log or similar and you will need the end grain facing up. Now, punch the

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leather with the chisel, placing the first tine of the chisel into the last slot you cut to guarantee an even spacing (*see photo*). This is the reason for the 4 1/8in length of the leather. It works out to be the right spacing for the lacing chisel to give just the right number of slots so the lace finishes on the right side of the grip for us to tie it off neatly. Now glue on the leather. For this, use fletcherite. Fletcherite will hold the leather indefinitely but allow you to remove it if needed. It also allows you time to squeeze the leather around before it dries so the correct positioning can be achieved. Glue the handle rather than the leather and take the grip to the handle. Don't apply any glue on the back of the handle where you are going to lace. Also be careful not to put any glue outside the area of the leather coverage for obvious reasons. If the leather is not going to sit down for you, a rubber thong made from an inner tube works well to hold everything in position. Once dry we can then lace the back of the handle. You will need a 3/16in width calf or kangaroo lace that is about 10in long. Cut an angle on each end of the lace. The lacing needle has a threaded, hollow end so now screw the end of the lace into it and ensure you have a solid purchase in the needle. Now sew through the first slot in the grip and then pull about half the lace through. Now sew through every second hole until you reach the bottom. Now unscrew the lace and screw the other end in. Now sew the alternating side, pulling it tight as you go and locking off the back of the grip. You will end up with a crisscross stitch which you tie off at the bottom (*see photos*). Add a touch of glue to lock it all off. The final job is to stick on a leather arrow pass above the rest to protect the bow and keep the passing of the arrow silent, a must for hunting.

Now this is done, we need to get a correct length string. As I mentioned in the last edition, you want a string that is about 3 1/2in to 4in shorter than the bow's nock-to-nock length. We will cover stringmaking in a later edition, so for now if you don't know how to make one you will need to order one. There are many string makers in Australia who can make you one, myself included. Let the stringmaker know the length required and the draw weight. Now simply restring your bow with your new string and set your nocking point. Now go out to your target butt and have fun!



Finished bow.

As time goes by

As time goes by you may notice some things that periodically change with your all wood bow. For example: you may find that your bow gains a little draw weight in cold conditions and loses a little in hot conditions. This is perfectly normal and nothing to worry about. The amount of set, or string follow, may vary as well. One of my favourite all-wood composites has held at 1/2in of string follow for seven years now, and that includes shooting in all weather conditions and with odd exceptions, is pretty much the only bow I shoot. On occasions after a hot weekend of shooting, she might have 1 1/2in of follow, but has settled back again a few days later. As your bow shoots in, keep an eye on the tiller characteristics. Make sure it doesn't go reverse tiller on you (the bottom limb weaker than the top). If it does, simply weaken the top limb again, or you can actually flip the bow over and re-establish the rest. This can be done due to the bulbous handle design and due to the fact that we built this bow symmetrical. If asymmetrical, flipping it would be not so desirable.

Remember, this is not a glassed bow. Unstring it whenever it isn't being shot. If you take a lunch break, give your bow a break too. The only time I leave my wooden bows strung all day is when I am hunting. All too often, game will turn up while you are having a break so leave her strung just in case. Apart from that, back the string off when not in use. Another piece of advice is to avoid shooting your self bow on very hot days. Anything over 40 degrees is not a great environment for wood to be stressed. That said, I have shot my old osage self bow in 40-degree heat with no ill effects, but this is not ideal. Lastly, do not let anyone else draw your bow without you checking that their draw length is the same or less than yours.

Your bow has shot in to your way of doing things, a bit like a tradesman's tools wearing in to how he uses them. You don't want anything changing in her nature. Nothing wrong with giving someone a shot as long as they don't overdraw the bow.

That's about it. I hope that many of you have benefitted from this huge odyssey I have embarked upon here. There is only so much that words can convey, but I reckon the general idea has come through these articles. Remember, if you find an easier or better way of doing something, go ahead and do it. This is what has worked for me (and many others) but it is not set in stone. It doesn't pay to be too dogmatic about what wood will and will not do. I will never put forward anything I haven't absolutely tested myself. I always try things, before writing them off as a bad idea. It is better to know the water is cold by jumping in rather than by using a thermometer, if you get my meaning. Be free in your mind, make shavings and enjoy getting to know the joys of making seasoned wood come alive!

As always any questions send to: norseman_longbows@hotmail.com or phone 0243294074.

Until next time keep traditional.



Finished osage bow being shot by Howard Taylor.

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Below: What a view!
Facing page: Hitting the tracks.

NORTH FLINDERS

goat hunt

by **DAMION HORNER**

An early start from just north of Adelaide in South Australia had been planned, and the crew—Luigi, Grant, Zach, Bec, Alex and me—headed off on the six-hour journey to the northern part of the Flinders Ranges. We reached our destination by about midday, checked in at the homestead and then went straight out to the Natural Springs, another 25 minutes east of the homestead.

No sooner had we pulled up to the springs than Zach had jumped into the water and was looking for

yabbies, catching six in as many minutes. We went for a walk further up the springs to my secret goat spot where we had a good look around. We saw nothing close by, although a distant hill held a small mob of goats. I decided that on the next day it would be a good idea to bring Bec and Alex, who had travelled from Geelong, Victoria, back to this same spot for hopefully what would be Bec's first goat taken with a bow as this was normally my honey hole.

We drove back past the homestead and then another 40 minutes



further on to where we would be camping for the week. After making camp, we got the fire going and made dinner. Campfire talk centred on where we would be hunting the next day. I would take Bec and Alex back to the springs and the boys would head to the ranges close by and scan the hillsides to see what they could find. After a few bevvies and some interesting conversation, we all turned in so we could be up early for our first actual day of hunting.

The next morning we were up at 5 o'clock and it was time to go over to the springs with Bec and Alex and for the boys to head off to the hills. Once at the springs we got into position at my honey hole and scanned the surrounding ranges, but all there was to see was sheep. I was becoming

disheartened as I have always walked away with a bag full of goats from here. The only thing I could come up with was that recent rains had pushed the goats up into the hills and away from the water source.

I had one last look up the hillside closest to us and noticed high up on the ridge there were a couple of goats that looked like they were heading across and down to us. We watched, only to see them head back up and over the ridgeline on the adjacent hill.

Without hesitation the chase was on and Bec and Alex scaled the small mountain in no time at all as I followed behind. There was only a small amount of cover in the form of some saltbush and some rocks when we got to the top so we used everything available to us while keeping low.





Grant's first goat of the trip.

Alex managed to spot the mob of goats that had since bedded down and so they removed their boots ready for the stalk while I got the camera up and rolling.

After an amazing 120m stalk in to around 40m (just outside of Bec's bow range) the wind switched and the goats spooked immediately. The goats began snorting and stomping as they could smell Alex and Bec but couldn't see them. Alex by this point was lying on his back and was nock-

ing an arrow on his chest. He slowly drew the bow to anchor while lying on his back, slowly sat upright and put a perfect shot on the alpha billy. This was the furthest he had ever shot his bow for a kill and couldn't have asked for the placement to be any better. The other goats took off and Alex went and claimed his goat by skinning him out and teaching me while doing so. It's going to be a beautiful rug.

When we got back to camp we

found that both Zach and Grant had been successful in getting a goat each too. They had also seen two large billies cresting a ridge and decided they were going to head to that spot the next day. Lui, Bec, Alex and I decided that in the morning we would head to a similar area that the boys had hunted that day and see what we could find and split up into groups of two. A few beers, some tall tales and recapping of the day's events and it was time to turn in.



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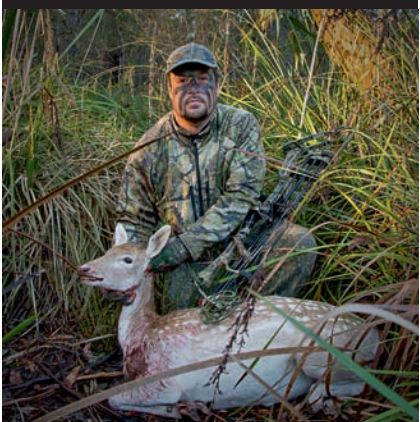


**NORTHERN
BROADHEADS**

This issue's winners



Dean Scott, fallow stag.



Tim Nichols, FKOS.

Day three was another early start with Grant and Zach taking off in one direction and Alex, Bec, Luigi and I going another. We were hoping that the boys would catch up with the big billies they had seen the evening before.

We went to a good vantage point of one of the east-facing ranges (as goats like to warm themselves in the morning sun). We spotted a good-sized mob of goats grazing down the side of one of the hills about 2km away so we began our trek up the creek bed. We were just over 1km into the trek when we came across some sheep grazing in the creek. There was some cover and we didn't want to spook the sheep so we moved quietly around them and continued our trek to the bottom of the hillside where the creek split off in two directions.

Lui took the creek to the right and ended up right below the goats probably only 30m to 40m away but unfortunately because of the terrain could not get a good view of them. We lost sight of Lui and so decided that Bec and Alex should head up the creek to the left and stalk the goats from there. As we reached the creek divide, Lui came back, saying he couldn't see or get close enough to them so we all proceeded up the creek.

We moved very slowly as shale and rocks were everywhere but we still got busted by a nanny and her kid sheltering under a tree. Thankfully she just upped and left without making any noise so Bec and Alex headed up out of the creek to the tree as it was closer to the goats. As they made their way to the tree Lui and I heard a loud sneeze from above us to the left. We had been seen by an alert billy. We remained motionless for about 10 minutes then as soon as he turned Lui gave chase up the hill. I followed up after Lui slowly and as I reached the top I looked over to the adjacent hillside and could see a fig-

ure running up it. I looked up the hill to my left and could see Lui crouched behind a bush. I realised the figure running up the hill was Zach.

I looked back down to the bottom of the adjacent hill and could see Grant patiently waiting. I walked up to Lui and said that we should move on back to Bec and Alex as the goats were pushing higher up the hill over the ridgeline towards Zach. We made our way back to Bec and Alex and decided to head upwind to the next gorge and then go deeper into the ranges.

As we approached the next gorge we could see one or two goats bedded down in some trees on the right side. We used the shadows and a rock face to our advantage and sneaked in below them. They were now only 45m away. At this distance I could quite comfortably take the shot but I wanted Bec, Alex and Lui to have this experience. We tried to get in closer but the wind swirled, the goats caught our scent and took off. Defeated once again, we decided to take a break in the gully and have a snack.

We sat under a big old gum tree in the shade and began to talk about the morning so far. "SNEEZE!" Our lunch had been disturbed. We looked around but couldn't work out where the noise was coming from. "SNEEZE!!" again the noise was heard and then we spotted them—a bachelor mob of billies sitting on a rock face about 230m away from us but probably 75m to 80m up the face. There was no way we were going to be able to get up there and get them with the bows but Alex had Bec's .243 for back-up and as we were wanting to have goat curry that night I said to Alex, "If you think you can hit one from here, take it and we'll take the meat back to camp." Alex took aim at the goat with the nicest coat and put in a great shot. Alex skinned

and packed out the goat with Lui's help and it was back to camp to make some goat curry. Grant made an awesome plain damper to accompany the curry and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. As we had seen so many goats in that one area it was decided we would all pretty much head to the same spot again for our last day.

On our last day, a quick discus-

sion led us towards where we'd seen the two big billies and where Zach and Grant had told us they had come so close to getting within shooting range. Unfortunately there was no sign of the billies—just plenty of sheep. We drove a bit further and finally spotted some goats grazing down a hill so Zach and Grant jumped out of their vehicle to give chase.

Alex, Bec, Luigi and I went a bit further and found a spot where a creek lead pretty much to the bottom of where we could see another mob of goats grazing so we grabbed our gear and headed on towards them. We covered about 1.5km fairly quickly even though we were all now feeling the previous days' trekking and ended up in a perfect position



Above: Grant's second goat of the trip.
Right: Zach's trophy goat.



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downwind of the goats.

We continued around the northern face of the hill and began to scale the rocky face as quickly and as quietly as possible so we didn't spook them. All of a sudden Alex stopped and dropped, saying that the goats were 50m away just at the top of the hill looking down. I peeked over the top of a bush to see about seven decent-sized goats looking down at us and about five billies heading down to the right of us at about 60m. Bec and Alex started stalking towards the top diagonally to the right. Lui and I were pinned in position as the big goats at the top were looking straight at us, I couldn't even move to get my camera.

Eventually we lost sight of Bec and Alex and the billies at the top moved on so Lui and I got up and moved quickly to the top. Once we got up there (less than a minute)

there were no goats to be seen. They had obviously moved up and over the ridge very quickly. In the time it had taken us to walk back to where we had last seen Bec and Alex they were now about 500m away standing higher up the hill looking down. They had lost the goats. Bec said they had got close enough to take a shot but as she'd gone to shoot Alex had slipped and spooked the goats. They then settled and she got the chance to draw again, but the goats caught their scent and ran off. We headed back down to the gorge floor to take a break and have a drink and noticed that Zach and Grant were at the top of the opposite hill. It looked like Grant had been successful as he had a set of horns hanging off of his backpack.

We heard some mumbling that we couldn't understand, Zach pointing down and then they walked back over the top of the hill. We got up and

walked up the gorge thinking that they had seen some more goats and were going after them. After about 10 minutes of walking up the gorge we heard "Have you seen my goat?" It turned out Zach had put a shot on a billy and it had fallen down the rock ledge where we had seen them before. He had been following the blood trail for about 1km.

We'd been so focussed on the goats grazing that we'd completely missed the goat he had shot cruising past us on the gorge floor. There was a small blood trail but where we were at it was hard to pick up so we said good luck to Zach and Grant and pushed on up the gorge. Not five minutes later and really only 200m ahead of Zach and Grant, Alex stopped and called out, "I found your goat, Zach!" We got the goat set up for photos and Zach removed his trophy.

Once back at the vehicles we



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Above: Bec's first goat with a bow.
Left: Luigi with his first goat from the Flinders.

decided we were going to head to the same creek we had been at the day before where we had seen the goats grazing on the hillside. It was now or never for Bec and Lui so Alex decided that he would take them up on the hillside in a tiny little rock crevice that the goats were feeding towards and hopefully they would both be able to get a shot off.

Zach, Grant and I stayed back to watch and film from a distance. Eve-

rything played out perfectly. The goats fed up to within 30m of them before one goat realised something wasn't right. Lui lined up his shot for a perfect broadside shot. At the same time, Bec was lining up her shot and put a perfect front-on shot straight down the middle of the goat which dropped it within 2m. I was elated for both hunters and to see Alex so proud of his lady with her first bow kill made the trip so worthwhile for me. These guys

had put so much effort in over the past couple of days and finally were rewarded (and I got it on film).

Zach, Grant and I headed up the hill for the congratulations and photos before wrapping up a great day of hunting. Needless to say when we got back to camp there were some stories to tell, beers to drink and a fairly early night for all. Our goat bow hunting trip had come to a perfect end.

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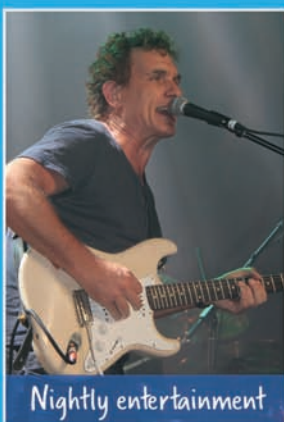


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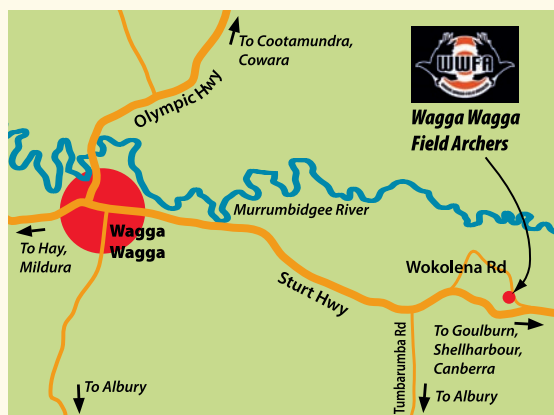
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KIDS ON SAFARI



More photos next issue.



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Now, let me be clear from the outset: I'm not a knife expert. In fact, I have the unenviable reputation of being able to completely blunt a relatively sharp knife while endeavouring to make it sharper. It's more by good luck than good management that I can actually get a razor edge on a broadhead, let alone the business end of a pig sticker. In fact, the closest I usually get to a shaving edge is to rub it up and down my arm until the friction actually causes my hair to rub off. But there are advantages to my disadvantage—I am never worried about ever cutting myself!

My lack of honing prowess has never 'dulled' my enthusiasm for knives though. I remember from a young age being fascinated by knives and their various shapes, sizes and designs. In fact I can recall at one point owning as many as 15 knives—none of any quality though, often being purchased from the local newsagent on a 12 year old's budget of birthday money and spare change from Dad's work clothes. It's hard to say that I ever really had any need for that many knives but half the fun is in the collection ... and you never know when the next zombie apocalypse will necessitate a hoard of poorly sharpened rusted kids' pocket knives. I may not be able to kill many zombies but they'll leave with some burns they won't soon forget!


It's an affliction that I'm sure has affected more people than just me. A good friend of mine has more knives than he has stories about them ... so much so that one day I actually asked him, "Mate, how many knives do you need?" He looked at me and seriously contemplated his answer before stating, "You can never have too many knives." Well, who am I to argue?

I'm sure it's a rite of passage for most boys, probably girls too but I can't be sure, to own or desire that one special blade. The point came home to me a month or so before my son Josiah had his 13th birthday. I was sitting at the computer, contemplating my next hunting-related purchase when Josiah came in and saw me and showed me a picture of a knife.

Let me clarify: It wasn't just a knife—think Crocodile Dundee crossed with Rambo and that will give you some context. "What are you going to do with that?" I asked him as I looked over the picture. "Take it hunting," was his obvious answer. Clearly seeing it was going to take a bit more convincing on his part, he started his sales pitch. "It's a survival knife, it's got serrated parts on the top

where you can saw through branches, a Bowie blade for chopping through branches and kindling to start a fire so you can leave your axe at home. I can also use it to skin whatever we shoot." He continued for another couple of minutes until he ran out of points of interest before he finally said, "It's only \$60, can I have it for my birthday?" Not convinced, I gave the usual non-committal, "We'll see, I'll have to talk to your Mum."

All the memories and excitement of a new knife came flooding back to me and I was instantly transported back to a 13-year-old boy again. I closed down the web page I'd been on without checking out, which was a good thing considering the amount of stuff that had clicked its way into my shopping cart. This was one occasion when



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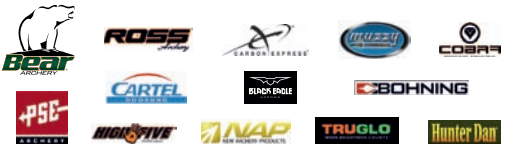
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my wife wouldn't ask, "How much hunting stuff do you need?" and I wouldn't have to justify it with, "You can never have too much hunting stuff."

My next search was 'hunting/survival knives' and I spent the next hour weighing up the pros and cons of different knives and their features, also reading an encyclopedia's worth of reviews from the experts and guys in the field. After quite a while I felt confident that I had found the perfect knife for Josiah. It was a Tom Brown 'Scout'. Designed as a camp and survival knife, you could chop, saw, skin, fillet and split. It was perfect and I knew that this was 'the one' and not the one he showed me. I was so confident that he would love my choice that I actually went ahead and ordered the knife that night so that it would turn up just in time for his birthday.

A couple of days later, still proud with my decision, I showed Josiah a picture of the knife and asked expectantly, "Here kiddo, what do you reckon about this knife?" He took one look at the picture and said "Meh, I'd prefer the knife I showed you the other day." I was devastated, so it was my turn to start the sales pitch. "But look at it, it's not as big as that one you like so you can move it about easier, you can chop, saw, skin, fillet and split, it's perfect!" but he was impervious to my reasoning. Bloody (almost) teenagers!

So now I was faced with a conundrum. Did I ignore the fact he didn't like the knife and just tell him to be grateful or did I buy him the knife he wanted and be left with an extra knife? Who am I kidding? Guess who just got a new knife ... and I could even justify it to my wife when two knives turned up instead of just one!

As luck would have it though, I spend the next two weeks trying to track down a knife similar to the Dundee/Rambo style that Josiah had shown me previously. Finally with just days to spare, I found one in a store nearby and after an hour and a half in the car I had it in hand and wrapped and for half the price of what it was on the Internet!

Josiah's birthday finally rolled around and his eyes went wide when the paper peeled back and he saw the knife. "Awesome!" I guess it's horses for courses and it's the reason for the hundreds of different knife styles on the market today but personally the knife wasn't for me. It was bulky, gaudy and impractical and reminded me of something out of an Ekka showbag, but Josiah was in love. He spent the next few hours investigating all the different aspects of the knife, unscrewing the end and playing with the compass, fishing line and flint. He even took to sleeping with it in his bed and after consideration and consultation he reluctantly moved it to his bedside table. Then his new toy spurred a desire

to go out hunting, which was okay with me.

Two weeks later my new knife arrived. With all of the excitement and enthusiasm of a 13-year-old kid on his birthday, I ripped at the package until my new knife appeared from the jagged edges of padded packaging. It lay amid some greaseproof paper and bubblewrap and was a sight to behold. "Awesome!" I finished unwrapping my new knife and rushed into Josiah's room to compare blades. "Look kiddo, what do you reckon?" His reaction was a complete contradiction to his initial response weeks earlier. "Wow, that's great! Where did you get that?" Quickly followed by my favourite of his many phrases, "Can I have it?"

Teenagers continually amaze and amuse me. They're a contradiction and a confutation, and even though I deal with them on a daily basis, I'm still no closer to unlocking the secrets of their minds. I looked at Josiah with my mouth gaping and asked, "Do you like this knife?"

"Yeah, it's cool!" Again, a pause to gather my thoughts and close my mouth. "But you said that you didn't like it when I showed you the other day." "No I didn't!" he shot back. "Yes you did," I said. At this point you can imagine how the remainder of the conversation went but the upshot of the whole thing was that Josiah did like the knife. Like I said, a contradiction and a confutation.

Anyway within days we were winding our way up to my favourite deer block and the chance to put our new knives into action. As usual we were moving between showers and chasing storms all the way to the front gate of the property. At the homestead we called in and saw the caretaker to let him know that we were out and about. I jumped back into the car to Josiah's comment, "That bloke had no pants on!" Obviously it was the first time Josiah had been with me to this property because the appearance of a half naked Eastern-European man caught between two cultures still came as a shock to him. "Yeah I know, but you get used to it. Only thing you have to remember is the old climbers' rule". "What's that?" Josiah asked. I turned around to look at him and smiled, "Never look down!"

The rest of the drive in was relatively uneventful, save watching Josiah battle it out with my arch nemesis, the iron gate. It would seem my old adversary had suffered from the effect of ageing as we all do and had started to sag a little. I offered little help other than a slight smile as I watched Josiah lift, wriggle, grunt and strain like a contestant on the Biggest Loser in an effort to get the catch off the strainer post and then drag the gate open. I happily watched the whole process again in reverse, as he then had to close the gate. It's so much funnier when it's not happening to me.

The rain that had followed us into the property had started to ease and it looked as though we might make it through the next day or so without getting too wet. Pulling into our camping spot, we quickly set up the tent in between impending deluges that varied in intensity from 'mildly annoying' to 'in-laws at Christmas' to then have the rain completely give out just after we had finished setting up the tent. Better late than never, I suppose, and we made use of the break in the weather to get changed into our hunting gear and head out for a quick hunt before the glum afternoon light gave way to nightfall.

This hunt was going to be a bit different from my regular hunts on this property. About six months previously I had surgery to fix some problems from a misspent youth, which meant I hadn't been able to pick up a bow during or since. As Josiah's bow is still too light to tackle a deer of any size, I had opted to take our rifle. For me personally I love the challenge of bowhunting as opposed to rifle hunting that's why I made the switch many years ago, but I still take the same principles with me into the field—it's just the way I finish that's different. Also, for Josiah it was another opportunity and new challenge to see a different form of hunting to what he normally experiences.

Moving off down the ridgeline that would take us to an area that was always a good spot for deer, I could hear a light slapping sound coming from behind me. At first I thought it must have been the strap for my water bot-

tle in my bum bag hitting against the side of the bottle but I checked it as I turned around and found it was all good. What I did find though was Josiah fumbling with an anchor string, trying to steady his behemoth Bowie to his leg. I'm not kidding when I say that this knife is seriously the full length of his upper thigh; from his knee to his hip—it is *huge*. I guess I should feel comfort in the fact that he has it because if we're ever attacked by a grizzly bear or T-Rex and the gun jams, I know Josiah will be good to go. I have taken to calling his knife Excalibur because there shall be no other sword like it!

After finally tying down Excalibur, we were on our way again. The benefit to hunting after rain is that the ground sounds you would normally hear are muffled, making it that much more pleasant to stalk, except of course if you have a 13-year-old boy with 80kg strapped to one leg. I'm not sure if it's an age thing or whether it truly was the knife but my usually stealthy hunting partner now had all the subtlety of a three-legged elephant. Every footfall was heavy and I swear he managed to find every stick that was still dry to stand on, sending a stalk-ending 'crack' down through the gully. So much so that I actually stopped and had a word with my heavy-footed heffalump about the joys of a quiet and stealthy approach. I'm sure it's an age thing and I'm sure my Dad went through exactly the same thing when I was young but I guess by the time I came along he had already had

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This shoot was designed to emphasise ABA's green credentials and to contribute our part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and global warming by making a national shoot available to members without them having to travel huge distances to attend. We hope all members will get behind this shoot, to see how they go against their peers. It would be good to see clubs running this as part of their August shoot program. Any queries should be directed to ABA House—phone (07) 3256 3976—or send an email to generalsecretaryaba@gmail.com

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Send results listing with payment of \$5 per shooter to:

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Nomination form on next page.

Photocopy as required.



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Total Fees

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Aspley, Qld 4034

some practice at being patient with pubescent boys.

We continued our stalk and had covered a large proportion of the country and many of my 'weigh points' without putting up a single deer, which was very unusual. I guess the rain may have pushed the deer further back into the thicker scrub to escape the rain and cold. We persevered until finally just before dark we came across a small fallow doe. A well placed shot had the deer down and now it was time to see how Excalibur would perform.

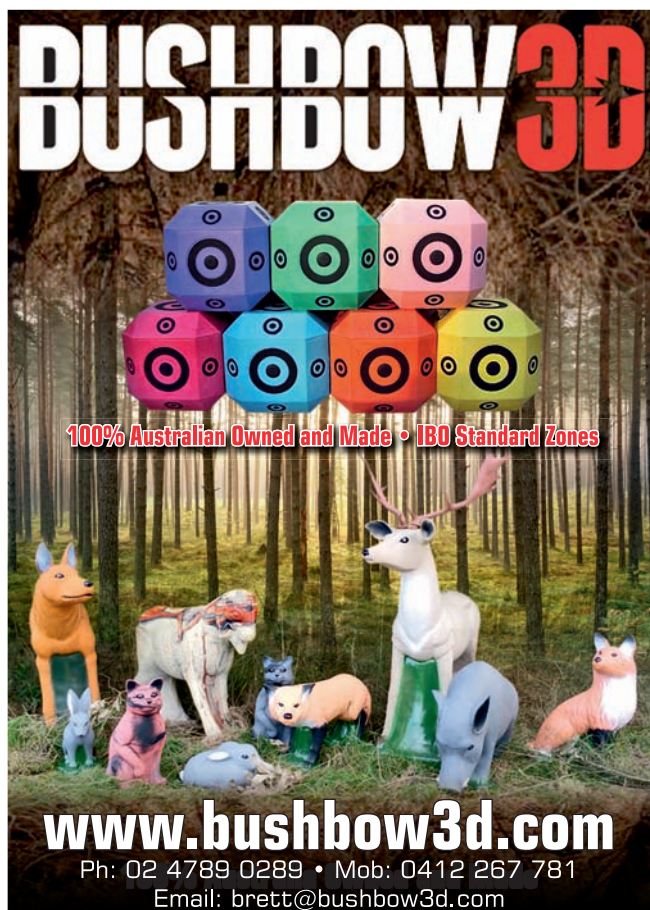
Over the past few hunts that I've had with Josiah I have been allowing him to get more involved with the process of field dressing our game. Initially his early lessons involved just him watching me while I described different bits and pieces and as his interest increased I've given him the opportunity to get his hands dirty—literally. This hunt I decided that he could actually take a leading hand in removing the paunch and offal. I started him off by detaching the large intestine and then showed him how to make an incision along the midline of the doe without cutting through into the stomach, cutting just enough to get through the abdominal wall.

I asked Josiah if he was right to give it a go. He said "Yep," and reached for my knife. I moved my hand away and said "What about your knife? There's no point having it if you're not going to use it." It was more a case of forgetting that he now owned a knife than not wanting to use it because he quickly reached for it and drew it from its sheath. I watched as he lifted Excalibur from its resting place, stopping mid-draw to get another grip on it because he ran out of arm length before he could clear the nylon webbing. I added appropriate sound effects for the occasion; a swoosh of steel clearing steel and trumpets blaring. Not really, but in my mind that's how the moment might have played out. (In actual fact he simply took out his knife and got to work.) I watched as he made his first cut, slicking through the coarse hair and through the first layer of skin, revealing the first layer of abdominal wall. The big knife was surprisingly sharp given that it was designed more for cleaving than cutting. Mental note: Get Grandad to teach Josiah how to sharpen his knife.

The abdominal wall poked through the 10cm incision that Josiah had just made. I reached forward and felt the muscle and ligament to see just how much further he still had to go before he had made it into the cavity. I indicated that he still had a little way to go and he gently finished the cut until rumen poked through. We continued to work. I showed Josiah how to place his fingers underneath the skin and abdominal wall and run his knife between them to split the skin like a zipper, which he did with a little help. Josiah was working well although his technique was a little ungainly due to his inexperience and the big knife but

he was going well and keen to get the job done. We continued working through the process until finally he was able to remove the offal and intestines. He was sweating and covered in blood up to his elbows but he was still smiling. He was also holding my knife because at one point he had realised that his knife was just too big for the job. It was always going to be the case, but I wanted him to work that out on his own without me thwarting his enthusiasm.

I'm a firm believer in having the right gear for the job. In my kit, I'm probably a bit 'over-knifed' but each one of my knives has a role to play. I have a multi-purpose hunting knife that I use for cutting around the rectum of animals to detach the large intestine. Its 15cm blade and thin width make it ideal for that and also pulling down a carcass, finding muscle seams and removing meat from around bones and splitting joints. I also have a broader bladed drop-point skinning knife that I only use for skinning. In addition to those two, I also carry a small horn saw that folds down to nothing that is ideal for removing antlers or cutting through bone to split a carcass, a small Leatherman multi-tool and last but not least my brand new survival-slash-camp knife. Maybe I do have too many knives and could probably get by with just the one but you never know when you're going to need a spare one.



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Tony field-dressing the fallow after leaving it to hang overnight.

After we'd tidied up and walked back to grab the vehicle it was well and truly dark, so we loaded up the doe and headed back to camp. We hung the doe high off the ground in a tree close to camp so the meat would chill and stretch for us to dress out in the morning. After a quick bite to eat we hit the swags and all too soon the birds were calling and another day beckoned. Pulling back the tent fly revealed a beautiful day. The dark clouds, thunder and lightning of the previous day had given way to a perfect morning. The sky had the clear crispness of an early spring day and the cold overnight temperatures had worked a treat on the doe we'd hung the night before.

Given that the day was ahead of us it would have been a sin to just waste it so we kitted up and headed out for one last hunt before we started packing up. Already the signs were good. There were fresh deer tracks in the damp ground along the game trails and in the distance some 400m off, we could see a mob of red deer does feeding along the open side of a ridge. Even though there was no wind to speak of, the currents running over and through the gullies carried our scent straight to the group.

Within seconds the matriarch doe was on alert and without so much as a scan around she was off at a high-headed trot. The other does in the group looked up and risked a glance about them to see what had made their mate change their breakfast plans before erring on the side of caution moving off as well. We stood watching the does until they were out of sight before moving on. It was literally only another 100m or so before we came across another small group of red deer does.

The sudden appearance of the group stopped Josiah and me in our tracks. Cautiously we moved into cover and watched the group from 70m away. The three deer were mooching their way quietly up the head of the gully, moving back and forth across the top of the ridge, picking through the best of the available feed, completely oblivious to what lay no less than 50m from them. In an instant the younger of the trio was dispatched and our freezer was suddenly looking very healthy.

With knives at the ready, we got to work field dressing the doe. Josiah took a leading hand again but this time using my knife, opting to leave Excalibur in reserve. Within minutes we had the doe finished and dragged her down to the gully bottom where we could pick her up with the ute. Back at camp we started work on the fallow doe from the night before. The cool of the night had set the meat perfectly, which made it that much easier to pull apart. I talked Josiah through how to locate the meat seams and the different cuts of meat. Within minutes we were working side by side removing first the round, then the topside and rump and finally the silverside and shins. Every couple of minutes I'd lean over and help Josiah navigate his way around a bone or show him how the seam had continued straight up and not through the topside which was now in two bits. He was a quick study and was managing very well.

After finally removing the rib bones and bones for the dogs, the only thing left was the spine and hide. The whole process was repeated for the red deer doe taken

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Josiah field-dressing the red deer.



Josiah continues the process.

that morning. Excalibur made an appearance again and helped with the skinning, as did my new knife. The broad blade of the survival knife proved very useful for skinning and moved through the hide and connective tissue as well as the softer brisket bone of the sternum. I looked over at Josiah and couldn't help myself and said "Geez kiddo, I'm so glad you didn't like this knife, it's horrible." Obviously choosing to ignore my sarcasm, he offered to take it off my hands to help me out. Such a helpful child!

Finally finishing up the second carcass, we started on the camp and pulled down the tent and rolled our swags. It had only been a short hunt but we'd managed to pack as much in as we could. I'm so grateful for these opportunities to be able to pass on knowledge to my son that was first passed onto me from my father. It makes me wonder though how many generations of my family had that knowledge passed through. Who was the first of my family to be shown how to dress out a carcass?

And how many of my family would get to learn and use this knowledge in the future? It makes me wonder as well, would future Jensen generations also have an inkling for collecting knives, big or small? And how many of those future husbands would also have more man stuff than they need? Although, you know what they say ... you can never have enough stuff!



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OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

The foundation of good form

PART 1

As regular readers will know, the main reason I love indoor season is that it gives me time to iron out my form and work on things that have become sloppy during the outdoor season. I have always said that indoor training can help achieve this, and recently this theory was backed up when at the first international outdoor event for the year (World Cup, Shanghai) Mike Schlosser set a new men's compound world record (717) at 50m. (Total points of the round is 720, the previous record was 716.) In the coming months articles I will run through some of the very basics of what is considered 'good form' for compound shooters and some tips on how to identify areas that may need work and how to improve on them.



by STEVE CLIFTON

FOOT POSITION, ALIGNMENT AND STANCE

When looking at making form adjustments, I like to start at the ground and work my way up. The first thing we need to consider is foot position and foot alignment. The reason these two are so important is that they are the foundation on which your overall form is built. If you are incorrectly aligned to the target you may be losing points due to this instability. One of the first ways to check whether or not an improvement needs to be made is by drawing up towards the target with your eyes closed; if when you are anchored and you open your eyes you are aiming to the left or right

of the target, this is a good indicator that your natural alignment is not yet correct. If you were to try correct this by moving your arms/torso so that you were aiming at the middle, you would introduce an unnatural torque to your form which could lead to inconsistency issues.

Another good indicator I like to use for archers is plotting where each of your arrows land throughout a day's shooting (through an app or plotting them down on paper). It is surprising how many people do not pick up on little issues like consistent left/right groups (excluding wind influences), which are exaggerated more towards the end of the day. I have seen this

recently with an archer and we figured out quite quickly that their foot alignment was such that they were drawing up almost aiming towards the neighbouring target. By looking at the arrow holes in the target face, we could see that at least 80 per cent of holes were left of the centre, and after changing the archer's footing and alignment we saw greater consistency of arrows landing in the centre of the target than we had before.

The diagram at right is a good example of someone who may be drawing to the left of the target, and also shows how to move into a position that is more in line with the target. I personally prefer to have my



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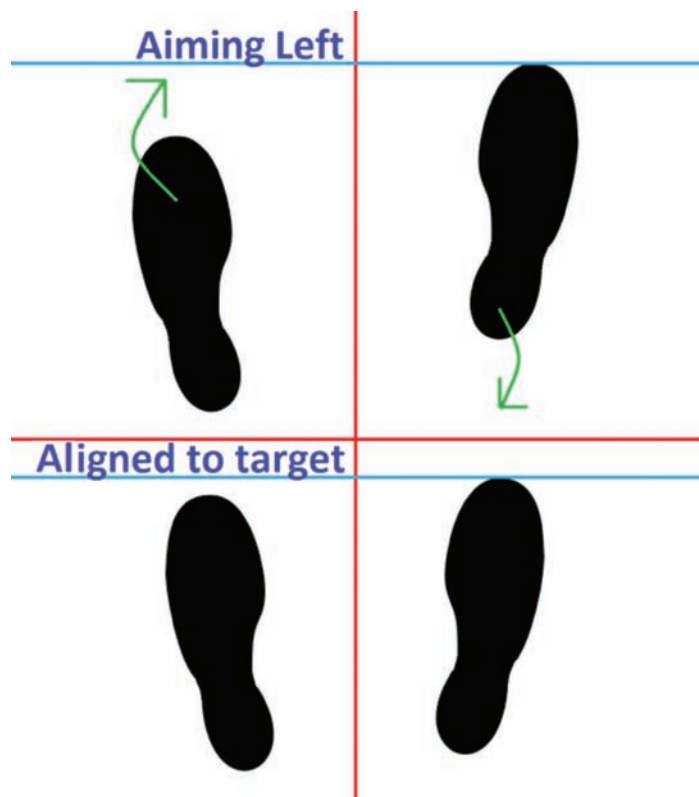
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front foot about an inch behind the line of my back foot as this allows me to stand comfortably facing slightly towards the target but at an angle that allows me to draw straight into the gold. I also like to keep my feet about shoulder width apart and place the majority of my weight toward the tips of my toes. Finally, I also like to stand with my knees locked so that all the weight of my body is being transferred through to my feet with bone-on-bone connections. If I place the muscles under too much strain (by bending my knees slightly), it can lead to activating too many leg muscle groups which can lead to fatigue and inconsistencies.

When making changes to stance, two simple tools I like to use to help reinforce the consistency are a spare arrow and golf tees. Firstly and as always before making any changes to your form, start out by shooting at least three or four ends to warm up your body. The next thing I like to do is to lay an arrow on the ground in front of my feet pointing directly at

the target. I then bring my feet both up to the line of the arrow, and move my front foot back slightly to open my body up to the target slightly. It is important that you open your feet up slightly from one another and not have them parallel as this can also create an imbalance in your foundation. Shoot some arrows like this to get settled in and then try again, drawing your bow back with your eyes closed. If you have moved enough you will find that you are drawing in line with the target much better than you were previously. Once you have found a position that works best for you, it's then good to put the golf tees in the ground in front of your toes so that you can bring your feet back to the same place every time.

Now we have covered feet positioning and alignment, the next important form attribute I will briefly cover in this article is hips and chest alignment. When standing at full draw, we want our feet, hips and shoulders to be in the shape of a T. In the photo above, I demonstrate the correct



stance with my hips and shoulders directly over my feet and without leaning too far back or forward. By standing up straight I also am able to better control my front shoulder's position and keep that from rising above the line of the arrow (more on this in the next article). While it may seem like the weight would be distributed over my feet equally, I actually have a little more weight placed on my back foot which I have found makes my shot much more stable and gives me a solid anchor for my foundation.

Finally, from the back angle you can see my feet are aligned correctly to the target with my body being opened up very slightly, allowing me to aim consistently at the target without any influences pulling me one side to the other.

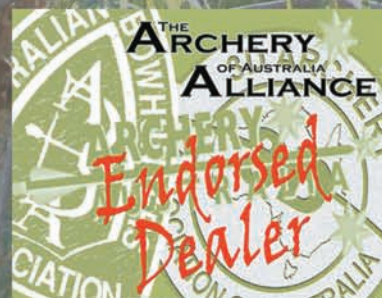
In the next article I will cover upper body form and detail ways to improve many key aspects such as reducing hand torque in both the bow hand and the trigger hand.



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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.
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Review by Aaron Tomkins

Vario Clipper – feather chopper

I had a box of turkey feathers in the shed awaiting the day I would make them into fletches for a fine set of handmade wooden arrows. Then I got the opportunity from John McDonald of AMSO 128 to review the Vario Clipper, a feather-chopping system—it was time for an absolute beginner to cut his own feathers.

The Clipper is heavily built around a strong hinge. The bottom plate has two rubber strips that aid in positioning your feather to line up with the chopping blade, which is mounted via two screws to the top plate. You can interchange feather shapes by changing the cutter blade section attached to the top plate. Blades are available in a multitude of shapes and sizes so you can choose exactly what suits you. With your feather mounted between the rubber strips, you close the lid and with a mallet you deliver a firm tap to the top of the clipper—and you're done. It really is that easy to do and I've found the Clipper produces very tidy, consistent feathers extremely quickly. You can use feathers straight from the bird like I did or you can use commercially prepared full feathers that are available in a variety of colours.

You have control over the appearance and performance of your fletching with the Clipper from AMSO 128. The base unit retails at \$77 plus \$17.60 per cutter shape. I always thought that cutting my own feathers would be very difficult but with this tool I am well on the way to



The Vario Clipper, consisting of the hinged base with interchangeable cutter blades, is available in many choices of feather shapes and sizes. This chopper is solidly built with a heavy hinge, handy feather locator, non-slip outer surfaces and is dead easy to use. Cut accurate, consistent feathers first time and every time.



Locate your feather in the rubber guides, close the hinged base and hold it all in place with one hand. A solid medium tap with a rubber mallet in the other hand produces a ready-to-fletch feather in a matter of seconds.

making that fine set of handmade wooden arrows and tuning them to shoot gracefully from my favourite recurve or longbow.



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APEX SAVIOUR RECURVE



Review by MARK BURROWS

The spiel on the Apex website lists the Saviour recurve as an *"absolutely stunning work of bowmanship come to life in the form of a one-piece traditional recurve. Hand made with exceptional bowyer craftsmanship, this traditional bow is enough and more to satisfy both entry level archers and long-time recurve enthusiasts"*.

I think this is a little over the top. The bow I received was certainly well put together and for the price the looks are quite good. However the finish is hardly 'stunning'. There are a few blemishes in the timber which could have been improved but these are purely cosmetic. I also think there is more machining than 'hand made'

going on but this would have no effect on the performance of the bow.

As is stated, the Saviour is a traditional one-piece-designed recurve. The riser is constructed of makore, zebra, and gmelina arborea hardwoods. The first two are African hardwoods often used in flooring and the arborea is a versatile Asian hardwood



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used for many products as it is a stable and light hardwood. This does give the bow a streamlined, yet tough and attractive appearance. The riser is solid enough and with enough weight to absorb any shock from the shot. The limbs are laminated maple wood and high tensile clear fibreglass. The Saviour has an AMO length of 60in with a 56in Dacron string and comes in poundages ranging from 35lb to 55lb. A horsehair arrow rest is supplied. It has a recommended brace height of 6.75in to 7.25in. Total weight is 1.7lb.

The test bow came at 40lb at 28in with a 7in brace height. The bow draws smoothly and this was confirmed when I ran the bow through my weighing rack. At 25in draw, it showed 34lb and this increased steadily by 2lb for each inch of draw up to the bow's 28in, 40lb. At 29in it went to 42.5lb and at 30in it went to 46lb, showing very little noticeable stacking.

I shot the Saviour with both 11/32

Sitka Spruce arrows and 500 Lightspeeds. The Spruce had three, 4in feathers with 125gr field points for a total weight of 435gr and the Lightspeeds had three 5in feathers with 145gr points, which included insert, for a weight of 360gr. I also ran some 170gr points through the Lightspeeds. I put all three of these arrow combinations through the chronograph. At my draw length, which with the recurve is about 27.5in, the Spruce averaged 145 feet per second and the Lightspeeds with the 145gr point averaged 160 FPS. The 175gr points in the Lightspeeds averaged 150 FPS. These are not super-fast speeds but you have to remember this is not big poundage. At my draw length, the testing was done at approximately 39lb.

I shot several groups with all of the arrow combinations and each shot quite well although the heavier points in the carbons seemed to be a better choice. A little more playing around

with point weight to spine would have the carbons performing at their optimum. The woods, however, definitely performed the best, flying and grouping well. For a relatively low poundage, bow cast was pretty good as well. I shot some quite reasonable groups out to 40m. At our club 18m indoor range, I was regularly shooting tennis-ball-sized groups. It really is an enjoyable bow to shoot.

The advertising states that the Saviour *"satisfies both entry level archers and long-time recurve enthusiasts"*, and I think it does. This is a budget bow with a better-than-budget performance. I don't think anyone would be disappointed if they added a Saviour to their bow rack at around \$349.50.

The Saviour is available from Apex Hunting at 22 Tombo Street, Capalaba, Qld 4157, phone 1300 883 770 or can be viewed online at www.apexhunting.com.au.

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Small targets, BIG RESULTS

The bear that stood broadside to me was one of the biggest I had seen. They look much bigger at close range, and this one looked like a small automobile. He had walked out from a thicket and across the hillside, not making any indication that he saw me. I was completely exposed, and in the open for the whole world to see. Yet there he was, not 20 yards from me, with his head down licking insects off a rotted stump.

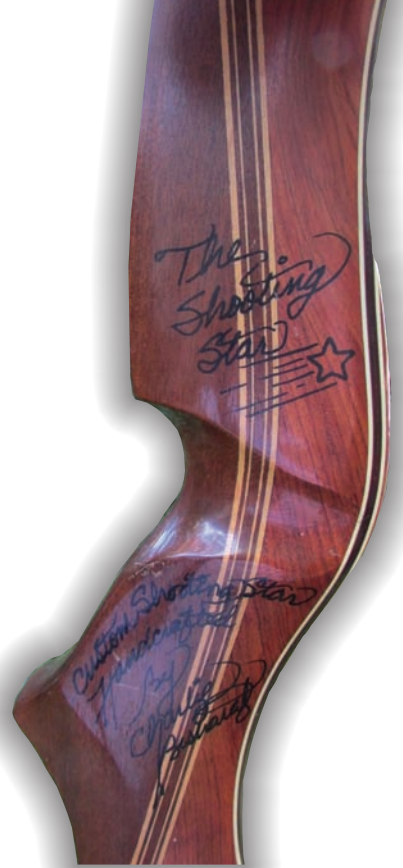
I am not sure why they call black bears black, because in reality they can be a multitude of colours ranging from black to brown to cinnamon ... and even blond, and all those colours combined. This bear was cinnamon coloured with a touch of black around his nose and eyes. Of all the bears I had seen in my bowhunting career, he was the prettiest and largest.

In my mind I could see his pelt lying on the floor in my living room or stretched across my wall. It had been many years of hard bowhunting to come to this point and I knew it would be many more before I had a chance like this again.

More than once he stopped eating and turned his head in my direction. I stood motionless. The wind was in my face and I was grateful for that. Black bears have an acute sense of smell, and I knew if he winded me my hunt would be over.

As slowly as I could move, I pulled an arrow from my bow-mounted quiver and nocked it on the bowstring. I was glad I had chosen the bow-mounted quiver on this hunt over the Hill-style back quiver I normally used with my longbow. The bow was silent as I drew and came to full draw.

At first I thought I had hit the bear because the arrow disappeared from my sight. I was confident my Kustom King cedar shaft had gone completely through the animal and had buried itself in the hillside behind the bear. It was then, when the great beast lifted his front leg, that I saw my arrow. It was buried in the hillside all right, right under the bear's right foreleg. My shot was about six inches beneath the bear's heart. The bear sniffed the white fletching on the arrow, turned to look at me and bolted for cover. My opportunity was gone.



John A. Barlow

Looking back over that hunt, there were so many things that I had done right. Bowhunting into the wind. Moving at a snail's pace. Keeping alert and attentive. But I had failed to do the most important thing when shooting at a game animal. I had failed to pick a place or point.

In reality I guess I did pick a place when I shot—the State of California! I had failed to direct my vision to a hair or shadow or place on the bear where I wanted to have my arrow go. In reality, I was shooting at the entire body of the animal and that is always a mistake. If I had ever wanted to shake my fist at heaven, missing that shot was it.

So how do we shoot at a place on an animal when shooting a traditional bow instinctively, without bow-mounted sights, string peeps and rangefinders? It happens by shooting at small targets and shooting frequently—so frequently that the mind does little thinking about the shot. It only reacts.

Going small

In his wonderful video, "Hitting 'em Like Howard Hill," John Schulz describes a time when a friend was having a hard time hitting a bear out of a tree stand with his bow.

Putting his friend on the top of a house and throwing out some white golf balls on the lawn to shoot at, made his friend's shooting improve immediately. It was not too much longer before his friend bagged a beautiful bear. Yes, his friend had to do more than just shoot at small white golf balls, but the golf balls, because of their small size, helped him to focus on a place or point and nothing else. When his bear came along all he had to do was focus on a small point on the animal, and shoot.

I have never been a big advocate at shooting at coloured, ringed targets in shooting practice. It is possible to shoot at them and shoot well

instinctively. After all, the middle on those type of targets does have a much smaller area than the outside ring. But try removing that centre area from the rest of the target and place it on a bale of straw or foam and see how you shoot. I'll bet my school lunch money that your shooting is going to improve, and improve greatly. Shooting at small targets makes the eyes focus more intently, thus putting everything else in the shooting process into line. That's why many instinctive shooters can hit aspirins out of the air. The smaller the target, the more focus. The more focus the greater chance of success.

Roving and stump shooting

Anyone who has spoken or written about shooting a bow instinctively has advocated roving or stump shooting as a form of practice. In reality, it is one of the best ways to improve one's shooting ability using a traditional bow or a compound with sights. This type of shooting practice requires walking through the woods shooting at non-breathing things like dead plants, leaves, rotted tree stumps, cow pies or even shadows. It is one of my most enjoyable ways of spending time in the woods,

especially with family or friends. It is also an excellent way to improve one's ability to focus.

On small targets like a tree leaf or flower, remember to narrow the target even smaller. On a leaf pick a certain area on the leaf like a small stem. Or a portion of the leaf like the edge. On a flower shoot at the centre or at an individual flower petal. On a rotting tree stump, shoot at a lighter or darker portion of the stump and not at the entire tree stump. On most of my bowhunts I spend the slower hunting part of the day walking in non-productive hunting areas shooting at small objects in the woods, keeping my muscles limber and honing my bow-shooting skills.

G. Fred Asbell tells of a time that when roving through the woods he spotted a deer lying flat, hidden in some brush, watching Asbell walking and shooting. Asbell spotted the deer and nocked the string with an arrow and promptly shot the deer. In meadows and more open areas, I can safely pick targets at greater distances and improve. But even at longer distances than I would normally shoot, I focus on small targets. If shooting at a plant at 70m with my recurve I will have greater success if I shoot at a small area of the plant and not the entire plant. You will be pleasantly surprised at how well you can shoot using this method. Remember to

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Two great arrow tips for stump shooting or roving.



use arrow points like rubber blunts or Judo points so that you do not risk damaging your broadheads or losing your arrows.

Picking a spot

The dictionary defines the word spot as a small round or roundish mark differing in colour or texture from the surface around it, or, a particular place or point.

Yet I have never bowhunted or shot at any animal with a spot on it, in terms of being round. But I have shot at an animal with my focus on a particular place or point. So maybe we should not be shooting at spots as much as we should be shooting at a place or a point. In the long run, I do not think it matters as long as you are totally focussed on the place where you want your arrow to go, spots, places or points. The key is the ability to focus completely where you want your arrow to go.

It has been my experience that most bowhunters miss at game animals because they have let their eyes wander when a game animal is

near and they lose track in their mind of where the arrow should go. It is easy to do. A game animal comes into view. One's blood starts to get warm and the heart begins to beat rapidly and the mind gets fuzzy. That is one of the exciting things about our sport. If a game animal has antlers or horns it is almost impossible not to look at them and start to dream.

I believe ethical bowhunters should know the anatomy of the animal they are hunting so they know at what areas of the animal's body they should put their focus—where the heart is, the lungs and other vital areas—so that when a game animal does come into view, the bowhunter is completely focussed and ready to shoot at one of those areas.

The great thing about learning to focus is that you can practise any time, even without a bow in your hand. Pick something to look at and do not take your eyes off that object no matter what is going on around you. I would caution you not to focus on people. You might scare them. But pick something that strikes your interest and look at it. You get the idea, learn to focus and your shooting will improve.



The smaller the target, the greater the chance of success. Pick one of the smaller spots and focus on it.

Targets come in a variety of colours and sizes.



Shooting at 3D targets

Three-dimensional targets are one of the greatest things to come around since Mom's apple pie. The makers of these jewels have come a long way in providing us with life-like targets that look so real that a man or woman would think that he or she was shooting at the real thing. And each year these types of targets seem to be improving. Most archery clubs have these types of targets in their inventory and hold special shoots where only 3D targets are used. At one shoot that I attended someone put a loud speaker near a full-sized bull elk that made bugling elk sounds as shooters got close. I have seen some targets that actually turn their head, looking around as though they were looking for danger. They are fun to shoot at and can provide hours of enjoyment.

Most archery stores sell these targets and you can also find them in many archery order catalogues



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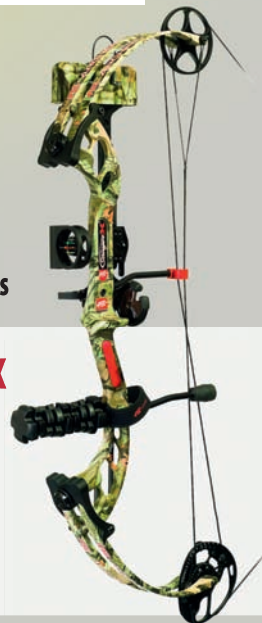
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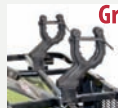
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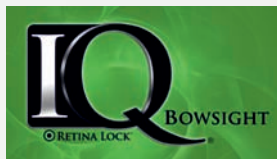
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3D targets give bowhunters an opportunity for realistic practice.

for your personal use. They are great targets to help the shooter focus. Some have coloured spots to indicate vital areas but my favourite ones do not have colours or spots, making them even more realistic. They provide the bowhunter with

the most realistic type of practice. You can let your imagination run wild shooting at them. And you can practice the art of being totally focussed without shooting at the real thing. Remember when shooting at them to focus, pick a place or point where you want your arrow to go, and refine your skills any time of the year with these types of targets.

When it's time for the real thing

Shooting at a live animal and the excitement of the process can bring out a variety of emotions. Some of those emotions can be positive, some not.

Like my missed shot at the bear, it can be very easy to shoot at an entire animal and not at a place or point. However, if we have disciplined our minds to focus, we can almost bore a hole in the place where we want the arrow to go with our eyes.

To look small and think small when it comes to our target means that our chances for success will increase. And as they increase so will our enjoyment of the sport we cherish so much.

Australian Bowhunters Association Inc TM (Inc in NT No AO1978C)

GST ABN 79 750 431 225

GST tax invoice



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* Available to TBA members only

Available only to members who have qualified. Please enclose copy of letter of acknowledgement from BH Division.

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- ☐ Enclosed is cheque/money order for \$ _____ payable to Australian Bowhunters Association
- ☐ Pay by credit card—fill out details below:

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☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Expiry Date (mm yy) _____ Signature _____

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ABA Car Sticker	4.00			
ABA Proficiency Badges (eg, 300+)	5.00			
ABA Junior Advanced Badge	6.00			
ABA Cub Advanced Badge	6.00			
ABA Target ID Cards	5.00			
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Southern NSW & ACT Branch

ABA/3D Branch Shoot

Hosted by

Lithgow Valley Archers

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20, November 2016

Saturday - ABA Round

8-8:30am Registrations & Bow Checks
9am Muster & Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round
Presentations ASAP

Sunday - 3D Round

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

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

To Pre Nominate or for further information:

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Evening meal available on Saturday

No Dogs Policy Applies to this Shoot

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

ABA/3D Branch Shoot

Hosted by **Capital Field Archers**

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 October 2016

Saturday - ABA Round

8-8:30am Registrations & Bow Checks
9am Muster & Start 3 Arrow Round
Lunch Start 1 Arrow Round
Presentations ASAP

Sunday - 3D Round

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

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

To pre-nominate contact: Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628
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Alice Springs Masters Games

8 - 15 October 2016
The Friendly Games



Back in 2016 for just their third Games, Archery is again organised by the Dead Centre Bowhunters Club. Featuring competition in a picturesque country setting at the foot of the MacDonnell Ranges with FITA, ABA, IFAA and 3D competitions for a rounded Archery experience.

The Dead Centre Bowhunters Club is 15km from town, and offers on-site camping with flushing toilets, drop-pit toilets, porta-loos and bucket showers. Good water supply with hot water available. Transport is available for those not staying on site.

Breakfasts and lunches will be available for purchase along with water, soft drinks and snacks throughout the day. Spectators welcome.



Saturday 8th: Practice range open, shoot group allocation. Opening parade 5.30pm onwards in the mall.
All competition days: shooting starts 8am, muster from 7:30am onwards and breakfast from 6am onwards.
Sunday 9th: ABA 20 colour animal image vinyl targets, 2 rounds (3 arrow & 1 arrow)
Monday 10th: ABA 20 colour animal image vinyl targets, 2 rounds (3 arrow & 1 arrow). Presentations Monday 3pm.
Tuesday 11th: IFAA 28 circular vinyl targets, single "field" round, marked distances.
Wednesday 12th: IFAA 28 vinyl targets, single "Animal" round, marked distances. Presentations Wednesday 3pm.
Thursday 13th: FITA 60/900 round, circular colour target at 60m, 50m, 40m. Presentations Thursday 2pm.
Friday 14th: ABA 20 3D targets, 2 rounds (3 arrow & 1 arrow)
Saturday 15th: ABA 20 3D targets, 1 round (2 arrows, both counting). Presentations Saturday 1pm.

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Longbow

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46 - 55

56 - 65

66 - 75

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Recurve - sighted

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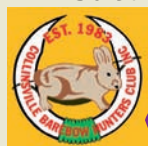
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Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st, August 2016

Saturday night's dinner theme
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Must be in ABA to shoot

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Program times are a guide only and are subject to change at any time.

STRICTLY NO DOGS by order of property owner. Please do not bring dogs or you will be asked to leave.

Program - Saturday 20th

6am Breakfast

7:30-8am Bow Check and Muster

8:30am ABA 3 arrow Round

Morning Tea

10:30am ABA 1 arrow Round

12:00 Lunch

1:30pm ABA 1 arrow Round

3pm Fun Rounds, Knife & Axe

6:30pm Evening Meal

Sunday 21st

6-7:45am Breakfast

8am ABA 3 arrow Round

ASAP Lunch and Presentations

THE LAST WORD

Have you ever had the thought when someone has won a raffle that serendipity has been at play and that the prize has gone to exactly the right person? Well, that's what happened at the Mothers Day trad shoot at Barambah Archery Club in May.

Escapees from normal life for the past couple of years, Wayne and Jan Henery, like to keep up their archery while they're on the road, pulling in to stay a while—or a long time if they feel like it—somewhere near an archery club.

Jan, the owner of a compound and a recurve bow, had been increasingly unsatisfied with her recurve and had been trying out bows from whomever would let her have a go at their bent sticks. What she really wanted was a takedown recurve, she had decided. And then she won exactly that—a lovely timber takedown recurve donated for the raffle by AMSO 128. Serendipity, huh?

Her nine-year-old grandson Dayne from the Sunshine Coast is also counting his blessings. His groovy Grammy gave him her red recurve ... and he can't wait to grow into it!



SHOOT CALENDAR

July-August-September

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
July			
1st	Diamond Valley*	Vic	Indoor QRE
2nd	Eden Field Archers*	St Mary's SA	Field
3rd	Canberra Archery Club*	Canberra	Target
4th	Great Southern Archers*	SA	Indoor QRE
2nd-3rd	Mackay District Bowmen*	B – Branch	Invitational ABA
2nd-3rd	Hinterland Field Archers*	Qld	3DAAA
2nd-3rd	Roma District Bowhunters*	C – Branch	C v D Challenge
2nd-3rd	Macleay Valley Archers*	E – Branch	Branch Titles ABA
2nd-3rd	Bendigo Field Arches*	H – Branch	Invitational Trad
3rd	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
3rd	Phoenix Field Archers of Sale	G – Branch	ABA
7th-10th	Fred's Pass Field Archers*	A – Branch	Branch Titles
9th-10th	Southern Yorke Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA & 3D
9th-10th	Diamond Valley Archers*	Vic	State Titles
10th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
10th	Mount Isa Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
16th-17th	Campbelltown & District F A*	F – Branch	Branch Titles ABA
16th-17th	Mount Clay Archers*	G – Branch	State 3D Title
16th-17th	Western Plains Archers*	J – Branch	ABA & 3D
16th-17th	National Indoor Championships*	Various	Indoor
17th	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A – Branch	ABA & 3D
17th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA
17th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
17th	Gympie Field Archers	C – Branch	Invitational IFAA
23rd-24th	Pacific Bowmen*	D – Branch	TBA
23rd-24th	TBA – Mail Match*	TBA	National Indoor Titles
24th	Boola Valley Field Archers	G – Branch	IFAA
31st	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
31st	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	3D
August			
5th	Diamond Valley*	Vic	Indoor QRE
6th	Eden Field Archers*	St Mary's SA	Field QRE
7th	Canberra Archery Club*	Canberra	Presidents Shoot
6th-7th	Namoi Valley Archers*	E – Branch	Branch 3D Titles
6th-7th	Bendigo Field Archers*	H – Branch	Invitational 3D
7th	Dead Centre Bowhunters	A – Branch	ABA & 3D
7th	Mackay District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
7th	West Gippsland Field Archers	G – Branch	IFAA
7th	Mount Isa Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
7th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
13th	Illawarra Archers*	NSW	Field QRE
13th-14th	Yorke Peninsula Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA & 3D
14th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
14th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA
14th	West Lake Archers*	NSW	Field QRE
15th	Great Southern Archers*	SA	Indoor QRE
21st	Cressy Bowmen*	Adelaide	Invitation
20th-21st	WA Field and Bowhunters Club*	J – Branch	ABA & 3D
20th-21st	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	Invitational ABA
20th-21st	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen*	H – Branch	ABA
20th-21st	Moranbah Bowhunters and Field Archers*	C – Branch	Branch IFAA Titles

20th-21st	Lakeside Bowmen*	D – Branch	Branch IFAA Titles
20th-21st	Forbes Lachlan River Archers*	F – Branch	State ABA Titles
20th-21st	Twin City Archers*	Vic	3DAAA
20th-21st	North Albert Field Archers*	Qld	State Titles
21st	Manly Warringah Field Archers*	NSW	3DAAA
21st	Cressy Bowmen Invitational*	SA	Target
27th-28th	Silver City Archers*	I – Branch	Traditional
28th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA & 3D
28th	TBA*	AA NSW	Short Course
28th	South Australia Clout*	Adelaide	State Clout
28th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA

September

2nd	Diamond Valley*	Vic	Indoor QRE
3rd	Eden Field Archers*	St Mary's SA	Field QRE
3rd	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	State Target
3rd-4th	Mallee Sunset Field Archers*	I – Branch	Traditional
3rd-4th	Geelong Archers*	VIC	State Field
4th	Canberra Archery Club*	Canberra	Presidents Shoot
4th	Mackay District Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
4th	Mount Isa Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
4th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
10th-11th	Uralla Bowmen*	E – Branch	ABA
10th-11th	SA Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA
10th-11th	Mount Petrie Bowmen*	Belmont Qld	State Field
10th-11th	Mornington Peninsula Bowmen*	Vic	3DAAA
10th-11th	Wingen Matchplay*	NSW	3DAAA
11th	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters	G – Branch	ABA
11th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
11th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	ABA
17th-18th	Peel Archery Club*	J – Branch	ABA & 3D
17th-18th	Charleville Field Archers*	D – Branch	Gold Cup ABA
17th-18th	Lilydale Bowmen*	H – Branch	ABA
17th-18th	Caboolture and District Bowmen*	Qld	3DAAA
18th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B – Branch	ABA
19th	Great Southern Archers*	SA	Indoor QRE
24th-25th	Penrith City Archers*	NSW	State Field
25th	Fred's Pass Field Archers	A – Branch	3D
25th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
25th-30th	Wagga Wagga Field Archers*	F – Branch	WFAC

Black type shows ABA events, green type represents Archery Australia events and blue type denotes 3DAAA events
Shots marked with an * are cross-participation events




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ABA Membership N°:

Renewal ☐

New Member ☐

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.

RENEWALS and/or Advance Memberships for existing members

	12 months	3 years in advance
Adults	\$65	\$185
Juniors-Cubs	\$45	\$130
Families	\$140	\$390

New Members (12-month membership including joining fee)

Adults	\$90
Juniors-Cubs	\$70
Families	\$185

PENSIONER DISCOUNT: Deduct 10% from fees listed.

Quote Pension Benefit Card Number:

All fees include GST

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

ASSOCIATION USE ONLY

M'ship #s Allocated

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Signature

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5/11/2015



APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE
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