

Archery Action

March April 2022

Treading the line
between
determination
and **obsession**

The rut
with a little bit
of **luck**

Survival:
Finding water in
a dry land

Running in a new bow



THE ARCHERY ALLIANCE OF AUSTRALIA

Officially recognised by these organisations

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

ABA COME AND TRY	9
ABA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS	22
ABA MEMBERSHIP FORM	78
ABA NATIONAL SAFARI/IFAA	42
ABA SHOP	57
ABBEY ARCHERY PHOTO COMP	16
ARCHERY ACTION – DEADLINES	03
AUSBOW INDUSTRIES	60
AUSSIE TARGETS	63
BCY BOWSTRING	12
BENSON ARCHERY	32-33
DAN SMITH SAFARIS	8
FULL DRAW ARCHERY	70
NORSEMAN TRADITIONAL BOWS	28
POLLARD INSURANCE	37
PRIMITIVE ARCHER	75
ROYELL SAFARIS NAMIBIA/AUSTRALIA	30
3DAAA	20
TUSKER TROPHY OF THE MONTH	46
TUSKER JUNIOR PHOTO COMP	76
URBAN ARCHERY	25

For your convenience, we have created a GO TO WEBSITE button next to advertisements to give you a quick link to our advertisers' websites.

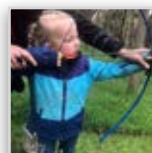
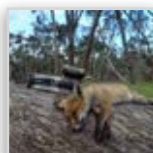
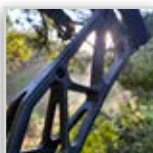
GO TO
WEBSITE



March-April 2022 • Volume 47 No. 3

▼ REGULARS

3	Editorial
10	ABA newsletter, Game Claimed listing, TBA column
17	Photo Competition Entries
26	Traditional Trails
34	Bushcraft and Survival
43	Meanderings
52	Around the Trads
62	Women in Archery
76	Game claimed pictorial



FEATURES

4	Determination and obsession	Adam Clements
14	Branch C's Groundhog day	Mark Burrows
18	Running in a new bow	Tyler Atkinson
23	Introducing Mount Clay Archers	
44	The Rut: With a little bit of luck	Graham McComiskie
54	Staying in the game	David Burroughs
58	Branch D Titles and ABA Bowhunting awards	
64	Geelong Trophy Bowhunters two-day ABA shoot	Chris Baty
69	Branch B FNQ training & reaccreditation	Graham McComiskie
72	Hunter Bowmen's new home	Julie Morrissey



◀ COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Graham McComiskie from northern Queensland with a Record Class 30 pointer. Graham reckons that one day soon he'll write about his boar-hunting escapades, but in the meantime he has a story on a deer hunt in this issue.

COPYRIGHT: All advertisements and other material appearing in the *Archery Action* magazine are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced except with the written approval of the copyright holder.



You might have noticed an unusual gap between magazines. Like everyone else, we've had a chaotic start to 2022.

As you know, Jenel signed off on her final issue of Archery Action as editor in November. Well, she actually had intended to be off following the September-October issue, but the universe had other plans.

Now, she has handed over the reins (if you're reading this, you can assume it was a successful handover) and can enjoy a well-earned rest.

Let me introduce myself. I'm Kelly, and while I must cop to not knowing the first thing about archery or bow hunting (well, after many hours editing and laying out this issue, I know more than I did a month ago!), I have enough experience as a journalist and editor in various trade publications that my current lack of knowledge won't be obvious to you.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know our regular contributors and reading your stories. Please reach out to me at editor@archeryactionmagazine.com if you have a great story to tell. Not sure if it's a 'great' story? Reach out anyway and let me be the



Send story submissions to:
editor@archeryactionmagazine.com
Phone enquiries to:
Kelly: 0423 778 698

Publisher
Artemis Productions
PO Box 152, Redbank Qld 4301
ABN 79 750 431 225

ABA contact details—
Phone (07) 3256 3976
officemanager@bowhunters.org.au
www.bowhunters.org.au

Australian Bowhunters Association
PO Box 152
Redbank Qld 4301

DEADLINES

Please submit articles and advertisements by these dates:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

ISSUE	DEADLINE
2022	

Vol 47 No. 4 May-June	1 April
-----------------------	---------

Vol 47 No. 5 July-August	1 June
--------------------------	--------

Vol 48 No. 1 September-October	1 August
--------------------------------	----------

Vol 48 No. 2 November-December	1 October
--------------------------------	-----------

2023

Vol 48 No. 3 January-February	1 December
-------------------------------	------------

Vol 48 No. 4 March-April	1 February
--------------------------	------------

(November-December issue = printed yearbook)

judge! You don't have to be a writer either; you're more than welcome to arrange a time to tell me your story over the phone and leave me to do what I do best—write!

You'll notice a bit of a change in style in this issue, and while I didn't set out to do a full redesign, there were some formatting issues in the transfer so here we are!

Enough from me, please go ahead and enjoy some thrilling stories! Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Talk soon.

Kelly James, editor

FREELANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

are welcomed by this magazine and articles should be addressed to: The Editor, Archery Action. 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 return of photographs if required.

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.

DISCLAIMER

All expressions of opinion in Archery Action are published on the basis that they reflect the personal opinion of the authors, and as such are not to be taken as expressing the official opinion of the publishers unless expressly so stated. Artemis Productions accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any opinion or information, or the reader's reliance upon it, contained in this magazine.

ADVERTISERS! We accept no responsibility for material submitted that does not comply with the Trade Practices Act.



REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

Traditional Trails—Nick Lintern

Bushcraft and Survival—Scott Heiman





Treading the line between determination and

obsession

By Adam Clements

I have been looking forward to writing this story for a few years now, however, with each year that passes I keep putting it off because I thought I needed a picture with a hog deer to go with it. Then last year, something happened which changed that.

Cup weekend through to Easter 2020 meant checking cameras, erecting a new tree stand, cutting walking tracks through blackberries and preparing my soul for another year of possible disappointment. The previous three years I had dedicated to finding a hog deer had not gone very well—let's just say I watched a lot of grass grow.

The first two years resulted in just one photo on a trail camera and many hours wandering around the bush chasing ghosts.

Then as year three rolled in, I tried a different tactic and location. One weekend I decided it was time for a tree stand. Not knowing where to start or where to get them—and me being a chippy—I thought I would just build one. It was a fine one too, if I do say so myself—that was until I realised I now had to get this to the property and somehow in a tree! Being my usual stubborn self, I continued on anyway and nearly crushed myself trying to stand it up while standing on the top rung of a ladder in the bush.

Once set up though, it paid off quickly—two foxes and a fallow deer were shot out of it during that summer. My trail cameras were now producing regular photos of hog deer, although they were always during the night. It was late March and after moving my cameras around and around the valley, I finally got a photo in daylight. Now it was on! Then it wasn't...hard lockdown put an end to all hunting in Victoria and I was trapped at home counting down the days until April ended.

I spent a lot of time studying the photos and map of the property instead, and realised I was



There's plenty to be seen from up high

most likely set up in the deer feeding ground.

So, I decided I needed to adjust things and try to find a spot that would catch them in daylight on their way to this spot. As soon as things opened up, I decided it was time to get aggressive and go deeper into the forest and look for signs and a better spot to set up next year.

Many more trips later, I felt I had found a good spot, and this was confirmed with my trail cameras. This time, I ordered a new (light weight!) tree stand, took my time to set it up and made sure I had a quiet way into it that was downwind. Then the

work began, spending hours sitting, ranging distances, pruning trees and even rigging up a small table to hold my snacks.

The night before opening day of the season I didn't get much sleep, and the adrenaline didn't take long to get pumping. I started trembling just walking to the stand that morning. I snuck in, got set up and enjoyed a wonderful sunrise.

Before long, I heard some weird noises and my heart sunk as I noticed someone else had decided this was a great morning and a great spot for chopping wood—50m from my stand! Frustrated to say the least, I almost



left, but then thought they would go by the arvo and I should wait it out 'til dark. To my amazement, a hind appeared that night but didn't present a shot before dark.

The days ticked by, and things went a bit quiet until one afternoon a spiker appeared from under me, feeding only 15 yards away. No wonder these things are hard to find, they are so small and so quiet. Oblivious to my presence, he picked through the grass for the choicest clover. This was it!

Four years, four properties, over 30 camera locations, 500-odd hours in stands and ground blinds, 15 three-hour return trips every April and creating spreadsheets



I spy: The spiker seen from the custom tree stand built by Adam.

to monitor the wind, temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, moon phases and footprints...and I was here!

Over the next 20 minutes or so, I tried twice to pick up the bow and aim but each time something told me to hold off and just enjoy the moment. After all this time, if I shot now, it would be over in seconds. Suddenly, I realised I was in the moment I had been after for so long.

Over the remaining days I had a few other close calls but no more shots presented, although sitting for hours on end in the bush I got to experience a lot of other special moments with all types of wild-life, from fluttering birdlife, curious wallabies, koalas, echidnas, wombats and even appreciating the work ethic of ants!

By the end of April, I was a mess emotionally and battled the decision to not shoot for the remainder of the year, but after working my way through every stage of grief and doubting my decision, I realised it wasn't the deer I was



Dan Smith
SAFARIS



Dan and Helen Smith offer hunting packages to suit your needs.
Free pick up from Townsville airport
All meals and accommodation provided
CALL US NOW TO MAKE A BOOKING
Dan 0407 796 178 • Helen 0408 365 120
email dansmithsafaris@outlook.com
Find us on Facebook Dan Evan Smith

after—it was the moment.

That moment I had been chasing for so long, where it all comes together and rewards my determination (or obsession) and tests my will and patience. As bow hunters and adventurers we battle the elements, the terrain, the external pressures, missing loved ones and most of all, ourselves—our energy, our failures, thoughts, bodies,

patience and demons.

Sometimes, we may lose the battle and not feel successful in the moment or in ourselves but in the end, the war plan is what matters and eventually we can look back and appreciate the big picture and understand sometimes time, personal growth and memories are our greatest trophy. Bring on April 2022! ☺

ABA clubs: Start planning NOW to advance the archery cause and get more members!

Now is the perfect time to make plans for getting on board with the ABA's national Come and Try day—or even make it a whole weekend! While there will be a national date to be decided, clubs can do their own 'Come and Try' day at any time.

Grab the phone, organise a sub-committee and make a start! Get a pdf of this A4 poster artwork. Email officemanager@bowhunters.org.au




Plan your publicity, plan your day—

- decide on coaches and field archery instructors
- plan what might need to be done to prepare club grounds and club equipment (bows, arrows, targets)
- get your ideas together for the activity programme you will be running
- write a story for your local paper and find a photo or two
- do up a draft post for Facebook
- organise copy for other media, eg your local radio
- decide on additional drawcards. Maybe have a free sausage sizzle for meet-and-greet opportunities!

FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS • SOCIAL SETTING





Come and try Archery

Archery is so much fun,
and you don't need to own a bow
to give it a go!



Come and Try
is a national initiative of the ABA

Email—officemanager@bowhunters.org.au
Phone—(07) 3256 3976
or contact your nearest club for details on a
Come and Try day near you.



Put
your club
name, date and
contact # here



Australian Bowhunters Association INC



COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

The protocol for contacting officers 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.

If you have any queries for National Officers, please direct your communication to the National Office (contact details as above).

NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Tony Hartcher

SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT
Ralph Boden

VICE-PRESIDENT, BOWHUNTING
Allan Driver

VICE-PRESIDENT, FIELD
Brian Taylor (appointed)

TREASURER
Amanda Skinner

NATIONAL MEASURER
Garry Pitt

NATIONAL ASSISTANT MEASURER
(vacant)

NATIONAL SCORE RECORDER
Brian Taylor

NATIONAL ASSISTANT SCORE RECORDER
Sally-Anne McGrigor

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Alan Avent

DIR BOWHUNTER EDUCATION
Ray Morgan

DIRECTOR OF COACHING
(vacant)

NATIONAL OFFICE

Office Manager, Kerry Chandler
PO Box 152
REDBANK QLD 4301
Ph (07) 3256 3976
Email: officemanager@bowhunters.org.au

BRANCH CONTACTS

Northern Territory	Ken Henderson	0413 820 818
North Queensland	Wayne Salmon	0429 438 925
Central Queensland	Mark Spiller	0428 034 344
South Queensland	John Erskine	0419 790 917
North New South Wales	Peter Stubbs	(02) 6743 1559
South NSW and ACT	Rod Moad	0417 695 316
Gippsland, Victoria	Mark Burrows	0419 550 510
Central and Greater Victoria	Wendy Gallagher	0429 959 402
South Australia	Brett Raymond	0418 810 598
Western Australia	Ken Neill	0418 926 862
Tasmania – see Victoria		
Trophy Bowhunters of Australia	Ralph Boden	(02) 4392 6810

AFFILIATIONS

BOWHUNTING: WORLD BOWHUNTING ASSOCIATION

FIELD ARCHERY: INTERNATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION
CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT

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



BOWHUNTING DIVISION *report*



By Allan Driver / Vice President Bowhunting Division



While COVID-19 is still very much a concern, we're hoping that 2022 is a better year for all of us in our work, our private lives and of course, our hunting. Many of us drive long distances to hunt, so the easing of travel restrictions is very welcome.

BOWHUNTING

It is good to see many hunters out and about looking for worthy feral animals to claim. The end of December signalled the closing of the game claims for the 2021 year, and soon the collating will begin to work out the national awards for our members. It is important that members have sent their final claims to their branch for rec-

ognition. Please check with your Branch Field Representative to cross-reference your claims and make sure they are all recorded correctly and sent to the ABA office. We have some exciting news on the game-claimed front—the ABA office has received a claim for a buffalo that looks like it will be a new Australian record. Sometimes it's just a case of being in the right place at the right time!

REACCREDITATION POSTPONED

The re-accreditation of Branch Measurers and Bowhunting Proficiency Officers, due to take place in Queensland in May, has been postponed. The National Executive made this decision based on

the COVID-19 situation and asks all members who hold these positions to stay in their roles until next year when we expect to hold the re-accreditation. It is important all branches send members to take on these roles—if no one is trained, the members miss out on the opportunity to become qualified.

VICTORIAN GAME

The Victorian Game Management Authority is set to publish an online programme aimed at cross-bow and bowhunters. I have made some suggestions to enhance the programme, which looks well thought out to aid anyone interested in hunting with a bow and arrow. ☺

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	Peter Griffiths	114	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	Elissa Rosemond	275 2/8pt	2021
Fallow Deer	Elissa Rosemond	205 7/8pt	2019
Chital Deer	Elizabeth Proctor	161 3/8pt	2019
Hog Deer	Cheryl Morris	60 5/8pt	2018
Sambar Deer	Nil		
Rusa Deer	Elissa Rosemond	197 6/8pt	2020
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

BCY

BOWSTRING

**BOWSTRING MATERIALS,
SERVING,
AND ACCESSORIES**

GO TO
WEBSITE



**FOR WHAT YOU NEED
BCY HAS YOU COVERED**



Rely on BCY

BCYINC.COM
+1 860.632.7115



**MANUFACTURED
IN THE USA**
Some raw fibers are produced overseas



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

Branch/Hunter	Club	Game	Award	FK/FKOS	Size
A B Hawkless	Freds Pass FA	Donkey	GA	FKOS	0
B B Drinkwater	Independent	Rusa	RC	FKOS	174 3/8
B B Drinkwater	Independent	Rusa	RC		203 1/8
B M Turnbull	Independent	Camel	TC	FKOS	28 11/16
B M Turnbull	Independent	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
B T Gall	Mackay District Bowmen	Rusa	RC		227
B T Gall	Mackay District Bowmen	Rusa	RC		213
B D Smith	Mount Isa District BH	Stingray	GA	FKOS	5 7/8
B D Smith	Mount Isa District BH	Shark	GA	FKOS	0
B B Duynhov	Townsville District BH	Buffalo	TC	FKOS	81 4/8
B M McGuckin	Townsville District BH	Pig	GA	FK/FKOS	0
B D Ferguson	Twin Rivers BH	Pig	TC		25 4/8
B D Ferguson	Twin Rivers BH	Pig	TC		25 4/8
B D Ferguson	Twin Rivers BH	Pig	TC		25 6/8
B D Ferguson	Twin Rivers BH	Pig	TC		27 2/8
B G McComiskie	Twin Rivers BH	Pig	TC		25 2/8
B G McComiskie	Twin Rivers BH	Pig	TC		26 2/8
B G McComiskie	Twin Rivers BH	Pig	TC		25 6/8
C J Van Der Merwe	Full Draw FA	Pig	TC	FK/FKOS	25
C M Law	Full Draw FA	Donkey	GA	FKOS	0
C M Law	Full Draw FA	Buffalo	GA	FKOS	0
C M Law	Full Draw FA	Buffalo	TC		83 6/8
D J Harch	Darling Downs FA	Hare	GA	FKOS	0
D J Harch	Darling Downs FA	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0
D M Woolacott	Darling Downs FA	Hare	GA	FKOS	0
D M Woolacott	Darling Downs FA	Goat	GA	FKOS	0
D Z Kronk	Darling Downs FA	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
D B Stokes	Grange Bowmen	Goat	RC	FKOS	110 1/8
D M Slobodzian	Grange Bowmen	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
D B Willaton	Granite Belt Bowmen	Pig	GA	FK/FKOS	0
D G Windle	Renegade Bowmen	Cat	RC	FKOS	7 13/16
D D Winks	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	RC		29
D J Winks	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	TC		26 4/8
D J Winks	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	TC		25 2/8
D J Winks	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	TC		28 4/8
D R Woolacott	Renegade Bowmen	Red Deer	GA	FK/FKOS	0
D R Woolacott	Renegade Bowmen	Pig	GA	FKOS	0
D R Woolacott	Renegade Bowmen	Cat	GA	FKOS	0
D R Woolacott	Renegade Bowmen	Goat	GA	FKOS	0
F D Rattan	Forbes Lachlan River Archers	Goat	GA	FK/FKOS	0
F J Hyde	Forbes Lachlan River Archers	Pig	GA	FK/FKOS	0
G D Luxford	Macalister Trophy BH	Sambar	RC		176 3/8
G M Curtis	Macalister Trophy BH	Red	TC		199 3/8
G M Curtis	Macalister Trophy BH	Fallow	TC		171 7/8
G M Curtis	Macalister Trophy BH	Fallow	TC		180 6/8
G M Curtis	Macalister Trophy BH	Fallow	TC		184 5/8
G M Curtis	Macalister Trophy BH	Fallow	RC		213 4/8
H D Podubinski	Buffalo Bowmen	Chital	GA	FKOS	0
I C Rowntree	Yorke Peninsula Field Archers	Fish BF	GA	FK/FKOS	0
J P Griffiths	Independent	Pig	TC		25 1/8
J K Sarre	Western Plains Archers	Rabbit	GA	FKOS	0



Trophy Bowhunters of Australia Club



Bowhunting achievements

TO END

DECEMBER
2021

Master Bowhunter

Peter Griffiths	520
Dan Podubinski	460
David Luxford	340

Trophy Bowhunter Award

John Scott	270
Toby Gall	230
Daniel Ferguson	220
Tyler Atkinson	200

Bowhunter Award

Marc Curtis	170
Graham McComiskie	140
John Teitzel	120
Benjamin Ireland	110
Elissa Rosemond	110
Jack Winks	100

Bowhunter Royale

Nil Further since last report

Bowhunter Imperial

Peter Griffiths

Bowhunter Supreme

Dan Podubinski

Senior Member of TBA

Peter Griffiths

Members Admitted to TBA Club

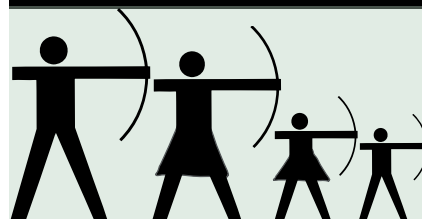
(membership granted after
taking first Trophy Class or
better animal)

Nil since last report

GAME CLAIMED
P.76



ARCHERY
is a
FAMILY
sport





Branch G's

Groundhog day:

By Mark Burrows / Branch G Controller

“If you had told me this time last year that club, branch, state and national competitions would be cancelled, that I wouldn’t be able to travel interstate to compete or hunt or that I would need special papers just to cross state borders, I would have asked you what you had been smoking. But that is just what happened in 2020, the year of disbelief.”

I wrote the above in November 2020, but I may as well have written it in November 2021. We all thought that by the start of 2021 all would be good again. Not so—Groundhog Day all over again.

Even at the close of 2021, the whole country was in much the same predicament that it had been 12 months previously. Surely, though, there was some light at the end of the tunnel this time. I was hopeful that 2022 would be much better. Hopeful, but not overly confident.

Amongst all the turmoil, Branches G and H appeared to have suffered more than most. We certainly had more lockdowns and seemingly more restrictions. From a competitive archery point of view, it was a pretty ordinary year—or two.

For us in Regional Branch G, 2021 started off with spasmodic lockdowns but we did manage to get in a couple of monthly shoots.

Over Easter, a few members even sneaked into New South Wales for the National Safari. May

was looking brighter with Branch G hosting the Victorian State 3Ds at West Gippsland Field Archers in Drouin.

The June and July shoots were cancelled, but things came good again for a couple of weeks at the start of August for the Victorian State IFAA at Phoenix Field Archers of Sale.

Then it really went to pieces with the state again locked down from mid-August until the start of November. For the second year in a row, the Victorian State ABA Titles were



cancelled. However, in November the state was easing restrictions and WGFA hosted the first Branch ABA in nearly nine months, the previous one having been held over the first weekend in March.

Numbers were down, which was to be expected. A lot of archers were out of the habit and others were apprehensive about mixing in crowds again. At this stage, Branch H hadn't held a shoot at all for several months. Their first planned outing was for late November, which would include camping—what a novelty.

Branch G was scheduled to hold its Christmas breakup shoot in early December. It was to be a 3D event—only the second 3D for the year—but there was still that lingering doubt of another lockdown. To some extent, lockdowns had become ingrained into the Victorian psyche by then, but all was good and the shoot went ahead without a hitch. It turned out to be a great weekend, with great weather, great courses and great camaraderie.

COVID-19 restrictions were still in force to some degree and apprehension of crowds again probably kept the numbers down, but it was better than the previous month and things can only get better from here. Hopefully 2022 will see the return to some degree of normality—well, as normal as things can be after two years of whatever that was. ©



Abbey Archery Photo Competition

Australia's Largest Archery Company Since 1975 is pleased to sponsor the Photo Competition with two \$250.00 Abbey Archery Gift Vouchers

WIN
one of two
\$250
PRIZES

Cash prizes for the two best photo entries — images can be taken during field archery or while bowhunting in the bush

Email entries to editor@archeryactionmagazine.com with the Subject line: Abbey Photo Comp Entry
Winners to be announced in the March-April 2023 Issue



You can use your prize towards a new bow package or any other archery accessory.
Bows to suit all disciplines are available at both our pro shops in Sydney and Brisbane, worldwide online or from our network of authorised Abbey Archery dealers right across Australia.

Call to order your archery equipment today: Sydney (02) 8850 6400 or Brisbane (07) 3279 6400 or Buy Online at AbbeyArchery.com.au

GO TO
WEBSITE

Editor's Note: Although the winners were scheduled to be announced this issue, due to the handover, we've decided to delay until the May/June issue.

PHOTO COMPETITION *Entries*



JANELLE JONES

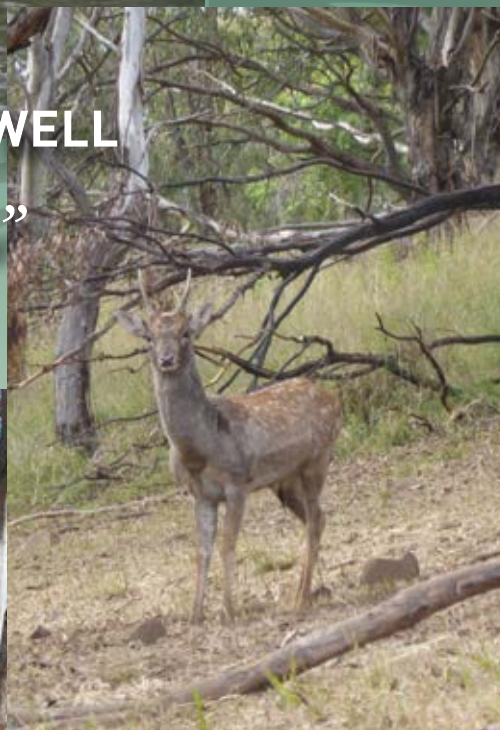
“Big decision—hunting or fishing today?”

GRAHAM NEWELL

“Hello there”

MARK TURNBULL

“Idyllic scene”







Running in a new bow:

By Tyler Atkinson

I arrived home from work on a Thursday afternoon to the happy sight of a new bow on the doorstep.

I hadn't had a new bow arrive for a while so I was very keen to get straight into it, get it set up and dialled in for the upcoming weekend. Having never really shot a bow under a 35in axle-to-axle, I was also interested to see how this small 30in ATA would perform compared to the larger ones. Honestly, coming into it I was expecting a big difference in shoot ability.

The unboxing began and the first thing to do was to crank in the limbs and set the draw length. Then, a quick throw-on of accessories and tune and within an hour she was good to go and grouping bare shafts out past 40m.

Another half an hour to really get the pins sorted and I was ready for a weekend of breaking it in and trying to get a couple of animals on the ground.

Friday afternoon came around. I finished work in the early afternoon, went home and threw enough gear in the back of the car for a quick overnight scouting trip. Swag, bow, a small cooker and a couple of sausages in an esky bag would do me well.

By mid-afternoon, I was off the beaten trails and driving onto a couple of 4WD access tracks to

get around and make sure the wind was right for me to look through this new area. Close to where I was looking to park, I suddenly saw a fallow doe about 100m ahead of me. She took off like a rocket.

Well, that was a good sign that there were a few ferals around in the area. You always wonder about that when picking a new spot. I parked and grabbed the bow out of the car. I put on my bum bag with a couple of my safety essentials and set off up the gully to start to look for some trails. It wasn't long before there were a few trails crossing between the gullies.

Once I was found a good trail that looked like it had some pretty consistent traffic, I set off along it, heading towards a gully with a small creek bottom that then went up the opposite side and out onto some nice feeding flats.

A kilometre or so later, working as slow as slow could be with eyes open, I was 50m above the creek. The creek had 10m or so of native grassy flat along each side and looked perfect for a deer moving along in the late afternoon. I decided to nestle into a downed log with a nice stump at a perfect

seat height. I could see quite a bit across the gully on the opposing face and bits and pieces along the creeks up to 100m away.

About half an hour passed and I spotted some movement across the creek. A doe was moving down the face towards the creek. I watched for a bit and she came down and crossed the creek.

I make a quick judgement call on the line she was looking and figured she was going to move up a feeder gully to my left that was directly adjacent to where she came down the face. I skirted back and moved around to try to get into a shooting position. A steep-sided gully allowed me to get in nice and close, but well above where I was expecting her to pass. Quickly enough she was below me.

A near 45-degree angle down and 35m long shot presented itself and I hit full draw. My pin settled and I squeezed off the trigger.

The arrow flew true and as she was completely unaware of my presence, the doe didn't jump the

string at all. She bounced out and took off back towards the creek.

About 40m later, just as she got to the creek, I watched her stop and tip over. A very nice clean kill for the first out of the bow. I went down to pick up my arrow and it was good deep blood with a little bit of bubbly lung blood.

I walked down and once I got her out and onto the flat I examined the impact. The arrow had entered through the inside shoulder blade and exited out halfway along the body on the offside. I did a quick breakdown and propped the forequarters and backstraps up on some logs to cool while I went for a bit more of a look around for another couple of hours.

I slowly moved along the creek halfway up the gully side looking for sign and stumbled onto a couple of young foxes playing up ahead 40m away. The wind was good and creating a bit of noise so I was quickly in to 20m. This shot was harder than you'd think because the foxes were jumping,

rolling and just nonstop moving.

I whistled and squeaked but nothing would get them to stop and prop. I ended up coming to full draw then stomped my foot loudly a couple of times. This got their attention! They propped and I quickly sent an arrow their way.

I hit one under the chin and he dropped like a rock. The other took off like a rocket and wasn't looking back. By the time I took some photos and scalped my fox, I was running out of daylight so I headed back to pick up the fallow meat.

Things got a little tricky because I had been slack and not carried a backpack, so I tied my jumper up into a sling-pack-type system and loaded it up with everything besides the two rear quarters which I had over my shoulder. It wasn't ideal and made the carryout a little harder and slower but got the job done. I hung all the meat up in bags to cool, cooked some tea and got into the swag. I wanted an early rise to get up onto a ridge-top to do a bit of glassing as daylight broke.

3D ARCHERY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA'S BEST 3D EXPERIENCE

FOR SHOOT DATES, SEE BACK OF MAGAZINE IN BLUE WRITING

CUB & YOUTH LUCKY DRAW PRIZES AT EACH EVENT \$50 VOUCHER

CUBS SHOOT FREE

Come and shoot with your friends **No Muster**

All events are Cross Participation for ABA and AA Members

COUGAR TARGETS **CALTEX** **ELITE** **BOHNING** **benson** **APEX HUNTING**

HOYT **SHREWS** **GAS** **Victory** **GUNNEDAH**

Urban Archery **OZtrail** **4x4** **CBE** **ARCADE** **ARCHERY**

FOR THE LATEST RESULTS & INFORMATION www.3daaa.com.au



*Honestly,
it was more
luck than
anything...*



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



A bush bash over a couple of kilometres had me up through a heap of storm-damaged bush to where I wanted to be. I was set up and ready to look for movement in that first golden hour of daylight.

It took a while, but within half an hour I had spotted three different mobs of three or four fallow moving through. I'd already put one on the ground the day before, so I left them undisturbed and noted the paths they had taken so that I had ideas for ambush positions for future hunts.

Rather than walking straight back to the car, I opted to do a bit of a loop to check out some more

gullies I hadn't looked through before. Moving along slowly, I bumped a young fox out of the head of a big dead gum tree. He didn't take off too quickly, so I set up and made a little squeak. I could see little bits of movement for about 10 minutes before he appeared back out on my side, moving in to 10m before offering me a shot.

Thwack! He was down straight away. The sound of the shot scared another fox that I hadn't seen come in beside me. He took off and I was quick to load another arrow and swing around. I squeaked and he propped at

about 30m. I quickly sent another arrow off, dropping him straight away as well.

Honestly, it was more luck than anything. I made a very quick distance estimation and a very rushed shot but hit the mark perfectly. I gathered the two and after a couple of photos, I took the scalps and set off back to the car.

It was a quick hunt, but I really couldn't have asked for a better start to a relationship with a bow. I have complete confidence in the set-up I'll be running over the following months. A nice bonus is a topped up freezer and a few ferals taken out of the local bush. ☺



Thinking about doing archery as a sport?

Would you like to try field archery or become a bowhunter?
Maybe both?

Join the Australian Bowhunters Association



Membership benefits include:

- Organised field and 3D archery competition at club, branch, state, national and international levels
- All variations of equipment catered for
- Access to insured affiliate clubs across Australia
- Subscription to the Archery Action magazine
- Access to a game award registration and recognition system at national, state and club levels
- Free coaching programs
- Bowhunter proficiency and education programs at club, state and national levels

GO TO
WEBSITE



For online membership and further information go to
www.bowhunters.org.au



INTRODUCING:
MOUNT CLAY
Archery

What began as a group of friends and their kids getting together on a Sunday afternoon and learning, teaching, practising, sharing their passion/love/interest in a sport that the whole family could get involved in grew into what today is known as Mount Clay Archers.



Back in 2005, Mount Clay Archers held our first shoot at the Heywood Sporting Complex with around 20 people attending—some with years of archery experience and some with none at all—and we have not looked back since.

Mount Clay Archers shoot all year round and hold club shoots on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

Our club is known for its three-day shoot, held over the long weekend in March and archers and their families travel from far and wide to attend.

We think it's the great courses, facilities and atmosphere that has everyone returning, but deep

down we know it is the WAG event. If you don't know what this is, you will have to come along and see for yourself.

The past 18 months have been difficult for everyone, in and out of lockdown, not being able to plan ahead for anything and, most of all, not always being able to get out and do the sport we love. Mount Clay Archers was fortunate enough to hold its Branch shoot in both 2020 and 2021, for which we are thankful.

Like most clubs, our membership fluctuates and we currently have 24 active members. Some are very young and some are not so young (but still young at heart).

We are a friendly, family-ori-

ented club and even have some original founding members returning with their families to continue the next generation.

We have two great courses in a bush-like setting, which are quite flat and easily accessible for people of all abilities.

We have a practice area, an indoor range and we are hoping to increase our courses in the future. We are very lucky to have a state-of-the-art ablution block with power, toilets and hot showers—a great asset on the cold early morning starts.

Our club is always looking for ways to improve and expand and we look forward to what the future holds. 🎯



Young Mount Clay Archers (left to right) Jackson and Ruby



We...even have some original founding members returning with their families...



Sophie hits her target



Ashton is ready to shoot

URBAN PRO SHOP AND
ARCHERY INDOOR RANGE

100'S OF BOWS IN STORE
GREAT SERVICE
TOP BRANDS
MASSIVE STORE
EASY PARKING
SHOOTING RANGE

51 FREIGHT DRIVE SOMERTON VIC 3062
03 9303 7291 • WWW.URBANARCHERY.COM

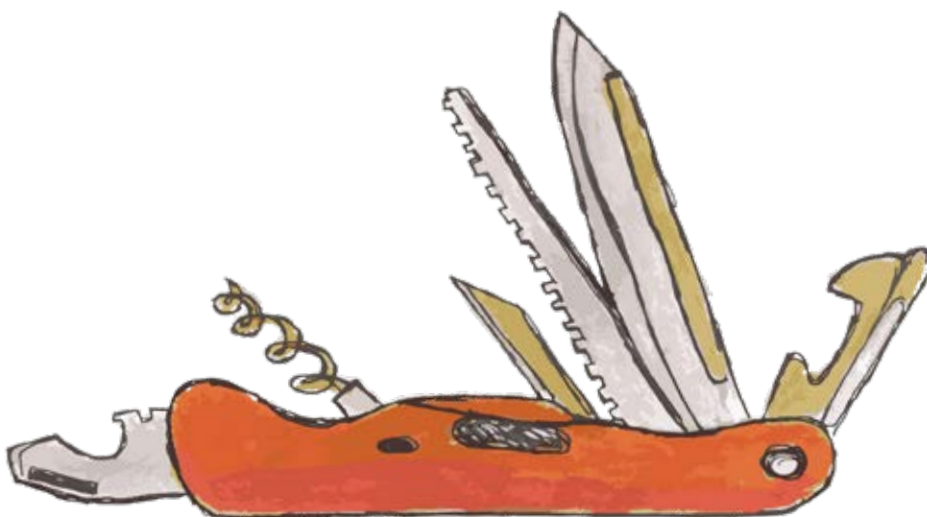
GO TO
WEBSITE

Traditional

TRAILS

With Nick Lintern





A BLADE FOR EVERY PURPOSE

In this edition of Traditional Trails, I wanted to cover a topic I've never covered but is actually quite important, and that is knives.

Of course, knives are relevant to all archers, not just traditional archers, and there are some things worth mentioning on this subject, whether you are a target archer, field archer or hunter.

It's not my intention to go into metallurgy here, rather, just to have a look at what you may find most useful for each application we come across as archers. So, let's dive down the rabbit burrow of knives that are perfect for archers. Let's start at the beginning. It is a simple anthropological fact that if you take men into a disposal store or camping shop, they almost invariably congregate

around the knife counter. Even if you have your knife needs well and truly met, you still can't help but look at the cutlery on offer and are almost drawn to it like we all are to fire.

It's actually not because men (and many women) are psychopaths—although some are—it's actually because in our DNA we have thousands of years of messaging coming through telling us how important a good knife (or three) is.

Our ancestors' very survival depended on having a good knife, sword or axe at their sides and although we don't need to fend off attackers anymore, the need for a good knife is as critical as ever

in many fields, including archery.

Let's have a look at a hunter's needs first. I carry two blades when I'm out in the bush.

Firstly, I carry a large fixed blade knife in a sheath at my side and secondly, I carry a good skinning knife which is tucked away in a pouch.

There are some knives that can potentially fill the needs of a general purpose knife and skinner, but in my experience it's better to have the skinning blade kept razor sharp and pristine for that task alone and also understand that the hard type general purpose work is better achieved with a larger blade made specifically for that task.

FIXED BLADE

The fixed blade field knife is critical for those venturing afield. As well as having general use, it may become vital in a survival situation. There are literally thousands of brands and styles of knives out there at varying price ranges but the most important things to look for are:

- High quality steel: The steel needs to be hard enough to take and hold a good edge and take a knock, but also be flexible enough to not fracture or shatter if it's twisted in use etc.

- Full tang: The steel from the blade continues down into the handle. This makes the knife very strong and less likely to break. I strongly advise avoiding the hollow handle survival knives as the blade stops at the handle and the chance of them breaking is very high.

There's no need to spend a king's ransom to acquire a good quality knife but do your research and try to avoid anything made in China—the blades are usually made from cream cheese and



The Tully De-tusker. Note the sharpened back section, perfect for tusk or joint

won't last five minutes under stress. Usually, a good quality knife can be purchased for around \$200 and my strongest advice is: pay what you need to, to get the best blade. It may save your life and/or last a lifetime.

How big should this blade be to be practical? There's an old saying that goes around the field from folk who really know bush lore and the hunting lifestyle: "The bigger the knife, the bigger the d@#*head".

That might seem harsh, but in reality, it's very true—we don't

need to be carrying a Scottish claymore sword to hunt game or go camping.

How big is too big? I have a few knives that I've used for over 30 years, which have served me well. The longest knife I carry for general use is around 12in long.

The best of these is the "Tully De-tusker" made by Tusker Broadheads back in the early 2000s when John Teitzel still owned the business. He designed this knife based on his massive experience base and it truly is a great field knife (see pics). It has the full tang,

NORSEMAN TRADITIONAL ARCHERY SUPPLIES



Full traditional archery supplies and advice from Australia's premier traditional archery source. We have over 40 years experience in all aspects of traditional archery. We stock all things traditional including:

Wooden shafting, nocks, points, feathers, leather goods, strings, kids budget bows and of course, the time honoured, field and target proven range of Norseman handcrafted longbows.

Call 02 43 294 074 or email norseman_longbows@hotmail.com for all your traditional archery needs, advice and questions.

hardwood handle, a billy hook, and a sharpened steep-angled back section, perfect for busting out tusks or breaking out joints of meat in the field.

It even has a camera thread built into the handle for using the old digital cameras in the field—he really thought of everything. The curved blade could serve for skinning in a push but is a bit too clunky really for that task. I'm not sure if they are still available but if not, if you can pick one up second-hand I'd highly recommend them.

Another of my favourite field knives is the US military KA BAR. These are full-tanged, high-quality steel blades equipped with a leather washer style handle. They were originally commissioned during WW2 by the US Government and two main companies were given the contracts: KA BAR itself, which designed the knife and gave its name to that design, and also Camillus cutlery—both from New York (mine is a Camillus).

These are outstanding knives with a proven track record, and they continued in use in the US military right through to the late 80s, and it's still not uncommon to see them in the field today. I mention them not only because I use one and can vouch for the outstanding make quality, but also because you can pick them up at knife auctions etc. fairly cheaply due to the surplus situation.

Just make 100 per cent sure they are the real deal when purchasing. There is a nasty Chinese copy out there, but the difference between the real thing and the rubbish is quite obvious. Usually \$100 will secure you one unless it's a WW2 model—then

the big bucks come in as the collectors want them. I believe KA BAR may still be making them for civilian use and Camillus have sadly gone out of business.

Whichever way you go with your fixed blade knife, remember it doesn't need to be a jagged, Rambo-looking thing. Quite the opposite—look at how simple the KA

BAR is, and that is a purpose-built fighting knife that serves well in all aspects of hunting and field use.

Get yourself a good quality sheath knife and look after it and it will look after you. If your knife isn't going to be used for a spell, store it out of its sheath as prolonged storage in the sheath can encourage rust.



Above: Tully De-tusker, a good, solid all-round bush knife

Right: The KA BAR military knife. Blued steel blade is standard. Note the clip



SKINNING KNIVES

Skinning knives can be either folding or fixed and I have used both, but the most important thing about the skinner is its blade shape. It should have a rounded end to the blade to allow for those curving-type strokes made when skinning out a hide. If it is too pointed to the tip, you will be poking holes in your skin and potentially breaking into the meat or organs etc. while skinning. One of my favorites here is an old Kershaw my father bought me back in the 80s—a folding blade, which I prefer as I can tuck it in a pouch.

As well as the blade's shape, it needs to be great quality steel that can take—and hold—a great edge. Nothing's worse than having to resharpen your blade three times while skinning out an animal.

Also, a good skinner shouldn't be massively thick. Skinning requires more of a surgical approach and needs a blade accordingly. This knife should only ever be used for skinning. Don't go chopping wood or carving with it. Leave that to the big sheath knife.

Drop point style Damascus blade, the perfect quiver knife



Quiver knife mounted to the strap of a back quiver. This gives easy access.



GO TO





NAMIBIA

BOW AND RIFLE HUNTING SAFARIS
PLAINS GAME AND DANGEROUS GAME

PACKAGES DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY
FOR AUSTRALIANS IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS

AUSTRALIA

HUNTING FOR FIVE SPECIES OF DEER
IN SOUTH EAST AUSTRALIA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT

ROY ELLIS : +61 0429407187
royellis7@bigpond.com

VALE Barry Johnson

I'm sad to announce the passing of one of Australia's greatest ever longbowmen and bowyers: Barry Johnson.

I first met Barry back in 1980 as a young teenage boy and was in awe of his ability with a bow. To say he was an outstanding archer is an understatement—his ability saw him dominate traditional archery meets for four decades.

Adding to that, he had an amazing success rate in the hunting field as well. In bow making terms, Barry had a longbow style he stuck with for many years and developed some successful recurves as well.

Barry was an incredible craftsman and his bows have been

used all over Australia with great success. I own four of Barry's bows and although I shoot my own gear now, Barry's bows still hang proudly on my bow rack.

In my early years, I looked up to Barry enormously and aspired to be like him as both an archer and bowyer. As the years passed, I became a professional bowyer and he and I became great friends. We spent hours talking archery and sharing ideas and techniques.

Barry was not only a great ambassador for traditional archery but also one of life's true gentlemen. A quiet achiever who truly let his art do the talking, he will be sorely missed. Rest in peace my friend.

up your quiver to go and shoot, you can't forget your knife.

This knife can be any style or shape you prefer; I like a small drop-point fixed blade that is maybe six or seven inches long at most.

The drop-point blade means the end is more rounded than a clip-point blade, which looks like a bite has been taken from it (like the KA BAR). However, the end is still generally not as rounded as a skinner.

This smallish drop-point blade is not only small enough to perform micro tasks like trimming servings or paring down, lifting feathers etc. on the go, but also strong enough to be able to chisel into trees to remove broadheaded or target arrows driven in there by an errant shot.

At the end of the day, this all-purpose knife is going to

perform a multitude of smaller tasks, as well as some slightly heavier ones and should be chosen according to your needs. You might prefer a Swiss army-type knife if the other tools are useful to you.

This knife is very important because you may not always have your full hunting rig/belt with you, but you'll always have your quiver.

In summary, don't skimp on purchasing a good quality knife. Do your homework and remember that a good purchase now will yield a reliable friend for years.

Okay, that about covers us for this edition. I hope 2022 brings all of us great times and great shooting and that we can all go about our archery disciplines and catch up with mates with no nonsense. Until next time, keep traditional. ☺

QUIVER KNIVES

This is a knife all archers should carry—the idea being that somewhere in or mounted on your quiver is a general-purpose smaller knife.

Target archers may carry them in the pouch on their hip quivers, or you may like to mount it on your quiver strap for a back quiver (that's me). It must be with your quiver so that whenever you pick



Australia's Largest

benson

ARCHERY

**CUSTOMER
PARKING!**



ELITE



HOYT
ARCHERY



Inline 1

- 31" Axle to Axle
- 332fps IBO
- 7" Brace Height
- 26"-30.5" Draw Length
- Draw Weights 30 - 80lbs
- 4.3lbs Mass Weight

Inline 3

- 33" Axle to Axle
- 337fps IBO
- 6.5" Brace Height
- 26"-30.5" Draw Length
- Draw Weights 30 - 80lbs
- 4.4lbs Mass Weight

Inline 5

- 35" Axle to Axle
- 343fps
- 6" Brace Height
- 26"-30.5" Draw Length
- Draw Weights 30 - 80lbs
- 4.5lbs Mass Weight



Mathews V3X 29

- 180 up to 340fps
- 6" Brace Height
- 29" Axle to Axle
- 25.5" - 30" Draw Length
- 60, 65, 70, 75lbs
- Let Off 80 or 85%
- 4.47lbs Mass Weight

Mathews V3X 33

- 180 up to 336fps
- 6.5" Brace Height
- 33" Axle to Axle
- 27"-31.5" Draw Lengths
- 60, 65, 70, 75lbs
- Let Off 80 or 85%
- 4.67lbs Mass Weight



Backpacking, Spotting and Stalking, Blind Sitting, Ambush, Scouting - Whatever your mission Benson Archery has everything you need to get you going and keep you going.

Hunters Element

Ridgeline

Spika

Vortex Optics

Primos Callers

Muela Knives

Leder Tanning

Oz Cut Broadheads

Morakniv

Kayuga Broadheads

Van Dieman Broadheads

All these brands plus much more in store

Archery Store since 1973

164 Parramatta Rd, Granville, NSW 2142

Phone: (02) 9682 3080

Email: info@bensonarchery.com.au

We won't be beaten on price with our price matching guarantee*

www.bensonarchery.com.au

GO TO
WEBSITE

HOYT ARCHERY

Ventum Pro 30

- 342fps ATA
- 30" Axle to Axle
- 6" Brace Height
- Draw Lengths 25"-30"
- Draw Weights 30-80 lbs

Ventum Pro 33

- 334fps ATA
- 33" Axle to Axle
- 6 1/4" Brace Height
- Draw Lengths 26"-31"
- Draw Weights 30-80 lbs



Carbon RX7

- 342fps ATA
- 30" Axle to Axle
- 6 1/4" Brace Height
- Draw Lengths 25"-30"
- Draw Weights 30-80 lbs

Carbon RX7 Ultra

- 334fps ATA
- 34" Axle to Axle
- 7" Brace Height
- Draw Lengths 27"-32"
- Draw Weights 30-80 lbs



Refine EKO

- 342fps
- 6.375" Brace Height
- 33" Axle to Axle
- 26.5" - 30.5" Draw Length
- 45-60, 55-70 lbs



Redemption EKO

- 342fps
- 6.25" Brace Height
- 31" Axle to Axle
- Draw Lengths 26"-30"
- 45-60, 55-70 lbs

Resurgence RTH

- 335fps
- 6.25" Brace Height
- 32" Axle to Axle
- Draw Length 25.5"-31"
- 45-60, 55-70 lbs

Advised prices are subject to revision



Now Available in Store and Online

Australian made 3 Element Performance Strings. Using only the best materials and string building equipment on the market to provide you with a product you can trust. Used by some of Australia's best bowhunters, you can trust that your bowstring will perform flawlessly when you are deep in the back country or up on the shooting line.

www.3elementstrings.com.au



Visit us at www.facebook.com/bensonarchery
Order Online now www.bensonarchery.com.au

*Products must be in stock by a Australian retail competitor with a physical location.
Please see website for more details www.bensonarchery.com.au

TRAINING/COURSES

R License \$35

Firearm Safety Training Course \$149

AHO Club \$20



BACK TO BASICS

Bushcraft & Survival

By Scott Heiman

We're truly blessed to live in a country with such a varied countryside. As you read through the pages of this magazine, you'll see fellow bowhunters doing what we do in every state of Australia in grasslands, the mallee, mountains, plains, gorges, rain forest and the desert. But with that diversity comes significant risk.

Seeps, soaks, sinks and gnamma holes

With a vast arid centre, Australia is the driest inhabited continent in the world. This does not mean that areas without fresh water are also without plants and animals. In fact, arid zone habitats are full of life—including feral species such as camels, goats, donkeys, cats and more. But where does this arid zone begin? And where does it end? It may not be as far away as you think.

The definition of arid zones has varied according to the aims of the scientific enquiry. To make it simple, I like to regard arid zones as those areas where evaporation exceeds precipitation. If you wanted to put a measure on it, it's the areas that receive an average rainfall of 250mm or less. This boundary, or 'dry line', is comparable in some ways to the 'snowline' in our high country.

Of course, wherever there is an arid zone, there's also a semi-arid zone surrounding it which has fluctuating weather patterns.

These zones receive an average rainfall between 250-350mm. In Australia, 70 per cent of the country is either arid or semi-arid. And, due to climactic variations, at any point in time the semi-arid land may be arid. To put this into perspective, the typical human bladder will hold between 300ml and 500ml of water. That's right; in one go you can urinate more fluid than there is rainfall for an entire year in more than 70 per cent of Australia!

As I said, you don't have to go far in Australia to find the dry line. Dubbo, Charleville, Kalgoorlie and Kununurra all fall into this category, as does everything in between. And while we'll read-

ily talk about going 'beyond the Black Stump', did you know that this refers to an abstract marker from 1829 which Governor Darling, of the colony of New South Wales, used to describe the limits of established settlement? To go west of the Black Stump was not considered to be safe. And the perceived danger wasn't solely based on the risk of being attacked by Indigenous tribes; it was also due to the lack of permanent water and arable land. The original 'Black Stump Run' can be found at Coolah, NSW—a mere 300km from the Pacific Ocean.

Another colonial marker is the 'Goyder Line' in South Australia. George Goyder—SA Surveyor General from 1861 to 1894—created a line of demarcation as a practical limit for agricultural development.

Today, viewed from a satellite, it's the only green bit of SA visible from space and at its furthest point is only 200km from the coast.

In previous columns, we've spoken about how to find a water by watching the birdlife, animals and the trackways, insects and even the vegetation. But when there is nothing obvious to lead you to water what are you looking for?

Almost any environment has water present to some degree. The trick is knowing what you're looking at and then being able to interpret that information into useful intelligence. Rivers, creeks, streams, springs and pools are the easiest and most obvious sources of water. Simply climb up the nearest mountain and you'll see that the greener vegetation snakes its way through the countryside



Those who do not learn from history are destined to relive it

following the rivers and creeks.

In arid areas, rivers and creeks tend only to flow during flood (like they were doing at the end of 2021!). After rain, some pooled water may remain in the deeper areas.

Digging into a dry river or creek bed—on the outside of bends—may realise moist soil that may be developed into a seepage hole.

Key pointers are spots where animals have been digging or camping as they will also dig for water and rest in arid areas where the water table is closer to the surface. This is because the soil is cooler when in shade.

Look too for erosion gullies or exposed rock in the outer banks of the waterway and then dig down following that feature. But it's not always that easy. Often you'll need a keener eye to find other locations with tell-tale signs.

TERRAIN ANALYSIS

Conducting terrain analysis involves a full examination of the physical geography and geology of a region in which all the details of weather, climate, vegetation, soils, land use and resources, hydrology, and landforms.

For many hunters, this type of analysis happens in our heads sub-consciously. We don't need a computer to determine where our prey might be. Finding water uses the same analytical methods—but applied differently.

Specifically, when you search for water, you're looking for a different type of quarry—which just happens to be the same thing that your prey will be looking for too!

Some terrain features you might find useful to look for—and that may prove reliable indicators of water sources—include:



Always make a mental note of where the bores and wells are in the region

BORES AND WELLS

In some areas, old bores and wells may be located at sites of prior habitation or existing stations. Wells may be deep and covered, which may make water procurement from these sources difficult to achieve unless there's a pump.

Many station owners leave the pumps in situ, often fenced or caged, to stop animals disturb-

ing them.

At sites like these, look around for other items like crank handles to start the pump. And always remember, before stepping off on a hunt, ask the land manager where the bores and wells are located in case of emergency. They also make for a good Emergency Rendezvous Point (ERV).

DESERT LAKES & SWAMPS

These are seasonal and are fed from rivers, creeks and from overflow during the Wet Season.

After evaporation removes the surface water, digging in moist areas may realise some water from soakage, or may be used in a solar still to extract vital H₂O.

Water is not necessarily always at the bottom of the mountain



Insurance solutions for the Hunting Industry



*Offering an extensive
range of products for:*

- Retail Archery and Sports Stores Insurance
- Hunting and Tour Guides
- Wholesalers and Retailers
- Importers and Exporters
- Associations



BROKERS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

For more information please contact our office

Toll Free: 1300 733 981 or (03) 9783 6255

Address: Suite 12, 395-399 Nepean Highway,
P.O. Box 261, Frankston, Vic. 3199

AFS Licence No: 247077

ACN: 052 049 082 - ABN: 81 052 049 082

Email: info@pollardinsurance.com.au

www.pollardinsurance.com.au

GO TO
WEBSITE

CLAY PANS

These areas are small, low-lying areas with clay bottoms that allow rain to stay on the surface in muddy pools for several weeks.

These are the flat central basins of desert plains and can be identified by the deposits of salt, sand, and mud along the bottom and around the edges of the depression left behind after the filtration and evaporation occurs.



GNAMMA HOLES

'Gnamma' is an aboriginal term for rock holes.


Today, the word is used broadly to refer to 'a hollow or hole eroded or indented in solid rock of Australian deserts that sometimes contains water' (Miri-am-Webster Dictionary).

Gnamma holes are natural depressions that have been hollowed-out over time through chemical weathering processes in granite domes or other hard rock surfaces.

Importantly, they can act as natural repositories of fresh water which are replenished from underground stores and from rainwater run-off and dew. Not surprisingly, they've been an important (and sometimes sacred) feature for Aboriginal people for over 60,000 years, influencing their annual migration patterns or song lines across the western half of Australia.

While these types of geological depressions occur all over the world, what's unique about Australian gnamma holes is that some Aboriginal nations amplified them by grinding the walls of the depressions to make them deeper and sometimes bell shaped. They would then cover the narrow openings with rock slabs or sticks to prevent the water being fouled by animals.

To find them, look for lichen growing on a sloping rockface and the stained rainfall flows. Follow these signs downhill and you may find a gnamma hole or other depression holding fresh water.



This Gnamma hole is almost 3 feet deep

SINK HOLES

These naturally occur where the ground under the surface is mainly limestone, salt beds, soluble, or carbonate rocks that dissolve naturally by circulating groundwater. This then create underground rivers and caverns that, in time, collapse to make a sinkhole. In dry areas you won't

know they're there without following the birds in the morning or evening as they go to drink from the pools of water at the bottom. But beware. You may have to climb a long way down hazardous cliff faces to reach the water.

While these are basically the only source of water across the Nullarbor, they can be found across Australia.

Caves and sinkholes are a great way to find water

This rockhole is full and it hasnt rained for weeks



SPRINGS

These occur when the water is forced to the surface from subterranean pressures, or from gravitational flow from higher sources. Springs will normally provide a permanent water source and are mostly found in lower areas. Contrasting green vegetation is an indicator.

SOAKS

Soaks are found close to rivers and creeks in low lying areas and are normally lower than the existing water table. The presence of soaks is often indicated by vegetation. Soaks may be polluted through their use by animals so it's best to dig down and form a well. The water will seep-out of the surrounding sand/soil to form a basin from which to draw water. Make sure to boil it!

SEEPAGE

Seepage may be located at the base of cliffs, high ground or rocky outcrops where the water is slowly running underground across rock bases, clay layers and draining from features.

Contrasting green vegetation is an indicator of their existence and, when found, a quick tip is to use your shoelace to soak up the water and drip it into your water vessel.



Adapt, improvise and overcome thirst with your shoelace



Natural seepage can bring awe

Look for man made markers such as cairns



The site of Captain Charles Sturt's refuge

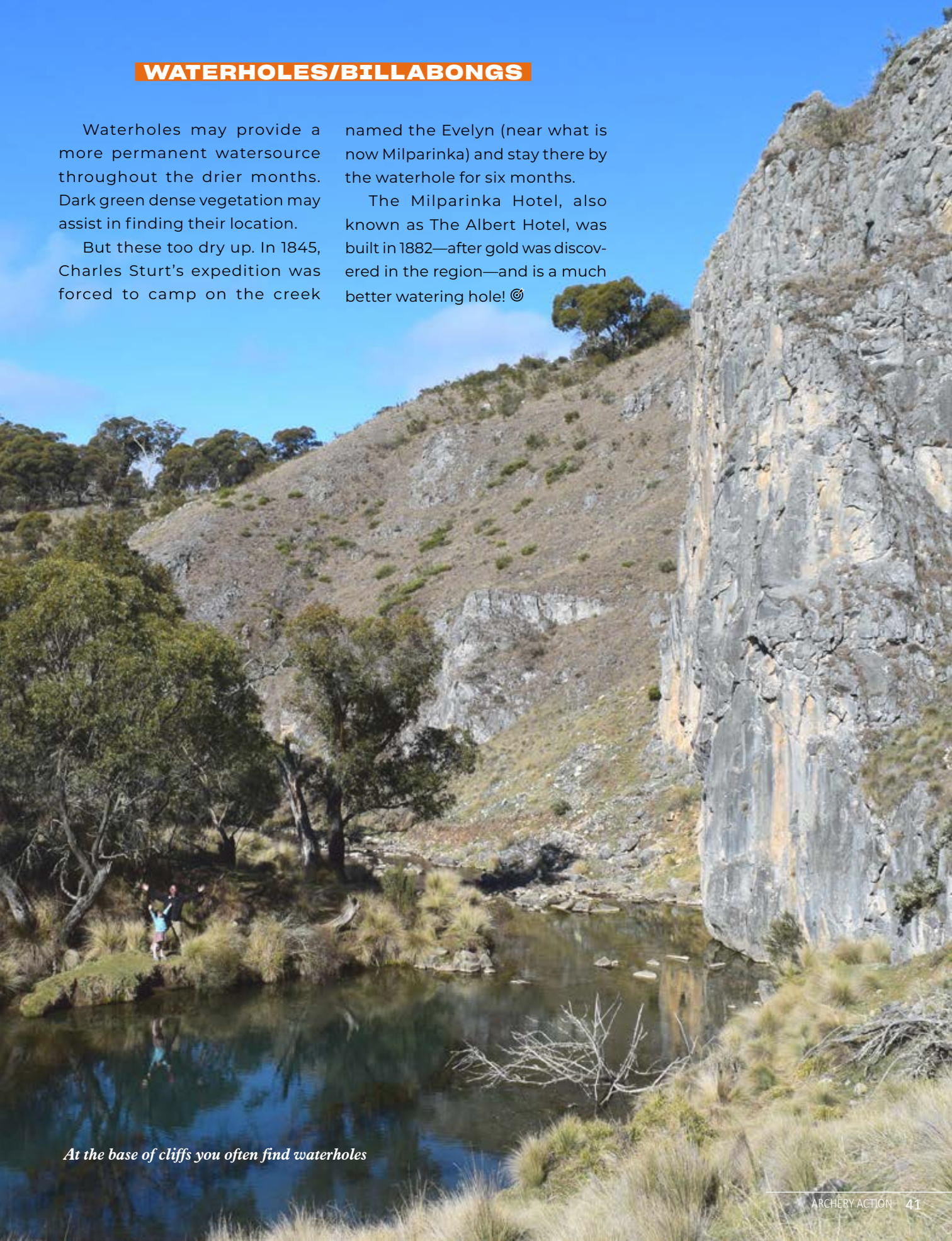
WATERHOLES/BILLABONGS

Waterholes may provide a more permanent water source throughout the drier months. Dark green dense vegetation may assist in finding their location.

But these too dry up. In 1845, Charles Sturt's expedition was forced to camp on the creek

named the Evelyn (near what is now Milparinka) and stay there by the waterhole for six months.

The Milparinka Hotel, also known as The Albert Hotel, was built in 1882—after gold was discovered in the region—and is a much better watering hole! ☺



At the base of cliffs you often find waterholes

2022

IFAA
National Field
Archery
Championships



ABA
National
Safari



Hosted by Wide Bay Archers April 9 to 18

Timetable:

IFAA

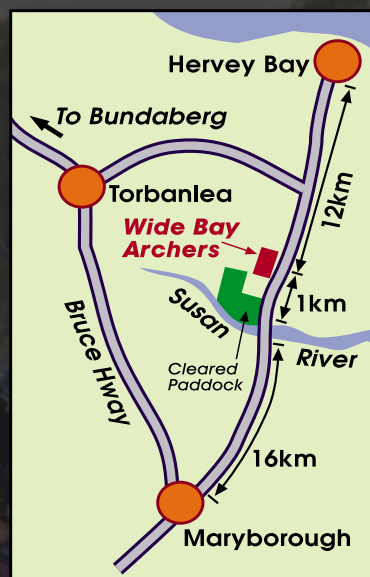
Muster each day at 8.00am for an 8.30am start

Friday 08/04/22	Registration and bow checks from 2pm
Saturday 09/04/22	28 Targets Field/Hunter
Sunday 10/04/22	28 Targets Hunter/Field (afternoon bow checks)
Monday 11/04/22	28 Targets Field/Hunter
Tuesday 12/04/22	28 Targets Hunter/Field
Wednesday 13/04/22	28 Targets Animal followed by presentations

Nomination Fees: There is an additional \$100 entry fee for the professional division.

3 Days	Adult/Young Adult/Veteran \$55	Cubs/Jnr \$45	Family \$145
5 Days	Adult/Young Adult/Veteran \$75	Cubs/Jnr \$55	Family \$170

Competitors have the choice to shoot either 5 or 3 days with the best of three scores submitted, but must include 1 animal, 1 field and 1 hunter round, which means some competitors may not wish to arrive until the Sunday afternoon.



Timetable:

ABA/3D

Muster each day at 8.00am for an 8.30am start

ABA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday 14/04/22	Registration and bow checks from 2pm
Friday 15/04/22	3 arrow and 1 arrow round
Saturday 16/04/22	3 arrow and 1 arrow round with presentations Saturday afternoon

3D NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday 17/04/22	3 arrow and 1 arrow round
Monday 18/04/22	2 arrow round with presentations Monday afternoon

Nomination Fees: There is an additional \$100 entry fee for the professional division.

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

GENERAL

Nominations Closing Date: 1st April, 2022

Last day for grading: 1st April, 2022

CAMPING IS AVAILABLE

Contact secretary@widebayarchers.org.au by 23 March to let them know numbers.

Motel and cabin type accommodation is available in Hervey Bay or Maryborough. Early booking would be advantageous as there are always other events happening in the region. Breakfasts, lunches and evening meals will be catered for.

GO TO
WEBSITE

ROY ROSE *Meanderings*



ARROW SPINE SOLUTIONS FOR SHORT DRAW-LENGTH ARCHERS

For decades, archers have utilised the Easton arrow spine chart to decide which arrows are appropriate for their draw length and bow poundage. Although this chart is a very useful guide, there are situations where making a determination can be frustrating. To be fair, the chart works well, particularly away from the draw length and arrow length extremes. In essence, the chart reflects the manufacturer's obvious intent, to cater for the majority of draw lengths and a wide range of bow draw weights.

However, archers whose physical proportions mean they are drawing arrows of shorter lengths face a quandary as to what shafts are a match for their bow poundage. Over the years, I have been queried by (usually) smaller statured ladies with very short draw lengths who have trouble ascertaining which spined arrow they should be shooting, because they are at the extremity of the chart.

This is a real hassle if you have talent and ambitions to be a serious competitive shooter. The logical choice is to shoot the best shaft, the one that dominates at national and international level; the X10. However, cutting an X10 down to short draw lengths, such as 23, 24 or 25 inches, simply isn't practical because the



shafts are barrelled and, as a result, there is a recommended maximum past which the arrows should not be cut. So if you're on the extreme edge of the chart, it simply doesn't accommodate you.

Obviously, there will always be more choices in the more round poundage and draw length boxes, because that is where the vast majority of sales are. Arrows designed specifically for excessive poundages or archers with short draw lengths are not going to be in huge demand, so the options are more limited. So, how is the situation best resolved?

As I've explained, cutting an X10 down to low draw lengths is not an option and works in reverse for archers with excessively long draw lengths, who sometimes need to cut the back of an X10 to stiffen its spine (however, this isn't recommended).

A number of leading Asian archers in particular over the years have realised that despite the X10 generally being the accepted

top Easton shaft, it simply won't tune for them. So, they revert to the ACE arrow because it offers more spine options. Throughout my own long competitive career, I found ACEs much easier to tune. I was not at the extremity of the chart, but I did have quite a short draw length for my height, with narrow shoulders and short arms.

It is not disadvantageous to shoot ACEs because, at a specific spine, both an X10 and an ACE weigh the same in grams per square inch, so you're not obliged to shoot a heavier arrow. You must also realise that everything about your setup has an effect on tuning. Your poundage choice, the set up of riser, limbs and stabilisers, and even your own shooting form can make a difference.

For those with really short draw lengths, ACEs at close range with a little experimentation with spines will most certainly provide an acceptable solution to your frustrations. ☺



The Rut

With a little bit of luck

By Graham McComiskie

Having just arrived home from Townsville where the Branch B training courses for Measuring, Proficiency and Coaching had been completed, I am now counting down the days as it is only a month till the heart of the rut. That's more than enough time to get preparations under way with camping gear to sort, Toyota to service, as well as hunting gear, packs and bows to go over.

I also want to do plenty of quality broadhead practice, not to mention thinking through a strategy for my next trip. What has worked in the past? What have we learned? How will we go about this year's rut? Thinking about all this brings to mind an interview I once saw with the great Aussie adventurer Dick Smith where the interviewer stated, "Dick, you have been very lucky in your endeavours," to which Dick replied, "Yes I have, and the harder I work the luckier I seem to get."

I was browsing through a few photos of previous ruts as a reminder of what gear and tactics had worked well in the past and what a little bit of luck had had to do with the outcomes. I started to dissect a trip where I linked up with a mate, Daniel Ferguson,

down in his home country for a few days before meeting with Glenn Carlson of QBH Safaris and heading up into the mountains. The memories came flooding back.

With 12 hours done behind the wheel the first day, I was in a pretty good place to be at the pub to meet Dan around 4 o'clock the next arvo. I had quizzed a few friends who had done this stretch of road regularly and was assured that the coast road was the way to go...into Rocky (that's Rockhampton to non-Queenslanders!) and straight down, they said. Well, about 30km from my destination there was a terrible accident involving a truck and car on the Bruce Highway. A voice on the radio advised that the highway would be closed for several hours. The only alternative route

was back north across the Divide (the Great Dividing Range), out to the inland road and down. I wasn't feeling all that lucky at this stage, but I did get there eventually—just 10 minutes before closing.

In the morning, Dan and I were in the valleys in plenty of time to witness a magnificent sunrise with the mist lifting steadily from the valley floor. It was quite a spectacle. On the deer front, there were a few distant groans, but nothing to get too excited about. As we continued steadily around the tops, glassing the sides and valley floor, we did spy a hind feeding under a thicket but we kept moving to the other end of the valley thinking it might produce a stag. It wasn't to be. As we steadily ambled back towards the truck Dan mentioned that


Broadheads and Hunting DVDs

Tusker

Give yourself the professional edge

www.bowhuntingaustralia.com

11 Darling Crescent, Mount Isa, Qld. 4825 - Phone: (07) 4743 4131




100G
125G
125G
155G
160G
175G

TUSKER TROPHY OF THE MONTH


Best Trophy Taken Taken with a Tusker Head, Recognised by ABA

Blaine Drinkwater, Independent, Rusa 203 1/8 pts, Record Class



WINNER
Packet of TUSKER BROADHEADS and Hunting DVD

First Kill or FKOS Taken with a Tusker Head, Recognised by ABA




WINNER
Packet of TUSKER BROADHEADS

This trophy becomes eligible for judging at the next Easter Safari. The winning trophy receives \$100 worth of Tusker Products. Enter now by sending your application direct to ABA.

BEST GAME NOT TAKEN WITH A TUSKER

Andy Alderson, Full Draw Field Archers, Pig, 25 3/8 pts, Trophy Class



WINNER
Packet of TUSKER BROADHEADS

To enter for First Kill Trophy, Tusker Head, mark your ABA small game application clearly with "FIRST KILL".

GO TO
WEBSITE

the hind we'd seen earlier had been around here somewhere and we could use some meat. I also wanted a skin for the floor at home, so we started searching more intently until we spotted her feeding some 50m off. With good cover, we closed the gap to 30m where a well-placed FMJ and Spirit combo from my Invasion secured some prime venison and my skin. All in all, a very pleasant stroll and a bit of luck at last. We headed back home and processed the meat, using some of Dan's butchery skills, salted and rolled up the skin and placed it in the shade. After a couple of practice shots, it was time to head out again.

As we contoured around the mountains, things were pretty quiet. We thought that was a bit strange as it was pretty obvious the deer were there by the sign but didn't seem to be moving or making any noise. While we were glassing from a track, just below us rooting around under a large lantana bush was a pig, but with the now fickle breeze we didn't even get to set eyes on him. As we headed back towards the vehicle in the last light, we both stopped mid-stride when a slow throaty groan came from the top of the ridge almost directly above us a long way up—a scary long way up! We looked at one another as if to say, we'll never get there, as there was only a couple of minutes of light left but we did back into the lantana and stood listening intently. The scent drift should be coming down, I thought, so we had that going for us. Then there was another moan much closer. He was coming down, and at a fair rate. With new belief in our chances, we hatched a hasty



"...it was pretty obvious the deer were there by the sign but didn't seem to be moving or making any noise."

plan—one each side of that feeder gully, let out a couple of gentle hind calls and see what happened.

Well, Dan must have sounded pretty convincing as the stag appeared around the end of some lantana just uphill about 18m away, but he was quartering-on. Dan held over until the stag presented more quartering-away. The Elite 35 did the rest, with arrow placement tight behind the shoulder. We waited for a short time. When total silence descended on the bush, we took up the trail under headtorch and located him within 30m. He had been wallowing heavily and was covered in yellow clay. He was a mature stag with nice tops but was missing a few bits in the brez department. Under torchlight, we proceeded to remove the cape. Although Dan was only going to euro mount the antlers, a good cape is always handy! With the

backstraps and shanks recovered, we headed for the ute and home.

The next day was to be a bit of a regroup as Dan had jobs to do and I was to meet up with Carlo in town to get a few last-minute supplies then head over the hill and put the final touches to camp. As we progressed onwards and upwards, it was noted that we wouldn't call in at the house as Alben was away racing cars. We would catch up with him in the next couple of days. As we got out for a stretch and drink at the gate, the radio came to life with a familiar voice obviously amused. "Where do you pair think you're going?" It seemed that Alben was home after all, so we went back to the house and had a bit of a yarn, during which I was asked what I was chasing this year. I explained I would spend most of my time trying to locate a fine fallow buck, as I had taken a nice red stag the

year before. Well, I was told, there was one of them croaking up early the other night and again last night...up on that ridge out the back, you know the one! "Umm, sort of", I replied. Now that was a little bit of luck!

I knew roughly where I would be headed in the morning, so set about busily to make my preparations so I'd be ready for heading out in the darkness the following day. I sorted my pack, lashed on some rattles and had a couple of practice shots.

In the morning after nearly an hour's drive, I was in the area on time. Listening intently during the last of the darkness and as visibility dawned, I could hear very little real noise. I could hear a red stag give a half-hearted roar way off—a couple of valleys away—but nothing else. My first instinct was to contour around the sides heading down the valley to the flats at the bottom, but I knew I should stay up high. I started working my way along a game trail just below the top so as not to silhouette myself. I'd probably gone a kilometre or so when a strong croak came from just below me. The breeze was good and the morning thermals rising, so I just pulled up and waited, hoping for another croak to hone in on.

Then it came again. I now reckoned he was about a 100m away, out in a clearing of the suckers I was now in. Slipping off my Volleysso I could feel the earth beneath my feet, I moved quietly along the pad until I had a visual. He was a magnificent menial buck with impressive antlers and he was now being quite vocal. It was time to refine a plan. With a prime ambush spot only a few



"Dan must have sounded pretty convincing as the stag appeared around the end of some lantana just uphill."

metres away and a well used pad coming from his scrape into the shadows of the thicket, he could be soon be broadside at 25m. I would get into position and give the rattles two quick touches—not enough for him to zero in on but something that would encourage him to amble up the pad to see what was going on. So that's how it unfolded. At 25m a FMJ/Spirit combo zipped through both lungs. He shuffled 15m back down the pad and lay still. Amazing! You gotta love it when a plan comes together.

Sitting there soaking up the moment, I realised that it was still early and thought that if the boys were still be at the house they would probably enjoy the moment. I quickly cleaned up my buck, sat him up in the shade and headed back to the house where

I sheepishly asked Alben if he had time to come and take a few pictures for me. He had a laugh, slapped me on the back and asked if I got him. I confirmed with a nod and relayed the tale over a hearty breakfast. Then Alben, his mate Wal and I took the Polaris all the way in. Wal took some photos for me and we recovered the buck whole. Back at camp, we caped him and with the luxury of guide Greg's butchering skills and hoist, the buck was broken down. With a good inch of fat cover, it was some of the best venison I'd ever seen.

With the chores done it was a fairly relaxed afternoon. I just had an arrow to touch up and a couple of knives to sharpen. Those small chores are so much easier when you've been successful in the morning and have ample time and light to get home and tidy up.

The next morning saw Foley and me out and about chasing red roars. Overnight had been cooler, and the deer quite vocal and moving out of the tops and onto the lower benches and creek flats. We contoured around the faces, steadily following pads leading to the main sources of noise.

One distinct roar was deep and consistent and we agreed that constituted a good reason for further investigation. We were steadily closing the gap and getting close to the bottom of the valley. Fairly confident he was holding ground just the other side of the creek, we decided to drop down until we were in line with

him and hopefully could use a few large eucalypts to close the gap.

We were fairly close now by the sound of it—probably about 60m from him—but we still couldn't see him. Then we came in line with three large gum trees. It was probably our best chance to come out of the cover of the creek and get a visual. We didn't have to come up far. He was a nice even 5x5 with a bit of weight and nice brows, definitely worth pursuing! His routine was to let out a couple of roars, have a listen, then put his head in the grass to feed for a while before coming up to roar again. He was about 40m out from the trees. I was now

approaching from behind, moving when he fed and pausing when he roared. I made the shelter of the gums and took up a good footing so I could lean out to the right of my cover. At 37m, when he put his head down to feed again, with plenty of time I drew, took careful aim and slipped a Spirit through both shoulders. He sprang forward a couple of metres and stood, not knowing what had stung him. This allowed for a follow-up shot, which saw him fall there not 5m from where he was first hit. Well, we did a bit of hand shaking and back slapping and sat in the shade with a drink dissecting the morning's events and just enjoying being in



"At 37m, when he put his head down to feed again, with plenty of time I drew, took careful aim and slipped a Spirit through both shoulders."

the mountains.

Rested up now and laden with the spoils of a successful hunt, we headed for the dizzy heights and waiting ute. Once there, we shouted ourselves a wee shot of Bundaberg's finest to seal the deal and headed back to camp.

The only thing wrong with my beautiful stag was that mites or ticks had caused him to rub a large bald spot on one side of his neck, spoiling the cape. I didn't think of it at the time but later I remembered Daniel's stag. That cape would be

a perfect match: same size, same colour. It took a bit of coaxing, but he generously donated to a good cause. My stag now looks beautiful on the wall in his new skin. Now that was a little bit of luck!

With a couple of days left and as circumstance would have it, a couple of the young blokes were keen to look at some new country, so I kept company with them as they flung a few arrows around.

We had plenty of adventures and good laughs to cap off a great trip.

Now, to me these journeys we go on are all about the adventure, the camaraderie and the experience, but a little luck and a set of antlers on the passenger's seat to glance at on the way home seemed to make that long drive home a whole lot easier!

Well, I best go and get ready for this year. If you're heading out for the rut, all the best with it and I hope it all comes together for you. And if you have a bit of luck, send the mag a bit of a yarn and a few pictures to share with everyone. @



"A well-placed FMJ and Spirit combo from my Invasion secured some prime venison..."

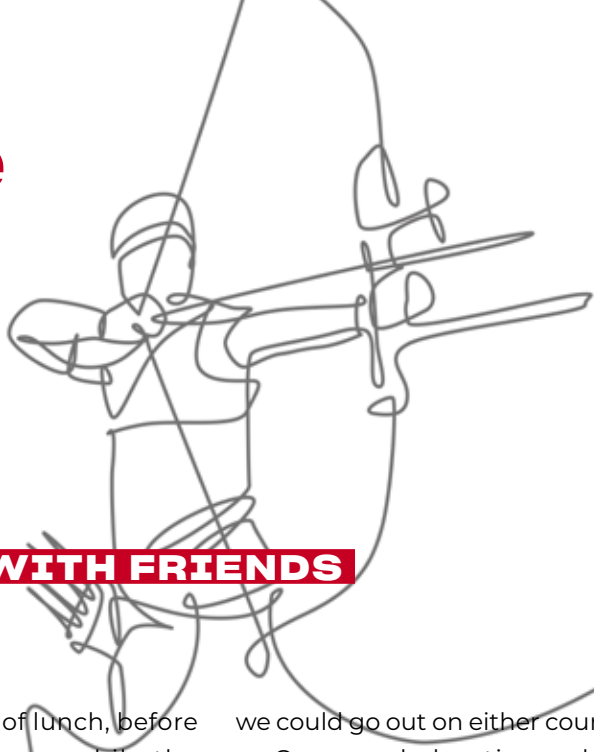


The writer of this story
wins a threepack of
TUSKER SPIRIT
broadheads



"A little luck and a set of antlers on the passenger's seat to glance at on the way home seemed to make that long drive home a whole lot easier!"

Around the Tradz



SUN AND FESTIVE SHOTS WITH FRIENDS

By Sue Wallace

The campout at Chevallan Archery Park was cancelled, so a few of us went down to Sunshine Coast Bowmen for a social shoot.

This weekend was a cracker. There were quite a few trad people there, so after a couple of shots at the practice butts, we headed out to the back course. At the second target a couple of chaps decided to split from the group and went on ahead, while we were joined by a couple of other club member over the next two targets.

We were shooting at vinyl targets of photos of animals taken by club members then printed. So, we often have not seen the animal before as they are changed quite frequently. Also, from the trad peg they are still tricky, with foliage often covering part of the target or making the bottom half difficult to see. The deer at target 12 was a little daunting due to the number of saplings on the way to the target, and target 13 was a scary looking creature. We all nailed target 15, the skunk, through the palm fronds (although to be fair some-one seems to have 'cleared' a few).

We all had a spot of lunch, before some headed home, while the rest of us carried on doing targets 1 to 12 on the front course, before calling it a day. It's always a great day at Sunshine Coast Bowmen, be it a club day or a social day, catching up with friends to enjoy a morning of archery.

The Sunshine Coast Bowmen's Christmas Shoot was next, and there was quite a festive air, complete with a small tinsel-covered Christmas tree. There was no scoring and

we could go out on either course.

Our usual shooting cohorts were elsewhere, so we shot with a couple of the chaps we hadn't seen for quite some time, and the one thing that connects all these chaps, aside from trad archery, was their military service. One had just signed up with the Navy, having already served with the Army, so the conversation was quite vast.

We went out to the back course and walked through the first two groups to start on the third target.





Our shooting as a group, was a little all over the place when we first started, however it didn't take us too long to start all hitting the score zone, even if there were no score cards to worry about.

We lined up for an early lunch of sausages and because it was the Christmas shoot, there was no charge! Once everyone had finished, it was time for the lucky door prizes and club presentations. It is always a good day when you can shoot with friends and enjoy the camaraderie at a great club.

It is such a shame that one of the longest running trad events, over 20 years, the Traditional Rendevous, will no longer be run by the North Albert Field Archers. I have since had a conversation with another club interested in taking up the baton for a new Easter shoot for 2023, which is great news.

Also, it's great to see a few TAA clubs holding title shoots throughout 2022 including the NSW Titles being held by Coffs Coast Archery on June 18 and 19 and the Queensland Titles at Chinchilla Archers on May 14 and 15. Other clubs holding shoots throughout the year include Tully Bowhunters (Qld), North Burnett Field Archers (Qld), Mossman Archers (Qld), and many of the clubs in WA, TAS and Queensland are planning to hold inter-club shoots as well.

There are a couple of shoots on the Proposed Calendar for 2022 confirmed for Apr/May 2022 at the time of writing; Kurwongbah Open held at Lakeside Bowmen Sunday April 24, Inaugural Barambah Traditional Archery Festival, 3 Day event April 30-May 2 (archery and workshops) at Barambah

Bowhunters Nanango Qld, 2021 TAA National Muster Southwest Bowmen WA see details below to obtain further information.

Reports from the local Trad shooting for the next edition from Feb/March and let's keep our fingers crossed that COVID-19 doesn't strike too many of the shoots out again this year! You will find the further information and available flyers for all the traditional shoots on:

Wallace Woods:

www.wallacetradwoods.com

> Shoot information (proposed 2022 calendar, and will have the link to the shoot flyers as they become available)

Traditional Archery Australia:

www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org

> Shoot Calendar and Information for TAA approved shoots

I look forward to seeing you 'round the trads. @

STAYING IN THE *Game*

A REVIEW OF THE 2021 BOWTECH SOLUTION SS (SUPER SMOOTH) COMPOUND BOW

By David Burroughs



The deadlock cam

Now that I have owned a few bows over the last decade or so I am able to focus on the key features that I know I should be at the top of the list of what a new bow should offer me.

On paper, this bow was good for my first two wants, number one a promised smooth draw and secondly a reasonable (to me) seven-inch brace height.

It was a few inches too short on my third requirement for a 33-inch or more axle-to-axle (ATA)

length. After reading and watching as many reviews as I could I felt that I could compromise on this aspect of the bow's geometry if the draw cycle was as good as promised.

The Solution SS measures 30 inches ATA so I had been holding off due to this feature. Still, these days there is a trend for longer risers on hunting bows within the design parameters, parallel or beyond limbs and pancake or at least proportionally-large-sized

cams. The marketed line is that the bow will hold and shoot better than its compact dimensions may otherwise lead you to believe.

String angle from the take-off point from the bigger cams when at full draw should still be reasonable. Other features like minimal vibration or hand shock are pretty much a given these days for the flagship bows of the major manufacturers.

Of course, it was my intention to physically test shoot the bow before making a decision—

these things are serious money and costs seem to have risen by some margin over the last year or two. Due to supply constraints at the time and then the imposition of lockdown restrictions, this was not possible.

I was fortunate to source a bow in stock interstate so I made up my mind and bought given potential uncertainties with future supply timelines.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The Solution SS felt very light when I pulled it out of the box—it is advertised as 4lbs and felt pretty close to this. The finish on my bow (black) had a satin look which is not too glossy.

Adjusting the modules to my draw length was easy and they are held in place by three screws which have been secure so far. The

string comes with a brass nock installed which I didn't intend to use so I removed it carefully with a small screwdriver and pliers.

GRIP

Fairly thin and simple—it is basically the riser with a front plate that can be changed out for one that provides a higher wrist angle (sold separately). I am happy with the stock grip angle, feel and hold.

The only issue I had with gripping the bow was the machining on the corner of the arrow shelf above where my finger wraps around felt a bit pointed for me, so I covered this with a patch of arrow rest silencing material and this has worked so far.

DEADLOCK CAMS

These are a great feature and

possibly the most practical and functional technology advance of the current Bowtech line-up.

These cams allow the owner to move the cams left or right on the axle via a worm drive adjusted and locked/unlocked with an allen head key.

I was able to set my arrow rest up and then paper tune to get a straight shooting arrow with a series of small adjustments to the cams. Having had to shim and swap limbs around on my last bow (to overcome some corkscrewing arrow flightpaths) the simplicity and ease of the deadlock system can't be understated as there is no need to press the bow.

Having said that, when I had a good hole through paper I found I was getting fletching contact on the riser.

I use blazer vanes which are



A little padding for the grip



The Bowtech Solution SS

not the lowest profile around—although I think the problem in this case is that the bow riser is fairly thick on the lower part of the shelf cut-out with quite a pronounced curve to the shelf, causing me contact with the inside vane.

The fix was to move my arrow rest out a little further than standard and adjust the cams to suit. I could have turned the arrow nock slightly for clearance as well.

Once adjusted and locked into place, the cams have stayed in place (as you would hope!) and my arrow flight has been consistent.

DRAW CYCLE

This builds somewhat firmly up front then tapers off with no hump detected at all (comfort mode). To me, it probably is the most consistent and yes I will use the description “smoothest” pulling compound bow I have drawn, particularly in the last half of the draw cycle.

With most bows I always seem to draw through the poundage peak okay but then hang up or hesitate in the last part of the draw when the cams roll over. With the Solution SS I can overcome this habit and complete the draw process more fluidly.

In performance mode (achieved by flipping the module around on each cam) there is a little more effort required with a more definite drop at the end of the cycle.

The back wall feels firmer in performance mode, although it is probably a perception from pulling a little harder into the draw stops when you come into the valley.

In both modes, the valley is

generous (more so in comfort) and let-off feels about 80-85 per cent (the actual amount does not seem to be published). In performance mode I measured a nine fps increase in bow speed.

SHOOTING

At the shot there is minimal vibration for a fairly light bow—it isn't anything that is really noticeable. I have shot out to about 45 metres and had good groups, although have not had a chance to shoot beyond 15 metres recently due to lockdown restrictions.

By adding a 12-inch front bar and 8-inch side bar and experimenting with weights I feel I now have a steady hold and balance, particularly when shooting at the

longer distance targets.

ISSUES

Factory strings are not the greatest. I was unhappy to see serving separation on one of the cables out of the box and now there is separation on the other cable as well after 500-or-so shots.

The cable ends both do a serpentine wrap around the middle of the cam before attaching to a post so you would expect the serving used to be up to the job with regard to appropriate choice of material and its application.

IN SUMMARY

The Solution SS is not a fast bow—there is the option to use performance mode to overcome


this. The draw is smooth as advertised and it is very easy to let down.

To me, it is a bow that is fun to keep on shooting, which is what I wanted.

I find myself looking forward to taking the next shot and feel that if I do my part in holding on target with proper form, the bow will take care of the rest of the process every time.

DISCLAIMER

This bow was purchased with my own funds and I am not associated with any archery stores or with Bowtech in any way. I am at best a recreational archer trying to improve my game—at least when I get the chance to enjoy a club shoot again! ☺

Australian Bowhunters Association Inc TM (Inc in NT No AO1978C)		GST ABN 79 750 431 225																																																																																																																									
GST tax invoice 		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Product (Prices include GST)</th> <th>\$.</th> <th>Qty</th> <th>Size/Type</th> <th>Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>ABA Cloth Badge</td><td>10.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ABA Metal Badge</td><td>8.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ABA Car Sticker</td><td>4.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ABA Proficiency Badges (eg, 300+)</td><td>5.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ABA Junior Advanced Badge</td><td>6.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ABA Cub Advanced Badge</td><td>6.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ABA Target ID Cards</td><td>5.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ABA Coloured Identification Card</td><td>5.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>National Bowhunter Education Manual</td><td>19.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>National Measuring Manual</td><td>10.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Welcome to Field Archery</td><td>14.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>IFAA Cloth Badge</td><td>10.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>IFAA Metal Badge</td><td>8.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>IFAA Chevron (eg, Hunter)</td><td>4.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Robin Hood Cloth Badge</td><td>9.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Robin Hood Metal Badge</td><td>8.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>*TBA Car Sticker</td><td>4.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>*TBA Metal Badge</td><td>8.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>*TBA Cloth Badge</td><td>10.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>#Game Award Badge</td><td>9.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>#Game Award, T/C & R/C Chevrons</td><td>6.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>ABA Peaked Caps</td><td>15.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Product (Prices include GST)	\$.	Qty	Size/Type	Cost	ABA Cloth Badge	10.00				ABA Metal Badge	8.00				ABA Car Sticker	4.00				ABA Proficiency Badges (eg, 300+)	5.00				ABA Junior Advanced Badge	6.00				ABA Cub Advanced Badge	6.00				ABA Target ID Cards	5.00				ABA Coloured Identification Card	5.00				National Bowhunter Education Manual	19.00				National Measuring Manual	10.00				Welcome to Field Archery	14.00				IFAA Cloth Badge	10.00				IFAA Metal Badge	8.00				IFAA Chevron (eg, Hunter)	4.00				Robin Hood Cloth Badge	9.00				Robin Hood Metal Badge	8.00				*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				
Product (Prices include GST)	\$.	Qty	Size/Type	Cost																																																																																																																							
ABA Cloth Badge	10.00																																																																																																																										
ABA Metal Badge	8.00																																																																																																																										
ABA Car Sticker	4.00																																																																																																																										
ABA Proficiency Badges (eg, 300+)	5.00																																																																																																																										
ABA Junior Advanced Badge	6.00																																																																																																																										
ABA Cub Advanced Badge	6.00																																																																																																																										
ABA Target ID Cards	5.00																																																																																																																										
ABA Coloured Identification Card	5.00																																																																																																																										
National Bowhunter Education Manual	19.00																																																																																																																										
National Measuring Manual	10.00																																																																																																																										
Welcome to Field Archery	14.00																																																																																																																										
IFAA Cloth Badge	10.00																																																																																																																										
IFAA Metal Badge	8.00																																																																																																																										
IFAA Chevron (eg, Hunter)	4.00																																																																																																																										
Robin Hood Cloth Badge	9.00																																																																																																																										
Robin Hood Metal Badge	8.00																																																																																																																										
*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																																																																																																																											
Name _____ Address _____ _____ P/Code _____ ABA number _____																																																																																																																											
ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE * Available to TBA members only # Available only to members who have qualified. Please enclose copy of letter of acknowledgement from BH Division.																																																																																																																											
PAYMENT DETAILS <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is cheque/money order for \$_____ payable to Australian Bowhunters Association <input type="checkbox"/> Pay by credit card—fill out details below:																																																																																																																											
Card Number ↓ NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>																																																																																																																											
Expiry Date (mm yy) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> Signature _____																																																																																																																											
Forward with payment to: Australian Bowhunters Assoc PO Box 5124 Brendale Qld 4500 (07) 3256 3976 or email credit card order to: officemanager@bowhunters.org.au		<div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; color: white; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> GO TO WEBSITE </div>																																																																																																																									

ABA BRANCH D TITLES AND BOWHUNTING *awards*

Each year in February Branch D hold their Branch Titles and at the same event do the presentation from the previous year's Bowhunting Awards.

The host club in 2022 was Renegade Bowmen in Ipswich. By the Friday afternoon the campground was starting to fill up with some campers arriving just as an afternoon storm rolled on

through. The bonus was it cooled things right down.

By Saturday morning there was just under 100 shooters ready for the competition to begin. Branch D has a new controller John Erskine and new score recorder Allan Hall, they have both been attending Branch shoots over many years so through it was time for them to give back to the sport by volun-

teering their time. They seem to fit right into their new roles.

With the number of archers competed they had two ranges open. The weather really turned it on for the archers as it was very hot and sticky, and most archers were happy when they got to shoot their last few arrows on the day and got back for a shower. The range captain Dave Teitzel set up two interesting



Trophy display

courses with some difficult shots.

Saturday afternoon we had Brenton Mitchell from Primal Hunting and Outdoors do a talk on broadheads and the importance on arrow placement. Brenton had a great little display of broadheads, caps and shirts for sale.

After dinner Saturday night the 2021 hunting awards were handed out, Branch D Field Rep Gary Sinclair did a good job with his presentation, and it was great to see a few of the hunters there to collect their trophies in person.

A hunting display was also organised with some interesting trophies on display. A huge thank you goes out to those members for going that extra mile, displaying their prized trophies.



The awards

BOWHUNTING AWARDS WINNERS

Bowhunting Club of the Year:
Renegade Bowmen

Junior Bowhunter of the Year:
Jack Winks

Adult Bowhunter of the Year:
Thomas Buxton

BRANCH D TITLES WINNERS

Cub Barebow: Heath McKenzie

Cub Sighted: Siannah Sztybel

Junior Sighted: Tahilia Harthill

Ladies' Trad peg: Vonnie Meier

Men's Trad peg: Mark Woolacoot

Men's Barebow: Al Bell

Ladies' Barebow: Marissa Doncaster

Men's Sighted: Brad Stephan

Ladies Sighted: Kerry Haslem

Winners!



Branch D perpetual trophy winners

The Australian Bowhunters Association Inc. evolved from its founding organisation, The Trophy Bowhunters of Australia, in the late 1970s.

If clubs, branches and their members don't support the hunting side of the sport, eventually it will die out. Branch D does its best each year to put on a great presentation night with a display and a brag-shirt prize. Thanks to Abbey Archery for donating a gift voucher. Unfortunately, this year there were only six hunters proudly wearing their shirts. This tradition was big 20-30 years ago and, hopefully, one day it will be again.

The rain stopped a few campfires from happening but lots of stories and laughter were heard well into the night.

Sunday, we were back at it starting at 8am—by that time it was already hot and sticky. A few archers pulled out the previous day due to bow failures or because they were just not coping with the heat.

Some great scores were shot. It was great to see archers' faces when they returned after shooting personal bests. The highest score of the weekend was shot by Brad Stephan with a fantastic 1596 out of 1600. He shot 400, 400, 396 and a 400, an outstanding effort in the conditions.

It takes a lot of effort to hold an interclub shoot, so to everyone who was involved in making this weekend special, we say thanks. ☺

Nysha taking a shot



AUSBOW INDUSTRIES

Traditional bowmaking supplies

- BOTUFF fibreglass
- Carbon/Glass laminate
- Wooden core laminations
- TECHNIGLUE epoxy
- Bowmaking books

(08) 8555 5888

sales@ausbow.com.au

www.ausbow.com.au



GO TO
WEBSITE

On the practice range



Marissa beat all the men on this shot



Tim takes aim



TRACY Redgrove

Age: 53

How did you start in archery?

I always like the idea of shooting a bow, so I researched where the clubs were and simply picked a day and drove to one. I have been well and truly hooked ever since.

How long have you been involved in archery?

I started archery in 2014.

Are you in a local club?

I have been a member of a few different clubs throughout the following associations: ABA, 3DAAA, Archery Australia, IFAA and ANAA.

What type of archery do you shoot?

Indoor WA, indoor IFAA, indoor Vegas, target and field, 3DAAA, ABA and Archery Australia.

Do you Hunt? Yes.

What's your favourite archery memory?

I have lots of wonderful memories—Shooter of the Year, numerous Australian championships wins, Sports Person of the Year—but winning Gold in Sydney with my mum watching was a special moment.

Also shooting world title tournaments throughout Australia (Gold) and New Zealand (where

I tied for first and then ended up with silver medal after three days of shooting and a shoot-off for the gold medal).

I have been fortunate to travel and shoot first place in Cape Town, South Africa, which was amazing, and Norfolk Island too.

All of these shoots were extremely proud moments in my archery career. I also enjoyed flying to Melbourne with my sponsors, Sherwood Archery Supplies, to attend the George Ryals archery coaching seminar—George is a top USA archery Coach.

What appeals to you about archery?

Archery is a very friendly, family-orientated sport.

Like any other sport, the more time you put into it, the more reward and enjoyment you get out of it.

Are any family members involved in archery? No.

How many bows do you have?

I have numerous bows in my possession. My first was a Winchester, set up as barebow. Then:

- A Hoyt Carbon Matrix G3, which I still use in field with Gold Tip ultralight pros,



- A Prime STX One 36—my dedicated indoor bow that I still shoot with Arrows Black Eagle, Easton and Gold Tip,
- A Hoyt Prevail for hunting with Gold Tip arrows, and
- I also have a recurve for a bit of relaxing fun shooting with Heritage arrows.

You can never have too many bows!

What are your great achievements in (or out of) archery?



Benchmark 3D Shooters Association is keen to help promote women in our sport—from the good sport who helps unstintingly at the club through to the top-level archer. If you know someone you think should be featured, please contact us.



Email: info@benchmark3darchery.com.au
Phone: Robert Vayro 0438 997 638

When I think back to the very first arrow that I ever shot—I missed the butt completely—to over time learn all I could about fine tuning my technique, tuning my bows and setting up my arrows to get the best possible setup I could, to achieve the best I could.

Even with a different draw technique, it suited me and proved that it worked for me.

It took a lot of hard work on my fitness and training to a high level of shooting, but that part is easy when you have so much love and passion for the sport. Living some distance away from clubs was a challenge, but I never let that stop me doing something I love.

I was fortunate to have the space to practice at home, from starting out as a complete novice to competing in world titles.

Shooting in international competitions is something I will forever be proud of. If not for COVID-19, it would have been interesting to see just how much further I could have gone with my passion.

I have a lot of people to thank for all their help and support in all sorts of ways.

From the very beginning, right up to where COVID-19 took over when I was shooting in South Africa, every step of the way was important in gaining knowledge to help me proudly achieve what

I have.

Sponsors:

Sherwood Archery Supplies (Coffs Harbour)

Benson Archery, Carbon Express Arrows, Killara Feedlot, Zbros Sight Light

Last Word:

If you love doing something, you should follow your dreams to the best of your ability to fulfil a very satisfying time of your life.

Take the opportunity and run with it if it presents itself. @



Aussie Targets



- 100% AUSTRALIAN MADE AND DESIGNED
- LONG LASTING
- GREAT LOOKING
- WELL PRICED
- CLUB/COMPETITION DISCOUNTS
- SELF HEALING
- PRODUCED BY ACTUAL ARCHERS WITH EXPERIENCE AROUND THE WORLD



Phone 0411 288 738

www.aussietargets.com.au

Facebook • [aussietargets](https://www.facebook.com/aussietargets)

sales@aussietargets.com.au

GO TO
WEBSITE

GEELONG TROPHY BOWHUNTERS' TWO-DAY ABA

shoot

By Chris Baty



It seemed almost fairytale-like to see archers from across Victoria made their way through the gates of the Geelong Trophy Bowhunters for the club's annual two-day ABA event in late November.

As COVID-19 restrictions plagued Victoria, a last-minute cancellation seemed inevitable. It had, after all, been the case for several other events throughout the year. Behind the scenes, a dedicated band of club members had worked tirelessly in the hope restrictions would lift... and lift they did.

Weather forecasts for the weekend had all suggested cold and wet conditions, but day one dawned to a much brighter outlook. As groups filed up to the club-house for bow check and muster, it was great to see the mix of shooting styles on display male and female archers and a six-decade age spread between the youngest and oldest competitor.

The morning was filled with a three-arrow round, with competitors getting their first taste of the GTB courses. As always, plenty of

targets played havoc with archers' skills but the devil of them all seemed to be the buffalo in the yellow course. The lay of the land threw out shooters for line and distance with a tree three-quarters of the way to the target copping a fair few wayward arrows during the morning.

After a break for lunch, the afternoon was spent shooting a one-arrow round on the opposite course, allowing everyone the chance to see what the other groups had to contend with

throughout the morning.

At day's end as people relaxed into the evening catching up with friends not often seen this past year, it didn't take Blakey from Bacchus Marsh Bowmen long to get a group together down at the axe and knife throwing target. A fun couple of hours ensued until low light got the better of them.

Looking over the scorecard for the day, an obvious highlight was Toby Jacques from Colac Otway Archers. He shot the Junior A Freestyle Unlimited Division with 398s in both the morning and afternoon rounds, giving him a total of 798 and a PB.

Day two again proved that weather forecasters often get it wrong as another day of beautiful shooting conditions greeted everyone at muster.

As I roamed around taking

pictures, it was easy to see the enjoyment of competitors as they went about the task at hand—all focus while taking the shot then quickly returning to laughs, smiles and jokes while walking between targets.

Once the morning's three-arrow round was done and dusted, we had a quick stop for lunch then archers went back out for the final session of the weekend, the one-arrow round.

It's amazing how quickly the rounds go and it was interesting to watch archers stroll back up from the courses to the clubhouse at the end of the final round. Many seemed to not be fussed about their scores, others were stoked with how they had shot while some seemed like they could have shot better.

All in all, it was very evident that

they had enjoyed the courses and the challenges that were presented.

The shooting was over. All that was left to do was to collate the scores (thanks Lindsay), draw the raffle and hand out the trophies. Applause and smiles met everyone who received an award.

With those duties done, camps were quickly packed and vehicles began to pull out of the clubgrounds. GTB members started their pack-up after a very successful event—one that had appeared as though it might never happen, but eventually did.

And what of Toby? Well the young bloke finished with a total of 1584, his best score ever for a two-day event. It was a fitting way for him to finish up his time as a junior and a timely heads-up that as of 2022 he'll be competing with the seniors. @



Nov 21 ABA 2 Day Geelong

Greater Victoria
20-Nov-2021

Name		Club	ABA 3A		ABA 3A		1As	Grading	Total
			ABA 1A		ABA 1A				
Cub B Freestyle Unlimited (FU)									
1H	Grace Smith	Bendigo FA	356	344	DNS	DNS	0	700	700
Junior C Longbow Traditional (LB(T))									
1H	Fred Spencer	GTB	158	202	200	128	0	360	688
Junior C Bowhunter Recurve (BH(R))									
1IND	Kayden Stopps	Independent	224	152	260	148	0	376	784
Junior B Bowhunter Recurve (BH(R))									
1H	Ji Forbes	Lilydale	312	256	324	244	0	568	1136
2IND	Darcy Stopps	Independent	246	204	286	264	0	450	1000
Junior A Bowhunter Unlimited (BU)									
1H	Jed Forbes	Lilydale	382	384	392	394	0	766	1552
Junior C Freestyle Unlimited (FU)									
1H	M Sutcliffe-Hall	Lilydale	356	338	376	344	0	694	1414
Junior A Freestyle Unlimited (FU)									
1H	Toby Jacques	Colac Otway	398	398	396	392	0	796	1584
Adult C Longbow Traditional (LB(T))									
1H	Trent Spencer	GTB	232	112	202	122	0	344	668
2H	Euan Smith	Ballarat	194	148	138	136	0	342	616
3H	Wendy Gallagher	Mt Clay	140	100	146	104	0	240	490
Adult B Longbow Traditional (LB(T))									
1H	Neil Shaw	Ballarat	230	134	186	196	0	364	746
2H	Allan Driver	Bacchus	138	136	188	194	0	274	656
Adult C Longbow Modern (LB(M))									
1H	Jonathan Blake	Bacchus	252	198	202	186	0	450	838
Adult A Longbow Modern (LB(M))									
1H	Geoffrey Blake	Bacchus	296	210	240	208	0	506	954
2H	Hayden Talmage	Bacchus	272	174	272	172	0	446	890
Adult C Bowhunter Recurve (BH(R))									
1H	Chuck Leszyk	GTB	244	168	242	82	0	412	736
2H	Andy Prossor	Colac Otway	210	136	202	168	0	346	716
3H	Phil Showler	Mt Clay	236	122	196	152	0	358	706
H	Pixie Pixie	Bendigo FA	158	84	242	142	0	242	626
H	Amber Healey	Bacchus	188	82	134	146	0	270	550
IND	Melissa Stopps	Independent	122	156	124	82	0	278	484
Adult B Bowhunter Recurve (BH(R))									
1H	Raymond Morgan	Bacchus	264	180	286	172	0	444	902
2H	Cathy Moffat	Colac Otway	204	224	230	160	0	428	818
3H	Pauline Hunter	GTB	250	122	224	192	0	372	788
Adult A Bowhunter Recurve (BH(R))									
1H	Tyler Atkinson	Ballarat	320	300	348	290	0	620	1258

Nov 21 ABA 2 Day Geelong

Greater Victoria
20-Nov-2021

Name		Club	ABA 3A		ABA 3A		1As	Grading	Total
			ABA 1A		ABA 1A				
Adult B Bowhunter Recurve (BH(R))									
1H	Wayne Goorden	GTB	276	66	DNS	DNS	0	342	342
Adult C Bowhunter Compound (BH(C))									
1H	Karina Alsop	GTB	156	102	138	116	0	258	512
Adult B Bowhunter Compound (BH(C))									
1H	Greg McKenzie	Colac Otway	298	256	308	272	0	554	1134
2H	Lorraine Black	Colac Otway	256	222	340	188	0	478	1006
3G	Archer Jenman	Bairnsdale	300	166	294	238	0	466	998
H	Barbara Kelly	Colac Otway	278	182	334	202	0	460	996
Adult A Bowhunter Compound (BH(C))									
1H	Chris Whitewood	Colac Otway	352	334	298	302	0	686	1286
2G	Stephen Barratt	Phoenix	330	318	342	294	0	648	1284
Adult B Bowhunter Compound (BH(C))									
1H	Leigh Doak	Colac Otway	278	142	208	DNS	0	420	628
Adult C Bowhunter Unlimited (BU)									
1IND	Nathan Adamko	Independent	328	324	362	262	0	652	1276
2IND	Kane Bartlett	Independent	334	266	354	306	0	600	1260
3H	Nathan Young	GTB	316	246	274	294	0	562	1130
H	John Clark	GTB	310	280	320	208	0	590	1118
Adult B Bowhunter Unlimited (BU)									
1H	Andrew Baxter	Lilydale	382	384	390	386	0	766	1542
2H	Catherine Headey	Lilydale	360	372	368	366	0	732	1466
3H	Mark Byrne	GTB	368	364	370	356	0	732	1458
H	Wolfgang Volke	GTB	366	374	364	354	0	740	1458
H	Barry Cridland	Lilydale	358	312	360	346	0	670	1376
H	Ian O'Donoghue	Bacchus	368	306	360	314	0	674	1348
H	Amanda Doak	Colac Otway	346	288	334	320	0	634	1288
Adult A Bowhunter Unlimited (BU)									
1H	Stewart Forbes	Lilydale	396	392	392	394	0	788	1574
2H	Stephen Headey	Lilydale	384	392	380	388	0	776	1544
3G	Mark Burrows	W Gippsland	392	386	392	356	0	778	1526
IND	Jake Thomas	Independent	376	370	388	384	0	746	1518
Adult C Freestyle Limited Recurve (FS(R))									
1H	Indy Cotton	GTB	236	210	172	136	0	446	754
Adult B Freestyle Limited Recurve (FS(R))									
1H	Tim Hulsman	GTB	316	296	358	316	0	612	1286
Adult C Freestyle Unlimited (FU)									
1IND	Ben Owen	Independent	358	306	370	358	0	664	1392
2IND	Isaac Mortimer	Independent	360	312	368	338	0	672	1378
3H	Gerard Saunders	GTB	356	322	370	316	0	678	1364
H	Jazmyn McDonald	Lilydale	302	264	320	266	0	566	1152

Nov 21 ABA 2 Day Geelong

Greater Victoria
20-Nov-2021

Name		Club	ABA 3A		ABA 3A		1As	Grading	Total
			ABA 1A		ABA 1A				
Adult B Freestyle Unlimited (FU)									
1H	Gary Alessi	GTB	372	378	376	384	0	750	1510
2H	Carl Jacques	Colac Otway	358	370	372	374	0	728	1474
3H	Mark Hunter	GTB	356	372	376	342	0	728	1446
H	Geoffrey M Owen	Bacchus	362	356	344	316	0	718	1378
H	Jamie Boyer	Mt Clay	358	298	340	326	0	656	1322
H	Russell Sutcliffe	Lilydale	338	310	356	296	0	648	1300
H	Jason Jenkins	Colac Otway	332	320	308	258	0	652	1218
Adult A Freestyle Unlimited (FU)									
1H	Lindsay G Harris	Lilydale	392	390	384	380	0	782	1546
2H	Alastair Meldrum	GTB	388	370	388	390	0	758	1536
3H	James Shaw	Ballarat	384	374	382	392	0	758	1532
H	David McDonald	Lilydale	362	378	372	336	0	740	1448
Adult A Freestyle Unlimited (FU)									
1H	Kenneth Smith	Bendigo FA	392	398	DNS	DNS	0	790	790



Branch B

FNQ

TRAINING AND REACCREDITATION COURSES FOR GAME MEASURERS, PROFICIENCY OFFICERS AND CLUB COACHES

By Graham McComiskie

The weekend for the Branch's training courses had arrived after much planning and consideration of dates and venues. We were fortunate enough to get a full list of keen new officials and old hands alike due for reaccreditation.

In the morning, those of us already there were spoilt with a hearty cooked breakfast, while those living closer to town rocked up in good numbers. I must thank the crew of TDB for their hospitality and work ethic, not to mention the amazing feeds. We got smoko, lunch, afternoon tea—thanks to Sue, Dave, Luke, Kristin and Mark just to mention a few—and a magnificent camp oven dinner courtesy of Scotty.

Our illustrious leader, Branch Controller Wayne Salmon, opened the proceedings at 9.00am Saturday as planned and the three groups gathered in their respective areas, already prepared by the



Graham McComiskie (left) and Dan Smith measure some deer antlers

tutors for a good start to the day.

The Branch B Coaching Instructor, Trev Combridge, supported by Wayne Salmon, was in an undercover area set up with a nice big screen to assist with detail and clarification. The coaching was a full-day event and all those I spoke to said they thoroughly enjoyed it and got a huge amount out of the day. It was a great success.

The Branch B Proficiency Officer, Jyri Iivonen, kept his crew intrigued with manuals and personal experience for the morning, then fitted in a few more in

the arvo. Thanks Jyri, nice work.

It was down to me to do the Branch B Measurers Course. With as many highly experienced full measurers as new personnel, I wanted to make it a fully interactive event. After a full breakdown/explanation of the measurers' manual's sections and components noting tips for measurers and relevant details on species, we made up a few groups and proceeded to assist the new A Class measurers to run the tape over all species relevant to their class (being all but the six deer species). With a few hours of the

afternoon left and the required details digested, the last session was all about the deer species, thanks to Dan Smith who had brought a quality set of red, rusa, fallow and chital antlers so we could swap techniques and tips on real antlers.

The day was about to wind up. It had been a pleasurable and resounding success, but there

was one more job left to do. Garry Pitt, the ABA's National Measurer, had brought with him the new pending Australian Record buffalo horns to be measured by a panel, as required.

So Pitty, Dan Smith and I, armed with an able assistant each, measured the monstrous set of horns, agreeing and recording on a measuring form. They were

now officially the new Australian Record at 130 Douglas Points and a spread of 82 3/8 inches. Congratulations to Pete Griffiths on your amazing trophy!

That wrapped it up on a high then we had a refreshing drink or two and our camp oven dinner.

Thanks again to everyone who made the weekend such a great event. ☺



Sharing the art of measuring (from left) Dan Smith, Bec Nelson and Graham McComiskie



Trev Combridge (left) and Wayne Salmon

Archery and Bow Hunting Equipment

- PSE • HOYT • MARTIN •
- EASTON • MATHEWS
- MISSION • BLACK STUMP •
- TUSKER • CARBON EXPRESS •
- TRU GLO • SCOTT •

Central Coast NSW

*Individual
Setups & Services
a Specialty*



0413 054 722
(02) 4392 6810

FULL DRAW ARCHERY



The group pays attention at the Measurers' Co

GO TO
WEBSITE



Toby Gall (left) and National Measurer Garry Pitt measure the amazing buffalo horns, a pending Australian record



urse



Participants enjoy the relaxed surroundings while they undergo Jyri's proficiency training



By Julie Morrissey

At the end of 2017, we were told that we might have to move Hunter Bowmen's club grounds as our lease could be cancelled rather than renewed next time. The following year, we started looking for somewhere appropriate for an archery range and by 2019, a site had been found at Greta, not too far away.

The list of jobs seemed endless—bringing in the butts, packing away the signs and markers, pulling down roofing, packing pavers onto pallets, transporting the toilets and more.

We wrapped, pushed, pulled and things were moved. Rolling butts into containers gave us a few laughs along the way, because they just didn't roll when we needed them to, but with some extra pushing they went where they were supposed to go—eventually.



Packing up at Bloomfield and setting up at Greta

Once at Greta, ranges were set, working bees abounded and then we were set to go. But there was a hiccup—a major one. The rules were changed and we were not allowed to shoot there. COVID and its lockdowns didn't help. We had to find somewhere else to shoot our arrows at targets. We kept our hopes up, we advertised on Gumtree and Marketplace. Lou went looking at properties

but could not find an owner, we emailed Maitland Council and Cessnock City Council. We sent some members to look at a property in Bungwahl. Lou, Mick and Rod must have been a bit frightening, because the lady said no, she had changed her mind.

It was disappointing, but we didn't give up. Another lead came up—Cameron Park—but there was not enough land for

us to play safely. We called other archery clubs and the gun club too in case they had some spare land we could use.

Lou was talking to someone at Hillsborough. We never gave up, calling anyone we could think of. I was given a lead to call. In the meantime, someone needed our gear more than us. They broke into our containers and helped themselves to our compound bows, quivers, generator, pie oven, whippersnipper and anything else they thought they needed. We had a working bee to secure the containers and relocate a container with our targets.

We kept searching, then someone else advertised on a different group on Marketplace. Pat, Libby, Lou, John, Rod and Mick (and maybe some others) went for a drive to Branxton to meet the owner, Chris. This land was brilliant and an agreement was signed. More work-

ing bees were held to organise the butts, move the toilets and arrange to move the containers.

A range was cut into the bush, which necessitated a lot of cutting of lantana, mowing, whippersnipping, brush cutting and moving butts. We even managed to have a shoot for all the workers, just to see how our first range was going to work. We went out, excited to shoot some arrows at targets. Our range captain Mick and his awesome helpers had prepared a great range. We shot up slopes, down a hill, into the shade, with a great variety of targets.

Then COVID popped up again and we were once more in lockdown. Once out of lockdown (at least for the double-vaccinated folk), we had another working bee or two, then set a calendar for the remainder of 2021. We welcomed some newbies, a young family, at our first official shoot. The major-

ity shot in the morning and didn't go out in the afternoon, but there were enough to make a group for the afternoon, with some coaching along with laughter and a bit of banter, which is always enjoyable.

The next shoot was foiled by the weather as the creek was too deep to cross on foot so there would be no more archery until the new year.

The message of this story is, don't give up. Keep looking, be positive and be prepared for lots of working bees. We have had two shoots already this year.

We are loving the range and we're planning more ranges. There is something about being with the archery family, whether it is with your own club, branch or even at nationals, that makes it a great experience. Now we are looking forward to preparing for a Branch shoot in October and showing off our new home. @



Working bee



First club shoot

2022 Archery Alliance of Australia

SHOOT CALENDAR

March

5th	Eden Field Archers *	SA	Field QRE
5th - 6th	Gloucester District Archers *	E	3D
6th	Mackay District Bowmen	B	ABA
6th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
6th	Boola Valley Field Archers *	G	ABA-Mal Thomas Memorial Shoot
12th - 13th	Playford District Field Archers *	I	Marked 3D
12th - 13th	Mornington Peninsula Bowmen *	VIC	3DAAA
12th - 13th	Ipswich Field Archers *	QLD	3DAAA
12th - 14th	Mt Clay Archers *	H	ABA
13th	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
13th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
19th - 20th	Roma & District Bowmen *	D	3D Branch Titles
19th - 20th	Orange & District Archers *	F	3D / ABA
19th - 20th	Lake Glenbawn Field Archers *	NSW	3DAAA - State Titles
20th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
20th	Hinchinbrook Archery Club	B	ABA
20th	Kurrimine Beach Archers	B	ABA
20th	Mt Isa District Bowhunters	B	ABA
20th	Gleneagles Field Archers *	J	ABA
20th	SOPA *	NSW	SOPA Matchplay Series Round 2
26th	Burnie Bowmen *	TAS	Bruce McCaskill Memorial Shoot
26th - 27th	Saxon Archery Club *	C	ABA
26th - 27th	Macleay Valley Archers *	E	IFAA State Titles
27th	Dead Centre Bowhunters *	A	ABA
27th	Freds Pass Field Archers *	A	ABA
27th	West Melbourne Field Archers *	H	3D/other

April

2nd	Eden Field Archers *	SA	Field QRE
2nd - 3rd	Lakeside Bowmen *	D	IFAA Branch Titles
2nd - 3rd	Bairnsdale Field Archers *	G	3D
2nd - 3rd	Lilydale Bowmen *	H	3D / ABA / Other
3rd	Mackay District Bowmen	B	ABA
3rd	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
9th - 10th	Border Bowmen *	Invitational	2022 Masters Games - ABA
10th	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
10th	Hinchinbrook Archery Club	B	ABA
10th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
10th	SOPA *	NSW	SOPA Matchplay Series Round 3
9th - 13th	Wide Bay Archers *	C	National IFAA Championships
15th - 18th	Wide Bay Archers *	C	National Safari ABA & 3D Championships
16th - 17th	North Albert Field Archers *	QLD	3DAAA
17th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
17th	Kurrimine Beach Archers	B	ABA

17th	Mt Isa District Bowhunters	B	ABA
29th-1st May	National Indoor Championships *		3DAAA
30th-1st May	Townsville District Bowhunters *	B	ABA
30th - 1st May	Renegade Bowmen *	D	IFAA State Titles
30th - 1st May	South West Slopes Sporting Field Archers *F		3D / ABA
May			
1st	Mackay District Bowmen	B	ABA
1st	West Gippsland Field Archers *	G	3D
7th - 8th	Peel Archers *	J	Invitational
7th	Eden Field Archers *	SA	Field QRE
8th	Full Boar Archers	B	ABA
8th	Mackay District Bowmen	B	ABA
8th	Towers Bowhunters	B	ABA
14th - 15th	Ipswich Field Archers *	QLD	3DAAA
15th	Collinsville Barebow Hunters	B	ABA
15th	Hinchinbrook Archery Club	B	ABA
15th	Kurrimine Beach Archers	B	ABA
15th	Mt Isa District Bowhunters	B	ABA
15th	Townsville District Bowhunters	B	ABA
15th	SOPA *	NSW	SOPA Matchplay Series Round 4
15th	ARCHERY SA *	SA	Max Manuel Memorial World Archery Star Tournament
14th - 15th	Eurobodalla Archery Club *	F	3D Branch Titles
14th - 15th	Border Bowmen *	I	ABA
21st - 22nd	Granite Belt Bowmen *	D	ABA
21st - 22nd	Namoi Valley Archers *	E	ABA Branch Titles
21st - 22nd	Colac Otway Archers *	H	3D State Titles
21st - 22nd	Dubbo 3D Archers *	NSW	3DAAA
22nd	Dead Centre Bowhunters *	A	ABA
22nd	Freds Pass Field Archers *	A	ABA
28th - 29th	Townsville Target Archers *	QLD	NQAA 2022 Field Championships




Available on multiple platforms!



Primitive Archer

Passing On The Traditions Of Classical Archery

eMag

**Instantly Available
Exactly Like Printed Magazine
Save or Print
Same Price No Matter Where You Live**

**1-Year \$20.00
2-Year \$36.00
3-Year \$54.00**

Visit www.PrimitiveArcher.com for more info and to subscribe

GO TO WEBSITE

GAME
CLAIMED

Tusker JUNIOR WINNER



Alex Maudsley

JUNIORS

Send in your **game photos** for a chance to
win a six-pack of broadheads from

Tusker

Email your photo entry to:

editor@archeryactionmagazine.com

Subject: **Junior Photo Comp**

Include your name and address

Graham McComiskie Record Class 30 pointer



Jeanette Dowd Stingray BHFF 5 and inset: Pig GA 24 6/8pt 4/8pt





Grant Windle Cat RC 7 13/16 pt



Jack Winks Pig TC 26 4/8 pt and inset: Stingray BHFF GA 5



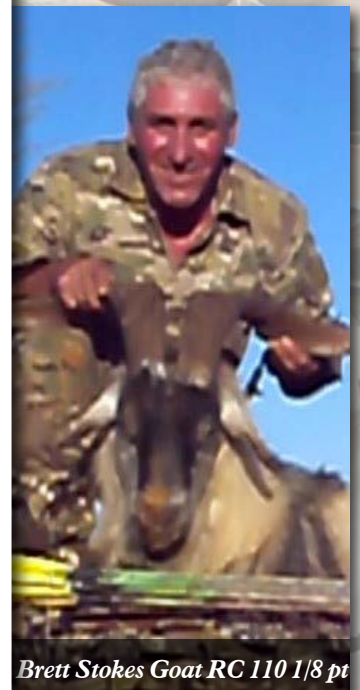
Bob Windle Pig GA



Kevin Dowd Pig GA 23 4/8 pt



Dale Winks Pig GA 24 6/8pt 6/8 pt 4/8 pt



Brett Stokes Goat RC 110 1/8 pt

MEMBERSHIP FORM

or email to: officemanager@bowhunters.org.au

Post completed form to:
Office Manager ABA
PO Box 152
Redbank Qld 4301
Phone (07) 3256 3976

Renewal ☐
New Member ☐

ABA Membership No:

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: ☐

I agree for photos to be taken and used for promotional purposes by the Australian Bowhunters Association.

If you do not agree, tick this box: ☐

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

Signature of Applicant

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.

ASSOCIATION USE ONLY

M'ship #s Allocated

Receipt Number

Computer Entered

M'ship Forwarded

Card Number ↓ NAME OF CARDHOLDER (print)

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

Expiry Date (mm yy)

Signature

03/2021



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

AUSTRALIAN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION™

APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE

