



Newsletter Oct-Nov 2007

TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER Oct-Nov 2007

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Game Claim Report Oct 2007

There has been plenty of good game to hit the ratings since the last newsletter, of a range of species and from a mix of new and old trophy takers members. John Bates travelled up to Toomba station in Queensland to have a hunt with Pacific Bowhunting Safari's and after a few days chasing the spotty deer around managed to snag a great stag out of a treestand from 50 odd metres. It later scored 149 7/8 DS and rated at number 12 in the ratings. Not to be outdone, Antonio Lara travelled north and took out a great Chital stag of 156 4/8, just piping Batesy to the number one chital taken in the 2006/2007 season.

Meanwhile, over in WA, Ben chambers and Adam Greentree have been into the goats, with Ben taking a cracker with the recurve scoring 105 5/8 and Adam taking three with the traditional gear all around the 115 DS!



John Bates very good Chital Stag 149 7/8DS



Antonio Lara with his Excellent Chital Stag
156 4/8DS

Speaking of Goats, Jordy Appleby joined the T.T. ranks rating a nice goat he shot in the NSW hills in 2003 scoring 104 DS and Boar a good Boar 26 4/8 DS. Dave Groombridge dusted off a few sets from 2002, 2005 and 2006 to rate from 103 -110 4/8 DS, and Peter Langham joined T.T. with a 103 5/8 DS

goat he shot back in 1981. Welcome Peter and Jordy.



Ben Chambers with his very nice Recurve Billy 105 5/8DS



Adams widest Traditional Billy to date, 41 plus inches and 115 DS, awesome!



Adam Greentree with his 114 2/8 DS Billy



Adam's Excellent 115 6/8 Billy!



Jordy Appleby with his PB Billy 104 DS



Jordy's best mountain Boar to date 26 4/8 DS

Another keen bowhunter to join the ranks in the last few months is Randal Sullings from Canberra ACT. He rated a boar he shot in the NT back in 2000, and I know he is planning a big trip back up that way shortly, so stay tuned to see how he goes.



Randle Sullings and his 20 DS pig.



Dave Groombridge's haul of trophy Billies!

As always a few fallow snuck into the ratings with Steven Holgate of Goulburn rating his first bowshot buck of 114DS. Andrew Morrow rated a southern NSW fallow of 178 2/8 DS as did Jordy Appleby with a nice 205 1/8 buck taken in 2003, and Jason Robinson with a bat palmed buck of 205 DS. A couple of other members, namely Manuel Aguis and Adam Greentree took their game heads to the Annual Awards and made Pete Morphett and Mark Wills work hard with the tapes!

Manuel's fine buck of 152 2/8 DS he took this past April with his longbow and beautifully crested arrows. Adam rated four fallow that he has taken over the last few years, the best of which he took in 2005 scoring 203 5/8 DS and the

most recent a 172 5/8 buck he took with his recurve on the last day of his 2007 rut.



Andrew Morrows final Buck for the 07 Season, 178 2/8 DS



Jordy's best Fallow buck to date taken back 2003, 205 1/8 DS!



Jason Robinson's awesome Fallow Buck of 2007, 205 DS!



Manuel Aguis's great Longbow Fallow buck, a life time achievement, 152 2/8 DS!



Adam's Fallow buck of 2005, the last taken with a bow that has more than one moving part, 205 3/8 DS



Another one of Adams fine Fallow Bucks for 2005, 176 DS

of the Bush



Adams traditional Buck went 176 DS



Damian Gouveia's first Rusa Stag, boy what a start, 195 5/8 DS!



Adams lucky last Fallow for the 07 season, 172 2/8 DS

Well know Wollongong bowhunter Mark Wills has become accustomed to shooting his left handed Switchback, taking a monster Red stag (263 6/8DS), a Chital stag (140 1/8DS) a Rusa Spiker and a Sambar spiker all in 2007. Again a mighty fine effort by this dedicated bowhunter!



Mark's first left handed animal taken after retraining his whole mind body and soul after his accident, a massive Red Stag 263 3/8 DS!

As always the Rusa got a run around from a few of our members, with Pete Morphett taking his first free range Rusa scoring 162 2/8 DS. Damian Gouveia of Blackbutt NSW also stepped up to the plate joining TT with a cracker Rusa stag of 195 5/8 DS which took out the 2007 largest Rusa stag taken by a TT member.



Pete's first free range Rusa Stag 162 2/8DS



Not often you see Mark in 3D camo, these deer must be hard to get close too, 140 DS



Spikers anyone, that's makes 4 species down, only two to go for the year, awesome stuff Mark!

We have also had some quality small game hit the books. Several cats, one taken by Dave Groombridge (7 10/16 DS) and another by Manuel Aguis (7 6/16 DS) made it into the top 15 cats rated with T.T. Four foxes were also rated, the biggest taken by Wayne Anderson that scored 10 6/16 DS that took out the biggest fox for 2007, a nice 10 2/16 DS fox taken by Manuel Aguis, a 9 11/16 DS fox taken by Dave Groombridge in 2006 and a 10 1/16 dog taken around Goulburn by myself in July 2007.



Manuel with his great Fox, 10 2 /16!



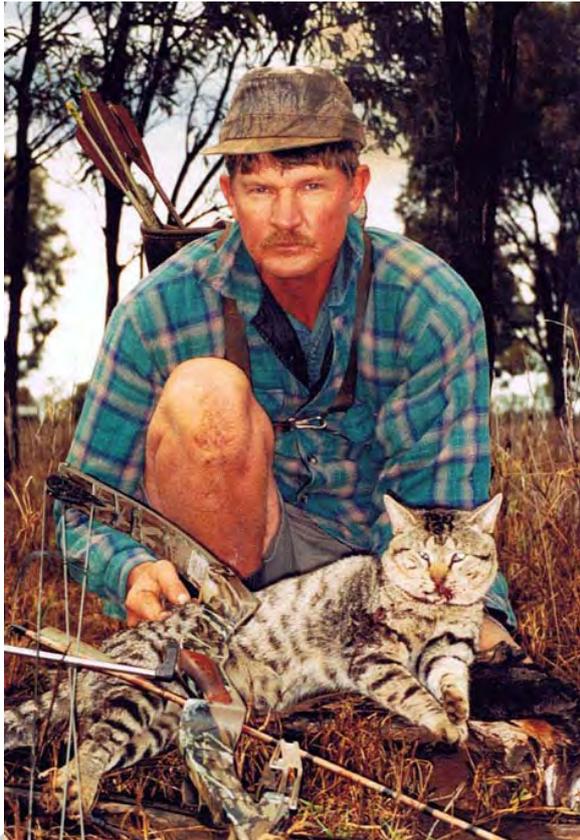
Wayne's best Fox to date and winner of this years biggest Fox rated with T.T. 10 6/16 DS!



Manuel's nice Longbow Cat, 7 6/16 DS!



Dave's 9 11/16 Red Dog!



Dave Groombridge's big Cat 7 10/16!



Mark Southwell's PB fox 10 1/16 DS!

Well its time to go and sharpen some arrows, I am flying north to Townsville at the end of the week to hunt further up on the Cape with my brother Paul, the Herverts and Col Moynihan. With a bit of

luck we'll have a few boars to rate by the start of November.

Good hunting out there,

Mark Southwell.

PIGS PAD

No doubt elsewhere in the newsletter there is a report about the Awards? I came away again feeling as though it was a very worthwhile three days. Catching up with old friends and making a few new ones is a positive way of moving through life. A very pleasing aspect was the interaction between the young bow hunters and dare I say it the old. The young guys soaking in all those years of knowledge and experience plus getting a different view on bow hunting, where it came from and where it might be going. The fact that much of the archery based entertainment was centred around traditional equipment was also interesting, barely a transformer in-sight. Hats off to all those who were game enough to throw that disc in the air!

A quick note on young bow hunter Ryan Kennedy who took his first goat with an arrow crafted by Manuel Agius's, a recurve lent by Mark Southwell which I believe is owned by James Warne. Now that's team work!

Still on the Awards I was lucky enough to jag the prize for the story comp. Now lets be honest that's a dam good prize, a grand or mores worth of BowTech or a Custom Predator take down re-curve.

Steve Hann from [Archery Supplies](http://www.archerysupplies.com.au) needs to be congratulated for offering up such quality products.

2007 Trophy Takers annual awards Neura, NSW

Remember all through the year he also supplied a dozen carbons with every newsletter. Steve has recently moved his operation to a larger shop in Fyshwick ACT which encompasses not only an extensive range of archery items but also an indoor range.

If all goes to plan this range will be transformed into something special with tree stands, moving 3D targets and screens to replay your shot. Personally I'm not much into range shooting but after spending an hour or so in there I reckon I wouldn't mind doing a bit more. Its a great way to try a few different bows and other equipment. Steve is personally running the shop now, so if you need any equipment give him a ring, it would be nice to support him as he has supported [Trophy Takers](#).

Anyway, we ended up walking out the door with BowTech Constitution. Had it grouping like a demon bare bow and Nick managed to punch it through two doors so we knew it shot well and was quick! I was very surprised at how quiet it was too, a very pleasant bow to shoot. I'm sure it will take plenty of game over the next few years. Also a big thank you to Pete Morphett for his part in organising this, top effort!

Well of to the Cape for our yearly adventure, been watching the weather and it looks hot and hotter. Not looking forward to that aspect but its all part of the journey. Got a little bit of new country ear marked for exploration so that's always sought with anticipation of something grand. It's a great trip regardless of game so add a few critters and it will really top it off. I hear there are some strange new hunting outfits being tested this year so will report back on the success of those.

Chris Hervert.

On the weekend of the 29th Sept- 1st Oct, the 2007 TT awards were held at the Neura Community Hall in central west NSW. The majority of members rolled in on Friday afternoon, with some of the old hands staying up to welcome new arrivals well into the night. Saturday morning dawned clear and crisp, and two of the Albury contingent, Fuzzie and Killer, were up early and heading to Bathurst to have a hunt for goats with a mate up that way. Back at the hall, and the boys swung into action building the fine trophy display including a myriad of shoulder mounts, European mounts and scull caps, as well as plenty of top quality photographs. Outside the hall a couple of the young up and comers Nick Hervert and Ryan Kennedy tracked down Dave Whiting's 3D boar target and started shooting arrows into it, practicing with both their compounds and traditional gear. This trend continued over the whole weekend with the poor old pig copping a flogging with all manner of high tech and not so high tech equipment.



Some of the Trophies on Display

With the trad bows came the flu-flu arrows and soon cardboard discs were being thrown into the air shortly followed



More Trophies on display



The group of on lookers stay nice and warm!



Dave shows how it's done!

Saturday night saw the presentation of the annual TT game awards and the photography and trophy awards. This year the photography and trophy awards were selected by a team of keen young local bowhunter's from the Wellington area. It was great to have them along, and have such a valuable input into proceedings. The winners of the 2007 awards are presented below:

Boar Award

Mick Barrett 30 6/8 DS

Goat Award

Mick Barrett 128 5/8 DS

Red Deer Award

Mark Wills 267 DS

Fallow Deer Award

Paul Southwell 223 DS

Rusa Deer Award

Damian Gouveia 195 5/8 DS

Chital Deer Award

Antonio Lara 156 4/8 DS

Fox Award

Wayne Anderson 10 6/16 DS

Traditional Award

James Warne Goat 104 6/8 DS

Ben Chambers Goat 105 5/8 DS



There all on the their way!

by several flu-flu's at a time. At the end of the day, I think Cashy took line honours with the flu-flu's, with his first three shots hitting the mark. In addition to the target shooting, hunting video's were being played in the hall for all to watch. A bit of new footage was offered up as well as some old favourites. There was also some top quality hunting gear on sale, bought along by Corey Head.

Junior Bowhunter

Casey McCallum

Chairmans Award

Casey McCallum Fallow 212 4/8 DS

Legend Award

Paul Hardie

Photography and Trophy Awards

Best hunting photo – framed live game

Anthony Clarkson – Bedded deer

Best hunting photo – framed hunter and game

Dale Furze – Sambar '05'

Best scenic/natural photo

Adam Greentree – Spider

Best hunting photo – unframed live game

Stan Kwasigroch – Lining up a pig

Best hunting photo – unframed hunter and game

**Adam Greentree and Graham Cash
Red deer**

Best composite live game framed

James Warne – Billies fighting

Best composite hunter and game

**Pedro Lever – Manuel Aguis
fallow/fox/cat**

Best mounted gamehead

Chris Hervert – Billy

After the awards presentation, the annual story competition winner was announced and the raffle was drawn. For 2007, the staff at Archery Supplies decided that the Bowtech bow would be going to an excited Chris Hervert for his story "we need a bigger ball room" printed in the June/July 2007 newsletter. Well done Hervert, you arsey bastard!

There were some great prizes in the raffle, none of which surpassed a beautifully crafted set of timber arrows donated by Manuel Aguis. Mick Kernaghan was the lucky winner of these. After the presentation, it was time to retire to the large bonfire that was burning outside, and plenty of stories were told, helped along with the odd amber ale!

Sunday morning saw Cashy and Corey head out with the fox master himself Dave Whiting to try their luck on the local population. Although unsuccessful, they did have a close encounter with one red dog that eagerly came in to about 2m from the boys, and was lucky to escape a misguided arrow. Back at the hall and that poor pig was still copping a pasting and looked more like a porcupine than a pig for most of the time.



Mark pretends to be his brother, but we can tell he been in a better paddock!



The T.T. hordes listen on.



Mick wins one of the sort after prizes, Manuel Custom Arrows!

A local bowyer from Bathurst by the name of Arthur Frisk dropped in to show off some of his "Frisky" bows. A few jaws dropped as the bows were uncovered, Arthur sure makes a nice bow which proved themselves on the targets at hand. The AGM was held on Sunday afternoon with some very good discussions on a number of topics. The minutes of that meeting are presented in this newsletter.

Sunday night, as for a while there we were struggling to get decent television reception to view the game. But with the help of Manuel's roof rack on his truck, a few hands and coat hangers, we finally



Casey receiving the Chairman's Award

managed to get a worthy picture and the GF was watched besides a roaring fire under the stars. A fitting way to wrap up a great TT awards weekend.



Anthony receiving one of the photographic awards.

A few nervous moments were had prior to the Rugby League Grand final on



Chris Hervert with his award and receiving the BowTech!

Personally I would like to thank everybody who took the time to attend the weekend, we had several out of staters including Cashy and Corey from

Queensland and Casey McCallum from South Australia that made the trip across. Manuel Aguis needs praise for his great arrows that he donated for the raffle and all the guys who threw in a few trophies, albums and photos for the trophy display.



James receiving the traditional award!



The juniors of the awards with Cashy

I would also like to thank the Neura Community for allowing us to use their hall and facilities – it sure was a top spot to hold such as event, the friends you make and the huge amount of stories and information that is exchanged at these awards always impresses me. Very rarely do you get so many like minded and keen bowhunter's in one spot, something that makes TT what it is.

Mark Southwell.

**2007 Annual General Meeting
Neura Community Hall, Neura,
NSW, 30th September 2007**

Meeting opened at 12.55pm

Attendance

Dave Whiting, Anthony Clarkson, Wayne Anderson, Manuel Aguis, Stan Kwasigroch, Casey McCallum, John Bates, Mark Southwell, Andrew Morrow, Mark Wills, Pedro Level, Sylvia Szabo, Dale Furze, Merv Smith, Pete Rogers, Graham Cash, Corey Head, Chris and Nick Hervert, Ryan Kennedy, Pete Morphett.

Apologies

Ian Fenton, Gary Piper, Mick Evans, Mick Watts, Mark and Karen Ballard, Paul and Ros Hardie, Paul Southwell, Dave James, Jarrod Vyner, Shannon James, Judy James, Ian Summers, David Sarroff, Wayne Cressy, Adam Greentree, Shane Dupille, Doug Church, Col Graham, Damain Zeinert, Les Anderson, Stuart Hervert, Mick and Jo Barrett, Dave Keable, Luke Edwards, Damien Gouveia, Mick Kernaghan, Jenny Whiting, Col Moynihan, James Warne.

Minutes

Minutes from 2006 AGM at shallow crossing read out and accepted by Graham Cash, seconded by Mark Wills.

Business Arising

TT measures course.

Acknowledgement of the successful TT measurers course that was conducted by Mark Ballard in Khancoban. This now gives TT 14 accredited measurers around the country that can score all species of game. It was suggested that we combine a goat/pig and small game measuring course with the 2008 TT

awards weekend. It was also acknowledged that TT does accept trophies scored by ABA accredited scorers, and even though the two scoring systems are not the same, ABA scores with reduction so heads will be slightly penalised if scored by ABA. Therefore if hunters want to have the trophy score its maximum then they should have it remeasured by a TT or ADA scorer.

Rating of game behind wire

The issue of rating game shot behind wire (closed range) in separate categories was discussed. A motion was passed that TT allow the rating of closed range game in separate categories to free range game. New members wishing to join TT could join with a closed range animal, but there would be no annual awards for these animals. This process will be reviewed at the 2008 AGM in June 2008.

General Business

Format for Awards

It was suggested that the exact format of the TT awards be written down and put up on the website and in newsletters so people know what to expect and what photography and trophy awards are going to be chosen. Dave Whiting and Anthony Clarkson will do this.

Amalgamation of committee positions

A motion was passed to amalgamate the positions of computer central, ratings, membership and finance into the one position of Computer central. This was done to simplify the TT board of directors as it was recognised that these positions should be done by the one director to save double handling of

ratings/forms etc. Anthony Clarkson accepted the motion and Manual Aguis seconded it.

2008 T.T. Annual Awards

It was decided that the 2008 TT awards will be held at Galdstone QLD in conjunction with the Gladstone bowhunters traditional muster shoot on the June Long weekend. Dave Whiting and Paul Hardie have already discussed the issue with the Gladstone Bowhunters club and they were very keen to combine the two functions. Moving the awards forward to June will mean a shorter ratings year with the cut off date for 2008 game ratings to be 15th May 2008.

Ratings discrepancies and panel measurement of TT number 1 animals.

The issue was raised that several of the current TT number 1 deer species have not been panel measured in line with the TT code of practice. It was decided that the ratings director will follow this up and issue letters to the owners of the trophies that not have been panel measured. Several scoring inconsistencies have also been identified with animals currently in the ratings. These animals have had an asterisk put next to them on the TT website listings and these will be rectified by the ratings director.

Inclusion of a Video award for 2008

It was suggested that due to the high number of T.T. members videoing their hunts that a Video award should be instated as well as the photography and trophy awards. It was suggested that 2 minute videos be presented for judging, with a possibility that all entries could be collated onto one DVD and sold after the awards. The committee will look into

the finer detail and advise before the 2008 awards.

A Drought to quench the thirst!

By James Warne

Bill Baker perpetual deer trophy

It was suggested that with the passing of T.T. member and well known bowhunter Bill Baker, that we should recognise him through a perpetual deer trophy for TT. A small committee will be formed to look into the process which will be used to judge the award and Graham Cash said he would look into getting a trophy produced. Production of the trophy will be covered by the Bowhunting Downunder Magazine and this is gratefully acknowledged.

It was about this time last year that the perceived barriers between this property and access to hunt it came down over many beers at the Fords Bridge pub. With the ensuing access to this spot has come twelve months of excellent Western goat hunting.

T.T. account Balances

As at 1st October 2007 the two balances were:

TT working account: \$3023.10

TT marketing account: \$457.17

It has given me a taste of what I imagine it was like out here a decade ago. This property has withstood the pressures of the modern goat industry because of two things. One, the drought, now seven years old has meant a lot of properties have been de-stocked so generally this means that graziers out here west of Bourke are barely ticking over and are just bidding time.

Committee position election
Positions were declared vacant and a new board of directors was elected. For 2008 they are as follows:

Chairman: Dave Whiting

Computer Central: Mark Southwell

Promotions: Peter Morphett

Marketing: Paul Hardie

Associate Directors: James Warne
Jarrod Vyner
Doug Church
Chris Hervert

No need to mention this has been disastrous for your goat numbers as the graziers' have had no choice but to muster goats to keep the bread on the table. Now the drought has gone on for so long something else is happening out here. Property owners are leaving, de-stocking, have an infrequent caretaker and low and behold ferals get a chance again. There is City money moving out here as well, \$400,000 can buy you a 40,000 acre hobby bloke for the motorbikes and to shoot instead of 100 acres in Braidwood, mmmm!

This property has a number of close by non resident owners and one neighbour who runs so many stock the goats prefer my side of the fence. The second point for this property remaining a goat hunting treasure has been the owner's management style. He hasn't been greedy and taken the short term easy dollars through trapped his watering points. No gyrocopters either. This

Meeting closed at 2.10pm.

property owner has been smart. On 100,000 acres there are a lot of goats, if you don't get them all at once low and behold they replenish and the numbers stay good for him in the long term and so does the hunting.

Anyway there's your scenario setting, I have had some tremendous hunts here this last twelve months, Peter Morphett can attest to the fact it hasn't all been plane sailing, good rains at Christmas this year stuffed up most of the summer hunting. There was also the big flat wide horned fellow I saw and couldn't get close to the very first hunt there that I nick named white face. It was agony to here it did get mustered up by the owners son (my mate, boy wasn't he red faced when his wife let on that he had mustered it up).

In fact photo's in this story, and the success will not depict how much effort I have put into this property this year to get results. I have done, probably 15 trips in the last twelve months. It might not sound many but there are other places to hunt, marriage commitments etc. So I guess what I am getting at is even the hot spots take getting to know, demystifying, dud hunts as you push into country that is off the mark, effort to make them work for you.

This Saturday it all came together for me. I had been talking weekly to the owner, listening for news of fast disappearing alternatives waterhole. I picked a hot weekend and even picked the tanks based on the wind direction forecast on the Elder whether web site. For the beginners, plenty of hunting successes come down to time, 20 years I have looked for Billies, only in the last twelve months have I broken 105pts. Most members have put up with me winging and longing for big goats at one time or another.

I pretty much rattled my way out to the property; I had a ladder stand in the back, salt blocks, game cameras along with two bows, two cameras and the ordinary gear. This was an all out assault; I had some gimmicks, testament to the internet age, technology (hopefully mastered now) and my usual hunting enthusiasm. I was going out alone, I like that as I can run to my own times, not waiting for other who are not quite as prepared or on time. I see all of these things as indicators to a bowhunter's real enthusiasm; I have been doing this for twenty years and still cannot get a decent night's sleep after Wednesday before a hunting weekend such is my excitement. It is nice for me I still have the childish excitement I had when I was a kid.

Of late I have been shooting the recurve, however my confidence was down as I had not shot well in the week leading up to the hunt, and I put that down to no practice for two weeks as I had just returned from a 6000km two week trip out to Alice Springs through the Simpson. Anyway, the point is that's my excuse for having the compound back in the car even thou I have been talking up my shift to traditional gear.

I snuck away from school a bit early on the Friday, I'm sure I am not the only teacher that sneaks away before the students. Anyway I was packed, fuelled and driving before the bell even rang, my whole Fridays are distracted on hunt day. I headed out past Fords Bridge, past all the goat fences that spell the demise of peoples hunting spots. Apart from a lazy beer on route and the wonderful feeling of being 'back of Bourke' it's almost depressing to do this drive with such a lack of game. I have only seen pigs twice on these roads in the last twelve months, once upon a time they would have been a dime a

dozen, instead it is dusty, there are very few roo's and sheep seem to stop at Nyngan these days.

The property owner had told me over the preceding few weeks of a tank he thought around a hundred goats were watering on. He said I should have a look at it as an alternative to 'out the back' where I normally go. Lucky for me it was on a parcel of land before the homestead so I was clear to go and check it out before seeing the owner after dark. I wanted to do this to get a feel for the main game trails and likely spots for an ambush, before a morning assault.

This proved valuable as upon inspection there were three obvious tracks leading in, one from the south, East and West. There was also one tank waters edge on the south (fed by the trail from the East, west and south) that was harder and obviously was the preferred drinking spot by the goats. For less experienced hunters, this is my main consideration when picking a location for a blind on water for goats. Find the hard edge, goats hate soft muddy banks and this makes targeting them so much easier. This is not as bleatingly obvious as it sounds of course. There is just a subtle difference between the edges most used and the others. More prints, less weed and more churned up sand for example. Nothing is more frustrating then seeing good heads out of range on the other side of a tank (of course it is inevitable and that's not the end of the world, a few of my better goats were followed off water and eventually shot over a kilometre from the original sighting on the tank).

I usually like to have dinner and socialise with the property owners I associate with as much as I can, It is a nice time to catch upon what's been going on, and I always keep in mind that

out here in a remote spot some company occasionally is the least I can do to pay him back for his hospitality. Apart from having a nice time over dinner they are the ones spending all the time in there paddocks so know where the game is. Here is a good time to mention one of my public relations exercise tricks. I read the Land newspaper because I think knowing what's going on in the rural sector is a nice way of breaking down barriers between hunters and property owners. It is a great way to keep you abreast of issues that are important to them. There is nothing like being able to lead into a very recent pressing issue and to know what you are talking about. It conveys to him you care about what effects him. Also follow up on things that were talked about last time you were out. If he was talking about the pending shearing 3 months ago, ask him how it ended up going.

This time it was probably handy however that the property owner wasn't in. I probably got to bed a few hours earlier than I would have done. There is nothing like being bush by yourself to get you to bed early. This was a good thing as I am not a morning person and really had no idea when the sun was rising. So I set the alarm for 5.00am, surely earlier enough I thought, that's a hideous hour in my book. You may think this is early for a goat hunt, but I believe in getting there a half hour or so before sun up. A saw is about the most useful piece of equipment to cut down the branched necessary to build the blind. I wanted to make two on the tank, one on that hard edged southern bank on the south east corner on a very well used game trail. If things didn't work so well with one then I had another back up plan. When good goat numbers start coming in you cannot start cutting and dragging limbs about to adjust things. what you have made for yourself when

the first goats come is what you are left with, so better to get there early and have it all finished.

Something stirring woke me at 4.30am, good thing as at five the morning light had begun (no wonder they have day light saving, I needed that to kick in a week earlier). As often happens the first little mob approached from the south and caught me off guard. You feel like a goose when after all that preparation you're walking or drinking out of a two litre juice container when the snort of a disrupted goat signals the start to the morning procession. Lucky for me these first goats were run of the mill, they were the warning I needed and I settled in to the blind. Lucky for me as soon after probably only the fifth goat of the day ultimately proved to be the biggest Billy of the day and weekend.



The big Fella's on his way!

Whilst scanning the distant scrub I picked up movement, and then horns heralded the arrival of a great goat. A pointer here, even thou generally when its very hot and dry, if you see them they

will probably get to the water eventually, I still like to get the best field of view I can of the surrounding country to get and early drop on there approach, even scanning using my binoculars early if the scrub allows. In this case this made a difference. I had decided to go the south east blind option first, the one on the game trail, this put all my eggs in one basket and meant I had a great 10 yard shot for the recurve on animal using this trail but meant shots to the good edge I mentioned were out of the question.

Because I saw this big Billy coming 300 metres out I was able to grab the compound as anything on the east or west bank was going to be thirty meters plus and I went to the other blind to hedge my bet. As it was all three Billies walked in on the West bank, walked right around the north and east banks before coming into the hard edged South bank where I was waiting. I had an easy thirty five meter shot and he went about thirty yards up the East bank. I then ranged him at 54 yards and shot him again high lungs to make sure.

You will notice in the photo of him walking along that there were no other goats there yet, these three were early. But after the shooting finished it was as if a tape was turned on, so many goats filtered through, maybe 150 of all shapes and sizes. I didn't get to go over and inspect that Billy for two hours. At 39 inches even and 115 6/8 DS he proved to easily be a new personal best!

Great mobs of goats came to the tank and bedded up close by, they didn't even wonder back off to feed (they tell me this is a sign that they are doing it easy to find all the feed they want, this is nice to know as it means this place is more attractive than the neighbours . Watching and photographing them was electric, there's a lot of excitement in

constantly scanning the approaching goats to see what is coming in. Some were eating the leaves off my two blinds, some five yards away.



The hoards start to roll in!

And what we Trophy Takers dream of were there as well, a few old Billies were sprinkled in there too. Nothing for a while stood out like the big fellow. Then with a group of Billies came another Billy to excite you.

A beut head spoiled somewhat by a broken section off one side but otherwise would have scored over 120 and was a beauty. He walked down and watered on the hard edge in front of my blind, at fifteen meters a 45/70 Carbon Tech Rhino shaft with a Woody supreme broad head took him in the heart and he went down ten yards from me. Wow! All my dreams were coming true; I had two great Billies down within sight of each other. Along the way I new I had taken some great photo's too.



From some distance he almost caused a small heart Attack!



Until he came closer to reveal his broken prize!



The two big Billies have fallen, with the others still very much unaware!



My Personal Best 115 6/8 DS!



The broken Fella, still a good trophy with my trust Recurve, 104+

The next day I went to another tank, I set the alarm for four this time to allow for that sun that just insisted on coming up at an ungodly hour. I also had a longer drive out the back. I must admit with my success of the day before, getting up was harder, making elaborate hides eluded me and I even grabbed a little snooze during the very early pre dawn stages and just raised an eye every few minutes to see what was approaching.

Eventually my slumber was fully dismissed as the back of a pig could be seen over the back of a washout on the tank. That's funny, he must have snuck in when I eyes were shut! Anyway, normally I would blame the shocking shot that followed and whizzed past the young boar's nose to being half asleep but I am starting to think I go to pieces on pigs. I really am having a rough trot on them (as Mark Southwell can attest after he videoed me having a shocking shot on a good boar a few months ago). Lucky for me I can hit goats!

A really nice fellow came in amongst the hundreds an hour or so later. I crept around the big wind break wall that stands tall over the western edge. The silhouette photo resulted as I used the mound for cover. Eventually I put the camera down and took probably my longest shot ever at 50yards which connected on the shoulder and angled three quartering backwards but was sufficiently square on to do the trick. I had my third nice goat for the weekend at 106 4/8 DS. I must add that I may have let this goat go if it were not for the four new tank traps to be installed in these paddocks this summer.



The twisty Billy before,



And after! 106 4/8 DS

Nothing massive followed in the next couple of hours and with all my success I thought I would head home and keep the peace with my lovely wife. I had had more than enough death for the time being. I am not used to so much game hitting the ground but you cannot look a gift horse in the mouth ah! I got lost on the way out; I admit I was gunning it a bit as I was reverved up. Once I decide to leave I am 'out of there'.

Anyway I managed to accidentally go a very around about way to a tank I was familiar with. The roll of the dice was definitely going my way as a strong wind raced from the tank to me as I came roaring out of the scrub to see a lovely twisty Billy with horns poking up high over the bank. All his head gear was showing just not his head, lucky bugger, me not him. I felt like a riffle shooter as I grabbed the bow from the case, went under the fence using the bank that obscured him for cover. I drew my bow

down low out of sight then slowly rose to expose his chest.

His head also of course and he looked at me as I was now sky lined over the bank. But it was too late as the Stinger took him out. A beut Billy that photographed really well. I believe in taking photos to depict what really happened. Hence no shirt in the photo's as I had stripped off and was headed for home. He was the wonderful bonus Billy that capped of my most successful goat hunt ever, a hunt that went a little way towards quenching my thirst to uncover big goats.



Lucky last bomber of a twisty Billy 111 DS

*Note- 4 days later the property received 130pts of rain, great case of lucky timing and a reminder to take opportunities as soon as you can because you don't know what's around the corner.

Need food badly!
By Dale Furze

I'll set the scene, 3 mates going to western NSW hunting pigs. Number one bloke supplies the car, No. 2 supplies the food and the 3rd. supplies access to 100 000 acres of river flat swamp country. The trip there was uneventful as No.1 has a top 4WD with all the luxuries. We get to the property and No. 1 and 2 drop their jaws at just the sight

of 'Pig Heaven', what a magnificent place, No. 3 has a smug but content look on his face.

We arrive at our hut at around 2.30, you know, late lunch time, all pile out of the Ute and head straight to the Esky for something to eat. No.3 being the small 120kg. that he is, whips the lid to the Esky, looks sternly at No.2 then sheepishly at No.1 (me) and says, "What are you boys eating for the rest of the trip?" I peered into the Esky to find enough food to feed a bird for a couple of days, not 3 grown men for 3!

Between the three of us we had to shoot something to supplement our food supply. At the end of day one, zip in the way of a food kill!

Day two dawned and we had a meeger breakfast then went our separate ways for a hunt. I saw nothing in this pig heaven, got sore feet and an ever increasing hunger for something tasty. I met up with the other boys where I learnt that they too were suffering from the same fate. We then proceeded to eat the last of our food for comfort (morons!).

Things were getting desperate; we HAD to kill something on our evening hunt. Again we all went our different ways. I searched the flooded marshes looking for a pig like a hound looks for a deer. Then I saw them! Three little pigs were feeding on grass on the small patches of land above the flood waters. I was like the little cartoon Weasel looking at Foghorn Leghorn, my mouth was watering and I hadn't even gotten close.

I slipped in, nice and quiet through the water, like a croc' easing up to its prey. (Sorry, I had to laugh, how lame was that!) The poor little buggers had no idea what was in store for them. There

were two feeding close to me, side by side, and the third a little further away. I was hidden by some rushes when I came to full draw, eased up over the top and let the closest one have it in the armpit. Both pigs trotted off and I watched the first one fall at 20m, the second one fell over in sympathy about three meters from the remaining standing pig, he too then copped an arrow down between the neck and near shoulder. Running around in circles, he expired about mid way between the other two, forming a triangle of dead pigs within 10m. The first arrow had heart shot the first pig then slightly deflected up and double lunged the pig next to it. You couldn't wipe the smile off my face, 3 pigs with two arrows and SOMETHING TO EAT!

For the rest of the trip the pigs evaded us, I was the only one to score.

I have had many memorable stalks and hunts, but this one felt different as we felt we had to eat (mind you, all three of us could possibly go without food for a while!).



A word of warning..... Let pigs hang for longer than 30mins. If you want to eat them!

Hope you enjoyed. Furzie.

Gadget of the Month!

This months gadget will suit all you high tech gear fans, and tinkers, I have been using this tool for some months now and on many different combinations of bow to really fine tune some of our modern gear, like most compound shooters getting a field point and broad head to group in the same place is a challenge for most and if they are different weights then you can nearly forget it especially out of the lasted super quick less forgiving bow that most modern compound shooters carry into the field these days, but now I have found a tool that not only allows you the super tune your setup but make it more accurate and even allot more forgiving when it comes to broad head, filed point and just about any other weight combination you can screw on the same fletched type of shaft, you say bull well read on!

The tool is made by [Ezy-Eye Archery](#) and it uses a laser to perfectly align the centre shot of your compound, the setup on all bows tested used a release aid and drop away rest the most common setup for modern archery these days so all info will revolve around this type of shooter (Note: arrows of the correct spine where used, for all combinations for the bows tested).

Most drop away rests and just plain old paper tuning there is a large amount of movement that the rest can be moved horizontally and still product near perfect hole though paper using the standard paper tuning test, in the case with my BowTech Tribute it can have a total

amount of horizontal movement over 13 mm left or right and still shoot bullet holes through paper at 6 feet.

With the **EZE-CENTER** tool installed and a bare shaft is used as the guide the tool is used by aligning through the centre of the cams and down through the string and down to the very tip of an uncut carbon shaft then drop away rest is moved left or right until the laser is showing that the shaft is perfectly aligned to the cams and the centre of the bow string, the final step of checking it through paper once the screws and bolts have been tightened.

Out of all bows tested all only needed some small knock adjustments and they were good to go, so you say we can get bullet holes through paper just by sighting down the shaft and save ourself the money for something else, well this is where the tool comes into its own, the bows were taken back to 20m and sighted in with broad heads then normal filed points of the same weight same shot into the same aiming point and they grouped tight as a fishers, well you know what, then we stepped back to 30, 40 and 50 metres with the same results, ok good start, ok now we set up at 40 metres and screwed in 100g RAGE 2 blade broad heads, 100g match weight filed points and 125g First cut expandable broad heads and 125g Magus Stingers and standard old 125g field points and shot all of them at the same spot in the target!

All grouped into and around the size of tennis ball on closer inspection! I repeated the test at 50m and 30m just to make sure it was consistent, and I reproduced the same results, also all noted how these bows seemed more forgiving and it was quite easy to repeat and consistently grouped better than they normally do even when the old muscles start to wain.

Out of all the bows tested only a couple didn't quite reproduce the same result from the tool, this was turned out to be the form problems which was a result of not quite perfect form of the bows owner which was also brought to their attention, and was soon corrected with a little coaching.

Bows used in the tests were 4 BowTech's, 3 different Tributes set at 70, 80 and 90 lbs, Allegiance and Darton Pro4000, and a Bowing illusion set at 70lb, and with different types of shafts preferred by their users and a even Black stump and Woody's Outback broad heads all tested later produced the same results!

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Newsletter Contributions

Welcome to all our new T.T. members, John, Jordy, Damian, Randle hope to see in the newsletter again very shortly, and hopefully a story or two of your successful hunts!

All Membership and Rating forms to be sent to:

Trophy Takers
LPO BOX 5129
University of Canberra
Bruce ACT 2617

Peter Morphett.

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Remember to enter your stories in the T.T. newsletter to be in the running for the end of year grand prize of the a TOP of the range 08 **BowTech** (worth \$1300), yes you get to pick what model that best suits you, that could be either a new General, 82nd Airborne, 101st Airborne, Tomkat, Allegiance, Commander, or the amazing Guardian or Constitution, but remember you also could take home the custom Predator

take down recurve instead, its still worth \$890, so you decide!

Also here is some info n the possible location of the 2009 T.T. awards sent to me by Mick and Kathy Kernahan of Vic, note the wards should be held back in October again of that year.

“G,day. Pete, Maxy + T.T. committee, just been on the TT site looks great, it was mentioned at the Wellington awards about having the 2009 awards in Victoria, Dave whiting mentioned my area (sandy creek hall). The hall is 10 minutes from lake hume, 35km from lake dartmouth (great fishing) 10 minutes from Tallangatta (café ,pizza shop, IGA, hotel, motel)+ Sambar hunting within 20 minutes. The T.T. members I have spoken to down here would be happy to run the awards down this way. (Something to think about the next 12 months) feel free to pass this on, MICK.”



Well this issue's winner of the Super Tough **Carbon Tech** Shafts is none other than James Warne for his great story, and well done on getting another PB Billy mate!

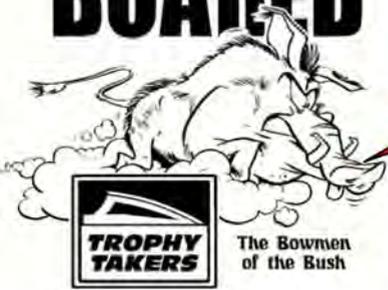
We also have some more **OzCrest** customs wraps to give to John Bates, Jordy Appleby, Jason Robinson and Damian Gouveia, well done guys!

Peter Morphett.

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The Bowmen
of the Bush

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Bowmen of the bush



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