



# NEWSLETTER

*August 2020*

# TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER

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## Game Claim Report

*With Steve Dimitrakellis*

Hey everyone, it certainly has been a different year for hunting with all the Hoo-ha from Wuhan. Nevertheless, our members managed to get out before the lockdowns and get amongst it.

Brendan and Tessa Zappa have started the year out right, with a trip to the Top End. Brendan managed himself a great Scrub Bull of 65 DS that is ranked #4. Not to be out done, Tessa scored herself an old Buffalo bull that went 90 DS. A great bull by any standards, but this surpasses Christie Pisani's 87 4/8 DS Buffalo that is the current Ladies Australian Bowshot record – making it the largest Buffalo taken by a Female. Well Done Tessa!



Brendan and Tessa Zappa with their superb bovine trophies from the NT: Brendan's scrubber measuring 65 DS and Tessa's buffalo 90 DS. Awesome work guys!



Jordan Freili managed to top his PB Boar during the build-up season that went 28 6/8 DS, great work mate. Paul Southwell and Greg Hilton went east and took a fine pair of Chital stags that scored 172 3/8 & 166 3/8 DS respectively. Just to top it off, Greggo has managed a Boar scoring 31 DS. This takes Greggo to an incredible 12 Boars in excess of the 30 DS benchmark, surpassing fellow Darwin Bowhunter Mick Barrett as Trophy Takers most prolific hunter of outstanding Boars. Well Done. Jason Frost has also rated his latest Hog Deer stag, an excellent one at that – which went 96 1/8 DS and is our new #3 Hoggie.



The NT boys have been into them as usual, from top to bottom: Jordo with his 28 6/8 DS boar; Greggo with his 166 3/8 DS chital; Pauly with his 172 3/8 chital; and Greggo with his 31 DS boar.



Frosty with his whopper Hoggie measuring out at 96 1/8 DS, the new No 3 trophy!

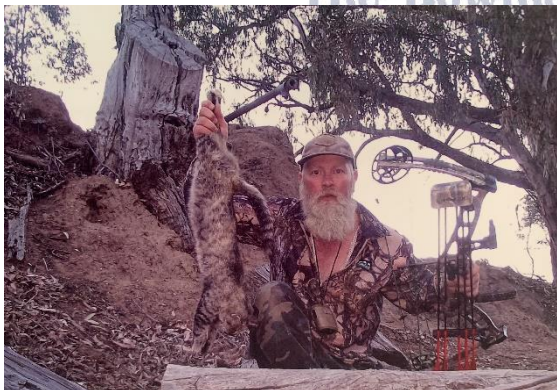
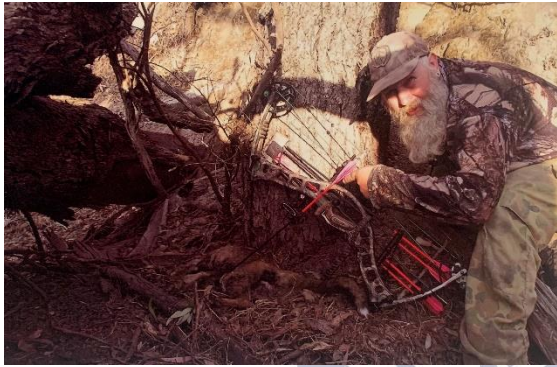
March saw the world go to hell in a handbasket thanks to COVID19, but some guys managed to get out locally. Dan Podubinski took a few foxes with the best being a cracking 10 11/16 along with a 7 1/16 Cat. Mark Southwell and Roger Charnock managed a fox each, both going 9 9/16.



The boys from the Top End are never far away from the action. Paul Southwell certainly has the local Buffalo figured out with another nice bull figured out with another nice bull going 89 6/8 DS. Greg Hilton returned to NZ in February for another crack at the Tahr. This time he was successful with a great 39 2/8 DS Bull that he shot at 5 meters in some big country - not bad for a "Flatlander" Greggo.



Dan Podubinski has been taking out a stack of predators, including a 10 11/16 fox and 7 1/16 cat. Good stuff Dan!



# TREVOR WILLIS TAXIDERM Y



Maxy (above) and Roger Charnock (below) have been giving the foxes a hard time, both of these scoring 9 9/16 DS.



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Pauly scored on this nice hooky buffalo recently, measuring out at 89 6/8 DS.



It turns out animals across the ditch aren't safe either from Greg Hilton! His first bull tahr measuring in at 39 2/8 DS. Well done Greggo!

We've had quite a few members take Red and Fallow Deer, but have been unable to get them officially measured as yet. Now that travel restrictions are easing, Trophies can be measured and hopefully everyone can head out and finish off the ratings year strongly.

All the best,

**Steve Dimitrakellis**



## Pig's Pad

*With Chris Hervert*

Well it's been a hectic and crazy few months for all of us! Hopefully some light at the end of the tunnel but only time will tell.

Seems ages ago Nick and I ventured across the ditch to try our hand amongst the west coast wilderness chasing a few Tahr and Chamois. No luck on the critters but was still well worth the effort. Just to be in that country, climbing it, battling its jungles, crossing its rivers was an experience never to be forgotten. We saw animals but over 300 odd mm of rain pretty much stopped us getting at them. One thing I want to mention is that NZ is largely geared toward the outdoor lifestyle, whether that is hunting, fishing, hiking or just touring around. We even got detailed hunting maps and info from the Queenstown Tourist Bureau! Imagine that in Australia, no

neither can I. I know plenty of you have been over but for those who haven't I highly recommend it, especially under the current climate.



Had a few quick hunts before the lockdown and saw some good deer. Got a bit lazy on one and blew that stalk then thought I will see you again in a few weeks. Bloody virus! However, we did get some success on that trip my future son in law getting his first animal with the bow, a nice fallow doe. Good effort that, your first bow taken game being a deer. Well done Michael.



Heading to our Block shortly, suffice to say I am really going to soak it in and enjoy all that it has to offer. We don't really realise what we have till it's not available. I can imagine everyone is venturing out somewhere so stop and smell the roses, so to speak, and most of all stay safe.

**Chris Hervert**



## Chairman's Report

*With Mark Southwell*

Things have changed in the world since I last put pen to paper for the chairman's report. Restrictions on travel and social distancing have affected us all in one way or another and certainly couldn't have come at a worse time for us avid deer hunters, hitting just before the rut. Paul and I had our dream of another encounter with a Fiordland wapiti squashed, and then even a local hunt was a little harder to come by. In hindsight, I was one of the lucky ones that was able to get bush for a few days, having a justifiable excuse to travel to Paul and Benny Chambers block to 'check stock'. To be honest, the whole 'working from home' thing hasn't been too bad for us here, having a good internet connection and plenty of space on our small block out of town to still get out and about. I still took the holidays that I had booked in for New Zealand, and even managed to get to a few of those odd jobs around home that probably would never have got done under more normal circumstances. It really wasn't until I was enjoying a rumbo next to the campfire high in the range a few weekends ago listening to Friday night footy that I thought things were really on the improve (Raiders even got up!). As restrictions continue to be lifted, things will get back to a more normal way of life over the coming months, but it will be interesting to see what things remain as we move forward.

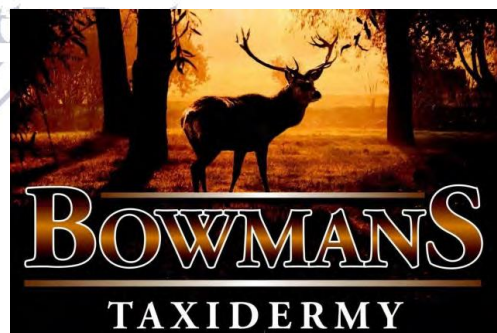
The restrictions have had obvious implication for Trophy Takers – none bigger than the decision to postpone the planned Darwin Awards in July. A bummer for the guys who had big

plans for a trip north, but not much we could do about it. Obviously we will plan to reschedule the Darwin awards, and will continue to work with the bowman's club up there to get a time fixed in – most likely next year. We will extend the ratings cut off for this year's awards until the end of September 2020. This should give everyone ample chance to get their trophies scored and registered with Steve. While there have been some initial discussions between the directors surrounding what we will do in terms of an awards presentation this year, we haven't settled on anything. We could do an online presentation through the likes of skype or zoom, or maybe combine that with some local smaller gatherings of members. It will depend a bit on how the restrictions are at the time. If anyone has any suggestions then please get in contact, maybe through the Facebook page.

That's about it from me. I hope everyone has been and will remain safe and sneak in some bush time when they can – nothing better for the mind and body!

Good hunting,

**Mark S**



## Snowy River Trout and Venison

*By Shane 'Raghead' Dupille*

It was late May and Dave Whiting had arrived back at the farm at Braidwood after a couple of rough weeks with his cancer operation and then the loss of his Father. Together with Chris Hervert, I had been running the farm in Dave's absence for many weeks. With two hay cuts and the annual wiener sale behind us things were in good order at "The Fairways". Dave was keen for a bit of recovery time off and a plan was hatched to venture up into the nearby snowy mountains for a bit of hunting and fishing despite the arctic type weather that was forecast for the coming weekend.

First on the agenda was to chase some big brown trout up in the Eucumbene River. Good friend and fellow TT member Nick Hervert had been up there from Canberra the week before and landed a few beauties and as such expectations were high. Chris and Nick were again up there for the weekend and despite throwing many lures all weekend only managed one small Trout. We joined them on the river on the Saturday and despite our best efforts had no luck.

Chris put us onto a spot further into the mountains on the Sunday and following a 2km hike we were looking over some very impressive trout waters. We soon learned that remote

mountain trout fishing was not an easy task. However, rugged up as if we were going to the Antarctica we persevered and half an hour before dark on the Sunday our persistence paid off as I managed to pull two beautiful trout from the icy waters. It was interesting to note on our walk in and out of this secluded location the amount of wild dog sign in this high country environment.



Monday morning saw us up bright and early, for an hour and a half drive, heading toward one of Dave's hunting properties to drop off an old set of fencing strainers to the landowner. He lives in Sydney, so we had the place to ourselves but could only do a morning hunt as Dave had a medical



appointment at four o'clock that afternoon. After dropping off the strainers at the house and checking on the stock for him we headed off for a three hour hunt in search of the good Fallow Bucks and Boars that Dave and Paul Butchec had sighted on the place a few weeks earlier. Once again, our expectations were high.



On the drive to the back of the property we spotted a few good mobs of Fallow but unfortunately the pig sign was quite old. We hadn't long left the car when we took the opportunity to photograph a young buck silhouetted on a distant hill. After a few pic's pushed on as we were hoping to find a decent lone boar or a better buck. Two hours on and fast running out of time the decision was made to start circling back to the car. We had seen no pigs nor bucks, after the initial sighting and we agreed that an effort should be made to at least get an "eater" before we got back to the car.

Only five hundred metres from getting back to the car we pushed up a tight gully on the edge of the clear country and as I rounded a small bend, I spotted two black fallow feeding at the

head of the gully. As we stalked in closer it appeared to be a mother with a yearling offspring. Unfortunately for Dave he did not have a bow with him due to being unable to draw his bow as a result of recent medical issues. He was on the camera and thus the pressure was on me to get the results on two very naturally alert animals. I motioned to Dave to freeze and a cat and mouse stalk ensued, bit by bit I encroached on their position gaining metres by small steps with the occasional lunge when they were not looking. With a swirling wind and some doubt as to whether or not they were going to feed any closer I made the decision that if I could reach a certain spot in front of me I would take a shot despite some light foliage between myself and the quarry.

I made it to that spot, readied myself and waited for the doe to feed into position. I estimated it to be a thirty metre shot but was confident on the way I had been shooting my recurve lately. I should mention that I rarely take shots at this distance however she was perfectly side on and oblivious to my presence. The time had come. As many of you would know time seems to slow down as I took my shot through an avenue of light shrub and watched as the arrow passed through her chest taking out both lungs. It was so satisfying to have her down and out within ten metres.





As I started to approach her, I realised that the confused yearling was standing facing its mother and myself at less than thirty yards. She watched me a little too long as I stepped out from behind a tree and put the perfect arrow through her heart less than a minute after having dispatched her mother.

What an incredible stalk and result. Interestingly I then realised that despite having taken a number of good fallow bucks in my bowhunting career these were the first two does I had ever taken. It had been a perfect stalk with two very well-placed shots, for two very quick kills and I was absolutely elated.



After getting some great photos, gutting and hanging the animals we managed with some trepidation to get my Cruiser right into the animals and head back to the Braidwood farmhouse. It had been a great few days.

As I sit and write this story I have great satisfaction in knowing that tomorrow morning (4th June) I am heading back home to Victoria with an Engel and esky full of the finest Venison one could hope to eat.



**Newsletter  
Contributions and  
Final Wrap-Up**

I'm sure everyone is fairly tired of the word 'unprecedented', but there is simply nothing else to describe what we've witnessed unfold around us since the last newsletter. If the aftermath of one man consuming a bat has shown us anything, it's just how fragile much of our modern society has become. Without sounding pessimistic, I think there are far bigger challenges to come for humanity in the near future, and this year more than ever before I've been feeling pretty thankful for being a bowhunter. If the

world really did fall into serious turmoil, I know for sure that the skills and attributes bowhunting has brought me will ensure a much higher chance of survival than the average, modern-day city dweller. Being very connected to the land and the bush; being able to hunt our own food; being proficient in the use of a weapon, and a myriad of other things, are skills that we probably don't recognise and appreciate enough, and nobody knows just when we might find ourselves relying on them much more heavily, rather than just our recreation.

The impacts of the Coronavirus crisis have been wide and varied. Life for most won't be the same as it was this time last year, and there's no telling if and when we'll get back to 'normal'. With most hunting plans out the window for virtually every hunter around the world, I'm guessing there'll naturally be a bit more focus on what's available locally. Another impact will be on the game animals we hunt both here and overseas. For many species and herds, this 'break' from hunting pressure is unprecedented, virtually giving an entire age class a free year of growth. It'll be very interesting to see what next year brings in terms of trophies, both here and across the ditch, and further abroad.

Well done to our premiere newsletter story-teller Raghead on another great yarn, an awesome hunt and captivating read mate. I'm sure we sound like a broken record, but we would really like to see more stories coming in from members. It really doesn't matter how long or short they

are, any content from around the traps is enjoyed by all!

Ratings Score Sheets, photos and membership enquiries should be directed to Mark Southwell at the TT Mailbox, details are below.

Please ensure photos are attached to all ratings submissions, and also ensure you use the most current Claim Sheets (available for download from the website) and sent to:

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

Email enquiries and newsletter contributions:

**[info2@trophytakers.org](mailto:info2@trophytakers.org)**

Stay safe, and best of luck if you manage to get out for a hunt.

***Paul Southwell & Ben Salleras***



# Trophy Takers AGM

Bathurst, 17 August 2019

- Meeting open 1350 hrs.
- Maxy / Warnie to secure new trophy trunks for plaques.
- There has been significant expenditure this year on new Banners, trailer, Archery museum donation, trophies and ratings. Current balance is at \$2552 as at 1.50pm.
- Port Stephens Central Coast club, affiliated with 3DAAA has no game ratings for bowhunters. Skippy Shorten proposes that TT become ratings body for the club. Also a proposal from the floor for TT to affiliate with Traditional Archery Australia (TAA) for bowhunters to rate game. Trophy Takers has always been an independent ratings service available for anyone to join and rate game species. Those members of TAA and Port Stephens who wish to record game are free to join TT as anyone else would.
- Member of the public spoke about TBA being the official governing body for Bowhunting, and the importance of rating game with the organisation to show statistics to Govt. More people are not rating game now days. TT has always maintained quality over quantity, and those that wish to record numbers of animals shot, are best served rating with them as per points achieved systems for other bodies (TBA & ABA) as opposed to TT rewarding quality game.
- Awards appreciation plaques still need to be made for last couple of years.
- Trophy Trunks – need one more for exotics.
- New Banners – look fantastic, well done to Ben Salleras on a great job organising these for the Bathurst Awards.
- Trailer has had a major upgrade, New bearings, jockey wheel and new canvas.
- Small game encouraged to be rated with TT.
- Newsletter, although not frequent, is of excellent quality. Leigh & Alex Cragg to help with Newsletter production.
- 2020 Awards to be held at Darwin, early July at Darwin Bowhunters club. Plenty of room for camping, and club is happy for people to use it as base for day trips while up for awards. Caretaker on site permanently, can keep an eye on everyones camp while enjoying Darwin and surrounds.
- Possibly Albury 2021, with Newcastle keen to host an Awards too.
- Accommodation costs 12/8/19 \$1,743, one off cost for caps \$800 and Banners \$1,400.
- Insurance now \$1,400 p.a. – possible membership increase to help with increased expenditure. Membership has not increased since TT inception Ben Chambers move motion to \$40 per year/\$100 3 years, and Family \$50 year/\$120 3 years. Seconded by Jeremy Kelly. Passed, push to promote ratings service.
- Possible life memberships to Mark Ballard and Wayne Anderson. Floor open for nominations, due October 1<sup>st</sup>. Directors to list criteria for Life Memberships and present in Newsletter. Paul Southwell and Jarrod Vyner to do.
- Possible of EFTPOS for merchandise sales, Hervert to look into.
- 14:40 hrs meeting closed.