



NEWSLETTER

August 2017 – January 2018

TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER

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In this issue:

-) Game Claim Report
-) 2017 Awards Report
-) Outgoing Chairman's Report
-) Incoming Chairman's Report
-) Revenge
-) Pig's Pad
-) TT Facebook Page
-) Newsletter Contributions

**Game Claim Report
16/06/2016**

Certainly a stack of game to report on this time round, most of which came in before the 2017 Gympie Awards cut off in September.

Long-time Aussie bowhunter and new TT member Darryl Bulger rated a cracking Fallow buck he took in NSW last April. The big bat palmed buck scored 276 4/8 DS and now represents our No.1 fallow buck. This supersedes Robbo's 265 1/8 DS Moose, which sat at No.1 for 9 years. Darryl also rated a nice rusa stag which scored 206 4/8 DS which slips in at No. 8. Very well done Darryl.

Another new member to join was Charlie Marais from the sunshine coast. Charlie made good up north rating an 86 DS Buff and 21 DS boar.



Darryl's 206 4/8 DS rusa stag (below)



Charlie Marais with his first buffalo bull scoring 86 DS

NT bowhunter Brett Burrell joined TT with a monster boar scoring 35 DS that took out the biggest boar for 2017. It rated at number 6. Another NT bowhunter, Cameron Tull joined with a cracking big buffalo that sits at number 2, scoring an impressive 107 DS. This bull will be eligible for the 2018 awards. Welcome Charlie, Brett and Cameron.





Cameron Tull's massive 107 DS buffalo bull

More recently, Albury based bowhunter Dan Podubinski joined the club with a handful of critters, including two nice goats (130 5/8 and 126 7/8 DS) and two foxes scoring 9 13/16 and 9 8/16 DS. Well done and welcome to TT.



Dan Podubinski with his big western billy scoring 130 5/8 DS

The floodplains and waterholes of the NT have also been happy hunting grounds for a few of our existing members. Greg Hilton has been on fire with his hog hunting, rating three great boars, one scoring 32 4/8 and two scoring just over the magic 30 mark at 30 2/8. Well done Greg. Steve Dimitrakellis took his trusty bent stick north and managed his first buff

scoring 78 DS taken at close quarters, and two boars scoring 21 and 27 DS.



Greg and his beast of a boar, 32 4/8 DS



Steve D's trad buffalo

Darwin bowhunter Alan Karaitiana had some success on the bovines, taking a 106 2/8 DS Buff and 65 DS Banteng. He also rated a 147 3/8 Chital stag he took earlier in the year. All three trophies won AI the best of species for 2017, being good examples of the quality game he's been taking lately. Ben Rieth and Mark Wills had a few days in the scrub with Wally Parker out Gove way and managed to deck a few critters in trying conditions. Ben with his PB Buff scoring 99 2/8 DS and Willsy with a 89 2/8 DS Buff and 25 2/8 DS Boar. Well done fellas.



Riethy's solid 99 2/8 DS bull

A variety of other deer were rated in the last period. Troy Dickinson rated a nice 6x5 red stag scoring 254 7/8 DS which took out best of species at the Gympie awards. Not far behind, Matt Milne rated his first red stag scoring 248 1/8. A very nice heavy head it was too.



Willsy with his tank of a boar from the NT

Randal Sullings rated a northern boar he shot back in 2014 scoring spot on the magic 30 DS mark. I was lucky enough to sneak up to the Cape for a few days earlier this dry season with Paul and got a couple of boars scoring 25 2/8 and 26 2/8.



Matt Milne with his 248 1/8 DS red stag.

Willsy got the drop on his best rusa stag to date, scoring 208 4/8 and rating at number 7. Jarrod Vyner got into the action as well scoring on a nice 132 4/8 sambar stag which won him the best of species prize for 2017. He also had some luck out of a treestand on a solid fallow of 225 5/8. Well done J-rod.



Randal Sullings with a 30 pointer



Willsy's big PB rusa, 208 4/8 DS



Jarrod's 225 5/8 DS buck from the 2017 rut

Another bloke to have some luck on the fallow was Jack Spinks, who took two great bucks in quick succession scoring 224 7/8 and 193 6/8 Ds with his recurve. Tidy work Jack.



Jack's two nice recurve fallow bucks



We also had a few overseas critters rated by Paul Southwell and Ben Salleras. Paul rated a NZ whitetail spiker, and two sika scoring 161 6/8

and 157 5/8 DS. Ben travelled to Japan to take a beautiful Sika scoring 211 5/8 DS. Closer to home, ben also got it done on two western billy's scoring 110 5/8 and 98 4/8. Well done gentlemen.



Paul's bigger NZ sika (above) and Butchers sika stag from their homeland of Japan



We'll finish with some small game taken by Dubbo bowmen Shane Dupille and Pete Fryda. Been a while since Shane rated anything (too busy with the merch eh raghead?), but he did score on a 10 2/16 fox and big bodied cat scoring 7 10/16 DS. Pete was skilful enough to also plug a ginger and black feline scoring 7 9/16 DS. Good stuff guys!

2017 Awards Report

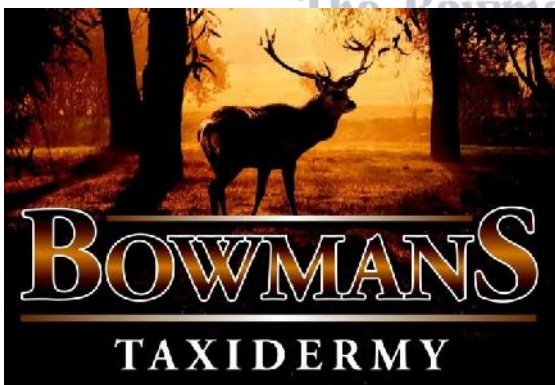


Shane Dupille's two nice foxes (above) and Pete Fryda with a 7 9/16 DS moggy (below)



Well that's it for 2017, here's to hunting success and good times in 2018.

Mark S.



Chevallan Archery Park played host to the 2017 Trophy Takers Awards, located just outside the town of Gympie in southern Queensland. The awards weekend was held in conjunction with Chevallan's major traditional shoot for the year, making for a large and diverse group of bowhunters and traditional archers alike, as well as some of the best traditional archery courses and novelty events likely to be seen anywhere.

Chevallan Archery Park was a perfect setting for the awards, the club was extremely welcoming to the Trophy Takers cohort, and the campground and facilities, beautiful location, excellent courses and novelty events made for a perfect combination.

There were many extremely talented traditional shooters putting their skills on display over the two days of shooting, alongside some that were not quite as impressive! The 3D rounds set amongst the creeks and rainforest were brilliantly arranged, making for a very entertaining and challenging course. The name of the game was fun, and it came in bucket loads as shooters took on novelty events such as the Popping Jay, Running Boar, Hunters Rounds and Clout Shooting.

A relaxed and festive vibe flowed throughout the weekend, with the archers showing a great interest in the huge trophy display put on by the Trophy Takers members. Many local bowhunters from SE Queensland region popped in to catch up with mates old and new.

The Saturday night awards presentation was the pinnacle of the

weekend as always, with a good roll-up of members and visitors witnessing the presentation of our selection of impressive perpetual trophies and the traditional raffle, which is always a very entertaining affair.

Trophy Takers immortal and traditional archery legend Manuel Agius was awarded Life Membership, the fourth person to reach this milestone for the club. As a dedicated club member throughout its history, and Australian bowhunting original, Manuel was most deserving of this recognition. It was an honour for all of us to witness the presentation, which in his usual form Manuel very humbly accepted.

Two new awards were introduced during the 2017 season – the Best New Member Award, and the Best Exotic Award. The Best of Species trophies were handed out to some very deserving hunters who secured some exceptional animals during the season, including two new Number 1 rated animals – Mark Southwell's fox at 10 12/16 DS and new member Darryl Bulger's remarkable Fallow Buck of 276 4/8 DS, taking the number one position from a record that had stood for the previous 10 years.

Perhaps the most significant event of the weekend was the handing of the reins by long-serving Chairman Dave Whiting to Mark Southwell. Dave has been a true leader over his 29 years as Chairman, and we at Trophy Takers have been blessed over that period of time to have a man of Dave's calibre leading the way. From the club's formation, throughout thick and thin, and to the present day, Dave has been the lynchpin of the club. Dave, we salute you and thank you for your leadership, wisdom and passion.

Ben Salleras

2017 Best of Species Awards



Best Boar – Brett Burrell 35 DS



Best Billy – Mark Southwell 126 4/8 DS



Best Fallow Deer – Darryl Bulger 276 4/8 DS



Best Red Deer – Troy Dickinson 254 7/8 DS



Best Sambar Deer – Jarrod Vyner 132 4/8 DS



Best Chital Deer – Allan Karaitiana 147 3/8 DS



Best Rusa Deer – James Lynch 209 1/8 DS



Best Buffalo – Allan Karaitiana 106 2/8 DS





Best Banteng – Allan Karaitiana 65 DS



Best Fox – Mark Southwell 10 12/16 DS



Best Cat – Steven Shorten 7 12/16 DS

Perpetual Awards

Paul Wheller Memorial Junior Bowhunter Award – Tyson Warne

Small Game Award – Mark Southwell

Leny Smith Memorial Female Bowhunter Award - Elissa Rosemond

Ian Fenton Traditional Award – Jeremy Kelly and Jack Spinks

Bill Baker Memorial Best Overall Deer Award – Darryl Bulger

Chairman's Award – Mark Wills

Best New Member Award – Greg Hilton

Best Exotic Award – Paul Southwell

Danny McMahon Legend Award – Dave Keable



Outgoing Chairman's Report

Most members are probably aware by now that at the 2017 Gympie Awards and AGM I stepped down as Chairman of Trophy Takers.

Whilst the details of the new board structure and other current matters will be covered elsewhere in this Newsletter by incoming Chairman Mark Southwell I just wanted to have a

final say on TT's early foundation history, my personal highlights, appreciations and takeouts since taking on the role back in the late 1980's.

Firstly I and a few others (the nucleus of whom remain TT members to this day) were involved in the initial campfire discussions at the Orange Walkabout Shoot way back in January 1986 to form a club, Group or organisation that was purely focused on bowhunting (including trophy bowhunting), mate ship and the gathering of like-minded hunting bushmen (and women) without fear of being treated as a second rate citizen as appeared to be happening at that time at a national administration and field shoot level.

After that shoot and our passionate discussions Roger Coe returned to his home town of Goulburn and penned a letter to Ian Fenton, possibly the best know bowhunter and event organiser in Australia for the previous 20 plus years.

Ian already had an idea and infrastructure in place and in his usual far sighted ability and way of thinking said he was just waiting for bowhunters of Australia to recognise the need and ask for assistance.

By Easter 1986 we held our first foundation meeting in Dubbo (one of many, many over the next few years all over NSW, pre internet, emails, mobile phones etc).

I won't go into all of the elected positions from that time but I walked away as Financial Director whilst Roger was Chairman, Jean Coe Computer Central and Ratings Director, Jenny Whiting Marketing Director and Ian Fenton was Promotional Director with an all

important informal role as a Senior Advisor and guiding hand.

The first couple of years were a bit rocky with a massive backlash and ban put in place by the national body for anyone that joined TT or even implied support at national body sanctioned events.

One thing that was however evident early on was the quick early support and loyalty shown by many of the country's most active and high profile bowhunters regardless of threats and backlash from other sectors of the bowhunting/field archery fraternity.

In August of 1988, Roger Coe was badly injured in a car accident up near Tenterfield/Stanthorpe when he and Jean were travelling to Expo 88 in Brisbane.

Unfortunately Roger (a brilliant man and great shot with a bow) sustained life changing head injuries and amongst many other personal impacts could no longer carry out his role as TT Chairman.

About October 1988 I received a phone call from Ian asking if I could temporarily take on the role of Chairman until our next elections in Easter 89.

The rest as they say is history with neither myself or anyone else knowing way back then that it (TT Chairman) was a position I would hold down for the next 29 years.



Before I go on to talk about my proudest moments in TT I would just like to say a very big THANKYOU to each and every committee member that has served with me and helped out in any way over the past 29 years in the running of TT.

Special thanks to Jean Coe, Killer Clarkson, Mike Hognno, Mark Ballard, for their massive ratings and newsletter work in the early days, Chris Hervert for his longstanding "Pig's Pad" column in our newsletters and his well thought out words of wisdom and advice around all facets of our sport of bowhunting, Pete Morphett who took TT into the computer age in a very big way and continues to provide invaluable technical assistance to TT when needed.

To Wayne "Ando" Anderson, Manuel Agius, Dave Keable and Jarrod Vyner, a massive thanks for all the years of Support with quality Raffle prizes.

To long time Twin City Bowmen (TCB) President Dave James and its members for all of their support. In the first ten years of our existence the TCB really was the TT flagship with a good number of the early Annual Awards held at their club house and grounds.

Whilst on the subject of TCB it MUST be mentioned that without the efforts of Mark and Paul Southwell, Shannon James and a few of the other TCB boys the TT System and all that hard work may have folded in the early 2000's as I got side tracked for a couple of years with other pressing matters in my life and momentum had all but stalled for TT.



Thank you everyone that every year brings along trophies and photos to the Annual Awards and then the many that jump in to put up and pull down our now iconic display over a matter of days (not easy). Special thanks in this regard to Mark Wills, Dave and Shannon, James, Ando, Manuel, Dave Keable, The Southwell's, Shane Dupille, Lee Payne and Butcher.

Thanks to Antonio Lara from the previous South Pacific Bowhunter, Graham Cash, Mark and Karen Ballard from Bowhunting Down Under Mag's and Doug Stojanovski from Arrowhead Archery for invaluable support and publicity over the years. Also thanks to Nick Hervert and especially Steve Dimitrakellis for their great work in setting up and promoting members achievements and adventures on our Facebook page.

Thanks to Steve "Wal" Parker and his family for the great support their NT merchandise business has given us over a number of years.

And finally in terms of recognition and appreciation and with complete respect to all other past committee members I have got to put in writing as I have publicly stated a number of times that this current committee nucleus of Ben Salleras, Paul and Mark Southwell and Pete Morphett are the best I have worked with in my 29 years at the helm and 31 years in TT. Ben, Paul and Mark are all professional men in high pressure jobs who continue to "make the voluntary time" for TT at a time when the workload of each director seemingly continues to grow.

There is no ego with these guys (despite being 3 of Australia's most successful bowhunters) they do it for the love of our sport and the ideals of

TT and their continual no fuss team work and commitment is second to none.

There are many, many things I am PROUD of with Trophy Takers but some of the most meaningful to me are:

-) The network of lifelong friends that have been introduced from bowhunters meeting each other at one of our Annual Awards, swapping hunts etc. Some of these TT “matchmaking’s” have now lasted decades and have produced uncountable numbers of hunts and adventures that may otherwise not have occurred.
-) Fact that from day one of TT we committed to a 100% focus on a bowhunting/trophy bowhunting rating and promotional service, and we have managed to pretty well maintain this mainstream focus for over 3 decades.
-) Our professional and quality presentations and representation at various Shot Shows, Deer Expo’s, Hall of Fames over the past 20 odd years. I have no doubt that our “lead the way” TT dress shirts at such a public and broad spectrum archery event as the initial Archery Hall of Fame, at St George Leagues Club some years back, went a long way towards we Bowhunters being considerably better viewed in the eyes of others.
-) The mending of differences between the ABA and TT over recent years.
-) The induction of myself and Manuel Agius, Dave Keable and

Ian Fenton as TT life members in recent years.

-) The rating of so, so many outstanding trophy animals and our promotion of quality photographs of each of the trophies to accompany each rating thus ensuring a well documented (but not all encompassing) 30 year history of our sport and a snapshot of achievements of trophy bowhunters here in Oz over that time
-) Very very PROUD to have met via TT, became friends with and shared a hunt, fishing trip or camp with our departed and much missed members Paul Wheller, Ken Reichel, Bill Hill, Bill Baker, Merv Smith, Mick Dacre and Pedro Lever, all of whom were strong and prominent supporters of TT and bowhunting generally in Australia. It is pleasing to know that we at TT recognised the achievements and contributions they each in their own way made to bowhunting before their passing.
-) Extremely proud of our world class and growing collection of perpetual trophies. And whilst I might not have my own name on too many of them I have got to say I genuinely feel honoured and privileged to have presented each and every one of them to the recipients for some outstanding achievements with the bow and arrow over so many years.
-) Speaking of perpetuals, it was also pleasing to see TT lead the way and introduce scrub bulls

as a rateable and in my opinion a very special trophy.

- J) It's was way too late in coming but it's terrific to see the Ladies Perpetual Trophy as part of our Annual Awards. Thanks Rod and Skippy Shorten.
- J) Everyone knows my passion for trad bowhunting and whilst I have ALWAYS shown 100% support of ALL bowhunters bowshot game at the Annual Awards, I have got to say that I was always pleased to see a few of the members take heed of my call to "answer the challenge" and score some great results by giving the trad gear a go for a while.
- J) Whilst not entirely attributable to TT, I love to see the way families and ongoing generations such as the Payne's (who I think lead the way in this area), Warne's, Kernaghan's, James', Hervert's, Haymen's etc etc are involved so passionately in our sport. I would like to think our Junior Bowhunting Award and Photographic Awards have played their part in supporting this excellent part of the enjoyment and growth of our sport.

I'm sure I have missed a few moments and people but at the end of the day I again re state my appreciation to ALL for their assistance and state that by my stepping aside I am in no way showing any diminished interest or support for Trophy Takers and bowhunting and I am as keen as I have ever been to be involved in both as much as time (which seems to be my enemy at the moment) permits.

The friendship, support and respect I have always received via the TT members and bowhunters generally will always be appreciated.

In closing I must say that whilst I am mindful of his existing workload I am very pleased to see Mark Southwell step into my shoes. Mark is a man I greatly respect as a person, a bowhunter and an achiever when things need to be done. He has my full support and I wish him, the new committee, TT and all its members the very best going forward.

Regards Dave Whiting



Incoming Chairman's Report

I hope this finds everyone well, having negotiated another festive season, and now working off a few extra beers in preparation for the impending rut!

As Dave has mentioned, he stood down as Chairman at the Gympie awards after just shy of 30 years of service in the top job. As we all know, Dave has been nothing short or inspirational in his dedication to the TT cause and Australian Bowhunting in general. I thank him for his never-ending support that I know will not subside now he's taken a back seat. Some great TT history in his report as well, which will provide excellent

context to how things started for some of the newer members.

I feel humbled to be shown the support from the floor at the Gympie Awards from the floor and be voted in to the Chairman's position. My first awards were back in 2000 at Bendemeer, when Paul and I turned up fresh faced and a little star struck to meet the likes of Dave, Mark Ballard and Dave James. We were instantly welcomed in and learned a lot from that crowd (most of it good!). The following awards in Goulburn really demonstrated to me the value of TT back in the pre-internet days, as we met a handful of young fellas there that remain my closest mates today, 17 years later. It really was the value of these early bonds between like-minded people that inspired a few of us to kick TT off again in 2005 after a quiet period. From that time until now, TT has grown in both membership and stature in the Aussie Bowhunting scene. I look forward to continuing this into the future.

There are also several things that should be highlighted from the AGM held at Gympie (see also the minutes at the end of this newsletter). The first is the decision to streamline the structure of the Board of Directors. Instead of having specific positions (computer central, ratings director, website manager etc) it was decided to have the Chairman, five directors and three associate directors. This will allow us to be more flexible in how we work as a team to cover the necessary tasks of the board. Ratings and membership information can still be emailed to me at info2@trophytakers.org or posted to PO Box 1804, Armidale NSW 2350.

It was also decided to hold the 2018 TT awards weekend in Braidwood,

NSW. Specific details to come, but at this stage it will likely be held at the Warne's family farm that Dave is currently managing, located around 60km south of Braidwood. We will also look to hold this awards earlier on in the year – likely some-time in the school holidays in July. Anyway, we will provide more details in later editions of the newsletter and/or TT Facebook page, so stay tuned.

The last point is that we are looking to acquire a new box trailer to house the TT perpetual awards and merchandise. If anyone can help out with this in terms of getting a good deal etc. please let myself or Shane Dupille (shanedup68@hotmail.com) know.

Regards, Mark S

Revenge

By Ian Fenton

....A message covered in dust from the **Trophy Taker history vault**, as a warning to new members, or those joined in the last 20 years....**BEWARE!**

Two of the most dangerous people in Trophy Takers in my opinion are Rod Shorten and his cobber Paul Butschek. Both renowned top shots and experienced hunters...in fact Butts has top placements in World titles to his credit and is the gentleman of the two. However, don't be fooled. These two are wanted men at every campfire nationally.

A tired, contented ring of seasoned bowhunters, mellowing in the quiet soft glow of the welcome campfire after a hard days hunting, can be uprooted on either of the cruel duo's appearance and turn the placid mob into a roaring

side splitting throng, rolling on the ground, totally oblivious to anything except the serious intentions of the new comers voice.

Shorto and Butts are self-claimed innocent of exaggeration, accordingly flirt with the truth with a stern serious face... no smile nor hint of guilt, yet deliberately draw the unexpected into listening to every word, waiting for relief to the tension of the story before the listeners are bursting into the inflicted pain of rollicking laughter. The duo, long time convicted magnets of mirth, preying on the unexpected while slanting history as no one else can. Their story victims never quite appearing the same afterwards. Unchallenged, the duo are masters of campfire audio journalism with no one safe from their skills... so beware.

I was a personal victim of Shorto back in the turn of the 80's when six of us took off to the Territory to try for a record Buff. Back then, we had just started Trophy Takers and needed a big Buffalo to start the ratings off for them. So together with Manuel Agius, Rod Shorten, Col Moynihan, Roger Coe and Stan Kwasigroch , we set off confident that we could do the job.

Our pre-trip research about Buffalo and Crocodiles in the area to be hunted soon brought hair raising tales of fatalities and near fatalities to people over the years by the two animals. The closer we got to the hunting location, the more stories we picked up, and the more paranoid we became. One mistake in the bush up there is one too many and there would be no second chances. Buffalo and Crocodile were constantly on our minds, fueled by the two killers frequently being brought up in our group conversations. Unknown to us then, there was a mole lurking in the

group who would use this fear of the unknown against one of us with devastating effect.



Bath time at Daley River Crossing was always an interesting adventure with spot the "Croc"

Two weeks into the trip, Shorto took us to a new hunting area. He and John Hillier had hunted the place previously before. They had heard of a big billabong that had plenty of Buffalo but never ever got there. Shorto knew the general direction of the Billabong from the talk he had heard, so we loaded all the gear on one vehicle and set off. I was in the front with a compass to navigate (no technology back then), Shorto driving, the rest of the blokes on the back.

Shorto would give an evil little chuckle as a tree loomed up directly in the path we were taking. Instead of swerving he would run it down, the action whipping the contents of the branches back over the guys in the back. The contents were nests of stinging Green ants and the results were swearing, dancing, roof pounding and Shorto chuckling evilly.

Thinking back now...I should have gleaned by this... what lay ahead.

That night after finding the billabong, we set up camp and decided to try for a Barramundi with spinning gear. I was delegated bodyguard, Shorto in the centre fishing and Mono with a powerful torch. It was a perfect sandy small beach, the end of a big gully.

This whole area would be under water in the wet season and there were two billabongs joined by this big sandy gully about a mile apart. Huge cool shady trees and sand made it an excellent camping site.

The first night there we had Buffalo walking passed our tents only feet away. "Nick, nick, nick" they called as we prayed they wouldn't smell us and trample our little one man tents with the worried human contents inside into the soft sand.

Mono's torch glided over the surface of the billabong, picking up eight sets of red eyes...**CROCODILES** The ones you couldn't see, were the worry. We all knew too well the speed of an attack. The bow I was holding now seemed stupid and I was becoming very edgy.

Shorto flicked the lure into the darkness, time and time again...Mono following it with the torch. Both seemed relaxed and if they were also anxious, showed no signs. It was after a short time, a loud splash in a shallow inlet to my left distracted me and I turned, expecting the worst.

As I did, there was a huge splash in front of Shorto and his excited voice yelling "**CROCODILE, CROCODILE... LOOK OUT... RUN!**"

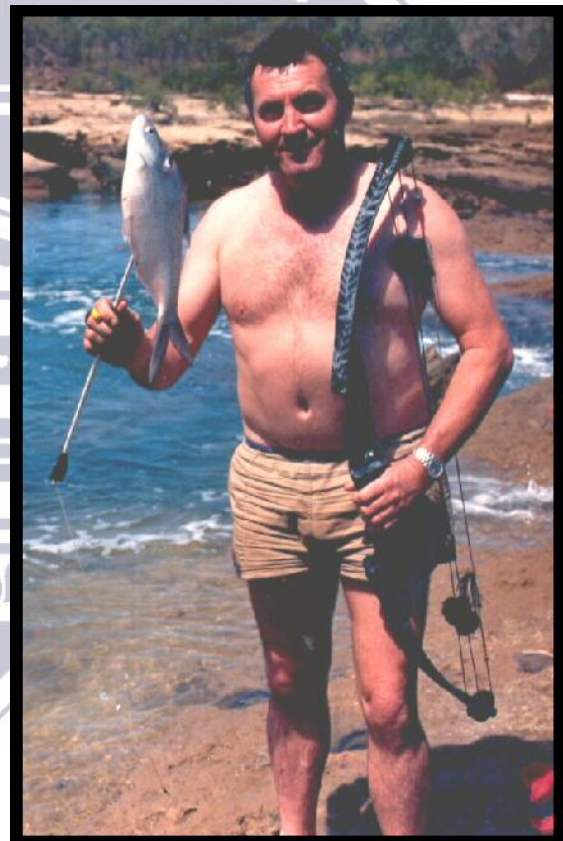
In that split second, to hell with guard duties...survival mode took over. It was every man for himself... Run!

My dash for safety would have left Olympians still at the blocks as I sped into the darkness away from the sound of the impending attack...my speed eating up distance easily to safety. I must have been quick because no one passed me and then I heard the reason why.

Two of my idiot mates were laughing themselves silly. "Big White Hunter" punctuated their mirth.

Rotten Shorto had gotten me fair and square. The splash was Shorto smashing the fishing rod down on the water and yelling. He and Mono had set me up and ran only a couple of yards for effect. My dash gave them chuckles for days and I copped the ridicule and merriment of the camp for my "cowardice" in the line of fire. It indeed was a huge joke at my expense.

"REVENGE" sayeth the Lord. ...aaaahhh sweet revenge. I would bide my time and boy, the big galoot had it coming. He would pay and I was determined to even the score...big time!



The fish ignored "BEWARE" ...another Shorto victory

Shorto knew I was out to get him. He left nothing to chance and I was getting frustrated at the lack of opportunity. He was getting cocky because of his vigilance...**and then my chance to get him came unexpectedly.**

Both Roger Coe and Shorto had hammocks. Both were very big men and both loved their hammocks, usually strung up in the shade. The rest of us envied them for their foresight to have them on the trip.

We were in the Gulf country about a week or so later, put up camp and relaxing. It was late afternoon, we had all been down bow fishing and were ready for the evening to kick in. Both Shorto and Roger had chosen a common centre tree to fasten their hammock ropes to. They had chosen well. Other supporting trees were well spaced and perfect for their purpose. The two big guys were luxuriously laying back in their comfortable hammocks, talking to the rest of us seated close by. I was sitting on the ground sharpening arrows and Shorto never took a wary eye off me.



Roger Coe (shooting) unaware an hour later he would be the victim of a failed "Revenge"

What I had noticed was the overlaying of ropes on that central common tree and the stress the nylon ropes were under from the weight of the big hammock dwellers. I reckoned I only

had to nick the nylon rope and their weight would quickly do the rest. Big Shorto was heading for a fall.

I got up and quietly got my hunting knife and then sat down again, talking and commenced sharpening it. Shorto never took his eyes off me... he suspected I was planning something but couldn't figure what. I laid the knife down on the ground alongside my leg and continued to sharpen arrows.

IT HAPPENED IN A FLASH... Shorto was distracted by a sound and turned his head to enquire. My hand reached, threw and the knife buried into the common tree perfectly. Approx.14 feet... a lousy ¼ inch too low! The rope split as planned, unwound and down came the hammock occupant with a heavy thud. **Trouble is...it wasn't Shorto... it was poor innocent Roger!** He was not at all impressed and proceeded to tell me so.



Shorto is furthest away with Roger Coe (the unintended victim) in foreground. This photo taken early in the trip. Note the strain on the hammock ropes, heavy guys!.

The laughter didn't make him feel any better either. Everybody except Roger and I, were laughing uncontrollably. The loudest was Shorto who had escaped it all and now chorused his relief. Roger was not a happy camper and set off for his tent amid the continuing roars of laughter. He never

came out again until nearly mid-day. His sense of humour had left him and so I think, his close friendship with me.

Damn. Shorto got the last laugh after all. All these years later, the word "crocodile" still tightens the fist and a victim yearns for revenge. Maybe there is still time...



Pigs' Pad

Hope everyone had a good festive period and we all looking forward to a great 2018, I know I am! Got the good news being successful in the Hog Deer ballot so with a little luck I may snag one of those little critters. Thanks to those who have offered help/advice I will be contacting you shortly.

Its great work that the Blonde Bay Deer Advisory Group performs and they are to be commended. Also being the second year of the Snake Island trial so let's hope the final report is a positive one and this becomes a staple of the annual ballot. Certainly worth throwing your 15 bucks at every year.

Had the relo's from the Czech Republic in town so we have been doing the touring thing. Decided a summer coastal camping adventure would be a good example of typical aussie fair. Spent a few nights in a park but then took them bush. After the initial shock of no amenities I am pretty sure they really enjoyed it. They had never seen a beach with nobody

on it, a group of possums scragging over scraps or a goanna cruising past.

The cicadas were on song bordering on deafening as the waves of sound rose and fell. Plus we caught a fish for supper, something they had never done. Made me re-appreciate what we have, certainly is the lucky country



By now we all know Dave has stepped down from the chairman's role, something I was not sure I would ever see. I would just like to thank him for all his efforts and leadership over the years he has been a true advocate for all things Trophy Takers.

It will feel odd now, sort of like a new home without Dave at the helm but Mark is a very capable human and will bring his experience, knowledge and nuances to the role. Great job Dave and good luck Mark.

Chris Hervert

TT Facebook Page

The TT Facebook page has cracked the 100 member hurdle and now has 106 members. A big thanks to all

those who have taken the time to post, there have been some great posts put up lately of great trophy's taken with the bow. If you're on Facebook and not a member of this private group, please look us up and come check it out.

Thanks to Steve D and Nick H for your efforts in running the page, it is appreciated by all.



Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Ian Fenton for his story, I'm sure it provided a laugh for all who read it, especially those that know Shorto and the other boys involved. Ian's story goes to show that it's not just strictly hunting stories that we are happy to print, so we encourage anyone with a story, long or short, a good yarn, product review or the like to please contribute.

Ratings score sheets, photos and membership enquiries should be directed to Mark Southwell at the TT Mailbox. Please ensure photos are attached to all ratings submissions, and sent to:

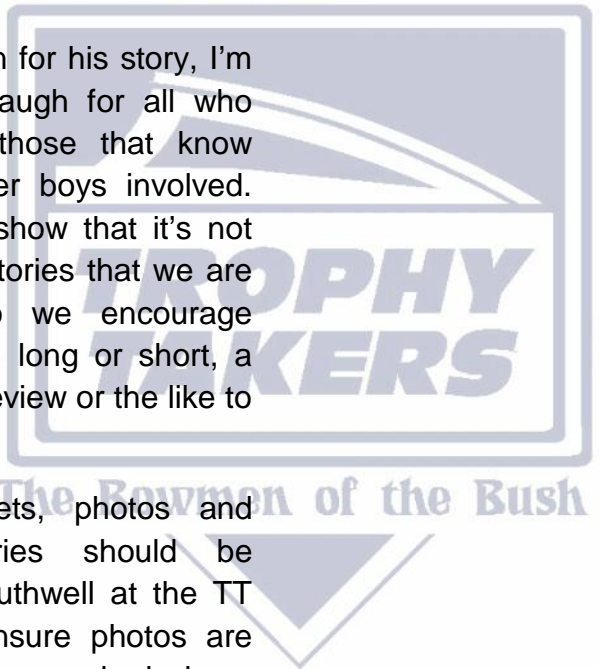
**Trophy Takers
PO Box 1804
ARMIDALE NSW 2350**

Email enquiries and newsletter contributions:

info2@trophytakers.org

Stay safe and enjoy the bush!

Ben Salleras & Paul Southwell.





Or via email:

customstrings@trophytakers.org

peter@killerbowstrings.com

Peter Morphett.

I'm still making custom strings featuring the mainly BCY Fibres the NEW 8190 is the best performing and stable and well as the most durable string material available at the present time, I highly recommend it. I still carry BCY 452X and the BCY Trophy string material, all materials are quiet, have far less creep and stretch over time. I also have BCY 8190 (low wax), it's estimated to be the fastest string material ever made and on average be between 5-10fps faster than 452X and Trophy respectfully!

Prices for 8190, 452X, Trophy string/cable/s complete sets are \$85 and \$5 postage. All come with 2X, 3D or Halo end serving and 62xs centre servings. I also make Teardrop and recurve strings out of B50 Dacron for \$20 each.

You can contact me on:

(02) 800 36385

www.killerbowstrings.com (under construction)



Trophy Takers AGM– Gympie QLD.

Sunday 1st October 2017

Meeting opened: 8.30 am

Present: Dave Whiting, Dave Keable, Dave James, Ben Salleras, Brett Fittock, Milton Cunningham, Elissa Rosemond, Judy James, Tom Hills, Fay Hills, Darryl Bulger, Mark Southwell, Paul Southwell, Shane Dupille, Paul Hardie, Karen Vallery, John Vallery, Manuel Aguis, Charlie Marias.

Apologies: Ian and Roma Fenton, Mark Wills, James and Tyson Warne, Gary Piper, Jarrod Vyner, Shannon James, Ros Hardie, Rod Collings, Jeremy Kelly, Ben Rieth, Chris and Nick Hervert

Minutes:

Minutes from 2015 AGM at Dubbo, NSW read and accepted by Dave James.

Business Arising:

Trophy takers deer slam and Australian game grand slam - Still working on getting these awards together. Suggestion that we look to develop a plaque for the Australian slam award.

TT Facebook page - Dave Whiting mentioned that he would like to see more recognition for members that take the time to post on the Facebook page, especially new members to TT.

Number 1 award plaques - Running low of Number 1 award plaques, need to source new maker. Paul Southwell to test to see if they can be poured out of different material than before. Dave Keable / Milton Cunningham to chase up supplier on Sunshine Coast.

Awards appreciation plaques - Yet to get appreciation plaques made up to send to hosting clubs over the last few years. Mark Southwell to follow up.

Perpetual trophies - All perpetual trophies are up to date, thanks very much to all involved.

Shirts/Merchandise - Costs for awards related merchandise have increased in the last year or so. It was suggested by Dave W that we investigate other options than our current supplier. Elissa mentioned that she may have a contact that might be an option. Dave W and Shane Dupille to follow up this year.

General Business:

Trophy trunks - Raised by Shane Dupille that there is a need to get some trunks to carry the new trophies to each awards safely. All in favour. Shane and Dave W to follow up.

Timing of Annual Awards - A request from Dave Whiting that annual awards presentation be moved to earlier in the year as many members are not attending due to hunting commitments up north. All in favour to look to move to July/August or to fit around the venue in the case of collaborative shoots.

Bendigo Wild deer show - Agreement that we should try and get a stand in this year's show, given that there will likely be a few members going anyway (Elissa Rosemond, Darryl Bulger, Twin City bowmen members).

Arrowhead Magazine - Agreement that it would be good to approach Doug Stojanovski at the magazine to see if we can get a page in each issue of the magazine. Ben Salleras to follow up.

TT Banners - Dave W moved that we look to produce several new banners that highlight the game that has been taken over the last 5 years. One of these should be focussed on traditional kills and should also include the TAA banner on it. Also, we need to update the corflute signs of our top 10's. Motion passed. Elissa R to consider options, Ben Salleras to design.

Insurance for perpetual awards - Shane Dupille raised the need to get insurance for the perpetual awards and merchandise in case of fire or theft. Shane to follow up.

Travel to events to represent TT - Dave W moved that members get reimbursed for travel to events to represent TT. Motion passed for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses that are approved by the directors.

Trophy Takers trailer - Shane and Dave raised the need to a more secure trailer to store the perpetual trophies which the club has spent good money on recently. Also, some of our trophies would not be able to be replicated given the fine artwork provided by the late Bill Hill. The existing trailer is old and run down, so a new trailer might be a better option. Shane to chase up options and report back to directors.

Position re-election - Dave James moved that the structure of the board of directors is now out of date and there is a need to streamline the structure. It was suggested that the positions be now chairman, 5 director positions, then 3 associate directors. Paul Southwell seconded this motion and it was passed.

New director positions for 2018:

Chairman:	Mark Southwell
Directors:	Shane Dupille Paul Southwell Ben Salleras Steve Dimitrakellis Peter Morphett
Associate Directors:	Dave Whiting James Warne Chris Hervert

Upcoming annual awards locations - Motion was moved by Dave Whiting that the 2018 awards be held in Braidwood, NSW at the Warne's property. This will prove a good location with an emphasis on bush camping. Dave Keable seconded and motion was passed. Ian Fenton also put forward a proposal to hold the 2019 awards in Bathurst NSW in association with Bathurst Archers and Australia Archery Museum. There was general support for this with Mark S to follow up. Other potential locations in the next few years are Perth and Darwin, given the increased number of members at these locations.

Account Balances

As at 24/9/17:

Member account	- \$3,954.03
Market account	- \$1,478.03
Total	\$5,432.06

Meeting closed: 9.50 am

The Bowmen of the Bush