



NEWSLETTER

August 2023

TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER

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Game Claim Report

With Mark Southwell

Well it's been a few moons since the last game ratings update in a newsletter, so we will concentrate on the ratings that have come in for the 2022-23 ratings year.

It seems a fair contingent of members headed north to chase boars and bovines in the tropics this year. Four Banteng bulls hit the books, taken by Bill Kernaghan (60 DS), new member Jim McWilliam (62 4/8 DS), Mark Wills (63 6/8 DS) and myself (67 DS). Scrub bulls also got some attention with three great trophies being rated. These were taken by Jordo Freili (64 2/8 DS), new member Harry Stenton (68 6/8 DS) and Luke Sampson with a solid light coloured bull scoring 71 4/8 DS. Jim McWilliam also rated a buffalo bull scoring 88 points. Well done and welcome to Trophy Takers.



Bill Kernaghan (above) and new member Jim McWilliam (below) made the trip to the Cobourg Peninsula region and took a nice banteng each recently.



A pair of very special trophies for Willsy (above) and Maxy (below), both taking ripper mature banteng bulls.





Jordan Freili is more than pleased with his beaut NT scrub bull, scoring 64 2/8 DS and placing at number 8 in the ratings. Nice one Jordo!



Giants still do exist, and Luke Sampson more than proved it with this behemoth scrubber, which at 71 4/8 takes out the new number 2 position in our ratings.



Jim McWilliam presents his awesome 88 DS bull, what a special moment to share with the young bloke.

Plenty of boars hit the deck too, taken with a mix of traditional and new age technology. Chairman Dimitrakellis put the mullet into action and shot a toothy hog with his longbow in the basalt scoring 29 6/8 DS. Another man with a mullet Greg Hilton continued his productive run on the boars, rating two crackers at 31 6/8 and 32 4/8 DS. Seems Greggo didn't get them all, as his hunting partner Lonnie Broekman got the chocolates on one trip with a toothy 34 4/8 DS boar. Great work mate. Shane Dupille struck it lucky with his recurve on Strathburn station taking a tank of a boar scoring 27 DS neat. To round out the boar ratings, I found a handy fella on a trip in November scoring 28 4/8 DS.

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TT president and mo enthusiast Steve Dimitrakellis with a ripper NT sunset boar taken with the longbow.



Lonnie Broekman has a deep appreciation of boars and ivory, and nobody deserves to take one like this more than him. A true once-in-a-lifetime cracker that measures 34 4/8 DS and places equal number 7.



Raghead got away for a trip up to Strathburn Station recently and put his recurve to work on this thumper 27 DS boar. Apparently there were a few hairy moments!



The 30 pointer magnet Greggo with another two 30+ boars to add to his incredible collection, these ones scoring 31 6/8 DS and 32 4/8 DS.



Quality boars are generally in trouble when Maxy is lurking anywhere nearby, this one going 28 4/8 DS.



Our members also found a few decent billies. Tobie Hynes found a goodun in the mountains with his recurve that scored 109 4/8 DS and big goat specialist Steven Nowlan shot a nice curly horned goat that stretched the tape to 39 4/8 inches in spread and scored 119 4/8 DS. Further west, new junior member Axel Podubinski showed his old man how it was done, taking a 107 6/8 DS billy – well done. Mark Wills travelled even further west to finally catch up with a couple of proper big ones. With spreads of 46 and 45 3/8 inches his two best billies for the trip scored 130 2/8 and 133 3/8 DS. Well done Willsy, it's been many years in the making!



Axel Podubinski continues to get amongst the game, here he proudly presents his 107 6/8 billy goat. Nice work mate!



Willsy with two modern day giants, the kind of calibre very rarely seen these days. Both stretching the tape past 45", these billies score 130 2/8 and 133 2/8 DS respectively, absolutely unbelievable trophies!



Tobie Hynes (above) and Steve Nowlan (below) found themselves some proper good mountain billies during the past season, Tobie's going 109 4/8 DS and Steve's 119 4/8 DS.



A fair collection of deer have hit the ratings this year. Pete Morphett kicked things off with a truly giant chital stag. At 34 x 35 inches long and 31 inches wide, the stag scored 202 3/8 DS and now sits in the number 1 position in the

ratings. Well done Pete. Mark Wills put a lot of time in on the rusa as he always does and found a good one late in the season. The stag measured 218 2/8 DS and becomes Mark's biggest rusa deer to date. Traditional bowhunter Stuart Gallus found himself a solid sambar stag that scored 150 1/8. Great deer mate. Zoran Art travelled across the ditch and did the time in a tree stand on Stuart Island to secure himself a unique whitetail trophy. The fork-horned buck scored 41 7/8 DS and is only the second antlered whitetail in the Trophy Takers records.



Willsy has spent a lifetime chasing the South Coast Rusa, and this season he rated his personal best head measuring 218 2/8 DS, a simply stunning deer.



The first 200 pointer to hit our ratings historically, and a trophy that will leave most bowhunters speechless! A huge congratulations to Pete Morphett on what is the trophy of several lifetimes!

(Middle right): Stuart Gallus took a beautiful Sambar stag with his recurve recently, extremely impressive stuff Stu!



(Bottom right): Zoran Art headed over to Stewart Island earlier in 2023 and put in the hard yards, taking out only the second antlered whitetail in our history. Well done mate!



Zoran also had a pretty handy fallow rut, bagging himself two trophy bucks scoring 213 5/8 and 246 7/8 DS, the later making it into the top 10 at number 8. Other members to get lucky on fallow in the rut included young Stephen Robinson (191 7/8 DS), Tobie Hynes (203 5/8 DS), Greg Hilton (211 4/8 DS) and new member Corey Knight (231 3/8 DS and 226 3/8 DS). Very well done fellas. I managed to sneak out not too long ago and found a solid old fallow out feeding in the winter sun – he scored 233 1/8 DS.

A special mention must go to new member Sam Ballantyne of South Australia joining Trophy Takers with a cracking 269 3/8 DS buck he took during the 2022 rut. This buck now sits in the number 2 position. Welcome to the club Sam.



Measuring 246 7/8 DS, Zoran Art's buck (above) takes out the new number 8 position in a very long list of fallow ratings. He also took a nice 213 5/8 DS buck during the rut (below left).



Tobie Hynes pulled a very respectable 203 5/8 DS buck out of his home mountain ranges this rut. Greggo got out for a look also and took out a very nice 211 4/8 DS buck.





Well done to new member Corey Knight on his heavy bruiser of a buck scoring 231 3/8 DS.



Mark Southwell headed out for a wander in the hills this winter and chanced upon a ripper of a Fallow scoring 233 1/8 DS.



A truly special SA Fallow taken by new member Sam Ballantyne. At 269 3/8 DS, this deer now sits in the number 2 position, an absolutely incredible deer!

To round out the deer ratings we had two red stags rated from a couple of northern bowhunters. Greg Hilton got the drop on a very respectable Brisbane valley red scoring 239 DS, and Paul Southwell got himself a solid old NSW stag scoring 308 2/8 which sits at number 6 on the ratings.



Paul Southwell got amongst some good Red Deer action this year, and managed to put another one in the Top 10, this one scoring 308 2/8 DS and placing at number 6 in our all time ratings.



Greg Hilton has been into a diverse range of game this season, here he is with a ripper QLD Red scoring 239 DS.



As always, the Podubinski duo of Dan and Axel have been into the small game, each rating a handful of cats and foxes. The pick of them being a 10 1/8 DS fox for Dan and a 7 6/16 DS cat for Axel. Solid work gentlemen.



Dan Podubinski and son Axel love their small game hunting, here is a selection of just some of their recent bow kills. Well done fellas, keep up the great work!



Well that's it for now. We will close the rating year for 2022-23 around the 20th August this year, so please send your ratings in before then for them to be eligible for the annual awards. Our preference is for digital ratings now, so please scan or take a picture of your score sheets and send them through to Steve or I via Facebook messenger or email at info2@trophytakers.org.

Be good in the bush,

Mark Southwell



Chairman's Report

With Steve Dimitrakellis

Another year gone by, and another rut, and I can't help but marvel at the quality of deer that people are taking. The rainfall of the past three years has led to an abundance of feed, a couple of quiet years hunting over Covid and the Fallow, Red and Rusa Deer have responded with some of the best antlers seen. I can't help but wonder if we are now experiencing "The Good Old Days" of Deer hunting.

Just as the Old Boys in the heydays of the Macquarie Marshes, the abundance of Pigs and Goats out west prior to Dogging, Chiller Boxes and Live Goat prices – even the abundance of NZ Tahr prior to the massive cull a couple of years back – you don't know until it's gone.

Admittedly, Goat prices are coming down substantially and a few more wet years will see the pigs numbers climb again, but here's hoping that Trophy takers members can take advantage of the current boom in quality deer.

I did try my hand on the Chital last year, travelling north with Mick Evans and Zoran Art we met up with "Legend in waiting" Jeff Rankmore. Whilst no Chital hit the Deck, we all had chances. I made one of my best stalks on a bedded stag, finally finding him in the long grass at 15m. As I could only see one antler tip, I closed in as close as I dared – probably 8 yards – and could still only make out one antler and about 2 inches of his rump with the 10x Binos.

I could tell that he was facing my way, so took a guess where his vitals were,



sent and arrow where I wanted, which wasn't where it needed to be, and when the arrow hit the ground over his back he leapt up trying to figure out what the hell just happened. I already had ducked down and had another arrow out and was slowly nocking it, when the soft "tink" sound was enough for him to vaporise out of there.

I did manage to get a solid Boar from the Basalt wall as a consolation prize, but will have to make it back there for another crack at those spotted ninjas. To anyone that has never made it to Toomba, I highly recommend it. Brad Kane does a great job there running Pacific Bowhunting Safaris as a legacy to his mate Bill Baker, and does it for the benefit of us bowhunters to experience a very special place.

TREVOR WILLIS
TAXIDERM Y



Speaking of special places, the venue for this years Annual Awards looks to be our best yet. Leigh and Alex Cragg are hosting us at their place "Burilda Park" near Oberon NSW. Facilities include Powered Camping, Fire pit, Function centre and even a sand arena for when Dave Whiting wants to wrestle everyone.

This will be fantastic, and being close to a lot of members, I'm looking forward to a great turnout. That's it from me for now, good luck in the bush, stay safe and hope to see you at the awards for a yarn around the fire.

Steve Dimitrakellis



Winter Bucks and Boars

With Mark Southwell

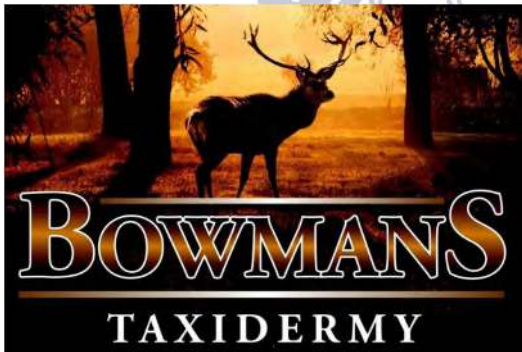
Got the chance to get out bush recently. Conditions were cold - perfect for winter mountain hunting. Plenty of critters about which was encouraging given the

dry conditions. Managed to shoot a young boar fighting over a sow of around 23 DS. Also shot a solid sow out of another mob that I thought could have been a boar as she fed half a body deep in diggings. Turns out she wasn't - happy nonetheless.



Spied a good mob of fallow feeding out in the clear a first light one morning. After glassing them for long enough to get a bead on their path back to cover, I dropped through a big gully and came on the best buck as he approached the bush. He soon bedded under a fallen

tree. Wind was good, so I dropped my gear and slipped in behind him, to deliver a killing arrow through his heart from about 15 metres. He went about 40 before falling. Stoked with my second biggest fallow to date - an old brute with heavily worn teeth and some busted points from fighting. He stretched the tape at 233 1/8 DS.



Final Wrap-Up and 2023 Awards Information

Firstly, sincere apologies from us and the committee for the lack of correspondence and long wait between newsletters over the last 12 months. It's hard to believe that our lives just seem to keep getting busier and us more time poor, but this is no excuse, we will make an effort to get more regular newsletters out going forward.

It's about a month now until the 2023 TT awards which as Steve mentioned in his Chairman's Report will be held on Leigh and Alex Cragg's property "Burilda Park" which is located at 370 Meadows Road, The Meadows NSW 2787. A flyer with accommodation info follows the newsletter.

Burilda Park is best accessed from the west via Oberon (about 12km) or from the east via Lithgow (about 50 km). Google maps instructions for these are provided at the end of this newsletter.

We really encourage all members to make an effort to attend the awards weekend and bring family and friends along as well. It should be an awesome weekend and there will also be targets set up to have a shot or two. As usual the formal awards will be held on the Saturday night along with a lamb on the spit for dinner.

If anyone has any questions regarding the awards please reach out to us via the email address below or send us a message on Facebook.

As always - 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 628
GOULBURN NSW 2580**

Email enquiries and newsletter contributions:

info2@trophytakers.org

All the best and hope to see you at the awards!

Paul Southwell & Ben Salleras

Oberon, New South Wales



Bowmen of



the bush

BURILDA PARK PROUDLY PRESENTS

Trophy Takers Awards Weekend 2023
23rd-24th September

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

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Price:
\$150 per
bunk



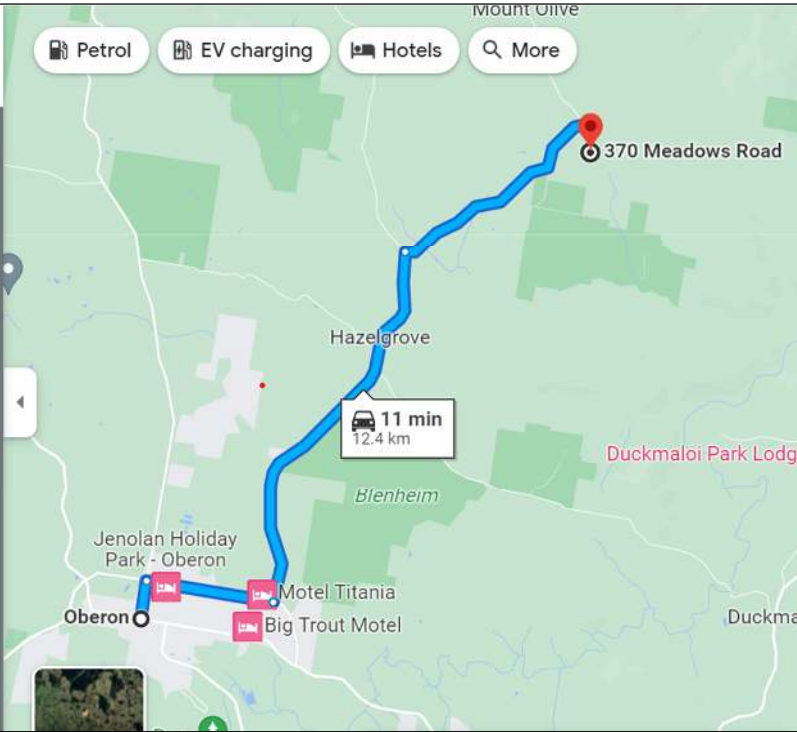
← from Oberon, New South Wales 2787
to 370 Meadows Rd, The Meadows NSW 2787

11 min (12.4 km)   

via Hazelgrove Rd and Meadows Rd
Fastest route now due to traffic conditions

Oberon
New South Wales 2787

- ↑ Head north on North St towards Tallys Ln
600 m
- ↻ At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Albion St
2.0 km
- ← Turn left onto Hazelgrove Rd
6.2 km
- Turn right onto Meadows Rd
3.7 km



← from Lithgow, New South Wales 2790
to 370 Meadows Rd, The Meadows NSW 2787

Lithgow
New South Wales 2790

- > Continue to Mort St/B59
29 sec (130 m)
- > Take Magpie Hollow Rd and Sodwalls Rd to Hazelgrove Rd in Tarana
30 min (30.1 km)
- > Continue on Hazelgrove Rd. Drive to Meadows Rd in The Meadows
20 min (20.4 km)

370 Meadows Rd
The Meadows NSW 2787

