

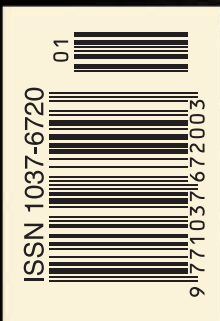
January February 2019 \$6.95

Archery Action

The Year the Records Fell

Timberline Sambar

SPECIAL FEATURE
Editor's interview with
Bowhunter of the Year
Marc Curtis



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19 to 22 April 2019**

All ABA members are cordially invited to compete at the 2019 National Safari Championships to be held at the Mallee Sunset Field Archers, Red Cliffs, Victoria.

Nomination Fees:

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

Closing Date for Entries is Monday 1st April 2019.
No late nominations will be accepted.

Last date for grading is 18 March 2019.

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

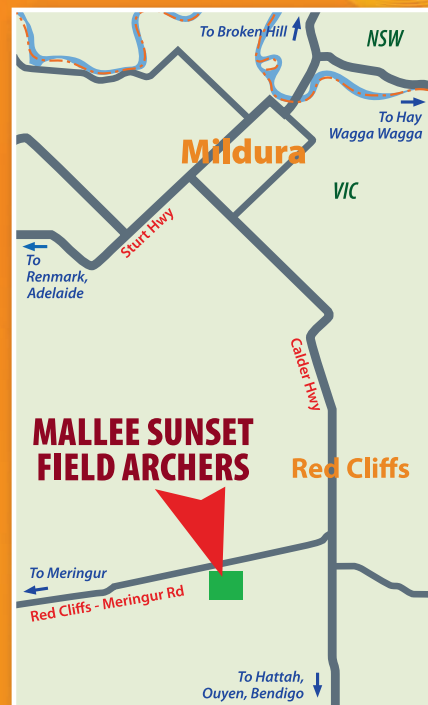
Timetable:

Muster each day at 8.00am for an 8.30am start

Registration and Bow Checks for all events - Thursday 18 April 2019.

ABA - Friday 19 April and Saturday 20 April (3 and 1 arrow each day), followed by presentations Saturday evening.

3D - Sunday 21 April and Monday 22 April followed by presentations Monday evening.



Camping:

Camping is ample at the range; anybody wishing for offsite accommodation can obtain further information from the ABA website. Definitely No DOGS allowed.

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

Entries:

All Nominations to be completed online via the ABA website and follow the links, www.bowhunters.org.au

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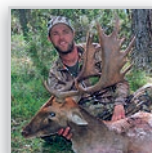
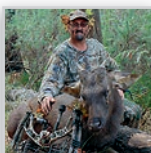
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◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Marc Curtis with a chital deer, one of the seven measurable species that won him the prestigious ABA award, Bowhunter of the Year. See the special feature on Page 38.

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It's a brand new year—and also the final year of the decade.

I can hardly believe the teen years of this century are almost over!

This could be a time of huge upheavals or it could be a year where everything seems to plod along the same as ever. We won't know until we're taking a rear-view-mirror look from the perspective of 2020 (20/20 vision indeed!). But at this moment, we can choose—unless we are overcome by catastrophic circumstances—to make it a year filled with personal growth, skill development and other worthwhile pursuits.

The only way to do this is to have a plan that gives us a process which we can follow faithfully. It's no use making a new year's resolution and then expecting that open-ended goal to take us anywhere near where we want to go. Success only comes with consistent effort, and that means the willingness

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE	DEADLINE
2019	
Vol 44 No. 4 March-April	1 February
Vol 44 No. 5 May-June	1 April
Vol 44 No. 6 July-August	1 June
Vol 45 No. 1 September-October	1 August
Vol 45 No. 2 November-December	1 October
2020	
Vol 45 No. 3 January-February	1 December



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to commit to the regular practice of whatever it is we want to improve or attain.

In fact, the 'getting there' process doesn't necessarily have any romance about it at all. It can be a grind. It can certainly take dogged determination. It can sometimes seem not worth the effort when we don't see great leaps of improvement. But just like people who have worked for 10 years to become overnight successes, our own successes are rooted in what we commit to doing on a regular basis.

So whether we're working to improve our Branch, grow our club or polish our archery skills, we need to follow the same basic procedure. Decide what we want, work out what needs to be done to attain it, then dedicate ourselves to the incremental tasks that are required along the way. We don't even have to think about our goals much once we've set them. We do that work first, then let the process take over. Commit to the boring bits. In fact, fall in love with boredom because it's the time we put in on a habitual basis that will end in improvement and ultimately, success. And that's not boring at all.

Jenel Hunt
Editor

FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

Traditional Trails—Nick Lintern

Bushcraft and Survival—Scott Heiman



TROY MORRIS



TIMBERLINE

sambar

In pitch darkness, we quickly settled into our ground blind. Twenty minutes of silence was broken by the sound of something breaking sticks and twigs. I knew it was deer moving above us on the crown of the spur and all we could do was sit and listen. My heart was quietly pumping with excitement but I was not saying anything to Cheryl to keep her calm.

Cheryl was set up ready to take a shot, sitting adjacent to one of the main game trails that led back into the thickened dogwood bush of the lower valley 16m to her left. I was tucked in the ferns below Cheryl, which gave me a clear view to the top of the ridges above us and lower section of the mountain.

Through my binos I started making out shapes moving through the timbered tops but struggled to make out exactly what they were or how many animals there were. The wait was intense as I played out scenarios in my mind. Twenty minutes went by before daylight finally started pushing its way through the canopy of the treetops and now I could see what was making all the noise—and I was blown away. The first animal I glassed

was a large-bodied sambar deer moving through the timber on top of the spur. The deer finally revealed itself to be a nice mature stag and he was supporting a good 24-inch set of antlers. Then I glassed another stag. The big fella was being shadowed by an apprentice stag with a smaller set of antlers as they fed following the main game trail that passed Cheryl as they contoured the mountain range. To my right I glassed four hinds and two half-grown calves as they slowly fed their way directly down the gully, then a big-bodied spikey appeared from around the spur to my right and fed in the open 50m from me.

My focus was straight back to the two stags which were now passing through a cluster of timber heading slowly towards Cheryl along the game trail. It was looking like the perfect ambush scenario as we waited like fern statues in our ground blind. Then to my disbelief I heard a noise of something behind us, I ever so gently turned around to get a look what was going on. To my disappointment, a sambar hind was moving directly up the gully heading straight behind us.

I swore under my breath, the hind would end up cutting our wind if she kept on climbing up the side of the gully. My response was to ignore her as I hoped she would turn and walk off back into the thicket of the gully. Turning back around revealed the stags were just moving out of the timberline with the big stag in the lead. It was now a game of patience. Cheryl was ready and I slowly raised my rangefinder and locked on the stag that was now at 35m quartering on. He still had plenty of bush coverage around him, but my heart was already pumping with excitement—and then, HONK. The silence of the morning was ripped away by the blasting noise of a sambar hind as she finally cut our wind behind us.

The two stags disappeared over the top saddle of the mountain in the blink of an eye and we could hear deer scattering through the bush everywhere.

The spikey stag, strangely, was still standing to my right and was now stamping his front hoof on the ground and throwing his head up in the air trying to smell what was wrong. He decided something was not right and it was time to leave. Dropping down

onto a game trail below him, he then veered off to his left and was heading away from me.

My whole mindset suddenly changed. We had travelled a long way from Western Australia to Victoria, the fridge was empty of venison at home and sambar deer do not fall out of trees. I quickly slid my hand through my bow sling and lifted my bow into position and drew as he passed by a stump that I had already ranged during the morning. My 50m pin locked in on his last rib and the bow went off. Crack, the stag bolted down the side of the mountain and disappeared out of sight with little noise ... and then there was total silence.

From what I had seen, the arrow impact was perfect for a quartering-away shot. We gave him 20 minutes then made our way over to arrow impact. To my disbelief, I found a small pool of gut fluid on the ground and then we found my arrow 5m away. It was soaked in blood but had a slight gut smell to it; not a good sign. I was worried. We tracked the deer straight down the mountainside as he had smashed his way through the dogwood on a direct route to the gully bottom, leaving a minimal blood trail which we

lost 10m from the bottom. The gully was extremely thick with blackberries, ferns and fallen timber— he could be hidden away anywhere!

I got Cheryl to stand on the last sign of the stag as I zigzagged the gully. I did that for a long time before mother nature called and I could not hold on any longer. Dropping my pack with Cheryl I ducked around into another gully to do what was required. Squatting down, I noticed the ferns I was nestled in were bright red. Wiping the ferns with my hands, I couldn't believe it: Blood. I fist-pumped the air and thanked the hunting gods and then ran back to get Cheryl. The stag had spun and turned back up the gully and contoured around into the next gully head. His blood trail was now bright as we followed it around the next spur ... then we lost his trail again. Cheryl stopped and said she could smell something, I turned around and looked down toward the gully bottom and could see my stag fallen amongst the logs below. To say I was relieved and happy was an understatement as I had really believed I had lost him.

On inspection, the arrow had impacted the second last rib, veered off and exited out the same rib on the



opposite side and had taken out the back of his lungs and had also passed through part of the gut. I was lucky.

Cheryl and I shared a great morning in the bush with the spikey stag that Cheryl unfortunately named Robert! We retrieved most of the meat, the cape and I even took his rear skin for a BOD man mount by Tarween Taxidermy. We packed all the meat products for the trip across the border. We were pretty happy to be filling up the freezer with our own venison again.

The next couple of days the weather turned extremely windy and our hunting endeavours took a turn for the worse as the deer went to ground. On the fifth day the wind finally started to die off and the sun was shining for the afternoon. I was itching to head for one of the back stands that I had not hunted before.

On arrival we quickly settled into our blind for the afternoon. Just after 5.30 we could hear a hell of a commotion going on in the bush to our right. I believed it was deer fighting but was not sure. Whatever it was, they were at it all afternoon and at stages the noise was intense, I was concentrating looking in to the bush to see what was making the noise when Cheryl tapped me on the leg and pointed through the blind, a hind with her half grown calf had walked out from the bush line and now fed a hundred metres below us, what a great sight. To our amazement over the next half an hour a spikey, three more hinds and two more half grown calves now fed in the open below us as daylight was just starting to fade. The spikey and a hind were feeding slowly toward us and were now 50m straight below us, Cheryl was ready and we just had to wait

for them to feed into range, when an explosion of noise came from the bush to our right as we both watched a hind running in full flight with a stag in hot pursuit. They burst through the fence and cut down through the clearing and disappeared back into bush a hundred metres below. I didn't get time to put my binos on the stag but I could see he was supporting a good set of antlers. Amazingly the deer feeding below us only put their heads up, looked and carried on feeding like nothing had happened. I looked back to where the hind and stag came through the fence and was blown away on what was standing there, a cracker of a stag stood on the fenceline looking straight down the hill towards us, not moving. I whispered to Cheryl not to move a muscle as I slowly raised my binos, a stag that haunts my dreams was standing there 70m away straight

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DG3 Overnight

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on. The stag supported a massive set of antlers, all I could focus on was his polished white tips and I could see them all. What a waiting game and a predicament; deer below us and the stag to our right and daylight fading fast. Finally the stag walked through the run into the fence and instead of turning left and moving in the open to my left he turned right and moved off following the fence line down and now feeding behind timber just out of sight.

By now we had to make a decision; the sun had disappeared behind the mountain range in the distance to the west, daylight was fading quickly and the deer below us were still too far away. I decided to quietly pack our gear away into our packs and we would back out of the stand. I just rolled over to move when Cheryl grabbed me on the leg, I slowly turned around to see a stag standing right in front of the stand. I slowly lifted my range finder, bloody hell—14m. Cheryl had already drawn her bow and was locked in. Crack, the shot went off and Cheryl's arrow flew off into the clearing below. Deer ran off everywhere.

Cheryl was shattered but totally excited as she was pumped with adrenaline; her arrow had hit the top of the blind as she thought it was 20m away. At the end of the day, Cheryl was extremely excited over what had been a mad afternoon, to see that many sambar deer out feeding in one area at close range was unbelievable and to be that close to securing your first sambar was something else.

The next two days was a little quieter as the weather turned for the worse and the temperature dropped and the rain settled in, the forecast for our last day was possible snow so with that we decided to pack up and head out of the mountains, not good weather for sand gropers.

We had the best trip together, four seasons in one week, venison packed in the fridge and another sambar on the wall. Our tally of sambar deer seen was 30 over seven days, which is amazing considering we had three out of the seven days with gale-force winds and we didn't see a deer during that time.

The big stag that silhouetted himself on the fence line will be embedded deep into my memories and will keep me and now Cheryl coming back to these magnificent mountains chasing that one-off trophy.

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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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Western Australia	Ken Neil	0418 926 862
Tasmania – see Victoria		
Trophy Bowhunters of Australia	Ralph Boden	(02) 4392 6810

BOWHUNTING DIVISION REPORT

by Mark Burrows
(Vice-President Bowhunting Division)



Poaching

Recently I was contacted by a Victorian Coastal property owner concerned with poachers using bows on his property. This person has collected a vast number of arrows obviously lost in the process of illegal hunting on his property. He has also found several animals that had been dispatched and either not found

or with their antlers removed.

As an Association, the ABA abhors this practice but we are a voluntary-based organisation, both in the running of the ABA and the compulsion to join the Association. There is therefore little we can do directly about this type of practice unless the perpetrators are caught and

prove to be members of the ABA.

This type of activity goes directly against our Code of Ethics and has the ability to affect all bowhunters who are going about their sport legitimately. It is therefore up to us as individuals to either have a word to those who are doing this type of thing, if they're your supposed 'mates', or dob them in. It only takes a small group in any environment to stuff things up for the majority.

AGM Bowhunting Technical Committee and TBA meeting

As is our usual practice, the full minutes of this meeting will be forwarded to all Branch Controllers and Field Representatives for distribution. An overview will be in the national minutes from the AGM, so everyone will have the opportunity to read what was discussed and voted on at that meeting. That said, I would still like to cover some of the major points here.

As a reminder, the Bowhunting Technical Committee is made up of all the associated hunting

departments, which include national representatives from the Measurers, BPC and TBA Branch departments along with all the Branch Field Representatives and any BPC officers who are available to attend. So any decisions are made with a great cross-section of your representatives and with the best interests of our members in mind.

For only the second time in the past 25 years, I was not at this AGM. I was still in South Africa after competing in the 2018 World Field Archery Championships. However the meeting was ably overseen by Ralph Boden, TBA Chairman and Troy Morris, Assistant National Measurer.

Deer measuring

From the National Measurers Course in May 2018 we discussed and agreed to a proposal to alter the fallow deer 5/8 rule to determine the start of the palm length without points measurement. The new process will make it much easier and quicker to acquire the start point of palm length. The new system was compared directly with the old

system over many heads and they compare very favourably with each other in coming up with the same start point.

Palm length will be defined by using the new 1/8 rule to define the starting point of the length of palm measurement without points. The beginning point for this measurement is determined by taking the narrowest width measurement of the beam above the trez tine using the calliper. The calliper is then opened 1/8 of an inch wider than the beam width measurement. The calliper is then placed back over the beam and moved up the beam until the calliper stops. Mark the beam in the middle; this is the starting point of the length of the palm without points.

BEO and BPC review

From the National re-accreditation Bowhunting Education training held in May 2018 it was agreed by all BEOs that the Bowhunting Education Manual needs to be updated to meet today's requirements. It is the plan to have the manual available in electronic format and the BPC test

Summary of Australian Bowshot Records				
Species	Holder	Australian Record	Record Class	Trophy Class
Boar	Michael Dacre	37 2/8	29	25
Goat	James Finlay	151 2/8	110	95
Buffalo	John Lopes	108 2/8	86 4/8	80
Camel	Kimberley Nicholas	32 6/16	29	25
Fox	Graeme Duff	11	10 2/16	9 3/16
Cat	Tim Pitt-Lancaster	8 5/16	7 10/16	7
Red Deer	Dan Smith	315 3/8	200	175
Fallow Deer	Darryl Bulger	276 4/8	190	150
Chital Deer	Dan Smith	204	160	140
Hog Deer	Stephen Tilley	111 7/8	70	55
Sambar Deer	Dean Scott	203 5/8	162 7/8	140
Rusa Deer	Jay Janssen	236	170	150
Shark BHFF	Barry Feeney	35 2/8	20	15
Shark BF	John Van Den Heuvel	51 6/8	41 4/8	15
Stingray BHFF	Barry Feeney	11 3/8	7 4/8	6
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8	11 4/8	10

Ladies Best of Species				
Boar	Kristan Bell	34 4/8pt		2017
Goat	Katherine Agale	127 1/8pt		2010
Buffalo	Christie Pisani	87 4/8pt		2017
Camel	Christie Pisani	30 7/16pt		2014
Fox	Helen Duff	10 14/16pt		2016
Cat	Lorna Hopkins	7 12/16pt		1984
Red Deer	Christie Pisani	268 3/8pt		2014
Fallow Deer	Margaret Cowin	150 7/8pt		1997
Chital Deer	Leny Smith	159 3/8pt		2010
Hog Deer	Elizabeth Proctor	11pt		2017
Sambar Deer	Nil			
Rusa Deer	Emma Johnson	195 6/8pt		2016
Shark BHFF	Lynda Fell	25 4/8pt		2016
Shark BF	Lynda Fell	23 5/8pt		2000
Stingray BHFF	Carolyn Rundle	9 7/8pt		1987
Stingray BF	Gleewyn Butson	14 3/8pt		1986

set up as an e-learning program. Our bowhunting policies, guidelines and rules will also be updated to give 100 per cent clarity.

Bowhunter activities

It was noted that the Bowhunter of the Year award does not seem to be given the prestige it deserves. This award took over from the Australian Champion Bowhunter and in the process seems to have been left behind. Several options will be looked at to further the promotion of this award.

The biennial TBA Muster is due to be held again in 2019. The Renegade club in Ipswich will be hosting this event and we hope to have more information for you in the next issue of *Archery Action*. (Preliminary information is included in this magazine on Page 65.)

RC/TC changes

A review of our game records and measurements was done in 2016 where we changed six species TC or RC measurements. Over the past month, Troy has reviewed our current game records and percentage factors. From our data, the figures are showing the changes made are positive and tracking in the right direction. However, the review did expose species that are misaligned with TC or RC percentages, particularly shark and stingray. With the shark BHFF, only 3 per cent of all sharks recorded have reached RC (in the past decade there have only been three RC recorded). It was therefore decided to lower the RC measurement for shark to 20pt, this would make achieving RC possible but from our total data still a hard target.

For stingray BHFF, only 1 per cent of RC have ever been recorded—two claims in 10 years. This is totally unrealistic. It was decided to lower



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

Bnch Hunter	Club	Game	Award	FK/FKOS	Size
B Dan Smith	Townsville Bowhunters	Rusa	RC		228 5/8
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		105 6/8
C David Brewer	Emerald Archery Club	Goat	TC		108 5/8
C Rodney Bagnall	Independent	Goat	TC		102 6/8
C Rebecca Darby	Saxon Archery Club	Goat	RC		115 3/8
D Brad Seagrott	Independent	Goat	TC		98 4/8
D Riaan Krause	Renegade Bowmen	Cat	GA	FKOS	0
E Gary Lander	Central Coast Moonterra	Pig	RC		29 2/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Pig	TC		28 6/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		110 5/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		100 6/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	RC		114 6/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		105
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		105
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		106 7/8
E Scott Meadows	Cobar Bowmen	Goat	TC		105 5/8
E Ben Ireland	Namoi Valley Archers	Goat	TC		107 2/8
E Graeme Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Goat	TC		97 2/8
E Helen Duff	Northern Tableland Archers	Fox	TC		9 9/16
E Dillan Gardner	Sapphire City Archers	Pig	GA	FKOS	17
F Dan Podubinski	Independent	Cat	RC	FKOS	7 12/16
F Dan Podubinski	Independent	Goat	TC		99 4/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunter	Fallow	RC		202 7/8
G Marc Curtis	Macalister Trophy Bowhunter	Chital	TC		145 4/8
H Joshua Rosati	Bacchus Marsh Bowmen	Fox	RC	FK/FKOS	10 2/16
H Anthony Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 9/16
H Anthony Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
H Anthony Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Goat	TC		95
H Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat Bowhunters	Fox	TC		9 15/16
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Goat	TC		100 2/8
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Rusa	RC		182 5/8
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Fallow	RC		218 3/8
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Camel	TC		27
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Camel	TC		28 4/16
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Camel	TC		28 5/16
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Camel	RC		30 11/16
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Cat	RC		7 11/16
H John Scott	Break O Day Field Archers	Cat	RC		7 12/16

the RC to 7 4/8pt, which is a possible target but still low percentage from our total data taken.

Sambar and rusa deer were also looked at but it was decided to leave these for 12 months to enable further study.

To finish off, I would like to wish all our members the very best for the new year in whatever you may be doing. Keep those broadheads sharp, get out for a hunt and when you do take animals, remember to keep sending those claims in.



Gary Lander RC pig 29 2/8pt.

I David Hampel	Border Bowmen	Cat	RC	FK/FKOS	7 14/16
I David Hampel	Border Bowmen	Cat	TC		7 4/16
I David Hampel	Border Bowmen	Fish	GA	FKOS	0
I David Hampel	Border Bowmen	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		10 1/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 5/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 8/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 4/16
J Luke Hebb	Peel Archers	Fox	TC		9 13/16
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Camel	RC		30 8/16
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Camel	TC		28 2/16
J Josh Balsley	Western Plains Archers	Fish	GA	FKOS	0
J Doug Bourman	Western Plains Archers	Rusa	GA	FKOS	137 2/8
J Troy Morris	Western Plains Archers	Rusa	GA	FKOS	140 2/8



Doug Bourman, rusa.

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Bowhunting achievements to 21 November, 2018



Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



Introducing NEW TBA MEMBER Rebecca Darby

Master Bowhunter

Graeme Duff	800
Helen Duff	770
Luke Hebb	530
Tyler Atkinson	480
David Luxford	390
John Scott	340
Luke Sampson	330

Trophy Bowhunter Award

Bradley Seagrott	280
Joshua Balsley	240
Dan Podubinski	210
Toby Gall	200

Bowhunter Award

Graham Otto	170
Donald Moor	150
Anthony Atkinson	140
Jason Lesnik	140
Daniel Ferguson	130
Gary Lander	130
David Rethus	130
Marc Curtis	120
Elissa Rosemond	120
David Brewer	110
Wade Bygrave	110
Benjamin Ireland	110
Brenton Mitchell	100
Theo Vanderburg	100

Bowhunter Royale

Nil further since last report

Bowhunter Imperial

Nil further since last report

Bowhunter Supreme

Luke Hebb

Royale Ishi

Troy Morris

Senior Member of TBA

Nil further since last report

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

Rodney Bagnall
Rebecca Darby
Joshua Rosati
David Hampel

Where do you live?

Maryborough, Queensland.

What club do you belong to?

Saxons Archery Club. I'm also in Hervey Bay Archers for FITA.

How long have you been an ABA member?

Thirty-one years. I became a member when I was six!

How long have you been bowhunting?

I grew up in an archery family. It was Dad who got me into bowhunting. I used to hunt as a teenager in Inverell (NSW) but hadn't done any hunting for about 20 years. Now my partner and I hunt. I shot two game goats out at Charleville after the ABA Nationals there and shot a small pig last Christmas at Inverell.

How often do you get to go hunting?

Not often enough! We had a week after the ABA Nationals in Alice Springs this year then managed to squeeze in another weekend in October. And over Christmas back home in Inverell there'll be a chance to go hunting, hopefully with Graeme and Helen Duff. I would say I would be lucky to get out three or four times a year to hunt.

What equipment do you use (compound/recurve/longbow)?

Compound. When I competed in the Commonwealth Games (2010 in Delhi), I used a Mathews Prestige. I have an Elite 35 for target and I hunt with a PSE DNA. I've also just started with a recurve. Now, that's challenging!

Has this encouraged you to do more hunting?

Well, when we went out west to hunt goats in October I was trying to get a Trophy Class so I was pretty happy with my RC. I'd like to do more hunting. It's just a case of finding the time and the properties to hunt on. It's a bit hard unless you know people who have properties.

Do you have any hunting goals that you would like to achieve/bowhunter awards etc?

Yes. I'd love to aim for some of the awards. And short term I'm hoping for a fox over the Christmas holidays!

Did you know much about TBA before this?

I really didn't know much about TBA until I started hunting again in the past couple of years. My partner is already in TBA.

The TBA Committee congratulates you on your achievement, Bec.





Rebecca Darby, RC goat 115 3/8pt.

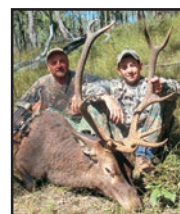
“

We'd seen a heap of goats go out that morning but we got there too late and they'd been and gone. It was very hot and very dry so we had to pick our moments, and waiting at the waterholes seemed the best plan, even though it was boring to just sit and wait. We had a blind set up, because there was no cover out there.

We had a couple of little mobs come in but nothing decent. Then this big fellow wandered in by himself. He was very stand-offish and there was no chance for a shot. But eventually another billy and he came in, not all that long before dusk. It was my partner's turn but he missed—and his misfortune was my chance. So it will be me putting the mounted horns on the wall!

When I was a kid I had a few goes at shooting foxes and goats. Foxes are a massive adrenaline rush. They come in at a million miles an hour and they might come to 10m, 5m or sit right at your feet. I can't wait for our Christmas hunt to try for some Inverell foxes.”

”



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Paul Jurskis Memorial Shoot



On Sunday October 28, members of five local archery clubs came together to shoot in memory of an archery comrade.

Paul Jurskis was a dedicated member of Boolaroo Bowmen, and it was our club that decided to host the event. He passed away earlier in October after fighting a determined battle against cancer.

Paul came to archery only a few years ago, and in that time proved himself to be a talented and natural archer with a willingness to learn and try out any new compound bow that came his way. He also helped out extensively at our range and was responsible for reclaiming and regenerating a lot of the bushland and sought assistance from Landcare with advice on replanting of native species and the removal of noxious and invasive flora. His efforts will be seen for many years to come by all who shoot at our range in Fassifern. In the past year Paul also took on the role of club treasurer.



Paul Jurskis ... a shoot was held in his memory.

Paul's love of archery, and the local archery community, is proven by his joining, and helping out, at nearly every club in the area. It came as no surprise to anyone that, amongst the 62 archers present on the day of the memorial shoot were members of Hunter Bowmen, Cessnock Archers, Lake Macquarie Field Archers, Westlakes Archers and of course, Boolaroo Bowmen.

The event held was a 3D ABA style three-arrow morning round, and single-arrow afternoon round. The course was designed to be challenging and fun. Despite some intermittent light drizzle the day proved to be hugely popular with lots of laughs and bemoaning of misreading distances. All shooting styles were catered for ranging from compound to Olympic recurve and traditional longbow.

Boolaroo Bowmen decided that part of the proceeds from the day should be donated to cancer research, so there was a novelty card shoot as well. With the generous support of those present, just over \$800 was raised for this worthy cause.

As sad as it is to see one of our own leave us, it is gratifying to know that a shared love of archery is capable of bringing so many together.

*Stephen Heusz
Secretary, Boolaroo Bowmen Inc*





Shooters came from five archery clubs to honour the life of Paul Jurskis.

29 June 1948-24 September 2017

The Jack Rice Memorial Shoot was held on Saturday, October 6, hosted by Gleneagle Field Archers in Bedfordale, WA.

Twenty shooters participated in the event, shooting at ABA black-and-white target faces. It was presented as a traditional shoot for longbows and recurves, and many shooters chose to use wooden arrows. Trophies and prizes were donated by various sponsors, including Molinjer Archery, Claremont Firearms and BCF and were well received.

We were honoured to have Jack's daughter, Kelly Rice, participate in the shoot.

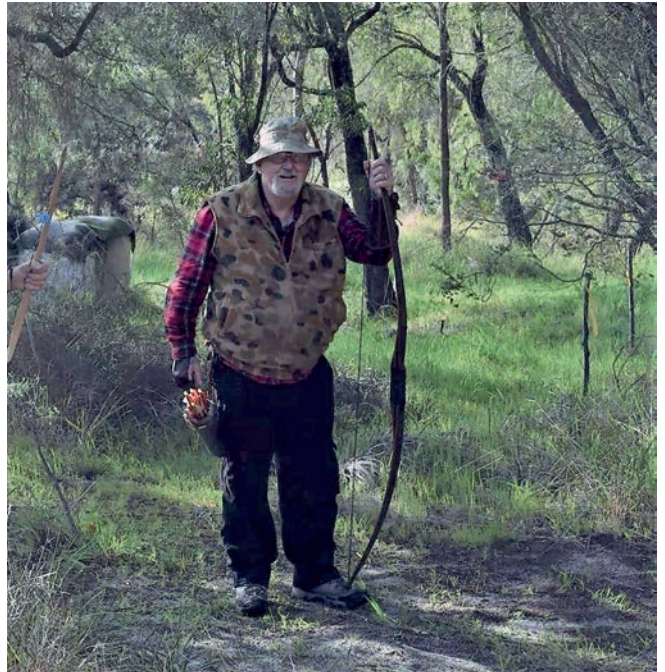
Kelly brought down Jack's well-remembered and prized shooting jacket. Looking at the jacket was a walk down memory lane, adorned as it was with embroidered club badges both back and front. The badges and pins were collected by Jack from every club and from shoots that Jack had attended throughout his career. He participated in just about every club and event over the years.

After the shoot we sat down and reminisced with Kelly and each other about Jack and the good times and the memories. Jack was usually one of the first to get to a country ABA shoot weekend, staying the Friday night, setting up his tent, getting ready for the next day.

For those who knew Jack, it was no surprise that he was driving down to the weekend shoot in Bunbury on the Friday night that he had his car accident, just down the road from South West Bowmen.

We miss you, Jack.

*Ilse Gosper
Secretary, Gleneagle Field Archers Inc*



Kelly Rice with her Dad's prized possession, a vest carrying many embroidered club badges. He also collected pins for his hat.

Branch E's inaugural financial assistance for a cub or junior attending a national or international event

2018 Recipient Joshua Ford

Joshua Ford was the recipient of a \$200 cheque, presented at the Branch meeting held during the IFAA Indoor Branch Titles at Inverell (November 3 and 4, 2018). The Branch's gesture helped offset travel costs in attending the World Field Archery Championships (WFAC) 2018 held at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Josh being a minor, I (Mum Cheryl-anne) accompanied him as a support parent to WFAC where, with other members of the Australian team, he competed with 410 archers from 25 other nations. Josh formed several friendships at his first overseas competition and competed secure in the knowledge he was backed not only by his ABA Branch but also his club, Boolaroo Bowmen. He came home with a gold medal in his division which now sits beside his National Boys Championship Title.

We both had a great time with Josh able to renew friendships and catch up with archers he had shot with at WFAC 2016 held at Wagga Wagga. Touching down in Sydney on October 15 with a large component of the Australian team, all tired and jet-lagged after our 13.5 hour flight, we landed full of appreciation as to just how lucky we are to call Australia home.

As parents we wish to congratulate ABA E Branch on this inaugural initiative in providing token financial support to a cub/junior's family towards their travel costs in attending a national/international archery event. Whilst the money was appreciated, the backing and support Josh received from his fellow Branch members was immeasurable and meant each day's competition was shot with pride.

Proud parents

Cherylanne Bailey and Kerry Ford



Presentation of the cheque from Branch E.



Josh with his medal from WFAC.

A photograph of two mountain goats with dark and light patches on their bodies, standing in a shallow water hole. They are both drinking from the water. The background is a rocky, light-colored hillside.

THE YEAR

DAVID BREWER

Unfortunately the hunting year finished a little early for me in 2018, and as I sit thinking about my time in the bush it would be fair to say it was quite an extraordinary year. Just with goats alone, it was a season to remember. I've been chasing big stinkers for well over two decades since a good mate first introduced me to his obsession. I have taken some great goats over the years but that Record Class goat has always eluded me. As for the dream that the great man Nick Harvey introduced me to, claiming that a 40-inch goat is the mark of a trophy for a rifle hunter, surely a 40-inch is exceptional for a bowhunter! This year we hit that mark.

THE RECORDS FELL



January has become a bit of a goat tradition and one of my favourite hunting getaways. This year with a group of close mates and a son in tow, I headed south to try to find some big stinkers.

After a long dull drive, we arrived at our temporary home around mid-afternoon. I quickly introduced my hunting mates to the property owner then we dropped our kit, grabbed our bows and headed off to give the boys a quick orientation of the property so we would be ready

to get an early start the next morning.

I've been hunting this property for over a decade now and some big billies have come off it during that time but never a Record Class. Nick changed that on day one, a big white billy coming in to water and a great shot that saw the first Record Class for the year hit the deck. And what a goat he was—39in and over 126pt. Things were shaping up well as this billy wasn't even the biggest Nick had seen that day and the story of the one that got away was what



Nick took this big white billy on the first day of hunting.

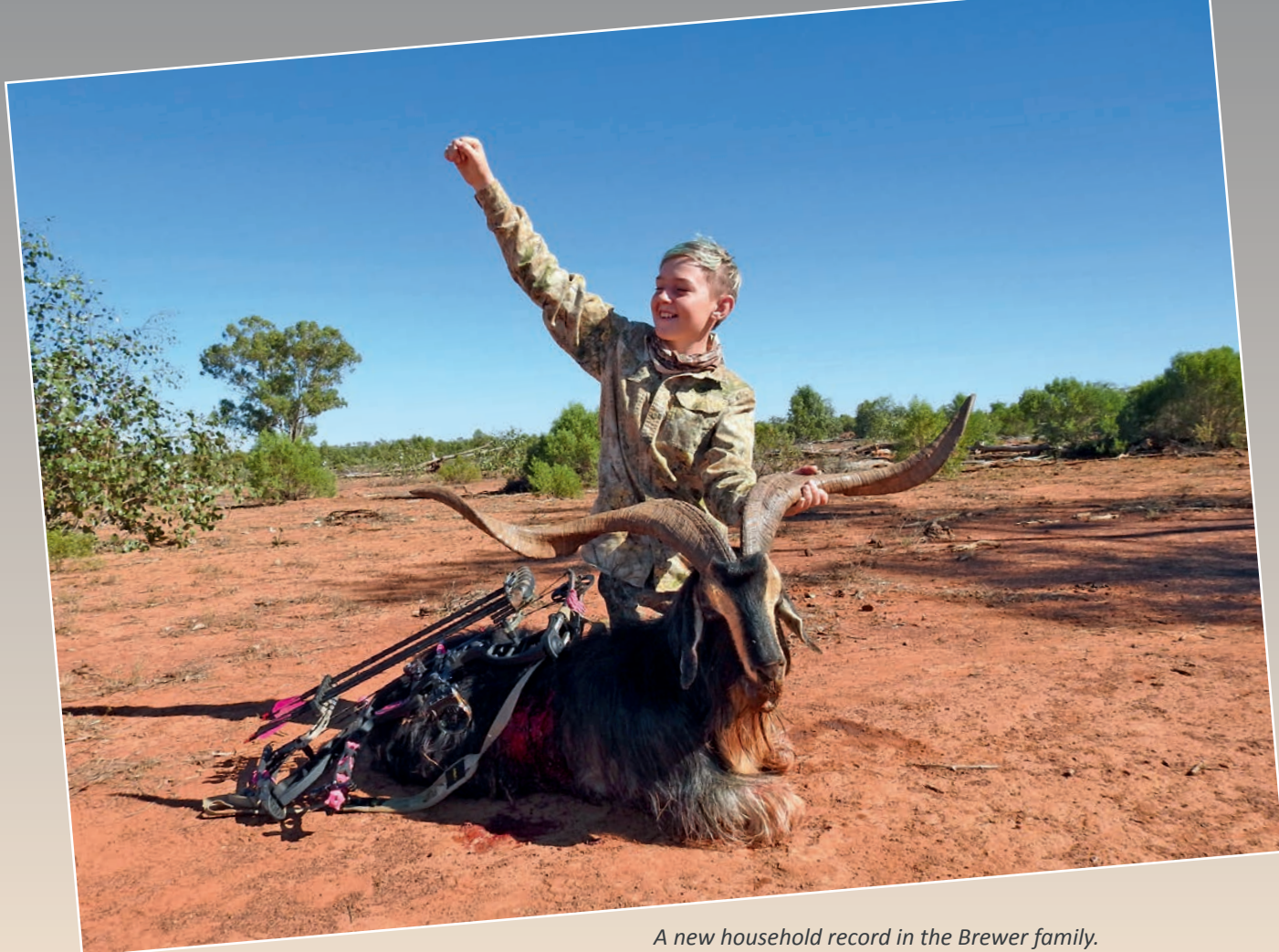
sent us to bed with pleasant dreams of what was to come in the days ahead.

The coming days saw both Rob and Sam take some great billies of their own, both Trophy Class. This was Sam's entry into TBA—well deserved! Rob managed to get himself a wild ram as well, which had him doing cartwheels around camp. Meanwhile, my son Mitchell (his nickname's George) had been getting amongst the billies as well but—try as we might—just couldn't get the job done. Every day, multiple times a day, we had chances at some of the biggest goats I had ever seen, but luck just didn't fall our way. Mitchell, only 13, was shooting under 50lb, which meant we needed to push our luck a little closer than the other boys needed to get. During one of our nature walks following a mob of about a dozen bachelor billies, I saw what, now hauntingly, is the biggest billy I have ever seen, bedded down not 30yd away under some mulga. We had followed these billies and they had led us right up to this monster. This guy had to be well over 40 inches, and heavy; he matched Nick's description perfectly. Sorry George, this one's mine! I reached around for my bow, my bow ... George, grab my bow for me, I

can't reach it! Dad, you don't have your bow! I had been trying so hard to get a trophy goat for Mitchell I had left my own bow in the ute. This was a once-in-a-lifetime goat so, planting Mitchell under a tree, I headed back the 2km to the ute for my bow and back again as quickly as I



Sam's entry into TBA is assured with this Trophy Class goat.



A new household record in the Brewer family.

could. Alas, while I was getting back to Mitchell, the billy had moved off. We tracked the bachelors hoping he had stayed with the mob. We found them but we didn't find the monster with them. I guess you don't get that big by being stupid. Mitchell put a good stalk on the remaining goats but unluckily he couldn't get that clean shot.

The last day came around fast and Mitchell was still goatless, so we headed to water to sit like we had other days and hoped for a change of luck. The day before we had goats under 10yd but too close to get a shot away. Well, our luck had changed—here came a mob of goats, billies in the lead, and they would walk past at under

20yd. This time, surely ...? Everything went to plan, right up until the shot. It was not Mitchell's finest moment and it hit him hard, the poor little fella, as he watched the mob of goats run off in a cloud of dust. He knew it was the last day and we were the only ones who hadn't been fortunate enough to get a goat on the ground.

Turning around, my heart skipped. Here was a big goat on his own, coming over the dam wall. In and out he came, only in view for a couple of minutes. It's no wonder these big goats are hard to find. Unless you're there at exactly the right place and the right time, you would never even know they were there. This billy was coming



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home with us. We trailed him into the scrub and slowly and carefully moved in to under 10yd. Mitchell wrote his own story on this goat so if you're a regular reader of the magazine you know the story ... the punchline ends with a smile and a new household record and my 13-year-old outdoing Dad's 20 years of goat hunting. Arriving back at camp, Mitchell took great delight in telling all that he got a goat but it wasn't forty inches—it was forty one! There was a few "Yeah right" moments before he presented the head for all to see. High fives fast and furious. It was a proud Dad moment and the second ever Record Class to come off this block.

That night as I sat back and relived the week of near misses I got the need to try one last time and find a goat for myself. Leaving Mitchell in bed asleep, I headed off to that same dam at daylight. Some good goats came and went but not the big white billy we had seen earlier in the week. With time against me, I prepared to head for camp. Just as I was standing, a good billy came up and over the wall and down to the water. He wasn't 40, that

was for sure, but he had plenty of curl. Broadside, 50m or so: I can do that, I was thinking. The shot made, he turned and ran up the wall. I dropped down and skirted the dam to follow him up. I guess I should have watched a little longer because he never even made it out of the dam. Photos taken, I headed back with what turned out to be my best ever goat and my first Record Class at 115pt.

It was a great trip, with three records in the bag.

June saw Mitchell and me back again, that big white billy firmly in my mind. We took some good goats but no sign of the big boys from earlier in the year. That's the only trouble with goats, they move around and with the meat market so strong they get mustered up pretty quickly unfortunately. Still, plenty of pigs and some trophy class goats made for a good father-and-son trip.

Then started the phone calls, "Dave, I want to shoot some big goats." "Bec's on the phone, she and Mouse want to go for a trip on the October long weekend." So, let me get this straight: You want to drive 12 hours, hunt for two days and drive 12 hours home again? Okay ...



Dave's first Record Class billy.



Goats on the move. Bec said she'd never seen so many billies before visiting this property.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Hey, Dave, I thought this story was about goats.

Arriving in the dark, we set a blind on a likely hot spot. It was as dry as I'd ever seen and there wasn't a lot of water about so with Bec and Mouse only having two days, we had to make the most of it. On the first morning, the goats beat us to the water. Bec said it was the most billies she had ever seen and there were some absolute crackers among them. We left the goats alone with the plan to beat them to the water the next morning. We headed to another location. Bec and Mouse had some adventures that day but no joy, so the next morning had us up at 4am to be in the hide before sun-up. No goats came that morning but they had to be about so Bec and Mouse stayed in the blind that afternoon as well.

The afternoon saw a billy march in to water. Mouse's shot, Mouse's miss, Bec's opportunity: Shot taken and billy down (see photo and Bec's story on Page 16). Not

a bad way to enter the TBA Club with a 115in Record Class and the fourth for the year on this block. Job done, Mouse and Bec headed for home, leaving Mitchell and me on our own for a few more days.

Watching goats come and go, we hadn't seen one that either of us wanted to take ... until right off in the distance I noticed a big white goat ...

I pointed him out to Mitchell and he watched him for a while through the binos before declaring, "Dad, he's a 40: You can shoot him if he comes in." Well, thanks George. That billy bedded and watched the water for over an hour. Goats came and went and he continued to watch from the safety of the timberline right up until he disappeared. I didn't see him rise so had no idea which way he even went and confusion reigned supreme. Should I wait, should I go look for him, what should I do?

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I waited, and half an hour later he appeared about 100yd away, again he waited and watched. It took another half an hour before he came in to the water and when he came it was fast and to the far side of the dam without a shot on offer. This wasn't the big goat from earlier in the year but he was still a cracker and had me out the back of the blind, running around the edge of the dam, a superman swan dive under a fence, a sprint to the top of the dam wall, draw, range and fire as he was moving away. The shot wasn't my greatest but was enough to pull him up on the edge of the treeline and stand in the shade. Using a crude form of hand signals and charades, I had Mitchell bringing my pack and the slow stalk began to close the gap over open country. Keeping what little cover there was between the billy and us, I managed to get the gap closed to under 30yd and finish the job on a

new PB 39in spread 117in billy, making five Record Class billies for the year.

What a year 2018 was for goats—a year long to be remembered as the first time I achieved my own records, witnessed some great mates take their own PBs, landed the magic 40-inch mark and came face to face with a true goat of a lifetime. That's plenty to remember until January comes around and we chase those records again.

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



Dave's new PB.

Around THE TRADS

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

Sue Wallace

✿ It was unfortunate that there wasn't more advance notification for the date for Manning Valley Trad Shoot in September. Consequently the numbers were lower than expected, which was perhaps a little disheartening for the club. Still, the club's Facebook page indicates everyone was having a great weekend. We shall keep our fingers crossed for the club to hold a trad shoot this year.

✿ When we arrived at Chevallan Archery Park for the September 29-30 shoot, there were already quite a few campers who had come to enjoy the area, and one travelling archery couple having visited Yeppoon, and were picking up the trad shoots on their way back to Lithgow in New South Wales.

After setting up a couple of targets and checking the layout of the course, a few of us went over to the practice butts to have a shot. The wind had come up and our arrows were flying a little sideways toward to the targets. As we collected our arrows we realised we were being watched by quite a lot of the campers so invited them to walk around and watch some of the events the following day.

After dinner we sat around the fire

enjoying a few nightcaps, while the sky around us kept lighting up and storms grumbled in the distance.

Saturday dawned with a medium dense fog; it was going to be a fine day for archery. When we went off after muster the day it wasn't too hot, however it was windy. For this weekend we decided to go around in a rather large group, and we also had a cub with us, so at the clout range there was a staggered layout of shooting positions. We let the young fellow shoot and moved him up a little each time until he was getting his arrows in the circle. Shooting back the other way was just as tricky as we were wind assisted and some shots went a bit too far.

Once we had finished the clout, we went to the rolling discs and met up with the campers, then we did the 30-second speed round followed by the popinjay. Shooting flu-flu arrows skyward and into a head wind makes hitting owls-on-high very interesting indeed! I explained the different events to the campers as we were doing them, and they were all quite keen to follow us around the course.

We headed down to do the field course. For this trad shoot the 60-second hunt round had been

inserted where Targets 2 to 4 were often found. The targets had been set in place as a walk-through, with three plates/targets on the left of the path and three on the right and you could either shoot all the targets on the left going down, then all the targets on the right coming back, then continue until the time was up, or you could zigzag your way from one side to the other through the course.

The rest of the course included a javelina in front of a log under a canopy of lantana, a crocodile heading up an embankment and a small baboon in the remains of a very large tree trunk—both in areas we had not shot before, which was brilliant.

After a short break it was time to grab the flu flus and head down to the lolly popinjay, which was also close to where our audience was camped, so they enjoyed the event from the comfort of their camp chairs.

For this event you shoot at hinged round targets that fall down when hit. There were nine of us in the group, and five of us had hit three of the targets, so were on the same score as written on the scoresheets. To make it interesting, I thought it would be good if we have a little shoot-off to get



Chevallan clout.



Chevallan Sunday rain tree.



Archers at Manning.

the 'winner of our group' just for this event. So the five of us shot one arrow only and we all made it through to the next round, so another arrow each and then there were three. A further round and then there were two, another round and there was one. The winner then took another shot, just because he could, and yes, if you're wondering, he did hit the mark!

We walked down to do the moving target then wandered across to the field course.

After dinner we lit the fire and sat around it solving all the problems of the world.

Sunday was looking rather overcast as we all headed off. (Did we take brollies with us? Of course not!) We were joined by a few more of the local archers, so they formed their own group and went around.

Two of us in our big group had shot recurves the day before and were shooting longbows this time. We were surprised to find the scores were only a little different between the two bows.

It started raining later in the morning. One group was down at the tea tent and our group, which was now bigger than yesterday with the arrival of two more archers, found ourselves playing games under a very large tree down the bottom. There was one

person holding many bows while two of us went and scored the four targets we had all just shot in the drizzle.

Once the drizzle eased we carried on to finish the course and headed back to camp. At this shoot the Kylie Cousins Encouragement Award was presented to a lady archer whose score had improved since our last shoot.

* The following was sent to me by one of the regular club members: Hunter Valley Traditional Archers were blessed with glorious weather for their Andrew Spiechowicz Memorial Shoot held on the October long weekend. Ninety-nine of the 150 people present nominated to participate in the shoot as competitors.

New range captain Keith and his helpers set up three ranges that were spread out over the varied and beautiful area that is HVTA. Each one-arrow range consisted of 10 3D targets set up to give archers a feel for hunting, hence no butts.

Scoring novelties included the speed round, hunt round, running pig, bow bird and rolling disc. The unusual set-up of the hunt round saw archers moving in a large oval, giving equal advantage to both left and right handers. The axe and knife was also very popular on Saturday afternoon.

The wonderful part of this shoot is the overwhelming generosity of the archers. All profits raised each year go directly to small charities. The 2018

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HVTA group



Hogs' Hollow at Tenterfield



Sunshine Coast shot.

year raised \$5500 towards Mums' Cottage. This charity helps young families needing somewhere to turn for support.

Early Saturday evening was a time for memories and reflection as everyone gathered for a drink looking down over Andy Spec's favourite spot. There were tears flowing as Nick Lintern spoke of three wonderful HVTA archer friends who sadly were no longer with us, Specs, Andy Firth and Erik Neilson. Erik lost his battle with cancer just a week and a half before this year's shoot. Friendship arrows were swapped and folk slowly made their way back for the evening's generous baked dinner.

On Sunday there was time for course completion and Towball's Spinning Deer and Archery Poker. It was all good fun and a great time for people to catch up and chat. Sue's head shave along with raffles, including a new longbow donated by Norseman, raised valuable money for Mums' Cottage. The presentation acknowledged the most skilled archers.

Positive visitor comments included observation of the fantastic family atmosphere that is found at HVTA. The number of three-generation campsites is increasing and it is lovely to watch the older folk passing their knowledge to the young ones. There were many children, teenagers and the odd dog or two having a great time.

HVTA looks forward to seeing everyone again at their 20th Anniversary Gathering on the June long weekend and another charity shoot during the October long weekend.

HVTA will host the Andy Firth Memorial Trad Shoot on March 30 and 31.

* Here is a story on the TAA National Muster held at Tenterfield on the weekend of October 8 and 9, as sent to me by one of the participants.

The town of Tenterfield was the home of the second TAA National Muster. The Tenterfield Archery Club is a new club that has earned the support of the community. Marian and Bob, together with a strong band of club members, have worked miracles to get the club ready to host such a large event.

The club was officially opened early on the Saturday morning with both the local Mayor and Member of Parliament present to perform ribbon cutting duties.

TAA members set up a range of 20 3D targets to challenge the 70-plus archers present. The granite rocks, trees and various other objects acting as backstops ensured the archer focussed on hitting the target. Missing usually meant a broken arrow.

On Saturday archers shot three arrows at each target. Adults shot these from three different walk-up pegs. On Sunday only one arrow was

allowed at each target.

The novelties were the 30-second speed round, 60-second hunt round, running deer and rolling discs.

Sunday afternoon archers gathered around Hogs' Hollow, a hollow inhabited by eight piggy 3D targets. The perpetual trophy for this hilarious event honours Cleve 'Shrek' Wood the instigator behind this novelty. Shrek sadly passed away earlier this year. Being one of archery's more colourful characters he decided that archers who were not heckled when trying to shoot the pigs would be disqualified. Archers who did not move continually between two pegs placed a few metres apart would also be disqualified. Each archer had 60 seconds to build their score. Everyone had a great laugh.

Other events were the axe and knife throwing and arrow making competitions. The introduction of archery craftsmanship to this event ensures that the skills behind shooting arrows are recognised.

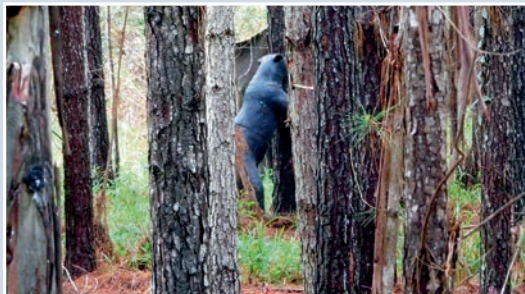
The Tenterfield Club and TAA organised camping at the showground, a free bus ride to and from the range and the showground, dinner on the Saturday evening and plenty of food and refreshments throughout the day.

This was a great shoot and a credit to all those involved.

* The sky was overcast as we headed south for the Coffs Harbour Club's annual Trad Shoot for the



The smug warthog and vinyl target.



A shot through the trees at a bear.



Tumbling marble.

weekend of October 13 and 14, and we already knew from the weather report that rain was expected over the weekend. In such a case one will still go and support the club as they always put on a good shoot ... while keeping your fingers crossed that it wouldn't be too wet. On Thursday evening there were 10 who had set up camp, and Friday saw quite a few more campers arriving. There had been a few light showers, and we'd managed to all stay dry all day. One of our trad characters set his camp up with the native magnolia branch sitting under his awning, and being of Celtic origin had his specially made flag of Celtic Nations flying high.

At Saturday morning muster there were 40 hardy archers gathered at the club shelter. Some had travelled from the Mildura area in Victoria, others had come from southern NSW, Shellharbour on the South Coast of NSW, the Sunshine Coast and Kingaroy in Queensland and a few

other places as well, plus a few locals and some travellers who were staying in other accommodation in town. Once we had received instructions of the events we set off in our groups to enjoy the day. At Coffs Harbour they have two courses of 15 3D targets. You shoot one course as a two-arrow and the other course as a one-arrow on the first day, then the other way round on the second day. Our group did the two-arrow round first. As we went around we discovered many and varied target placements with very good use of the natural settings. Many targets were placed strategically; a bear leaning against a tree with other trees to shoot through on the way, another target set behind a burnt-out tree stump with a great gaping burnt hole in it. Unfortunately I hit the lovely pink paint which was on the stump to highlight the fact it was there ... whoops! Another target was set behind a couple of vines, and one had a tree branch framing the target,

not really in your line-of-sight vision but some found that their arrows glanced off the branch down toward the target. When we finished this set of 15 targets there was the running pig at the end. By now drizzle had started so we put up our brollies and carried on to do the 60-second hunter round, which comprised of six pig or javelina targets, set in a line, where you walked along a path and shot at the targets between the huge pine trees.

Then it was onto the second course, this time as a one-arrow round. This course wound its way down toward the creek and was a little wet underfoot. Once again the targets had been strategically placed and a couple of us did sacrifice an arrow to the river gods. These are retrieved later by a keen canoeing couple. There were three gamble shots, two on one course and one on the other. It was interesting to hear when we got back to camp that quite a few of the groups had not realised the large brown elk

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at the back was the gamble shot and not a lump of earth, as they had set this target up with his head behind the tree, so therefore it was incognito.

At the end of this course we found the swinging Bundy bear. This had the small white bear target cleverly set up on a pendulum and when a stopper was released, by pulling a rope, the little bear would swing backwards and forwards behind the tree and you had to hit it before it disappeared again. This was a three-arrow event. Some arrows found their mark, some did not. Thankfully, none found the creek.

We went back to camp to have a bite of lunch and at this time it started drizzling again, so we waited for it to ease up then went to do the 30-second speed round which had five deer set up at various distances around the 'pond'. Once again they made good use of the many, many logs that were piled up in this area. All the deer were standing well above the logs; that doesn't mean we didn't hit them—the logs, that is! Next was the stalker round where you were given two minutes to follow a path which had pink markers along the sides, and find as many targets as you could. Well just by coincidence from the first two pink markers you could actually see and shoot at a target, so some of us (including me) jumped to the incorrect conclusion that must be where the targets were. Wrong! After looking for targets at the next two markers and

seeing nothing but bushy scrub and vines, I scrapped that strategy and just kept walking. The bear was quite an obvious target sitting out there plain as day at the end, so I took a shot, and turned around to walk back, and as it turns out, I missed one of the targets, which was a duck just to the side of the bear. I didn't feel so bad when I found out later that I was not the only lazy archer who only walked as far as they thought they needed to.

The final event of the day was the tumbling marble. With the new marble event, you start with your arrow in the quiver, someone drops the marble, the archer removes an arrow from the quiver, then nocks and shoots it before the marble clunks into the bottom of the tin, after it had wound its way down and around a tube taped to a pole. You were allowed only one arrow per marble drop, and everyone had three goes. It wasn't quite as easy as it sounds, with some archers not having enough time to get the first arrow away, then trying just a little harder on the second and third arrows.

Heading back to camp it was starting to drizzle again, thankfully we had finished for the day. A couple of groups were caught out and didn't quite finish one of the events.

The Coffs club has not done an evening meal for the last couple of shoots, so some of us pooled together and ordered pizza, as we did last year. Big thanks to Tom for organising the

order and John G for being the delivery driver. Settling in with some beverages for the evening as the rain tumbled down around us. As we all went to bed the rain kept falling, and continued all through the night.

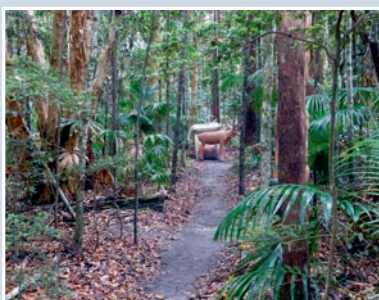
We awoke on Sunday to discover many puddles around and we wondered if they would go ahead for the day, as one course would be very slippery underfoot and there was the possibility of the creek engulfing some targets. A couple of club members went off to investigate and when they returned with a few targets we realised that course was out of action. After a quick deliberation it was decided to cancel the Sunday shooting. Then wouldn't you know it the rain started to ease, so quite a few of us took advantage and packed up our camps. There was a lot more rain forecast at Coffs and up and down the east coast.

We left before the presentations and raffle were done. The weather aside, the Coffs Harbour club has to be commended on the great courses they always set up; it is well worth the journey. All in attendance were of course disappointed with the weather halting proceedings, and will be back next year rain or shine. There was also talk that the shoot may be moved to another month away from the rainy season. We are looking forward to next year's event, whatever the date.

✿ As we set out for the Sunshine Coast Bowmen Traditional Knot Shoot on Sunday November 18, we saw a lot of debris on the side of the road following the bad storms that blew through Saturday evening. From the skies above you would not have known it had even rained, however as we drove toward Nambour there were a few clouds around. This club is set up behind the oval of a school ground, and after signing in you walk along a pathway to where the clubhouse is. There were 51 trad archers registered



The view from the peg.



The actual target.

and ready to set out for the day. Following a muster, we all headed out to our designated target numbers. The layout of the club courses deems it easier to allocate and commence at the same time. For this shoot there were two courses of 20 targets with a mixture of 3D and vinyl targets. At some targets we found both styles, so figured we should take the 3D option. Their courses are set in a rainforest and the range captain had done a sterling job of utilising the foliage of the cabbage palms, which we were encouraged to shoot through, and at times the entire target was covered. (In the photos [below left previous page] I have underlined where the target placement view is, firstly from the peg, then I stepped out and have taken a photo of the actual target to give you a better idea).

As we were heading toward Target 4 the skies opened up, so we took shelter where we could and kept shooting. The scoresheets were hard to keep dry and I don't believe many (if any) had umbrellas. Oh well, everyone would be in the same boat (pardon the pun). The rain continued to fall for at least six targets and we were a little wet, and a couple of groups had given up on scoring while others resorted to modern technology, their phones, and others kept the paper as dry as possible. By the time we finished the course we were reasonably dry.

When we had finished the first course, which we shot as a two-arrow round with both scoring as 10 or 5, we all stopped for a morning tea break. There were a couple of people who had gone home due to the rain and while we were having a break a couple of light showers passed over.

We set out onto the second course, also a two-arrow round, starting at the same target number as allocated earlier. This course had a couple of tricky shots—one warthog sitting behind a log with a smug look

on his face and a vinyl target between a couple of trees. A crocodile along the bank was so well disguised we couldn't find it until we stepped up onto the mound where the peg was.

Once this course was complete we stopped for lunch. Some of the archers had left after doing the second course, leaving the chef with a few too many burgers, which he generously gave away.

There was then the rolling disc and the knock-down targets which was a new event, and we all had to shoot the club bows and arrows. As we were all doing the events at the same time it did take a little longer to get through them, nevertheless a good time was being had by all.

By the time presentations were started, our numbers had dwindled a little but it had been a great day for everyone. We look forward to the clubs three trad days planned for this year.

✱ At the time of printing, trad shoots confirmed for February and March are Chevallan Archery Park February 23 and 24, Twin City Bowmen Trad, Albury NSW March 16 and 17, Bega Valley Archers Asian Experience March 16 and 17, Andy Firth Memorial at HVTA Newcastle NSW March 30 and 31.

✱ Reports for Chevallan Archery Park November 25 Trad Day/Christmas campout will be in the next edition.

For anyone on Facebook, check out Travellin' Round the Trads, where you can read the shoot write-ups and view more photos.

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

Ozbow: www.ozbow.net >

Traditional Archery Events > each shoot has an individual thread

Wallace Woods:

www.wallacetradwoods.com > Shoot information (proposed 2019 calendar,

and will have a link to the shoot flyers as they become available)

Chevallan Archery Park:
www.chevallanarcherypark.com –
 for the 2019 Proposed Traditional shoot calendar, flyers, information, IBO approved African 3D targets, customised archery medals

Traditional Archery Australia:
www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org >
 Shoot Information

I look forward to seeing you 'round the trads in 2019.

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THIS PAGE (top) Josh Balsley RC camel 30 8/16 pt, (above left) Wade Bygrave RC fox 10 3/16pt, (above right) Mark Burrows TC goat 107 2/8pt and (left) Kenneth Thompson TC pig 26 4/8pt.

FACING PAGE (from top): Tyler Atkinson's TC fox 9 15/16pt, Anthony Atkinson TC goat 95pt, Scott Hannah RC rusa deer 185 6/8pt.

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Daniel Thompson.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Editor's interview with

TBA Bowhunter of the Year *Marc Curtis*



by JENEL HUNT

“

Chital on the basalt. I was on a guided hunt up at Toomba. This was my third or fourth trip on the chital, so I guess you'd say that deer was worth about \$14,000. I'd shot chital hinds but never got a decent shot on a stag until this one. Somehow I don't think that animal is my wife's favourite! That particular time I was guided by Dan Ferguson. He put in the hard yards too! I've shot a couple now but up until I took that stag, the chital was my nightmare deer. They're just so switched on, so tuned in, and there are so many eyes. When you get a chital, you've earned it. This fellow was a long shot for me, 50yd, quartering away. Once I'd shot him he'd have been lucky if he got 20yd before going down. That was a happy moment for me. And for Dan too.

”

In 2017, Marc Curtis took measurable animals in seven species and was named the Australian Bowhunters Association Bowhunter of the Year in 2018. This prestigious Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club award is coveted by bowhunters the country over, but very few ever get the chance to have their name on the trophy.

Attaining the highest hunting accolade of the Australian Bowhunters Association, the Australian Bowhunter of the Year, is something to be proud of for a lifetime.

Marc Curtis has done it twice. His year of holding the title for the second time is coming to a close but the achievement and the amazing years of hunting in 2014 and 2017 will probably always hold a special place in his memory, even though he didn't intentionally set out to win ABA's most sought-after bowhunting prize.

It is, however, 'nice to be noticed for what you've done', and the trophy with its bronze buff and ancient timbers, is impressive too!

Some of the journey to being ABA's best bowhunter is pure dedication to the craft. Some of it is being in the right place at the right time, and having a job that involves serious travel is a definite boon.

"It's the sort of thing you have to

put a lot of time, money and effort into to get the different species. I'm lucky that my work takes me away a lot—that helps me get to some of the places I otherwise wouldn't be able to visit," he said.

"If I'm up in the Territory I might be able to organise my time so I can chase buffalo or go bowfishing—it's a big advantage."

A pressure welder who works on pipelines and gas plants, he travels to all States in Australia ... and his bow often goes with him.

"I love my hunting and I make the most of it when I'm away. Of course it depends where I'm working, but if I can, I throw in the bow.

Marc, his wife and two boys recently moved to a farm halfway between Tamworth and Armidale in regional New South Wales. Marc is still finding his feet as far as clubs are concerned, so is still a member of Macalister Trophy Bowhunters where

he has been a member since his youth.

"I did my proficiency (*Bowhunting Proficiency Certificate*) under David Luxford when I was young. Back then I would tag along with my older brother Guy. Troy Morris was there too. We were lucky, because that was the era of old school fellows like David, Mark Burrows, Mal Thomas and even Bill Baker for a while. Macalister Trophy Bowhunters was made up of 95 per cent hunters in those days.

"Hanging around those fellows at an early age meant hunting was a natural thing to talk about."

Now pushing 40 himself, Marc said his attitude to hunting had changed.

"Back in the day, I wanted to get animals on the ground. Now it's about finding the right one. That has definitely changed as I've got older. I love being outside in the bush and particularly in some of those remote places where you don't know what you're going to find. But I'm more picky now. I don't



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point and shoot unless I'm going to eat it or do something with it. I get a huge amount of pleasure from trips where I never even loose an arrow but I've got some cracking live animal photos to show for my time. That's exciting too."

Marc said his hunting style very much depended on the territory. If

he was in a hot dry place like Bourke or Cobar he would do hide hunting and wait for animals to come in to a waterhole. In the mountains it was a whole different story.

"Although I reckon I've slowed down a bit. Places like granite country are torture on your body. I'm sure I

used to run up those hills in my 20s!"

His favourite animal (he had to think for a bit) was probably the old billy, especially in the wild terrain of gorge country where the hunter's physical ability was tested along with his hunting skills.

"Forty-inch billies don't grow on



“

The fox: It was belting down rain. I was at a favourite little spot at Longford down near Sale, about two-and-a-half hours' drive from Melbourne. It was back when I was living there and this little spot was not far from home. This day I was there the last half hour before dark and had a quick whistle. I got him from about 5yd. I was backed up to a big old ironbark and the fox came in from behind the tree—it was just lucky I saw a flash of orange in the bush! He went behind a shrub as he was coming in and it gave me a chance to draw. Half the time you have to draw before you whistle, because unless they come in from the right spot, you don't have much time. I've shot quite a lot of foxes from that tree. I've only been whistling in the past 10 years. Before that I used to get foxes when I saw them rather than hunting them as a species. The old fox is pretty crafty so everything has got to be right. It's exciting getting them to come in to the whistle—real good fun.

”



“

The white goat: That was up in steep country. I hunted for three days in a row to get that particular goat. The first day he was in a mob of about 40 goats, so I went back the next day. I got a fair way in but the wind bugged me up so I backed off. On the third day he was separated from the mob and was just with three other billies. My shot was a steep downhill shot from 15yd or 16yd. In steep country you can't easily do the 30yd or 40yd shots because you really have to allow for the incline. The closer you are to the animal, the less you have to compensate for shooting on a hill. The arrow went into the top of his back and came out through the chest. It took me a good hour and a half just to drag him to a spot that was safe enough for a photo. I took him on my neighbour's place at Bendemeer. There's always a mob of goats up in the really hilly country. The walk up the hill three days running nearly killed me. I mean, that country is seriously steep. I reckon I needed a week off after that!

”

trees. You put in a lot of hours in the bush to get one of them and there's just something about seeing a billy like that—I love it.”

The diversity of hunting was also a plus. He loved the skill involved in hunting and said for him the closer he got to the animal, the better. The countryside could range from flat to rugged, the hunting could be a time for solitude, for important family time or

to catch up with old friends.

“I like hunting on my own. I do a lot of camping, and usually have a pretty rugged camp. The swag gets a fair workout because I like being in the bush and a lot of trips I'm on my own, and I don't mind that.

“But I've certainly met up with some pretty good characters along the way. I've shared a few camps in the last few years and spent time with

people like David Luxford, Graham McComiskie, Dan Ferguson. It's been real good. You could sit at a campfire and listen to them fellows all night. The stories are just amazing. They've been everywhere and done it all.

“I like to do a trip to Toomba every year—it's fantastic basalt country and you get the feeling that you might be only one of a handful of people who has been in some of that country. It's



“

The fallow deer: That was off my place in April during the rut. The stag was croaking, standing on the side of the hill a bit in the open. I got him just on the edge of the bush. He made it 50yd or 60yd into the scrub and it was a bit of a tracking job, but I found him. I'd seen quite a lot of deer that morning but nothing really worth putting an arrow on the string for. I walked from home to get him—I'd probably already walked for a good 4km or 5km from the house. He was right up the back of my 800-acre block—there's a bit of a gorge and it's rugged granite country and it's high so you sometimes see a bit of snow in winter. It wasn't much fun because it was a hot day and I had to cart him all the way back: I wanted the meat. Although I have a four-wheeled buggy, I didn't use it for that hunt because of the noise it makes.

”



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“

Toomba boar: Me and Graham McComiskie were on a bit of a hike in the basalt late one afternoon and came across this boar on the way back. He was pretty relaxed, having a chew—didn't have a care in the world. I put in a stalk to 10yd or 15yd. He didn't go far—didn't make it even 10yd and came down on the edge of a swamp. The photo doesn't do the country justice—there was a basalt wall in front of us but you can only see the swamp in the background. He was a good old hog: Ripped ear, blind in one eye, a real old battler, been around for a while.

We were right up the back in basalt country—you wouldn't want to be stuck there with daylight fading and you definitely wouldn't want to hurt yourself—not even turn an ankle. You can't access the country by vehicle. Getting in and out, it's either on foot or by chopper.

”



a paid hunt but it's pretty amazing country so very much worth it.

“Plus my brother Guy and I still do a trip once a year and we have a great time. His son Josh likes hunting as well. My two boys are starting to get into it too, getting into the bush and going camping. The kids also love looking at what I've collected over the years. I have some amazing skins off animals, a

dozen or so heads on the wall and I've lost count of how many racks I have. And I'm in the process of building a trophy room. But it's still not the point.

“Actually, I'm a bit sentimental about my bows. I find it hard to part with one even when I get a new one, because it's the one thing that's in the bush with you all the way. I always remember the bow I was using when

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“Stingray: I was working up in the Territory so had a chance to do some hunting in water. I was at a bit of a reef, working on the incoming tide because that’s when the rays come in for the crabs on the rocks. There is only about an hour before the tide gets too high, and you don’t want to be in the water too deep because there’s plenty of crocs. This was my first big ray, bowhunting for them. I have shot a couple out of a boat but this time I was walking in the water. Refraction is the thing to look for when you’re shooting into water. I shoot a broadhead on the front of my fishing arrow. If you’re too far away, the two-blade broadhead can deflect off the surface, so you have to wait until they’re almost on you, and then you have to worry about the barb! This one had an eight-inch barb—you’d be in serious strife if that went into you. It’s exciting stuff, but it’s not for everyone. It’s quite an adrenaline rush. You look back and say it’s probably not the smartest thing you’ve ever done, but I love the old bowfishing. And the trophy on a ray is unbelievable. That barb’s amazing—it’s serrated like a letter opener and it’s a one-way thing; once it goes in there’s no pulling it out. Plus there’s toxic bacteria on it as well. That was a bit exciting, that was good. And good eating. You cut the wings off, skin them, and they cook up like white fish flesh. There’s a bit of a technique to it, like a lot of things. This one was a cow-tail stingray. There are quite a few species there. Did you know, you don’t even have to kill the animal, you can get the barb off and he’ll heal up, no worries. The only problem is getting the barb off while they’re still alive. They flap around a fair bit and as I said, the barb’s dangerous.”

“

The shark: That was exciting. I wasn't far from where that rock shelf was. I threw a bit of burley into the water and it was a waiting game after that. You wait for the shark to come right in along the shore, then get an arrow into him—and then hold on! That shark was about a metre-and-a-half long, quite chunky and powerful. There's a lateral line on fish that you've got to aim for—that buckles them a bit. This was my first shark. You've got to know the law. Northern Territory and Western Australia aren't governed by length. In Queensland you can only take one shark per day whereas in the Territory it's not limited. Whether you're knee deep or waist deep in the water, it's pretty exciting. You keep an eye out for any dark shadows—it's always good to have a spotter on the beach. I love my bowfishing now. It's something I thought I'd do because the species was on the list. But now I've found out how exciting it is! But there's an element of danger: Humans are not the biggest predators in the sea.

”



I shot a particular animal. It's a bit like that *Castaway* movie. I feel the same about my bow as the guy did about Wilson (the volleyball).

"I've always shot a Hoyt bow. I had one as a kid and I'm shooting a Hoyt Nitram 30 that I've had for the past three years or so."

Marc is also keen on fly fishing ... but that's a story for another day. .

Now that he's living in an area which has quite a lot of fallow deer, pigs and goats, will he keep hunting far and wide? I didn't ask him. I think I know the answer already.

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Nick Lintern TRADITIONAL TRAILS

Happy New Year to all our readers and welcome to our first instalment of Traditional Trails for 2019. I hope you all had a happy and relaxed festive season. At the end of last year we finalised our two-bundle Flemish splice string and served it, and were ready to shoot it in. Now we are going to progress to the three-bundle string. This is a neater and stronger string which is why I always use the three-bundle unless I'm making a two-coloured string. That isn't to say the two-bundle is not strong—it most definitely is—but the three is stronger still. And both types are vastly superior to the endless loop string. So let's get on with our first project for the year.

Bow strings

PART 5

Three-bundle Flemish string

Building a three-bundle string is a natural progression from the two-bundle. It adds another element of dexterity requirements for our fingers but is easy enough to learn once you have practised the two-bundle a few times. We can use the same jigs et cetera as for the previous two-bundle string with the exception that the nail jig will need to be laid out slightly differently. Instead of the nails being at 1in spacings, we are going to put them at 1 ½in spacings. This just spreads out our bundle's

tapers slightly which works better with smaller numbers of strands in each bundle. With a two-bundle string we had to compact six or more strands in each bundle over a given distance, whereas a three-bundle has only four or so. Therefore we space them out a bit on the jig. Remember, at the end of the day we are just literally adding an extra bundle so there are three instead of two.

Maths, maths, maths

Let's crunch the numbers. With a two-bundle we had to make sure that the total number of strands was divisible by two. Obviously we want two matched bundles. With the three-bundle we have to make sure the number



Red, white and black Dyna 97 ready to go.

of strands is divisible by three. So we will have three smaller bundles making up a similar total number of strands. The tables (below right) show strand thicknesses for given draw weights as they apply to a three-bundle string, with both Dyna 97 (or Fast Flite et cetera) and Dacron. For those of you who have my earlier *Archery Action* articles on two bundle strings, you will see similar tables as they applied to two-bundle strings.

When looking at these tables, the first thing you will see is that the strand numbers are divisible by three. So a 12-strand string will be three four-strand bundles and a 15 will be three five-strand bundles et cetera.

Let's go for a 50# Dyna 97 bow string exactly as we did for the two-splice string. Let's go for the bow length to be 68in nock to nock. Some of this will be repetitive from the two-bundle articles but it won't hurt to have it reiterated. As we looked at in the previous articles, for a 68in longbow we want to subtract 4in from the bow's nock-to-nock length so our string will be 64in, and the string will have 12 strands. Next we add 18in

just as we previously did for a two-splice string. So we are going to get a figure of 82in. Now divide this in two which gives us 41in. Our nail jig has the same mark on its side as the two-bundle jig at 5 ½in up from the front (see photo). As with the two-bundle, you will need some clean bench space and will want a bolt or similar fixed to the right-hand end. Then markings out from the back of the bolt in inches. You can just use a tape if needs be. Clamp your jig at the mark on its side at the 41in mark up from your bolt exactly as with the two-bundle on your bench. For this string I am going to use three different colours – white, black and red to highlight what we are doing and to make it easier to follow. Now, tie off your first colour on the bottom right nail and wind out four strands of the first colour, wrapping around the bolt and progressing up the nails till there are four strands laid out. Now cut up through the middle just as we did with the two bundle. While holding the



Two- and three-bundle jigs. The bottom one is the three-bundle jig. Note how spaced out the nails are.



Clamp your jig at the correct length in line with the jig's side mark.

STRING THICKNESSES FOR THREE-BUNDLE FLEMISH SPLICE STRINGS

Dyna 97 and Fast Flite

STRANDS	DRAW WEIGHT #
12	30-50
15	50-75
18	80 +

Dacron

STRANDS	DRAW WEIGHT#
12	30-45
15	45-65
18	65-85
21	90 +

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Tie off your first strand on the bottom right nail, then wind your way up till you have four strands run out.



Jig loaded and ready to cut the strands.



After doing your maths, grasp the strands at the correct length and start on your loop.

string bundle in the centre, add wax to the bundle and then using your fingers melt the wax in and make the tapered bundle one homogenous whole.

Lay this waxed bundle on the bench to one side and repeat this with the two other colours so that we end up with three bundles on the bench. Now, place the three bundles side by side and butt them evenly at one end of your bench. Now measure down from the end of the strands and get the total length. Divide this in two then add 32in to that measurement. So in other words, the total might be something like 84in for example. Divided by two to find the centre = 42in. Now add 32in which is half our string length = 74in.

At this point we pick the three strands up together and start splicing. Here is where it is slightly different from the two-bundle. With the two-bundle we were twisting the strands *away* with your right thumb and index finger then pulling *towards* you over the other one which is trapped on your left hand, one after the other until you have enough length to create a loop. The three-splice is identical to this action except that now we have a third bundle to plait in as well. This is fiddly at first but with time it will be as comfortable as with a two-splice action. As with the two-bundle, once there is enough length (around an 1 1/4in or so depending on your bow's nock size) for your loop, bend it around and where with the two-bundle you laid the two colours of the loop end on top of the matching colour of the main body of the string and used finger friction to wax them together, now you match all three together in the same way. Then we continue to splice or plait our way down till the tapered-off ends are spliced in. The photos with the article will hopefully paint a clearer picture. Next, as with the two-bundle, loop your string over your bench bolt and lay out your three bundles to your left. Grab the first bundle above the 64in mark and twist it *towards* you or anti-clockwise,



Once you have enough length, you are ready to bend it around to start the loop.



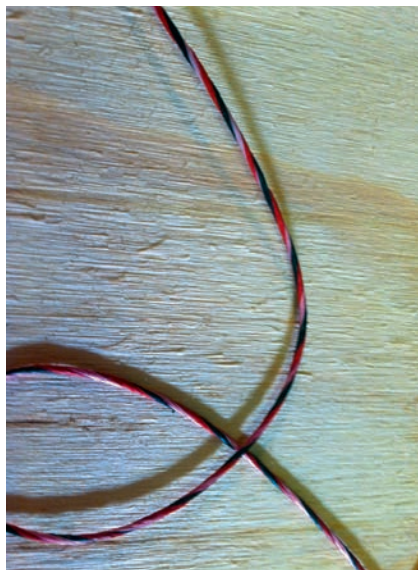
Match up the colours and continue splicing.



Loop your completed end over your bench bolt and pre-twist the ends ready for the second loop.



*Now both ends are complete, we need to twist the string **CLOCKWISE** and wax the mid-area, leaving the ends alone for now.*



The mid string area will now be a homogenous whole. Due to the colours we have used it will have a barber-pole effect.



After stringing, trimming and waxing, we now have a professional three-splice Flemish string.

21 twists or so. Now trap that bundle with your left hand—I use my ring finger and pinky to trap it—so it won't unravel again, and repeat with the other two. Do the same number of twists on them all. This pre-twisting allows for the string to splice up without knotting up as we finish the string. Now we pull the string taut against the bolt to ensure all three bundles are pulled out evenly, then start your second loop at 64 ½in. As with the other end, once you have spliced enough for your eye, bend the ends around and match up with the main body again. Then simply splice away until the tapered off bits are all spliced in. Now pull the string tight against the bolt and twist clockwise to make the string a homogenous whole instead of three separate strands. Twist until the string length is 63 ½in or so. Now wax the area between the plaited ends. Don't touch the ends yet. We will want to trim off any leftover bits sticking up from the splice when the string is on the bow.

Now, as with the two-bundle string, string your bow and see how it all looks, God willing, all is well. Clamp your bow in a vice or similar and using a sharp cut-

throat razor or very sharp Stanley blade, trim off the remnants sticking up as close to the main string as you can. Be careful not to cut the string!

Now wax the whole thing and rub it in. If your brace height is where you want it you're good to go, if it's low, unstring and twist the string *clockwise* to shorten it. If your brace is too high, you can untwist anti-clockwise—but be careful. Because of the way a Flemish string is made, if you go anti-clockwise too far you can have it unravel. Now go ahead

and serve your string as I described in the previous article.

Well, there it is. It sounds very complicated when you read the processes in an article like this, but it's actually really easy to get the hang of it if you put in some dedicated practice. That's it for strings for now. In our next article we will be looking at custom bows and what you should expect from them.

As always, any questions can be sent to: norseman_longbows@hotmail.com.

Until next time, stay traditional.

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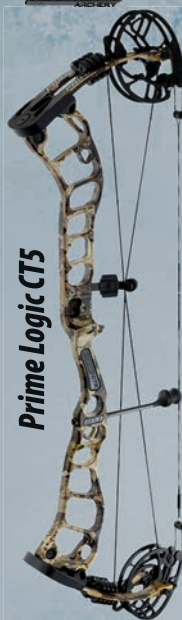
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- 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 80lbs

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- 35" Axle to Axle
- 24.5" - 30" Draw Length
- 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 80lbs

Prime Logic CT9

- 325fps
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- 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 80lbs

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Mathews TX-5

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- 50, 60, 70lbs

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Mathews Vertex



Mathews TX-5

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Release aid selection

A major decision for the aspiring compound archer is the choice of an appropriate release aid. Unlike the recurve archer's tab, which can be a relatively inexpensive item, a compound release aid involves considerable expenditure and so it is an important priority to make a measured decision appropriate to which field of archery the shooter intends to be involved with.

There are four options from which to select a release aid—the under-finger model, the thumb trigger, the hinge or back tension release and the resistance-activated type.

Each has its pros and cons but all are very feasible choices if utilised correctly in an unanticipated execution process. Let's examine each model in some detail. It is important to realise that each variety has its accomplished exponents and that every model can provide desired accuracy if properly employed.

The index-finger release is particularly popular with hunting archers, chiefly because it is attached to the wrist by a strap and is readily available to make a quick shot if the opportunity arises. The use of the index finger to trigger the execution can also be an ally in hunting situations, but also has a number of negative possibilities when utilised incorrectly as a target, 3D or field release aid choice. Often a compound archer's initial experience

in a club situation will involve the use of an index-finger model, where the execution process is simplified by the message, "Place the dot on the target and press the trigger." The repercussions of this approach nearly always result in a trio of conclusions. Firstly, at the outset, quite component accuracy will occur, which tends to justify the method. However, almost without exception, the new compounder will run into anticipation and panic concerns which will mar the shooting experience and lead to departure from the sport in frustration. Commanding the shot, or 'punching' as is the archery term, works for only a very, very tiny minority of elite compounders and even they, most often, run into anticipation dramas in the longer term. While an index-finger release can be shot in a conventional correct unanticipated manner with a sturdy trigger and a pronounced pulling action, it is nevertheless the release which is easiest to punch and hence not the usual model favoured by competitive compounders.

The second release design, the thumb trigger, remains the most popular model on the competition line in major tournaments, although threatened in recent times by the hinge or back tension release. As the name suggests, the release is activated by placing the thumb on the trigger post and then by the use of a scapula-pulling motion, the shot breaks into an unanticipated release. The tension on the release can be adjusted to suit the rhythm of the archer's execution process and is the choice of both the men's and women's leading target archers in world competition.

A thumb trigger release can also be punched by incorporating a light tension on the thumb post and therefore does require discipline and a patient execution phase to be shot efficiently.

The third option, and one which has gained enormous support in recent years, is the hinge release. This release type has no trigger and is shot by rotation, with either scapula action or finger manipulation to cause the break

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of the shot. Because it has no trigger to punch, it is seen as a valuable agent in resisting anticipation and aiming maladies. Originally the hinge was viewed as simply an agency for archers having target panic issues but in today's competitive target field and 3D events, it has garnered enormous status and is the preferred option for many of the world's elite.

Of course, a hinge release can still be jerked or punched if the archer has severe panic problems, but it is still a very viable option to work with on the road to overcoming anticipation dramas.

The final release type is specifically designed to teach the archer to pull or expand, to obtain an execution which is unanticipated, by having it set to a particular, predetermined tension which when reached in the pull causes the release to fire.

It is therefore predominantly an aid to assist archers with target panic concerns and is generally not an option utilised by leading professionals in competition.

As I stated initially, it is crucial to realise that all types of release aids work efficiently if shot correctly. Each has its pluses and minuses, but depending upon your particular archery discipline, it is wise, financially, to make a reasonable initial decision. Hunters may still prefer the index-finger freedom of function, although many hunt

with thumb and hinge models, whereas target shooters will most often choose the thumb and hinge varieties.

The thumb trigger has advantages in windy conditions but is open to punching if one is experiencing any anticipation maladies. The hinge is probably the purest of release aids, but can have its own limitations in blustery situations. Some elite archers do switch back and forth between the two, but in order to attain duplicative form, which is obviously the key to accuracy, sticking with the one release aid type clearly provides the best chance of video-replay-like execution.

Clearly then, it's ideal to have the opportunity to experiment with the various options prior to initial purchase. However this may not always be practical if the archer resides out of range of a major archery retailer. Fellow club compounders if available will always assist in this situation, and because quality release aids are quite an expensive item, making that first decision is an important one.

On a final note, I must emphasise once more that making your first execution experience with proper unanticipated execution form is critical to obtaining long-term, enjoyable archery adventures, free of aiming maladies which can destroy your future ambitions in this great sport.

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SCOTT HEIMAN

Bushcraft & Survival

BACK TO BASICS

CASE STUDY

In the previous issue of *Archery Action*, we looked at shelter; a main constituent of the first survival priority—protection. I look forward to continuing to break down the priorities of survival and examining their components in more detail. However in this issue I will focus on a case study of a bowhunter I know and an incident that occurred to him. To protect the innocent, let's call him Johnny.

I have spoken with him and he has given me permission to tell his story for the education of others. This is not meant to throw stones but rather point out how easily (and quickly) things can go wrong. More importantly, how you react to a situation can affect the outcome.

We can all imagine going on a two-week hunt with seven mates out the back of Bourke. You'd go in winter so it was cooler and the days would

be filled with 'you three go over that way and you four go that way' with nights around the campfire laughing at so and so for missing the boar at the dam and sledging the camp cook for burning the damper.

This is exactly what had been happening for four days with two blokes who had hunted the property before escorting five other mates who had not. But on the fourth day Johnny (who was new to the property) decided that at 4pm he wanted to stretch his legs and go bunny busting for an hour.

For the previous four days the group had been hunting on one side of the river that bisected the property. So Johnny was familiar with the course of the river but on this day he thought a nice afternoon stroll along the game trail that followed the other side would be nice. After all, the river doubled back on itself

and it would lead him back to camp.

At about 5 o'clock he started to get concerned as the river had not doubled back yet. He saw a fence and some scrub in the distance so he went to cross it, thinking the scrub would be the river and this would be a shortcut.

Unfortunately for Johnny the river he had been following was not the same one he was thinking of but a tributary which broke off and ran parallel to it for a while. He would have known this if the group had sat down with a topographical map at the start of the hunt four days previously. But alas, this one mistake would change the hunting party into a search-and-rescue party in a matter of hours.

After he had crossed the fence he began to think that he had not crossed a fence before that point. This was when he knew things had gone wrong and perhaps he was not where he'd



Maps contain useful information, but you have to choose the right one. There's not a single contour line in any of these.



Even if you don't take a complete map with you, a simple A4 printout can be invaluable.



Never hunt alone.



Any of these would have helped the lost bowhunter.

thought he was. It was now getting late and he went to make camp.

Whilst doing this his mind was racing and his first thoughts were that the property had phone coverage—that was lucky—however he did not have anyone's numbers in his phone. Mistake number two—not having a tried and tested form of communication.

He also noticed that his phone battery was low (mistake number three, which can be avoided if you always have spare batteries for CBs and a way to recharge phones). So he called his partner back at home to get a message passed onto the group that he would not be coming back to camp that evening—and roughly where he thought he was, noting some geographical features and a water pump he could see on the other side of the river. The group were not



Actual photo of the incident: The first night's fire.

answering their phones so she sent an SMS. Good move. SMS messages have a relatively light footprint, first of all. The second thing is that they're asynchronous. If they can't get through this instant, they keep trying. With voice calls, you're either connected or you're not. So in remote areas where the coverage or reception is dodgy, SMS is better.

Before he hung up he told her that he had a low battery and to conserve it he would turn it off now and turn it back on at 6 o'clock the following morning. Second good move.

He found a site that looked like it had been used previously and had some old refuse lying scattered around.

Before the night completely enveloped him, he managed to



A landmark Johnny used to describe his position—a water pump on the other side of the river.

create a fire. Third good move.

Now, fire fits into each of the survival priorities due to the variety of tasks it can perform. While we could live indefinitely without fire's warm embrace, it's one of the most valuable assets that a survivor could have. Fire provides warmth, light, safe water (through boiling), a signal, cooks food, deters wild animals and dries wet clothes to name just a few; but one of the most beneficial is the psychological boost and the sense of safety and protection it gives. For these factors, fire is one of those force multipliers in a survival situation and you should always carry/know how to create fire in at least two different ways.

Bourke is a hot semi-arid location. To this effect, most people think of the high temperatures—but at night the temperature can drop to 4° in winter with the all-time low being minus 4°! Indeed the night in mention it reportedly got down to -2°.

What Johnny did was make one large log fire to heat up one length of his entire body. He found an old metal sign and placed it on the other side of the fire to reflect more of the fire's warmth and light back towards himself and two old rusty 44-gallon drums which he used as a wind break on the other side of him. This is textbook survival tactics—*great* move.

After this he collected more firewood to last the entire night and kindling to restart the fire in case it went out. Another good move.

Then he made a bed with bark from trees in plank form to insulate his body from the ground and to provide protection from burrs. Good move.

When he woke in the morning he turned on the phone as planned and contact was made with the rest of his hunting party. They quickly discussed where he thought he was and why.

So that morning he was tediously beating on the old 44-gallon drums and

blowing on his fox whistle to attract attention. At 10 o'clock he heard his mates firing rifle shots into the air but alas, they could not hear him despite the noise he was making.

He did not run towards the shots because he didn't want to leave the camp, knowing that the sound could be bouncing off other features and could be coming from another direction. He told me later this was something he remembered from shows like the Leyland Brothers and Malcolm Douglas back in the 80s. So he stayed put. Good move.

More phone contact was made after the search party had returned to their base camp. And they assured him they were coming. Johnny, thinking that he knew where he was, made to walk off at midday but turned back ... twice returning to camp after remembering the words from those TV shows: Don't walk off—stay where you are and let them come to you. Good move, particularly after sharing all that info concerning his location. What if his phone finally went flat? If he had walked off, the party would be searching for him in the wrong place and have no idea where he was now.

So he resigned to himself that he was in it for the long haul. He found some old glass bottles and took them to the river for a wash out and collected water. He went to boil the water but the first bottle broke as he placed it too close to the fire and it cracked. The next he let warm up a bit further away and then teased it toward the fire slowly. Good move

During this time, he also found a new can and made a second fire on the other side of him and collected more firewood to last him through a second night. This is starting to look like an Aboriginal technique; that is, have

three or four small fire burning and sit in the middle. Very good move.

At 10 o'clock on the second night, the search party found Johnny 2km inside the neighbouring property.

There are many things, both good and bad, one can pull out from this situation but I will focus on two: Never hunt alone and always carry a well-conceived, purpose-made survival kit. In this situation, imagine what would have happened if my mate had been bitten by a snake while collecting all that firewood. The next phone call may not have been for an ambulance but rather the coroner.

There are four priorities of survival —protection, rescue, water and food. A handy way to remember that is: Please Remember What's First.



The site had evolved by the second night and had a second fire in an old drum.



BROKEN

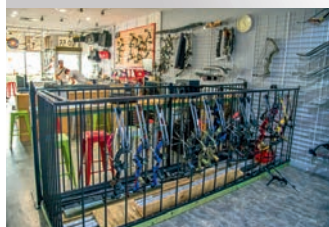
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I • N • S • I • G • H • T

With decades of hunting trips under his belt, Graham Newell provides his answers to questions about hunting properties and some of the challenges that hunters can face. First, he spills the beans on a piece of luck he had 21 years ago ...



Like many bowhunters with 20-plus years chasing the feral animals of our great continent, I've been asked by new and not-so-new Grange Bowmen members, "How did you get started and find properties to hunt on?"

It's not an easy task, that's certain. My last trip (in September 2018) to the cattle station in the Queensland Gulf was my 23rd over nearly 20 years, and getting onto this station at the beginning is probably a story in itself.

For me, it was a case of being in the right place at the right time. Some 21 years ago while I was the regional manager for the Financial Planning Team for Colonial State Bank (NSW based) here in Queensland and northern NSW, I met the General Manager of one of the bank's investments, namely, The Colonial Agriculture Company and was asked to talk to their cattle station managers at their Annual Conference in Brisbane.

This I duly did for over 60 minutes, then joined some 11 managers and management personnel for dinner and a few drinks. The General Manager, Stuart, said I needed to be compensated financially for my time. My response was "No need; just give me the okay to bowhunt all your Queensland properties." This was duly agreed and communicated to all managers that evening.

Colonial (the company no longer exists) had properties from Moree to Burketown; Quilpie to the NT border. Now that might sound like a smorgasbord of opportunities but alas, as is the case today, many were in drought. We did travel to a Moree property with some success in the early days but the real fun and rewards were to start on our trips to the first property in the Gulf.

Keeping the good properties is also a huge challenge. The Gulf station which old mates Robbo, Lew and Brett and I have frequented for the past 20 years has seen seven managers and at least five corporate owners in my time of hunting it. Our strategy is to try to glean what these people in isolated areas miss (they're some 2200km from Brisbane), what special needs they have and to try to tap into their network.

We try to manage and influence actions we have a small degree of control over. We report to the station managers if we see stock down, burst water pipes and any dangerous incidents. We also tune our handheld and truck UHF radios to the station channel whenever we're not hunting. (We use a different channel when hunting.)

We have found these guys and gals love beer, Bundaberg Rum, (no surprise there), pear cider, magazines (hunting, 4x4 drive, gossip mags, cooking and for the children Nat. Geo.) We usually carry their refreshment needs up but I mail the magazines et cetera five or six times a year. At 3kg at a time, this is not particularly cheap. Then there are the phone calls, more pointed as we get closer to the September hunts. It sounds a lot of work, and it is, but if we do not do this we soon become

irrelevant to them. Keeping my profile front of mind is the objective and it then becomes harder to say “No” when I call to set up the dates.

On one such trip we transported a puppy from one station to another, all great PR for the future!

Over the years I’ve managed to keep in touch with the manager of the very first trip to the Gulf, Paul, and he has now given me the introduction to another Gulf property manager (Rob) who incidentally was a Colonial Agriculture Co. manager some 20-plus years ago, he thankfully even remembered me.

The other challenges we meet and must overcome are many and are well documented. Many properties have ringers who go dogging for the pigs after work, some others are rifle hunters and then there is the baiting for wild dogs and feral pigs. All can severely reduce the pig numbers and can turn them nocturnal. Then there are the official DPI helicopter shoots, one such three-week period there were 3,000 pigs shot off one property. In our 2016 trip to the Gulf, we managed only four pigs—it was a very long drive for such a small tally! But we do need to understand we are really insignificant to the managers and owners as feral exterminators.

Then there are the poachers in almost all areas I’ve hunted from the Gulf to New England in New South Wales. They are a real issue. In the Gulf area, these are tolerated as they are usually locals and can cause real problems if pressured to keep off the properties ... long term north Queensland bowhunters will know what I mean. It is worth noting these Gulf managers expect us to dispatch every hog we see no matter the gender or size ... and we do our best!

Getting started (finding a property) is hard. We usually talk to the new keen bowhunters about who they work with, socialise with, what their immediate family members do and if any of these contacts have family, friends or relatives in western Queensland. Sometimes they are pleasantly surprised to get some affirmation and a chance to get onto a property. “If it is to be, it is up to me” is a favourite saying of mine! Challenge yourself, bowhunters, and focus on any potential opportunities.



Pig country in Queensland's Gulf region.

The round trip was 5,146km and we were away 16 days in total in September last year. That gave us 12 days of hunting in Queensland's Gulf country.

Our first property was a new one we had not seen. The manager Rob gracefully accepted the two maps of

the property I had copied for them (measuring 1.05m by 1.25m) and after a cup of tea sent us to camp on the 17km-long 'lagoon'—actually a river with both ends dry but the deepest part was 8m. It was also home to saltwater 'lizards'.

On the first afternoon Robbo nailed

a nice boar after a stalk through rubber vine (lousy stuff). This hog had been a fighter (and a lover, we guessed) as he had only one eye and severely lacerated ears.

We worked very hard to cover the ground and walked many kilometres ... too many for my liking these days.

A dozen days of hunting in the **GULF COUNTRY**

by GRAHAM NEWELL



Robbo with a good boar.



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



The good life.

As it was our first time on this station, it was very much a time of getting to know the terrain, people and road network. This property has to be one of the best kept, neatest and cleanest ones we have been privileged to visit and I hope to go back in 2019. Some six days and only six pigs later we headed for our long-standing north/west Gulf property.

Now it was time to get serious. On arrival at our preferred property some 170km further northwest, we discovered that they had no accommodation for us (influx of truck drivers, vets, seed and soil specialist et cetera) but after a chat we ended up in the school house with all our gear, which worked fine ... we even had sufficient tucker to feed ourselves for the week and not put extra workload on the stressed cook.

One of the great pleasures of bowhunting with a mate is that you often get to watch the whole event, from spotting the hog to the stalk to

the arrow hitting the vitals. As we hunt small dams, short muddy waterholes, turkey nests (above-ground dams) and the odd carcass, this is often the case.

One such time, I watched from across a small waterway as Robbo did an excellent job of stalking across open ground from some 80m to get within 30m of a wallowing boar and with only a small section of the lungs available slipped the two-blade 170-grain Zwickey-tipped Piledriver into the spot. A very short run saw the boar expire, after which photos and hooks were taken.

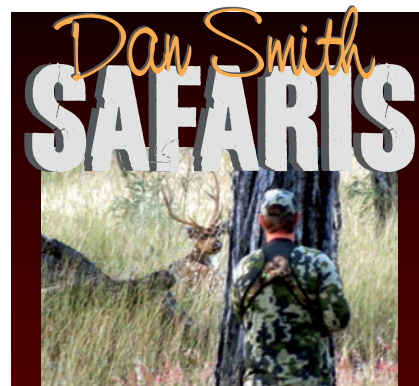
Then, as we both knew the property so well (in fact, better than the managers now), we decided it was time to keep moving to our favourite spots.

We found the weather to be cooler than expected and that meant finding hogs on the water was proving difficult so our hunts seldom started before 10am; office hours for some!

The average temperature was 34° which we didn't mind at all. We've

hunted here on some 43° days!

After one frustrating morning of seeing no hogs, we headed back to the truck and spotted two three-quarter-grown boars bedded next to a log. Robbo commented that I could not get any closer without them spotting/



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*This page: H is for hogs
(and a sow!).*



Bottom photos: Double trouble.

smelling me so at 39m I took the shot. Now it was not a trick shot, but I hit both hogs in the lungs, in fact it was a double/double lung shot. A fluke? Of course not! These two died within 10 paces of each other.

We had been told a favourite lagoon of ours north of the homestead had been belted by town poachers (rifle hunters) but we decided to have a look anyway. I casually mentioned to driver Robbo to look up a usually shallow dry waterway and yes, the little water left had some eight to 10 pigs bathing. After kitting up, we headed for them but they left the water to bed in some heavy cover. We slowly stalked in, wind from the northeast in our favour. Robbo drilled a nice boar at 15m, dropping him in 5m and I hit another at about the same distance—but mine ran off. I followed mine some 60m (while Robbo set his up for a photo) to see him mortally wounded so a finishing arrow was required. Then another pig

walked up to check on the commotion so at 10m he too was removed from the group. Two for me and then as I headed back to the truck I saw Robbo also heart-shoot another small boar from 25m—not too bad when you consider we'd taken four hogs in 10 minutes from a place that we'd thought wasn't worth the trip. I later shot another through rubber vine, to make it five for the day.

Generally, in these small creek/waterhole areas, our strategy is to walk either side of the water due to very steep banks. On another occasion, I stalked in to 25m to hit a wallowing boar so well he in fact died in his wallow. Robbo took a great 45m shot on a big black boar unbeknown to me, he too only went 10m (slowly) to expire. The hooks looked okay so Robbo removed them after a few photos.

I'd just shot a boar in a muddy hole and while setting him up for a photo we noticed another boar

come in for a drink and wallow. This was interesting, as not 10 minutes earlier Robbo had walked right where he entered the muddy waterhole. Robbo was soon on the stalk and I had a full view of it all. He circled to get above the pig and from 30m-plus sent the Piledriver on its way. The boar leapt up and staggered into the water, blood gushing, then bolted up the opposite bank for a death run of about 40m. The hooks looked okay so Robbo took them after a few photos.

Another event was more of a lowlight than a highlight, but we both had issues with not looking at the route the arrows would take (direct and the arrows' loop) to hit the targets and we both hit small twigs, thin rubber vine and even thick grass stems most of which caused defections of the arrows and in most cases clean misses.

In the past few years we have not seen pigs out in the open in the heat of the day, however this year as we

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drove to another dam along a well used access station track, I suddenly saw under a large tree not 30m off the track three hogs bedded down. We drove on some 100m, Robbo still not believing me about my call ... but he still got out to check! I sat on top of his new Isuzu space cab to watch the event unfold through my bios. No cover, pigs now alert so at 30m Robbo took the shot. The big sow only travelled 50m. Again, for me observing the action is half the fun.

Most of the cattle watering spots have a turkey's nest (above-ground dams about 30m across) from which they reticulate the water to cattle troughs nearby plus these nests have burrows next to them (holes in the ground from which they dug the dirt to build the nests). Our usual practice

is for Robbo and me to alternate between these places. At one spot that we call the Seven Mile, I went to a burrow to find it dry. Still, we knew the pigs, especially lone boars and family groups, often bedded some 50m to 150m from water during the heat of the day. After two dry holes, I was about to head back to the truck when I spotted a boar sleeping in thick rubber vine so after stalking to within 12m I released the Gold tip traditional carbon, thinking I had a clear shot. But I hit the 'invisible' thin vine, which causes a deflection and miss. He bolted some 100m then bedded again, not knowing what had just happened. So, I was up again, this time there were no mistakes and at 30m the boar succumbed to the shot. After photos I removed the hooks but

I must admit that it took me three times my normal extraction time. Heading back (tired, sweaty, release aid in my pocket), I saw another boar bedded under a tree so I put on the release aid and walked in to 15m to heart-shoot the boar. He did not even get out of his bed, but died in his sleep. I was glad to see he had lousy hooks so I didn't have to extract them. Robbo was a very patient man today.

On the very small watering spots only one person usually goes in, so on our last day I walked (not stalked) in to a nest thinking nothing was ever here. Then I noted a pig's tail twitching from under some old rusty tank, well a bonus indeed as he (and his mate, I was soon to see) had no idea I was the grim reaper; it was probably the easiest kill I've had in several years. He went nowhere but his mate soon bolted to a safer bedding spot. Well again, thankfully, no hooks to make my life difficult, so photos only taken.

The fun was now over and we prepared for the long 2,000km-plus trip home. Whilst we have excellent knowledge of the older haunt, we still use our GPS system to mark each track and waterhole for future visits and if required to blood trail a wounded boar we can easily find our way back to the truck. I had a UHF radio battery failure and that was a pain.

Some poor shot placement, twigs, rubber vines, clean misses et cetera probably cost us, combined, about eight pigs, but our tally was still healthy for a couple of old geriatrics.

There is one piece of these hunts I'm not too keen on, especially when I'm not the designated driver, and that's opening hundreds of 'interesting' station gates, but I'll get over it.

This was my first trip with my new Mathews TRIAX and it worked a treat, as did Robbo's Halon.

Will 2019 see us in the Gulf again? Only time will tell.



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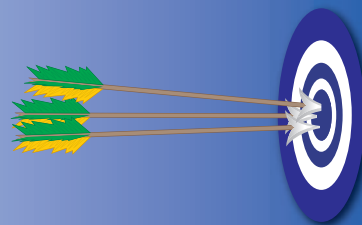
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Club Canteen will be run for the weekend

There is no charge to attend the Muster however there will be a small fee for the Sneaker Round.

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Wildcrete 3D African Game Targets hyena from

The Wildcrete 3D Targets hyena's dimensions are (H) 654mm x (W) 175mm x (D) 857mm with IFAA approved score zones on both sides.

The hyena target is part of a new range of African targets available in Australia from Bushbow 3D.

Bushbow 3D has recently been introducing an entirely new range of 3D targets based on African game animals. So when I was contacted to test a sample from the range I was more than keen to see one of these impressive targets in the flesh. It wasn't long before a tidy example of a hyena turned up. My first impression on opening the packaging was how much detail was in the textured finish and the realism of the paint job. So real that I set it up in the somewhat questionably lit corridor just inside my back door where my wife and daughters would soon enter. It passed the realism test and I had to chuckle when the flight instinct kicked in and I got a satisfying yelp from all three girls.

The African Game Targets range is vast and includes beasts such as lion, baboon, blesbuck, wildebeest, impala, leopard, warthog, zebra, caracal, honey badger, monkey and many more. The range is sub-divided into three categories; large game, small-medium game (both these two rated for any bow poundage), and small game

Top view of the hyena showing the target's 175mm girth which handled all target bow set-ups. It wasn't until a 70# hunting bow was tried that we saw a field tip protrude from the opposite side of the target—a very tough target for its size.



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rated to 50lb or less bows. The hyena tested belonged to the latter category but stood up very well to all target bow set-ups available at my local club. It was only a 70lb hunting compound that was able to penetrate the target enough to stick a field point about an inch out the back of the target ... a good effort for a target conservatively rated to 50lb bows.

The main comments from the club shooters testing the target were related to the quality of detail of the animal and the foam's ability to close up well and hide the arrow hole when the arrow was removed. Like most 3Ds, some form of arrow lubrication made it easier to pull the arrows, but even without it, arrows still pulled



The hyena had strayed from his pack and wandered onto the practice range where it was met by a multitude of arrows from a range of bows.



There is no shortage of detail on these targets. Range captains will be placing shots with uncanny realism.

with minimal effort. The target can be mounted in place with the aid of some form of stand that slides up into the legs that contain tubes so that the target can be free-standing.

This new target and other African Game Targets from Bushbow 3D are well worth a good look for any club looking to add to their 3Ds and they would certainly add a touch of a safari feel and reliability to any course set-out.

A promotional graphic for Bushbow 3D. It features the company name in large, bold letters at the top, followed by the tagline 'UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT' in a stylized font. Below this are several colorful target sculptures arranged in a row. At the bottom, there is a collection of various animal target sculptures, including a hyena, a zebra, a lion, and a fox. The background is a forest scene. The text '100% Australian Owned and Made • ISO Standard Zones' is prominently displayed. At the bottom, the website URL 'www.bushbow3d.com' is provided, along with contact information for mobile and email.

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3DAAA Australian Championships

The 2018 3DAAA Australian Championships were held at Nambucca Heads on the weekend of November 10 and 11 and were a massive success.

More than 240 3D archers plus their families spent a fantastic weekend in the area. The archers took to a very challenging 50-target course in the NSW State Forest at Nambucca Heads.

Two fantastic days of sunshine and great weather saw all of the archers take on a well set and challenging course. Dark targets in dark holes, great tunnel shots, hidden ground and angles up to 20 degrees and quartered targets made for some of the best shots in recent 3D history.

Within the divisions, 3DAAA had 34

hunter class shooters as the strongest division for this year's nationals only edging out the MBO division by two archers. It was great to see the division designed for the hunters being so well supported.

The women's FBO division saw 14 ladies take on the courses, which was also the highest number of female shooters in this division in the last four years—great to see 3D growing stronger with our ladies.

There were 51 youth class archers all the way from CUBJ to 15-17 classes for both the young ladies and gentlemen of our sport which is great to see.

Friday night saw the celebration of

the State Series and National Indoor awards at the Nambucca RSL with well over 150 people showing their support for the archers' achievements over the year.

Saturday started the first 30 targets for the weekend with Will Bristow (HC) taking the tough courses head on with a highest Saturday score of 298/300 leading Ben Doyle (MBO) by 11 points and the rest of the Top 10 within eight points, an outstanding achievement showing the dedication and skill of these archers. William (Billy) Watson led the unaided divisions with a great score of 248/300 with no sights, and the Top 10 unaided shooters were all within 30 points.



3DAAA Shooter of the Year 2018

This year saw the first junior shoot-out challenge which gave the younger archers the chance to shoot in front of a very supportive crowd for their shot at giveaway prizes starting from the cubs who got to shoot at two 3D targets covered in target squares of varying sizes. They got to nominate the square they went for, all adding to the excitement of the new format.

This was followed by the Top 10 adults for both unaided and aided shooters. Libby White from the Hunter region managed to edge out the competition to take out the unaided division.

Brett Pirlo from Queensland took out the sighted division with a single arrow closest to the middle shoot-off from Ben Doyle, Brett Pirlo shooting for Hoyt Archery and Ben Doyle shooting for Mathews Inc along with all of the archers young and old who gave everyone a great show. The future of 3D archery in Australia is looking good

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
MBO	Brett Pirlo	Ben Doyle	Tony Brezic
FBO	Katie Hamilton	Jo Moffitt	Cassie Reinbott
MBR	Joshua Smith	Michael Rule	Josh Shone
FBR	Teneille Fowler	Mary-Jane Porter	
MBF	Dwayne Callon	Jayden Callon	David Codrington
FBF	Joanne Bogie	Tracey Warner	Sindy Avar
MCU	Mark Corner	Brian Turner	Lachlan Donnelly
FBU	Bernadette Teelow		
RU	William Watson	Steven Bartley	Scott Hayden
TRAD	Richard Peters	Daniel Ross	Dave Baker
MSR	Owen Kirkman	Chris Smith	Brian McFarlane
SMC	Bill Holmes	Frank Healey	Ron Cornish
HC	Will Bristow	Josh McEwan	Jason Archer
FHC	Jess Lovering	Julie Evans	Katrina Lovering
YMR 13-14	Blaze Oloman	Mitchell Brown	
YMR 15-17	Drew Orton	Ethan Wilkinson	Jackson Daw
YU	Jodi Faux	Georgia Ferguson	
YF	Amber Reinbott	Mikala Shevill	Sarah Keene
CUBA	Sam Mufale	Seth Sutton	Jack Pinkerton
CUBF	Bella Ellen	Shaylen Lowe	Tess Codrington
CUBU	Charlee Brittain	Dean Ross	Flynn Patton



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with the major bow manufacturers supporting more and more shooters in our sport.

Sunday came with another beautiful day and the chase was on for those final points to round out the year.

Final positions for all divisions can be found at 3daaa.com.au/scores but here are some notable achievements from this year's shooting:

- Highest adult score at Nationals: Will Bristow 490
- Jake Collins Trophy (highest youth/cub score at Nationals): Josie Hatch 485
- 200s shot by: Will Bristow
- 100s shot by: Chris Smith x 2, Mikala Shevill, Sam Mufale, Ben Doyle, Drew Orton, Warren Swan, Josh McEwan, Amber Reinbott Brett Pirlo and Katie Hamilton.

Sunday night was the annual prize-giving dinner held at the Nambucca Bowling Club. Packed into every space available, 3DAAA had over 200 members for a sit-down dinner and close to an additional 100 members there to support the national presentations as well.

3DAAA was proud to be a part of history with Hoyt Archery presenting Brett Pirlo a cheque for \$1000 as the first archer ever to receive contingency money from a major bow manufacturer in 3D archery within

Australia. Congratulations, Brett.

The winners for Shooter of the Year are shown on the previous page. Special awards handed out on the night are featured in the box below:

Congratulations to all the archers who participated in the 3D AAA 2018 Nationals, on behalf of the committee we would like to wish you and your families all a safe and happy Christmas Season and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year. The first shoot for 2019 will be the 3DAAA Indoor National Championships.

Special awards

Steven Reeks Medal—Joshua Smith
Marg Cowin Trophy—Teneille Fowler
Malynn Medal—Gerard Miles

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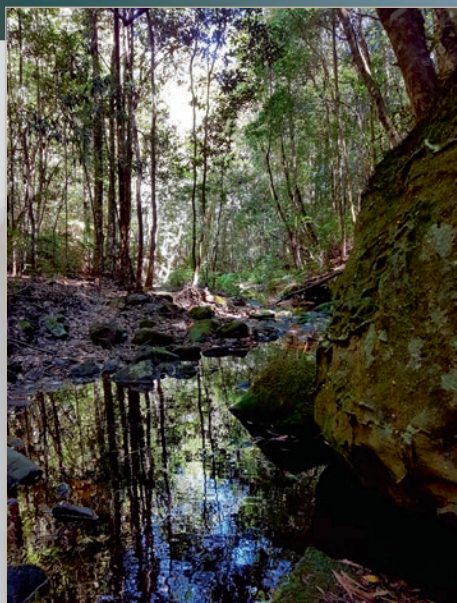
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*TBA Car Sticker	4.00			
*TBA Metal Badge	8.00			
*TBA Cloth Badge	10.00			
#Game Award Badge	9.00			
#Game Award, T/C & R/C Chevrons	6.00			
ABA Peaked Caps	15.00			
Total				

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Entries PHOTO COMPETITION



*Simply serenity,
Matt Constantine.*



*I spy,
Mark Burrows.*

*The last cast,
Bevan Blacklock.*



*Transparent beauty,
Toby Gall.*

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You're invited to the *Gathering*

by **NICK LINTERN**

At the Hunter Valley Traditional Archers, we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary annual Gathering In 2019. The club has over a 30-year history and this shoot has been a mainstay on the traditional shoot calendar since its inception. HVTA holds three major shoots a year: The Andy Firth Memorial Shoot in March, the Andrew Spiechowicz Memorial Shoot in October and the Gathering in June on the Queen's Birthday long weekend, which is the biggest shoot of the year for us. HVTA is one of the oldest—and certainly the biggest—traditional-only archery clubs in the Southern Hemisphere. The club boasts huge levels of traditional archery knowledge with top flight bowyers, fletchers and leather workers. Visitors enjoy a wealth of knowledge as well as a great and relaxed time shooting. Shoots at the club are family friendly with kids being very welcome. We want to warmly welcome all traditional archers to come and help us celebrate such a massive milestone ... both newcomers and old friends who've visited us before. We'd love to see you all. There will be 3D target ranges, speed rounds, running pig, hunt rounds, rolling disc and flu flu aerial target rounds. The site has tons of free camping and bush showers and toilets and there is a canteen running all weekend. There are also traditional archery suppliers on site all weekend. Every Gathering has a memento keyring and 2019's memento will be a special run to celebrate the milestone. So why not come out and enjoy the ultimate, traditional archery celebration? We look forward to seeing you.

PHOTOS BY JOE ROACH

The first Gathering

by **RONNIE WHITE**



The first invitational was held at Hunter Bowmen's range at Buchanan where we used to shoot on alternate Sundays so we didn't clash with Hunter Bowmen's shoots.

This shoot was attended by about 25 shooters, and part of the shoot fee was put towards a lamb on the spit

for Saturday night's meal. Events at that shoot consisted of 20 target one-arrow round, bow bird, speed round, swinging gate timed target, axe and knife. No one can remember who won the shoot.

The trophies presented at this shoot consisted of shields made

from a tree cut down by Ray Polson in his backyard. The first trophies were painted arrows by Andrew Spiechowicz with plated broadheads by Trace. We now present certificates at our Gathering.

To grow, we had to find a new venue for our club as both Hunter Bowmen and the ABA wanted us to have our own space. Our President, Andrew Spiechowicz, along with all the members, decided to look for new clubgrounds. Geoff Hill came up with a private property suggested by his father and Geoff did the deal on our present property just southeast of the John Renshaw Drive roundabout.

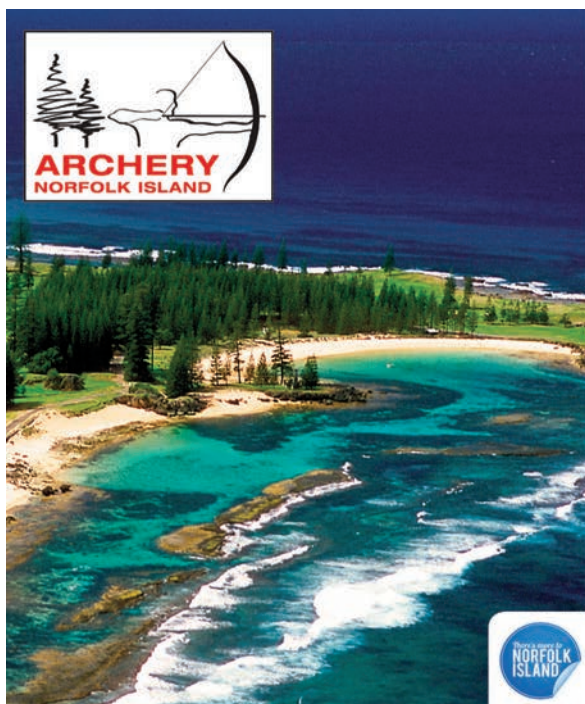
So we started to work on our new grounds. I supplied the posts and Klip-Lok roof that a workmate from Swansea had given me, and so up went the shed (canteen). From then on it was a case of beg, borrow or relocate from wherever to do it on the cheap as we only had 12 members.

Save the date for Norfolk Island's July comp



Norfolk Island is justly famed as a superb holiday destination, but archers know there's even more to the island than sun, sea, Norfolk Island pines, history and shopping. The island puts on an international 3D comp every year. It's very child friendly (held during school holidays), and when you're not taking part in your favourite sport you can be having a whale of a time discovering all the attractions of this gorgeous place.

If you're already wishing the summer away and wondering what your winter holiday is going to look like, here's the picture-perfect choice.



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Outside ~~In~~ the zone

Hare today, gone tomorrow

by Nils Spruitt

I have never made it a point to specifically hunt hares. Those handful of hardy souls who do actually read my ramblings every two months will probably find this snippet of information quite startling. After all, as my loyal readers would already know, I am addicted to small game hunting. Always have been. The trouble is when I use the words 'small game' as I so often do in my various essays, I am

primarily referring to rabbits with an occasional foray on foxes thrown in just to add some alternate content, so to speak. It's my way of increasing the overall appeal to a larger section of the reading audience. Does it work? Probably not. The fact that I am the worst fox hunter in history is entirely irrelevant although I suspect it does me no favours. So at this point, I really should apologise to every small game

hunter out there simply because hares deserve the right to be labelled as small game. However, let us not stray from the subject—that being, I just do not hunt hares. Never have. Nor have I ever known, or hunted with, anyone who does hunt hares.

I am not saying there are no passionate hare hunters out there as I am sure there are, but let's be honest, in this country you would be



very much a minority. Hare hunting is not something you really talk about with like-minded mates. Generally the topics are deer, goats, foxes or pigs. In general campfire conversation, the hows and whys of hare hunting just don't happen ... not in my camps, at least. Why is this, I wonder.

Now that we have established that a hare is indeed a game animal, albeit a small one, why is this long-legged little fellow not worthy of a better standing within the overall hunting community? I can only speak from my own experience (or lack thereof), on the matter and I will thus let you be the judge and jury.

I had to think long and hard about this, but I am fairly certain I have never shot and killed a hare with a bow or a firearm ... ever. I actually find this quite astounding really as I have, over a lot of years, taken a lot of game and in this country that includes buffalo right down to rabbits. You would think a couple of hares would crop up in there somewhere, but no, that is not the

case. I have certainly seen a few in my travels, but I do not recall ever having the urge or desire to lay one low. Again I ask myself: Why is that?

Most of my early encounters with hares came by chance. In other words, I had no idea they were there and I was left trying to calm my nerves and slow my heart rate down because one of the blooming things burst out from behind a tussock right at my feet. Even with a shotgun I would have been unable to take the shot, such was the fright the little beggar gave me.

Rabbits were what I cut my eye teeth on during my growing years ... rabbits and then pigs. Both of these creatures I pursued with bow and firearm. I will not go into how goats and then deer came into the equation because that is not important here. In those early years, rabbits were plentiful around my childhood home on the NSW South Coast. I really cannot recall ever seeing a hare although I am sure there would have been the odd one about. I have been told (although I cannot verify

this), that wherever you find rabbits you will not see hares and vice versa. If this is true then that would explain why I did not see any during my youth. It may also explain why I encounter hares around where I now live because I seldom see a rabbit.

Hares were officially introduced into Victoria during 1860 although they were introduced (failed to establish) into Tasmania 30 years earlier than this. This introduction onto the mainland was by the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria which just so happens to be the very same organisation that released deer and like deer, hares were introduced purely for hunting purposes by the local gentry. It would seem the coursing of hares was considered a fine sport back in the old country and the meat made for delicious table fare. How often have you seen historical footage on the ABC or even old pictures in books which display hares and pheasants hanging in the larders of old manor houses throughout the English and European

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country side? Very common indeed.

I have tried hare only once and it reminded me of that old Aussie recipe about cooking galahs ... I would rather eat the rock, thanks. I have no idea where the hare came from but Mum tried baking it. The taste was rank and strong and the meat was dark. To a young lad who preferred tender white meat like chicken or rabbit, hare was a completely new experience. From memory, I think my dog turned its nose up at it as well. I guess you have to be of European extraction to enjoy hare.

Anyway, once established, hares increased their range very quickly and in just over 15 years they were spreading into New South Wales. The rest is now history and today hares can be found throughout Victoria, most of NSW and about halfway up Queensland. They have now colonised a large percentage of Tasmania as well. Whilst I can't say I ever saw any during my sorties into the Victorian

Alpine regions chasing sambar, I have seen them just about everywhere else including outback New South Wales, but they tend to be found in greater numbers along the eastern seaboard. These days I see them quite regularly in the paddocks around home, which is probably why they have piqued my interest of late.

I have yet to go out hunting for one, but I do often see one or two in the late afternoon when I take Chloe for a walk. Not always mind, but fairly regularly. You see, that is where the problem lies with hares and hare hunting. I have yet to pinpoint a regular pattern with hares and without this I simply have no idea how one would successfully hunt them.

Like most of the game animals we pursue, hares are more active at night and the subsequent early and late daylight hours. The real problem lies in the fact that hares do not seem to be territorial and come and go as they please. Unlike rabbits, hares are primarily a solitary animal although, on a handful of occasions I have seen two hares feeding together. This alone makes the prospect of hunting a hare rather daunting, but when you combine it with the fact that hares will wander up to 4km a night in their search for food, it makes the task near impossible. Just because you see a hare in a particular paddock one day does not mean you will see him in the same paddock tomorrow. They come and go at will. Why, I have even found hare droppings on my front lawn, but I have never seen one. It really is a case of hare today, gone tomorrow when you start talking about the behavioural patterns of hares.

This is why I have never hunted hares. All the other creatures we pursue behave in ways we hunters can use to our advantage. In other words, they are predictable. You hunt an animal long enough and you will eventually find something that particular creature regularly does which will aid you.

Now I am not very experienced in hare matters, but I have yet to see a behavioural pattern I could use. I have read the odd story penned by Victorian hunters who hunt them in certain cereal paddocks at specific times of the year. I think this is the closest thing I have ever read about discerning a hare behaviour pattern. Perhaps it may also apply to oat paddocks, but as there are none in my area then I cannot add to that theory.

I have also been told that hares will sometimes come to a fox whistle. I know this sounds rather far fetched and had I not heard it from Graeme Duff himself, then I probably would never have believed it. As most of you know, Graeme is an expert at the art of whistling foxes and a man not prone to telling tall tales. So if Graeme says he has shot hares at close range after he has lured them in with a fox whistle then I most certainly believe him.

Many years ago I heard tell that rabbits ate young hares (or perhaps it was the other way around, hares eating young rabbits?). I never really put any credence to that, but in light of what Graeme has experienced then perhaps the hares are responding to a rabbit in distress in the same manner a fox does. I am still baffled by it all as both hares and rabbits are vegetarian. Then again, I have heard stories of deer turning up to a fox whistle as well as pigs and goats. I am thinking it is more curiosity than anything else. Who knows?

When it is all said and done, I don't really think I will take up hare hunting on a serious basis anytime soon. I dislike the taste and for that reason alone, I see no reason to hunt them. They may look like a rabbit in an oversized way, but that is where the comparison ends for me. In the meantime I will continue to cart my Nikon camera with me whenever I take Chloe for a walk. You may not be able to claim an ABA patch with a photograph, but it will do me for now. Until next time.



Submit your story and photos to the Gold Pen Award competition until the end of June 2019 and be in the running to **win a red deer hunt with Trophy Bowhunts Australia valued at \$2000** and a gold pen as well as the writer's fee you receive when your story is used.

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

All hunting stories are automatically entered in this competition

WFAC 2018 Results

Congratulations to all ABA competitors in the World Field Archery Championships in South Africa. We had two gold and two world championship winners, six silver and five bronze in A Grade; three bronze in B Grade and one gold in C Grade.

Division	Class	Medal Place	Surname	Name	Field	Hunter	Animal	Field	Hunter	Total
AFBH(C)	A	2nd overall	Joy	Rachel	304	307	406	273	286	1576
AFBH(C)	A	3rd overall	Watson	Chelsea	234	220	360	226	205	1245
AFBH(R)	B	4th overall	Allen	Glenys	239	200	0	252	258	949
AFBL	B	2nd overall	Avard	Sindy	425	446	512	435	437	2255
AFBL	A	3rd overall	Bogie	Joanne	435	371	516	404	409	2135
AFBU	A	10th overall	Dowd	Jeanette	491	493	542	493	494	2513
AFLB	C	1st C Class	King	Katrina	84	0	178	0	0	262
AMBB(C)	A	3rd overall	Barratt	Steve	428	453	504	459	438	2282
AMBH(C)	A	1st overall	Podubinski	Jay	451	458	520	453	443	2325
AMBH(C)	A	2nd overall	Bell	Alvyn	446	454	518	437	437	2292
AMBH(C)	A	3rd overall	Burrows	Mark	419	418	502	426	417	2182
AMBH(C)	A	5th overall	Watson	Garry	391	397	448	392	395	2023
AMBH(C)	B	1st B Class	Dowson	James	296	345	472	302	311	1726
AMBH(R)	B	1st B Class	Judge	James	294	338	434	322	343	1731
AMBU	A	10th overall	Woodborne	Dion	517	513	558	524	526	2638
AMBU	A	31st overall	Smith	Fraser	487	501	546	488	484	2506
AMFS(C)	A	4th overall	Grallelis	Michael	439	454	514	399	445	2251
AMFU	A	30th overall	Way	Scott	515	521	560	526	513	2635
AMFU	B	3rd B Class	Clements	Malcolm	491	495	546	507	500	2539
AMFU	B	4th B Class	Moffat	Reade	491	500	556	486	493	2526
AMFU	B	6th B Class	Hanemann	Glenn	491	475	528	470	450	2414
AMLB	A	3rd overall	Van Oosten	William	256	292	418	239	273	1478
JFBU	B	1st B Class	Woodborne	Kenya	412	412	512	430	439	2205
JFFU	B	1st B Class	Clements	Julia	476	477	538	472	478	2441
JMBU	A	4th overall	Stewart	Jake	520	518	548	530	516	2632
JMFU	B	1st B Class	Ford	Joshua	501	501	550	507	497	2556
VFBB(C)	N/C	1st overall	Fox	Darelle	298	331	420	305	356	1710
VFFU	N/C	1st overall	Benson	Diann	494	523	550	506	510	2583
VFTR	N/C	2nd overall	Wood	Joy	121	86	202	84	59	552
VMBB(C)	N/C	2nd overall	Waller	Gary	360	363	468	385	409	1985
VMBL	N/C	2nd overall	Dowd	Kevin	421	438	530	450	443	2282
VMBL	N/C	4th overall	Semeia	Mario	358	383	532	419	436	2128
VMBU	N/C	8th overall	Erskine	John	498	484	550	493	501	2526
VMBU	N/C	10th overall	Jennings	Jeffrey	478	470	542	452	470	2412
VMFU	N/C	9th overall	Benson	Grahame	508	501	552	503	508	2572

Six nations competed for the Champion of Nations team competition and the results were, from first to last: England, Australia, Germany, USA, New Zealand, South Africa. Our Champion of Nations team was made up of (in no particular order) Alvin Bell, Jeanette Dowd, Diann Benson, Steve Barratt, Jo Bogie, Bill Van Oosten and Joy Woods.

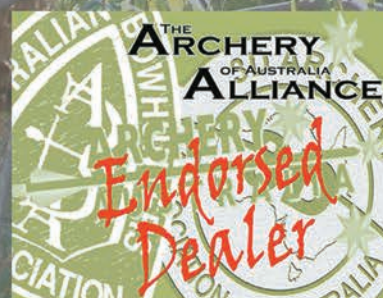
Congratulations for your second placing, Aussie Champion of Nations team members!

N/C = No Class

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RESPONSIBLE BOW OWNERSHIP AND USE WILL HELP PROTECT OUR FUTURE

- Practice is essential but NOT in a built up area unless it's a safe environment.
- NEVER fire an arrow in the direction of another person.
- Native animals such as kangaroos and birds etc, CANNOT be legally taken with a bow.
- Under some state legislation, it is an OFFENCE to be in possession of a bow whilst under the influence of alcohol.
- You CAN NOT shoot any arrow in a bow. They MUST be matched to the specific draw length & weight of the bow.
- NEVER fire a bow without an arrow on the string. The resultant forces could result in SERIOUS injury.
- Permission to hunt on private property SHOULD be obtained each and every time you visit the property.
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Southern NSW & ACT Branch

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Hosted by Orange and District Bowhunters Club
Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 January 2019

Saturday Round

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

Sunday Round

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: Branch Score Recorder, Louise

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Facilities include: Camping, Showers, Toilets and Canteen

Evening meal available Saturday, for those who pre-book meals will be provided.

Availability of meals is not guaranteed for those who do not pre-book.

The ABA No Dogs Policy Applies to all Branch Shoots

No smoking on ranges while shoots are in progress

Southern NSW & ACT Branch

IFAA State Titles

Hosted by Southwest Slopes
Sporting Field Archers

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 February 2019

Saturday Round

7am - 7:30am Registration and Bow Checks
8:00am Muster
28 Target Field
14 Target Animal

Sunday Round

7:30am - 7:45am Registration and Bow Checks
8:00am Muster
28 Target Hunter

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SHOOT-CALENDAR

January-February-March

Date	Club	Branch	Shoot Style
January			
2nd	Greater Hamilton Archery *	Vic	GHA Double 720 Grand Prix
3rd	Greater Hamilton Archery *	Vic	Target QRE—GHA Double 720
6th	Sydney Olympic Park Archers *	NSW	Target QRE - SOPA
11th	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	Friday QRE
12th-13th	Branch I Hunt *	I	Carp Hunt
13th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
13th	Sydney Olympic Park Archers *	NSW	Target QRE—SOPA
20th	Phoenix Field Archers of Sale *	G	IFAA
20th	Freds Pass Field Archers *	A	ABA
20th	Katherine Archery Club *	A	ABA
20th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
20th	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
20th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
26th-27th	Barambah Bowhunters and Field Archers *	D	ABA
26th-27th	Orange District Archers *	F	Walkabout ABA and 3D
26th-27th	Ipswich Field Archers *	Qld	3DAAA Gavin Brown Memorial
26th-27th	Canberra Archery Club *	ACT	CAC Australian Day Tournament
27th	Full Boar Archers	B	3D
February			
1st - 3rd	National Indoor Championships Mail Match *		3DAAA Australian Indoor Titles
2nd - 3rd	Manning District Bowhunters *	E	IFAA Branch Titles
2nd - 3rd	Yering District Archers *	Vic	National Matchplay Series Victorian Leg
3rd	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
3rd	Boola Valley Field Archers *	G	ABA
10th	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
10th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
16th - 17th	Darling Downs Field Archers *	D	ABA Branch Titles
16th - 17th	South West Slopes Sporting Field Archers *	F	IFAA State Titles
16th - 17th	Ballarat Bowhunters *	H	Invitational Shoot ABA, 3D Other
17th	Freds Pass Field Archers *	A	ABA
17th	Katherine Archery Club *	A	ABA
17th	Dead Centre Bowhunters *	A	ABA
17th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
17th	Kurrimine Beach Archers	B	3D
17th	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
17th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	3D
23rd - 24th	Western Plains Archers *	J	3D/ABA
24th	Full Boar Archers	B	3D
24th	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	PCA Field QRE

March

2nd-3rd	Macleay Valley Archers *	E	ABA Invitational
3rd	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
3rd	West Gippsland Field Archers *	G	Mal Thomas Memorial Shoot—ABA
9th-10th	Gympie Field Archers *	C	ABA Invitational
9th-10th	Playford Districts Field Archers *	I	ABA, 3D, IFAA
9th-10th	Northern Rivers Field Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
9th-11th	Mt Clay Archers *	H	ABA
10th	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
10th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
16th-17th	Roma and District Bowmen *	D	3D Branch Titles
16th-17th	Lithgow Valley Archers *	F	ABA/3D
16th-17th	Twin City Archers *	Vic	3DAAA
17th	Freds Pass Field Archers *	A	3D
17th	Katherine Archery Club *	A	3D
17th	Dead Centre Bowhunters *	A	3D
17th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
17th	Mount Isa and District Bowhunters	B	ABA
17th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	3D
23rd-24th	Grange Bowmen	D	Newbies Weekend
24th	Full Boar Archers	B	3D
24th	West Melbourne Field Archers *	H	3D Invitational
30th-31st	Namoi Valley Archers *	E	3D Branch Titles
30th-31st	Mallee Sunset Field Archers *	I	Trad, FITA, Flint
30th - 31st	Gleneagles Field Archers *	J	Fun Shoot/ABA
31st	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	3D
31st	Phoenix Field Archers of Sale *	G	2D/3D
31st	Penrith City Archers *	NSW	PCA Social Double Clout

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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Brendale Qld 4500

Phone (07) 3256 3976

Renewal ☐
New Member ☐

ABA Membership N^o:

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)

I agree my contact details can be provided to form a contact list to be used within the Australian Bowhunters Association only.

If you do not agree, tick this box: ☐

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	\$75	\$205
Juniors-Cubs	\$50	\$145
Families	\$160	\$435

New Members (12-month membership including joining fee)

Adults	\$100
Juniors-Cubs	\$75
Families	\$205

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.

Card Number ↓	NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Expiry Date (mm yy)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Signature	<input type="text"/>

12/2018



INCORPORATED (Inc in NT No A01978C) GST TAX INVOICE GST ABN 79 750 431 225

APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE
AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION™



TROPHY BOWHUNTS AUSTRALIA

TAKE THE HUNT BY THE HORNS



**Widowmaker
Arrows and
Broadheads**



www.widowmakerarchery.com

Contact Mick Baker - Email: mrbaker@bigpond.net.au Established 2002

www.trophybowhunts.com.au



Fully Guided Hunts for:

Red Deer - March/April from \$1800 (5 days) includes a doe, trophy fee if stag taken.

Chital Deer - Jan to May from \$2500 (5 days) includes a stag and unlimited does.

Buffalo - June to August (6 days) fully guided hunts, POA.

Wild Boar - Aug to Oct from \$4000 (10 days).

All prices are a guide only as people require different options so please call for a quote.

Hunts are all inclusive except: Alcohol and Trophy Fees (Trophy Fees on application) Indemnity Waiver to be signed at pickup.

Special Hunts are available from time to time so if you are flexible you can get a great deal on some hunts. All you have to do is get on the emergency list and you are notified every time a special deal comes along.

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Abbey Archery is your full service Archery Pro Shop with two well stocked locations situated in Sydney, NSW and Brisbane, QLD as well as our 10 tonne truck travelling across Australia, fully fitted out as a Pro Shop. Not only do we sell the latest in archery equipment, our highly experienced staff can provide many services. We repair, tune and install accessories on all bows. We custom make premium quality bowstrings and cables on our Specialty Super Server 800 string jig and we can accommodate any of your fletching needs with our four fletching tables fitted with 144 original Bitzenberger Jigs. If it's Target, 3D, Field or Hunting, we have what you need. We sell you product, knowledge and experience.

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