



NEWSLETTER

November 2021

TROPHY TAKERS NEWSLETTER

November 2021

In this issue:

- **Game Claim Report** - *Steve Dimitrakellis*
- **Pig's Pad** - *Chris Hervert*
- **Chairman's Report** - *Mark Southwell*
- **Newsletter Contributions and Wrap-Up**

Game Claim Report

With Steve Dimitrakellis

Hey Everyone, time seems to be flying by, and it's already been too long between newsletters. The good news is that the Trophy Takers crew just keep taking absolute world class game.

Ben Salleras has moved back out to Chinchilla, and returned from a new property with a few nice Western Queensland Billies that went 105 4/8 and 105 5/8 DS and 107 DS, along with his fantastic Chital Stag that went 182 3/8 DS. A previous trip to the Cobourg Peninsula also paid dividends with a great looking Banteng of 68 2/8 DS.

Accompanying him on the trip was Tom Miranda, who some of you would have met at the Awards at Bathurst. He has joined Trophy Takers to rate some of his South Pacific game, Tom managed himself a very nice Banteng Bull of 62 2/8 DS and a cracking Boar of 30 2/8 despite having one tusk 2

inches shorter. Well done Tom, and welcome aboard!



Ben Salleras got amongst some local goats during the 2020 travel restrictions, with three nice billies around the 105 DS mark. Earlier in 2020 he fulfilled a 25-year dream and nailed a 180+ chital stag.



going 10 6/16 DS. Mark Wills has rated a very nice Fallow Buck that scored 221 6/8, and Tobie Hynes is on fire with the Recurve lately and managed his PB boar of 27 4/8 DS.



Dan Podubinski has been getting amongst the foxes again lately, this one scoring 10 6/16 DS.



A very respectable fallow buck taken by Mark Wills in 2020, this one scoring 221 6/8 DS.



Tom Miranda joins the Trophy Takers ranks with his Cobourg double! Ben was lucky enough to get out for a sneaky last-minute walk and took his PB Banteng with Tom and his fiancé Marcela watching on.



Dedicated traditional hunter Tobie Hynes took this very fine NSW mountain boar, a new PB measuring 27 4/8 DS. Outstanding effort Tobie!

Dan Podubinski has been giving the local Foxes a helluva time lately, rating three this time, with the best of those

Shane "Raghead" Dupille scored a couple of trophies from his trip North to Strathburn. His big old Scrub Bull went 47 6/8 DS despite missing half a horn.

He also rated his PB Boar of 26 2/8 DS from the same trip to Strathburn. A proper 100kg+ Boar that he had a running battle with and may or may not have used most of his arrows while being chased around a stand of suckers for half an hour whilst getting bowled over by him (did somebody mention the Legend award?).



As can be seen clearly in the intensity of his facial expression, Raghead went absolutely full steam during a recent trip up to Strathburn, taking his first scrubber and also his PB boar of 26 2/8. Top shelf Shane!

Lonnie Broekman has been into the Mountain Boars, getting a pair of crackers that scored 28 4/8 and 29 6/8 DS. Well done mate, those big fellas don't come easy.



Lonnie Broekman has had an amazing run on the mountain boars, recently taking this pair of crackers scoring 28 4/8 and 29 6/8 DS!

Paul Southwell has been amongst the big bovines of the NT once again, and has rated a very good Buffalo Bull of 91 2/8 and a great Scrub Bull of 65 2/8.





Paul Southwell with a pair of ripper NT bovines, a 91 2/8 DS sweeper buff and a very solid 65 2/8 DS red bull.

The 2020 Rusa rut was a busy one for members. Jeremy Kelly managed a great looking Velvet Rusa with his longbow. Once he stripped the antlers, they went 187 3/8 DS. Shannon James headed to the South Coast of NSW and scored his PB Rusa stag of 185 4/8. When Rusa are mentioned, Mark Wills is usually in on the action, and Willsy also managed a heavy old stag that went 194 7/8 DS.

The Queensland Rusa were also on song, with Elissa Rosemond taking a battle-scarred stag that scored 198 6/8 DS - the largest taken with a bow by a female - Well done Liss! Mick Law got in on the action too, with a cracker 206 3/8 DS stag, then headed north to the cape where he bagged several good boars, the best scoring 26 2/8 and a cranky 50 DS Scrub Bull.



Staunch traditional hunter Jezza Kelly with a very nice hard velvet rusa stag that scored 187 3/8 DS.



Shannon James also got amongst the stags during the 2020 rusa rut, taking this beautiful 185 4/8 DS model.



Veteran rusa stalker Willsy with another ripper South Coast stag to add to the collection, this one measuring 194 7/8 DS.



Elissa Rosemond with a fantastic Queensland rusa stag measuring out at 198 6/8 DS – the largest ever recorded for a lady bowhunter!



Mick Law had a great trip to North Queensland, taking a 206 3/8 DS rusa stag, as well as a great boar and scrubber combination on Cape York. Well done Mick!

The Junior members have also been out, hitting the hills, with Stephen Robinson scored a solid mountain Boar that scored 18 6/8 DS and Charlie Payne managed time out from winning Rugby League premierships to rate a swag of game including a 94 1/8 Billy, 143 DS Fallow and a cracking 7 13/16 Feral Cat. Well done lads, looks like a couple of Bowhunting Dads will have some serious competition which is great to see.

Dan Podubinski headed out to the red soil country and bagged a couple of very good billies, scoring 115 6/8 & 120 DS along with another great Fox of 10 3/8 DS.



Junior TT member Stephen Robinson (above) with a chunky boar measuring 18 6/8 DS, way to go mate!



Charlie Payne is never far away from the action, recently taking a great billy; a nice chocolate fallow buck, as well as a huge 7 13/16 DS feral cat! Good on ya mate!



Jack Spinks managed to orchestrate a drop off of his Red Stag from earlier this year to get it scored despite the NSW/Vic border closure. It turned out to be well worth the trouble with the huge stag getting panel measured at a massive 347 5/8 DS. This stag now sits at number 3 on the rankings and is truly an outstanding trophy, Well Done Jack.



Shane McNaughton got some altitude and managed to sneak an arrow into a Sambar Stag that scored 138 7/8 DS, and Shannon James also got amongst the big brown deer and managed a 142 1/8 DS Sambar Stag. While I didn't find a Sambar to shoot myself, I did find one that someone else had got and there was a decent dog Fox having a chew on the carcass. I managed to slip one in him and was wrapped to have my first Fox that scored 10 DS on the dot



Jack Spinks with one of the finest trophies to have been taken with a bow in Australian history – a 347 5/8 DS Red Stag.

KILLER BOW STRINGS
www.killerbowstrings.com



Ratings Director Steve Dimitrakellis caught this 10 DS fox snacking on a sambar carcass, before quickly dispatching him with his longbow!



Shane McNaughton's efforts in the hills were paid off with this solid 138 7/8 DS sambar stag, great work mate!

For the 2021 rut and roar, I'll start off with the Fallow - and first up is Junior Bowhunter Stephen Robinson, with a hard-earned Fallow buck of 151 2/8. Great to see, well done. Peter Morphett is back giving the local Fallow a hard time, with a great buck of 222 3/8, Randal Sullings got in on the action with a 207 6/8 buck and Shannon James keeps producing the goods on his local Red Deer herd with a solid 6x5 stag that scored 236 4/8.



One of our most consistently successful deer hunters across multiple species, Shannon James, with his recent 142 1/8 DS sambar stag.

BOWMANS
 TAXIDERMY



Young Stephen Robinson with his 151 2/8 DS fallow buck, great work mate!



Armed with a mo and a bow, Shannon James got his Red Deer fix this year with a very solid 236 4/8 DS 6x5 stag.



Great to see Peter Morphett behind a nice fallow buck once again! This buck taken during the 2021 rut scored 222 3/8 DS.



Randal Sullings got amongst the local fallow and scored with this lovely 207 6/8 DS model.

A few people were able to get the double done with both Red and Fallow over the Autumn. Paul Southwell managed to swap the Darwin heat for some cooler mornings and came away with a 220 Fallow and a 250 3/8 Red. Elissa Rosemond managed her first Red stag, and did it in style, with a very even 7x7 that scored 275 2/8 and followed up with a 191 7/8 Fallow. Dan Podubinski did well out of the rut, with a great pair of Fallow bucks scoring 216 5/8 and 236 5/8, and a big Closed Range Red stag of 324 1/8. Mark Wills had put a lot of time into a particular Fallow, and caught up with him in the end. The buck scored 240 6/8 and Willsy also managed another Fallow the same day that went 235. He also scored himself a brute of a Red stag scoring 296 2/8.



Paul Southwell had a blinder in the New England this year, taking out a perfect pair: a 250+ DS red stag and a 220 DS fallow buck!



Dan Podubinski got into plenty of action during the rut, taking a couple of fallow including this 236 5/8 DS bruiser, as well as an estate red stag scoring 324 1/8 DS.



Willis has been amongst more quality fallow and reds than most, but 2021 will surely go down as one of the most memorable ruts. Pure class all round – 240 DS; 235 DS and 296 2/8 DS respectively. Absolutely amazing mate!



Elissa Rosemond also achieved a dream double during the 2021 rut – opening her red deer account with this magnificent 275 2/8 DS stag plus a 191 7/8 DS fallow!





Riethy put in the hard yards with his Thunderchild and came up trumps with this terrific 153 7/8 DS rusa stag.



Scott Meadows sits proudly with his beautiful chital stag scoring 184 6/8 DS.

Ben Rieth rated his Rusa stag from last year's Roar, that he rolled with his trusty Thunderchild Longbow. The neat 25" stag scoring 153 7/8. Scott Meadows, headed north to the Basalt country and scored himself a beautiful 184 6/8 DS Chital stag from the iconic Toomba Station. Jason Frost spent some time again on the Hog Deer, and once again came up trumps with a nice 68 4/8 stag.

Dan Podubinski has continued to give the local Foxes a hard time, with two 10 1/16 and a 10 3/16 to show for his whistling skills, along with a solid 7 11/16 Feral Cat. The Darwin crew continue to get out and about, with Greg Hilton scoring himself a PB Wild Dog of 13 10/16, while Paul Southwell managed a 93 2/8 Buffalo, 7 6/16 Feral Cat and a 29 4/8 Boar.

The Bowmen of the Bush

TREVOR WILLIS
TAXIDERM Y



Jason Frost scored once again this Hog Deer season, taking this nice 68 4/8 DS stag.



Dan Podubinski has been doing a terrific job cleaning up a range of native-killers, great work mate!



Greg Hilton scored on a great sized wild dog, scoring 13 10/16 DS.



Stag of 169 3/8 DS. Welcome aboard fellas, and well done to everyone, once again – some absolute top class trophies.



A big welcome to new members Luke Meyers (above) and Tom Jansen (below), who joined in style with a 92 DS buffalo and a 169 3/8 DS sambar stag respectively.



Pauly Southwell scored on a nice trio of NT ferals, including a 93 2/8 DS buffalo, 7 6/16 moggy and a ripper 29 4/8 DS boar.

Then there was Lachlan Lewis of Goulburn joining Trophy Takers with an excellent Fallow buck from this year's rut that scored 237 1/8 DS. Jake Gasparovski from Toowoomba way rated some great deer from 2018 – a 269 6/8 Red stag, and a cracking 225 4/8 Rusa, along with a 207 7/8 DS Fallow buck taken in 2017. Corey Nash from the Gladstone region enters

Then there are some new members to welcome to Trophy Takers. Luke Meyers and Tom Jansen of Darley, Victoria. Luke has rated a solid 92 DS Buffalo, and Tom a cracking Sambar

the ratings in style with a cracking 103 2/8 DS Buffalo taken in 2017 and the new Number 1 Banteng taken last August that scored 73 4/8 DS. Well done guys, and welcome to Trophy Takers.



Active bowhunter Lachlan Lewis (above) joins the TT ranks with a beautiful 237 1/8 DS fallow buck. Welcome to TT mate!



Jake Gasparovski has been around the traps for quite a while and recently joined TT with three exceptional deer: a 269 6/8 DS QLD red stag; a 225 4/8 DS rusa stag, plus a 207 7/8 DS fallow buck. Welcome aboard mate!



Corey Nash also joined our ranks in 2021, registering one of each of his growing collection of bovines. Corey's buffalo scores 103 2/8 DS and his banteng takes out the Number 1 position scoring 73 4/8 DS! Rumour has it he may have even bettered this banteng in recent weeks!

Ben McCulloch was lucky enough to draw a coveted ballot spot on Snake Island, Victoria and made the most of his opportunity by taking an incredible 15 inch Hog Deer stag that scores 96 6/8 DS and sits at #2 in the ratings.

This stag was shot in the 7th period of the ballot, meaning six other groups of rifle hunters had been there prior, and Ben's stag being the first taken with the bow from Snake Island. Outstanding achievement, well done Ben.



An extremely special moment for Ben McCulloch – the taking of a 15” Snake Island Hog Deer. Ben’s stag measures out at 96 6/8 DS and takes the Number 2 position. Congratulations on one very special deer mate!

The Junior Bowhunters are having a great year, and great to see quite a few rating trophies this year. Phoenix Dimitrakellis tagged along with me during the rut, and made the most of his chance at some goats we found. He managed to get his first bow kill on a young Billy that went 32 2/8 to join Trophy Takers. Orbin Wilde managed to score himself a ripper Billy from Western Australia, the 38 incher scoring 116 2/8 DS becoming his new PB. Charlie Payne has once again been busy, rating a billy of 80 1/8 and a brace of Fallow bucks including his new personal best (149 4/8 & 201 1/8 DS). Well done lads.



A huge congratulations to Phoenix Dimitrakellis on his first bow kill! The first of many no doubt! We all look forward to seeing your future adventures Phoenix!



If he hasn't already, it won't be long before Orbin Wilde starts to outshine his old man on the bowhunting scene. Orbin recently took this cracker 116 2/8 DS billy, awesome work mate!



Charlie Payne with another great billy, this one scoring 80 1/8 DS.



Charlie Payne sits proudly with his new PB fallow buck scoring 201 1/8 DS.

The Top End crew have been getting out, with Allan Karaitiana covering plenty of kilometres before taking a nice 29 DS Camel Bull, and Greg Hilton rewarded for his efforts with a ripper 100 4/8 Buffalo. Greggo managed to get away prior to the Rusa rut and absolutely nailed it, with 3 Rusa stags scoring between 213-216 DS, all making the Top 10 in the ratings.

Greggo got amongst some quality rusa deer in 2021, taking out not 1 but 3 Top 10 stags in the process! You never cease to amaze us mate! He also nailed a 100 4/8 DS buffalo.



Allan Karaitiana ventured into the desert to hunt camels this year, taking out a cracker 29 DS bull.



Ben Chambers managed to track down yet another 40 inch Billy on the rugged West Coast, with the 42 incher going 125 1/8 DS and Dan Ferguson scored himself a very neat Fallow of 224 DS during the rut. Leigh Cragg took a monster 13 point Red stag in

the Roar that scored 303 2/8 DS. Nick Peterson found the Grandfather of all Mountain Boars fighting over a sow with two others, and managed to slip an arrow into the 34 4/8 monster.



Ben Chambers put in the hard yards to locate this lovely 42" billy scoring 125 1/8 DS, an absolute cracker!



Dan Ferguson got amongst the action during the rut, taking this lovely 224 DS chocolate buck.



Nick Peterson is all smiles with the equal Number 7 boar of all time! A truly amazing animal mate, well done!



Leigh Cragg joins the 300 Club with his gorgeous 2021 Red Stag. Congratulations on yet another incredible bowhunting milestone mate!



Shannon James with his new PB billy scoring 121 DS, not a bad consolation prize during a fox hunt!

Shannon James made the most of a hunt with his young fella, as his Fox whistling was interrupted by a mob of goats. A cracker Billy was among them and Shan managed to take his PB Billy of 121 DS, well done.

Rodney Collings also took out his PB Billy, with the big fella stretching the tape to 39 7/8" spread and a score of

119 DS. Rodney also registered a 103 DS billy taken the same trip.

Mark Southwell and James Warne have been giving the local red coats a hard time, with Warney scoring a 9 11/16 Fox and Maxy a pair that went 10 2/16 and 9 14/16, with all three having great pelts.



Rodney Collings came painstakingly close to cracking the magic 40 with his 119 DS western QLD billy, great work mate! Rod also took out a 103 DS billy earlier that hunt.



Maxy and Warney got out for a walk and took out some beautiful big foxes during the 2021 winter.



Mick Law managed to make it to the Top End, despite the Covid border closures at times making interstate travel seem like you're playing snakes and ladders. Mick managed to down a handy Buffalo Bull of 83 6/8 DS, a great effort well done Mick.

Leigh Cragg picked up where Greggo left off on the Rusa, with a pair of cracker stags of 200 6/8 and 201 2/8 DS. New member Toby Gall has been a prolific bowhunter for a long time, and joins the Trophy Taker ranks with a monster Rusa of 230 4/8 DS, which became the new #1 Rusa. Toby also rated his PB Boar of 33 6/8 DS, outstanding quality game – well Done and Welcome to Trophy Takers.



Jason Frost also headed North for the Rusa, and went one better - taking his new PB and the #1 Rusa mantle back in quick fashion, with the huge stag scoring 231 2/8 DS, well done Frosty. It capped an incredible month from Trophy Taker members with 7 new additions to the top 25 Rusa, amazing effort there fellas.



Mick Law headed north again in 2021, this time taking out a very nice 83 6/8 DS buffalo bull.



Central Queensland bowhunter Toby Gall joins TT with two exceptional trophies – a 230 4/8 DS Rusa (which took out the Number 1 spot for a short period) and his PB boar measuring 33 6/8 DS!



Leigh Cragg managed to arrow two very respectable rusa stags this past rut, measuring within half an inch of each other at 200 6/8 and 201 2/8 DS.





Jason Frost didn't take long to take back the Number 1 rusa position, pulling this absolute ball-tearer out of Central Queensland during the roar. Well done on another incredible stag Frosty!

Well that's it for the game report. With some great rainfall across eastern Australia, it's looking good for the coming year. So, until then, good luck out there and unlike our mate Shane "Dances with Boars" Dupille – Stay safe.

All the best,

Steve Dimitrakellis



Pig's Pad

With Chris Hervert

For those of us who have been living vicariously through YouTube and other means it looks like the time has come to get out and about. No matter what your beliefs on the events of the past 18 months or so, it really makes you as an Australian appreciate what we have. The possibilities are endless, and in my humble opinion it's the little things that matter. Fishing your local spot or hunting your favourite ridge again, going camping with family and friends, we truly are the lucky country

It was with some satisfaction (think nappies) I saw the news that two of our most prolific bowhunters, Paul Southwell and Ben Salleras joined the ranks of fatherhood. Bubs born on the same day only hours apart, what are the chances! Maybe those boys take the notion of the rut too seriously. I can say without reservation that sharing time in the bush with your kids is one of the most rewarding things you can do. Watch them grow, learn and develop into humans and no matter what path they take your pride and love will follow. Congratulations Paul and Coral, Ben and Marcela.





Jimmy Southwell (L) and Toby Salleras (R) were born a few hours apart on the 6th of May 2021.

A few of our good mates continue to have health battles and as a community of like-minded souls it is awesome to see the support that everyone provides. Though those battles must be immensely personal I am sure all that positive energy helps in some way. We wish them all the best in their recovery.

Well Christmas is just around the corner and then another year begins. Enjoy the festive season catch up with family and friends and head into 2022 with unbridled enthusiasm, things can only get better.

Chris Hervert



Chairman's Report

With Mark Southwell

It's been a little over 12 months since our last newsletter, and things in the world have been tumultuous with the continuing impacts of COVID across the world. Restricted travel has obviously had many and varied impacts for members limiting our ability to hit the hills. As a result, the number of ratings has been down and activity on the Facebook site has also reduced over the last 12 months or so. Nevertheless, we still saw some outstanding trophies come into contention for this year's annual awards, which was able to go ahead at late notice at the Darwin Bowhunters club in July. Congratulations to all those who took out an award and a big thankyou to those who made it happen and attended what I heard was another great event.

As I noted, this is our first and only newsletter for the year which is less than we have produced in the past. There has been some talk among the directors as to whether we should keep the newsletter going, given the Facebook page has now become our main avenue to get information out to members. We have decided to keep the newsletter going, so those not on Facebook can still receive information from the club. We will try for two newsletters per year assuming we get enough content. As always, we would really appreciate any stories or even just short updates and pictures from members about their recent adventures in the bush, that we could include. The more content we have the better the newsletters will be. I would especially like to encourage our newer members to get involved.

Newsletter Contributions and Final Wrap-Up

Some of you will have heard about the new amendments being proposed in the NSW Parliament surrounding the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act in NSW. Some of these amendments may have significant implications for farming, hunting, and fishing in the state. While I don't profess to know all the details on this matter, it does concern me, and it should concern anyone who likes to get out bush and enjoys hunting and fishing. There is a petition against these amendments, which would be worth signing if you are an NSW resident. It can be accessed here:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/Pages/epetition-details.aspx?q=qBOar3qjYoueNu/qGMaIEQ==>

That will do from me, I hope everyone has an enjoyable Christmas with family and friends. Here's hoping we can all get out and enjoy some time in the outdoors over the upcoming months.

Good hunting,

Mark Southwell



It's difficult to comprehend how quickly the last 18 months have passed us by, 2021 especially seems to have flown by at record pace. Life has definitely been quite different for many of us, while for many others life has probably barely changed at all. One thing for certain is as a country overall, so far it seems we've managed to get through this reasonably unscathed compared to the rest of the world. With overseas travel looking like a reality in the very near future, and some interstate borders starting to open up in time for Christmas, these definitely appear to be positive signs in life heading back in the 'normal' direction again. Whether it be for the purposes of reuniting with family or friends; for hunting reasons or for many others – being able to travel freely again is something all of us value very much and it certainly has been an interesting experience having that taken away for a period of time.

Nevertheless, having just put the newsletter together and having poured over the Game Claim Report, it truly is mind-blowing to see what our members got up to in this past 18 or so months. From the young up-and-comers either taking their first kills or those updating us regularly with their recent hunts; to the new members joining the club for the first time and rating some extremely impressive animals. The long-time TT diehards

who get out there consistently year after year and take on a variety of different species, then the old school members who still get out there occasionally and pop up with a photo now and again. If you don't get inspired by the Game Claim Report in this newsletter, there is something very wrong! It's a real testament to the ongoing strength and unity within the club, the quantity, quality and diversity of game taken recently has got to be up there with the best of all time. It truly is awesome to witness!

As we head into the quieter months for the hunting year for most, I hope you all get the chance to spend quality time with family and friends for Christmas and the rest of the holiday period. Stay safe and take care on the roads if you're travelling, there's no doubt they'll be busy. I'm really looking forward to some downtime with the family and hopefully a bit of fishing, will be good to bring in 2022 with a few beverages somewhere!

We're short on stories as always – we welcome submissions of any kind, whether it be a few photos and a quick yarn, or a full-blown story – we'd love to get a bit more input from members on the newsletter!

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 1804
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Email enquiries and newsletter contributions:

info2@trophytakers.org

Stay safe, Merry Christmas and all the best for 2022!

Paul Southwell & Ben Salleras

The Bowmen of the Bush



**TROPHY
TAKERS**

The Bowmen of the Bush