



NEWSLETTER

January – March 2014

TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER

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Game Claim Report 20/03/2014

We have had a smattering of game rated since the last newsletter, with a number of species getting a mention.

Several new members have joined our ranks over the past few months. Ethan Donnelley from Casino, who guides for QLD Bowhunters Lodge, rated a 168 2/8 DS Moluccan Rusa stag he took with a long shot out of his unsighted compound in North QLD. As we do not currently recognize Moluccan rusa as a separate category, the animal was rated in our general rusa ratings list at number 31. Ethan also rated a 29 point boar that he shot back in 2010. Welcome to the club Ethan.

Albury based bowhunter Zoran Art also joined TT with a fallow buck he took with his kids in tow, scoring 187 DS.



Ethan Donnelley with his 168 2/8 DS Moluccan rusa.



Zoran Art scored his 187 DS fallow buck with the kids in tow!

Nice work mate. Our latest member to join is Bruno Feo of Adelaide. He had a good trip with Mick Baker recently, grassing a number of toothy cape boars in the 25-27 DS range. Welcome Bruno.



Bruno Feo's 25 DS Boar



A ripper 27 DS boar taken by Bruno Feo.



25 4/8 DS Boar



25 6/8 DS Boar

Southern NSW bowhunter Randal Sullings rated a few more buff he took back in 2011 in the 80-85 DP range, and he has also been doing his bit for native wildlife more recently arrowing a 6 11/16 DS cat and a 10 5/16 Fox this summer. Also giving the foxes a touch-up has been Gippsland bowhunter Will Ellen, rating two foxes he has taken lately. Will also filled the freezer with a fat Sambar doe, showing his versatility as a bowhunter.

SPB
www.southpacificbowhunter.com



Randal Sullings with his 80 4/8 DS buffalo.



Randal Sullings with his 6 11/16 DS moggy.



Randal Sullings' 85 2/8 DS model.



Randal Sullings' 10 5/16 DS summer fox.



A nice hooky 85 4/8 DS bull for Randal Sullings.



Will Ellen recently scored these two foxes and a sambar hind (intriguing photo there Will!)



The Banteng ratings have had a major shakeup, with two big bulls being taken and rated by good mates Adam Greentree and Ben Chambers on a hunt with Karl Goodhand in Arnhemland. Adam's bull of 68 DS held the number one spot for a few days until Ben sent his forms in to take the new number one spot with his 70 6/8 DS bull. Both exceptional examples of Banteng bull trophies.



Adam Greentree with his 68 DS banteng bull, the new Number 2.



Not to be outdone, Ben Chambers got it done with this magnificent 70 6/8 DS bull, congratulations on the new TT Number 1 Ben!

Paul Southwell also rated a bull he shot back in 2009, scoring 64 6/8 DS and rating at number 3. A re-measure of one of Paul's previously rated bulls due to inconsistent measuring resulted in several extra points being awarded

to the trophy and a new score of 64 DS.



Paul Southwell with his beauty 64 6/8 DS banteng.

Well that's the ratings for this period. There is already talk of some nice animals being taken in this years deer season, so no doubt there will be an influx of trophies rated in the upcoming months.

Cheers,

Mark Southwell

Chairman's Report

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year, I hope all our members had a great Christmas and have already managed to get a few arrows away in a 2014 that is seemingly rapidly disappearing behind us. For those that haven't yet had the opportunity I hope you at least have something planned for the fast approaching rut. Looking good in my area with some good recent rainfall freshening things up after a prolonged dry spell and the stags and bucks becoming active far

earlier than recent years. Good luck to everyone, I think we will have a few members with big smiles on their face and some great stories to tell by the time Anzac Day comes around in 4 or 5 weeks.

A big thank you to Jarrod Vyner, Shannon James and Wayne Anderson for manning our stand at the Wild Deer Expo at Bendigo in early February. My personal appreciation has also been passed on to Kev Daley and Leanne Williams for their great efforts at short notice to get our "Top Ten" corflute signage updated and delivered to the boys down south to compliment what I understand was a small but eye catching TT display for the 14000 or so hunters and observers that passed through the Expo over the two days. Also thanks to Antonio Lara and the SPB crew for allowing us to share their stand over the weekend.

Speaking of the SPB I understand that we will again get good coverage of the 2013 Awards in the next issue (which may well be out and about by the time this Newsletter hits our Website). A special thanks to Ben Salleras for organising the photographic spread for inclusion in the mag and to SPB for their ongoing support in promoting TT's charter of trophy bowhunting.

A big congratulations to Ben Rieth and his partner Emily on the arrival of their first child, a baby girl on 18 February 2014. Ben also purchased a new bow at around the same time that little Josephine arrived into this world and I'm proud and not surprised to say (what can I say, we all know that feeling of bowhunting addiction), that 3

weeks after a pic of his new bub arrived on my iPhone a pic arrives of a smiling Ben with a very good fox, the first victim of his new bow. Well done Ben on both counts.



We have a few things on the go here at TT Central at the moment and I will touch on some of these briefly now to keep members in the loop and also to allow members to give these matters some thought and to allow possible input and involvement at a later date. Progress with these matters will be documented in future newsletters and tabled for discussion, if necessary at our AGM to be held at conclusion of Dartmouth Awards.

Measuring School

I am still working towards a measuring school, here in the Central West of NSW, sooner rather than later, although my suggestion in the last Newsletter that it would be around May/June 2014 now seems unlikely. A few members from all over the place

have expressed an interest in attending (members from anywhere are most welcome) and I will remain mindful when finer details and timing of the event is being locked in that we give travelling members enough time to factor travel and attendance into their yearly planning.

Scrub Bull Ratings

I have had discussion with a good number of members over recent years re the rating of Scrub Bulls with TT.

I personally have no problem with the inclusion of these magnificent game animals within our ratings but only as a second tier rating alongside fox, feral cat, wild dog, bantang, exotic etc once membership has been achieved by the rating of one of our qualifying core animals of Boar, Billy, Buffalo or one of the six species of Aussie deer.

We at TT also understand that some people may have some concerns re public perception of our rating of Scrub Bulls and it is for this reason we will let this matter rest until we raise it as an agenda item at the 2014 AGM for open discussion and vote. Have a think about it!

Traditional Top 10's

As a founding member and long serving Chairman of TT I have always tried to be both publicly impartial and positively supportive of all bowhunters in the gear they choose to take bush in the search for their personal perception of a trophy animal. Anyone

The Bowmen of the Bush

that has seen me do any of the Annual Award presentations will know that I do it with a genuine passion, pride and recognition towards each and every hunter that tops the annual ratings of each of our rateable species, regardless of the bowhunting tackle used by that hunter. I feel that I have maintained this persona and attitude despite the fact that during the late eighties and early nineties there was very little difference between the effectiveness of a top line recurve/longbow and an, at the time, wheel worked sight free compound, to the present day where the top of the line compound seems to be so effective that it does everything but take your pic with the trophy, cape and carry it out for you! Also obviously through all of this period I and others have, by choice, continued to hunt with mixed success with recurves and longbows (i.e. traditional gear) simply for the enjoyment of it and the greater personal appreciation of a trophy once it is on the ground.

Before everyone that is reading this starts to think Dave has lost the plot and by making these comments he is driving a wedge between the various equipment facets of our sports, he is living in the past and needs to “get with” the modern options available to we modern archers, I have got to stress this is not the case. As mentioned in an earlier Newsletter where I went on about more of our members and bowhunters generally facing up to TT’s early catch cry of “answering the challenge” and give the traditional side of our sport a go. It is not at all about a level playing ground

(as even the most naive amongst us would know this is not going to happen in a sport that is so much about personal choices, property access, time constraints and fact that each and every trophy is so rightly in the eye of the achiever) BUT to me the fact that if the more senior people in our sport don’t occasionally pick up the trad gear and promote the extra thrill and challenges of such hunting I think that for the newer people coming into the sport traditional bowhunting will not be seen or given as an option. I can already give many examples of people new to our sport not even given the option by local clubs and retail outlets to try traditional archery.



Wayne Anderson sat his 30 year old compound aside during a recent traditional hunt with Dave Whiting and Jeremy Kelly.

To the credit of our three magazines here in Aussie I must say that they will promote traditional bowhunting when provided with quality material but

unfortunately as traditional hunters become more and more the minority in our sport the less chance there is for such articles to make it to print.

Before I get to the point of these ramblings I would like to make one further point to emphasise that what I have said above is not about having a go per se at the modern compound and those that choose to use it and why in the years ahead if I have the honour of doing future TT Awards I will always give 100% praise and recognition to the successful hunter and trophy irrespective of equipment used.

The point I make is that I am a very active bowhunter and spend some part of most weeks in the bush, frequently by myself but quite often with bowhunters suffering the same addiction. The guys I regularly hunt with use gear that range from basic longbows through to recurve, 30 year old compounds (go Ando) through to the most modern arrow launchers hot off the press. I have always pressed the point that if a bowhunter leaves camp on foot for the days hunt armed only with his archery gear, stamina (which I like to call heart/fortitude and determination), skill and knowledge and returns at the end of the day with the trophy he set out to achieve (under the rules of fair chase) then he or she should be congratulated and applauded irrespective of tackle used. Tackle is only one part of the equation and all I'm alluding to in my writings is that more amongst us stop and think at the commencement of a hunt or the conclusion of a successful hunt and



ask could I have done that with trad gear, could I have got closer, would I have enjoyed the extra challenge etc etc.

More than once I have sat on a mountainous ridge with good mate Adam Greentree, the sun quickly setting knowing we have walked the bush all day, with or without success, leg weary and exhausted and with perhaps another 2 or 3 hours left to walk back to camp in the dark. As we have sat for a breather and to regather our senses for the final push to camp I have found it the opportune time raise the issue with Adam over the somewhat negative and seemingly unfounded criticism he sometimes attracts for his successes and have posed the question of him as to just how uninformed many of these critics are. Sure at the moment Adam hunts with gear that is as high tech as it comes (he is proficient with all types of bows) BUT I can tell you nothing comes any easier for him and he is always first up in camp, always first into the bush, last home and goes that extra mile testing his endurance to the max to get his quarry.

The other thing Adam does to procure his success in the bush is not find excuses for not going hunting and he gets out there and goes hard at every opportunity regardless of the type of bow he has in hand. I have no doubt that Adam would readily agree that the hi-tech gear he uses now has made

the end result of a lot of hard yards a little easier and more certain but does not make walking those hills any easier.

I have used Adam here as my example of the other factors needed for a successful, trophy on the ground, hunt due to his high profile in the sport and the fact that it gives me a chance to a small bowhunting audience, to push the point that he puts the time and effort in as much and mostly more than the many many hundreds of hunters I have hunted with over more than four decades. Being a critic is easy when you know half the facts.

So this year when you step up at the Awards and I shake your hand for the best boar, best goat, buffalo etc rest assured I am full of admiration for what you have achieved with whatever bow you have utilised as I know that I personally as well as my good hunting mates (especially as we get older) and most dedicated bowhunters have pushed in some way past personal endurance to achieve that special trophy.

For my part, and despite some of the above writings I do want to see traditional bowhunting achievements given more recognition via TT and I am leading the push, along with a few mates that have raised the point around a campfire, to introduce a sub rating under BOAR, BUFALLO, BILLY and the six DEER SPECIES for those animals harvested with trad gear to have their own TOP TEN list.

This will be initially done using existing photographic records, Committees

knowledge of the harvest and old rating forms where still available. Once compiled we will get members via a newsletter request to check the list to see if we have missed them on the list OR if they have an unregistered traditional trophy at home that would like to rate and have included in the traditional top ten lists.

I am then hoping that the new lists will then spark the competitive nature in some of our members to “answer the challenge” pick up a stick bow and go out and see if they can make it onto the list. Some of our members and many of my mates already hunt a mix of trad and modern and I would love to see more of our members multi skilled in this area and spreading the word on the joys of traditional bowhunting.



Manuel Agius and Dave Whiting recently caught up with Ian Fenton and took the opportunity to get a photo with our founding Chairman. They are pictured with the Bill Hill designed and constructed perpetual Traditional Trophy named in honour of Ian. Both Manuel and Dave are

proud past winners of the prestigious award.

By the way a big well done to Rod Lowe who appeared in our last Newsletter with a great boar he knocked over with a longbow he made himself. How good is that?



Six Perpetual Deer Trophies

The following people have let me know that they would like to be involved as sponsors on one of the six trophies we are soon to get struck. Some of those listed will sponsor on a shared basis with others on the list. Let me know if I have missed your name. Also don't forget to send pics in that you might have of the six deer species as they may be useful as the template/silhouette on each of the trophies.

Ian Fenton, Manuel Agius, Ben Salleras, Paul and Ros Hardie, Jarrod Vyner, Mick Kernaghan, Rod Collings, Paul Southwell, Will Ellen and Marc Curtis.

Thanks guys for providing this commitment to an important part of TT's Annual Trophy recognition agenda.

Well I think I have said enough for this issue. Please start planning now for the Dartmouth Awards, good hunting and go safe,

Dave Whiting

Chairman

Pig's Pad

with Chris Hervert

That time on the hunting calendar again, the rut! How good is it, I love to hunt all forms but this is my number one time of year. I wonder if I will be able to capitalise on the couple I let walk last year, at least that chance is there I guess. Success or not they in all likelihood have grown bigger and better this season.

This year I have some new country to scout and things look promising. I love putting all the pieces of the puzzle together, exploring new areas and experiencing the little bit of excitement you get when you find rubs, scat or other sign. You now know the deer are there you just need to get in their way at some stage. What I find interesting is that sometimes you have to think outside the square, for example this new country has miles of open pasture bordering heavy bush, the obvious place to start right. Well a few forays into this area and yes there was sign but not what I expected, a rethink had me checking out the recently created 'bomb zone' that was the harvested pine plantation. Bingo the best sign of all, animals! There is something in there they like so for now

we have zone to focus our efforts, that's a good start.

Good to see the NSW State Forests opened up again, I know a lot of hunters depend on them for access to do what they love. I have spoken before about the benefits of this system as not only access for hunters but a vehicle for the government of the day to see how many hunters there actually are. Get involved it's all positive!

Lastly Huntfest 2014, go to the website and support this event. I know the local organisers copped flack from the extreme greens so any show of support is a positive. Maybe Trophy Takers could even have stand there, worth a thought.

<http://huntfest.com.au/>

Happy Rutting all!!

Chris Hervert



Wild Deer Expo 2014

by Jarrod Vyner

G'day all,

Thought I'd better give a bit of an update after the expo in Bendigo on

the weekend. It was the Wild Deer Hunting and Guiding Expo, and Antonio Lara kindly offered us a part of the South Pacific Bowhunter stand.



Wayne Anderson, Shannon James and myself set up and manned the stand for most of the weekend. I believe numbers were down from the last expo, but I did hear there were 14000 people through the door. Our banners added nicely to the whole set up, and I think we might have gained two membership inquiries by the end of it all. The TT stickers we gave away were a big success too.



It was really good to have our name associated with the rest of the traders within Ant's booth, and I think a couple of these guys will venture to our awards this year.



drama with my bow I eventually made it to the guesthouse. Went to bed at about 2am and set the alarm for 6am.

Tuesday 18th Feb 2014

Got up early and headed west in my hire car, destination: Hokitika. After travelling for an hour or so through flat farming country, I hit the mountains. Scenery was sensational. Passed several ski resorts which must only operate in the winter – I only saw one small patch of snow.



It was also discussed with the owner of Bushbow 3D targets about possibly sponsoring us for a couple of raffle prizes this year. So in all it was a great catch up weekend, that true to TT standards, ran very late into the night. We managed to promote the Trophy Takers name amongst plenty of hunters.....hopefully for all the right reasons!

Jarrold Vyner

By the time I hit the small village of Arthur's Pass, the rain really started to pelt down. Mountains were absolutely massive and the steep rocky creeks were all gushing.

Journal Notes – Summer Chamois

by Ben Salleras

Monday 17th Feb 2014

I flew out of Brisbane at 6:00pm, direct to Christchurch. Arrived in Christchurch at midnight, after a bit of



Suddenly amongst the mist and rain I could see huge breakers in the distance, smashing into the west coast. Another 20 minutes later and I was in Hokitika, not as big as I expected.

I fuelled the car up, dropped it off at the airport, and was met by Marcus Pinney not long after. We checked out a hunting store, got some supplies from the supermarket, then headed south to his deer farm and home just outside Whataroa, an hour south.



We arrived around lunchtime, I met his wife Raewyn and their two daughters. After unpacking and settling into my room, we got our fishing gear and hunting gear organised. First stop was Marcus' favourite fishing hole, on the Okarito River. It reminded me of a deep pool in the Bulgun Creek up at home.

We flicked spinners for 2 hours or so, without any strikes. Salmon season had not long commenced, and Marcus was confident there'd be a few moving up the river to spawn.

We took off for the afternoon hunt, first stop was a small clearing next to the same river, only 100m off the main road. Much to both of our surprise

there was a mature doe and kid casually feeding next to the river. Neither had spooked so we backed out in the vehicle and got prepared for a stalk.

I crawled up to the last bit of grassy cover and ranged the doe – 42m. This was too easy! I let fly and heard the arrow hiss into the grass – a clean miss. They spooked and were out of there in a flash.

We continued on, and headed up into a river system. There was a pretty rough 4WD track up along the flats of the river bed. We glassed a few clearings, but to no avail. We headed over to a big slip on the western side where a major creek hit the river. The rain was fairly solid. We got to the slip and I spotted a lone chamois about halfway up the slip. A plan was hatched and we got over to the other side of the river. Wet boots soon became the norm!

The chamois was a smallish buck. Bastard spotted us at about 80m, Marcus played decoy while I ducked into the extremely thick fern scrub and slowly climbed my way up the slip. Suddenly I saw the buck pop onto a little clear knob about 40m away, at a 45 degree angle up above. I couldn't move as I was covered in fern fronds. After waiting a while he eventually disappeared back over the ledge. I quickly worked my way up through the thick stuff, and then spotted him contouring around the other side of the slip. I quickly ranged him at 45m, let one fly but I flinched at the shot (dropped bow arm) and the arrow hit the ground below him. After such a

stalk I was pissed off with the shot. At least we'd seen a few on the first afternoon!

Wednesday 19th Feb 2014

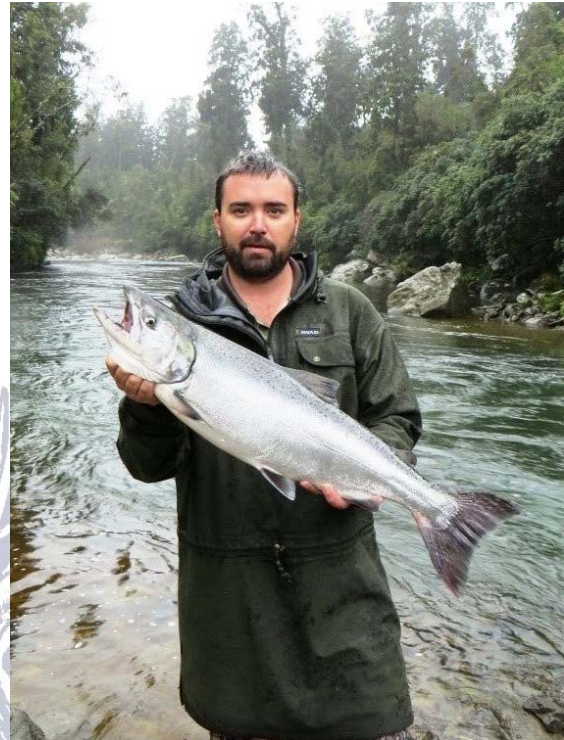
We drove down to Franz Josef and parked literally 300m off the main street. Headed up along a public walking track along a river called the Tatare. We check out a few grassy banks and some big slips, but saw nothing but a few sets of fresh tracks. It was raining quite heavily which was possibly keeping them in cover a bit.

We decided to go for a fish at the same spot we'd visited on the first afternoon. We flicked spinners for a few hours as the rain continued. We worked the hole over and over, the most action I got was seeing massive eel swim past.

Then suddenly, BANG, right in the middle of the turbulent water in front of me, it was on!! The salmon fought real hard, very interesting trying to fight a pelagic-style fish in a freshwater creek! The fight lasted at least 5 minutes, dodged a few rocks and finally got him into the bank. Marcus was just as stoked as me, and I was buzzing!

We fished a big longer then headed home. We filleted the 10lb fish and marinated some of the prime fillets in brown sugar and salt, for smoking later.

We prepared for an overnigher into Marcus' honey-hole, on a river down to the south. He told me this would be our best chance to nail one.



We choppered out of the hangar at about 4pm. The flight was insane, along the wide, braided section of the river, then along the rough-as-guts western coastline. We spotted a mob of about 12 chamois feeding out on the river flats amongst the gorse thickets. Chased them in the chopper for a laugh and got some cool footage.



We were dropped on a nice clearing overlooking the river (which was basically gorse thickets), and set up camp. We chilled for an hour or so before setting off downstream for a

hunt. We crossed the flowing river several times, getting sopping wet boots was the norm here! We saw quite a few sets of tracks, but no chamois.



We'd forgotten to shut the tent door that afternoon, when I finally crawled into bed after a few rums and yarns the tent was absolutely jam packed with mozzies and super sandflies. Had a pretty crap night's sleep, they were relentless!! Luckily we had some Aeroguard.

Thursday 20th Feb 2014

I was super excited to get going the next morning, Marcus had talked this place up big time. We set off upstream, seeing a few sets of tracks but no chamois. The creek was beautiful, again it reminded me a lot of the creeks at home around Tully.

We eventually reached the main clearings and very slowly and meticulously stalked our way through. It all looked perfect, but they just weren't there.

We headed back downstream and ducked up a side creek that Marcus

knew held a few chamois. We climbed up through the slippery rocks for about 20 minutes, when Marcus suddenly froze and looked back at me with that look of 'shit there's one right there!' I took a few careful steps, and spotted one feeding about 15m away on the slip above us. It looked like a kid to me, so I stayed still, searching for movement amongst the regrowth, hoping to see a bigger one. A few seconds later, right in front of me, I spotted a chamois feeding front on, in the thick stuff at around 5m. I got a good look at its horns, both were rotted off. She was an old doe, and didn't impress me enough to warrant a shot at this stage of the game, so I didn't draw. Seconds later she happened to look up, spotted me, and took off with her kid. There were no others with them.



We made our way back to camp, only seeing a young goat. The chamois were very quiet, this was the fewest

Marcus had ever seen during a walk into this particular spot.

We chilled out through the middle of the day, read a few Kiwi magazines and told some yarns, before the chopper arrived at about 4pm. We were treated to an amazing scenic flight over Franz Josef glacier and the surrounding mountains – simply surreal. Saw a couple of chamois up high near the glacier, including a good buck.

On the way back home we dropped into one of the rivers we'd visited earlier in the hunt. We drove further up this time, parking the car at about 6pm.

Not 2 minutes up the track, I spotted 2 chamois out feeding about 200m out front to the right. We worked our way in closer, and I was expecting to pinpoint them any second when suddenly one darted out from the bushes about 40m in front. It was all over before it started!! Bloody wind must have chopped slightly, they definitely hadn't seen us.

We continued up the river, which swung to the left. A big side creek to our sharp left held some promising looking slips. We glassed one major slip, coming up empty. We headed on to get a better look at the 2nd slip. We glassed it for a bit and saw nothing. I moved to my right a bit so I could just see a little bit more of the slip – then bang, a big orange chamois feeding by itself! We quickly climbed up the creek to a good vantage point. We glassed the animal, and Marcus confirmed it to be a nice 9 ½" buck.



I swung into action, and climbed like a monkey up through a gnarly, twisted thick patch of scrub to get to the ledge up above us. From there it was an easy stalk through a moist, silent forest. I eventually popped out right above him at 20m. I had all the time in the world to prepare for the shot. The wind was steady, and the buck was happy browsing below me. I watched him feed for about 5 minutes, taking in this incredible moment. I eventually decided to shoot when he gave me a good broadside shot. Settling the top pin low on his chest, I let fly, only to watch the arrow smash into the rocks around his feet. He bounded up the slip straight towards me, disappearing as he got too close to the ledge I was perched on.

I frantically tried to find him, but he snuck out one side of the slip and disappeared forever.

I was shattered, and struggled to work out how I'd stuffed up such a sitter shot. It was a solemn walk back to the truck, I felt bad for Marcus as he'd had the last 2 bowhunters do this also!

Friday 21st Feb 2014

For the morning hunt we headed back up to the Tatara for a look. Once

again there were fresh tracks but no chamois.

We walked up a track towards the glacier and climbed right up high into 2 steep creeks. There was a bit of sign, but no chamois around.

In the afternoon we tried 'Black Poll Creek', walking in from the main road. There was a fair bit of fresh deer sign up this creek. We walked up the creek for about an hour, onto some good looking slips. We waited for a while, nothing showed, and the rain clouds moved in low down, so we headed out. It rained pretty heavily throughout the evening.



Saturday 22nd Feb 2014

Marcus had gained permission to drive through a bloke's property down the road, to hunt some old logging tracks up the back in the bush. We got in

there fairly early, there was chamois sign everywhere. The rain was still coming down steadily, which seemed to have them holed up in the cover.

After we hunted one smaller section of track, Marcus had to leave for a work commitment back at the farm, and left me to continue hunting the remaining country. I silently stalked along, weary of any signs of life as I passed each bend in the track. About 1km up the grassy track, which was surrounded by thick scrub in every direction, I heard a rustle in the ferns right next to me. Suddenly a few metres in front, a doe popped her head out of the fern thicket. I put on the old 'let's see how slowly I can get an arrow out', but she caught the slight movement at such close range and bounded down the track. In a split second I came to full draw and squeaked with my lips, pulling her up broadside at 25m. The shot was perfect and she barely made it into the scrub.



I took a few quick photos and continued on, wondering what could be around the next corner. The rain had stopped and the conditions felt just right.

I ended up seeing another 6 or 8 chamois for the morning, all does and kids, but there were a couple of good ones amongst them.

I eventually got to the dead end at the end of the track, and started the walk back. I met up with Marcus back where I started, we got some photos of my hornless chamois (horn rot is very common on the west coast) and headed for home. We skinned out my chamois and left her to hang. Was good to get some runs on the board.



After lunch and a bit of chill time we headed out again, this time up the main river again to see if the big buck had returned. Literally 2 minutes after leaving the vehicle, and in an incredible repeat of what had happened a few days earlier, I spotted a lone animal out feeding on the flats to our right. I handed Marcus the video and we started the stalk.

I got in behind some low bushes and got into 40m or so fairly easily. I peered around the bush I was behind, and spotted the chamois feeding towards us. All of a sudden, she decided to walk right over towards us, barely giving me time to prepare and draw. She walked straight up to us and stopped at about 8m when she identified the 2 large alien shapes in front of her. Too late, WHACK! She ran off but didn't make it far after a quick follow-up shot, it was over in less than 30 seconds.

While not a true trophy chamois, she was still a nice representative animal and a definite improvement on the first one. I was bloody stoked and on a real high.



We put her in the ute and continued up the valley. The buck I missed hadn't reappeared on his slip. We ventured further, checking out more slips and side creeks. There was sign everywhere, but no animals to be seen.

We did see a Blue Duck, which are quite rare, float down a set of rapids, really cool to see.



Sunday 23rd Feb 2014

After some fairly serious celebrations the night before, we had a slightly later start on our final morning, but the timing was good as it had been raining early in the morning.

We walked up the same tracks as the morning prior, hoping to chance upon a buck, and again saw quite a few chamois – around 8 or so. All were does and kids, no shooters. I did hit a hare but he made it back into the thick gorse scrub. We got some great close-up footage of chamois, including a young kid. But no bucks presented, and my hunt came to an end.



It was a 2 hour operation to remove all the grass seeds and 'biddy-bids' from my boots and camo. We had to rush to get to my plane, which was delayed in the end so no problems there.

Great trip all round, and a good taste of NZ hunting and fishing. There'll be plenty more to come, can't wait to get back there!



Newsletter Contributions

Our favourite time of the year is finally here! The incredible sights and sounds of the rut and roar will be enjoyed by many over the coming weeks. The hunting of Fallow and Red deer seems to be gaining in popularity as each year goes by, and the TT trophy listings for these species is a good indicator of the trophy quality we've been amongst over the last 5 or so years. The boundaries just seem to keep getting pushed that bit further every year. It is exciting to think what

calibre of trophies will be claimed this year!

The Hog Deer season is also almost upon us, so best of luck to any of you who may be lucky enough to be chasing these fascinating critters this season.

Remember to have your trophies scored and registered as early as possible, to ensure eligibility for the Annual Awards. You should know by now that this year's Awards weekend will be held at Dartmouth Dam, with the Albury-Wodonga crew taking on hosting duties. It is shaping up to be a cracker and will hopefully be supported by a good attendance.

We are in need of your hunting stories! All members, new and old, young and not-so-young, are encouraged to put pen to paper and submit your stories for the newsletter. We appreciate all of your contributions. Stories can be as short or long as you like, and accompanying photos are good to have. If you've been on a hunt lately and have a yarn to tell, please make the effort and share the tale with the rest of the Trophy Takers crew.

As usual, if you have any merchandise enquiries, please give Shane Dupille a call on 0406 013 130.

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**

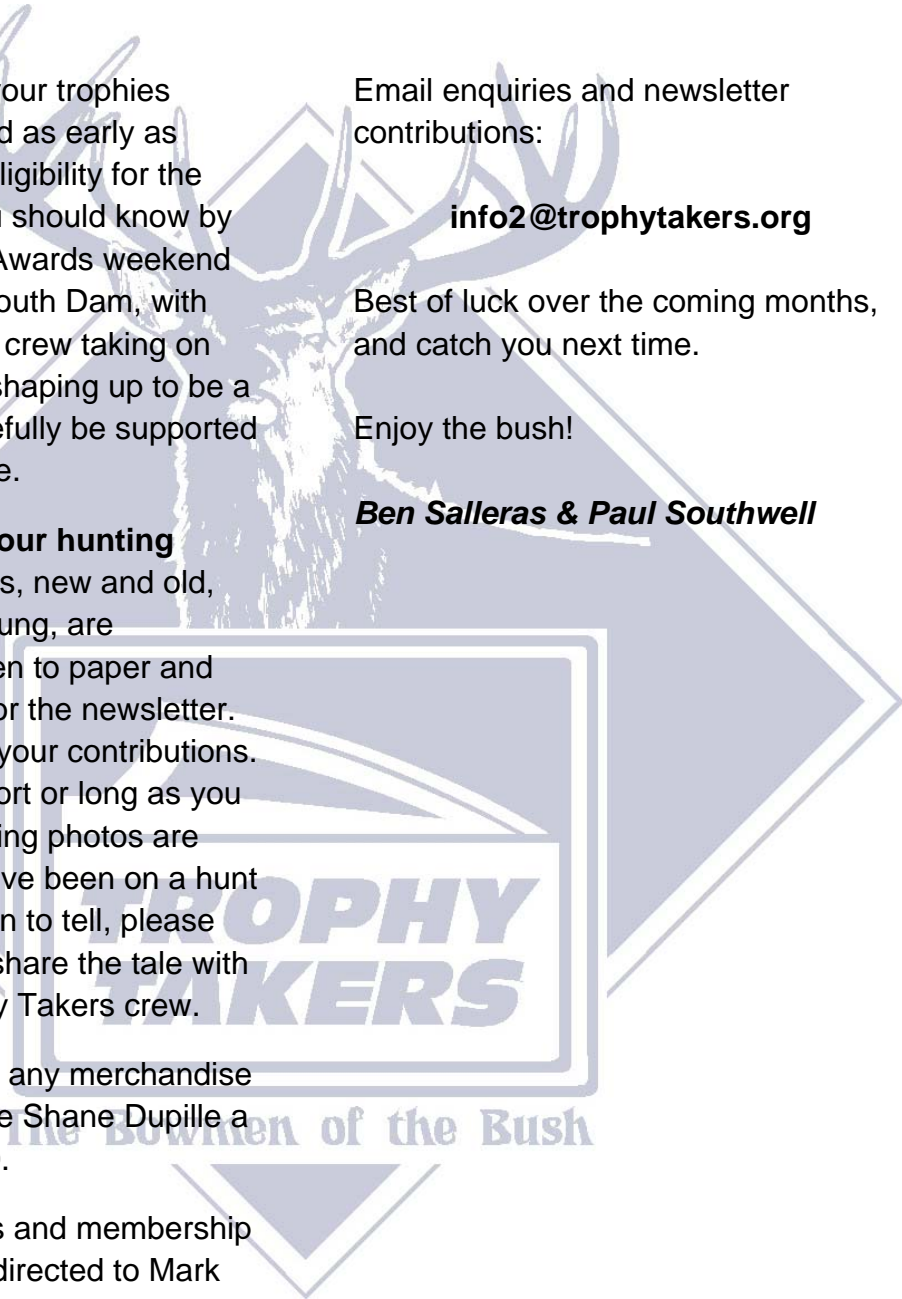
Email enquiries and newsletter contributions:

info2@trophytakers.org

Best of luck over the coming months, and catch you next time.

Enjoy the bush!

Ben Salleras & Paul Southwell





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)

BCY 452X String Material (* Low Wax Available)



BCY Trophy String Material



BCY 8190 String Material (* Low Wax Available)



B50 String Material



BCY Serving Material 2X, 3D, Halo .14

