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*Antelope adventure
in Colorado
Maiden hunting trip*



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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

◀ Rusa deer bedded down. See story, "One down, five to go" on Page 58.

Photo by PHIL STEELE

INSET: ABA Park from above.

Drone photo courtesy JASON MITCHELL

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We share a responsibility for the privilege of living in a free society, which is to guard that privilege carefully and never take it for granted. Privileges can be quickly eroded if we stop paying attention.

Those of us who belong to the Australian Bowhunters Association, even if we do not hunt, must take a proactive stance about hunting. It's a case of, I may not do it myself but I will defend to the death your right to hunt (with apologies to Evelyn Beatrice Hall whose original quote to illustrate the beliefs of the famous writer Voltaire I have rather mangled to fit my example). As ever, some people are more prepared than others to take a stance; to publicly defend what they believe in. It must also be said, some people are in a better position to be able to make a difference to the opinions of others.

For this, we need to be thankful that the ABA has people like Mark Burrows, Daryl Venables and others who may not trumpet their involvement or successes but who quietly lobby on our behalf at a government level to ensure our voice is heard.

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE		DEADLINE
Vol 43 No. 1	September-October	1 August
Vol 43 No. 2	November-December	1 October
Vol 43 No. 3	January-February	1 December



Unfortunately hunting sometimes attracts a certain kind of people who do us no favours whatsoever. In fact, they are a danger to ethical hunting and its standing in the community. We need to be seen as a different class of hunter, doing our bit to help control feral animals and harvesting meat from our animals if we can.

Of course, one way we can separate ourselves from the redneck brigade is to take the Bowhunting Proficiency Certificate course to prove ourselves worthy and educated enough for the privilege of hunting.

If we always abide by our association's Code of Ethics and Rules of Fair Chase and continue to defend our privileges, hopefully there will always be an accepted place for bowhunting in Australia, and indeed throughout the world.

But we must be vigilant so that we can keep this freedom ... because once it is gone it will be devilishly hard, if not impossible, to reinstate.

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



Who said this hunting thing was hard?

A trio of ladies make their **MAIDEN HUNTING TRIP**

by ALLAN DRIVER

This tale starts about 12 months ago at a two-day ABA event at Bendigo Field Archers. It was a Saturday night. In the club kitchen, some ladies were sitting down enjoying a beverage or two. The conversation came around to hunting and whether or not they could actually connect an arrow into a feral animal.

I am great friends with these wonderful ladies as I have known them for many many years, having seen them at numerous shoots throughout Victoria. So I was comfortable about throwing in my two bob's worth to tell them they could join me on a trip to hunt billy goats plus whatever else that might be passing by ... such as pigs, cats, foxes and rabbits.

The discussion then took on a whole new meaning as none of them had ever hunted a feral animal and they didn't know if they could really loose an arrow to dispatch a goat.

But I reassured them all that it would not be too difficult so long as they picked the spot on the goat correctly. Over the next 12 months as we met at ABA events, I would ask all those involved if they were still up to the task. In the end, three of the original five could come. This was perfect, as I had seasoned hunters coming along with me and we ended up with a chaperone for each woman.



Belinda and Michelle.



Michelle's goat measured 88:2/8pt ... not bad for a first timer.

April 2017 arrived and we were all off to New South Wales to one of four properties I have access to.

The main farm property we were going to hunt was 180,000 acres, with plenty of room to roam around looking for big billy goats.

Once we arrived I said G'day to Brendan the station overseer and

introduced everyone in the hunting party to him. Then we all got settled into the shearers' quarters where I gave a guided tour to everyone.

With a real outside dunny sporting a new cistern and a cook's house with electricity, fridges plus a shower, there were quite a few comforts for our lady hunters even though these girls, being hardened archers, could have lived out in the bush without these luxuries.

Still, it was appreciated that we weren't really roughing it at the spot which would be our home for the next seven days.

The girls literally fell in love with the place and didn't bat an eyelid about the red dust, bindies, mice and the working dogs roaming around the homestead.

Saturday morning at 5.15am was wake up time so we had breakfast, put on hunting gear and packed all the 4WDs. We all headed out to different spots as the sun was coming up and this was to be the norm for the rest of the week.

When new hunters come away

with me they must follow a long tradition that my best mate Ray taught me some 27 years ago—we seasoned hunters do not take an animal until the new hunters have taken theirs.

This means it can be a day or three or four days before an animal is taken. The advantage, of course, is that the seasoned hunters are available to give every bit of advice to the new hunters to get them close to their quarry so they can cleanly dispatch their first animal.

Michelle, a Bendigo Field Archers member and a compound bowhunter, was going out with Wayne and Tyler for the first day.

I wasn't sure how things would go but she was to put any of my doubts to rest, because that day Michelle managed to bag three goats at a trough!

Her first claim was actually filmed by Tyler and the replay back at camp said it all. It was something to behold as Michelle nailed her first goat, a nice big billy coming in to drink. Her 15m shot took out the goat's vitals in seconds.

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Everything that had been put in place for her by Wayne and Tyler had gained a result.

She was now a bowhunter in every sense of the word. She had a beaming smile from ear to ear and shed a few tears of joy at what she had just accomplished. I'd say she was pretty stunned as well.

There were handshakes all around then it was on to the job of removing the head to be taken back for boiling out.

She went on to take two more billies that morning and was tickled pink about the experience.

The midday sun was starting to approach and everything was quietening down as the goats starting heading up into the sandhills to bed down for the afternoon.

Back at camp, the conversation

was about Michelle's great morning hunt. The heads were placed in pillow cases until they could be boiled out.

My morning was spent with Belinda, a compound bowhunter from Bendigo Field Archers and her better half, Macca. We were heading out to a place I hadn't hunted much before (or seen many goats in the area), but as it turned out it proved to be the right call for the day.

Macca headed off to a spot far away from the tank while Belinda and I chose a spot nestled in some prickly bushes to give us cover from any eyes that might approach.

The sun soon appeared and the temperature was on the rise on the black soil plains where we were waiting for any good big billies to come past.

While we were waiting, sheep and goats of various sizes would wander past—some less than 2m from us and not seeming to care about two hunters dressed in camo gear.

While we waited, I spoke to Belinda about not panicking when a shot was available and how to look for the spot for an arrow to connect, reassuring her that if you take your time you will make a clean kill.

The hours moved on and then it happened—a good-sized billy came walking along the black soil, unaware of the two hunters sitting in wait. I nudged Belinda to take the shot at 15m when she was ready.

Watching her come to full draw and release the arrow was a fabulous sight. The arrow found its mark and the billy walked another 20m and dropped.

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PLANET ARCHERY

Belinda gave a sigh of relief at what she had just accomplished while her heart continued to race at an all-time high. She had her first feral game claim to her credit.

We waited for a little while to take in the moment and then went to the downed animal to take photos and exchange handshakes.

Macca came back and a little

bit of sledging took place as now Belinda had the biggest goat that had been taken in their family.

Returning to camp, we had lunch and waited for everyone else to return from their hunting destinations to see how they had gone.

A couple of days later I had Michelle and Belinda with me out hunting and I could smell something

that made my nose twitch.

I asked Belinda if it was her and she said no, so I asked Michelle ... and sure enough it was her. She had freshened herself up with deodorant which was quite pleasant to us humans but not feral animals. So I pointed this out to her and from that day forward she joined the ranks of us smelly bowhunters so as to not

Belinda's goat measured 93:2/8pt.





Gail and her goat.

scare any goats away ... another lesson learned.

Our third lady on the trip was Gail, a Geelong Trophy Bowhunters member and a longbow hunter. She was being looked after by her boyfriend, Hayden, from my club.

They headed out Monday morning to one of my favourite spots that has produced some great billy goats over the years.

They were both settled in very early on in the tanks as the darkness lifted and set about waiting for the game to come along.

The sun gradually rose and there was a crispness in the air as goats of various sizes came in to drink at the tank. Gail's goat eventually made an appearance and she began to ready

herself for the mission at hand.

Gail was using a longbow and as the distance began to lessen she steadied herself and took aim.

The arrow was on its way and connected, taking down the billy without any hesitation. One more very happy bowhunter had come of age.

The goat head was removed and placed in a hessian bag and the rest of the morning was spent on looking for bigger billies to take, but things went quiet and as the heat of the day rose it was time to return to camp for lunch and celebrations. Gail's goat measured 58 6/8pt—very nice for a first timer using a longbow.

Most of our nights were spent around the barbecue outside—eating, drinking telling tales of the trip

so far and how much fun everyone was having.

All the female hunters on the trip had now taken at least one goat so it was time to introduce them to the task of boiling out the heads—something that needed to be done and would test the ladies.

They all took it upon themselves to cut the heads and skin them as much as possible and then place them into the half-44-gallon drum to boil for some time to eventually get the horns free. They did wear rubber gloves as the goat smell may have been a bit too much to bear but, hey, girls will be girls ... and maybe their way is that little bit smarter than how we guys do it. Who can say?

So over the week on the hunt-



Boiling the heads.



Gloves on—time to clean the heads.

ing property, the girls had learned a great deal about feral animals and using a GPS, UHF radio, driving a 4WD while out on the property and how to wait patiently for the right billy goat to come along.

Also on this trip were members from my club—Bacchus March Bowmen—who helped out immensely with the hunters in this article and who took some big trophy class goats also. My thanks to them for their assistance.

The end of the trip resulted in going to the local hotel to celebrate the trip and Macca's birthday. A good pub meal and many drinks caused the rains to come and the decision

was made to pack up early Friday morning and head home.

After a group photo and good-byes, it was time to head out onto the wet clay road and gingerly drive back to the bitumen then home.

So I can proudly say that three wonderful women who started as total novices are now on their way to becoming seasoned bowhunters. Their parting remarks were, "When

are we coming back again to hunt the big billies?"

They hadn't been sure they could do it, but with time, encouragement and a helping hand they now know that it is possible to safely hunt game.

There is nothing like true converts to this great sport of ours. Now I need to plan for another trip down the track with hopefully a few more lady hunters.

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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)



Completion of the NSW Bowfishing for Carp Trial

The 18-month NSW DPI Bowfishing Inland Waters for Carp Trial ended at 5.00pm on June 4. The DPI will now start a thorough review of the overall program. Their main points of consideration will be:

- how many bowfishers participated
- were there any economic benefits for the State
- whether participants complied with the rules
- how many carp were removed from NSW inland waterways
- whether there were any impacts on native species
- were there any safety incidents
- the types of interactions bowfishers had with other waterway users

Whether or not we have done enough to make a difference remains to be seen. I have my concerns but hopefully the NSW DPI will look favourably on the results and we will be able to continue to legally bowfish for carp. We had an opportunity here to work positively with a government department that was on our side. I hope we haven't blown it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported the trial and made the effort to get out there and get some carp out of the waterways, both on their own and during the competitions that were held during this period. I would especially like to thank Daryl Venables who put so much time and effort into this program to get it off the ground. Without his early work, we would never have had the trial in the first place.

While it is always risky naming people, as you always seem to miss someone, I would also like to especially thank Nigel Vaughan and Joy Wood. For the 2016 claim year I had a competition running for the most carp claimed for men and women. These two people alone claimed nearly 50 per cent of all the carp claimed through the ABA for 2016 so were obvious winners. Nigel doesn't even live in NSW and Joy is only a part timer. A fantastic effort by these two and hopefully this effort will go a long way towards the DPI's taking bowfishing seriously.

Remember, from now on you can no longer take carp legally with a bow and arrow in any other State except South Australia.

Changes to RCs

This is a reminder that at the AGM last year, the Bowhunting Technical Committee introduced changes to the Record Class level of some of our measurable species. To get to this point, a great deal of time was spent studying the relative data. Trophy Class (TC) versus Record Class (RC) as a percentage on all our claims was studied very closely and there were some very interesting results.

We can see, now that we have 30-plus years of data, that some of the decisions made in the early days have not worked as expected. As a result the BH Technical Committee has decided to alter some of our RC sizes to make the differences between TC and RC more acceptable across the board. A great example for the change is the fox. Of the 3841 Trophy Class and Record Class Fox claims, 3652 are TC and only 189 are RC. This could mean two things. Either TC is too low or RC is too high. Way back when records began, TC for fox was listed at 9. It was discovered that this was too low as it was possible for juvenile foxes to go TC. So the TC level was increased to 9 3/16 and we think that is now pretty right. Therefore RC is probably too high so a decrease has been introduced.

In some of the deer species RC was seen to be too low, so it was increased. Overall it was the BH Technical Committee's recommendation that RC be altered where necessary using the analysed data at hand. This change could either be a decrease or an increase in the RC level. The table on the next page shows what has changed.

Summary of Australian Bowshot Records

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

Women's Bowshot Records

Boar	Lynda Fell	32 2/8pt	1991
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt	2010
Buffalo	Emma Johnson	87 2/8pt	2015
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt	2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 14/16pt	2016
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt	1984
Red Deer	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt	2014
Fallow Deer	Margaret Cowin	150 7/8pt	1997
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt	2010
Hog Deer	Nil		
Sambar Deer	Nil		
Rusa Deer	Emma Johnson	195 6/8pt	2016
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell	25 4/8pt	2016
Shark BF	Lynda Fell	23 5/8pt	2000
Stingray BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt	1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt	1986

Record Class for measurable species

	Total TC & RC	Total TC Now	Total RC	RC to TC %	Suggested Changes	RC
Boar	4326	3931	395	10%	Decrease RC to 29pt	29pt
Buffalo	185	64	121	189%	Leave	86 4/8pt
Camel	130	80	50	63%	Leave	29pt
Cat	1192	841	351	42%	Leave	7 10/16pt
Chital deer	89	24	65	271%	Increase RC by 10pt to 160pt	160pt
Fallow Deer	225	82	143	174%	Increase RC to 190pt	190pt
Fox	3841	3652	189	5%	Decrease RC to 10 2/16pt	10 2/16pt
Goat	4821	4403	418	9%	Decrease RC to 110pt	110pt
Hog Deer	28	6	22	367%	Leave	70pt
Red Deer	94	20	74	370%	Increase RC to 200pt	200pt
Rusa Deer	66	22	44	200%	Increase RC to 170pt	170pt
Sambar Deer	13	7	6	86%	Leave	162 7/8pt
Shark BHFF	233	210	23	11%	Leave	28pt
Stingray BHFF	837	820	17	2%	Leave	9 1/8pt
Total	16080	14162	1918	14%		



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B Shaun Knuth	Towers Bowhunters	Camel	RC FKOS	30 12/16
B Terri Bell	Towers Bowhunters	Pig	GA FK/FKOS	0
B Tony Lasker	Independent	Red Deer	Prov AR	380 3/8
B Amy Standley	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Chital Deer	TC	146 4/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Fox	TC FKOS	9 14/16
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Hog Deer	RC FKOS	83 6/8
B Daniel Ferguson	Twin Rivers Bowhunters	Red Deer	RC	246 3/8
C Brett Fittock	Capricorn Field Archers	Red Deer	RC FKOS	240 1/8
C Wayne Kruger	Wide Bay Archers	Chital Deer	TC	140 3/8
C Wayne Kruger	Wide Bay Archers	Chital Deer	TC	147 4/8
D Michael Sforcina	Grange Bowmen	Goat	TC FK/FKOS	101 3/8
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Pig	TC	26 4/8
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	RC	110 5/8
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	TC	95 4/8
D David Pender	Lakeside Bowmen	Goat	RC	120 4/8

D	Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
D	Graham Newell	Grange Bowmen	Fallow Deer	RC		194 3/8
D	James Reece	Renegade Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
E	Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District FA	Goat	TC	FKOS	109 1/8
E	Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District FA	Goat	RC		111 1/8
E	Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District FA	Goat	TC		107 2/8
E	Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District FA	Goat	RC		112 5/8
E	Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District FA	Goat	TC		109 7/8
E	Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District FA	Goat	RC		111 2/8
E	Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District FA	Goat	RC		117 1/8
E	Luke Sampson	Dubbo & District FA	Goat	RC		117 3/8
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Goat	TC		96 5/8
E	Helen Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 15/16
E	Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 5/16
E	Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 9/16
E	Graeme Duff	Uralla Bowmen	Fox	TC		9 13/16
E	Bernie Hayne	Namoi Valley Archers	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
E	Bernie Hayne	Namoi Valley Archers	Scaled Fish	GA	FKOS	0
E	Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Fallow Deer	RC		199 3/8
E	Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Fallow Deer	TC		184 7/8
E	Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	TC		96 6/8
E	Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	TC		95 4/8
E	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		122 6/8
E	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		114 4/8
E	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		112 5/8
E	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		100 6/8
E	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		100 1/8
E	Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		98 6/8
F	Theo Vanderburg	Campbelltown Field Archers	Fallow Deer	TC		176 2/8
F	Theo Vanderburg	Campbelltown Field Archers	Fallow Deer	RC		205 3/8
F	Theo Vanderburg	Campbelltown Field Archers	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
F	Neville Ashton	Campbelltown Field Archers	Red Deer	GA	FKOS	0
F	Neville Ashton	Campbelltown Field Archers	Goat	RC		112 7/8
F	David Longmore	Wagga Wagga Field Archers	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
G	Ryan Tatterson	Macalister Trophy Bhunters	Fox	TC		9 13/16
G	Anthony Tatterson	Macalister Trophy Bhunters	Fox	TC		9 10/16
G	Anthony Tatterson	Macalister Trophy Bhunters	Fox	TC		9 9/16
G	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bhunters	Fox	TC		9 14/16
G	David Luxford	Macalister Trophy Bhunters	Hog Deer	RC		83 5/8
G	Elizabeth Proctor	West Gippsland Field Archers	Hog Deer	GA	FKOS	0
H	Hayden Talmage	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	TC		98 6/8
H	Wayne Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmevn	Fallow Deer	GA	FKOS	0
H	Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowmen	Goat	TC		104 7/8
H	Brian Oliver	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Goat	TC		109 4/8
H	Michelle Campbell	Bendigo Field Archers	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	88 3/8
H	Shane Richards	Colac Otway Archers	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	83 4/8
I	Russell Watherston	Lower Eyre Archers	Fox	TC	FKOS	9 9/16





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Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



An interview with **TBA Bowhunter of the Year** *John Teitzel*

**How do you feel about winning the TBA Overall Bowhunter of the Year?
Have you ever held the title before?**

It's good ... it's great! I've had Zone B Bowhunter of the Year before but never Australian Bowhunter of the Year, although I've probably been pretty close to it at times.

What's your hunting background?

I was a late starter. I didn't begin until I was about 23, living in Tully ... but I've made up for it since then. I was in the ABA then went to Trophy Takers then came back to the ABA. I've been back in the ABA more than 25 years this time around. In 1999 I started making bowhunting movies because I was out hunting a lot. I've had 12 movies on the market but have stopped making them now. In 2000 I bought Davies Broadheads from Allen Davies and ran that as Tusk Broadheads for many years before selling to Garry Pitt who runs it now.

Do you bowhunt much? I know you were travelling a lot at one stage ... are you still travelling?

We're not on the road at the moment. We travel on and off. It's pretty good where we live at Tully because there are opportunities to bowhunt close by and we're also not too far from Cape York or western Queensland properties.

I'm not bowhunting as much as I used to, because, well, I'm getting older and I've been doing this for a long time. I'm getting slacker. I only go out half as much as I used to—every second day now! I love catching up with people, fishing and hunting.

It's a very good life. Sometimes we hook up the van and head out west. We might do a quick trip or be away a couple of months. Or go down the road and stay at a mate's place or go bowfishing. Sometimes we think about moving further south but where else in five or 10 minutes' drive can you go hunting or fishing for barra?



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Qld 4380 or email
editor@archeryactionmagazine.com
Subject: Gold Pen Award entry

*All hunting stories are automatically
entered in this competition*



John Teitzel; Record Class pig, 35pt.

Being on the road must present difficulties for hunting. Is it challenging getting permission to hunt in different areas?

You can't know everyone everywhere. You have to be prepared to do some homework on who might allow you to hunt, get their contact details and then you need to ring and ask. You have to approach people you don't know ... all the time. I ask around when I get into a town about what property might have pigs and foxes. And even if I get a knockback from that property owner I use it as a chance to ask if they can point me in the direction of someone who might be willing to have a hunter on their place. It's probably easier because I'm travelling with my wife in a caravan. It might be harder if you were trying to get permission for four blokes or something like that. Of course, we have been to a lot of properties over the years and the longer you do it the more contacts you have and it's great to go back and see the people on the properties you've already hunted before.

Your wife hunts as well. I know she took out a Ladies Best of Species as well in the Bowhunter Awards. (Congratulations, Carol!) Is it good having that interest in common?

It's particularly good when we're travelling because she doesn't have to sit in the caravan waiting for me while I'm hunting every day. It makes it easier ... maybe we'd be sticking to the main roads doing the touristy stuff all the time otherwise!

*World Field
Archery
Championships*

The 2018 WFAC is scheduled to be held in South Africa. Anyone who would like to express their interest in attending, please contact team leader

Mike White

0418 514 841

email

white3317@gmail.com

Bowhunting achievements as at June 1, 2017

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

Nil at this time

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

Nil at this time

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

Tyler Atkinson 150

Ben Ireland 150

Daniel Ferguson 100

Bowhunter Royale

Luke Sampson

Bowhunter Imperial

David Brewer

Bowhunter Supreme

Lloyd Scott

Scott Meadows

Senior Member of TBA

Amy Standley

Brett Fittock

Members admitted to TBA Club

(membership is granted after the taking of an ABA member's first Trophy Class or better animal)

Nicholas Moloney

Michael Sforcina

Theo Vanderburg

Bradley Lange

Elizabeth Proctor

Jordan Atkinson

Steven Old

Russell Watherston

What kind of bow do you use?

I prefer traditional bowhunting with longbows and recurves but do jump the fence and use a compound every now and then. I have to admit that when there's deer around, I can weaken and pull out the compound.

Do you have a favourite animal?

Pigs. Yes, pigs. And I love hunting deer and foxes and goats. Any feral animals that move, really. Variety is good!

Bowhunting must be important to you if it's been part of your life for nearly 35 years.

It is. I rarely shoot targets, but I just love getting out in the bush and pitting my skills against feral animals. We eat much of the game we shoot; deer, pigs, goats, rabbits. People should eat more of the game they shoot. The thing with game is to check the liver. If the liver is spotty and awful, obviously you can't use the animal's meat but otherwise it should be okay. The secret to cooking game is having a container so you keep the moisture in. Oven bags work well.

What does the future hold?

Well, I'm having a pretty good year so far. I've already got a TC fallow and a couple of TC foxes and a TC cat. I've probably shot 10 pigs as well. I hope the future holds more of the same!



BOWHUNTING ADVENTURES

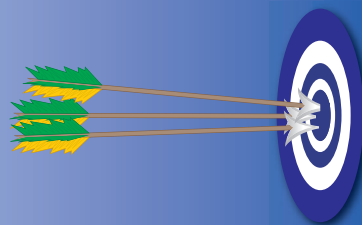
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Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



2017 TBA MUSTER

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

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

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

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



ABA Park address is 600 Upper Piambong Road, Piambong

Directions:

From Mudgee take the Castlereagh Highway towards Gulgong for 12.5km and turn left into Lesters Lane and continue 3.7km to a T intersection and turn right into Lower Piambong Road (gravel road from here on). Follow Lower Piambong Road for 2.1km until you come to Upper Piambong Road on your left, take this turn and continue 6km until you find the gated entrance to ABA Park. All turns will be sign posted. If coming from the North (Gulgong) after 16km it will be a right hand turn into Lesters Lane.

What's On

Information sessions from guest speakers on hunting topics

Question and Answer Session

DPI NSW Information

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

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Contact Ralph Boden: E: fulldraw@bigpond.com

P: 02 4392 6810 | M: 0413 054 722

2017
WORLD INDOOR ARCHERY
CHAMPIONSHIPS



words
Liam Mowbray

photos
**Liam Mowbray,
Alissa McGovern**



In the mountainous countryside of Romania, there is an old traditional province named Brasov. The region is dotted with pine trees, small traditional houses and snow-capped mountains. It's not uncommon to see farmers getting around the roads with a horse and cart. One can't help but get the feeling a vampire or two might be watching as I sit comfortably in a leather armchair, beside the toasty heater in my room. While I sit here writing this recount, a sleet of soft white snow is beginning to fall outside—a good thing we're here for the Indoor World Championships eh?

My brother Adam and I arrived in Romania on March 27. We were met by the welcoming volunteers who drove us to Fundata Chelie in Brasov—the location of the 2017 WIAC. We spent the first two days with the registration formalities, doing a bit of training and exploring the local area. One of the highlights was visiting Bran Castle, just a short distance from the resort. In the 1400s, Vlad the Impaler (Vlad Dracul) was held prisoner in Bran Castle. Bram Stoker wrote a mythical book about Bran Castle at a time when vampires were all the rage, and created the Dracula legend.

The opening ceremony was held on the night of March 28. It featured several traditional dancing performances, musical pieces, and of course

Two brothers travel to Romania to represent Australia at this year's WIRAC



Brothers Liam and Adam Mowbray ... representing Australia.

the parade of nations. Despite being the smallest represented nation at the championships, Adam and I were honoured to wave the Australian flag higher than any other country, and cry out multiple 'Aussie, Aussie, Aussie' chants.

The first round, held the following day, was as nerve-wracking as

you would expect. There were many unknowns, such as how we would perform in comparison to the other entrants. One thing was for sure—the level of competition did not disappoint! A perfect 300 was required to be competitive in the Freestyle Unlimited or Bowhunter Unlimited divisions and a solid score in the mid



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Adam on the shooting line.

290s was required to be at the top of the Recurve and Barebow divisions. Adam shot in the tightly contested Men's Freestyle Unlimited Compound and finished the round in 24th place.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the shooting line, I shot in the Men's Freestyle Recurve and finished the round with a 295 to place me in front of the pack by two points.

A flint indoor round was shot on the second day of competition. For those not familiar with the flint round, it's basically half an IFAA field round, but shot indoors and only the distances up to 30 yards. This provided a good opportunity for many to catch up points in the unsighted divisions. Meanwhile, dropping more than a

point or two in the Freestyle Compound division could mean the difference between first and 10th place. I managed to extend my lead by an extra point, while Adam fought back hard to make up five places into 19th.

The third and last round was held on April 1. Another 18m indoor round was shot, and surprisingly there was still plenty of movement in the rankings. In the end, even the Freestyle Unlimited division had separated themselves enough not to need a single shoot-off. Adam clawed back another place to finish in 18th position. And I managed to hold onto my lead in the Men's Recurve to take home the gold.

The closing ceremony was one of the most memorable I've attended—even on par with Dahn in 2010. There were traditional foods, singing and dancing, and the local wines and spirits were flowing. It was a very special moment receiving the gold and holding the Australian flag high above my head.

I can't wait for WIAC in New Zealand in 2019; see you there!

PRFAC

NZFAA (New Zealand) are hosting the pacific Region IFAA Championships on the 5, 6, & 7th September 2017.

ABA is considering arranging a team to travel to this championships.

Please forward your details to Tony Hartcher at

hartch6@bigpond.com



Liam at the medal ceremony.

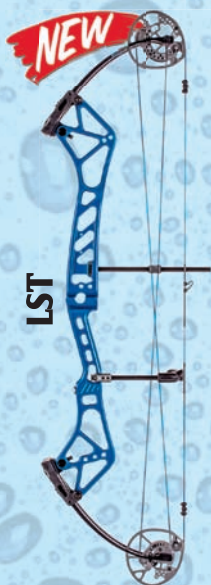
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Around THE TRADS



To receive trad shoot information direct, email a request to:
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✿ The Bendigo Traditional Shoot was held on the weekend of April 1 and 2, with the following extract being based on information received from an attendee:

The weather for the shoot was a little cooler, and archers came from various parts of Victoria. There were two field courses with 20 targets that were shot twice on both days, with a mixture of 3D and ABA paper targets plus a few novelties made up of a suspended egg, floating ping pong ball, and double points for the buff at around 50m.

Special mention must go to Ballarat Bowhunters president Jordan for winning the 'mankini' in the raffle! Well done.

✿ The Traditional Rendevous was held at North Albert Field Archers in Yatala over the Easter long week-

end, with great success as always. The weather was beautiful—only a couple of drops of precipitation on Sunday morning. About 70 archers attended. The two 15-target 3D field courses had us venturing into unexplored parts. All the targets were in very realistic natural positions. There was also the one-minute hunt round which could be found at the end or beginning of one of the ranges. The 30-second speed round was down among the trees in the creek ... a compact area with very interesting shots, rolling disks down the slippery dip, and the running pig to shoot at on Saturday and then we shot both the field courses and the bow bird on Sunday. At this event each archer shoots two arrows, with both scoring, on one of the courses and one

arrow on the other course. Over the two days, both courses are shot as a two-arrow and one-arrow round. It is always great catching up with many folk who only are able to attend this shoot.

There was a lot of thought and planning into the course layout and many thanks to all the club members who helped with setting up both field courses, and through to the meals in the canteen.

✿ At time of writing, information from any participants at the Gladstone Muster was not forthcoming. There were only a couple of photos on two websites with a comment, "Home after another great weekend."

✿ The weather was glorious for the weekend of May 13 and 14 at Chevallan Archery park, however a couple of archers had arrived from the

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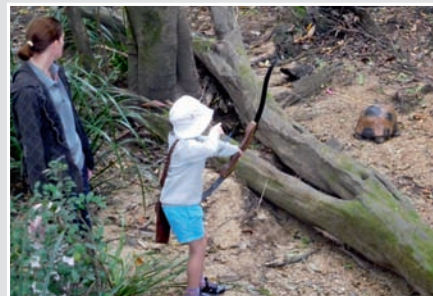




NAFA downhill javelina.



NAFA flu-flu.



Little beginnings at Chevallan.

Brisbane area on Saturday morning and said they had driven through rain all the way, which is why some had changed their mind and stayed home. The only rain we had was a couple of spots very late Saturday evening. Once the muster was done on Saturday, archers had a choice of events. There was the field course: 25 3D targets (two-arrow), rolling disk, 30-second speed round, hunt round, popinjay, moving target and the clout range. The scores from the 3D course were collected and 10 archers were gathered for the Mystery 10 Shootout, the event being sponsored by Wes and Kay Farnham, with the winner being presented with a set of hand-crafted arrows. Those watching the event unfold enjoyed spring rolls, dip, cheese and biscuits. We were looking at a three-way shoot-off until the final archer stepped up, scoring shots on the most targets to become the winner. Congratulations go to Tom for taking out the event.

On Sunday we shot the rolling

disk, 30-second speed round, field course and the hunt round then a barbecue hamburger lunch was followed by the raffle draw and presentations to allow those travellers to return to Brisbane before the traffic.

At the presentations there was one very excited female cub who completed her first tournament and won her very first trophy. It was a fabulous weekend, which was enjoyed by all.

✱ Traditional-only shoots confirmed for August-September are North Burnett Field Archers (Qld) August 5 and 6; Golden Triangle Archers in Dunolly (Vic) August 12 and 13; Silver City Archers Broken Hill (NSW), Townsville Bowhunters (Qld), Bega Asian Experience (NSW), Chevallan Archery Park (Qld) [mini-trad] all August 26 and 27; Mallee Sunset Mildura (Vic) and Lilydale 3D (Vic) on September 2 and 3, Swan Hill (Vic) on September 9 and 10, Wisemans Ferry Memorial Trad Shoot on September 16 and 17.

✱ Reports from Hunter Valley Gathering, Chevallan Archery Park (2), Norfolk Island 3D International and Jules Shield Lakeside will be in the next edition.

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

Ozbow: www.ozbow.net > Traditional Archery Events > Calendar

Wallace Woods: www.wallacetradwoods.com > Shoot information (link to flyers)

Traditional Archery Australia: www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org > Shoot Information – (link to flyers) Traditional Archery Australia Closed Group is also now on Facebook.

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

See you 'round the trads.



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The pronghorn antelope is known locally as the 'speed goat'. It is the fastest land animal in North America, and one very tricky target with a bow, be it wheelie or trad.

Like most North American game animals, the old speed goat had been high on my bucket list for more than 20 years, and when I had the opportunity to hunt these critters on private land in Colorado, I wasted little time in preparing for the journey.

World renowned traditional bowhunter Fred Eichler and his wife Michelle, along with filming several US TV hunting shows, also run Fulldraw Outfitters in Colorado, a top notch outfit for elk, mule deer, bear, turkey and of course the pronghorn antelope.

I was fortunate enough to spend time with this dynamic duo down here on a couple of Cape York trips so they kindly reciprocated as hunters do, and offered me access to their private hunting leases to have a go at a self-guided hunt for elk and antelope. To make a long story short,

I was too early for the elk bugle. As well, there had been unseasonal heavy rain and a couple of mountain lions had spooked the herds, cutting my elk hunting short. The good news was that it left time to concentrate on the speed goat ...and it's just as well, as time turned out to be a key ingredient to whether my hunt would be a success or failure.

My hunting grounds were on the high desert plains of southern Colorado where the Rockies taper out into vast oceans of grasslands spanning out to the east as far as the eye can see. At first glance, these desert plains look desolate and barren, but when you take a closer look—like many unfamiliar hunting terrains—the landscape exposes plenty of life, and pleasantly, a lot more game animals than you might first think.

My bow of choice for this hunt was my 60lb Stalker Recurve bow with a 600gr arrow set-up tipped with a Northern 170gr Bull Dozer. I had been having great success back home on all kinds of critters, so why change now? I had opted not to bring

my compound bow as well, why would I need that if I wanted to hunt traditional? Hmm. There's usually something that gets thrown at you on a hunt that you are not prepared for or do not expect, and this time it was hunting from a ground blind, and nothing else!

I had just assumed that I could spot and stalk antelope like any other critter; not that's its not doable, it's just really, really unlikely that I would secure a buck in 10 days using my recurve and wandering around out on the desert plains with absolutely no cover. So blind hunting it was.

Fred had set one up in the yard where we were staying so it was time to get in the blind and practise shooting from a sitting position, inside the blind, and with a recurve. The 62in bow only just fitted on a steep angle inside the blind and the shooting windows were quite small as well so I needed time to adjust to this weird new style of shooting. For the first hour or so it was a disaster, but then I started to get the hang of locking my mid-section in for the shot. The



Facing page: The blind and the landscape beyond it, a pronghorn antelope. This page: the view from within the blind.

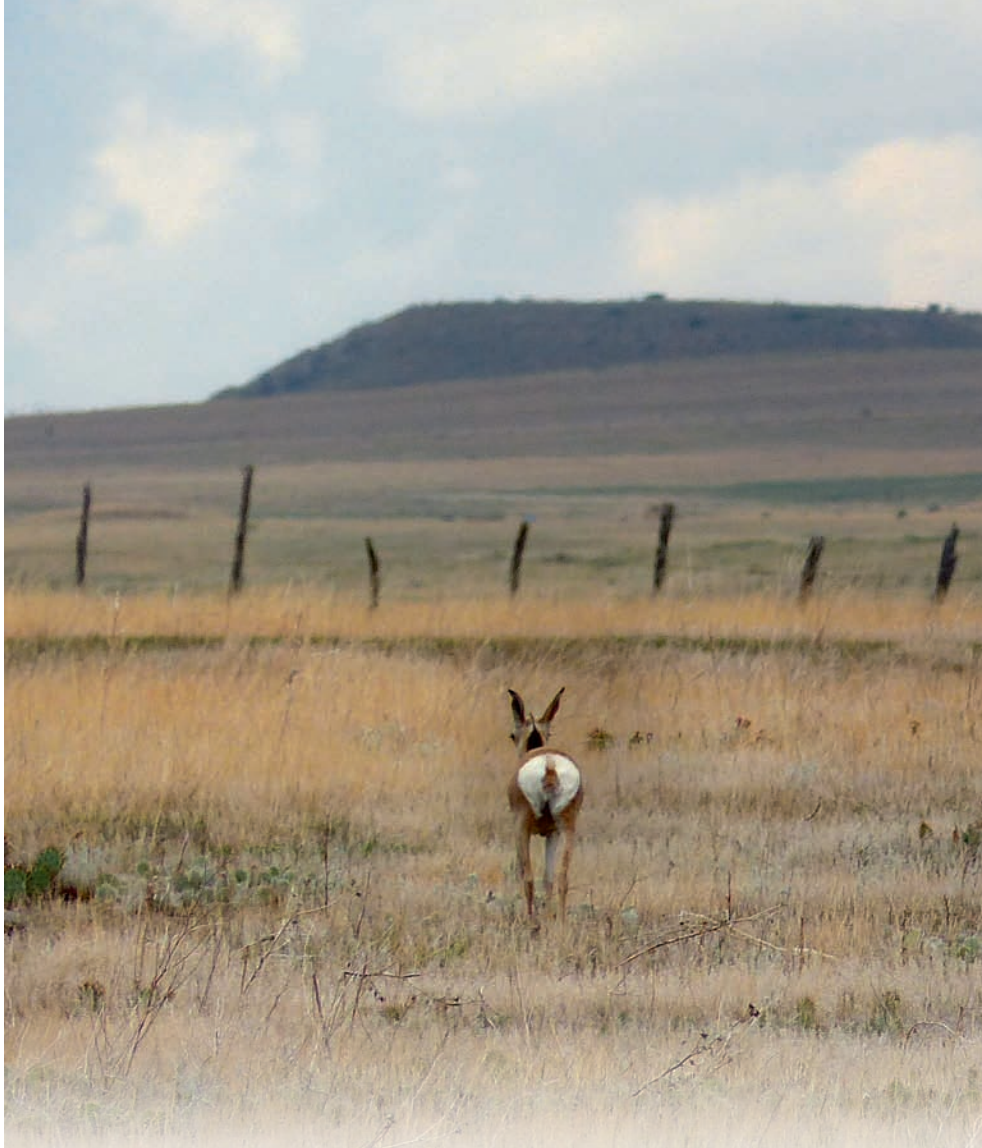
issue was with my heavy arrow set-up: I was quite nock high on the string, then with 5in feathers, shooting through the camo mesh actually pushed the back of my arrow down at least 12in before correcting in flight. We tried everything to negate this but couldn't, so I learned to adjust for the shot and I was reasonably okay out to 25yd, so I decided it was time to hunt.

Unseasonal heavy thunderstorms each afternoon meant there was surface water all over the place, everything that resembled a ditch or hollow had more than enough water for a family of antelope to fill their waterbags so there wasn't much need for them to visit the local cattle trough or water tank where the blinds were set up for the archery season. I was fortunate enough to have Danny Farris spend time with me to clue me up on the antelope, their behaviours, what to expect, and what to do out on the desert in my little home for the next 'few' days. Danny has a ton of experience and is a great guy so I listened very closely to what he had to say, there's nothing like local knowledge. Danny drove me out to a small white canvas blind sitting over a concrete tank making a shot 20yd to the back of the tank, a perfect ambush for a trad hunter.

From the blind, and while we were chatting, we could see 30 or more antelope just milling around

as they do, with a handful of decent bucks scattered through the herd. "Pick yup rownd eight, if ya see a storm brewin, gwan and get outa there, ya hear me; it ain't safe." They were Danny's parting words, in his thick American accent. I settled in to my new home totally buzzing at the number of critters out there not

500yd from my blind ... Well, that's as close as they got all day. I learned very quickly that their eyesight is ridiculously sharp—if you so much as try to move a flap of canvas or stick your head out, they will spot you and boom, they're gone. A thunderstorm rolled in at 3pm and against Danny's advice I stuck it out only because I



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had nowhere else to go and since there was a steel windmill above me, I reckoned it was more likely to be the lightning conductor than me.

The next day I had wheels, so I could come and go as I pleased. I was way too excited so I was in my blind an hour before first light in case they wanted a drink early. The fore-

cast for the day was for more storms so I figured I had until just after lunch then I would head out before the lightning got frightening. Again I could see antelope milling around, walking towards my watering hole then veer off only 100yd out for whatever reason. It was 11.00am and I decided to stretch my legs and stand up inside

the blind and scan the surroundings from a different height. Well, I nearly fell over, because not 30yd beyond my peripheral vision while seated, was a buck and a dozen does. They were staring at the blind. I think they must have seen my eyeball through the tiny peephole in the canvas, as they jumped back but settled again.

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I eased back into my chair, picked up the 'curve and readied for a shot if it happened. Minutes seemed like hours but they slowly fed their way to the water, first a doe, then a yearling, then another... it's a weird feeling to have animals walk two or three yards away and not even know you are there.

The buck, without me knowing, was standing about 7yd to my right but my restricted view and ability to move meant I was to miss this golden opportunity.

Then the buck walked over to the tank, turned broadside on at 25yd and started drinking ... really? This was way too easy, I thought. I attempted to relax before drawing, anchoring, picking a spot and releasing. I watched as if in slow motion as my arrow cut through the camo mesh and dipped down like it had when I was practising, instantly I felt that sick heavy feeling of a bad shot,

but then it corrected and it was heading true, until it wasn't. The arrow hit the side of the concrete tank directly under his shoulder. That was one of the worst feelings in hunting I can remember. I sat there, devastated, shaking my head and wondering what the hell I was doing there with a traditional bow that wasn't shooting 100 per cent instead of my compound. I tucked my tail and beat the storms home that day.

In camp with us was a crew from Texas, a great bunch of lads who make the annual trip to Fred's for elk meat and a possible trophy if the opportunity arises. As I was telling my war story over a cold Bud Lite, one of the boys, Greg, mentioned that he was a left-hander as well, and also had a 28.5in draw, and that he had a spare bow, just in case I wanted it. Well, I stewed on this all night.

I had lost all confidence in my ability to use my recurve, so I took

him up on his offer and started practising with his Bowtech. I was bang-on for height out to 60yd but 12in to the right at 60yd, and as it was his spare bow I didn't want to fiddle with things. The only thing I changed was the broadhead—I swapped out the mechanical for a Northern 100gr Little Evil I had with me for giveaways.

I'll skip the next six long, hot, boring, frustrating, insane, amazing, wet, snake-infested, antelope-void days, and cut to Day 9 of my 10-day hunt when things took a turn. I'll use this time to briefly describe life in a blind for those who have not yet had the pleasure: You wear black clothing for obvious reasons as the inside of the blind is blacked out. Once you are in, you stay in all day, from before first light until after last light and the only reason you get out is if you shoot a buck, get bitten by a rattlesnake, or lighting chases you off the high desert plains. This means



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you eat, sleep and, yes, everything else inside that blind. You should park your vehicle at least a mile away, two is better, so whatever you need for the day you have to carry in. You need heaps of water, because at 12,000ft you dehydrate quickly and you are reminded with an instant headache from lack of water. You also need food, hunting gear and a very comfy but non-squeaky chair. Believe me, it is a very long day in there, I didn't realise how precious a book can be until about the fifth day.

My last full day of hunting dawned. We had made a plan the previous night as Fred had heard a decent bull elk bugle in one of my blocks so I was going to hunt the bull for the first few hours of light, then hit the desert for the rest of the day as usual chasing the speed goat. By now I was a bit over these critters after seeing literally hundreds of them but nothing coming anywhere within bow range for a shot, so I was glad for a chance at a bull to break it up. But as I was driving towards the elk block well before daylight, I started to piece together the movements of a huge buck I named Gavin. I had been watching him for a few days. On days seven and eight I had noticed the bucks were coming into rut and rounding up the girls just as deer do, and it was also starting to dry up just enough to make the ground water uninviting. I couldn't

help myself, so I did a U-turn in the old Ford pick-up and headed back to the high desert once again. I arrived a half hour before light so I made the trek into my blind for the last time thinking about Gavin and what he might do today. As I settled in and light started to appear, I could see a buck coming straight in to the water. No way! The buck walked to within 90yd then stopped, turned and just ran away. This is just what they do if they are not comfortable with what they see. I was so angry at myself for not chasing the elk, I could just hear Fred saying, "Told you so." My frustration was slowly replaced by intrigue as I watched at least 40 does walk across from right to left about 300yd away at a fast trot, no buck in sight. Hmmm. Then when they had

almost left my vision to the left, Gavin appeared! He was in hot pursuit of his harem and not letting up, tongue hanging out chasing any that tried to escape. Then as quickly as they had appeared they vanished over the next ridge and were gone. Bummer. It was 8.30am and warming up quickly. I peered out the back of the blind through a tiny slit I had made as I learned the hard way these things can spot a fly from 100yd! Nothing, no sight of the monster buck Gavin. As I sat down and looked up again, right where I was looking came a bunch of does at full run in to the water, what the? They weren't there two minutes ago! Then another, and another, all panting like mad, taking turns watching while the others drank to quench their thirst. Within

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no time there were 20 does but still no buck. At this stage, I was ready to shoot anything legal and was considering a doe for meat. Then they all turned and looked back at the blind in unison.

All I could think was that I'd been busted. Interestingly, antelope will not spook if they smell you, only if they see you ... so I wasn't worried about the wind although it was not in my favour. But it wasn't me they were looking at—it was Gavin! He was standing 10yd away from me panting like a racehorse, I couldn't turn to shoot without him seeing movement so I just looked forward and hoped he might come into view in front for a shot. There was a small clump of

thistle brush between us and he just pounced over it without a run-up and bolted at the does again. In the blink of an eye he was 50yd away across the water ... oh no, he was gonna get away! I drew, allowed for the 12in to the right, held on his shoulder as he was hard quartering away and gave a "mee" call. He completely ignored me and kept walking so I just went with him and released. It was a perfect shot behind the ribs and up into the boiler room. The buck sprinted 60yd before cartwheeling in the dust.

It was one of the best feelings in my hunting career when I walked over and stood where the big buck fell, they are a spectacular animal indeed. I was buzzing but managed

to take the time to stand there and look over the waterhole I had grown to almost despise, half believing it had been tainted to repel animals.

Yet this waterhole had produced the biggest buck I had seen on my trip. My thoughts tracked back to how I'd muffed it with my 'curve and spent nine long days in a blind, borrowed another hunter's bow and finally got the job done.

Gavin made it into the Boon and Crocket record book and I believe it's a Pope and Young head as well for those wondering how he scored.

I'm already planning my return for elk and mule deer and I would not pass up the chance at another speed goat either!



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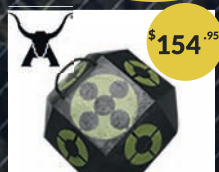
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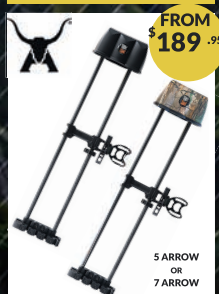
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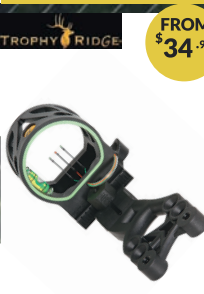
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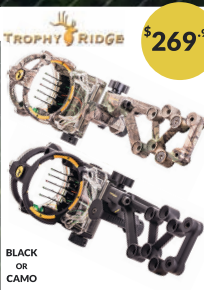
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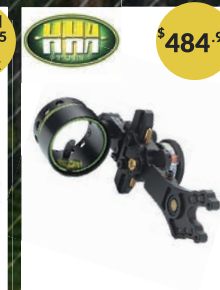
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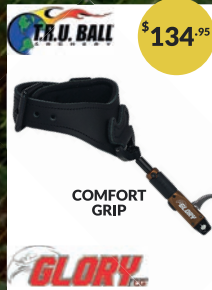
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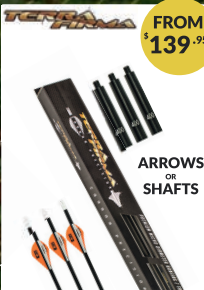
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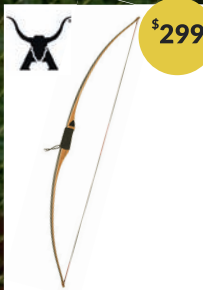
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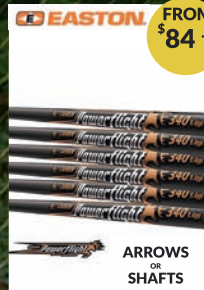
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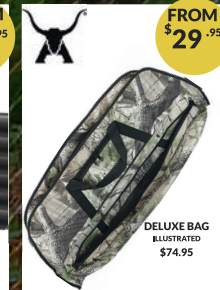
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Nick Lintern

TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Hello and welcome to our next instalment of Traditional Trails. I hope you are enjoying a great year shooting and those of you who are making bows are achieving the results you are after. We as archers and professionals in any industry or trade never stop learning. Never close your mind to any new idea until you have tried it. The minute we think we know it all is the minute we stop learning. With that thought in mind, I encourage all aspiring bowyers out there to keep your minds open to learning. The greatest teacher I have had is the bow itself. It is really amazing what can be achieved when thinking with an open, free mind and not being too dogmatic about what wood will and will not do. Even near disasters in bowery can be averted with some imaginative thinking. Don't be afraid to try things. Some of my best bows have come from less than perfect circumstances. As a brief example, I once had a plain sawn slat of osage with a mid-sized knot right in the middle of what would have to be the mid-limb area. This would almost certainly have been a fatal flaw in any bow you might make with that slat. In

all other ways though, it was a great piece of osage; dense and clean. I knew it could be a great bow if I could overcome that flaw. So I cut the slat lengthways and then reglued it with the knots staggered, so that 'good wood' supported 'bad wood'. Then I backed the newly reconstructed slat with bamboo to stabilise the back and what came from that stave was one of the best bows I have ever

made. With this bow, I have taken my share of game and won my share of primitive shoots as well. In fact, despite being eight years old it's still my main go-to bow and is a veteran of tens of thousands of arrows. The point again is that as you progress through your various bow-making journeys, keep your mind open. Now to continue our English longbow tri-lam all-wood composite bow.

How to build an English longbow

Part 4

At this stage, we have our bow glued up and cured out, whether in a hotbox or at room temperature. Now we need to strip the stave from the form and remove any excess tape or plastic so we can move on to the next phase, which is roughing out the bow. We marked out the bow's back previously and now, looking at

the glued-up blank, it's obvious why marking it out before gluing was a good idea.

Now to cut down to those lines. The best way to do this is with a bandsaw. Cut down the stave, leaving approximately 1/8in on, outside the lines. We will work right to the lines with a plane to ensure a smooth



Reflexed stave freshly stripped from the form.

and accurate reduction of the stave. A bandsaw leaves a 'crinkle cut' appearance so we want a bit of room to smooth to the lines.

A quick note on the use of power tools in bowery is appropriate here. A power tool is a great way to hog timber off quickly and to speed up reduction and shaping work, but *always* use hand tools to finish the work to the last dimension. Many a good stave has been lost through trying to go too far with power tools. They are a great asset, but be *conservative* in their use. It can be very tempting to go that extra inch with a power tool, but there is no substitute for careful hand tool work to really bring home a good wooden



Cutting out to the lines, leave around 1/8in on.

bow. As mentioned above, while I use a bandsaw to rough out a stave, I *always* leave 1/8in or so on to be finessed with a plane. If a bandsaw is not available, you can always use your jack plane to reduce the stave down to the lines. This is a lot of labour-intensive planing but it works perfectly well if you don't mind sweating. Be aware though, the glue ooze from the glue joints will need to be smoothed down first if you want to do all the reduction work with a plane. The rough glue ooze can damage the plane's blade if it is not smoothed down. To smooth it by hand, heavy paper, say 60 grit, and a heavy block will do the trick for smoothing down if an electric sander is not available.

Once smooth, start planing! For those lucky enough to have a bandsaw (or access to one), you will only have to plane down the last 1/8in or so. As you plane, be aware how your plane is working. It should not gouge and tear but should take nice even, fine curls off, with a whistling sound as you work. If it is gouging, plane from the opposite direction. This means you are working with the grain, rather than against it. The grain in this regard is hard to read, even on close inspection, so start planing and see how it works the wood.

Now we have worked to the lines with our plane, the next job is to reduce our stave's depth. Firstly, transfer the centreline down the side of your stave. Then transfer the two lines 2in each side of halfway down the side of the handle area as well. If you have gone for a flat form, which has naturally given a dead straight stave, it is simply a matter of marking down from the two outer lines, a distance depending on the bow weight you are after (dimensions coming up shortly) and at the nock ends, the same applies. You are measuring from the start of the core lam, not the bow's back. This way, no matter how you vary the core and back thickness the dimensions and belly taper rate remain the same. Then, using a steel rule, join these lines with a biro or sharp pencil. Then it's back to the bandsaw, and as before, leave the

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lines on by an 1/8in or so and we'll get the rest with a plane. If you have been adventurous and gone for a reflexed stave, the markout is a little different. This time we can't just rule a straight line down the sides because the curving nature of the stave means we will hollow out the mid-limb area. So, what we do in this case is measure from the 2in handle mark 3 – 8 1/2in increments, meaning that we have four even 8 1/2in spaces down the limb. This works because the limb is 36in less the 2in up from halfway (34in ÷ 4 = 8 1/2in). Now at each increment, measure down from the start of the core lam reducing measurements, (again, measurements shortly) then join them with a rule. This has the effect of following the bow's curve that you have built into it. Now bandsaw and plane to these dimensions as before.

Now, here are the best thickness dimensions for various bow weights. These dimensions are the result of years of wooden bow-building experience and are going to save you hours of planing and scraping. You can cut this excess off and still have an abundance of meat in your stave for tillering and finishing to your



Side of limb, marked out ready for cutting.

desired weight. They should work with any *laminated* wooden bow when used as above.

(See the table on this page for weights and dimensions.)

Okay, so that's how you mark out your stave for depth. As before, we cut off the excess with a bandsaw or go nuts with a plane. Once the sawing is complete with approximately 1/8in left on, plane down to the lines trying to keep the belly as square as possible.

What we have in front of us now is a roughed-out bow. It is cut and smoothed to roughed dimensions and is now ready to commence the final shaping process and then on with tillering. The bow is now a chrysalis waiting to become a flying, living thing.

Our next step before we can commence tillering is to arras the back and finish the back down to a burnished, polished finish. (Those of you

who read the osage build I wrote a few years ago will identify these processes but even if you do remember them, it won't hurt to read it again). The idea of finishing the bow's back in entirety at this point is to ensure



Planing the arras on the back of the stave.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS TABLE

Flat Stave

WEIGHT	HANDLE	NOCK
Weights to 40#	5/8in	3/8in
Weights 40# to 65#	3/4in	1/2in
Weights 65# to 95#	7/8in	5/8in
Weights 95# and up	1in	3/4in

Reflexed Stave

(5 measuring stations along stave)

WEIGHT	HANDLE	8 1/2in	17in	25 1/2in	NOCK
Weights to 40#	5/8in	9/16in	1/2in	7/16in	3/8in
Weights 40# - 65#	3/4in	11/16in	5/8in	9/16in	1/2in
Weights 65# - 95#	7/8in	13/16in	3/4in	11/16in	5/8in
Weights 95# and up	1in	15/16in	7/8in	13/16in	3/4in

that as we tiller the bow, fibre lift does not occur. It gives the added benefit of being one less thing to consider as we stalk down to the final draw weight on our bow. If the back isn't finished, we would have to allow for a weight loss here as well, making it that bit harder to judge.

Our next job is to clamp the chrysalis bow in our vice with the back facing up, so we can work the entire length of one limb. Next, grab your block plane (the jack plane is way too big and cumbersome for this job) and carefully plane the sharp edges off your bow's back. You want to remove quite a bit, say around 1/4in or so. Use your marked centre line as a guide to ensure you have as even a reduction as possible. Now, using coarse grit sandpaper (60 grit is great) wrap the sandpaper over the bow's back so it contacts the planed arrassed surfaces and run it up and down till it is smoothed out. Once done, grab a scraper and remove all your marked lines with the exception of the latitudinal centreline across the handle's centre. The longitudinal line is now removed.

Sand the back entirely with 80 grit, then 120, then 180 then 240 including the arrassed edges. Now burnish the whole limb with steel wool using lots of elbow grease to get a shine and polish you can almost see yourself in. Now repeat this on the other limb.

Now it's time to shape the Roman-arch-type shape into the bow's belly and start tillering. But we'll leave that for the next edition. Hopefully you are still with me at this point. By the end of the next edition we will have a string on our bow and will be getting very close to shooting it.

As always any questions, feel free to message me on norseman_longbows@hotmail.com

Until next time, keep traditional.



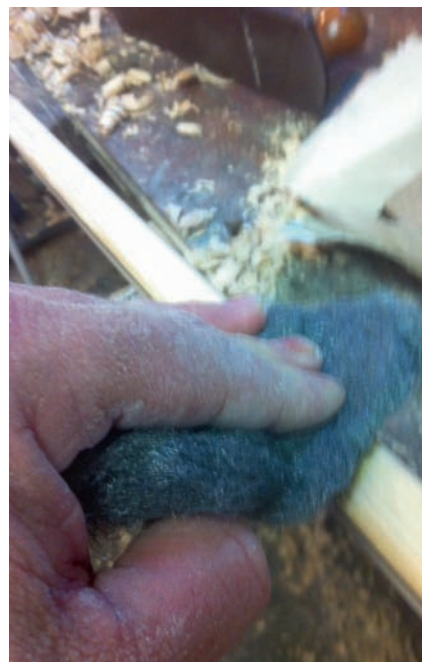
A spoke shave can also be used to remove the arras. Use your block plane first though..



Use 60 or 80 grit paper in a wrap-around method to smooth the arras further.



Use your scraper to remove the marks, then sand down through to 240 grit.



Use steel wool to burnish the back.



Finished back of limb. Highly polished and evenly arrassed.

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*Memories are made of this,
Scott Heiman.*

*Left: Sunset at Jackal's Hide,
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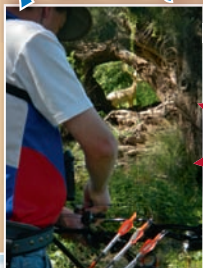


Morning fog, Jeffery Evans.

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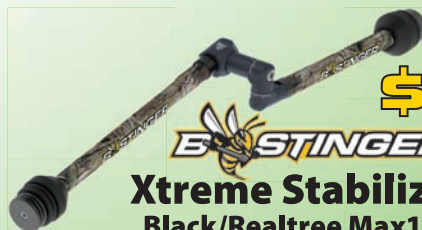
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2017 NATIONAL SAFARI ABA PARK

Flags fly at ABA Park.

PHOTO BY SUE O'BRIEN and WAYNE SALMON



Relaxed, picturesque scene during the presentations.
PHOTO BY RACHEL JOY



Perfect weather for shooting was the crowning glory of the Australian Bowhunters Association's highly successful National Safari held for the very first time at the association's own property, ABA Park.

The headquarters area was a picture, with a battery of poles festooned with the flags of the association and all States.

It was only the second major event at the venue, the previous being the IFAA Titles in June last year. The ABA competition attracted 186 competitors, while 169 people shot the 3D competition.

A special presentation during the event was to Jeffrey Jennings, the recipient of the Syd Green Memorial Trophy.

The majority of participants brought tents, vans and other mobile accommodation and camped at the property, with only about 20 people choosing town accommodation.

The Easter bunny also managed to find all the kids, even though they were a long way from home. The children especially enjoyed the Easter egg treasure hunt.

National President Mike White said there was nothing quite like a Safari, and this year with its campfires and relaxed evenings it was very much like old times.

"The Nationals have a different feel to Branch events or State Titles—of course it's bigger, but there's something about the Safari which gives it a completely different atmosphere," he said.

"Some people come every year—they've been coming for 20 years or more. It's a way of life for them. They take their annual holiday to come and it's a family affair for them. This year a lot of new people loved the atmosphere so I'm sure they'll be back."

The courses were superb. Some found them demanding, although even people with some mobility

issues managed with the help of their walking sticks!

National Score Recorder Trevor Pickett described it this way: "The courses were challenging but worth the walk—especially the 3D where some of the shots were amazing.

"Outstanding performers were the shooters in their late 60s and 70s who managed to get around the challenging courses and enjoy themselves."

Mike also praised the courses.

"Usually at a Safari you might get one or two perfect scores. This venue got five—the highest number of perfect scores I think we've had in 30 years—so even though a couple of people thought the courses were too hard, clearly it was possible to do very well."

There were some very close scores in some of the divisions, making for an exciting competition.

For Mike, being National President at the time the ABA bought the property and being involved in its set-up has been a highlight of his time with the association.

"It's a triumph. Not many organisations could do it. About 90 per cent of the work was done by volunteers except for certain tasks that had to be done by contractors to fit council regulations. Quite a few people on the National Executive have worked towards getting the facilities here. People from different Branches and from Brisbane have spent time here too. A lot of members have put time and effort into it, and that's very pleasing."

He said he was happy with the structures that had been put in place on the property and everything had worked well, with the only hiccup being a problem with the showers.

Speaking of people who have worked on the property to make it suitable for association shoots, Mike's wife Karen would probably tell you Mike has virtually lived there for



months at a time while installing infrastructure and preparing for events. Well, she might have told you if she hadn't been so busy in the canteen with her small band of willing workers. Two of the workers were friends who came 1000km from Sale to lend a hand at the Safari!

Mike said that in the future he would like to see a Branch or club taking responsibility for part of the Safari's operation.

"It could be a nice little fundraiser for a club to run the canteen, for instance," he said.

ABA Park can also be used for State or Branch events.

"There's no reason a couple of



*Sunset over ABA Park.
DRONE PHOTO COURTESY JASON MITCHELL*

Branches can't get together and hold State Titles there—walk onto the property, pay a small fee to the ABA and then leave the place as they find it. It's designed to be ready all the time."

Two final notes on the Safari: This year was the first time for online-only registration and it went well, although it will be tweaked slightly in the future to be more user friendly.

Secondly, the state that the property was left drew compliments from the National President.

"Everyone looked after the facilities, nothing was broken and there was no rubbish lying around. People really looked after it as if it was their own—which it is," Mike said.



PHOTO BY RACHEL JOY

The vast majority of people who attended the National Safari chose to camp right at ABA Park.

Non-shooting spouses made the most of the surrounding area, including some nearby winery touring during the day.

Next up for the Mudgee property will be the TBA Muster on September

9 and 10. Another event planned is a national traditional event.

Next year the National Safari will be at Dead Centre Bowhunters, Alice Springs. The 3D Nationals will be held at Mudgee sometime next year.

Walking sticks at the ready

It was pretty much a last-minute decision for us to shoot the Nationals at ABA Park. Keith Speight wanted to do the ranges to see if they would be suitable to be used as a venue for the Traditional Archery Australia Nationals in October, so we decided to Join him.

After a leisurely trip down over a couple of days with our caravans and negotiating approximately 14km of gravel road with the bit of a shake-up that entailed, we arrived on the Wednesday to muscle in and set up camp with the Heimans and the Carlsons (whether they wanted us or not). Howard O'Connell was camped just across the way and was constantly giving Denise Carlson helpful advise.

Russell Carlson, Peter Bell, Keith Speight and Howard O'Connell were there with about 135 years of archery between them. At the nearby camp was little Scout Heiman, long-bow shooter, with about two years' experience.

The boys started having second thoughts when they saw the ranges but decided to give it a go anyway. Bows ready to go and the cry was "Where's my walking stick?" They drew the yellow range to start on and could be easily seen shooting from camp. It was noticed that Peter (the lazy sod) stayed at the shooting peg and let the youngster (Roscoe from Mildura) fetch the arrows. Most of the shots were walk-backs. Adrianna and I started laughing watching Keith give the royal wave when he released the arrow, waving to the crowd.

Both boys looked knackered at the end of the round. Peter was happy enough with his round but Keith was in a hole and Russell had a tight game going on in his group.

by JANE 'SARGE' BELL

After they'd had their showers, the smell of Deep Heat was overpowering as they flopped in their chairs, exhausted. Little Scout was out there, running around with energy to burn.

I didn't think they would front up next day but they had heard that the next two ranges were the easy ones so with walking sticks at the ready, they staggered off to do battle. Keith climbed out of his hole and had a blinder, it was one of those times when he just couldn't miss. It was a different story for Peter. Somebody had snuck in and adjusted his nocking point during the night and it was a while before it was noticed.

On the last round, Keith found that hole again and Peter just managed to keep his head above water. The informant who'd said the courses were easy was a bit loose with the truth. We old codgers deserved medals just for completing the courses!

The end results for our little camping suburb were:

Peter, 1st, traditional longbow trad peg.

Keith, 3rd, traditional longbow trad peg.

Russell (who shoots a mean recurve), 2nd place in his division.

Howie, 3rd in the men's axe.

Scout Heiman, 1st in her longbow division, Australian Champion and two records.



From left, Howard O'Connell, Peter Bell, Russell Carlson, Keith Speight.
Front: Scout Heiman.

2017 National MUSTER



Located at the ABA Park in Mudgee NSW. All participants must submit an entry form and make payment to TAA two weeks prior to the shoot. Late entries will only be accepted if space is available. A late fee of ten dollars on top of the entry fee per archer will be charged.

The facilities are world class and we thank ABA for offering us the use of their grounds. Camping, toilets and showers are available. Note: No mobile signal available at camp site, a short walk is required to obtain signal.

Entry is available to all TAA members and the shoot will be conducted according to TAA equipment and shoot guidelines. Copies are available on the website. Cross participation under the Archery Alliance guidelines will be accepted, but no awards will be given or recorded by TAA.

Date: Saturday/Sunday 7th and 8th October 2017

Gates open on Thursday 5th October. No access for competitors is available prior to this date.

Gates close on Monday 9th October.

Address: ABA Park Upper Piambong Road, Mudgee

Directions: From Mudgee take the Castlereagh Highway towards Gulgong for 12.5 km and turn left into Lesters Lane and continue 3.7km to a T intersection and turn right into Lower Piambong Road for 2.1km until you come to Upper Piambong Road on your left, take this turn and continue 6 km until you find the gated entrance to ABA Park. All turns will be sign posted. If coming from the North (Gulgong) after 16km it will be a right hand turn into Lesters Lane.

To enter please complete this form and email to: Membership Officer: hndpender@bigpond.com or mail to: PO BOX 927 Morayfield QLD 4506

Payment can be made to TAA BSB- 064164 ACC-10724123 Note: Member No.+ MUSTER.
(Any cheques or money orders to be made out to Traditional Archery Australia)

Name: TAA Member No:

Email address: Contact Number:

Equipment: Please Tick

☐ Longbow ☐ Hybrid / Modern Longbow ☐ Recurve ☐ Historical / Selfbow ☐ Asiatic

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Junior to 18yo ☐ Cub to 12yo

Will you be using the canteen facilities: Please Tick ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cost: Adult \$45. Junior \$30. Cub if Parent/Guardian competing free. If no P/G competing \$30.

Family: \$95 Two adults and children under 18yo

Note: all archers under 18yo must have a parent/guardian accompany them at all times.

All questions can be directed to "contact" us on our website.

www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org

Trade Table: Bring all your trade items along for the trade table!

Club Event: All TAA Registered Clubs will be able to enter this event. Choose two of your highest scoring members scores to enter for the honour of holding the title of "TAA National Muster 2017 Best TAA Club Score"

PLEASE NOTE DUE TO THE EVENT BEING HELD ON A WORKING PROPERTY THERE IS A STRICT NO DOG POLICY.

COMPETITION EVENTS: • 20 Target 3 arrow Field Shoot • 20 Target single arrow Field Shoot • Speed Round • The Hunt
• Rolling Disks • Running Deer

NOVELTY EVENTS: • Axe and Knife Throwing (ABA Rules) Male and Female over 16yo.
• Wand Shoot (TAA Postal Shoot Rules) . Divisions: Male, Female, Junior and Cub.



ABA Executive Officer Eric Creighton (left) presents the Syd Green Memorial Award to Jeffrey Jennings. RIGHT: Jeffrey Jennings with his award.



2017 SAFARI ABA RESULTS

Cub Girls Freestyle UnLimited C Grade

1 Ella Tilbrook	1446
2 Grace Honeysett	1308
3 Jazmin Everett	1258

Cub Girls Freestyle UnLimited A Grade

1 Amber Reinbott	1544
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Cub Girls Modern Longbow C Grade

1 Jamie Heiman	392
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Cub Girls Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Marnie Little	1170
2 Krista Hughes	1094
3 Casey Ormiston	664

Cub Boys Freestyle UnLimited B Grade

1 Will Tilbrook	1520
2 Bo Stewart	1472
3 Max Tilbrook	1462

Cub Boys Freestyle UnLimited A Grade

George Cash (dnf)	772
-------------------	-----

Cub Boys Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1 Brendan Richards	304
--------------------	-----

Cub Boys Bowhunter Compound C Grade

1 Alex Richards	646
2 Logan Richards	386

3 Isaac O'Reilly	256
------------------	-----

Cub Boys Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Jordyn Stewart	888
------------------	-----

Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Tilly White	826
---------------	-----

Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Josie Hughes	1388
2 Sophie L Hartcher	1196

Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited B Grade

1 James Mitchell	1394
------------------	------

Junior Boys Bowhunter UnLimited A Grade

1 Jake Stewart	1570
----------------	------

Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited B Grade

1 Nathan Haley	1498
2 Joshua Ford	1476

Junior Boys Freestyle UnLimited A Grade

1 Hugh Fabbro	1580
1 Jaxsen Wells	1580
2 Doni Robertson	1574
3 Nicholas Scarlett	1458

Junior Boys Bowhunter Recurve B Grade

1 Hayden Ormiston	868
-------------------	-----

Junior Boys Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1 Hugo Lobb	1320
-------------	------

Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Tyler Floss	678
---------------	-----

Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Matthew Walker-York-Moore	1338
Seth Harris (dnf)	274

Veteran Ladies Sighted

1 Fenny Thompson	1372
2 Helen Thomas	1306

Veteran Mens Sighted

1 Ken Morley	1498
2 Anthony McCallum	1488
3 Jeffrey Jennings	1484

Veteran Mens Bowhunter

1 Ron Williams	1284
----------------	------

Trad Peg Ladies Traditional Longbow

1 Tammy Richards	636
2 Tracy Hickey	626

Trad Peg Ladies Bowhunter Recurve

1 Raylene Starke	904
2 Bernetta A Heiman	530

Trad Peg Mens Historical Bow

1 Ross Fleming	1034
----------------	------

Trad Peg Mens Modern Longbow

1 David McGuire	1294
2 Scott Heiman	712

Trad Peg Mens Traditional Longbow

1 Peter Bell	918
2 Adam Murray	908
3 Keith Speight	862

Ladies Bowhunter Limited B Grade



The ABA Safari is an event for archers of all ages.

1 Sindy Avard 1266

Ladies Bowhunter Limited A Grade

1 Joanne Bogie 1408

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited C Grade

1 Debbie Manfred 1316

2 Nysha Willaton 1314

3 Cassie Reinbott 1308

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited B Grade

1 Donna Ormiston 1452

2 Amanda Tilbrook 1400

Ladies Bowhunter UnLimited A Grade

1 Katie Mann 1524

2 Kerry Chandler 1482

Ladies Freestyle Limited Compound C Grade

1 Julie Morrissey 974

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited C Grade

1 Dianne Houghton 1388

2 Angela O'Reilly 1354

3 Lee-Anne Edwards 1330

4 Kylie Kearney 1300

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited B Grade

1 Jasmine Voges 1542

2 Sonja Wegert 1508

3 Jessie Rose Walklate 1484

Ladies Freestyle UnLimited A Grade

1 Leanne Moore 1508

Ladies Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1 Bobbie Thulloh 784

2 Mikayla Harris 642

Ladies Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1 Glenys Allen 1148

Ladies Bowhunter Compound C Grade

1 Alison Nicholls 686

Ladies Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Ann Stubbs 1248

2 Hazel Kirlew 1182



PHOTOS ON THESE PAGES BY
RACHEL JOY

3 Rhonda Pitt 1144

Ladies Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Libby White 1300

Mens Bowhunter Limited C Grade

1 Richard Starke 1378

Mens Bowhunter Limited B Grade

1 Allan Hall 1366

Mens Bowhunter Limited A Grade

1 Troy Hughes 1456

2 Brett Willaton 1428

Mens Bowhunter UnLimited C Grade

1 William Dowling Jnr 1442

2 Dannial Manfred 1324

3 Rodney Tilling 1296

Mens Bowhunter UnLimited B Grade

1 Shannon Gardner 1514

2 John Fookes 1508

3 Richard Matlieski 1490

Mens Bowhunter UnLimited A Grade

1 Bradley Stephan 1576

2 Nate Chandler 1572

3 Damien Ormiston 1566

Mens Freestyle Limited Compound B Grade

1 David Morrissey 1272

Mens Freestyle Limited Compound A Grade

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Scott Heiman and daughter Scout.

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WAYNE SALMON

1 Trevor Aldred 1470

Mens Freestyle Limited Recurve C Grade

1 Reade Moffat 1144

Mens Freestyle Limited Recurve B Grade

1 Kenneth Thompson 1334

Mens Freestyle Unlimited B Grade

1 Ethan Bowden 1532

1 Helmut Lener 1532

2 Mathew Hort 1456

3 Scott Bone 1434

Mens Freestyle Unlimited A Grade

1 Geoff Voges 1586

2 Gerard A Miles 1582

3 Dan Podubinski 1580

Mens Modern Longbow A Grade

1 Geoffrey Blake 1128

2 Darrin Dwyer 1080

3 Lindsay Yuile 1038



PHOTO BY SUE O'BRIEN and
WAYNE SALMON

Mens Traditional Longbow C Grade

1 Raymond Morgan 688

Mens Traditional Longbow B Grade

1 Alan Avent 908

2 Brian Coole 732

Mens Traditional Longbow A Grade

1 John Collett 938

2 Rod Moad 880

Mens Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1 Craig Rowntree 688

Mens Bowhunter Recurve B Grade

1 Thomas Cornell 1042

2 David Lee 1000

Mens Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1 Bruce Kelleher 1300

2 Russell Carlson 1280

3 Stewart Houghton 1196

Mens Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Shannon Hitchen 1246

2 Kameron Rowntree 1146

3 Wayne Salmon 910

Mens Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Alvyn W Bell 1498

2 Wade Hudson 1436

3 Brett Raymond 1392

ABA Adult Branch Teams

1 South Queensland Branch 6046

Alvyn W Bell, Peter Judge, Bradley Stephan,
Nate Chandler

2 Northern New South Wales Branch 5812

Vaughan Honeysett, Wade Hudson, Brian



PHOTOS RACHEL JOY

Taylor, Nathan Butterfield

3 Central Queensland Branch 5716

Russell Carlson, Andrew Little, Geoff Voges,
Mitchell King

ABA Junior Branch Teams

1 South Queensland Branch 5416

Tyler Floss, Jake Stewart, Hugh Fabbro, Josie
Hughes

2 Northern New South Wales Branch 4100

James Mitchell, Tilly White, Joshua Ford, Seth
Harris

Knife and Axe

Men's Axe

1 Rodney Everett

2 Geoffrey Blake

3 Howard O'Connell

Ladies Axe

1 Mikayla Harris

2 Nysha Willaton

3 Kylie Kearney

Junior Axe

1 Hugo Lobb

2 William Tilbrook

2 George Cash

3 Tyler Floss

Men's Knife

1 Geoffrey Blake

2 Wayne Salmon (Fish)

3 Lindsay Yuile

Ladies Knife

1 Amanda Tilbrook

2 Kylie Kearney

Junior Knife

1 George Cash

2 Max Tilbrook

3 Hugo Lobb

3 Tyler Floss





PHOTO BY BRUCE KELLEHER



PHOTO BY RACHEL JOY

3D RESULTS

Cub Girls Freestyle Unlimited C Grade

1 Ella Tilbrook	1708
2 Grace Honeysett	1602
3 Jazmin Everett	1564

Cub Girls Freestyle Unlimited A Grade

1 Amber Reinbott	2220
------------------	------

Cub Girls Modern Longbow C Grade

1 Jamie Heiman	418
----------------	-----

Cub Girls Bowhunter Compound C Grade

1 Casey Ormiston	362
------------------	-----

Cub Girls Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Krista Hughes	1200
-----------------	------

Cub Girls Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Marnie Little	1416
-----------------	------

Cub Boys Freestyle Unlimited B Grade

1 George Cash	2234
2 Will Tilbrook	1970
3 Bo Stewart	1962

Cub Boys Freestyle Unlimited A Grade

1 Max Tilbrook	2026
----------------	------

Cub Boys Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1 Brendan Richards	180
--------------------	-----

Cub Boys Bowhunter Compound C Grade

1 Alex Richards	820
2 Logan Richards	426

Cub Boys Bowhunter Compound B Grade

Jordyn Stewart (DNF)	924
----------------------	-----

Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound C Grade

1 Tilly White	1118
---------------	------

Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound B Grade

Sophie L Hartcher (DNF)	766
-------------------------	-----

Junior Girls Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Josie Hughes	1460
----------------	------

Junior Boys Bowhunter Unlimited B Grade

1 James Mitchell	1812
------------------	------

Junior Boys Bowhunter Unlimited A Grade

1 Jake Stewart	2054
----------------	------

Junior Boys Freestyle Unlimited B Grade

1 Nicholas Scarlett	1874
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Junior Boys Freestyle Unlimited A Grade

1 Hugh Fabbro	2222
2 Doni Robertson	2178
3 Jaxsen Wells	2146

Junior Boys Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1 Hayden Ormiston	726
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Junior Boys Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1 Hugo Lobb	1464
-------------	------

Junior Boys Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Matthew Walker-York-Moore	1554
-----------------------------	------

Veteran Ladies Sighted

1 Fenny Thompson	1482
2 Helen Thomas	1278

Veteran Mens Sighted

1 Jeffrey Jennings	1846
2 Anthony McCallum	1812

Trad Peg Ladies Historical Bow

Kath Heiman (DNF)	296
-------------------	-----

Trad Peg Ladies Traditional Longbow

1 Tammy Richards	748
2 Tracy Hickey	596

Trad Peg Ladies Bowhunter Recurve

1 Raylene Starke	928
------------------	-----

Trad Peg Mens Historical Bow

1 Ross Fleming	850
----------------	-----

Trad Peg Mens Modern Longbow

1 David McGuire	1586
2 Scott Heiman	474

Trad Peg Mens Traditional Longbow

1 Adam Murray	746
Geoffrey Edwards (DNF)	510
Trevor Pickett (DNF)	458

Trad Peg Mens Bowhunter Recurve

1 Stewart Houghton	1170
--------------------	------

Ladies Bowhunter Limited C Grade

1 Sindy Avar	1426
--------------	------

Ladies Bowhunter Limited B Grade

1 Joanne Bogie	1610
----------------	------

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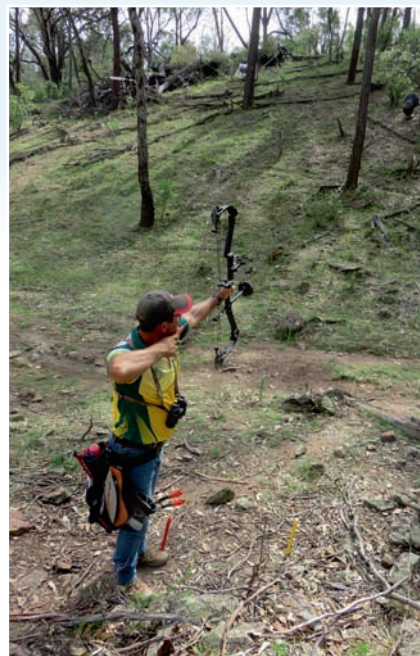
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Debbie Manfred (DNF) 456

Ladies Bowhunter Unlimited C Grade

1 Donna Ormiston 1606

2 Nysha Willaton 1486

3 Natalie Yeung 1368

Ladies Bowhunter Unlimited B Grade

1 Kerry Chandler 1834

2 Katie Mann 1812

3 Amanda Tilbrook 1578

Ladies Freestyle Limited Compound C Grade

1 Julie Morrissey 850

Ladies Freestyle Unlimited C Grade

1 Dianne Houghton 1450

2 Lee-Anne Edwards 1334

3 Kylie Kearney 1258

Ladies Freestyle Unlimited B Grade

1 Jessie Rose Walklate 1784

2 Leanne Moore 1764

Sonja Wegert (DNF) 1404

Ladies Freestyle Unlimited A Grade

1 Jasmine Voges 2038

Ladies Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1 Mikayla Harris 474

Ladies Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1 Glenys Allen 1162

Ladies Bowhunter Compound C Grade

1 Hazel Kirlew 812

Alison Nicholls (DNF) 454

Ladies Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Libby White 1110

2 Rachel Joy 1028

3 Tania Harris 942

Ladies Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Ann Stubbs 1322

Mens Bowhunter Limited C Grade

1 Brett Willaton 1544

Mens Bowhunter Limited B Grade

1 Richard Starke 1584

Mens Bowhunter Limited A Grade

1 Troy Hughes 1886

Mens Bowhunter Unlimited Ungraded

Phillip Dowling (DNF) 562

Mens Bowhunter Unlimited C Grade

1 Shannon Gardner 1810

2 Jarrod Morrissey 1576

3 Darren Risson 1392

Mens Bowhunter Unlimited B Grade

1 Jeremy M Kirk 2106

2 Richard Matlieski 1910

3 James Bush 1898

Mens Bowhunter Unlimited A Grade

1 Tony Brezic 2206

2 Michael Targett 2164

2 Bradley Stephan 2164

Mens Freestyle Limited Compound C Grade

1 Trevor Aldred 1648

2 David Morrissey 1366

Mens Freestyle Limited Recurve C Grade

1 Reade Moffat 974

Mens Freestyle Unlimited C Grade

1 Ethan Bowden 2000

2 Michael Dagge 1926

3 Scott Johnston 1750

Mens Freestyle Unlimited B Grade

1 Nathan Butterfield 1940



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2 Stuart Renwick	1910
3 Andrew Jennings	1888
Mens Freestyle Unlimited A Grade	
1 Gerard A Miles	2268
2 Shaun Pratt	2208
3 Jason Wall	2202

Mens Modern Longbow B Grade

1 Geoffrey Blake	1054
2 Darrin Dwyer	808

Mens Modern Longbow A Grade

1 Lindsay Yuile	1052
-----------------	------

Mens Traditional Longbow C Grade

1 Raymond Morgan	524
------------------	-----

Mens Traditional Longbow B Grade

1 John Collett	1002
----------------	------

Mens Traditional Longbow A Grade

1 Rod Moad	766
------------	-----

Mens Bowhunter Recurve C Grade

1 David Lee	764
2 Craig Rowntree	568

Mens Bowhunter Recurve B Grade

1 Peter Stubbs	1088
----------------	------

Mens Bowhunter Recurve A Grade

1 Bruce Kelleher	1398
2 Karl Peck	1230
3 Russell Carlson	1218

Mens Bowhunter Compound C Grade

1 Kameron Rowntree	970
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2 Wayne Salmon	906
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Mens Bowhunter Compound B Grade

1 Jason Chandler	1358
2 Shannon Hitchen	1258
3 Andrew Little	1142

Mens Bowhunter Compound A Grade

1 Allyn W Bell	1740
2 Brett Raymond	1628
3 Wade Hudson	1604

Adult Branch Teams

1 South Queensland Branch	7656
Allyn W Bell, Peter Judge, Bradley Stephan, Nate Chandler	

2 Northern New South Wales Branch	7158
Jason Wall, Wade Hudson, Andrew Jennings, Brian Taylor	

3 Greater Victoria	7046
Bruce Kelleher, Shaun Pratt, Tony Brezic, Geoffrey Blake	

Junior Branch Teams

1 South Queensland Branch	5886
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Jake Stewart, Josie Hughes, Hugh Fabbro

2 Northern New South Wales Branch	5754
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Tilly White, James Mitchell, Sophie L Hartcher, Joshua Ford



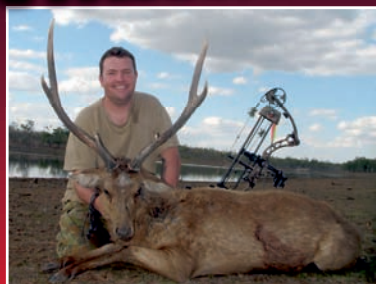
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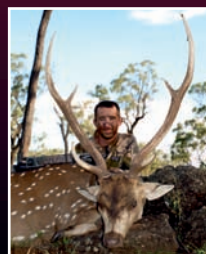
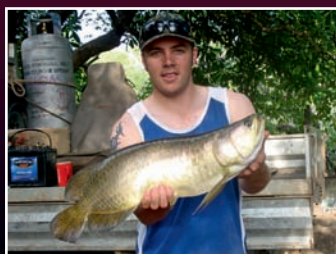
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PHIL STEELE



✓ *Rusa*
ONE DOWN
...five to go

A doe and her offspring strike a picturesque pose.

The undergrowth surrounding the clearing was thick, real thick, and it wasn't just lantana. In the rare places where this noxious shrub wasn't growing, the marsh grass was almost chest high.

This is not a place to be walking during the warmer months. There are snakes ... lots and lots of snakes—mostly blacks but there are browns—and while I have yet to see one, I know this is also a good spot for death adders. This is why I refrain from venturing into this little sub-tropical cluster bomb of palm forest and tea-tree swamp until late autumn. There are just too many bitey things for my liking and I am not just talking about serpents. Add ticks, leeches and swarms of mosquitoes to the list and you have a potential scenario straight out of

your worst nightmare, but the deer seem to enjoy it.

Fortunately for me, this story took place in August and the end of a mild winter.

This is private property, although there is no farming done here. The owner is one of those new age, just-moved-out-from-the-city types who likes things rustic. I am not quite sure what he means by that. Maybe swamp water almost to the back door of a shack surrounded by several hundred acres of primeval forest that has never seen a plough, chainsaw or stump grinder is rustic. If so, this small acreage is about as rustic as you are ever likely to see. One thing is for certain, it ain't no cattle station although on the northern boundary there are two smallish clearings bordered by a creek. Why these particularly



This bedded stag is the star of this story.



An unusual chance for a group shot.

patches were originally cleared, I have no idea. Maybe a previous owner wanted to try his or her hand at farming. There are remnants of what was an internal cattle fence but apart from an odd wooden strainer, a handful of hardwood posts and a few strands of rusted barb, no other clues survive. Whatever the reason for these two clearings, there are certainly no domestic beasts of any description grazing there now and the bush is slowly starting to reclaim what once was.

I have lived in the area for nearly 10 years now and I had no idea there were deer living here even though I

drive past this place daily on my way to and from work. Deer are pretty widespread these days in the eastern states. There are quite a few to be found about 100km north and a smaller herd about 50km or so south, but in this particular spot, I had never before seen one or heard tell of any.

That was, until July last year when on my return from work one afternoon I just so happened to glance into the bush and saw a deer standing there watching me. At first, I thought I was dreaming, but it got the better of me so I pulled the car over and walked back to where I figured

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the animal had been standing. Sure enough, it was a deer ... and one turned out to be two. Both were Javan rusa, including a big mature stag and a smaller spiker. They were standing about 80m away just watching me. I was dumbfounded and of course the two stags didn't hang around for me to mull over the situation and in two bounds apiece, they disappeared ghost-like back into the thick stuff.

I didn't doubt what I had just seen, but to be sure I decided a quick look at where I had seen both animals might be in order. I walked up to the property boundary fence and began to look around for sign—and by that I mean sign that would indicate deer (not just the two I had seen)—were living in this area. To be honest, I was convinced I had witnessed a couple of migratory animals heading for who knows where, but I was wrong. I am not going to say I found sign everywhere because I didn't, but what I did find led me to conclude the two stags I had just seen plus a few more were indeed living in this swamp-land. I went back to the car, did a U-turn and drove up to the quaint (for want of a better word) shack to speak to the landowner. I arrived home that night later than usual, but I had gained permission to enter the land in search of deer. I have always found it pays to be up front and do the right thing. Far too many would just sneak about illegally and prospective deer stalkers could arguably be the worst in this regard.

Many years ago, deer and deer hunting were all I thought about. I was fanatical about them and I spent a lot of hours, days and even weeks hunting them. I did okay, too. I dined on venison every now and then and had a few trophies on the wall but then I just lost the desire to chase deer.

Deer are some of nature's most majestic animals. Whether it be a big antlered stag or a graceful doe, a deer is an awe-inspiring creature and I love seeing them. I know all about the feral aspect and have heard the arguments

for and against all the animals that are not considered native to our shores, but their beauty is undeniable. If you have never seen a deer in the wild, you have missed out on seeing one of nature's most stately creatures. It's no wonder they were once considered the game of kings—literally.

When I decided to take bowhunting more seriously a few years back, I accepted an invitation from an old hunting mate to accompany him on a fallow hunt up north. Naturally I accepted and I was successful and bagged a non-trophy buck, but it was a one-off and I did not fall victim once again to the deer-hunting bug. On the same trip I also bagged a pig and spent a considerable amount of time trying to tag a trophy goat. I guess my overall perspective at that point was to just hunt and even though I enjoyed chasing the fallow, deer were not a high priority anymore, but that was then. Fast forward to the afternoon when I sighted the two rusa stags and my entire outlook was different ... in more ways than one.

Despite the cool mid-morning breeze, I was sweating when I thankfully emerged from the tangle of vegetation



This young stag is on high alert.



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BROADHEAD SHARPENER

and stepped out into the smaller of the two previously mentioned clearings. It was empty, as I knew it would be. Only a stone-deaf animal would have failed to hear me battling my way through the lantana. Prior to this day, I had made a few late afternoon sorties on the block in an attempt to get my bearings and work out a feeding pattern (if any) that would give me an edge when it came time to try my luck with the big stag. The information I gleaned, while not written in concrete, led me to believe the deer were most active in the larger of the two clearings and the best time to catch them was late morning. My findings

were very much contrary to the traditional up-and-at-'em-before-sunrise which was and still is the mainstay hour of every deer stalker.

Even though the rut had run its course, the big stag and one lesser male were still mixing with a mob of about eight or nine does. Add another two or three spikers and a handful of yearlings in the mix and there were a heck of a lot of ears and eyes to contend with. With the sort of equipment I was toting I needed to get close and with so many lookouts, a frontal assault was basically ruled out. This called for Plan B. Plan B was simple in that all I had



A spiker feeds, unaware of the intruder.

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to do was get to a chosen position concealed within the bush fringe which ran beside the creek and wait for the deer to come to me.

I was deliberately early and I figured I had about an hour to spare before any deer showed up. My day pack was full of essential supplies for a long wait and I even had a small fold-up stool strapped to the outside of the pack. If you are going to try and ambush something, you must be comfortable. I don't know anyone who can stand around for any length of time without becoming fidgety and sitting on a hard surface like a log or rock always results in a numb backside very quickly. I have on occasions used a thick pad of sponge for just such a time and this works ... but it's not as good as a small stool.

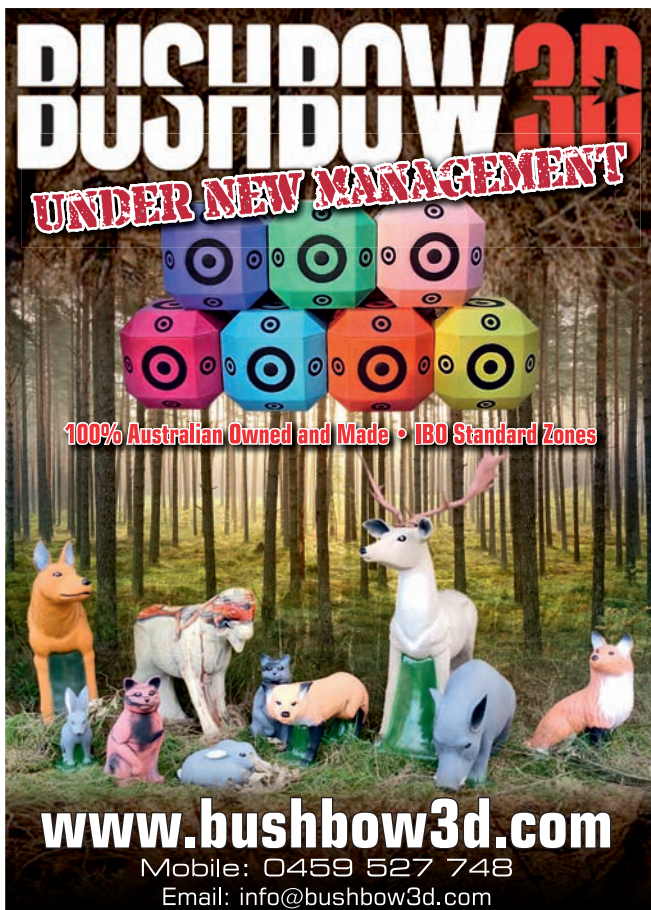
I didn't need to cross into the open because my pre-selected spot was a simple 400 metre stroll along the bush fringe. I was excited and I set a brisk pace, eager to gain my hiding spot. I was confident, so confident in fact I could almost taste success, but as I have so often said in the past, oh the plans of mice and men. I was about half-way to my destination when I spotted a slight movement in the knee-high grass of clearing number two. It wasn't much but it was enough to stop me dead in my tracks. Perhaps I was seeing things, but no there it was again. There was no wind to speak of so I knew that was not the

cause. Slowly I eased my binoculars up and immediately I spotted a pair of ears sticking up just above the grass. One flickered and then the other. This was the movement that had alerted me. No doubt about it, the ears were attached to a deer and I knew where there was one there were surely others. I carefully examined the surrounding grass and picked out a second pair of ears. Great ... now what?

The two deer were laying up immediately adjacent to my hidey hole. There was no way I was going to be able to put Plan B into effect now. What to do? In truth, I had run out of ideas and options so I decided to just stalk up as close as I could and see what would eventuate. It was as good a plan as any, I guess. My pace was slowed somewhat and all seemed to be going well until I reached a spot where I simply ran out of cover. In order to reach the last patch of trees before the start of the second clearing, I had about 20m of open ground to traverse. I managed five steps before up jumped one very alert rusa doe who had me well and truly in her sights. I froze but the game was up and in a flash the second doe did likewise. Now what?

There was no way I was going to win this stalemate so I simply kept walking towards the does. Perhaps I made another three steps or maybe it was four, but that was all before the first doe let out a bark. Much to my surprise four more females and a spiker stag stood up within the bush fringe where I had planned to hide. It would seem the deer knew about Plan B and had a little counter plan of their own. This was just peachy, but I wasn't too troubled by it. Here I was, only 60m or so from seven deer. Such encounters fill me with much pleasure, albeit with a slight twinge of annoyance at being foiled, but that is hunting for you. I started walking slowly towards them and I guess I narrowed the gap down to about 40m before there was a couple more barks, a bit of foot stomping then an about-face before a rapid retreat down into the creekbed. All of a sudden I was alone and I stood forlornly on the fringe of the second clearing.

This second clearing is not wide, perhaps 60m at best, but it is about half a kilometre in length and I was situated at the very eastern end. With my binoculars, I carefully scanned what I could see of the clearing to the west, but it was empty. The boundary fence lies adjacent to the creek on the opposite side and I knew the females would have raced westward along the creek before either stopping or crossing back over. Perhaps I should try to follow, I thought. Then it dawned on me that I wasn't asking an important question: Where was the stag? I had never seen these females without the big stag somewhere nearby. I quickly eyeballed the scrub opposite



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but could see nothing. Perhaps the big fellow had been hidden and had made his escape with the does. I was about to cross to where the deer had trotted down into the creek bed when I glanced quickly to my right. At first I didn't register what my eyes were taking in, but not so when I took a more prolonged look.

There, lying down in the grass and no more than 35m away, was the big stag. He was completely at right angles to where the females had been, which was why I hadn't spotted him originally. I couldn't believe it. Once or twice during my fact-finding missions I had managed to sneak up to this stag, but this was something else again and I was completely out in the open. To make matters worse, he was lying down and in a very bad position. He was also very much aware of me which did surprise me a heck of a lot. I couldn't understand why he had not made his escape with the does. This impasse could not last forever so I carefully looked him over with my binoculars. The scars from the recent rut were very evident. Large patches of hair were missing from his neck and several long scars could be seen on his shoulder. Overall, he looked a little on the lean side even though he was lying

down, but that would change in a month or so. The antlers were long, thick and pretty even. I had seen longer antlers on stags in New Caledonia, but this was one of the biggest wild rusa stags I had so far seen here in Australia. I am not great at estimation of horns or antlers, but I was confident he was at least 30in in length and would score in the record class.

At 35m (give or take), he was in my range, but only just. I tried to calm my nerves by concentrating on the body of the stag with a laser-sharp focus. It was not easy and I knew my hands were shaking just a little. I still couldn't believe he was still there, although I suspected it would only take one false move on my part and he would be gone in a flash. When everything seemed right, I slowly put pressure on the release. The click of the shutter when it went off surprised me and sounded so very loud in the still environment, but the stag did not move a muscle. I shot about five more frames with my Sony before I put the camera back down. They were good shots for sure, but I wanted some of the animal standing. The light was okay, but the position was lousy. That is the trouble with wildlife photography. Most often, you have to take the shot irre-



The stag obligingly stood up for this photo.

spective of circumstances or miss out altogether.

I have often marvelled at some of the wildlife stills in magazines, but since becoming a devotee of hunting with a camera I have learned that not all is what it seems. For example, many of the more impressive pictures of deer you often see in wildlife magazines are taken in private reserves where the animals are quiet and used to man. It often does take professional photographers more than one trip before they acquire the shots they are after, such as red stags roaring in the mist, but it is just not the same as photographing such animals in the wild. I am not against this practice as I would of course do the same, but I would like to think I would be open and honest about it. One of the best wildlife photographs I have ever seen was of a big barn owl heading straight at the photographer. It was an amazing capture. The bird was in full flight with eyes seemingly glued to the photographer. What I later learnt was that the bird was privately owned and heading to a bait on a post situated just behind the photographer ... tricks of the trade, I guess.

One thing I can say with a clear conscience is that I was not on any deer farm and this stag was wild, although right at that moment I could not understand what it was thinking. I cannot say how long we just looked at each other and still he would not move. In the end, I started to

walk slowly towards him. I reckon I got another 5m or 6m closer, which put him in recurve range (had I been armed with my bow). Then and only then did he finally stand up and in so doing give me the shots I so wanted. In his own time, the old fellow meandered over to where the does had disappeared and slowly followed in their wake, leaving me to ponder over what had just happened. I can't remember how many shots I took, maybe 20, but not all were good and a lot were virtually identical. The main thing though is I had three or four good pictures and that was all I was after.

I doubt if I will ever forget that day. It was special, something magic and I have a permanent photographic reminder of it which is even better than a head on the wall.

A while back, I penned an article for *Archery Action* concerning my then irregular moments afield armed with a camera. This story was published in the November-December 2016 issue and featured a few of my photographs which were all taken with a small pocket camera. The original sighting of this rusa stag and a spiker back in July 2016, changed my entire outlook on hunting dramatically. Firstly, it instilled within me a desire to once again chase deer, perhaps not with the same tunnel-vision outlook that I used to have, but with a passion nevertheless. Secondly, virtually all my 'hunting' these days is done with a camera. I no longer use a simple pocket camera and have just recently armed myself with a decent Nikon DSLR which is yet to be tested on anything bigger than rabbits and hares (yes, I photograph these too).

Since that day, I have had a few more close encounters with the very same stag and each time I have walked away satisfied and totally exhilarated by the experience. Not every experience ends with photographs taken, although on one occasion I managed to body-slit and crawl up fairly close to the entire herd including a few smaller and younger stags.

I am so looking forward to this year's rut where I plan to test my new Nikon. What I have lost in lens capacity (the old Sony had a magnificent zoom), I have gained in picture quality. Time will tell if I am good enough to fill the frame so to speak.

As every deer hunter in this country knows, there are six species of deer to be found here in Australia. To have successfully hunted all six species is often referred to as achieving the grand slam of Aussie deer. Plenty have managed it including yours truly, but now it is time for me to try for it with a camera. I will always spend a bit of time stalking the local rusa herd for no other reason than it is local, but now my thoughts are centred around other species. To put it in simple terms, one down, five to go.

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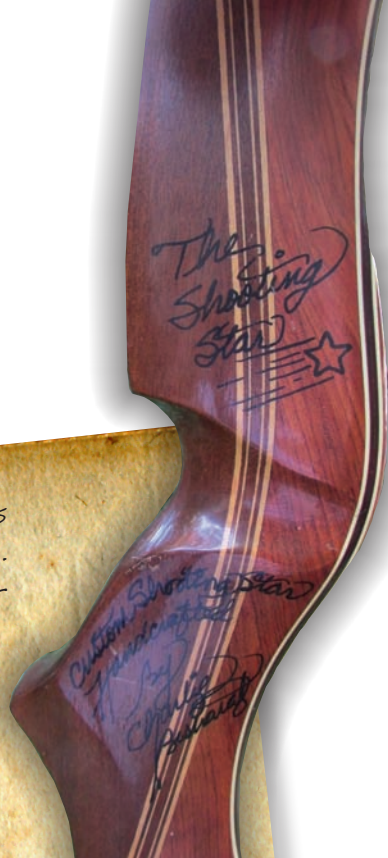


*The same fellow, in fine condition
three months after the rut.*

SHOOTING slumps

Just last year, I sat in a ground blind about 10 yards behind my oldest son Jake, trying to call in a tom turkey. Mature male turkeys will respond to calls, and when coupled with a decoy, can actually be lured in quite close to the waiting bowhunter. A decoy sat 15yd in front of Jake, who sat on a short stool, completely hidden in a small grove of scrub oak trees. The theory is to not call too much, but just enough so the tom turkey will focus on the decoy. If the decoy being used is a hen—a female turkey, many toms will try to engage in a mating ritual with the decoy. They will expand their feathers in an outward fan display, hoping to impress their future mating partner. As I called, several toms answered back, and within minutes of legal shooting time the first tom appeared as he drifted from his roost in a nearby oak tree. Landing within feet of the decoy he puffed his feathers and strutted around hoping to get some female attention. Jake had yet to take one of these prehistoric-looking birds so I became pretty excited when I watched him slowly raise his Hoyt Buffalo and shoot. From where I was sitting the arrow looked like it had passed completely through the bird. When hit, turkeys will fly straight up into the air before falling back to the ground. This bird however did nothing other than look in the direction the arrow came from and then he slowly walked down the hill as though nothing had happened. In the next hour this unnerving scenario played out another three times. Each episode ended as the first had, with birds walking or running away after the shot. After four shots and not one turkey to take home for dinner the ever darkening cloud of gloom sat over Jake like a bad plague. Like many birds, the kill zone on a turkey is relatively small. Because of the size of its wings and the amount of feathers that encase the body, you can pass an arrow through feathers thinking that you have made a solid hit without even touching the body with your arrow. But the pain and frustration of missing a game bird or an animal with one's bow can cause a discouragement that can last far too long. And if you have been in the sport of bowhunting long enough, some time down the road you are going to feel the frustration of missing. It is inevitable. But rest assured that missing a shot at a game bird or animal does not have to turn into a life threatening experience. Not unless you want it to.

John A. Barlow



Everyone misses

There are some great shooters in our bowhunting community. They are talented beyond description when it comes to putting an arrow in the exact place in a game animal or target, be it longbow, recurve or modern compound. Archery history is filled with the names of individuals who seem to be almost super-human when it comes to shooting accuracy. You may even know some of them in your bowhunting circle of friends. But I have been on enough bowhunts and shoots and seen enough bowhunting videos to know that even the greats miss from time to time. The key is to learn from one's failure and to move forward knowing that times will get better. There is a line in a once popular movie where a world class runner loses an important race to his rival. He says, "If I can't win, I won't run." To this, his young lady friend replies, "If you do not run, you cannot win." Keep bowhunting and shooting your bow. Things will get better for you.

Get back to basics

When I find that my shooting accuracy has fallen below my expectations, I go back to the basics of shooting my bow. That usually falls into the category of good form. I start with my feet placement, checking to make sure my stance is good. I look at how I am gripping my bow to make sure I am holding it like I want. Am I coming back to full draw? Is my anchor where I want it to be? Is my release crisp and tight or am I floating my hand at the moment of release? And most of all is my bow arm, the arm that holds the bow, solid at the moment of releasing the arrow? Or have I developed the habit of dropping

it, or floating it around at the moment of release? Paul Shaffer, the late and great American bowhunter said that more often than not it is the bow arm moving that causes poor shooting. Am I pushing the bow slightly toward my target, and am I pulling back with my draw hand, or am I creeping forward as I begin my release? It seems like a lot to cover but it only takes a moment. It is always good to have a bowhunting friend watch you as you go through the checklist of good form in your shooting, and offer suggestions. Or better yet, have him or her take a short video of you on a cell phone. If you are doing something that is causing your poor shooting you will spot it immediately. In such cases a picture really can be worth a thousand words.

Can I practise too much?

I believe you can, especially if you are shooting a traditional bow. Muscles grow and become stronger while resting, not when they are being used. A muscle becomes stimulated during use. It becomes stretched and torn and during the rest period it begins the healing process and becomes bigger and stronger. I am talking about the number of arrows being shot in a practice session, not the time or length in a shooting session. I believe you can shoot every day in some cases if you are only shooting a few arrows in each session. That may be better to do that than shooting 500 arrows once a week, which will cause you to tire and start to develop poor habits. So shooting every day may not effect your form in a negative way if you shoot a minimal amount of arrows and do not run yourself into the ground.

For traditional shooters, fingers can take a beating as they are pulled and stretched during the shooting process. Sometimes blisters show themselves as friction occurs and tender flesh comes into contact with a leather tab or

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Coming to anchor.

Releasing before coming to anchor is a sign of target panic.



A good bow grip is essential.

glove. I like to shoot every other day with a rest period of a day in between. Or if you find yourself struggling, put your bow up for the day and return another day when your mind and body are rested and relaxed. What too many guys and gals do when they find their shooting is off, is try to force the issue and make the bow shoot well instead of themselves shooting well. Remember your bow does not have any emotion, but you and I do. The bow never gets tired or feels the effects of stress but we do and that can translate into poor habits and poor shooting performance. Keep shooting. But when you begin to tire or feel the effects of frustration from having a bad practice session, get away for a while and help your partner clean the house. Your shooting will improve.

Get closer

An experienced traditional bowhunter and well known outdoor writer once summed up the answer for shooting slumps: "Get closer." I totally agree with such thinking and in regard to paper targets and three-dimensional targets, that is pretty easy to do ... however, the reality is that game animals are not as compliant. Bowhunting is a close-range sport. That is one of the positive aspects of it. If you need to get closer during periods of being in a shooting slump, then embrace it

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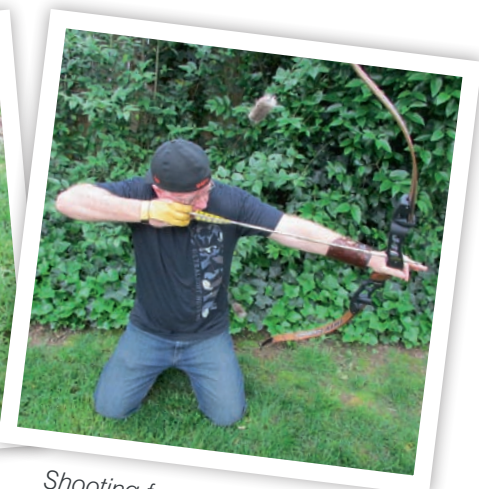
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Dropping the bow is a sign of a floating bow arm.



Shooting from two knees will give you a solid base.

and do whatever you need to do to get closer so that your shot on a game animal is ethical and humane. As a traditional bowhunter, I know I have to get closer for a shot than my youngest son Josh who can tag golf balls at 60yd with his compound. That's not what I have chosen to do. So for me, 25yd or closer is my comfort zone. And if my shooting is off on some days, 15yd or closer may be even better. Each of us is different. What works for me may not work for you. If your effective shooting range is a certain distance, stick with it. And if your shooting is off, find another effective range and stick with it. Everyone around you will be happier, including the game animal you are pursuing.

Target panic

It has been my observation that most long term shooting slumps are caused by target panic. In short, target panic is when the archer—bowhunter or target shooter—begins to panic and tries to get the shot off as quickly as possible. For traditional archers it usually manifests itself by the archers not coming to full draw and not coming to anchor. They become so obsessed with getting the shot off that they rush the shooting process and their bow-shooting accuracy falls apart. It is easy to spot target panic in others as well as oneself. It can be a serious issue, but once diagnosed it can be cured over time. I liken it to the need of some people who consistently try to finish other people's sentences

with what they think should be said ... always in a hurry to get things over with.

Some shooting instructors will place their target panic patients in front of a straw or foam shooting butt at 5yd or less and have them shoot into it with their eyes closed. The theory is that not seeing the target



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Anchoring with top finger.

Anchoring with three fingers under.



Switching to a lighter bow during shooting slumps can be beneficial.

will help the archer to focus on good shooting form and especially focus on coming to full draw and finding a solid anchor before releasing the arrow. Be sure that someone is watching the shooter for form as well as keeping everyone safe. Sometimes it helps to shoot a lighter weight bow when going through this process. Do this over and over until you feel confident. Next, do the same drill with your eyes open. Be sure that you do not put any kind of target on the straw or foam butt. Again, focus on coming to full draw and coming to a solid anchor. Do this over and over until it feels as though that part of the process is no longer a problem. Do not be in a hurry to move forward until you feel in control. This may take several days so do not be in a rush. Remember, being in a hurry is what has brought this condition on in the first place. Some traditional bowhunters I know will go through these drills before beginning a practice session of any kind just to get in

the rhythm, as they call it. If you continue to struggle, you might want to step away from your bow for a week or so before returning. You might find that your shooting will fall back to where you were before target panic showed its ugly head.

Watch others

Great traditional archers are great for one reason. They do the same things over and over. Every shot is a repeat of the shot before. Learn from a master: Either in person or on a video, watch someone who is closest to you in form, style and bow type and see what they do to excel. Follow their example and soon you will be back to where you want to be—having fun and watching your arrows go where you want them to go.



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Ethan Zadrow Trophy Class red deer, 176pt.



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Benjamin Toohey
FK, pig.



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BROADHEADS

This issue's winner



Rob Mihalyka, record class fox
10 6/16pt.



New South Wales State Series

Lake Macquarie Classic

Never trust a weather man. They're all liars, making their living off a lucky chance.

In the days leading up to the Lake Mac Classic they'd been forecasting doom.

"A month's rain in two days," they said, and on the Friday night there was just enough drizzle hang-

ing around to give them credibility.

But the morning of Saturday May 20 dawned with a bit of fog that cleared by 9.00am to present two of the most gorgeous sunny autumn days you could ask for. It set us up for a fabulous two days of 3D competition.

The event was the third round

of the 3DAAA NSW State Series for 2017, and was hosted at the Lake Macquarie Field Archers' club grounds at Wakefield NSW.

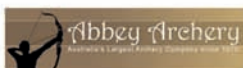
The hard-working crew from LMFA, led by Simeon Weir, had once again prepared five high-class ranges that tested the stamina and mental toughness of the competi-



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tors. The terrain at this venue provides scope for a wide range of challenging shots. Dark tunnels, undulating gullies and open woodland, used in combination with conveniently placed trees and fallen timber, resulted in loads of dead ground, making distance judging a fraught business.

You don't have to make shots long to make them difficult to judge, and no one found the ranges presented to be as straightforward as they might have liked.

There were some fabulous scores presented, but (to Simmo's satisfaction) no perfect rounds were recorded over the two days.

Top men's score for the weekend was Ben Doyle, who took out MBO division with a 479. Best of the ladies was Tracy Redgrove with a 442 to win FBR. Dustyn Oloman was the winner of the Top 10 shoot-out on Saturday afternoon.

A busy canteen was manned by

Nathan McKerrow and the team of volunteers, who kept everyone well fuelled throughout the event.

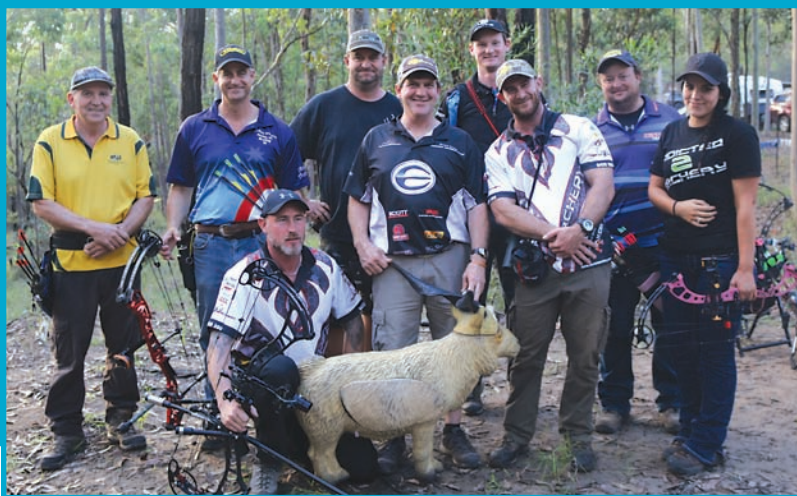
The Saturday night dinner put together by Donna Gilroy, Sharyn Dick and Paul 'Dodge' Faux led into an entertaining night of fun and laughs.

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would like to thank the following businesses for their kind support; without them the event would not have been anywhere near as successful: *Ten Zone Archery, Benson Archery Warehouse, Carney*

Archery and Camping Supplies, Screen Signs (Cardiff), Abbey Archery, Lakeside Archery Supplies, Lakes Army Disposals and Burson Auto Parts (Morisset).

Attendance numbers this year

were a little down on previous years, as it appears that the dire weather forecast put a few of the regular punters off. If you were one of them, then let that be a lesson: Never trust a weatherman.

Ipswich Field Archery Club Shoot

It was another great shoot hosted by the Ipswich Field Archery Club.

The shoot saw some 100 shooters attend the event. It was good to see all the familiar faces and new ones to support the club.

The rain gods were on our side for a change.

The canteen also provided an array of food and drinks for the hungry and thirsty archers. This year the Ipswich Lions Club did the cooking for us and what a good job they did Thank you.

Well done to Leigh on the courses—they were challenging but not too hard. I hope everyone enjoyed the ranges.

Well done and congratulations to all of the placegetters who achieved in their respective divisions and to everyone else who attended the shoot. It was an enjoyable weekend of shooting.



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OUT OF THE BOX TO SHOOTING ON THE WORLD STAGE

Working on the mental game

Over the past few years, I have helped many athletes get back on the straight and narrow after dealing with a bout of performance anxiety and/or target panic. As I have worked with the athletes, I have learned more and more about the various common strategies used to overcome particular issues and new ways to implement these in many different situations. In this month's article, I will cover some of the basic changes I have made to get out of my own performance downswings and discuss a couple of further ideas that may help improve your overall shooting, both in competition and out.



by STEVE CLIFTON

ANXIETY AND PANIC

Firstly, I think it's important that we understand the difference between performance anxiety and target panic. Performance anxiety in archery is the persistent worry or fear of how our shooting session will go. Like many other forms of anxiety, worry is the underlying issue here that causes 'competition nerves' or 'stress' before you begin shooting.

I would bet that just about everyone reading this article has at one time or another had a thought such as "What if I shoot badly?" or "What if I don't win?", or even "What if Person X beats me?." These what-if scenarios inevitably lead to further thoughts like "What will it feel like if I don't perform?", or "What will people think of me if I do badly?", which spirals downwards into madness and eventually we wind ourselves up and feel anxious about our performance.

For example, one of my biggest concerns about my shooting session is how I will cope with being on for a personal best score and whether I will be able to handle the nerves and complete the round as best I can or not.

When it comes to target panic, there are many different ways peo-

ple can describe it. How I like to define target panic is that it is a sudden surge of anxiety during the shot and can often also include a rapid increase in heart rate. This panic can be debilitating to our shooting and often archers try to reduce this feeling by releasing the arrow immediately or forcing the shot to go off (punching).

There are a variety of reasons why target panic occurs, often it is caused by our expectations for the shot being well above normal which can lead to a sudden panic that we may not be able to achieve this result. Another very common cause for target panic is gold shyness, where we struggle to aim at the gold without it causing stress.

PERFORMANCE ANXIETY

Now we have a better understanding of the difference between the two issues, we can look at several ways to combat their effects on our shooting. As noted with performance anxiety, the foundation that this is built on is worry and uncertainty. We worry because we are uncertain with how the performance will go and we try to use this worry as a way to create

certainty. The simple fact of the matter is that worry does not create certainty. What we need to do is to change the way we think about these situations and begin to introduce additional mental tools that will help give us confidence in our abilities. The first thing that helped me with performance anxiety is realising that these what-if statements do not help me—in any way—to shoot better. When I caught myself worrying about my shooting before an event, I began to consciously visualise how a perfect shot looked in the third person, as if I was watching myself on TV. Doing this achieved two things: Firstly, it weakened the relationship between worry and competitions. This relationship can become a habit if you allow it to continue and you will find yourself thinking the same things event after event. By not engaging in this type of thinking, you will slowly weaken the relationship to the point where it no longer produces the same anxious responses it once did. The second reason I visualised myself shooting in third person was that it instills confidence that I can achieve perfect shots like the ones I was 'watching' myself shoot. Much research has shown that mentally visualising a technical performance before attempting it increases the



likelihood that you will perform as you envisage, and I definitely suggest that if you are not doing this now that you start to think about ways you might be able to incorporate this skill into your shooting.

Another way I found to relieve my pre-competition anxiety is through a term that has become quite popular in sport called mindfulness. Simply put, mindfulness is consciously focussing on yourself and the present moment so that you are neither thinking about the past nor the future. What you focus on is your body in present time. One way in particular to achieve this is by focussing on different muscle groups and tensing and relaxing them. By keeping focussed on these muscles, you are bringing yourself into the present and at the same time, you are keeping those negative worries/thoughts away.

Another very common approach is to focus on deep breathing. By bringing your attention to internal bodily functions you will reduce the chance of focussing on the worries and further reduce the anxiety you are experiencing.

Finally, another very popular method used in many forms of therapy and sports psychology is the use of positive affirmations. Affirmations are self-generated statements about something you want to achieve that are repeated or written down frequently. As an example, if I was worried about starting off badly

in a competition, I could generate an affirmation such as "In competitions, I start out shooting my best, and only get better as the day goes on!" or "I am an expert at starting the day shooting my best". These positive statements, when repeated over and over for a long time, often will boost your confidence in your abilities. I definitely recommend picking an area where you feel you need some work and start writing down some affirmations about them. I have seen these work for myself, students and in many research studies so I suggest you give it a try!

TARGET PANIC

Target panic is a little more challenging to overcome, but it is definitely something that can be achieved. As mentioned, a common cause for target panic is a sudden expectation of making sure that this very shot is shot right in the middle of the target and a doubt that we are capable of making the shot. This feeling often leads to 'conscious override' where the archer tries to take control of the shot and manually aim and execute rather than letting the shot happen (as we do nearly every other time). By not trusting in the subconscious processes we have built throughout years of training, we are going back to beginner level shooting and often we do not shoot nearly as well as we would if we had stuck with our original game plan.

In situations like this, there are two ways I like to handle the shot; if I have time to draw down, I do it! Draw down, regroup your mental plan and start the shot routine again. If you are in a timed situation where you can't draw down (say in a 20-second shoot off), then what I suggest people do is to acknowledge the thoughts or panic, let the thoughts go, and focus on *letting* the shot happen and not *making* the shot happen. I know it's easier



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said than done but this is a skill you need to learn while in these situations. By not allowing the panic to take over the shot, you are growing your skills and abilities to handle these situations again for the future.

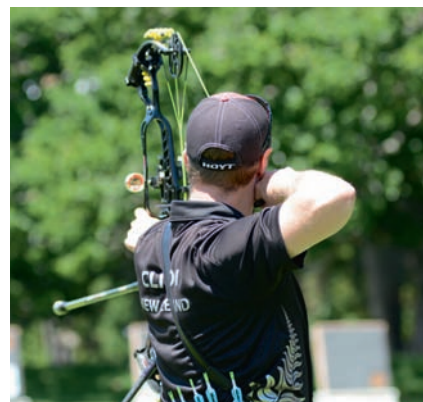
Another common cause for people to experience target panic is gold shyness. Typically, someone who is gold shy will draw up on the target, see the pin in/near the gold, and immediately want to release the arrow; usually by punching the release aid. One way I have reduced my own gold shyness is to reduce my scope power and increase the dot size. By going down in lens power, you will see a lot less movement in the scope, which I have found to help me aim and release smoothly as the dot moves less in the scope. Increasing the dot size means that the dot covers much more of the target than it originally did, allowing you to build confidence in having the dot covering the yellow centre. These

two changes really helped me get back to aiming at the gold, and is one of the first things I recommend to people with gold shyness.

Another idea which was developed by coach Bruce Johnson is called the 'clear lens' method. The idea with this is to remove the dot from your scope and you use only your instinct to aim at the gold. How I have used this in the past is by centring my peep around the scope housing, and then to look directly at the gold and execute the shot. Do not try and put the gold in the centre of the scope by using the outer rings as reference in the scope housing, as this is still simulating an aiming method. You want to let your natural aiming instinct bring the gold to the centre of your lens. What this enables you to do is build confidence in your ability to see the gold and not have that surge of panic to instantly release the shot. This is a fantastic method which really does work and I

would recommend it to anyone who has gold shyness or target panic.

Hopefully this can give those who are having some issues with their mental game a bit of a boost in confidence, as performance anxiety and target panic affect almost all archers at some point in their shooting careers. Overcoming these troubles can feel daunting and near impossible, I know these first hand, but stick with it, and try new things and see what works best for you.



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outside In the zone

EOFY Annual report

by Nils Spruitt

I am not a big fan of this time of year. I would hazard a guess and say most archers would be relishing winter as it is, as I am sure you would all agree, perfect hunting and shooting weather. Cold mornings see all manner of beasts lingering just that little bit longer in order to catch a warm ray or two of morning sunshine before retiring down earthen dens or up hollow logs.

It is a great time of the year for camping out and relishing those chilly evenings around the fire with a wee dram and a glowing pipe. Winter is probably the only time of the year you can actually enjoy snuggling into that expensive sub-zero-rated sleeping bag you paid an arm and a leg for. In between seasons are hell—you either sweat like a brick layer all night or you take a chance and unzip the wretched thing and in so doing become a beacon for every mosquito within 1km radius. Either way, trying to sleep in a goose-down sleeping bag during the warmer months is not for the fainthearted.

I, on the other hand, am forced to spend my precious 'me' time,



not treading lightly upon a frost covered pasture with size 11 boots or waiting patiently for old Mr Reynard to answer my screeching call, as I would much prefer. At this time of the year I am a virtual prisoner, locked away as it were and seated behind a pile of scribbled ledgers and account-keeping books trying to make some mathematical sense of the financial year that has passed.

The taxman must shoulder some of the blame for this, but in the main

my pain is more to do with satisfying a very suspicious mid-management. Once again, I am forced to explain to Mrs Spruitt why new blinds have not been purchased and paid for and why she (for another year at least), will not be walking upon plush new carpet. It would be a real pleasure indeed to give her a normal report like the matter-of-fact delineation of a bank statement: So many dollars in, and so many dollars out.

For example, "For the quarter

leading up to August I can confidently inform you that I fired 296 arrows in the longbow plus another 268 through the recurve. This is down from last quarter because on four out of the 12 Sundays contained within this period, I was forced to paint two interior bedrooms, one toilet, a hallway and three sliding wardrobes. This loss of shooting time on the range and in the field has resulted in the net saving of approximately 112 arrows fired although this is a conservative estimate as the figure does not include arrows that would have been shot upon the practice range prior to the commencement of competition. Breakages and complete losses are subsequently down also which should please mid-management. Total losses for the months in review were seven complete arrows lost and 11 partial breakages. Replacements were tendered for and obtained. At the present time essential accessories (replacement arrow heads, fletching and nocks), are in surplus thanks to shrewd purchasing and timely enterprise bargaining. At this point I have been unable to replenish my depleted stock of blank shafts, but I am confident I am only one more phone call away from brokering a sound investment. On the up side, our freezer contains five rabbits, two goat legs plus back straps and a hare. Our stocks of venison have been completely consumed and have not been replaced. The four weekends of house painting is to blame for this dilemma and not my inability to hit what I am aiming at."

If only it were that simple ... but of course I have no idea how many arrows I fired, what is in the freezer as opposed to what should be, or what happened to my inability to hit any target beyond a Group 3. You simply cannot put a simple number which would adequately cover sel-

dom mentioned misadventures, distorted facts, selective memory and my inability to face simple truths that for all intents and purposes, seem harsh, unpleasant or at least able to be postponed. As usual, the real business at hand is trying to find some reasonable way to explain to my wife why times are not as prosperous as they should be, why the cash flow has been diverted unsuccessfully, and other items that I can only label as sundries.

The place on the top shelf of my bookcase which I have reserved for the club 'champion archer' trophy is still occupied (as it has been for quite some years) by a very sad looking stuffed pheasant. I know this is not startling news but it is symbolic of the sort of year it has been. The wooden plaque Digs gave me for a record class set of goat horns is still serving as a tea coaster and that lovely custom-built longbow I had built has bought me nothing but grief. To top it off, my little spaniel has had puppies out of wedlock which really does sum it up adequately. It goes without saying that whiskey and tobacco prices have also soared way above inflation figures and wage rises, but this is not an expected setback. Outrageous ... but not unforeseen.

On a positive note, I did win \$25 on a scratchy last summer and had plans of pocketing the winnings for a rainy day. However, mid-management thought we were entering into a phase of good luck and promptly spent the \$25 plus another \$10 on more tickets. Enough said on this subject, I feel. I also took out third place in a 3D event and found a packet of long forgotten Delta broadheads while looking for a new string I had made for one of my recurves. Unfortunately, I did not find the string.

On the whole, the past year has

left me feeling a little deflated and not at all inclined or even inspired to set any new goals. The fact that I reached very few last year may have something to do with that. Nevertheless, I refuse to think that the world has gone to the dogs although as a man who is very fond of dogs, that would be an overall improvement on its current form.

I am not entirely sure if I mentioned it previously, but back 12 months ago, I was instructed by

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mid-management to curb spur-of-the-moment outlay and expenses. At the time I readily agreed, but as months passed I found my obligation in this matter to be very hard to live up to. Who would have thought my old (and much loved) Sage would split right across the riser during a very important shoot? The fact that I had a spare bow on hand is irrelevant and it goes without saying that night when I was ensconced within the privacy of my little den and the rest of the house was sleeping, I promptly ordered a new Sage and prayed it would be delivered secretly to my address.

It wasn't, and I had the devil of a time trying to explain to mid-management this was not a purchase based upon a simple whim. It was (and I still maintain this) an essential disbursement of necessary funds. I have yet to broach the subject and try to win her approval for the purpose of acquiring a set of Swarovskis that, while not critical at the moment, are too good a bargain to ignore. Like all doting husbands, I am waiting for just that right moment ... but the wait is long with her being tea-total and all.

An old pet bird was lost near on five months back and will be sorely missed. Eric (a not-so-handsome cockatiel) disdained frivolity as such, although he did now and then enjoy watching Chloe (the spaniel) make a determined effort to hide on bath days. He was not a lover of fine arts although he did enjoy rock music with a particular fondness for Disturbed's cover of Simon and Garfunkel's "Sounds of Silence". During the day, Eric was free to come and go both in the house and outside. His favourite perch was upon the backrest of one of our outdoor chairs where he could watch the comings and goings of wild birds. Funnily enough, he never actually

felt the need to try and join them, but instead was content to ride upon my shoulder should I be mowing the lawn or digging the garden. I guess he knew when he was on a good thing, and why not? He received daily handouts, had fresh water on hand and received as much attention and comb scratching any bird could want. He and Chloe always got along well. Many a time I found the both of them curled up on our expensive leather lounge with Eric fluffed up and fast asleep within the warm and safe nook created by Chloe's front legs. On lazy days, I often found myself conversing with Eric about important matters such as why I could no longer hit Group 4s and 5s with any form of regularity or the eternal broadhead question of two blades versus three. As a listener, he was unsurpassed ... and his counsel I am only now finding irreplaceable.

I am proud to say in this report that I successfully circumvented a major financial disaster which loomed large during the late autumn. The subject of a new gas heating system reared its ugly head one quiet evening while I was enjoying my third or fourth whiskey for the night and sitting content in my favourite recliner with Chloe asleep on my lap. Mid-management was at the time mending a hole in the left knee of my favourite hunting trousers and the overall scene was near picture perfect. The only thing missing was an open fireplace. Instead, and like almost all urban homes in this country, this very essence of peace and tranquillity has been replaced by a television set which, I am pleased to say, was in the off position on this occasion. In hindsight, I have come to the conclusion mid-management was perhaps under the false impression the alcohol had somehow confused my rationale, because out of

the blue she just calmly stated it was getting colder and perhaps we should look into a gas heating system for the winter. Immediately, disappearing dollars clouded my vision and I instantly grasped that the dream I had about owning a new Black Widow was fast coming apart at the seams (akin to my hunting trousers). I said nothing but politely excused myself and took Chloe out the back and into the cool night air for her to do what she does before retiring for the night. I just so happen to think better when I am waiting for the dog to find just the right place to do her business and on this night my thoughts did not let me down. The very next afternoon, I presented mid-management with a brand new, top-of-the-line, soft and warm dressing gown which I found marked down at the local K Mart store. The crisis had been averted and the potential to one day own a new Black Widow was still within my grasp.

That about sums up the year from a fiscal point of view: Very few ups and a lot of downs. But does that make me stand out alone in a crowd? Probably not, I would say. It is the normality of life and all we can do is try to understand the whys so as to prevent similar recurrences in the future ... or at least make it so the blow is somehow cushioned and not as dramatic. I was probably being a bit hard on myself when I said earlier I was disinclined to accept new challenges and set new goals. What is life without a goal? Rest assured this will change, as I know I am edging closer to that time when I am no longer and I find myself in a place where reality and dreams are one and the same. We are but a tree growing in an open field and, until some farmer takes to us with a chainsaw, then life goes on. Until next time.





2017

NEW ENGLAND FALLOW HUNT

*Keeping the
opportunity alive*

For the past 12 years, I have been very fortunate to have had access to an excellent property west of Glen Innes in the New England ranges. Robbo, Dave, Jon Matsen and I have all had successes there. However, it is starting to look like the good days will not last forever.

This property has always had ample game to hunt and it could be said (by the owner and manager) at certain times of the year to be over-run with feral animals, thus their desire to remove as many as they can and increase the feed available to the cattle.

Our stay has always been in the peak of the fallow rut and usually for up to 10 days if required, but this year we were asked to move to a later start and an earlier finish to help accommodate two other groups of hunters ... it appeared my generous rum payment was not enough. Getting and holding good non-commercial properties to hunt on is becoming increasingly difficult.

Our club, the Grange Bowmen Inc. has, in the past two years had a huge increase in the members who now

GRAHAM NEWELL

have their Bowhunters Proficiency Certification (BPC) and the NSW-managed DPI R Licence. These newcomers to bowhunting are now more and more looking to going onto paid hunter properties as the problem now for these new inductees is how to find—and keep—quality properties. Perhaps it is becoming a similar story for us old timers, as I am now also discovering. Enough of that tale of woe, life goes on—as does feral game hunting.

I spent the first two days of the hunt mostly looking over the prospects. There was a good selection. As in past years, there were several good heads but this year I saw a higher number than usual of what we term 'stick heads'—deer with poor genetics, which affects the antler formation (lack of proper palms) and size. The cause is most likely inbreeding and perhaps poor feeding conditions during droughts.

While I was keen to get quality on the ground, I was not too worried by the fact I had not been successful on the first two days. After all, I had another six-plus days to hunt ... or so I thought.

On returning to the hut, I was given a note to call the manager ASAP. The news was, "Can you be out by Friday (one day's time) as we have others coming in". Well, that caused a little fast talking to get one more day. So leaving day was now Saturday, and I had to fast-track a hopefully successful outcome. Mate Robbo was not using his bow this year but was going to use his thunderstick instead.

Day 3 saw me out of bed early, decked out to handle the 5° temperature. With a hint of urgency in my stride, I headed to the best spot for the morning.

A steep climb took me 20 minutes from the vehicle to some cover above

the rutting and croaking stags all in the dark but with good moonlight to lessen the 'stumbles' effect

Dropping my backpack, belt and binos and taking only the rangefinder and bow, I belly-crawled through the heavy dew-covered grass for some 20 yards.

I could hear the bucks croaking, see several does and spikers, but I could not see the stags. This was because they were below me down a short but steep slope, which meant I needed to slowly lift my head, bow in hand (with arrow nocked) to select my target.

We all know how dangerous all those super-keen deer eyes can be



so this peek was done very slowly. I managed to range a stag at 29 yards but he had his backside to me ... more time to wait.

The stag then turned and moved closer to me. Now he was 23 yards away and facing me, but there was still no real safe shot opportunity.

The stag started croaking with increased volume and moved away from my position, turning broadside. I had no time to range him and guesstimated him to be 25 yards away. Unfortunately, because I had to keep low I was in a difficult squatting position, which made it hard to smoothly and steadily but quickly come to full draw out of deer sight. I managed it then raised myself and my bow, split the pins and released the Gold Tip traditional

arrow with a 125-grain Tusker Spirit up front.

The stag jumped a half metre high, trotted to the fence some 15 yards away, jumped the fence with ease and looked back my way. This action seemed to indicate I had missed. That was what I thought at the time, and even the rest of the deer did not run.

Frustrated and disappointed in myself, my thoughts now turned to the next stag, but these stags and does started to get suspicious and moved out.

On my own again, I looked for my arrow. Through my rangefinder, I could see it sticking in the ground, making me think I had indeed shot under the stag. I decided to collect the arrow and restart my hunt.

To my surprise, the arrow was covered in blood; it had in fact been a solid pass through (so I guess that means I need my eyes tested).

By then, it was after a good 30 minutes since I had taken the shot and I realised the stag could be anywhere if the shot had not been fatal. I walked to the fence but couldn't find a blood trail. I headed over a rise and down the western side into long grass (still no blood), mumbling to myself about how difficult it was going to be to find the stag—but not 30 yards from the fence there he was, in tall grass, a gift from the hunting gods at last. He had travelled only 50 yards maximum. The arrow had taken out his heart thankfully and as mentioned I had shot high but had hit the stag low. Still, it all worked out (for me, anyway).

Having taken my photos, removed the head and taken the legs for meat, I spent a few moments reflecting on the previous hour and realising that the hunt is not always over when we think it is.

I spent the rest of that day and



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



the next day in selected ambush places hoping to get that elusive big guy that both Robbo and I had seen several times. This down-time was indeed very pleasant, with several sessions of sleeping in the sun. Bowhunting is not always about the hunt but for myself more and more it is about the quality time in the bush.

Robbo did harvest a couple of nice stag, but I guess his story will be for the shooting magazines.

For people who would like to know what gear I use, I still shoot my vintage (five or six years old now) Mathews Helim set at about 63lb to 65 lb (my shoulders are wearing out) and I used Tusker 125 grain Spirit broadheads, which proved to be very effective. Following a demo on how to get broadheads 'shave sharp' by Dan Ferguson, a guide

from a 2016 hunt, I can say they were indeed shaving sharp!

I find other essential gear for these deer are rangefinder, quality binoculars, face mask, a good sharp knife, ties to tie head/antlers to your backpack and a quality rum or bourbon.

Where we hunt, there is a reasonable amount of down-time so a good book, quality food and refreshments are some seasoned hunter's essentials.

What will the 2018 season hold for me in New England? I don't know, but I'm thinking that maybe a bigger rum transaction will be on the agenda.



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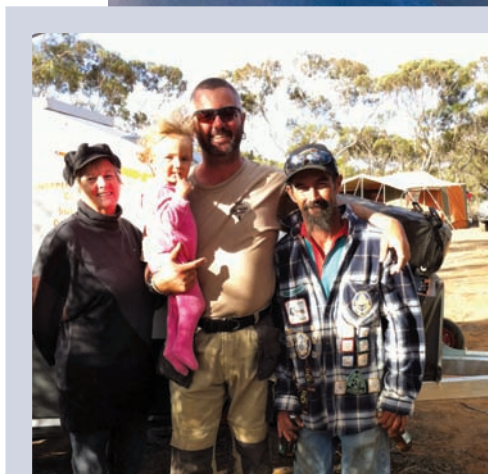
www.queenslandbowhunting safaris.com.au

Memoirs of an **ARCHERY NANNA**



Maria, enjoying being an archery nanna to Scout.

by Maria Beaumont



ABA family: Three generations—Maria, brothers Scott and Leslie and young Scout.

I was spending a Sunday afternoon sorting photos and came across a parcel at the bottom of the 2012 box. To my amazement, inside the wrapping was a little outfit my granddaughter had worn to the 2012 ABA National Safari that had been held at the Mallee Sunset Field Archers Range at Mildura in Victoria.

Memories from much further in the past came swarming back. I recalled the 1980s when I'd been a fellow archer, with my two boys towing along with their first bows at Coffs Harbour Bowhunters Club. We had gone as a family to two shoots every month—a club shoot and a Zone E Branch shoot. Some time over this period we camped at the Renegades for the National Safari and the boys came away with titles. From there, they were destined to become lifelong bowhunters.

I never imagined then that I'd be seeing one of their own offspring following in their footsteps 30 years later with a tiny 70cm self bow and arrows that resembled Nanna's knitting needles.

Scout, my first grandchild, had been registered as an affiliated member of ABA before she was born (a scheming proud dad had some assistance from Heather Pender to accomplish that). As a result, it was only proper that she attend the Nationals to check out the opportunities that would be coming up in her future years.

Having hung up my bow many years before, I took on the Official Nanny role to entertain the treasured babe-in-arms so my son Scott Heiman might be able to achieve a round without having to piggyback her in a kiddie carrier.

The dry dusty surrounds took a toll on the little one (and Nanna for that matter!), so we took refuge under the trees, with the occasional pram stroll to check out the bush scenery—and more red dust—of Mallee. (I should say that pushing a pram through this made me wonder how the explorers Burke and



*With Mum ...
... and Dad, a year later.*



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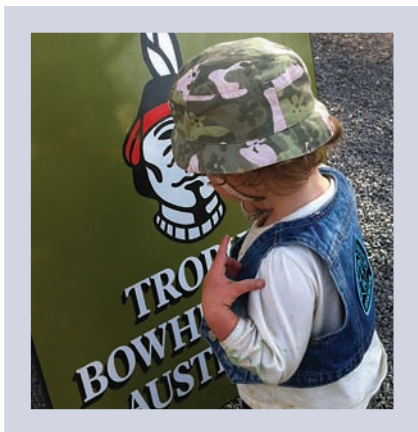
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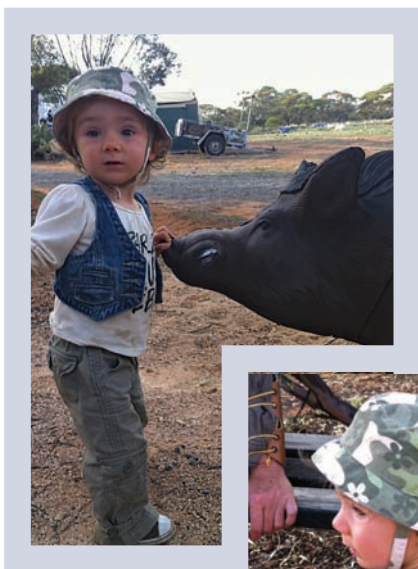
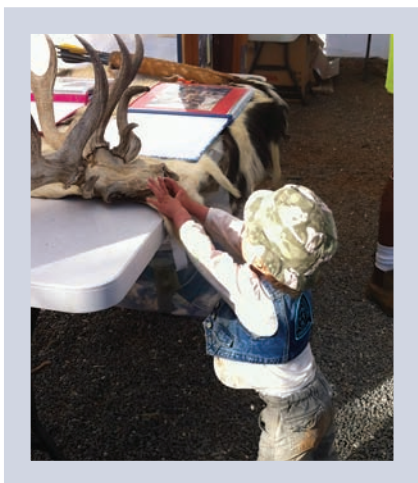
Wills managed with horse-drawn wagons). The TBA display tent of trophies and the fine art work of the hunters were a winner with both of us.

Her pockets were loaded with collected stones, so she pulled them out and arranged them on the display table to show her own creative talent. Then, from the corner of her eye, she saw a larger and more interesting subject than humble stones—a Bushbow 3D target boar. This was to become her new-found friend. “The Dog” just had to be fed until her little heart was content. Oh, if only one could have understood the words from the mouth of a babe as Scout dropped the rocks in front of The Dog and questioned why he didn’t eat.

I came out of my reminiscing to find myself back on the floor where I’d been going through my photograph box. But it wasn’t a photo that I sat holding; it was a pint-sized outfit still stained with the red dust of the Mallee Sunset Field Archers Club. I realised there were tears in my eyes from reliving the memories of my first nanny role. And I realised that memories stuck in a box, hidden away never to be seen unless by accident, was not what I wanted for this piece of treasure.

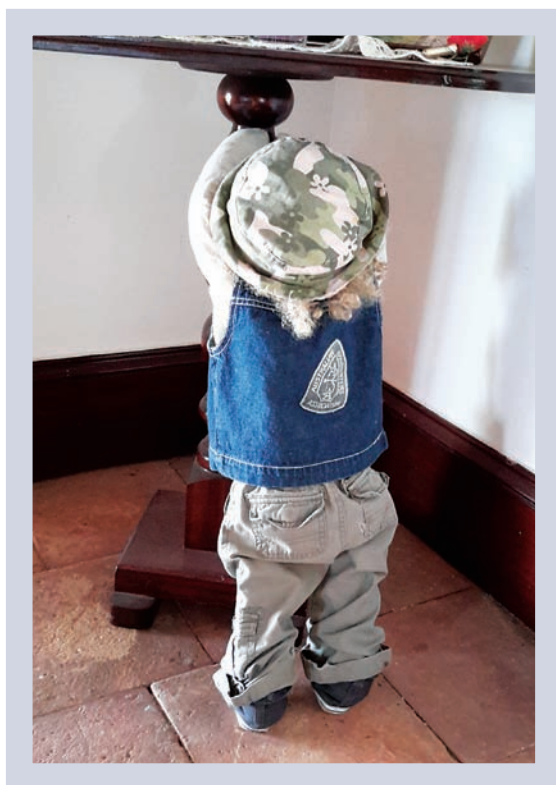
So out came the sewing needles, scissors, timber, wire and screws. After another wash of those dusty red-stained jeans I felt like I was in my very own Pinocchio workshop creating my own life-sized 18-month-old toxophilite. A few hours later, a little person stood in the corner playing peek-a-boo ... and she still does. Now every time I walk through my front door, I’m reminded of my ABA family and our days in the dust, the heat and the flies in the Mallee.

I may not have competed at the Nationals that Easter and perhaps was considered a mere camp follower ... but I realise now that I went home with the best trophy of anyone from the weekend—a dusty toddler’s outfit that would become a permanent reminder of the joys of being a new Nanna.



*Now Nanna has
a permanent
reminder of Scout
at her first National
Safari.*

*This pose was the
inspiration for the
mannequin.*



What's On

Where applicable, please use this as your tax invoice:

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AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

Branch 3D Titles

Wagga Wagga Field Archers

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 July 2017

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

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

To pre-nominate or for further info contact: Brian Coole Ph: (02) 6352 5628
or Email: branchscores@gmail.com

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

NO DOGS POLICY APPLIES TO THIS SHOOT

NO SMOKING ON THE RANGES WHILE SHOOTS ARE IN PROGRESS



Lilydale Bowmen 40th Anniversary August 19th & 20th

Roast Dinner & Club Trivia Saturday Night
4 ABA Rounds - Colour and Heritage ABA Targets
Swap Meet Saturday Afternoon & Novelty Events

Saturday

8:30am Bow Checks
9:45am Muster
10:00am 3 Arrow Round
Lunch 1 Arrow Round

Sunday

9:00am Muster
9:15am 3 Arrow Round
Lunch 1 Arrow Round
Presentations & Raffle ASAP

Fees – Adult \$25 Pensioners/Junior \$20 Cubs \$10 Family \$60

Pre Registrations to Steven Old gvbcore@gmail.com or 0418177980
Registrations close Wednesday 16th August late fees apply

Full Canteen open Saturday and Sunday • Breakfast – Lunch – Dinner
Past Members Welcome - come see the upgrades
Archery Alliance Event • Grounds open Friday 12.00pm

Club Location End of Pavitt Lane the Basin Vic - Melway Map 65 K5
Club contact Lindsay Harris Secretary@lilydalebowmen.com.au
Visit www.LilydaleBowmen.com.au for updates

NO DOGS – NO Alcohol until after the days events
In case of Extreme Weather conditions, the shoot will be cancelled

Townsville District Bowhunters Inc. Traditional Shoot 2017



Saturday

Nominations prior to 8.15am
7.30am Breakfast
9.00am START
1st x 5 shot at running pig (score)
On completion of RP, Teams move to target 1 and shoot 3D course.
1st Round 3D course 20 targets 1 arrow (score)
1.00pm LUNCH
2.00pm 1st Speed round 6 x 3D Targets at random. (scores)
More ass than class shoot (fun round) \$2/head, winner takes all.
2nd 5 shots at running pig (scores)
6.00pm DINNER
7.00pm Knife and axe throwing (2 rounds of each) scores combined (trophies)
Coke can shoot (fun)
Swinging pendulum (fun)

26th – 27th August 2017

Sunday

8.30am START
2nd speed round (scores)
On completion of speed sound, teams move to target 1 and shoot 3D course.
2nd Round 3D courses
20 targets 1 Arrow (scores)
12.00pm LUNCH
1.00pm Presentations

Camping facilities available. Please nominate for catering purposes. Meals available all weekend (Friday night meals provided free of charge for travellers) Snacks and drinks available.

All participants MUST supply ABA card. Nominations close 20th August 2017
Nominations to: Robin & Leone Woodfield (07) 47780140;
Tom & Lorraine Bruce 0430560310 brucedaviesfamily4@gmail.com
Dave Paulsen (07) 47753157 michellep632@bigpond.com.au
Nicole Powell (07) 47890445 nicole.powell2@bigpond.com.au

COLLINSVILLE BAREBOW HUNTERS CLUB INC

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th, August 2017



**Saturday night's dinner theme:
HALLOWEEN**

Shoot fees:

Adult \$25, Cub/Junior \$15, Family \$50

Complimentary Meal Friday Night

Contacts for Nominations:

Lindsay 0429 728 134

Brett 0429 411 399 Andrea 4785 5991

Email Nominations to:

cbhc@antenna-tech.com.au

Please supply ABA No. and shoot division

Must be in ABA to shoot

No Card - No Shoot - No Exceptions

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 19th

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 20th

6-7:30am Breakfast
8am ABA 3 arrow Round
ASAP Lunch and Presentations



SHOOT CALENDAR

July-August-September

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
July			
1st	Tuggeranong Archery Club*	NSW	Target QRE
1st-2nd	Hinterland Field Archers*	Qld	3DAAA
1st-2nd	Mackay District Bowmen*	B – Branch	Invitational
1st-2nd	Macleay Valley Archers*	E – Branch	Branch ABA
1st-2nd	West Gippsland Field Archers *	H – Branch	Branch ABA
2nd	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	President's Shoot
3rd-6th	Association of Norfolk Island Archers*	NI	3D
8th	Illawarra Archers*	NSW	Field QRE
8th-9th	Silver City Archers*	I – Branch	ABA, 3D, Indoor
9th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
9th	Full Boar Archers	B – Branch	ABA
13th-16th	Dead Centre Bowhunters*	A – Branch	Branch ABA
15th-16th	Wide Bay Archers*	C – Branch	C vs D Challenge
15th-16th	Wagga Wagga Field Archers*	F – Branch	Branch 3D
15th-16th	Western Melbourne Field Archers*	H – Branch	ABA
15th-16th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
16th	Boolaroo Bowmen	E – Branch	Special Event
16th	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
16th	Mackay and District Bowmen	B – Branch	3D
16th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
22nd-23rd	Blackwood River Archers*	J – Branch	Invitational ABA
22rd-23th	TBA –Mail Match*	TBA	National Indoor Titles
29th-30th	Granite Belt Bowmen*	D – Branch	ABA
30th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
August			
6th	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	President's Shoot
6th	Westlake Archers*	NSW	Field QRE
5th-6th	Kurrimine Beach Archers*	B – Branch	Invitational ABA
5th-6th	Namoi Valley Archers*	E – Branch	Invitational ABA
6th	Boola Valley Field Archers	G – Branch	ABA
12th-13th	Yorke Peninsular Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA/3D
12th-13th	Gunnedah Arrow Slingers*	NSW	3DAAA
13th	Towers Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
13th	Full Boar Archers	B – Branch	ABA
19th	Illawarra Archers*	NSW	Field QRE
19th-20th	Twin City Archers*	Vic	3DAAA
19th-20th	North Albert Field Archers*	Qld	3DAAA
19th-20th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	Invitational ABA
19th-20th	Gympie Field Archers*	C – Branch	Interclub ABA
19th-20th	Lilydale Bowmen*	H – Branch	ABA
19th-20th	WA Field & Bowhunters Club*	J – Branch	ABA & 3D
20th	Cape York Archers	B – Branch	ABA
26th-27th	Townsville District Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Traditional
26th-27th	Grange Bowmen*	D – Branch	Celebration Shoot
26th-27th	Silver City Archers*	I – Branch	Traditional

27th	Archery South Australia*	SA	State Clout
27th	Illawarra Archers*	NSW	Marked Field
27th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
27th	Mount Isa District Bowhunters	B – Branch	ABA
September			
3rd	Canberra Archery Club*	ACT	President's Shoot
2nd-3rd	Tully Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Invitational
2nd-3rd	Sapphire City Archers*	E – Branch	IFAA Indoor
2nd-3rd	Mallee Sunset Field Archers*	I – Branch	Traditional IFAA
9th	Macalister Trophy Bowhunters*	G – Branch	Branch ABA
9th-10th	SA Field Archers*	I – Branch	ABA
9th-10th	Towers Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Invitational
9th-10th	Emerald Archery Club*	C – Branch	Branch ABA
9th-10th	Mornington Peninsular Bowmen*	Vic	State Titles
9th-10th	Wingen Matchplay*	NSW	3DAAA
9th-10th	Mount Petrie Bowmen*	Qld	SQAS Field
16th-17th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters*	B – Branch	ABA
16th-17th	Roma District Bowmen*	D – Branch	Gold Cup
16th-17th	South West Slopes Sporting FA*	F – Branch	Branch ABA
16th-17th	Bendigo Field Archers*	H – Branch	ABA
17th	Cape York Archers*	B – Branch	ABA
17th	Mackay and District Bowmen*	B – Branch	3D
24th	Twin City Archers Gippsland*	Vic	Field Grand Prix
23rd-24th	Diamond Valley Archers*	Vic	3DAAA
23rd-24th	Gladstone Field Archers*	Qld	3DAAA
24th	Hinchinbrook Bowmen	B – Branch	ABA
30th-1st	Mount Isa District Bowhunters*	B – Branch	Invitational
30th-1st	Southern Yorke Archers*	I – Branch	Safari
30th-1st	Manning District Bowhunters*	E – Branch	State ABA
30th-1st	Cessnock Archers*	NSW	3DAAA

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




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☐ hard copy (mailed)

Post completed form to:

General Secretary ABA

PO Box 5124

Brendale Qld 4500

Phone (07) 3256 3976

Renewal ☐

New Member ☐

ABA Membership N°:

I, (full name) (M-F)

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

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

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

Email address.....

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

I am a member of (Club)

Signature of Applicant

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

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

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

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

Parent-Guardian Signature ABA Number if Applicable:

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

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

Receipt Number

Computer Entered

M'ship Forwarded

Card Number ↓ NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print)

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

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Expiry Date (mm yy)

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Signature

17/05/2017



APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE
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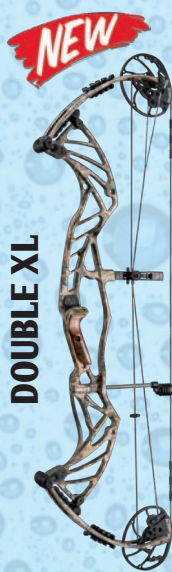
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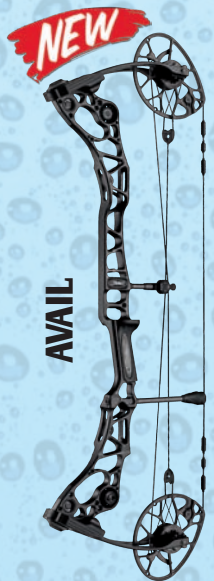
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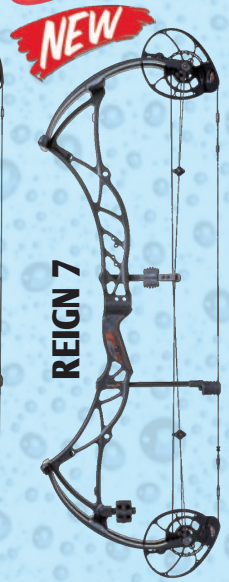
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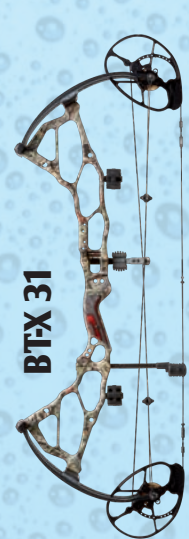
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