

**Newsletter Feb-Mar 2011** 

# TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER

Feb-Mar 2011

Items in this Newsletter

- Game Claim Report
- 2011 Archery Expo
- Pigs Pad
- South Pacific Bowhunter Mag
- Goats with the Stick and String!
- Around the Traps!
- BowTech Rep A.C.T.
- Newsletter Contributions
- TT Merchandise

## Game Claim Report 03/02/2011

The late'10 early '11period has seen some very fine animals rated with Trophy Takers including two new number 1 deer.

Troy Reynolds, a well-known bowhunter from northern NSW joined Trophy Takers back in September with a cracking Rusa stag measuring 222 2/8 DS. This is the new No.1 Rusa stag in the ratings surpassing Dave Debreceny's long standing record Rusa of 218 6/8 DS taken in 2001. A great achievement Troy and a great way to join TT!



"Troy Reynolds with TT number 1 Rusa!"



Also back in September we had a number of other ratings including a mighty sambar stag taken by Pego Novakovic in the VIC high country. One well-placed arrow from 10 metres put the heavy antlered stag down. It later measured 189 5/8 and is rated No. 2.



"Pego with his awesome 189 5/8DS Sambar!

Shannon James from Albury also rated his best Red Stag to date, and a cracker 6x6 at that, scoring 239 1/8 DS. Well done Shan!

Along with Shan's red, Mr. Sambar, Dean Scott, rated several hinds and his first sambar stag that he took back in 2006. It scored 97 6/8 DS.

Speaking of Sambar, a few other TT boys have had success on nice stags. Mick Evans was lucky enough to have a mature stag wander in and check him

out while hunting not too far from his home in Tallangatta. Mick put a well-placed arrow into the stag and he was down in short time, giving Mick his best sambar stag with the bow, scoring 183 6/8 DS. Well done Mick.



"Shannon James with his 239 1/8DS Red Stag!"



"Mr. Sambar Dean Scott with 97 6/8DS!"



"Mick K with awesome Stag 188 4/8 DS!"



"Mick Evens with his impressive 183 6/8DS!"

Another very dedicated sambar bowhunter from the Albury region, Mick Kernaghan finally cracked the big-time on sambar stags with a very nice trophy stag scoring 188 4/8 DS, putting it well up in the TT ratings. This is a great achievement for Mick who has spent many hours in the bush chasing them. As Jarrod Vyner keeps telling me-'Micks shot at more sambar with his bow than I have ever seen in the bush'; a testament to Micks dedication. Mick also rated a hind he shot more recently.

New TT member Mathew Skorupa travelled down for a quick sambar hunt over Christmas and shot himself a fine young 22 inch stag, scoring 137 4/8 DS. Congratulations Mathew and welcome to trophy takers.

In addition to the antlered versions, Pete Morphett and myself also rated a sambar hind and spiker that we took for the freezer; mmmmm.....

The other deer species have also been well represented in the recent ratings. Chris Hervert called in at Bill Bakers old stomping grounds on the basalt wall with Col Moynihan on their way up the cape before Christmas and managed to take his first chital stag. An exceptionally heavy antlers 29 inch stag scoring 157 3/8 DS coming in at 21 in the chital ratings.



"Mathew Skorupa's 137 4/8DS Sambar!"



"Mark Southwell"s Sambar Spiker"

Only a few weeks later, Paul Southwell decked a monster Chital stag. Having unsuccessfully stalked the stag a few weeks prior, Paul again found him on a weekend hunt in December. Stalking in on the bedded stag he put in a fatal shot and had himself the new TT number 1 and possibly the biggest chital shot with the bow in the country. The stag scored 194 7/8, which is over 14 points bigger than the previous number one stag. Well done Bro!



"Chris Hervert's first Chital 157 3/8 DS!"



"Paul Southwell's Aussie Record Chital!"

Not long after Christmas, Rick Turner tried his luck on the spotted devils, and took a very respectable 28 inch head scoring 177 1/8 DS which comes in at number 6 in the ratings.

We also had a few fallow ratings float in from the 2010 rut. Jim Craze rated a 206 5/8 DS buck, fellow snowy mountains hunter Lee Payne rated a 164 6/8 DS buck, Mick Evans rated his best buck with the bow at 200 7/8 DS and Leigh Cragg from Bathurst also rated his best buck shot in April scoring 191 5/8. Well done boys.



"Jim Craze PB Fallow 206 5/8DS!"



"Lee Payne's 164 6/8DS Fallow Buck"



"Mick Evens 200 7/8 DS Fallow!"



"Leigh Cragg PB Fallow Buck 191 5/8DS!"

Plenty of goats hit the ratings as well. Lee Payne has been taking some cracking mountain Billies of late, with three scoring 135 1/8, 114 2/8 and 100 3/8 DS. His son Glen also got the drop on a respectable Billy scoring 105 3/8 DS.



"Lee Payne with PB Billy 135 1/8DS, 45" wide!"



"Lee with another cracker goat, 114 2/8DS!"



"Glenn Payne with a PB Billy 105 3/8DS!"

New member Dennis Wells has also been into the mountain Billies. He joined TT with two Billies scoring 119 1/8 and 109 1/8 DS. Welcome to the club Dennis.



"Dennis Wells PB Billy, 119 1/8DS, 43" wide!"



"Dennis Wells 37" wide 109 1/8DS Billy!"

Several other members also joined with goat trophies. Canberra based bowhunter Jason Watts rated an 85 DS Billy, David Hook rated a 96 1/8 DS Billy, and Rod Bagnall rated a 100 DS Billy taken with one of his home made longbows. Great work fella's and welcome to Trophy Takers.



"Jason Watts 85 DS Billy"

Not only were the mountain Billies represented, but a few big Billies were also found by TT members out in the flat country.



"Dave Hook with his PB Billy, 96 1/8DS"

Dean Scott hunted the lower Darling region back in 2009 and took several nice western Billies, scoring 110 1/8 and

98 3/8 DS. Further north, Cobar based bowhunter Sean Walsh found some Billies in the Mulga, rating two good trophies scoring 105 5/8 and 100 DS. Sean also rated a 19 4/8 DS boar taken in similar terrain.



"Dean Scott with his 96 3/8DS Billy"





"Sean Walsh with his 19 4/9DS Boar"



"Sean Walsh with his 100DS Billy"



"Sean with his 105 5/8DS billy!"

Leigh Cragg ventured to the North west of NSW in November for a couple of days and came up trumps on a duo of western Billy's scoring 123 2/8 and 113 2/8 DS. Tidy effort big fella!



"Leigh Cragg with his PB Billy, 123 2/8DS!"



"Leigh Cragg 133 2/8DS Billy!"

In addition, Rick Turner a keen bowhunter from Yeppoon, took a great multicoloured Billy of 121 2/8 DS and a very impressive 177 1/8DS Chital Stag of late also, extremely well done Rick!



"Rick Turners' 42" wide and 121 2/8DS Billy!"



"Ricks PB Chital Stag 177 1/8 DS!"

As always, a few of our members travelled north at the end of the dry season to do battle with some Cape

York boars. Glen Payne got himself a crusty old boar, scoring 23 4/8 DS, Dave Hook had a cracker of a 10 day trip with Trophy Bow hunts Australia, rating his best three, scoring 27 2/8, 24 6/8 and 23 6/8 DS. Well done to both of you.



"Dave Hook with his PB Boar, 27 2/8DS!"



"Glen Payne with his PB Boar 23 4/8DS"

South Australian bowhunter Casey McCallum was picked up from the airport by 'butcher' Sellaras, and they were soon on the way north into Cape country. As usual Macca came up with the goods taking a toothy boar that scored 32 2/8 DS. He also took another

## nice 27 4/8 DS boar. Awesome stuff mate!



"Dave Hook's 23 6/8DS Boar"



"Dave with a 24 6/8DS Boar!"



"Casey McCallum massive 32 2/8DS Boar!"



"Macca with a 27 4/8DS Boar!"



"Shane McNaughton with his PB Fox 10 9/16DS!"



"Lee Payne's 9 13/16 DS Fox"

To finish the ratings up until February 2011, a couple of foxes were rated; a cracker dog scoring 10 9/16 shot by Shane McNaughton, and a snowy's fox taken by Lee Payne scoring 9 13/16. Two more lamb killers bite the dust!

#### Mark Southwell.

### 2011 Archery Expo

The 2011 Archery Expo and Hall of Fame dinner is quickly coming upon us. Trophy Takers will be putting on a display in conjunction with Bowhunter Australia Magazine and several other DVD producers.

Trophy Takers has reserved several tables at the hall of fame dinner. If you're going and you want to sit with other TT members then please let us know if you haven't already - info2@trophytakers.org
Or call Mark on 0427 785344.

#### PIG's PAD!

Well another year has come and I bet you all have your hunting calendar out busily penning in the important dates for 2011. Hard to believe 2010 has gone! When I hit the cape late last year and got rained out we had no idea of what Mother Nature had in store. With floods and cyclones ravaging QLD and other parts of Australia in recent times it's a reminder that you never really know what's around the corner. On that note our thoughts are with all those affected, I know many of us have friends and relos up that way.

It was with a sadness I watched the damage done to areas like Tully, which holds a number of Trophy Takers members and was the venue for this year's Awards, hope all is well guys. On the cape trip, it had 'don't go' written all over it but being a hardy (or silly) bunch we decided to soldier on regardless.

It was the furthest I have ever driven for a morning hunt...but we did manage one pig! A quick group discussion and it was decided to leave our watery surroundings...Before we got stuck in there till. Well we would still be there I think! It was an adventure and to see the country inundated was nearly worth the price of admission.



It leads us to a few new contacts so all was not lost. I was lucky enough to nab a Chital on the way up, many thanks to Col for organizing the access and providing valuable insight into the behavior of such a beautiful deer. After all the years of reading about the Basalt Wall it certainly was an experience to see and feel the country. A little daunting for newby but fantastic to have seen it...

Good luck in the pending rut to all...

#### Chris Hervert.



South Pacific Bowhunter is the new name for Bowhunter Australia Magazine. With two editions per year now, you can look forward to more of the same and a heap of improvements as we move forward. The team, now consisting of myself, Antonio Lara Editor, Tony Stoyanovski Artwork and Design, Doug Stojanovski Field Editor and Brad Murphy Technical Editor, look forward to bringing you a high quality magazine that brings the best of Australian bowhunting out in full high quality colour.

We have some very in depth reviews and technical articles, as well as other how to's and many fantastic hunts in the next edition, which will hit the shelves in April. We are also happy to announce that we will be doing subscriptions from now on and we have a great 5 day Cape York hunt on offer just for taking up a subscription. We still have our main writers prizes, which are for a hunt for two to New Zealand, a 5 day Chital safari and a 5 day Red deer hunt, plus we have other incentives such as clothing and prizes for each writer that contributes.

South Pacific Bowhunter looks forward to keeping its strong support and association with Trophy Takers and we very much appreciate the support given to us in return. It is great to see so many of us in the magazine, showing that the TT guys and girls can really mix it up and put out top quality material year in year out. See you all at the Hall of Fame Expo as we will all be on stand and at the banquet together.

For more information you can check out our website, which is still in its development

www.southpacificbowhunter.com

Cheers and many thanks, Antonio



## Goats with the "Stick and String"

By Dennis Wells

One of my favorite past times as a teenager growing up and hunting the hills around Cooma in N.S.W. was chasing feral goats with my father and our mate Klaus. Since then I had moved on to hunting other species that I considered more challenging and in doing so took for granted the humble, stinking feral goat.

I'm not 100% sure why! It could be because whenever we did shoot a trophy Billy it was too hard to squeeze out a smile during the photo sessions; while at the same time swatting blowies and gagging on that pungent urine stench that soaks the air. Maybe the real clincher was when we took the horns home in the same car my mother would take to work the following Monday.... Gold!

Whatever it was, it all changed a few years ago when I purchased a second hand Mathews Conquest II compound bow from some bloke in America for \$350. I have since upgraded the bow to a lighter and smaller PSE Catalyst. To the rifle hunter PSE bows are much like the Tikka T3, a well-made, accurate, reliable and a comparatively priced item. A bow is much like rifles, you can spend a lot of money on them however often simple is best and simple is less likely to fail you. At the end of the day like the rifle the bow is a tool you use when hunting.

I shot my first goat with the Mathews Conquest II at a meter which I will say was a massive fete as the beast ran right at me after I let out a bleat to pull it up. The beast which in actual fact would barely qualify as an eater had my heart pounding from my chest and the adrenalin rush that near floored me. I was onto something here! It seemed that goats no longer gave me that adrenalin rush when hunting them with the rifle but a bow in my hands and take away the luxury of being able to smoke an unknowing stinker at 100 meters and the hunt was on.



"Dennis with his fist archery kill!"

All of a sudden as a diehard rifle man I found myself out of my comfort zone, I had to become a stalker. Something that I thought I already was being tested by an animal I had come to take for granted. What a reality check and what a fantastic opportunity to rediscover the excitement of hunting feral goats like I had done growing up.

As a bow hunter chances are you will fail more times than you succeed however even when you blow it for whatever reason it's a successful hunt. The adrenalin rush is there and even if you don't have an animal on the ground it's still more intense than if you had of shot that same animal with a rifle. The only difference is the animal is still alive and growing bigger.

This is exactly what happened to me in 2010 with a mob of feral goats that I have known about for some time however needed to talk with the property owner about gaining access to. That done, I decided to do a recon trip one afternoon after work to learn a little about the patterns and habits of this particular mob of goats.

I took my PSE Catalyst compound bow just in case. An added benefit to hunting with a bow is noise or lack thereof. You could be putting time in on a mob of goats like I was and see a rabbit or fox then decide to put a stalk in on it, even take the shot and the impact on other game in the area is practically nonexistent. The worse that could happen is the rabbit may squeal or if you elect to use a fox whistle, alert other game to the potential threat of a predator in the area.

On this day I did nether however was surprise to catch glimpse of a white nanny out in the open. I glassed her though my Swarovski 10 x42 SLC binoculars at approximately 100 meters. She had no idea I was there and at first

appeared to be alone. I thought I will have a crack at her however the dilemma I was faced with was lack of cover, there was no scrub between her and me.

She did have scrub behind her so escaping into thick cover would have been easy for her. Circling around and taking advantage of that escape route was not an option for me due to wind direction. I decided to take her head on and take advantage of some scattered boulders that were between us.

As I got closer I saw more goats in a gut below here. As the numbers increased I started scoping for a big Billy. I don't know what compelled me to look up the hill but when I did I saw an absolute screamer, then another, then I was busted. The small mob of billies ran toward their nannies then mustered them toward the thicker scrub.

I backed away with the knowledge that these goats don't get hunted at all plus like most goats, out of sight means out of mind. I covered some serious ground to position myself along a fence line they were following. I made it with seconds to spare, came to full draw without even sighting the big Billy, held strong and waited.

There he was, I thought no way! There was with about 20 nannies between the two of us. The bow just wanted to let fly and the muscles in my back were starting to twinge from the strain. Even though modern compound bow cam design facilitates an easier draw, holding prone for an extended period requires considerable strength. Plus the flies were pissing me right off! I soon realized there was no way I would take the big Billy this day then started to look around considering my options. Another good Billy presented well quartering away from me at about 15

metres. The arrow entered just behind the rib cage and exited in the point of the shoulder on the off side. The Billy lunged forward totally unaware of what had just happened, and then ran 20 meters before piling up under a tree.

The remaining goats ran a short distance down the fence line then stopped. Some looked back at the fallen Billy and some continued to feed as if undisturbed by what had just happened. I was not concerned with trying to take the big Billy this day knowing the one I had just harvested was a quality trophy. He later measured 37 inches wide and scored 109 Douglas Points.



"Dennis 37" wide and 109 1/8DS Billy!"

When the goats did run off I thought to myself, growing time big fella. Three weeks and two trips later I think it's fair to say he did not do a great deal of growing. On this trip luck was on my side! I had spotted a mob of goats, about 30 strong and thought bingo, no doubt the big fella will be there. I traversed up a gut that would eventually bring me out in a good position to approach them from the top.

Luckily I looked over my shoulder and my plans quickly changed. There he was with two subordinate Billies. I thought three sets of eyes is better that 30 odd and knew opportunities like this don't come along every day. This time

approaching from the bottom provided better cover however such an approach leaves you vulnerable. It can potentially decreases your chances of success however many animals feel less threatened when they are above you. I slipped my boots off for the last 50 meters of the stalk. Stalking in your socks only, allows you to feel every obstacle and avoid those that ordinarily go crunch under your boots at the worst possible time. I was now down to 30 metres and had managed to position myself behind a bush that I planned to step out from to take the shot. If the goats were on the move I could have ambushed them. For a bow hunter this is the ideal circumstance.

I used the digital range finder to range a small tree to the right of the goats. It read 26 meters which would have put the goats at about 23 meters. My heart was pounding from my chest at this stage. I had been here before and blown the hunt in a blink of an eye.

I drew back and stepped out from behind the bush. This was not ideal, the goats saw me and took off until I let out a bleating noise that pulled them up at what I estimated was 30 meters. The goats were huddled together and a smaller Billy was standing in front of the big fella. All I needed was one step forward and there it was.

I was ready and my arrow flew true and double lunged the big Billy. For the bow hunter it was the ideal shot however for the third Billy standing behind the big fella it was not. I sort of stuffed up, my focus was so intent on the big fella I neglected to take note of the goat standing behind him and clean dropped him as well with a solid hit in the femoral artery. Not the best shot in the world, in actual fact I would never encourage anyone to intentionally take such as

shot but I will say it was amazingly devastating.

The recovery on the big fella was approximately 30 meters and the recovery on the smaller goat was about 15 meters, half that of the big fella and two for one. Go figure! I had the big fella scored, at 43 inches wide he went 119 Douglas points and to date is my biggest goat including those taken with the rifle.



"Dennis with his PB Billy 43" wide and 119 1/8DS!

I now hunt with both the rifle and the bow; it largely depends on what I am hunting and where I'm hunting. The key is I'm in the bush hunting and introducing the compound bow to my hunting style has maximized my stalking experience. It has introduced me to new challenges, opened my eyes to my abilities as a stalker and I would like to think improved me as a hunter.

Good hunting!

## **Around the Traps!**



I went with Rory for a 3 day trip to Nundle. I got this guy and a sow right on dark. Sow copped a single arrow after I put 2 shots into the boar from 15m. We backed out and came back the next morning to find he'd only travelled 3 m from where I'd hit him. 22 4/8 not my biggest hooks to date but the heaviest boar I've shot for sure!

### Danny Bajt.







The two Billies together were taken 5 mins apart from 12 and 20 metres, after they surprised me by walking into the clearing where i was having lunch, now that was just good luck. The other white one was taken from 25m downhill one arrow and the multi-coloured was taken after a half hour stalk in a creek bed from just 10m!

**Kevin Daily.** 

en of the Bush



are now hooked! I also got a respectable billy on the trip.

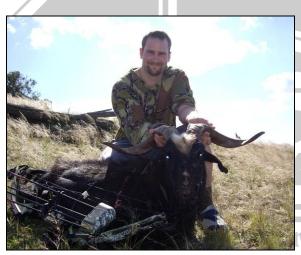
### Rory Smith.











Getting new guys out there and onto some game is always rewarding, and at times when watching their stalks or doing a bit of camera work the excitement you feel is as though you're the one with the bow in hand.

Hamish and Nathan are two blokes who had never hunted before and really hadn't given it much thought, but both

A doe I shot at 30m for the meat after the rut 2010, and a bunny from 30m also, Pete and I with a couple of meat goats recently.

#### Dave Hook.



I was only 15 minutes from the car when I spotted a spikey 100 metres away slowly feeding; she fed over the rise with me in pursuit when I spotted a hind feeding up the gully. I stopped and grabbed the video camera out capturing her movements as she fed to the top of the rise were the spiker had just walked over when she stopped looked around then started walking back towards me, at 30 metres she stopped in behind some trees to brows with no shot available.

Minutes later she walked out & the shot was taken at 40m...15 minutes later I walked to where she stood finding a good blood trail following it 70m I found her down! I was one very pleased hunter, she was in great condition & should taste great on the plate.

#### Mick Kernaghan.











A decent Boar from around home, shot at 22m, scored 24DS, a doe taken from less than 25m, the last one for meat to end the 2010 season, a few bunnies. Shane with a sow he shot close range and a big Sambar Hind taken from 38m a steep downhill angling forward shot.

Peter Morphett.

BowTech A.C.T Rep.



I am pleased to announce that I am the newly appointed rep for the ACT this will be music to many peoples ears that now can have their bows serviced and all warranty issues repaired by me as I am an authorized BowTech rep. This rep position allows me access to the importers warranty stock to repair and maintain all BowTech bows. Please note all warranty claims on bow under the new importers warranty system must be accompanied by a recite that are the original owner, and pictures of the damage and bows serial number.



Also I can order bows at reduced prices on all BowTech bows, Octane accessories, and the Diamond line, please contact me for prices!



Again I'm not a shop just a rep, for any other questions please contact me on **02 80036385** or

petermorphett@trophytakers.org
Peter Morphett.

#### **Newsletter Contributions**

Again a very nice issue of the TT newsletter I would also like to welcome all our new members Troy Reynolds, Mathew Skorupa, Dennis Wells, Jason Watts, Dave Hook, and Rod Bagnall!

And I would like to congratulate Troy Reynolds and Paul Southwell for taking the largest two deer in there species in Australia with a Bow and arrow, awesome effort guys!

And congratulations also to Pego Novakovic and Mick Kernaghan on taking awesome Sambar Stag's!

Thank you all they have contributed to TT newsletter, if future I will be emailing all our members to prod them for anything they would like to add to the newsletter, again many follow of our members fallow along on more regularly basis on the TT website news for updates and latest ratings.

But don't forget the TT newsletter is a valuable resource for our members who don't have reliable or even internet access and they love to see what you have all been up to, so please don't hastate to send in and pic's stories for anything else you would lie the put in the TT newsletter.

Again I'm still making custom strings featuring the new BCY Trophy String on the Rush material, this new material is a vast improvement over 452x the superior characteristics compose of higher ware resistance, quitter, far less creep and stretch over time. So that's why my 452x string full sets are on sale for \$85 TYD!

You can contact me on **02 80036385** or via email:

customstrings@trophytakers.org or petermorphett@trophytakers.org



\*Note I have limited colours.

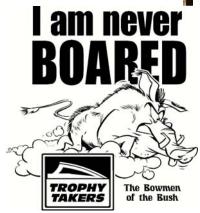
Please send all ratings with attached pictures to the TT Po Box:

Trophy Takers LPO BOX 5129 University of Canberra Bruce ACT 2617

Peter Morphett.

© Trophy Takers

Trophy Takers Merchandise





#### **NEW DESIGNS Polo or T-Shirts – 2 Sided Print**

Colours: Black, Navy, Dark Green, Maroon, Light Grey.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Prices: Polo - \$35 T-shirt - \$35







#### Polo or T-Shirt – 2 Sided Print

Colours: Black, Navy, Dark Green, Maroon.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Prices: Polo - \$30

T-shirt - \$25

## Polo or T-Shirt – Pocket Print Only

Colours: Black, Navy, Dark Green, Maroon.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Prices: Polo - \$30

T-shirt - \$25







Note: logo is white on a dark background

## Stubby Holders – with Base

Colour: Black, Navy, Dark Green,

Maroon Price: **\$9** 





#### **ORDER FORM**

Please write number wanted in spaces provided

#### SHIRTS - NEW DESIGNS

"I am Never Boared" Polo:T-Shirt:
<u>Size</u> S: M: L: XL: XXL:
Colour Black: Lt Grey: Navy: Dk Green: Maroon:
Red Stag Logo Polo:T-Shirt:
<u>Size</u> S: M: L: XL: XXL:
Colour Black: Lt Grey: Navy: Dk Green: Maroon:
SHIRTS – 2 SIDED PRINT Polo:T-Shirt:
<u>Size</u> S: M: L: XL: XXL:
Colour Black: Navy: Dk Green: Maroon:
SHIRTS – POCKET PRINT ONLY Polo:T-Shirt:
<u>Size</u> S: M: L: XL:XXL:
Colour: Black: Navy: Dk Green: Maroon:
STUBBY HOLDER
Colour Black: Navy: Dk Green: Maroon:

No upfront payment required with order. Notification of final payment amount (including postage) will be made prior to order confirmation.

Please include your contact details with your order.

#### Order forms to be made out to:

Trophy Takers Incorporated

#### And mailed to:

James Warne PO Box 66, Bourke, NSW 2840