



NEWSLETTER

June – September 2013

TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER

June – September 2013



In this issue:

- **Game Claim Report**
- **Chairman's Report**
- **Pig's Pad**
- **Cicadas, Stags and Sooties**
- **Around the Traps**
- **Newsletter Contributions**

Game Claim Report 13/08/2013

There has been a steady flow of ratings coming in of late, with members rating their prized trophies from the 2013 rut and other trips out and about.

Some of our Canberra members had a decent time of it over the fallow rut. Andrew Morrow got lucky on a nice spotted buck with long palms scoring 228 6/8DS, coming in at number 18 in the ratings. He also snuck out west in January and cracked a great 115 5/8 DS goat. Peter Morphett was also into the action early in the season grassing a great fallow buck scoring 221 DS. Nice one Pete.

The Hervert connection produced the goods on some nice bucks as well, with Nick getting his personal best buck scoring 204 7/8, and Chris a couple of black bucks scoring 194 1/8 and 180 3/8 DS. Well done fellas.



Andrew Morrow with a pair of great trophies, a 228 6/8 DS fallow buck (above) and a 115 5/8 DS goat (below).





Pete Morphett with another fine fallow buck – 221 DS.



Chris Hervert with a pair of nice bucks – 194 1/8 DS (above) and 180 3/8 DS (below).



Nick Hervert and his 204 7/8 DS fallow buck.



Goulburn based bowhunter Steven Holgate took his personal best buck with the bow in April scoring 195 DS. Steve has also been sorting out a few varmints on the tablelands, taking 7 foxes in one afternoon hunt, including two big dogs scoring 10 3/16 and 10 2/16, and also decking a big black moggy scoring 7 10/16. Awesome hunting Steve!



Steven Holgate with his PB fallow buck – 195 DS.



A swag of foxes taken by Steven Holgate, including two nice dogs scoring 10 3/16 DS and 10 2/16 DS.



Will Ellen with is 71 6/8 DS buffalo.



Steven Holgate doing his bit for our native wildlife, taking out this 7 10/16 DS cat.



Will Ellen with is 25 2/8 DS boar.

Victorian Bowhunter Will Ellen rated a mixed bag of trophies with us lately. These included a 106 2/8 DS goat, 71 6/8 DS buffalo, 25 2/8 DS boar and more recently a cracking 187 4/8DS Rusa. He's sure having a good year.



Will Ellen with is 106 2/8 DS billy goat.



A nice rusa stag taken by Will Ellen – 187 4/8 DS.

Ben Reith has also been productive having a cracker of a trip out west earlier in the year. He registered several goats, the biggest of which scored 115 4/8 DS, a 27 4/8 DS boar and a 7 9/16 DS cat.



Ben Reith with his 115 4/8 DS billy.



Ben Reith with his 7 9/16 DS cat.



Ben Reith with a 27 4/8 DS western boar.

As always Shane Dupille has been into the game, this time around rating a 10 3/16 DS fox and 108 DS goat. I even managed to find a half decent mountain billy, my best for a while scoring 113 1/8.



Mark Southwell with his 113 1/8 DS billy.



Shane Dupille's 10 3/16 DS fox.



Bob Wales with his 102 7/8 DS billy.



Shane Dupille with his 108 DS billy goat.



Ben Hohnke with a pair of quality billies – 106 2/8 DS (above) and 105 1/8 DS (below).

We also had several new members join the ranks in the past few months. Canberra bowman Bob Wales joined TT with a goat he took back in 2009 scoring 102 7/8 DS. Tamworth bowhunter and keen fly fisherman Ben Hohnke also joined, rating several nice goats scoring 106 2/8 and 105 1/8DS. Welcome to the ranks fellas.



Well that's it for now; don't forget you can check out all the new ratings on the TT website as they come in at <http://www.trophytakers.org/gameredated2013.html>.

See you at Bourke,

Mark Southwell



Chairman's Report

Hello fellow members, Well the 2013 Awards are all but here, I have recently visited the venue for this year's awards on the banks of the Darling River and let me tell you whilst very basic facilities and remoteness are a standout in comparison to where we have conducted previous annual awards I believe it is a great site for the awards and typifies our longtime catchcry of being "Bowmen of the Bush"

Our hosts Mick and Barb Davis are looking forward having our gathering out there and will do everything they can to ensure we have a successful weekend. They do have self-contained hire cabins just up the river for those wanting to travel a bit light or with young children and wanting a bit more comfort. Just give James Warne a ring

on (02) 68721270 if you wish to pursue this option.

You are welcome to bring a tinny along for a bit of fishing and Mick tells me there is a little bit of local hunting with the odd pig about and he was having real problems with hares when I was up there in June.

Let's pray for no rain over this weekend as there is a bit of the famous outback dirt/mud roads to travel to the venue once you leave Bourke for the final 20 odd K's to the venue.

It is always hard for most of us to scrape together the cash for these annual trips however I just want to let everyone know that it might be handy if you can bring a little extra cash along this year as we have taken a change of direction with our awards memorabilia shirts this year with stylish long sleeve Bush shirts going for about \$50 a piece, not cheap but a very good memento of your trip and the event.

Also as usual we will have our quality weekend raffle with prizes including a matched set of hunting arrows put together with the combined skills of arrow making supremo's Dave Keable and Manuel Agius. A brilliant little skinning knife put together by the skilled hands of Wayne Anderson, a mix of six dozen Outback broadheads from Allan "Woody" Woodward and a few bits and pieces from Barrabooka Archery Supplies. Anything else you and every other member can bring along and throw into the pool of goodies for the raffle will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to every one of the above mentioned people that have made these donations in particular Ando and Manuel who give generously year in year out for our Awards Raffles.

Also just to stretch your dollar a bit further the Church boys, Paul and Stu, have committed to bringing a bit of their gear down and setting up a small pro shop for the members over the weekend. They, Barrabooka Archery Supplies (www.barrabooka.com), have indicated very good savings for TT members over the weekend. Be sure to ask them about their "own brand" carbon arrows which will be available in Australia shortly at considerably less cost than any other quality shafts in Australia.

On a personal note I can't wait, after 30 odd years of Ando and I trying, to finally get their old man Doug Church into NSW for a hunt, he is still annoying goats and pigs despite his 79 years, go Dougy!

Only a few days to get those Ratings in or let Mark Southwell know you have one on the way.

Many of our members have shared a camp with bowhunting champion Mark Ballard over the years and I am just letting everyone that has crossed his path (or rum bottle) in that time, that we are having a fiftieth birthday bash for him on the Saturday night of 14th September at the Albury/Wodonga Twin City Bowmen's Annual two day invitational shoot (a great time in itself) and you are most welcome to come along.

And finally after carting a trailer load of my own trophies, photo's and Albums to Awards all over Australia for past 25 years, I ask everyone attending to please please bring a couple of items each to contribute to the display over the weekend.

Travel safe, Dave Whiting

Pigs' Pad

Well how things change, with the abolition of the NSW Game Council hunting in NSW State Forests has been brought to a halt, temporarily we all hope. I won't go into the politics of this, needless to say we have all read something that attempts to explain the reasoning, I just want to try and give an insight in to impacts at a grass roots level.

Until this year I had never hunted in a NSW State Forest under the now defunct Game Council regime. It was through a desire to hunt with mates which sent me down this path. Now these mates are rifle hunters and to find a location where we could all go, have a camp, spend some time in the bush and even take a deer or two is not easy. Enter the Game Council, state forests and the booking system, problem solved. Most of the hunting party in question were pretty green when it came to hunting deer, so I figured I could impart some of my limited knowledge and at least give them a fighting chance, and the best place to do this was in the bush.

The initial trips were pretty much homework but we saw some deer and

plenty of sign and the seed was sown. When one of the guys shot a fallow buck during the rut I was excited to hear the news. Even though I was not there I felt I played some role in their success. Next trip I tagged along with the intent to scope some new country while they did their 'rounds'. I found a good area and that evening took the guys down to explain what I think they should do in the morning. That arvo while walking along an old fire trail a red deer hind suddenly appeared in the scrub, I immediately dropped to the ground expecting the roar of the thunder stick to echo out through the forest. Nothing! I looked around and right beside flat on the ground was my mate and my brother in law.. 'Shoot the \$%* I said' but by the time they rose up the hind had gone. I queried them on their actions and they said 'when Yoda drops we drop'. We all laughed hard about that well into the night...

Anyway next day they followed my plan and low and behold my brother in law shoots his first deer, a nice red sticky. It was good moment and was made possible by access to state forests...

I guess my point is how many others have experienced a similar moment by simply having the access we as hunters have enjoyed. That access has now been suspended and don't be fooled, that access is also being severely threatened. There are groups that see this as an opportunity to seriously restrict hunting and especially bowhunting.

What can we do? Well write that letter to your local member or if you are intersate an MP in an area where you have visited. Even better send it through to the minister for the Department of Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson. It won't take long but it means we will be heard. If you are unsure of the content make it honest, polite and heart felt. Let them know how it impacts you, your family and your friends.

Like many moments in the bush I will cherish those I have outlined above, it would be sad to lose the potential for more of the same. The guys even provided me with a Yoda hat as a memento, how thoughtful...

Chris Hervert.



Cicadas, Stags and Sooties

By Rod Collings

It was January in North Queensland and things were a little different, the rains which we are so accustomed to at this time of year had not arrived. It was as dry as all buggery. The Southwell brothers were heading off on another one of their Chital hunting adventures to a place, where over the past couple of years, Paul had taken some very impressive stags. Paul's intentions this year however had changed and he was clearly focused

on getting Mark onto a big fella. Knowing I was always keen for a walk, particularly in the bush with a chance at a good stag Paul sent through a text inviting me out as well. It was on; we would be in the bush in a couple of weeks and hopefully upgrading the heads we already had. Mark had taken a great 'PB' stag a couple of years before however coming in at 169 odd points it left a bit of room for an upgrade. My own 'PB' was 170 so there was heaps of room for improvement there as well.

The time had come, we met up and headed out to the property just in time for lunch and a yarn with the managers. This ended up with Paul being talked into helping out in the yards for a bit and Mark and I heading across the river to check out an area that would hopefully put us in front of deer. We parked the ute and started our walk down to a dam that held a bit of water and straight away we started seeing deer moving around in the area. A couple of hinds and a stag were heading off the dam from their arvo drink and as we moved in slowly over the dam wall we saw the antlers of a good stag near the water's edge. When we got closer it tuned out the stag was in the dam all but completely submerged eating lilly leaves, something neither of us had seen before.

I set up the camera and Mark started his approach across the open ground near the dam, the wind was in our favour but the last cover was a small ridge about 40m from the stag, so it was not going to be an easy task. After

shimmying his way into position he let rip with a great shot that slipped into the deer just below the waterline. Not knowing what had happened the stag came running out of the water and dropped nearly at Marks feet and it was done. Mark had secured his upgrade an impressive 31" long and 181 2/8 point chital stag that had just started to rub out so he was in prime condition. Mark was over the moon, ½ hour into our first hunt and he had dropped a stag ranking in the top 10. I went and grabbed the ute while Mark removed the cape and meat.



Well the rums flowed freely that night back at the homestead and we enjoyed a meal with the managers and yarns of deer hunting and fishing. We then headed off to camp by the river and had a few more yarns and cans to celebrate Marks achievement and ended up going to bed at about 4am. The morning came around quick and as soon as we were up Paul spotted a stag feeding across the flat and it was decided that I should have a go. A long open ground stalk ended at about 20m from the stag that had now bedded. I ended up shooting into the ground in front of him, not feeling the best from the night before and still half asleep

was my excuse. This day saw all of us out hunting; Paul and I together and Mark out on his own.

I really enjoy walking in the bush with Paul as he has knowledge of the area second to none and can always point you in the right direction or give advice on the best way to approach an area. He was helping me out today and we were seeing deer all over the place but not so many chances on the big guys. We ended up spotting two good stags feeding ahead of us and stalked in closer for a look, they were both good heads and after getting in close I found them bedded up. I ended up stuck in a position where I couldn't move without being busted. The biggest stag spotted me and bolted alerting his mate who stood and turned to watch what his buddy was doing, this gave me the opportunity to get an arrow into him quartering away. A follow up shot sealed the deal and after a bit of tracking through some thick cover we found him. He had a wide wine glass shape and I was stoked with the result. Not the biggest head around or an upgrade for me but I was still happy to take a nice heavy stag with cool shape.



When we put the call out to Mark on the radio to pick us up, he told us he had a chance at another big stag but no luck. The boys spent the arvo fishing for sootys in the river whilst I caught up on some sleep. After a snooze I wandered down to the river to find the boys having a blast catching heaps of fish, some thumpers as well so I commandeered a rod and got into a few myself. What a blast it is catching sootys on surface poppers, very visual and good sport on light gear, and to top it off there were deer and pigs joining us for a late arvo cool off by the river. Can it get any better!





That night was a bit quieter around the camp after the huge night before and we were all up for some much needed sleep. The early morning cool breeze was short lived and again it was Paul and I that headed off together and Mark off on his own looking for a good stag near the dam from the first arvo. Paul and I glassed a few stags and worked our way down to the river where we knew we would find more and hopefully a big fella or two. We split up and headed along a section of creek, the stags were roaring and it wasn't long before I found myself in a likely looking bedding area so I just waited for a bit to see if anything came in. Soon enough a stag came wandering in and I ducked into cover, the stag made quick ground and was on me before I could get ready so I quickly put an arrow on the string and came to full draw. The stag looked like a belter so as soon as he came past me through a window in the cover I put an arrow through his shoulder, he only

went 20m and it was over. I was stoked two stags in two days, I couldn't believe it. Walking over to where he lay I could see that he was missing an outer, it had been broken off. In the heat and pace of the moment I hadn't seen it and was a bit bummed because this fella would have been an upgrade for sure. I was still pumped to put down a deer with a good shot and the cape will be used for another mount. Paul and Mark met up with me and we kept the cape and some meat and headed back to camp.



After cooking up some lunch we headed down the river for another fish and cleaned up on the surface action again. A surprise capture for Paul was a water dragon that launched off a tree and had a go at his popper, it was fun and games for a bit trying to release it and we were all in stitches as Mark videoed from a safe distance. What a show!!



The next day found us on the river again with Mark and I teaming up and heading to a spot where Paul and I had seen a large number of big stags and Paul heading off in the other direction to do what he does best, find big stags.

Mark and I were off early to set up an ambush in a bedding area and after creeping into position we were greeted by two ripper stags feeding out on the flat. We waited for them to feed in for about an hour until one of the big boys moved into Marks shooting range. He managed to get a shot away but didn't hit the mark, we followed the stags as they moved off but no other shots were presented. Bummer, these were both the kind of stags we were looking for in the 180-190 range; maybe next time well get a crack at them. Whilst heading back to camp we got Paul on the radio and he told us of his morning's efforts, he had found a cracking stag and managed to get in front of it as it fed along side the river. The stag fed down from the top bank and Paul was waiting in ambush as it fed past him. With his video set on the stag it fed past him at 20m and Paul put an arrow through its lungs and then a second as it stopped again to

check out what had happened. This was a thumper at 33"x34" long and 185 1/8; another in the top 10 for Paul.



This turned out to be a trip to remember for all of us, great times in front of good deer with good mates and a bunch of good fish.

Thanks boys, I can't wait for the next one.



2/196 Gladstone St, Fyshwick ACT 2609
(02) 6228 1668
info@broadsidearchery.com.au
Tues-Fri 10am-6pm
Sat 10am-4pm
www.broadsidearchery.com.au

Around the Traps

From Pete Morphett:

Hey everyone, Shane and I have been pretty busy, just the odd hunt here and there, but had some good walks and success for meat and small game. With my trusty Z-Roid, I have taken a few bunnies and the odd fox, a hare and a few dear since the rut.



I have finished the latest Franken bow, it is a shorter and quicker version than the Z-Roid, I called it the De-Z! Specs are 31 1/2" axle to axle, 7" Brace Height and at 29 1/2" draw it spits a 490gn arrow out at 300fps! I took a doe to christen it the other week at 52m.

Shane is still shooting a modified Tribute I built for him late last year which he is shooting very well with a nice fox called into 12m and a nice doe for meat taken from 35m.

Nice work Boys.



We have included a map and directions of how to get from Bourke to the awards grounds at the back of this newsletter. If you have any queries or need additional information on how to get there, give James Warne a ring on (02) 68721270.

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 U47
University of New England
ARMIDALE NSW 2351

Email enquiries and newsletter contributions:

info2@trophytakers.org

Newsletter Contributions

Enjoy the bush!

Ben Salleras & Paul Southwell.

We hope everyone enjoys the newsletter and is gearing up for a trip to the Bourke awards. It's shaping up to be one of the biggest awards ever and a great way to meet new people and catch up with old mates from far and wide. We are hoping to get members from every mainland state to attend, and we really encourage the newer members to make the effort to come and spend a couple of relaxing days camped by the river and spending time with like-minded bowhunters.

TROPHY TAKERS
The Bowmen of the Bush



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.

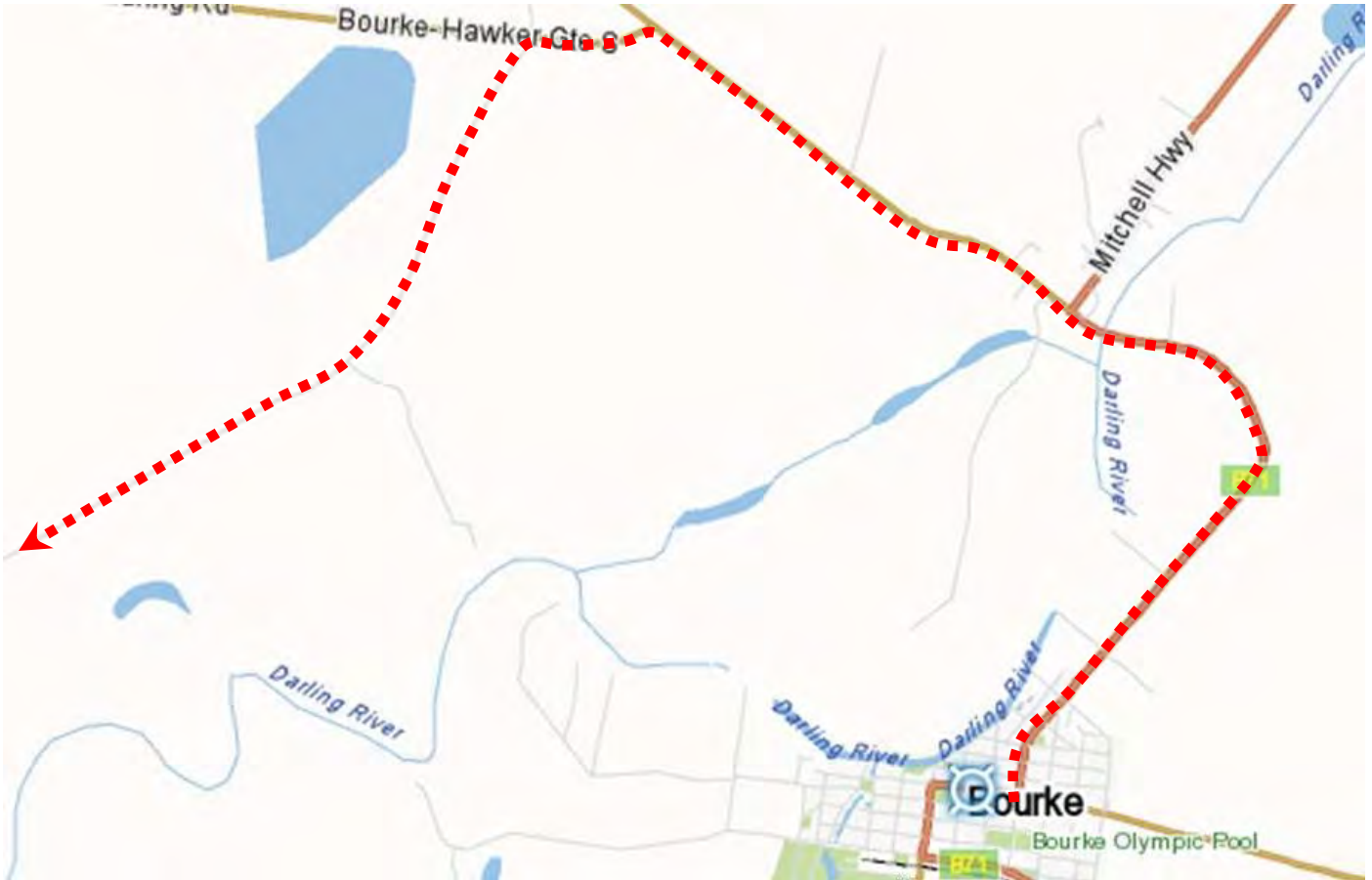
You can contact me on:

(02) 800 36385

www.killerbowstrings.com (under construction)



Directions To TT Awards
“Myandetta” Station – Bourke NSW



1. North out of Bourke to North Bourke.
2. Go straight ahead over the bridge on the Hungerford Rd
3. After about 3 km, turn left onto Wanaaring Rd (Bourke-Hawker Gate South Rd).
4. After about 400 metres turn left onto Jambeth Rd, follow this south for around 20km.
5. Trophy Takers signs will direct you to our camp on the river.

THE ROAD IS SUITABLE FOR 2 WHEEL DRIVES AND CARAVANS