



# NEWSLETTER

*December 2019*

# TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER

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## Game Claim Report

*With Steve Dimitrakellis*

Hey Everyone, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, there has been some fantastic game recorded and plenty of new members join Trophy Takers.

First up is Ian "Rosie" Thompson from Tamworth NSW, Rosie has been on the scene for a long time and has joined up with a great 226 2/8 DS Fallow buck.

Lonnie Broekman from Nelson Bay NSW had a great trip up north with mate Greg Hilton and joins up with a 92 4/8 DS Buffalo and an old warrior Scrub Bull that scored 54 DS. Lonnie also managed a great mountain Boar on his home turf, that scored 29 DS - a great effort as they don't come easy when they're that big.



Rosie's nice chocolate fallow (above).  
Lonnie Broekman with his Buff bull and  
cracker mountain Boar (below).



Craig Hailes from Hunting Camp Down Under podcast has also joined the fold with an absolute belter of a Rusa taken



last year, the heavy stag scores 197 DS

Adam Barter from Brisbane joins the party with a couple of nice Billies – a 96 4/8 billy and a twisty 89 pointer. He later managed a nice Fallow Buck in the rut that went 161 1/8 DS along with a solid 92 6/8 DS Billy.

Darcy Galliano of Tamworth has rated a beautiful hard velvet 166 5/8 DS Chital stag, and Dan Ferguson of Townsville with a cracking Chital stag that scores 196 DS and sits in the #3 position in the rankings, only 1 point off the #1 spot.



**Adam Barter with a solid Billy.**



Jason Frost has joined Trophy Takers, and done it in style with the new Number 1 Rusa deer. The monster went 230 3/8 DS with a longer antler length of over 39 inches. Jason has also rated a great Hog Deer stag from last year that went 89 3/8 DS and is the new #4 in the rankings, along with an excellent 26 4/8 DS Chamois.

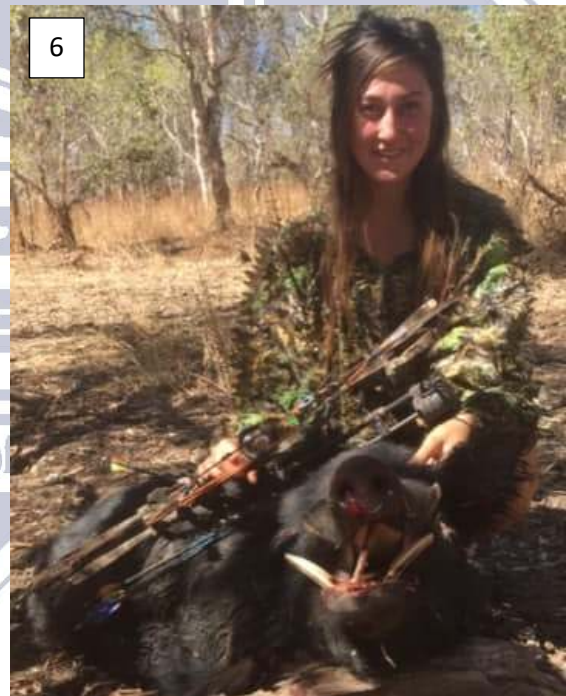
During the Bathurst Awards, with the huge numbers of bowhunters attending the weekend - we've had a swag of new members join. First up is Brendan and Tessa Zappa from Crookwell, NSW. Brendan rated a 58 4/8 DS Scrub Bull and a 27 6/8 DS Boar, and also a fantastic Red Stag shot the day before he joined up! The 14-pointer scored 270 1/8 DS, not to be out done, Tessa rated a great 28 6/8 DS Boar.



**Hailsey's big topped Rusa (top) and Adam Barter's PB Fallow (above). Welcome aboard boys!**







Darcy Galliano's nice velvet Chital (1). Fergo's monster Chital rating No 3 (2). Frosty's new No 1 Rusa (3) and a nice Hoggie (4) that rates No 3.

The Zappa's have been busy with Brendan's 14 point Red Stag (5) and Tessa's awesome boar (6). Great work guys and welcome to TT



Kayuga Broadhead's Grant Rand of Sydney has rated a 27 DS Boar to join the ranks, along with his brother Cameron with a 28 2/8 DS Boar. Corey Seymonsbergen from Shellharbour has rated a 26 DS Boar, and Paul Connor from Darwin rated his PB boar, a whopper of 33DS.



**The Rand brothers joined TT with a couple of very respectable boars, Grant (top) and Cameron (above). Corey Seymonsbergen also chipped in with a nice 26 pointer.**



**How's the fangs on this floodplain warrior!! They don't get much better than this one taken by Paul Connor in the NT.**

Scotty Meadows from Cobar rated his 157 1/8 DS Fallow from this year's rut. Tobie Hynes from Willow Tree NSW, rated a great 221 4/8 DS Fallow Buck to join up, and Chris Lanske rated a wild old bruiser Fallow buck that went 244 1/8 DS.

Well done to all our new members, fantastic to see so many join the Trophy Taker family.

Greg Hilton made the most of the last years build up season in the Top End and managed an absolute Dinosaur of a Buffalo Bull. The big old fella was heavily broomed and still managed to score 95 6/8. The mass on this bull was incredible and comparing it to the other bulls that myself and Paul Southwell measured up, probably had 8-10 inches missing from each horn. Greg also took a beautifully shaped 98 DS Buffalo and yet another big Boar, this one scoring 31 DS.



Jordan Freili also got amongst the bulls and managed to score a new PB with a great 91 2/8 DS Buffalo.



Great fallow bucks taken by Scott Meadows (top) and Tobie Hynes (middle) and a deceptively big buck taken by Chris Lanske (bottom).



Grego (top and middle) and Jordo (bottom) got stuck into the buff during the 2018 NT build-up.



Jack Spinks has endured the summer heat and has been into the local pigs at the water, but one day an absolute thumper of a Red Stag came in for a drink. Making no mistake with his longbow, Jack downed the 6x9 stag with one arrow. The herd of Reds that reside in the Western Riverina NSW, are under immense pressure from government culls in recent years and spotlighting, so to take a stag of this calibre is a fantastic achievement, Well done Jack. The Velvet antlers were still soft, therefore unable to be officially scored. This goes to show that at the end of the day it's just a number, as in my opinion – it is one of the best deer ever taken with traditional gear in Australia.



**Awesome effort by Jack Spinks to take this big velvet Red Stag with the trad gear.**

Well it's not just the guys that have been busy, the ladies have had success this year too.

Elissa Rosemond had a great rut taking her PB Fallow buck of 205 DS, and a solid 21 DS Boar.

Karen Valery has made the most of the move to Queensland, and taken her first Red Stag with her trusty Recurve. The 9-point stag scored 197 1/8 DS

New Member Jane Chambers, managed to sneak in a hunt on a

recent trip to the Northern Territory and bagged herself a 22 6/8 DS Boar.

Well done to all three Ladies, and a big welcome to Jane from everyone at Trophy Takers.



**Elissa Rosemond (Top), Karen Valery (middle) and Jane Chambers (bottom) showing the boys how it's done!!**



Nick Peterson got into the Rusa on his home turf again last year and managed to take a nice 181 DS stag. Warney got into the Reds this roar and scored himself a very stylish and even 274 3/8 DS Red Stag, and Greg Hilton obviously got tired of piling up the Boars and Buffalo, and ventured south for the rut. He came home with a swag of foxes and his first Fallow buck that went 224 5/8 DS. Dennis Wells decided to give the recurve a run, and hit it for six with a 56 4/8 Hog Deer stag – the first to be taken with Traditional gear. Well done fellas



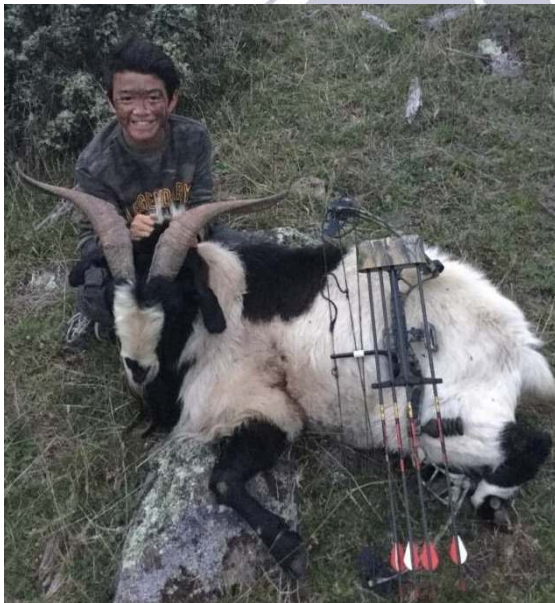
**More great deer, this time a solid Rusa taken by Nick Peterson (opposite top), Grego's belter Fallow (opposite bottom), Warney's PB Red Stag (Top) and Dennis Well's trad Hoggie stag (above).**

Shane Dupille and Mark Southwell have been into the Foxes, with Maxy taking out his local chook thief, and Raghead taking the biggest Fox so far this year at 10 5/16.

Jason Robinson scored himself a big Wild Dog of 13 9/16 that is the new #3, and his son Stephen joins Trophy



Takers with his 80 4/8 Billy. Well Done guys, great to see another Father/Son combo in the Trophy Taker family.



Father and son team Jason and Stephen Robinson have been getting it done with dad securing a big calf eater, and son with a nice skinned billy.

The Darwin mob have been into the action, with Wal Parker rating his PB Buffalo of 90 DS and a 27 4/8 Boar. Paul Southwell has managed a couple of Buffalo, with the biggest being a 104 4/8 tank to go with a 32 4/8 Boar. Mark Southwell, came up recently and scored a big bodied Boar with hooks to

match. Unfortunately, they pulled short but still went a new PB of 29 4/8 DS. I was fortunate to get out to Arnhem land and had some very close encounters with Buffalo bulls, but was busted drawing the longbow twice at 20m, but third time lucky - I managed to take a young 77 DS Buffalo Bull. Greg Hilton has been putting in some serious time and kms on the Buffalo and it's paid off big time with an absolute beast that scores 105 2/8 DS and is the new #5 in the rankings, despite missing 4 inches off one horn.

The end of the wet season up north has dried up a lot of water and the boars have been falling, with Jordan Freili knocking over his PB Boar of 25 DS, well done mate. Greg Hilton has taken a couple more big Boars scoring 30 & 31 DS, along with a 13 5/16 DS Wild Dog, and Paul Southwell took another couple of crackers that went 29 & 33 6/8 DS. Well done fellas, hopefully there's a few left for next years' Annual Awards in Darwin.



Wal's big bodied boar taken right on dark.

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The hunting grounds of the NT have been productive of late for Wally Parker (1), Paul Southwell (2 and 3), Maxy (4), Steve D (5), Jordo Freili (6) and Greg Hilton (7).





**A couple more for the northern boys with Grego's big Wild Dog and Pauly's old 33 6/8 DS Boar.**

Darren Swan from NZ has re-joined Trophy Takers, and has rated four Chamois that have shaken up the top 10, including the new #2. Well done Swanny and welcome back. Not only is Darren amongst the game, but his son and daughter – Alec and Brooke have been hot on his heels. Alec with a 60 1/8 mountain Billy, and a 16 4/8 Chamois – outstanding effort. Not to be out done, Brooke has claimed bragging rights over her older brother with a 71 1/8 DS Billy, well done to you both.



**Kiwi members Darren Swan with a summer Chamois buck (top) and daughter Brooke with a big bodied billy.**

Keeping with the new Junior members, Lachy Art from Albury joins Trophy Takers with his PB Fallow Buck taken this year that scores 191 DS. Well Done Lachy, looks like his dad Zoran will have his work cut out for him from now on!

Deano Scott scored a great 95 4/8 DS Buffalo on a trip to the Top End last year, well done – he's a great looking Bull.

**TREVOR WILLIS**  
TAXIDERM Y





Lachy Art has been showing up his old man shooting this nice fallow in the rut this year (above). Deano did a trip up north and secured this tank of a buff (below), well done mate.

scores 240 1/8 DS. Mark Wills managed a great fox that scored 10 6/16 and ventured south to the Vic high country and took a Sambar stag that went 118 DS.



The Southwell boys had a great trip to NZ late last year, taking some great Bull Tahr and Chamois and even better photos to go with them. The dynamic duo managed three Tahr (which all make the top 5) and a Chamois each, great stuff fellas.



Shannon James did the hard yards locally during the rut, and scored himself a solid brute of a Red Stag that

The Southwell boys with the fruits of a spring NZ hunt in 2018, Paul with his Tahr (top) and Maxy with the mountain double.





In an effort to get some more NZ game in the ratings, I've pestered a few fellas to rate their Whitetail Deer from Stewart Island. So, Al Karaitiana, Jordan Freili and Leigh Cragg have rated theirs from Last year's epic group hunt, and Jarrod Vyner with his spiker from 2014. Well done guys on a very elusive and sought-after trophy from the South Pacific.



Shannon with his nice 10 point Red Stag and Willsy's ripper Fox and Sambar Stag



As you can see, some outstanding quality game. Best of luck to you all out there over the coming months.



**Bathurst 2019:  
Annual Awards  
Wrap-Up**

*With Paul Southwell*

*Photos: Vladimir Donchev*

The 2019 Trophy Takers annual awards were held over the weekend of 16-18<sup>th</sup> August in conjunction with the long awaited Bathurst Archery Festival which, other than the TT awards, comprised an competitive shoot at the Bathurst Archery Club, banquet and awards night at the Bathurst RSL, and final viewing of the Archery museum. Ian Fenton and his team did a great job organising the event, and much thanks goes to them all.

A fair number of members congregated at the Heritage Park accommodation on the Friday night and a fairly solid session ensued around the camp fire, with members old and new catching up and telling a few yarns. Former chairman Dave Whiting may have been seen wrestling a few of the younger lads at one stage,

just to keep them on their toes, eh Dave!!



Saturday morning saw members move to the Bathurst Archery Club on the other side of town to erect the trophy display. This years' display has to be one of the best we have ever presented, made all the better with the new set of roll out photo prints so expertly put together by Ben Salleras, thanks for your efforts Butcher.

The display was very well received by all that viewed it, including participants in the archery shoot which was also occurring over the weekend at the club. I think just about all the species of game in the south pacific were represented, plus some extras from other areas of the world.



Due to programming requirements, the Awards presentation was held at midday on Saturday, and was very well attended. Congratulations to all that received awards.





This year we were extremely lucky to have world renowned bowhunter Tom Miranda joining us along with his cameraman Vladamir Donchev from Bulgaria. Tom was involved in many of the awards presentations, and it was refreshing to see what a down to earth genuine guy Tom is. Vlad snapped a heap of photo's as well, some of which are presented throughout this report. Check out the TT facebook page for others.



The reward winners are listed below for those who could not make it on the day.

2019 Award Winners:

Species	Winner	Douglas Score
Chital Deer	Dan Ferguson	196
Fallow Deer	Greg Hilton	224 5/8
Red Deer	James Warne	274 3/8
Rusa Deer	Jason Frost	230 3/8
Boar	Paul Southwell	32 4/8
Goat	Tom Falck	143 6/8
Buffalo	Greg Hilton	105 2/8
Scrub Bull	Greg Hilton	60 2/8
Cat	Dan Podubinski	7 12/16
Fox	Shane Dupille	10 5/16
Wild Dog	Jason Robinson	13 4/16
Chamois	Darren Swan	23 6/8
Tahr	Paul Southwell	39 2/8

The Awards was followed by the AGM, which was a good move as it meant that most people there were in attendance. It was confirmed that the 2020 awards will be held in Darwin over the weekend of 4-5<sup>th</sup> July.

The reasons for this earlier timing are threefold. Firstly, the awards will be held at the Top End Bowhunters Club and will be held in association with their traditional shoot. Secondly, the earlier timing during the middle of the dry season means more pleasant conditions and only a very minor chance of rain over the weekend. And lastly, the NT cracker night happens on July 1, and is a must for anyone wanting to experience a bit of NT culture and watch some (a lot) of fireworks set off.

Saturday night was the banquet and awards presentation (otherwise known



as the Ian Fenton Show!), which was also well attended. TT members picked up some of the awards on the night which was also great to see.

As with most of the TT awards weekends, most of us were a little dusty on Sunday morning but managed to make our way back out to the archery club to dismantle the display and get packed up. A few trophies were measured and some new members were signed up which was great to see.

All in all it was a great weekend. I can't remember another awards where we had so many new faces come past and show interest in the club, which is awesome to see.

Thanks to all that helped out prior to and during the weekend. The Directors really appreciate the extra help we get from many members, as they say, many hands make light work!



## Pig's Pad

*With Chris Hervert*

Here I am writing this on my 55<sup>th</sup> birthday, happy to be here but still a little sobering. Time really does fly when you're having fun! It's not a time to slow down but to jam in as much adventure as is physically and financially possible.

In two days I am off to New Zealand hunting tahr and chamois with my son Nick. I have been there before, many years ago, but feel as prepared this time if not more so than the last. Time will tell I guess. I have a few more trips in the minds pipe line; we can't let all these 'young' upstarts have all the fun!

Social media love it or hate it? I'm mid-stream on this one, swept either side depending on my mood and the goings on. In reality it's hard to function without it but it's good to abandon it for an extended period. I see the brutality of it and I see the beauty of it.

For us as a group it's a great way to keep in contact. I believe it has united us more than anything in Trophy Takers' past. We see the names and the faces and the game, and when you finally meet that face a few stepping stones have already been trod. It's real time so it just makes more sense, the excitement of seeing someone with game posted that was taken that day just increases the bond.

With the 2019 Awards done and dusted (what a great weekend that was), it's time to look forward to next



year in Darwin. Plan your trip early and get organised, it will be the essence of the Australia outdoors that we and the world all relate to. No doubt the locals will put on a great shindig. Do your best to get there.

**Chris Hervert**

## Chairman's Report

*With Mark Southwell*

It's amazing how many opportunities there are for Aussie bowhunters these days. With the progression of the digital age and social media has come a wealth of freely available information and an increased opportunity for people across the globe to connect and share stories, tips and hunts. We have seen TT members taking on many different hunts, from camels in the red centre, boars and buff in the territory, sambar in the Vic high country, to ibex in Kazakhstan, and deer, elk and bears in the Rocky Mountains of the USA.

Many of these hunts have been enjoyed with fellow TT members, or realised through connections gained from other members. This really highlights the value of Trophy Takers. Yes we are a ratings service, but the mateship and connections gained from the organisation are almost limitless these days – it's really good stuff.

As some will know, Paul and I spent three weeks in the Colorado Rockies back in August/September, chasing mule deer and elk. This was a highly awaited trip, and with some good intel from a couple of locals and others that had hunted the unit before, we were confident (perhaps overly) of having a successful trip. As per usual, the country was bigger than it looked on google earth, the air thinner at altitude and the hunting pressure on the public land we hunted greater than we had anticipated. We saw some very nice critters, had some close encounters, but in the end, only filled one of our four tags between us. Paul was rewarded for extra effort taking a fine muley buck about 10 km's from the truck. The carry out of meat, antlers and cape sorted us both out, but made the beers, salted pumpkin seeds and fried pork skin back at the ute so much sweeter! All in all it was a great trip, and we both came away a bit fitter and more respecting of the animals we saw and hunted - can't ask for more than that.







The Awards back in August were a hit, with a great turn up from TT members who supported the awards and the Archery festival in general. Well done to all members who got awards for this years' game taken, and also for those that were recognised at the Archery Museum presentation. I especially enjoyed Ben Salleras' opening speech at the Museum Awards, some very insightful and well-constructed observations on our culture as bowhunters, and the challenges we are facing as a hunting community.

The highlight for me was the banter around the fire after the formalities (often is). Great to catch-up with old mates and meet some new guys too. Also a big thankyou to a few people. Obviously to Ian Fenton, for organising and promoting such a great event, and continuously supporting Trophy Takers; To Leigh Cragg for doing some local running around beforehand, and the Hervert family for organising and distributing the raffle prizes.

The AGM on the Saturday afternoon were well attended and there is a couple of points arising from the meeting that I wouldn't mind touching on. Ralph Boden from ABA was a casual observer and some of his comments relating to how TT is effectively capturing the numbers of

game that its members are taking got me thinking. His point was valid – if we can accurately capture the number of ferals we are harvesting, then that information can be used to support our active participation in animal control to the higher powers, in turn supporting our cause as a legitimate pastime that should be continued. For mine, TT doesn't do this very effectively and never has done. It seems to go against the adage of 'let it go, let it grow' that has been a solid cornerstone of TT since the beginning.

A few years ago Shane Dupille and Dave Whiting did propose that members could send in photos of small game they had shot, but other than that, we focus on quality animals, not the total numbers of critters our members have harvested. While this doesn't fulfil the obligation of being able to effectively record all the animals our members are taking, in my opinion, to do so would contradict our core values. I'd be very keen to hear what others think – maybe have your say on the TT facebook page....

One other point to come out of the meeting was the decision by the floor to raise our membership fees. This is the first time since we started that the fees have been increased, with fees now standing at \$50 per year or \$100 for 3 years for single members, and \$80 per year for a family. We have spent a lot of money on various aspects of the club in 2019, and an increase in fees will generate some much needed capital for the club, which we can use to promote TT, and protect our outstanding trophy collection.

In closing, I would like to thank all TT members for their patience with the



production of the newsletter and ratings returns. I don't think the directors have been busier than they have been this year and this has put strain on the timely return of information. Leigh Cragg's fiancé Alex has agreed to help us compile the newsletter in the future, so a big thanks to her. I hope you enjoy it.

Until next time, **Mark S**



## Strathburn 2019

*By Shane 'Raghead' Dupille*

It all started when Steve Dimitrakelis, at the Bathurst awards, said there was a position vacant on the next Strathburn Station hunt.

Ben Salleras couldn't make it and I've wanted to go on this hunt for quite some time. I have always wanted to shoot my first scrub bull, to beat my best boar and to catch a barramundi on the rod and reel.

So, we were off, Ben and Orbin Chambers were meeting us (Steve and Phoenix Dimitrakelis and I) At Cairns where we would hire a 4x4 and drive 8 hours to our destination.

We met up with Matt Moore, Ian Summers and Ian's partner Seranda, along with Matt's partner Danny and his parents Carl and Jenny.



The Kayuga boys really know their stuff and after a quick schooling session we were off on our first day's hunt. We saw some worthy critters but could not get the drop on them due to us being situated in a bad position against the wind.

A couple of days in saw us Trad boys and our guide Ian heading for a handy water hole, where Ian said I'm a good chance on a scrubba.



The move was a good one as a big typical red Scrub Bull was grazing over on the other side of the water hole along with three brumbies.

We glassed him, checked the wind and made our plans. About half of the way through the stalk we dropped off Steve and Phoenix and continued. As



we got closer, as if on cue, the brumbies left and we were still undetected, allowing us to continue.

Ian and I only needed to close the gap through the noisy swamp grass as he had his rear end facing us.

All was set.

20 meters away with my heart in my mouth, I drew in about four deep breathes slowing each time as I steadied and readied my Recurve. Ian said, "hit him halfway down, in or around the 3rd floating rib." He had now fed his way around to the right in a perfect three quartering away position.

I drew and released a perfect shot, the arrow hit and buried itself up to the flights right where Ian was looking. The Bull gave an almighty kick and fled.

We were both happy with the shot, we followed him up only to have him mock charge at us, but we secured him soon after. I was relieved, exhausted, happy and jubilant all at the same time. I had finally accomplished a personal goal, in securing my first scrub bull, Strathburn style.



We all had a magnificent trip, with Ben Chambers taking a couple of cracker toothy boars, his son Orbin bagging his best boar of 25 4/8 DP. I also managed to snag a couple of good hogs. One of which became my best so far at 26 2/8.



We all had a bit of a fish; I luckily caught a barramundi on the reel for the



first time but unfortunately had to throw him back as he was a bit too small. I still managed to tick off everything of my list.

It was an outstanding experience with the Kayuga people and had a few wild nights around the Square Table.

To be continued next year. Rag Head out!

**ARROWHEAD**  
MAGAZINE

## Newsletter Contributions and Final Wrap-Up



Well guys and gals, that's just about it for another year. 2019 has been a mixed year hunting wise in Australia, very dry over much of the country which showed with a tough deer rut earlier in the year. However the dry conditions and late onset of the wet season has seen some great animals harvested in the north of late, with bowhunters taking advantage of the extra few weeks of dry weather to get out and about before the roads close for the year.



Let's hope that rainy skies return sooner rather than later, and the regrowth from all the burnt country in NSW grows bright and green for next year.

The directors would like to say a big thanks to everyone who attended the Awards in Bathurst, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Darwin next year. There is already word of road trips plans and extended holiday breaks incorporating the Darwin Awards floating about, which is great to see. The awards will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, which just so happens to be the weekend following cracker night (1<sup>st</sup> July). Cracker night is a spectacle in



itself, especially for the kids. It's heaps of fun, and certainly an eye opener for visitors!!

Thanks to Raghead for his story. We encourage anyone to put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard!) and write a short story for the newsletter, it will be greatly appreciated.

Apologies again to everyone for the delay in getting this edition published, as Maxy touched upon, we all live very busy and complex lives these days, sometimes it's a struggle to fit everything in! Hopefully with Alex helping us in the future with the newsletter we can get them out with more regularity.

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:

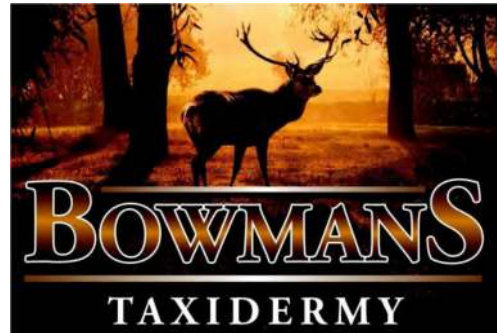
**Trophy Takers  
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Best of luck in the bush!

***Ben Salleras and Paul Southwell***



**TROPHY  
TAKERS**

*The Bowman of the Bush*





***TROPHY  
TAKERS***

The Bowmen of the Bush