

AUSTRALASIAN
SPORTING



WIN! A WEATHERBY VANGUARD
EVERY MONTH* SEE P.72

SHOOTER

WWW.SPORTINGSHOOTER.COM.AU

MARCH 2022

STATE FOREST FALLOW

Techniques
for the Rut

HOW TO
Outsmart
Foxes

TESTED

Tikka T1x Rimfire

HUNTING
THE HUNTER
Feral Cat Tactics

SPECIES GUIDE
Australian Feral Pigs





LEUPOLD

BE RELENTLESS



VX-5HD

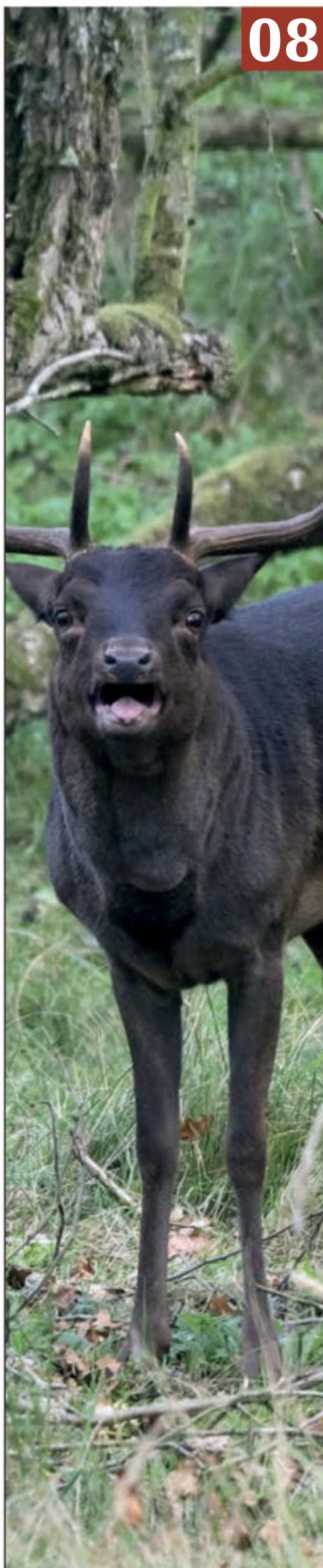
DOMINATE IN ANY LIGHT

Bottom line, the Twilight Max HD Light Management System eliminates more glare than the competition.



SIFA Shooting Industry Foundation Australia

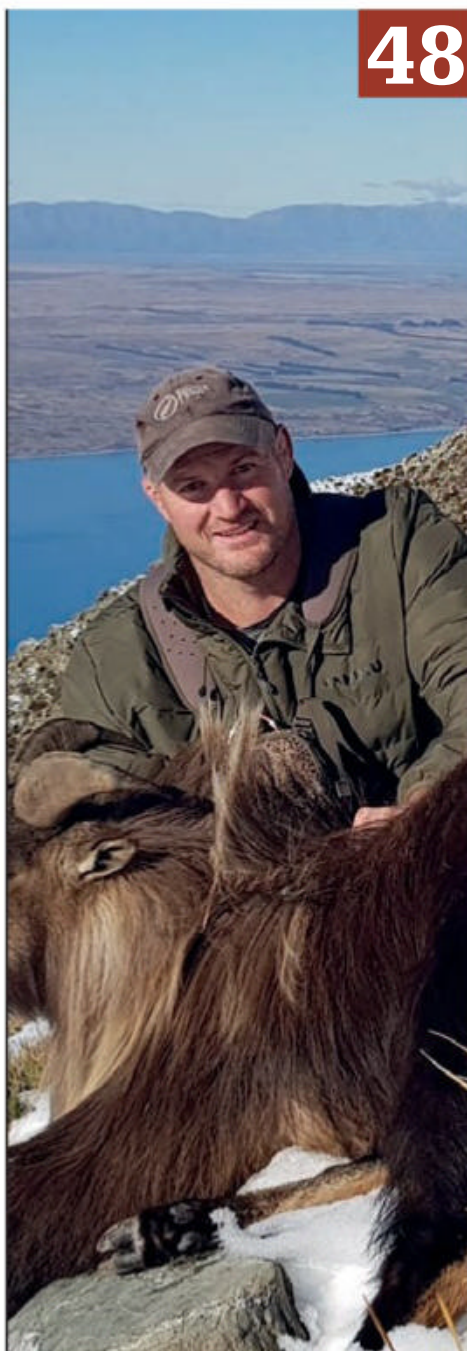
www.leupold.com | www.nioa.com.au



08

MAIN FEATURE

While not as prolific as the common (tan-spotted) variety, many hunters believe the black, or melanistic fallow buck is a more majestic looking animal.



48

HUNTING

Our Fallow Season 8

Andy Kidner and a bunch of his mates put in the hard yards in one state forest, suffering several disappointments until their persistence paid with fallow gold.

Species Guide – Feral Pigs 20

Brian Boyle brings a lifetime of experience and science to this seminal guide on hunting the widespread menace of wild pigs in Australia.

Ben's Birthday Bull 38

Michael Cleary recounts a lightning-fast trip into the NZ Alps to bag a couple of lovely bull tahr trophies. Place a foot wrong here and things could get bad very quickly.



64

HUNTING

Kendall Family Safaris 56

Peter Jackson keeps coming back to Kendall River to hunt pigs and scrub bulls because the guiding and service are so good.

The Feral Cat Dilemma 64

With feral cats recently named as the number one introduced mammalian pest species in Australia, we see Leon Wright and co. have been doing their bit controlling them for decades.

TEST REPORTS

Tikka T1x MTR 24

Tikka rifles are renowned for accuracy and smooth functioning. This new beefed up T1x in .22LR will please those wishing to dabble in Rimfire Long Range events and varminting.



72

DEPARTMENTS

OPENING SHOT	6
ASK THE GUN EDITOR	14
WILDER LIFE	36
HUNTERS DIARY	44
SHOOTER'S SHOWCASE	46
GUN LORE	52
HUNTER'S GALLERY	72
PRACTICAL RELOADING	74
IN THE BLOOD	80
BACON BUSTERS	82

ON THE COVER

A view to quicken the heart rate of any deer hunter, this majestic black fallow buck has not cottoned on to the photographer behind the tree.



GET TO WHERE THE GAME ARE



BULL BARS &
PROTECTION



ROOF
RACKS



CANOPIES &
UTE LIDS



SUSPENSION
UPGRADES



CAMPING
GEAR



DRIVING
LIGHTS



TOWING



DRAWERS &
STORAGE

ARB.COM.AU





4X4 ACCESSORIES

Valediction

For the best part of 15 years I have been privileged to man the helm at Sporting Shooter, but all good things must come to an end.

MY life has taken me to vastly different mini careers over 46 years, the highlights of which were as an Army Officer, Outdoor Educator and Student Representative Organisation XO and eventually to my personal pinnacle as an Editor for Yaffa.

I was totally green to editing anything, very much learning on the job and must say that, without the guiding hands of Tracy Yaffa, Tony Pizzata, Nick Harvey and Doug Nancarrow I could have sunk without trace.

In a commercial space like Yaffa Media, the management encouraged relative freedom of action, resulting in attendance at great events, marketing visits to our valued advertisers and hunting with all manner of people and in many terrific locations in Australasia. As long as I kept producing articles and relevant editorials while

meeting deadlines I was pretty much left to paddle my canoe – I had no need of extrinsic motivation to keep producing.

The last two years, however, have forced me to take stock and consider more time with family and less time devoted to work, allowing me to be extended in other ways. Hence, my move.

Importantly, my most gratifying and joyful time as Editor has been in meeting with, developing and just plain spending time with a team of writers who share our vision of the outdoors and are game enough to record it for all to see. In no particular order, they include Ted Mitchell Snr and son Brenton, Steven Spiekman, Michael Cleary, Peter and David Hughes (no relation), Brian Boyle, Leon Wright, Goran Pehar, Michael Gibson, Jared Matthews, Dylan Smith, Chloe



Always stalk into the wind.

Golding, Martin Auldist, Gus Plank, Gary Hall, Ken Harding, Tony Kamphorst, Col Allison, Alex Juris, Michael Gibson, Zac McKenzie, Josh Barnett, Reid Hjorth, Peter Kennedy, Tim Blackwell, Brett Beesley and Simon Munslow. I will be making contact with you all over time to personally thank you. Literally hundreds of hours of evening phone calls took place with the people on this list and I would not swap one hour of that total time with anything. If I have omitted your name in this list, please remind me.

Now it is my most pleasant duty to welcome aboard my successor, much like ships' captains being exchanged to a pipe. Mick Matheson is a very highly accomplished

journalist who has edited many titles over the years. He lives in the bush, is a keen hunter and target shooter, while being able to drive any motorised vehicle better than anyone I have ever known. You will have seen his articles in Sporting Shooter.

For any of you who may wish to contact me, I will leave my forwarding details with Mick, as we are in regular contact. Always stalk into the wind, wring every minute out of your hunts and shoot straight.



MARCUS O'DEAN
Editor

SPORTING SHOOTER

Editor: Marcus O'Dean
Email: marcusodean@yaffa.com.au
Technical Editor: Nick Harvey
Contributors: Nick Harvey, Marcus O'Dean, Tony Pizzata, Col Allison, Goran Pehar, Paul O'Connor, Pete Briedahl, Leon Wright, Dylan Smith.

ADVERTISING
National Sales Manager:
Tony Pizzata Tel: (02) 9213 8263
Mobile: 0411 592 389
Fax: (02) 9281 2750
Email: tonypizzata@yaffa.com.au

Advertising Production:
Michelle Carneiro
Tel: (02) 9213 8219
Email: michellecarneiro@yaffa.com.au
Marketing Manager:
Lucy Yaffa
Tel: (02) 9213 8245

SUBSCRIPTIONS
WWW.GREATMAGAZINES.COM.AU
Call: 1800 807 760
Email: SUBSCRIPTIONS@YAFFA.COM.AU

Subscription Rates:
1 year / 13 issues \$113
1 year PLUS (print + digital) \$125.00
Overseas 1 year rate NZ A \$136.00
ASIA \$136.00 ROW \$170.00

SPORTING SHOOTER
is published by Yaffa Media Pty Ltd,
17-21 Bellevue St, Surry Hills,
NSW 2010
Tel: (02) 9281 2333
Fax: (02) 9281 2750
ACN 54002 699 354



Publisher: Chris Yu
Production Director: Matthew Gunn
Studio Manager: Lauren Esdaile
Designer: Maria Alegro

Freelance submissions should be emailed to the Editor as a MS Word File or in Rich Text format with accompanying high resolution (1 Megabyte+) Jpg images in email packages no more than 14 megabytes per email. Alternatively stories and images on a memory stick/thumb drive can be mailed to the Editor at the above address.

The publishers exercise every care with regard to published figures relating to handloading data, no responsibility is accepted for any omissions or errors arising during the publishing process. Readers are advised to consult corroborating reloading information from at least two other industry sources or manuals. Further, neither publishers or editors accept responsibility for the accuracy of statements or opinions expressed by freelance writers.

ISSN 1835-6923



4K DIGITAL TRAIL CAMERA

OSA

Proudly distributed by Outdoor Sporting Agencies
www.osaaustralia.com.au



SIZE 100mm x 145mm
CODE RLJDH-503

FEATURES

- 24 Megapixels, 4K Video Resolution
- 65ft (20metre) night vision range with 36pcs IR LED
- Fast 0.4 second triggering time
- 2" Colour TFT LCD Screen
- Approx. 8 months Standby Time
- Super Slim and Compact Profile
- Automatic Temperature Compensation
- Supports external 32GB SD Card (Max 128GB)



— BUY INSTORE AND ONLINE —

ridgelineclothing.com.au

— ESTABLISHED 1994 —

DESIGNED AND TESTED
IN NEW ZEALAND

Andy Kidner had well and truly bedded down his state forest fallow block and this has led to success during the rut.

Our Fallow Season

TThere's something special about watching a testosterone-fuelled buck tearing around, thrashing trees, chasing does and clashing with potential rivals. It's a sight to get one's blood pumping and knees shaking with excitement. The rut - that time of year every deer hunter has marked on their calendars, counting down the days till it arrives.

MAIN: A buck in the rut sporting a majestic rack.





THIS year I'd taken a week off work and organised to spend it in a state forest with a group of mates chasing fallow deer with the hope of finding a mature buck. I spent the days leading up to the trip anxiously checking the weather forecast and was pleasantly surprised to see clear skies, minimal wind and low temperatures predicted.

After meeting on the highway we convoyed south and arrived at the state forest just in time to quickly throw our gear on and go for an afternoon stalk. Michael and myself opted to sit in the head of a gully in the hope of seeing some late afternoon activity while Alf and Mick hit the river flats, but we all returned to camp in the dark empty handed.

That night while sitting around the fire we discussed our plans for the coming days and areas we wanted to hunt the following morning. Having spent the previous few months doing scouting trips to

“

It sounded like we had the dominant buck just over the next small rise.”

try and pattern the deer prior to the rut, I had a pretty good idea where I wanted to concentrate within the forest. Areas of good feed, cover and plenty of sign from bucks marking their territories. As I was to find out the next morning though, having a plan is one thing but getting to follow through with it was another.

We woke to a frosty morning with temperatures almost in the negatives and, after a quick breakfast, broke camp. Alf and Mick once again headed to the flats with Michael and myself heading to an area that had

shown promise during prior trips. After leaving the car on the side of a fire trail and checking the wind, we quietly made our way up to the top of a ridge and sat listening for that unmistakable sound of croaking fallow bucks. Sure enough, a few minutes after sunrise the deep baritone noise echoed up the gully with replies from a rival a little further off. It's truly a sound that gives you goosebumps and gets the heart thumping.

We started to slowly make our way down the gully, trying to pinpoint exactly where they might



be, but with the thick underbrush and fog from the cold morning it was proving difficult. The two bucks were obviously competing for does and weren't shy about being vocal, but the sound was being distorted as it bounced around the gully and they were covering distance rapidly in their haste to lock antlers. This game of cat and mouse proceeded, with us trying to move in on their position until it sounded like we had the dominant buck just over the next small rise.

As we prepared to peek over the rise and hopefully locate our



ON THIS SPREAD

1 The end of a successful week hunting with good mates.

2 A hard won mature buck. Note the damaged brow tine we witnessed break during the fight.

3 There's plenty of quality deer out there if you're willing to put in the time to find them.

ON THIS SPREAD

4 Getting a caping masterclass in preparation for it to be shoulder mounted.

5 The long pack out begins.

6 Broken tines showing the efforts these deer go to during breeding season.

7 The grin says it all. Months of preparation lead to this moment.

quarry we'd worked so hard to find, the noise of a car drifted through the gumtrees. I felt a sinking feeling in my gut as the noise became louder until a convoy of four utes raced past us on the fire trail below. The two bucks obviously heard them too and we just managed to spot them as they hightailed it over the ridge and crashed off into another gully system.

With that area having been disturbed by the cars and the wind making it impossible to try and cover too much more ground without spreading our scent around, we reluctantly headed back to camp to try and salvage the morning's hunt with a new plan. After consulting our topo maps we decided to try another spot that afternoon and see if we could doe call a buck out of a heavily timbered area that I'd previously seen heavily used scrapes and rubs in.

On the drive we passed a campsite with multiple hunters who had been lucky enough to bag a few deer, which were now hanging from a gum tree. It seemed that the part of the forest we had been hoping to hunt was popular and I was starting

to think that we may need to reconsider our game plan, based on how much hunting pressure was happening in the area.

Arriving at our new spot with an hour till dark and set up in a comfortable position with a view of a small heavily timbered hill I was sure would be holding a buck. Michael started to doe call and within 15 minutes there was a responding croak from the resident buck. He was a ways off but we could tell from the increasing volume that he was heading in our direction, and fast! We exchanged looks and prepared to see what would emerge from the tangled undergrowth.

The buck had zoned in on Michael's seductive doe call and it was sounding like he was about to come into visual range when a "BOOM" rang out. Our worst fears confirmed that another hunter had taken advantage of the bucks vocals and managed to get a shot in before we could. With other hunters in the area we didn't hang around and headed back to the car shaking our heads that the second hunt of the day had been another disaster.

That night we discussed the highs

and lows of the day around the campfire and revelled in the experience of seeing these amazing animals at the peak of their breeding period. While there was no doubt we were in the right area with the amount of animals seen, we decided to concentrate our efforts on another part of the forest that, due to the thickness of the bush and distance away from any fire trails, should see less human activity.

The next morning found Michael and me leaving camp well before sun up to try and get into a position where we could once again listen for the sounds of a rutting buck. We pushed our way through chest high kangaroo grass, clambered over dead fall timber and up steep shaley hills under the light of head torches before reaching a spot I had marked on my GPS months prior. We set up and waited in the freezing morning air for the sun to poke over the surrounding hills and start to warm our shivering limbs.

The morning came and went with the only animals seen being a pair of wallabies and a cranky-looking wombat. The sun now high in the sky we figured that any





“

A convoy of four utes raced past us on the fire trail below.”

chance of catching a buck moving to its bed had long gone. With that in mind, we started the trek back to the car planning to have a bite to eat, refill the water bottles and then head out again in another direction.

As I rounded a burnt out tree I heard an odd sounding “clunk”. I stopped and tried to pinpoint where it may have come from, was it a falling branch or something more? Again the same noise floated up from the next gully over and quickly rose in intensity. We looked at each other as we realised we were hearing the unmistakable noise of locked antlers!

We moved into visual range while they were distracted with trying to dominate each other and were rewarded with the sight of two big-bodied mature fallow absolutely smashing each other on a fighting pad. Thrashed saplings surrounded



the area and the earth was torn up by their hooves. They were absolutely brutal in attacking each other with no quarter given and we witnessed the bigger buck flip his opponent onto the ground, snapping off one of his brow tines in the process.

As we were using trees and fallen timber to cover our approach, they were oblivious to our presence and in the thick bush we managed to sneak into 30 metres before a shot presented itself. While they stood preparing for their next assault on each other, I put the crosshairs just behind the bigger buck's front leg and sent a 165gn Sierra GameKing from my .308 straight through his heart. He went 10 metres before toppling over and expiring.

It was obvious he had fought hard to maintain his position as the king of this particular area from the broken points and scars on his face.

This was by far my personal best fallow and it made all the scouting trips, early mornings and hours spent in the car worthwhile. It's a truly humbling experience to witness the strength, speed and power of these animals when they're competing for females and so, to take a mature buck out of a state forest in some difficult conditions and terrain, makes it so much more special.

After the long pack out with all the meat, skin and antlers we drove back to camp that evening and enjoyed a well-earned beer around the fire. We spent the next few days in the bush watching the fallow go about their courtship displays. Mick, Alf and Michael all managed to take very respectable hard-won trophies and the stories from these experienced hunters told around the fire after dark made this a trip I won't be forgetting in a long time. 📍



Letters containing questions for answering by Nick Harvey must be accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. Mail your letters to: **The Technical Editor, 3 Reef Street, Hill End, NSW 2850.**

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Did Victoria's Barasingha Survive?

Q I read your article entitled *Mysterious Deer At Eagle's Peak* in an old copy of *Sporting Shooter* I was given recently with great interest. About ten years ago I disturbed a large dark-coloured stag which let out a loud scream before running off. He had a stockier build than a sambar. His antlers resembled a sambar's, but had two more points. But the feature I noticed most was the neck of the stag had a mane like a horse. Before I could get a shot at him he ran off, but he was light yellow under his tail. After reading your article I believe the animal

may have been a barasingha. What do you think?

Samual Walters

A I was gratified to hear of your sighting of a barasingha as I had begun to think they may have died out or been bred out, but while sambar hinds will associate with barasingha, sambar stags never do. This may be why they may still roam the Victorian alps to this very day. The stag you saw appears to be identical to the one I saw over 50 years ago at Eagle's Peak. According to Arthur Bentley "liberations took place in the mountainous



This photo of a Barasingha doe taken in Victoria shows the species horse-like mane and rounded ears.

parts of Gippsland and some years later they had penetrated deeply and thrived to a limited degree." After my article appeared a hunter from Victoria sent me a photo

of a barasingha hind. He didn't say where it was taken, but I lost his email address and haven't heard from him since. If he reads this I'd like to hear from him again.

Comparing Trajectory And Energy

Q I have a Kimber Classic Select in .25-06 which I've had long throated and I'm using your loads with WMR powder and the 100gn Barnes TSX and 110gn Hornady ELD-X bullets. The muzzle velocity is 3390 and 3330 respectively. Again on your advice, I have both loads zeroed at 275 yards but I would like to know how much energy each bullet has remaining at 300 and 500 yd., together with drop figures at each distance? Also, could you tell me how the .25-06 energy and trajectory figures compare with your loads for the 26 Nosler?

Jason Anderson

A With both the 100 and 110gn bullets are zeroed at 275yd. they land 2.30" high at 100yd. and drop 1.45" at 300yd., 26" and 24" at 500.

Energy remaining at 500yd. is 1024 ft/lb for the 100gn Barnes and 1321 for the 110gn ELD-X. The figures for the 26 Nosler are not much different: with both the 120 and 130gn Barnes bullets leaving the muzzle at 3478 fps and 3418fps and zeroed for 300yd., energy at 300yd. is 1938 and 1969 ft/lb dropping to 1331 and 1332 ft/lb. at 500yd. For long range work the 142gn ABLR leaving the muzzle at 3280fps actually shoots flatter - dropping 20" at 500yd. and delivering 2151 ft/lb of energy. So, if you want to get the best performance out of a large-cased 6.5mm, it's necessary to go to a heavier bullet which has greater BC, in the case of the 142gn ABLR .719 against .363 and .361 for the lighter Barnes bullets. The .25-06 is a fine all around cartridge, but there's no substitute for cubic capacity in a cartridge case.

Burgeoning Popularity of The 6.5mm Calibre

Q It seems to me that the spotlight was focused on the 6.5mm calibre back in the late 1950s when there was an influx of surplus 6.5x55mm Finnish Model 1896 Mauser rifles. In the ensuing years many American and European commercial rifles have been chambered for the Swede. But in the last few years the demand for 6.5s seem to have gone wild. What do you reckon is the reason for this 6.5 mania?

Simon Dempster

A I agree that the introduction of so many 6.5 cartridges is surprising. It started with the .264 Win. Mag in 1958 followed by the 6.5 Rem. Mag. in 1966. Neither one did much good, nevertheless in the last two

decades additions to the factory 6.5s include the .260 Rem., 6.5 Grendel, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5-284 Norma, 6.5-06, 26 Nosler, 6.5 Weatherby, 6.5 PRC, and Weatherby 6.5 RPM. But the wildcat 6.5 WSM and 6.5 STW have a few followers. Of course, there are a few oldtimers still in use: rounds like the 6.5x54 M-S, 6.5x50 Arisaka, 6.5x52 Carcano see use in military rifle competition, and many European sportsmen swear by their 6.5x57s and 6.5x68s. The 6.5s didn't become popular overnight and it took a number of years for the 6.5 Creedmoor to take off. Some trends in cartridges and firearms are hard to explain, but I think hunters like the 6.5s for their ranging ability coupled with light recoil that makes them more pleasant to shoot.



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II
SWAROVSKI OPTIK
SUPPLIER OF BINOCULARS



NEW
2021



EL RANGE GROUND-BREAKING PRECISION

WITH
TRACKING
ASSISTANT

SEE THE UNSEEN



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

SWAROVSKI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

1/4D Huntley Street, Alexandria NSW 2015, Australia

Tel.: +61 (02) 8345 7228, Fax: +61 (02) 9313 6506, optik.sia@swarovski.com, www.swarovskioptik.com



Rossi Rio Grande has a solid-top receiver and side ejection copying the Marlin's time-proven Model 336 design.

.223 Remington and 5.56mm Chambers Are Different

Q I have been given some 5.56 NATO ammunition which I want to shoot in my Howa 1500 .223 Remington. My local gun shop warned me against doing this claiming that the military stuff could cause a blow-up. Is this true, or do they just want to sell me factory ammo?

Justin Devlin

A Your local gun shop is only thinking of your welfare and gave you valuable advice. The .223 and 5.56 NATO are not fully interchangeable. Externally the two cartridges look identical, but 5.56 pressures are measured one millimetre forward of the case mouth (in the freebore area of the chamber), while .223 pressures are traditionally measured on the case body. In addition, the .223 chamber has a shorter throat, with the leade being cut at 3 degrees. The 5.56 has a longer throat with the leade cut at 1.5 degrees. This means a 5.56 rifle can safely fire both kinds of cartridges, but firing 5.56 rounds in a .223 chamber can result in high pressures, sticking cases, blown primers or in an extreme case, a blown up rifle. If I were you, I'd definitely go and buy some

factory ammo from your friendly gun shop. They saved you from a possibly disastrous experience.

Rossi Rio Grande

Q My local gunshop has a secondhand Rossi Rio Grande in .30-30 for sale at a very reasonable price, probably because most shooters in my area are addicted to bolt actions. How would you rate the Rio Grande? Is it reliable and accurate?

Owen Sanders

A The Rossi Rio Grande levergun is a Marlin 336 clone. It features side ejection and a removable Weaver-style base makes it easy to mount a scope. Removing a screw located at the front of the lever allows it to be removed from the receiver. The bolt can then be slid out of the action to allow the bore to be cleaned from the rear end. The rifle weighs 7lbs., has a 20-inch barrel and 6-groove right-hand twist rifling. It is stocked in walnut-stained hardwood, and has a rubber buttpad. The trigger breaks cleanly at 4-1/2lb and the unit I tested punched 3-shot groups at 100yds. measuring 2-1/2 inches. It's not only a good looking rifle, but an accurate and reliable one.

ELD-X Bullets For Deer

Q I bought a box of 162 gn ELD-X 7mm bullets for fallow and red deer. I have loaded some of these bullets in my Kimber .280 Ackley over 62gn of RE-26 and velocity is 3010fps with 3-shot groups averaging .75. This is 1.5 grains over what Hornady lists a maximum, but my cases show no sign of excessive pressure. What do you think of my choice?

Douglas Waters

A Hornady's Precision Hunting ammo is loaded with Extremely Low Drag-eXpanding (ELD-X) bullets which are designed to give controlled expansion at all practical hunting distances. The 162gn 7mm bullet weighs near the heavy end for the .284 calibre, has the high BC of .631 and is designed to hold together when it sheds weight during expansion. Out to 400yd., the thin jacket on the bullet's nose peels back and stops at the Interlock ring ahead of the thick shank. Way out yonder, past 400yd., the bullet's Heat Shield tip drives backward into the bullet to initiate expansion and form a large mushroom. Started out at 3010fps, the 162gn ELD-X should retain over 2400 fps and hit with over 2000 ft/lbs of energy at 400yd.

Cut-Price Modern Rifles

Q I note that there are a number of rifles available today which are strong, accurate and affordable. However, most of them do not have controlled-round feed which I am told is essential on a big game rifle. Why is this?

Rob Burke

A Today's production rifles are quite attractive in terms of their price. Production costs are solely responsible for the absence of such things as controlled-round feed, coned breeches, integral recoil lugs and long Mauser-type claw extractors. Too, many have a one-diameter bolt which is bulky and heavy but easy to machine, and a blanked recoil lug sandwiched between the receiver ring and barrel shank. These new rifles are very accurate, dependable and smooth functioning, certainly adequate for hunting under normal conditions, as has been demonstrated on countless occasions, especially if the game being hunted is not eager to kill and eat you. I have carried Remington 700 rifles (which led the charge to cheaper rifles) all over the world and found they gave completely satisfactory performance even on dangerous game.



Ruger American cuts cost by having a cylindrical receiver, one-diameter bolt, recoil lug in stock and detachable polymer magazine.

INCREDIBLE BOLT



XPR™



AVAILABLE IN:

243WIN, 270WSM, 270WIN, 30-06SPRG,
300WM, 300WSM, 308WIN, 338WM

NOW ALSO AVAILABLE IN:

**223REM &
350 LEGEND**



M.O.A. Trigger

Three times zero. The combination of zero take-up, zero creep and zero over travel add up to something huge.



Perma-Cote Finish

The Finish Line. Perma-Cote is better than bluing. The XPR breaks tradition by using one of the most weather- and damage-resistant barrel and receiver finishes available.



Safety and Bolt Release

At Ease. The XPR's two-position safety is convenient to operate with the thumb of your firing hand. The safety's design fully retracts the trigger from the actuator. But the addition of the Bolt Release Button, just in front of the safety button, puts you at even more at ease, allowing you to unload unfired cartridges while the safety is on.



Inflex Technology

Taking out the bite. One feature you will feel is the Inflex recoil pad technology which softens recoil forces and pulls the comb away from your face.

WINCHESTER®
REPEATING ARMS



Scarce Mauser G33/40

Q I have been offered a Mauser 98 action for a custom rifle I'm looking to have built. The owner wants \$400 for it but that seems a bit steep for an ex-military action. What do you think?

Raymond Barnes

A The Czech G33/40 is one of the most desirable Mauser actions and is prized for its superb quality and for being more compact. It is eagerly sought after by custom gunsmiths. The G33/40 has been trimmed down and has lightening cuts. It was introduced in the 1930's but after the German invasion, Brno manufactured the G33/30 for issue to Wehrmacht mountain troops. The metallurgy is superior to that of the coveted Argentine Mauser, and able to withstand much higher working pressures. If you don't want that G33/40 tell the owner I'll give him \$450 for it!

Heavy Bullet .224 Wildcat

Q The barrel of my .22-250 has lost its fine accuracy after about 3000 rounds. It will still group into one MOA, but that mightn't last, so I am planning to fit a new barrel for a larger capacity .224 that will handle bullets weighing up to 80 grains. My choices include the .22-243 improved, .22-6mm Remington and .22-284.

The case must have minimum body taper and a sharp shoulder. Although the case might be overbore capacity, I want to get about 3400 to 3500 fps from an 80gn bullet in a 26 inch barrel. Because I want to use 80 and 90gn bullets, I guess I'll need a 1:8 twist? Which cartridge would you choose?

Stephen Ford

A The .22-243 is easy to make, but I doubt if it would drive an 80gn bullet faster than 3400fps in a 26 inch barrel. A problem with the 22-284 is that cases are hard to get, so I recommend the .224/6mm Remington. It is similar to the .224 Clark except that it uses 6mm Remington cases instead of .257 Roberts cases. It is necked down and fireformed to have a 30 degree shoulder and a body that tapers from 0.471" to 0.429". In a 26" barrel it drives the 80gn bullet at 3600fps and a 90gn bullet to 3470fps. A good powder for it would be AR2213sc as the Clark gets the highest velocities with H4831. With the 80gn bullet work up from 47gn to a possible maximum of 51gn and 2 grains less behind a 90gn bullet. I have a hunch RE-22 could be even better, but don't have a rifle to develop any data with. Use a magnum primer. I'd choose a 1:8 twist to keep those longsters travelling point-on.

For prolonged viewing sessions a roof prism binocular like this Leica 8x40 is easier on the eyes and brighter and sharper than a pocket size 10x28.

Choosing A Binocular

Q I'm in the market for a binocular and have just about decided on a 10x25 which is light and handy and will fit in the pocket of my jacket. Most of my hunting is in mountain country for goats and deer and I'm glassing across wide gullies and open mountainsides. What do you think of my choice?

Roley Dean

A I don't think much of your choice! A basic optical principle is that the higher the magnification, the larger in diameter the objective lenses should be, both to allow sufficient light to reach your eyes and optical sharpness (resolution). While some pocket binoculars are well-made, objective lenses 20 to 28mm in diameter simply can't provide the brightest, sharpest view. A 10-power glass normally requires at least a 40mm objective, adding to the cost and size. Some hunters find a full-size 10x40 a little clumsy for all-around use, but dropping to 8x allows a smaller diameter objective and overall size and weight. An 8x32 has as large an exit pupil as a 10x40 and plenty of magnification for most hunting. So instead of a handy but inadequate 10x25, or a more bulky, not so handy 10x40, you'd be better off with an 8x32. Having said that, my hunting glass is a 10x42 Leica, but my mates show a preference for the 8x42. Bear in mind that for a 4mm exit pupil you need a 28mm objective in a 7x binocular, 32mm in an 8x and 40mm in a 10x. Anything smaller and viewing in anything but bright sunlight will be disappointing.

Roof Prism Or Porro Prism?

Q Having read some features about binoculars, has got me thinking that a Porro-prism binocular may be the best choice, particularly since they seem to be a lot cheaper than roof prisms. I rarely ever see a hunting article where the hunter uses Porros. Why aren't Porros more popular? Is it because roof models are slimmer and lighter? Or are the roofs just a better glass when buying the most expensive ones? I recently had a look at two Porro models: the Leupold BX-1 McKenzie 8x42 and Solaris 7x50 (real nice, very sharp image). Are these good hunting/general purpose binoculars? What do you think of the latest improved optics out there? Any comments on Meopta's Optika 6 series and Optika LR?

John Carter

A Porro-prism binoculars in general are claimed to provide a sharper, brighter view than roof-prism binoculars of equal quality and price. In fact, you can buy a Porro-prism binocular that equals the finest Roof-prism binoculars in the world for about two-thirds the price. So why don't more hunters use them? Three reasons: bulk, waterproofing and ruggedness. Having dog-leg barrels, Porros are necessarily more bulky than equivalent roofs, though not necessarily lighter. It is also difficult to waterproof Porros, and even some of the best are not. Also, Porros are typically not so rugged as roofs, because of the mounting system for the prisms and the hinging system between the barrels. That is why, today, the majority of binoculars are roof-prisms. The Meopta Optika 6 range have very clear, bright optics and are reasonably priced. Just now I'm eagerly waiting to get my hands on a Optika LR to review. 



LIGHTWEIGHT M18 STAINLESS

German Strength, Quality & Precision.

The Mauser M18 is now available in hard wearing weather resistant stainless steel. Perfect for those hunts that take you far from the comfort of home, and into the elements. The M18 Stainless has the same features that have made the M18 so popular with rifle shooters: A silent three-position safety, cold hammer forged barrel, ultra-robust synthetic stock with soft grip inlays, renowned MAUSER Steel construction, 5-shot flush fitting magazine, adjustable trigger, and removable butt plate storage area.



RRP: \$1,499



DAS ORIGINAL

FEATURES

Available in: 223, 308 Win, 30-06 SPRG, 300 Win, 6.5CM & 6.5 PRC

Weight: 2.9kg Standard Calibres, 3.0kg Magnum Calibres

Barrel: Cold hammer forged barrel,

Stock: Polymer w/Soft grip inlays. Removable recoil pad w/storage compartment

Barrel Length: 56cm/22" Standard Calibres - 62cm/24" Magnum Calibres

Bolt: 3 locking-lug action

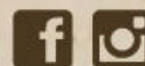
Trigger: Single Stage adjustable

Magazine : 5 shot flush fitting double stack magazine 5+1 (4+1 Magnum)

Surface Finish: Stainless



Find your local Mauser Stockist at:
www.osaaustralia.com.au



SPECIES GUIDE



MAIN: A sizeable sow with an enormous litter of suckers, due to a good season providing abundant food and water.

INSET: Robert Borsak of the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party, likes nothing better than decking a good boar.



A photograph of a feral pig and its piglets in a dry, open landscape. The pig is in the foreground, looking towards the right. Several piglets are visible behind it, some standing and some lying down. The ground is dark and uneven, with some sparse vegetation. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

The Australian Feral Pig

Park ranger and a hunter with experience on many continents, Brian Boyle shares his comprehensive knowledge on hunting feral pigs.

Feral pigs are probably Australia's most important game animal and for farmers, one of our most serious pests. On any given weekend, let alone work days, there are thousands, probably tens of thousands, of keen hunters hunting pigs with firearms, bows and dogs.

Scientific name and origins of feral pigs in Australia

FERAL animals are domestic ones which have escaped or released into the wild and are living more or less as a wild animal, or one that is descended from such animals. The wild or feral pigs we hunt in Australia are descendants of various breeds of *Sus scrofa*, the domestic pig. The interpretation of their scientific name is pretty simple: *Sus* is Latin for "pig" and *scrofa* means "breeding sow".

Records around Australia indicate the presence of domestic pigs following the arrival of European settlers. Pigs were kept at settlements, often unrestrained and in semi-feral conditions. From these areas they could readily escape and wander. By the late 1800s pigs had run wild and had established themselves in all states, except mainland Tasmania. It is possible that Tasmanian Devils prevented successful breeding of wild run pigs, as suckers are very vulnerable for the first few days when limited to the nests built by sows when farrowing.

Characteristics of feral pigs

Feral pigs are generally smaller and more muscular than domestic pigs. Black is one of the most common colours, but you will also get the odd white one, black and whites, brown, and ginger as well. A sow can have a litter with a variety of coloured piglets. As part of reverting to their wild boar ancestors, piglets sometimes have dark longitudinal stripes that disappear as they grow older. Feral pigs also have longer, larger snouts and tusks, smaller ears, narrower back and straighter tails than their domestic cousins.

Female feral pigs can generally reach 50-60kg and males 100kg. However, this weight can vary with favourable habitat conditions or a sustained food source. The odd, exceptional animal has reached over 200kg in Australia. Now that's a lot of pig!

Feral pigs do not have a defined breeding season and can breed at any time of the year, although breeding success depends on availability of food. A sow may begin breeding at six to eight months of age. Around 112 days after mating a sow can have up to 10 piglets in good conditions. This is why populations can grow so fast.

What do pigs eat? Well, they are pigs, after all.

Feral pigs are opportunistic omnivores, which means they will

eat nearly anything edible and some things they eat are very dodgy indeed! While succulent green vegetation, fruit, grain, and a wide variety of animal material such as frogs, fish, reptiles, birds, small mammals and carrion is preferred, they love nothing better than chowing down on a good feed of maggots on a decomposing carcass. They will also eat underground plant material such as roots, bulbs, corns and fungi. The requirement for protein and energy is high, particularly for breeding, successful lactation and growth of young.

Habitat and distribution of feral pigs in Australia

While feral pigs are very adaptable, they need to live in moist areas that can provide adequate food and water. They also require enough shelter to protect against extremes of temperature. In particular, dense shelter is required for protection against high temperature. So, throughout Australia, feral pigs are found in a variety of habitats that can provide these requirements. These areas include: rainforests, monsoon forest patches, paperbark swamps, open floodplains, marsh areas, semi-arid floodplains, dry woodlands and sub-alpine grasslands, native forests and pine plantations.

Sign to look for

Pigs give away their presence by rooting up ground in search of food or knocking a carcass around to get at the carrion or maggots. If you are

hunting an area and you get the whiff of a dead animal, go and check it out. There may be a pig feeding on it or indication of recent activity. You may decide to come back to it on dark or next morning to see if the pig returns. The depth of rooting, size of rocks or boulders moved to get juicy worms and grubs underneath, as well as the size of prints (plus dew claw imprints) will give a good indication of the size of individual pigs, as well as the number that are feeding in an area.

In wet areas, you should be looking for wallows and whether the water is clouded up or the mud is still wet. Check out the size of prints and body imprint, there may a big boar close by. Look at the trunks of trees close by and see if a boar has a had a rub after a wallow or gouged the bark with his tusks. In hot areas, look for beds under shady trees or against stream or river banks in the shade, especially if it is a damp sandy area. If you are following game trails keep an eye out for pig droppings and how big they are. In some areas, pigs have the habit of chewing on grass seed heads and discarding the chewed heads, maybe it's the pig equivalent of chewing gum, so keep an eye out for this on game trails!

Pigs – the game animals for all seasons

One of the great things about hunting pigs is that there are no seasons or hunting restrictions.

ON THIS SPREAD

1 A downwind boar is oblivious to the photographer. They have poor eyesight.

2 Brian Boyle with a gnarly boar that fell to his compound bow and two-blade broadhead.

3 A mid-western NSW sow and litter of varied colours and patterns.

4 Having a hatchet handy is most useful in harvesting trophy boars' jaws.





As long as you have the appropriate permission or permit, you can hunt them all year round and on private property, you can hunt them day and night (with spotlight or dogs). NSW even has some State Forests where hunting with pig dogs is allowed at night

Hunting Methods

With pigs, it's pretty simple - you are either hunting them at their food source, in their beds or, in hot dry areas at water sources. Depending on where you hunt and any restrictions or requirements of the landowner, you can hunt pigs by stalking them, driving around in vehicles or ATV's and spotting and stalking them by pushing pigs out of cover to get a shot or to waiting shooters if the shot can be taken safely. You can also wait at swamps billabongs, crops or pasture where there is fresh pig-rooting.

Pigs have reasonable hearing, probably similar to ours, fairly ordinary eyesight, but a very keen sense of smell, so a downwind approach to feeding or bedding areas is a must. Watching where you step and keeping noise to a minimum and using available cover or simply just freezing when pigs' heads are up is important. Generally, it is not difficult to get within shooting range with a rifle. The fun really begins when you want to close the gap for a close (less than 30 metres) shot with a bow.

Gearing up for hunting pigs

The good news is you don't really need any special gear for hunting

pigs. About the only "pig specific" gear you might consider is a small light tomahawk. It is a handy tool to have in the daypack for quickly removing the bottom jaw from toothy boars. A good pair of binoculars help for looking across swamps, into shadow under trees, in scrub and under banks and out across big cropped areas.

Rifles from .243 calibre up, with good quality ammo are plenty for handling pigs. A vari-power scope with lower magnification is handy for close in, as well as the longer shots that might be presented. Shotguns and slide or lever action rifles are great for hunting pigs in cover or along creek beds when there are likely to be a number of pigs in close proximity

Pigs are great sport when hunted with bows. A bow with 50lb draw weight is more than adequate. It's not about how much you can draw back, but how accurately you can place that arrow in the heart-lung vital area. Also remember the plate on a big boar can be 2 to 3cms thick and be mud encrusted as well. While there are a lot of broadheads on the market, simple, solid, razor sharp, two blade broadheads are still the best for punching through the shoulder plates on feral boars to reach the heart and lungs.

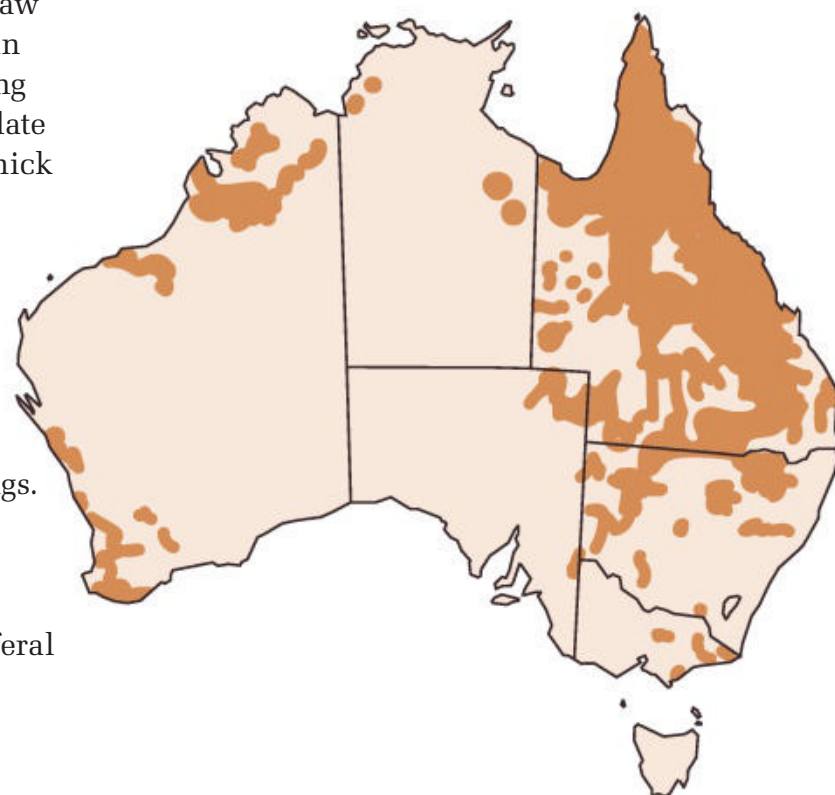
Take care when cutting up pigs

Hunters need to be aware that feral pigs can be hosts or vectors of a number of parasites and diseases which can affect other animals or

people. Potentially your health can be affected through: contact with the urine of affected feral pigs; handling raw feral pig meat or by eating inadequately cooked feral pig meat. An easy way of achieving good hygiene is by wearing disposable surgical type latex gloves when removing tusks or butchering a dead pig. Carrying a small bottle of alcohol-based liquid hand cleaner is also a good idea and remember to clean up your knife afterwards as well.

Now is a good time to hunt pigs

So there you have an introduction to the humble feral pig, Australia's number one game animal. The widespread rains across Australia in late 2021 will lead to a corresponding rebound in the pig population. If you haven't hunted pigs before, now is a very good time to start. 🎯



Tikka T1x Multi-Task Rimfire

Shooters who want the best the rimfire world has to offer have been limited to very few brands until now. The Tikka T1x MTR, a new contender with many ingenious features joins an elite group.

A manufacturer with a broad product base, Tikka predates its sister Finnish brand, Sako by 26 years. After WW II the two firms collaborated on a bolt action hunting rifle. Sako later acquired Tikka and by 1989 production at Tikkakoski Works had moved to Sako's Riihimäki factory.

In 2000, a new chapter opened for Sako when it and the competing Finnish gunmaker, Tikka were acquired by Beretta Holdings. The resulting alliance increased Beretta's portfolio with a rifle component equal in quality to its shotguns and handguns. Rifle-making technologies developed by Tikka and Sako, combined with those developed by Beretta and their other partner companies - Benelli, Franchi and Uberti - has seen the introduction of new Italian-made ultra modern centrefire rifles, the Franchi Momentum and Benelli Lupo. The results of this cross-pollination can be seen in the creative stock styling of these rifles which can be attributed to the creative fingerprints of the Italian design firm Carl Giugiaro which has designed stocks for number of Beretta firearms.

Outwardly, the Tikka T1x MTR bears some resemblance to the company's budget-friendly T3x line. Stock shape is the same as the synthetic stock that's available on some of the Tx rifles, the action shares the same bedding footprint as the T3x, the trigger is identical to those found on Tikka centrefire rifles and the trigger plate has the same dimensions. This means that the T1x MTR can share all the aftermarket stocks, accessories and triggers designed for the T3x.

Tikka's expansion into the world of rimfire rifles and chamberings then is not only built to T3 specs, but borrows some features from previous Sako rimfires which included the early Finnfire and later Quad, a versatile gun with a single receiver which accepts quick-change barrels in four rimfire calibres. Tikka's first rimfire rifle then, a modular design clearly lives up to Tikka's reputation for quality and accuracy is being made in Finland and imported by Beretta Australia.

Shooters will be excited because Tikka rifles have always been famous for their quality and accuracy. The T1x MTR (Multi-Task Rimfire) is



being marketed as a small-game hunting rifle, and at first glance the rifle could easily be mistaken for one of its T3 big brothers - it's full man-sized and has the same heft.

The T1X MTR has a machined steel receiver finished in matte black. The flat-sided receiver has angled sides on the exterior like the Browning A-Bolt and a rounded bottom with a long flat machined full length. The rounded top is cut with an 11mm dovetail which accepts both Burris and Sako rings. There is no provision for iron sights. Held in the stock by two hex-headed screws, one just in front of the floorplate and the other behind the

trigger guard bow, the receiver is a close fit in the injection molded synthetic stock.

The stainless steel bolt is left in the white and has two locking lugs at the rear. One is the root of the bolt handle, while the other locks into a recess in the left-hand receiver wall. The stem of the handle is dished at the top to help clear the eyepiece of a low-mounted scope. Travel is short and cartridges fed smoothly when I worked the bolt as fast as I could. A large round elastomer (synthetic rubber) bolt knob with a diameter of 14mm resembles a golf ball.

The bolt release lever is located on the left-hand side of the receiver bridge. Depressing



Test rifle came ready-to-go, equipped with scope, torch for night shooting and bipod.

hammer-forged barrel is threaded for 1/2x28 for a suppressor or any other muzzle device, but it is pressed into the receiver and secured by three hex-head screws. Tikka has attached a removable molded section to the stock which is a close fit to the barrel shank. This can be removed and replaced with another spacer tailored to fit larger or smaller diameter barrel shanks when swapping barrels.

The barrel has a diameter of 0.730" through the mid-section to the muzzle which puts it in the medium-heavy class. Ahead of the receiver ring, the lower section of the action is extended by 36mm to wrap around the lower half of the barrel. This extension serves a dual purpose by having a threaded hole for the front action screw and a recess which accepts a forward recoil lug set into the stock. The rear action screw is threaded into the short thick rear tang.

The receiver has the same 220mm length as the Tikka T3 and the similarity to its big



Cartridges fed smoothly when I worked the bolt as fast as I could."

the lever's grooved rear end allows the bolt to be withdrawn for cleaning or inspection.

The Tikka T1x bolt which resembles that of the Sako Quad, is assembled in two pieces and pinned together. The front section copies the familiar half cutaway rimfire design and houses a substantial single extractor. The footprint may be the same length as the T3x, but bolt lift is a short 45 degrees and bolt travel is a short 1.5 inches, exactly what you'd expect from a rimfire.

The ejector is a spring steel wire that runs at an angle along the lefthand wall of the receiver and is aligned with a cutout in the side of the

ejection port. This feature, copied from the Sako Quad, is intended to eject cartridges of different lengths. The T1X MTR is available with a 20" or 16" barrel in .22LR and

.17 HMR, with twist rates of 1:16.5 and 1:9 respectively.

The T1Xs fire control system is a good one: a two-position safety button on the righthand receiver wall just behind the bolt handle. Rocked fully to the rear it blocks movement of the trigger and the striker. Additionally, the bolt cannot be opened with the safety engaged. Pushed fully forward in the firing position, a red dot is exposed. An orange stud at the rear of striker housing extends

from under the composite bolt shroud when the gun is cocked to provide an extra warning that the gun is in firing mode.

Two hex-head action screws hold a composite floorplate with integral trigger guard to the bottom of the receiver. It is only after the plate has been removed that the ingenious features (some obvious and some not so obvious) of the T1x MTR design are revealed. The muzzle of the 500mm cold

brother is no coincidence since the stock is the same synthetic stock that's fitted to some of the T3 rifles. The action duplicates the same bedding footprint as the T3X; the trigger is the same unit found on Tikka centrefire rifles; and the trigger plate has the same dimensions.

Basically, Tikka has engineered its rimfire to T3x specs, creating a surprisingly modular rimfire rifle built to Tikka's legendary standard of



excellence which can be attributed to a properly bedded action. Using the same stock as the T3x line and the same forward recoil lug set in the stock, mating with a recess in the action. This helps the stabilize the barreled action to ensure it returns to the same point after recoil forces have dissipated. This may be regarded as "overkill" by some, but it does ensure a solid union between action and stock and dampens even the slightest wayward vibrations. The stiff medium-weight barrel also helps dampen recoil and doesn't heat up like a thinner rimfire barrel. Although I've never experienced any heating problems with a rimfire barrel, the extra heft does contribute to the rifle's balance which is ideal in any field shooting position, whether offhand, sitting or prone.

A major advantage of having the same bedding footprint is the ability to transfer the T1x MTR barreled action to any of the variety of T3x and T3 stocks that accept the same trigger assembly plate dimensions. Tikka has 12 configurations of the T3x, with walnut, laminated and polymer stocks. The factory claims "this gives you the ability to practice fundamental and positional shooting behind a familiar platform without the high costs of centrefire ammunition."

In order to achieve this interchangeability Tikka designed the magazine to fit through a slot machined into the receiver, which separates it from both the stock and trigger guard. The magazine well is held with a hex-head screw

and the magazine release catch is made as an integral part of the polymer magazine box. The trigger mechanism with safety, is housed in a robust aluminium alloy housing and attached to the underside of the receiver directly behind the magazine well. Changing stocks is quick and easy. You simply remove the two action screws and drop the barreled action into any other compatible Tikka stock.

The stock has some more features. It's an injection-molded synthetic stock with 35 percent fibreglass added to improve the stock's rigidity, enable it to withstand temperature variations, and resist warping which contributes to consistent accuracy. The buttstock is foam-filled to reduce its hollowness and deaden any

noise. You might think that the Tikka stock is over-built for a rimfire rifle, but it's actually a centrefire stock that's been adapted to a rimfire.

The stock has a high, straight comb and the slim forend is rounded on the sides and slightly flattened on the bottom to sit steady on a rest. It is comfortable to grasp, as is

ON THIS PAGE

1 The T1x's action worked as smooth as silk. Scope had a torch attached for night shooting.

2 T1X MTR allows you to change the grip from the traditional curved style to a vertical pistol grip style.

3 Fore-end was reinforced with struts and the section under barrel reinforce is removable and can be used with different contour barrels.



✓ SPECS

TIKKA T1x MTR

Manufacturer: Tikka, Finland

Type: turn-bolt action

Calibre: .22LR also .17 HMR

Capacity: 10-shot detachable magazine

Barrel: 500mm 20" or 16" hammer-forged; muzzle threaded 1/2x28

Overall length: 959mm (37.75")

Weight: 2.6 kg (5.12oz)

Stock: injection-moulded synthetic with 35 percent fibreglass

Finish: blued

Sights: none; integral 11mm dovetail; also drilled and tapped

Safety: two-position rocker-type

Price: \$1100.00 RRP

FREE LIGHTFORCE POCKET KNIFE

when you spend \$200 on the
Lightforce Plug & Play range*

\$50 VALUE



- Hi-carbon stainless steel drop point shape blade
- Tactile aluminium handle • Blade lock • Belt clip

The Halogen Handhelds, T-Handles, Mounts and Power Accessories now come standard with an AMP connector that allows you to switch from handheld use to remote mounted, or change power input within seconds.



STRIKER HANDHELDS
SL170ALI | SL170CIG



BLITZ HANDHELDS
SL240ALI | SL240CIG



ROOF MOUNT
RC225ROOF



WINDOW MOUNT
RC225WINDOW



T-HANDLE MOUNTS
RC225AMP | RC150AMP



CIG LEAD W/ AMP PLUG
CIGLEADAMP



ALI LEAD W/ AMP PLUG
ALILEADAMP



LITHIUM ION BATTERY
BAT11LIFE



**HALOGEN DIMMER
W/ AMP PLUG**
SLDIMAMP



LightFORCE®



*Offer commences 1st March 2022 and is available while stocks last.

At participating dealers only.

For enquiries, contact sales@lightforce.com

or call 1800 030 308

[LIGHTFORCE.COM/POCKET-KNIFE-OFFER](https://lightforce.com/pocket-knife-offer)

f @LightforceHQ

@_lightforce



4



5

the gently curved pistol grip. Panels of checkering on the pistol grip and forend are different to anything I've seen previously! It's not the conventional-type diamond pattern but made up of contoured grooves with tiny, flared serrated surfaces which afford a very secure grasp even to wet or sweaty hands.

This brings us to yet more modular features - the replaceable grip and forend. There are two types of grip available for the Tikka stock: the traditional curved grip and a vertical pistol grip. If the buyer prefers a broader fore-end, he add a beavertail forend. All the modular accessories are available in

black, olive green, coyote brown, orange and stone gray.

The grip is changed over by removing a single screw in the bottom of the grip and sliding it off. To slide the beavertail onto the stock, it is necessary to first remove the foregrip screw and swivel stud.

Tikka is aware of the importance of length of pull to the shooter's build and arm length and offers optional butt stock spacers that can be inserted under the gently curved buttplate to extend the T1x MTR's length of pull. I found the test rifle's 13.4 inch length of pull which is as close as you'll get to my preferred 13.5 inch, worked fine for me.

The stock is jam-packed with

innovatory features, but a critical factor in a rifle's accuracy is a crisp trigger. The unit, reminiscent of those used in the Tikka and Sako centrefires is adjustable for a pull weight via single set screw in front of the housing from 2 to 4lbs. The stock has to be removed to get at the adjustment screw. The test rifle was adjusted to give the minimum 2lb let-off which was totally inert - not the slightest hint of any creep or over travel.

Within its 100 yd. effective range any well-made .22 LR rimfire rifle is capable of accuracy as precise and consistent as any high-power rifle within its effective range. For testing the rifle had a 3-9x40 Burris Dropline rimfire scope with crisp 1/4 minute clicks in Burris steel dovetail rings. Built on a 30mm tube and equipped with a BDC reticle, it offers cutting-edge optics, clarity and colour integrity through computer engineered lenses and coatings. This Burris rimfire scope certainly complemented the Tikka T1x MTR.

We tested the rifle's accuracy at 50 yds. using a dozen different lots of .22 ammo - eight target and four hunting loads. Each was fired for accuracy taking the average of five 5-shot groups. No matter whether I shot expensive target ammo or relatively cheap hunting loads, the T1x shot everything consistently well. No one expects hunting loads to equal

ON THIS PAGE

4 Bolt is made in two pieces and has a heavy claw extractor more like that of a centrefire than a rimfire rifle.

5 Magazine well with integral release catch is inserted into receiver and held with a hex-head screw. Polymer clip holds 10 rounds of .22 LR.

the accuracy of, say, Eley Tenex, but the better quality high speed stuff was no slouch as you can see from the table.

As expected with a rifle of this quality, we never experienced a malfunction of any kind during firing over 250 rounds zeroing the rifle and checking for accuracy.

The Tikka T1x MTR is Tikka's first rimfire and it lives up to the reputation for accuracy that the company has forged over the years with its centrefires. Today, certain rifles have become a benchmark against which other rifles are judged. While the Tikka is still the new boy on the block, it stands out from its competitors. It's a rimfire rifle with the heft and balance of a centrefire that can be made into anything you want it to be. The T1X will not appeal to shooters who have moths in their wallet, but rimfire riflemen who want all the accuracy, economy, range and hitting power available in .22 Long Rifle, may find the T1X MTR to be the rifle of their dreams. 

ACCURACY RESULTS TIKKA T1X MTR

.22 LONG RIFLE	Bullet Weight (GNS)	Velocity (fps)	Average Group (inches)
Fiocchi 300 Match	40	1075	0.54
RWS Club 22	40	1068	0.63
Eley Tenex	40	075	0.48
RWS R50	40	1068	0.58
Eley Force	40	1196	0.66
Sellier & Bellot HV HP	38	1225	0.79
Sellier & Bellot Club	40	1066	0.68
Federal Premium HV Match	40	1148	0.54
RWS High Velocity	40	1256	0.65
Hornady Varmint Express	40	1225	0.68
SK High Velocity	40	1330	0.76
Browning Precison Rimfire	40	1478	0.56

Accuracy results are the averages of five 5-shot groups at 50yd fired from a sandbag rest. Velocities are the average of 10 shots measured with a Chrony chronograph.

ata arms Pro12

If you're after an economical yet stylish, competition grade over and under shotgun you need to look no further than the **Pro12** from ATA Arms

Features & Specifications

- Chrome lined barrels & chambers
- Available in both 30" & 32" versions
- Supplied with 3 colour-coded extended chokes
- Modified (M), Improved Cylinder(IC), Skeet(C)
- Full and improved modified chokes available at additional cost
- Grade-2 Turkish walnut stock and forend
- Adjustable comb raiser
- Length of pull 365mm (14.37")
- Laser cut checkering
- Sporting Clays style recoil pad
- Silver (steel) receiver with Black PRO 12 Motif
- Supplied in a take-down case
- 5-year warranty



www.ataarms.com
nioa.com.au



SIFA

Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia



Adjustable Comb



Low Profile Action



Extended chokes



3 colour-coded extended
chokes supplied

LURING IN FOXES



Adrian Kenney has studied the effectiveness of two approaches to luring foxes in. Here are his findings.

Fox Hunting With Two Calls

Australian hunters love to pursue foxes. While there are several methods of hunting used, the most common would have to be whistling or perhaps, given the wide variety of calls available these days, calling them up. Anyone who hunts regularly using this method will have their favourite call, which instils most confidence in making those redcoats run into their rifle or perhaps shotgun. Regardless of the whistle or caller that's chosen, none of them entice every fox every time. As such, having a second call is always an advantage to increase our chances of success.



MAIN: This fox came out to the button whistle.

INSET: The predator calls greatest asset would have to be its volume.



“

Firstly I'd try the button whistle, just in case there was a fox close by.”

FOR me, it's nothing special in any way shape or form – merely the predator call and smaller button whistle. Both of these are probably the most commonly used for fox hunting in Australia. Mind you, the Tenterfield whistle would be in contention too. I prefer the former two as the sounds I make with the Tenterfield would have more foxes running away than to me!

Both the predator call and button whistle bring their own pros and cons for the fox hunter. By combining the two calls you not only harness the best of both worlds but have a second string to your fox calling bow should one fail. So let's take a look at the benefits and pitfalls of each call in my opinion.

The predator call's main advantage is its volume. Being substantially louder than the button whistle, it can be used on windy days when attempting to push sound out into the countryside against a strong wind. In other scenarios, you can simply try to entice foxes from long distances or from neighbouring properties on which you cannot hunt. The main disadvantage of this call is the extra movement involved in its operation, which can catch the eye of approaching foxes, causing them to bolt in the opposite direction or the movement required to put the caller down to shoot once a fox is spotted. The latter can be a particular problem when the fox is close. I've tried to

hold the predator call between two fingers after using it to call and preparing for a shot should it be presented. This wasn't overly successful as the caller continues to make sounds with any movement that's required to face an approaching fox. A way to counter this disadvantage is to tie the call to a low branch on a nearby bush, run a string tied to the other end of the caller leading to your position along the ground, so you can activate the call remotely with your unoccupied hand at ground level.

An added bonus of the predator call is that it will bring in hares.

The button whistle's main advantages are its low price, compact size and lesser volume which in itself can be advantageous when used in particular situations. It can also be held in your mouth leaving your hands free to shoot. Even when simply raising the whistle to your lips to whistle, it is still less movement than using the conventional predator call.

It was a late autumn afternoon when I combined these two calls and my .17HMR and headed out to a couple of properties. Setting up at the head of a blackberry choked gully the wind was fickle and confused; blowing this way and that then changing its mind yet again. Not good conditions for calling up redcoats!

Firstly I'd try the button whistle, just in case there was a fox close by that could be taken on the quiet,

before I go alerting the entire countryside with the blasting distress of the predator call. After a couple of minutes of rabbit distress sounds penetrating the fortress of blackberry canes, a fox lazily appeared on a game trail and sat down to listen, his red coat standing in stark contrast to the lush green of late Autumn. Despite my best efforts with the whistle he wouldn't move closer.

Removing the cork from the predator call (that is used to prevent it making sounds as you move around the hunting area) a louder and more distressed sound filled the air. The fox stood up and ambled down the game trail leading into the gully head proper before again sitting down. In the end it turned into a circus as he refused to move closer, with the swirling breeze the suspected culprit. Moving down towards him to close the gap I spotted another fox walking across in front of me only 20 yards away, but with only a glimpse no shot was offered. A shot was taken at the first fox that remained sitting and resulted in a clean miss. Standing up with frustration for company, I noticed a pile of stomach contents from a culled deer. They may have been disinterested because they were full from feeding on culled deer or the breeze came into the mix. Either way- I was out of luck!

Frustrated and a bit annoyed at my failure, I drove up to the next

ON THIS PAGE

1 After getting no response from the whistle, it was time for the predator call to make these redcoats run.

2 This summer vixen was called up from the bush in the background using the volume of the predator call.

SAUER 100.

QUALITY & PRECISION



Your entry into the world of Sauer!

High quality production, and all the features of a modern hunting rifle from SAUER. Everything fits here: performance, quality and price.

3 Position safety / Adjustable trigger

3 Lug action / 5 shot flush fitting detachable magazine Sub MOA guarantee



NEW

STAINLESS XTA

The brand new SAUER 100 Stainless XTA combines outdoor durability, shooting ergonomics and elegance in one rifle. The features of this rifle include an infinitely adjustable comb, stainless steel weather resistance, soft touch coated polymer stock

AVAILABLE CALIBRES: .223 Rem., .308 Win., .30-06 Spring., 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 PRC & .300 Win. Mag



CLASSIC

The Classic is the tasteful entry into the world of the S 100. The robust DURA-BEECH wooden stock and the matte burnished barrel surface give this rifle the appearance of a traditional tool.

AVAILABLE CALIBRES: 223 Rem, 243 Win, 270 Win., 6,5x55 SE, 7mm-08, 6,5 Creedmoor, 308 Win., 30-06 Spring., 8x57 IS, 9,3x62, 6,5 PRC, 300 Win Mag & 7mm Rem. Mag.



Cerakote™
FIREARM COATINGS

CERATECH

Coated with a highly resistant Cerakote™ layer in "Grey Ice". The ultimate in affordable corrosion and abrasion resistant rifles.

AVAILABLE CALIBRES: 223 Rem, 243 Win, 270 Win, 6.5 Creedmoor, 308win, 7mm Rem Mmag, 300 Win Mag & 7mm-08



FIELDSHOOT

The perfect target, competition or varmint rifle completely adjustable to the needs of each shooter for maximum precision.

AVAILABLE CALIBRES: 223 Rem, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5PRC, 308 Win & 6XC with 26" Barrel



MADE IN GERMANY

SAUER 

J.P. SAUER & SOHN
ESTABLISHED 1751



Find your local Sauer Stockist at:
www.osaaustralia.com.au





ON THIS PAGE

3 These three foxes shot from the one stand would provide me with a government bounty, which helps allay the costs of fox hunting.

4 The calls in this article: Left is the button whistle and right the Predator Call.

gully head and sat down with a good view overlooking quality fox country – blackberry and bracken fern with a mix of native tussock. The first squeal had hardly left the whistle and two foxes were tearing down the opposite slope like water from a heavy thunderstorm. Before I knew it, a young fox leapt out of the tussocks twenty yards in front and froze trying to locate the squealing rabbit. With the crosshairs on the chest the HMR cracked the bullet thwacked home and a fox lay still on the hill whilst the other bolted away. Squealing again with more desperation the second fox reappeared and was subsequently missed. “Oh well, at least I managed one,” I thought, trying to console my renewed disappointment.

The day was getting on now, so I began the drive back home with the intention of trying at one last spot. The vehicle door clicked shut and with the daypack on and rifle over the shoulder I quietly opened the gate and shut it trying to reduce rattles and clangs of chain upon metal. Hunched over, I began my way over towards the calling position, trying not to spook any feeding kangaroos. Half way across the paddock I spotted a fox already out hunting in the late afternoon.

He was some distance off and unaware of my presence as the wind was favourable and in my face for once. With relief I settled down in front of a small shrub for camouflage and with the

kangaroos still feeding, the fox still unaware and the wind still fanning my face, things were looking positive. There was no need to bother with shooting sticks as any opportunity presented would be close. I uncorked the predator call in case it was needed and raised the button whistle to my lips. The response from the fox was instant as he casually turned his head in my direction at a distance of some hundred-or-so yards. Then, he simply continued to walk away.

The little whistle squealed its best into the late afternoon shadows, where kangaroos sat up looking with interest and the mongrel fox sat having a scratch with the occasional glance in my direction. He ambled off up the hill without interest. Not only was he disappearing into the distance no other foxes had been enticed either. Ok, there is nothing to lose I thought- let’s try the predator call.

Before I had a chance, a stampede of kangaroos came over the hill above the fox causing him to bolt into the blackberries as the predator call vigorously sung its

tortuous tune. Off to the right along a line of trees another fox was on the run straight towards me. Settling in for the direction of the approaching fox I gave one last quick squawk on the caller as he dipped out of sight to go under a fence. So when he came up into view at only 30 yards I gave the usual squeak with the lips to prop him for the shot. Thwack! The foxes yellow fur lay upon the hill fanned by the increasingly cold late afternoon wind as the bolt ejected the spent case and pushed home another.

The first fox was still in that patch of blackberries across the paddock, so I called and called some more. Only a short time passed and he reemerged to sit on the fringe of cover looking in my direction. Now he was interested! Soon he was on the run and this time headed my way. Turning to the left to face his expected approach I waited for him to reappear at any moment. Completely unexpected, another fox appeared all of a sudden at only ten yards; its fur more yellow and body smaller in size. Both my and his movements were partly obscured by the remnants of long, dry summer grass as I moved to shoot and he moved to circle downwind. Slipping through the wring-lock fence with surprising ease he propped and turned his head after a couple of squeaks from my lips. Burnt rifle powder drifted on the cool afternoon breeze as the colour of a fox lay still amongst the grass. Two foxes lay on the side of the hill. The first fox, however, wasn’t seen again after the second shot so he played his cards well. This was definitely one of those hunts when I was grateful for having that second call! 🎯



NEW TO THE ZT FAMILY

THRIVE HD

FFP

QUICK ACQUISITION HUNTING, LONG RANGE PRECISION

THE PERFECT HYBRID

ZERO TECH[®]

ZEROTECH.COM.AU



Let There Be Light

Environmental conditions affect outdoorspeople more than most and hunters more than most outdoorspeople.

AS hunters, we spend more time outdoors than most people. We develop a rhythm that sees us thinking about the weather and conditions that may lead us to make decisions about how we will go about things. Is it going to rain? How hot/cold will it be? What's the wind doing? Another factor that sees us working around the rhythm or mother nature is how much daylight we have, and how we go about extending our time.

Humans have always carried tools to assist us outdoors. For millennia, our ancestors made do with not much and accomplished amazing things. Nowadays we tend to be able to go further and harder as we have seemingly endless technological advantages we can call on. Despite coming up with solutions to carry gear, hunt animals and take care of

them afterwards, it took early humans a long time to consider a light solution besides a campfire that was portable enough to justify taking on every journey.

My favourite time of year to hunt is the middle of winter because the camping is much more comfortable – for me – compared to summer. I'd rather curl up next to a campfire with a wool jacket and a bottle of wine than struggle to cool down and get chomped by mozzies. You also get to sleep more as the days are much shorter! What this does mean however, is that we

spend a lot of time around camp with our headlamps on working on cooking, maintaining tools or organising our gear. How the hell did we manage to survive without headlamps?

My headlamp stays in my pack for every hunt. We all know that the best time to hunt animals is when the lines between day and night are blurred. I can't count the

number of times I've had to stay in the field later than I intended because I've dropped an animal on dark and wanted to take care of it quickly. What about looking for the arrow you shot? Or finding something you sat down next to you and forgot to pick up before you moved off?

In the current climate of hunting in Australia we are seeing spotlights and thermal technology becoming more prominent in the pest-control scene. How you feel about referring to this as 'hunting' is one thing, but it is impossible to overlook just how important artificial light has becoming in our lives when we are doing our best to bring the numbers of pest animals down to manageable levels. Again, where would we be without this technology?

It will be interesting to see what this space looks like in another decade. The light industry is going gangbusters with all the torches becoming available for different uses. Smaller, lighter, and more powerful are all words we like to hear when thinking about upgrading our gear. I know people who used to carry around a car battery in a backpack while spotlighting foxes a few decades ago. Who likes the sound of that? Until next time, enjoy living your wilderlife.

Follow Dylan on Instagram at ['_wilderlife_'](#)

ON THIS PAGE

1 Dylan's wife Kirra butchering a deer as she loses daylight.

2 Solar powered lighting in a bush hotel room.



DESIGNED + TESTED IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



ALL SEASONS // EVERY HUNT



+ HIGHPOINT SOFTSHELL
+ TRACKER LONGSLEEVE

+ XONE PANTS
+ SPIKA THERMALS

+ DROVER HAULER-SYSTEM
+ DROVER BINO PACK

SEEK THE BIARRI STORY // BIARRI.SPIKA.COM.AU

[f](#) [@](#) [@spika.team](#)

BIARRI
by SPIKA

HUNTER

NZ ALPINE TAHR

The Air New Zealand flight touched down in Queenstown right on time. My two day work conference was extended for an additional three days for some team bonding high in the Southern Alps of New Zealand's South Island. To make it even more interesting, it was the latter part of June and there had been fresh, heavy snow falls in the high country. By Michael Cleary.

Ben's Birthday Bull

My mate and work colleague, Ben, picked me up from the airport and whisked us away for an early dinner and a couple of cold ones. Over a beer we discussed the plan for the next couple of days and then Ben dropped me to my hotel. As I was getting out of the car, Ben muttered, "I will pick you at 3.45 am."

The author with his trophy tahr amidst a spectacular backdrop.





IT was a restless sleep, due partly to excitement and being concerned my alarm wouldn't go off. We grabbed three take away coffees from Maccas and then picked up Ben's mate, Rich. What a great guy, and not just because he let me sit in the front seat in a comatose state.

We were heading to a private property owned by the boys' mate from university, Harry. At this stage we didn't know if we had a hut to stay in, so we brought the MIA tent complete with the wood heater. Arriving at the property we were warmly greeted by Harry and his family. The fourth member of our hunting party, Nick, had arrived shortly before us. The good news was that we had a nice high country hut to stay in - the bad news was the access road was impassable due to heavy snow.

A quick call by Harry to the local helicopter base had us booked on a chopper to depart as soon as we could get there. We quickly loaded the chopper and were just about to take off and the cloud came over. Five hours of waiting and we finally got dropped off up at the hut. I have spent plenty of time in choppers but I must admit this was pretty hairy as there was very little

visibility and we were following the snow covered ridge line to find the hut.

We quickly unloaded the chopper in knee-deep snow and gave the pilot instructions to pick us up in two days' time. Rich passed me a carton of beer and asked me to put it in the chilly bin with a cheeky smirk. There was no need for a "chilly bin" as we had the best beer fridge in the world - snow as far as the eye could see. I just left the top of the cans sticking out of the snow.

With around two hours of daylight we donned our packs and headed out. Let me state from the beginning, it wasn't easy keeping up with these three keen young men. They were 25 years my junior and were "mountain fit".

At the second glassing point Nick spotted a tahr. I saw it just in time to watch it walk over a ridge way above us. The boys looked at each other and said let's go. I tried to reason with them by saying we will never get up and then get back to the hut in daylight. They looked at me like I was their poor cousin from across the ditch, shrugged their shoulders and started climbing.

I couldn't keep up with the boys



“

They were 25 years my junior and were 'mountain fit'.

as they made the steep ascent. Luckily there was tussock and a bit of monkey scrub sticking out of the snow to grab onto. I made it up over the lip of the ridge just in time to see Ben shoot a nice bull with his suppressed .270. A quick finisher and the bull was down. It was some impressive shooting as the bull was out around 350 metres. We watched as the mob of nannies and kids and young bulls made their way up the ridge. The mob paused and Nick had dialed in his scope for 450 metres and brought down a nice meat animal.

I looked back from where I had ascended and wondered how the



2

hell I got up here - it was almost vertical. I don't mind admitting I was pretty nervy in some of the spots coming up the mountain. What a spectacular view, we were approximately 2500 metres above sea level, high above the clouds and the afterglow from the sunset was shining on the snow-clad peaks poking through the fluffy clouds. This was one of those pinch-yourself moments.

After taking in the beauty of our surrounds, I pulled out a hip flask full of some very nice scotch. We all drank and toasted Ben for the success on taking a nice trophy bull tahr. Then we had another swig each and toasted Ben for his birthday. Not every day you shoot a trophy tahr on your birthday!

It was too late to try and retrieve Ben's bull so we hauled-ass back to camp under the aid of our head

torches and arrived at the hut an hour after dark. I did a few slip and slides and had to dig in a few times as we descended the mountains.

While the boys got the fire in the hut going, I retrieved a few beers from the snow and they were icy cold. As the banter continued there was a bash on the hut door and it wasn't the wind. The thought of Yeti sprang to mind, and then Harry lunged through the door. Harry had finished crutching some sheep after dark, jumped on the quad and rode as far as he could before the snow got too deep, then he walked up with candles and we sang Ben a happy birthday. What a great night as we partied in a tiny hut surrounded by snow until all hours of the night.

I was wondering how we were going to sleep the four of us in the tiny hut – but we managed to sleep five that night. A cooked breakfast was just what we needed and then Harry set off down the mountain. Ben and I headed off to retrieve his bull and then hunt further afield. Rich and Nick went a different way, but would end up in the same general area later in the day.

It took close to two hours to get to the high point where Ben had shot his bull the previous evening. We quickly identified Ben's bull in the snow and worked out the safest route to recover him. We also picked up a sizable mob of tahr in the distance well beyond Ben's bull. It was hard going over snow covered rocks and screes, but we finally got to the bull.

Ben handed me his rifle and told me to keep going and hunt the mob

ON THIS SPREAD

1 Ben's birthday bull taken with a suppressed .270.

2 Ben and Rich unloading the chopper.

3 Ben's birthday bull taken high in the tops.

4 L-R, Rich, Nick and Ben at the hut after a successful hunt.



3



4

ON THIS SPREAD

5 Ben on the right just after he shot his birthday bull. What a spectacular panorama!

6 View from inside the hut.

7 A NZ bull lower down exhibiting muscularity and confidence.

in the distance while he caped his bull. He said he would follow my tracks in the snow and catch up to me later. The next few hours will stay etched in my mind forever.

The snow was deep and the mountain was steep (Cleary, you missed your vocation as a poet- Ed) as I slowly made my way in the direction of the tahr. For the next hour I couldn't see them as an intervening bluff blocked my view. Each time I got to a small crest I would belly crawl until I dropped down the other side. When I reached the last small crest I spotted the mob of 11 tahr. I knelt in the snow and ranged them at 246 metres. They were mainly females and the only decent sized bull was still too young. Disappointed, I started glassing every crevasse and gut and soon started spotting more tahr. Over the next 15 minutes I spotted 38 tahr in six different mobs within 300 metres, all totally oblivious to my presence. This was one of those pinch-yourself moments as I sat in the snow on my own and watched six mobs of tahr going about their business in their natural environment.

I kept glassing from mob to mob thinking there must be a big bull somewhere in this system. My binos kept gravitating back to the large bull, but I knew he was still a bit young. It was my last opportunity on this hunt and although I was tempted, I knew it wasn't right. As I was watching the bull, I thought I was dreaming as a larger mature bull with a blonde mane just materialized from nowhere.



Game on. I quickly re-checked the distance with the Leicas, still 246 metres. I laid Ben's .270 over my backpack and got a rock solid rest for the uphill shot. The bull was quartering hard away so I aimed at the back of his ribs and sent it. There was a resounding thump as the bull was knocked off his feet. Within a second he was back on his feet bolting down the mountain and expired with a spectacular mid-stride cartwheel after running 30 metres.

The UHF crackled and Nick and Rich asked how I had fared. Bull down was my reply. As I began making my way up towards

my bull I could see Ben not far behind me. It took us over an hour of dangerous climbing to get to my bull. I was elated with my first bull tahr and the backdrop made for a very special photo session.

Had the bull ran another 10 metres he would have gone over a vertical drop-off, hundreds of metres down and unrecoverable. Ben and I quickly caped the bull. Ben determined it was too dangerous to go back the same way we had come, which meant a near vertical climb and then parallel across the mountain. Darkness fell and I had multiple falls with the





7

additional weight of the cape. With Ben's physique he could play for the All Blacks and without a word he grabbed the cape and set a mean pace. I am not sure I would have got the cape back to the hut without Ben's help. I followed Ben's tracks in the snow with the aid of my head torch and finally arrived at the hut three hours after dark. I was physically exhausted but on an emotional high.

I grabbed four beers out of the snow and it was party on! We had a great night of celebrations and there was a well-worn track in the snow where our beers were stored. After witnessing a beautiful sunrise through bloodshot eyes, we had a big cook up and packed up and cleaned the hut. The chopper landed right on time and

it was a much smoother ride back to base.

The team bonding trip was a huge success and we all agreed two nights in a tiny hut strengthened the diplomatic bond between Australia and New Zealand. I can't thank the boys enough for their assistance and friendship, (particularly Harry for hosting us on his property) and I offered to return the favour when they head to Australia. The work conference went smoothly except for the jet boat ride on the lake where we all got soaked. After two canceled flights I finally landed in Sydney on June 26 and eight hours later went into 107 days of Covid 19 lockdown - but the thought of Ben's birthday bull and my first tahr kept me strong. 🇵🇰

“

I made it up over the ridge just in time to see Ben shoot a nice bull.”

First Hunt, First Boar



Matt and his first game taken ever.

Gavin Adams' grandson really capitalised on his first hunt.

HERE'S a photo of my 13-year-old grandson Matt with his first pig, an 81kg boar shot with a Savage 223.

I had ensured that Matt had his Junior's Permit to allow him to shoot and hunt under supervision, so the first item on the agenda after some rifle familiarisation and practice shooting was to get amongst it and have a crack at some game.

In the middle of Queensland, pigs have been hammering graziers for years, breeding up through wet seasons and giving stock and crops curry. Now I knew a place where we may have some small measure of success.

So, after a short walk from the homestead, we spied movement in some long grass a few hundred metres away with favourable wind.

I gave Matt some room to stalk in on this sizeable boar, eventually to dispatch him with one clean shot.

Not bad for a kid, eh! 🎯

VORTEX



HOW TO ENTER

Write a maximum 400 to 500 words and include one high quality digital high photograph. Email your entry to marcusodean@yaffa.com.au and if published you will win a Vortex merchandise pack. If you place first, second or third over the coming year, you will win one of the major Vortex Optics Prizes.

To see the products in detail, go to sportingshooter.com.au and search for Hunter's Diary.

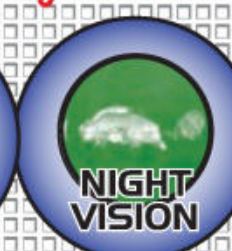


AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER OPTICAL SUPPLIER

It's all about seeing better – in the day & in the night



www.facebook.com/ExtravisionAustralia
visit our web site and discover a huge range of optical products.



www.extravision.com.au Enquires Ph.: (07) 3393 9384 or Email: sales@extravision.com.au



S-TAC Series 3-16x42 & 4-20x50

Now available in First and Second Focal Plane

SIGHTTRON™

BMR

BERGARA MICRO RIMFIRE



Follow us on
 Instagram



STEEL BARREL

.22LR | .22WMR | .17HMR



CARBON BARREL

.22LR | .22WMR | .17HMR

BERGARARIFLES.COM

Visit a dealer near you.

herrons.com.au



BERGARA®

SHOOT ONE. YOU'LL OWN ONE.



SPIKA Women's Wear

The Spika Women's Echo Activewear **TIGHTS** are the ultimate all-round garment to hit the gym or the high country in. Offering a durable design to be put through its paces, the Echo range are made from a polyester spandex blend that conforms to the body while offering support and comfort. Offering moisture wicking and anti-microbial treatment, they are available in the choice of black and Biarri camo black. A device pocket is also featured in the black tights only.

Spika Echo active wear brings a new era in the hunting world designed for any and every pursuit, be it hunting or the workout in preparation. The new Spika Echo tights for women feature a durable stretch and flatlock stitching.

See them at your local gun shop or visit www.spika.com.au for further details.



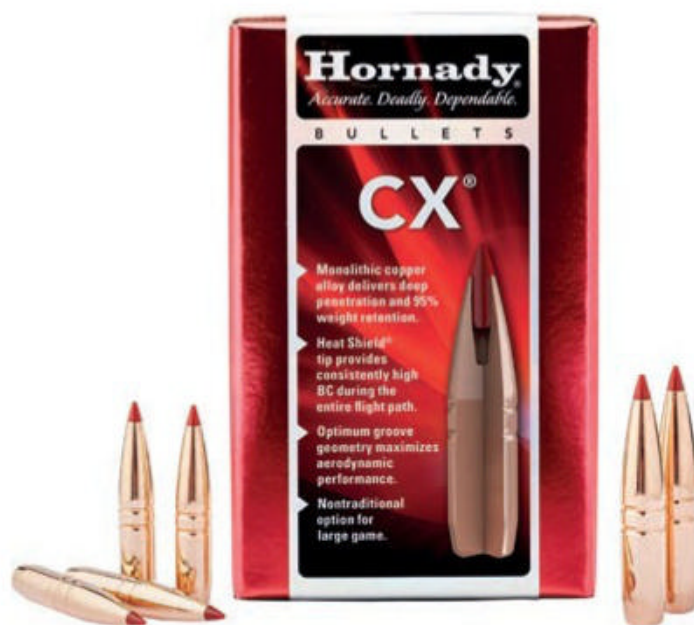
NEW

HORNADY CX Bullets

The new CX (Copper, alloy eXpanding) bullet from Hornady represents the most advanced monolithic hunting bullet on the market. Its optimised design offers extended range performance, greater accuracy, high weight retention and deep penetration. Constructed of one-piece copper alloy, it won't separate and delivers devastating terminal performance and 95% weight retention.

The tip of the bullet is made of a heat resistant polymer and will provide a consistently high BC for the bullets entire flight path. Its Heat Shield Tip also gives the bullet a perfect meplat (tip) for bullet-to-bullet and batch-to-batch consistency. Add to this the grooves on the CX bullet maximise aerodynamic performance while effectively reducing bearing surface and fouling. The new CX bullet provides a great option for everything from medium size to large game and is available in component bullets for the reloader or ready-made, factory ammunition.

Ask to see it at your local gun shop.



CITADEL TRAKR Rimfire Rifle

The Citadel Trakr bolt action rifle is the first rimfire from Citadel available here in Australia. Its ergonomic pistol grip stock is lightweight but tough. Next, it also features a threaded barrel and 10-round magazine in .22 Long Rifle and 5-round in magnums.

This new rimfire should be a fun one to shoot and the price will also make you smile at an RRP of just \$395.00.



RIDGELINE Terranea Squall

Ridgeline recently released a performance range of fishing clothing to help you stay unseen when out chasing the streams for trout or simply fishing the waters. Terranea Squall fishing camo pattern uses Veil Camo's core concealment principles to break up the angler's form and blend them into view from below the waters surface. What's more, its design is backed by a huge amount of research into fish vision and camouflage science.

Similar to the way a hunters camo works to blend in with the surrounds, this camo design engages selective palettes derived from colours and shades found in that environment. I like the new fisho camo pattern and wouldn't hesitate to give it a go when out hunting as its camo look would break up your outline while the bright colours make you stand out to other hunters. The new Terranea Squall by Ridgeline is a performance microlite range in a sporty fit and made from a soft-touch, lightweight knit. It also features an anti-bacterial finish to minimise body odour. Add to this it offers UPF 40+ sun protection to keep your skin safe from harmful rays during long hours on the water.

Available in plain colour or Terranea Squall camo pattern, this new line of fish/hunt gear comes in long sleeve with quarter zip, short sleeve tee for adults or kids, flex cap and lots more that will soon be released.

Ask to see it at your local gun shop or visit www.ridgelineclothing.com.au

LEUPOLD Mark 3HD Riflescope

The Leupold Mark 3HD 8-24 X 50 delivers elite optical performance. Leupold has a long history of manufacturing military grade optics that I'm told outperform and outlast everything else on the market. Now they have applied that heritage to a new line of tactical scopes. The Mark 3HD. With a variety of models to choose from, you'll be sure to find a Mark 3HD riflescope for nearly every tactical application.

Complete with MIL-based adjustment, HD lenses, exposed elevation adjustment dials and a low-profile power selector ring, this series delivers everything a tactical shooter could ask for. Like all Leupold riflescopes, these are designed and assembled in the USA and guaranteed for life.

See them at your local gun shop or visit www.nioa.com.au



BUSHNELL RXS250 Reflex Sight

This new reflex sight features a robust aluminium housing that exceeds the requirements. The point source LED creates a clean beam that produces a strong dot without wasting battery life. Featuring 10 brightness settings it allows for clear day-bright viewing and low settings for excellent night viewing visibility. The top loading battery is easy to replace and helps maintain your zero without the hassle of having to remove the sight from the firearm. Another feature is its user-selectable 12-hour timeout that will extend the life of the battery.

The RXS250 also offers dependable windage and elevation adjustment with 1MOA per click and easy access, push button design for brightness setting adjustment. Other features include protective form fit cover, sealed internal electronics rated to allow the optics to be submerged at 1metre for 30 minutes without damage and Weaver type low-profile mounts and also compatible for direct connection to any mount configured for the DeltaPoint footprint. TheRSX-250 by Bushnell is backed by a 5-year lifetime warranty on materials and workmanship from the date of purchase or manufacturing date.

See them at your local gun shop or visit www.nioa.com.au for more info.





STEINER MPS Red Dot

Steiner Optik recently introduced the new MPS (micro pistol sight) set to revolutionise the pistol sight market, thanks to its unique features. Steiner brings battle-proven durability and military ruggedness to pistol red dots derived from many years' experience in both the law enforcement and competition shooting market.

Designed to endure the most rigorous needs of pistol shooters, the MPS is a continuation of the efforts of Steiner to provide optics and imaging solutions for all tactical applications. Features include all metal construction, enhanced side walls and a recessed window with a metal hood that blocks objects from reaching the front lens making this one of the toughest and most reliable pistol sights made. Add to

this, the sight window is completely sealed and nitrogen filled protecting the roof mounted 3.3 MOA emitter from weather and water down to 10 meters. The top-mounted battery compartment also ensures quick and easy battery swap without removing the optics and a low sight window close to the slide.

The Steiner MPS is compact and very lightweight at only 58 grams. The MPS also offers 6 day and 2 night vision brightness levels, user-selectable auto/off and a staggering 13,000 hours of battery life on medium brightness. Offering true 1X magnification and Steiner quality glass, the MPS red dot sight offers undistorted image for both eyes open operation.

Ask to see them at your local gun shop or visit www.berettaaustralia.com.

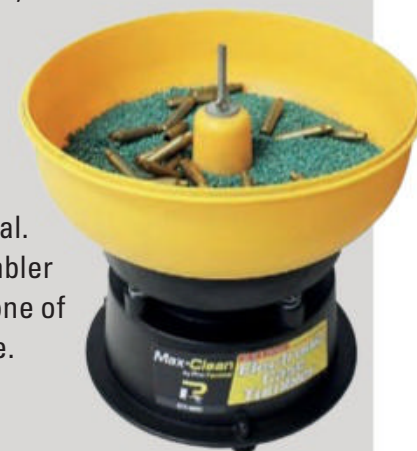
MAX CLEAN Case Tumbler

For a fast, easy way to clean brass cases before reloading Max Clean offers an electronic case tumbler that uses dry media to loosen any dirt, residue or powder fouling inside and out, including the primer pocket. Offering a 3.5 litre bowl capacity, I'm told the unit will hold up to 250 .223 cases or up to 600 x 9mm cases. As a test, I threw in 100 x 7mm Rem. Mag. cases for a clean-up before reloading and found the Max Clean did an excellent job.

Max Clean also provide a range of tumbler media that can be used in their own Case Tumblers; naturally, this media will work in other branded units. Max Clean Tumbler Media is available in the choice of treated walnut or corn cob media, both of which are ideal for cleaning and polishing brass cases. Offering a 3.5 litre capacity, I'd suggest half filling the bowl with media then adding the brass cases for cleaning. The time required to do so will depend on how tarnished the cases are, however, as a general rule of thumb, about two hours should have cases clean enough and ready to reload. Other features include quiet, thermally protected motor and a removeable lid with internal rubber seal.

The Max Clean Electronic Case Tumbler retails for around \$160.00 and is only one of many reloading products in their range.

To find out more or for details of your nearest stockist visit www.protactical.com.au



SPIKA Firearm Protection

SPIKA offers a large range of firearm protective bags, cases and covers to help keep your firearms in premium condition when in transit, locked away or when out hunting. For example, I carry one of their gun rain covers in my back pack when out hunting for unexpected rain or snow to protect my firearm and optics from the elements. Made of polyester, it's extremely lightweight and packs away into itself to little more than the size of your fist. Next, their range includes a knitted fabric, gun sock that's silicone treated and moisture resistant and ideal for use when in camp or storing firearms in the safe.

Spika also offer a well-made range of gun bags in a variety of sizes to fit shotguns, scoped rifles and even padded pistol cases. Their premium gun bags offer egg crate foam

protection with separate ammo/bolt pouch and padded straps, while their Deluxe bags come with a premium leather base, high density protective foam padding, rubber protective nose and lots more.

If you're looking for something a little more solid, then their range of double, single, take-down and pistol cases are a great choice also. Firstly, their double case features a 5mm thick plastic exterior that's water-tight, crush resistant and dust proof. Then there's a full length rifle case, take-down shotgun case and well-made pistol case, all constructed of aluminium and featuring egg crate foam lining, combination locks and provision for pad locks as well.

For further details regarding any of the above, ask at your local gun shop or visit www.spika.com.au





CZ 457 SERIES

THE NEW STANDARD OF A MODERN RIMFIRE RIFLE



CZ 457 MTR RRP **\$1560**
17HMR, 22LR



CZ 457 ROYAL RRP **\$1575**
17HMR, 22LR, 22WMR



CZ 457 PREMIUM RRP **\$1575**
17HMR, 22LR, 22WMR



**CZ 457 AT-ONE
VARMINT** RRP **\$1650**
22LR



**CZ 457 CAMO
STAINLESS** RRP **\$1095**
22LR



CZ 457 AMERICAN RRP **\$1185**
17HMR, 22LR, 22WMR



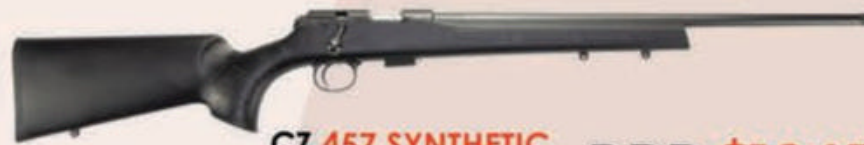
CZ 457 LUX RRP **\$1445**
17HMR, 22LR, 22WMR



**CZ 457 TRAINING
RIFLE** RRP **\$1350**
22LR



CZ 457 JAGUAR RRP **\$1575**
22LR



CZ 457 SYNTHETIC RRP **\$1045**
22LR

Subscribe & save 30%

+ FREE DIGITAL COPY!

Renew or subscribe to *Sporting Shooter* with auto-renewal for just **\$6.20 PER ISSUE** (print + digital copies)

MAGAZINE

The latest shooting news, reviews and tips delivered to your door



DIGITAL

Instant access to each digital copy via Zinio

TO SUBSCRIBE

VISIT **WWW.GREATMAGAZINES.COM.AU/SPORTINGSHOOTER** **Great**
OR CALL **1800 807 760** AND **QUOTE AUTO-RENEWAL** **magazines**
.com.au

Conditions: This offer is only available to readers with an Australian postal address. By subscribing via auto-renewal you give Yaffa Media authorisation to charge your nominated credit/debit card account or direct debit bank account regular amounts, in regular instalments, as set out in the terms of the subscription you are purchasing, until you request it to be stopped, or your card or account expires. You may voluntarily stop your subscription at any time by providing Yaffa Media's customer service department (subscriptions@yaffa.com.au) with written notice. For full terms & conditions, visit www.greatmagazines.com.au.

Remington®

WORLD CLASS GUN CARE PRODUCTS



www.nioa.com.au | www.remington.com



Always Watch The Wind

The hunter is hamstrung by a sense of smell hundreds of times weaker than his quarry. Awareness of the wind's vagaries will make up for this disadvantage.

MANY a hunter has blown a stalk after being betrayed by an errant breeze which carried his scent to spook the game. This is a common happening if the hunter is not watching the direction of the wind. More game is alerted by a hunter's scent than any other cause.

A famous English writer once said that man scent to any animal was "most awful vile." This good old boy mightn't have been famous for his hunting ability, but he sure hit the nail right on the head

with those few words. In my experience, unless the hunter takes care to keep the wind in his favour, he is not going to have much success.

It is astonishing just how far how far scent carries even on a faint, barely detectable breeze and what a startling effect it has on game. Many stalkers carry a pouch filled with fine ash and at intervals they carefully shake some out to see the way it drifts as it falls to the ground. Cloud movement too, gives a good



“

Only by frequent testing can you be sure of the direction of wind movement.”

Therefore, the hunter who fails to keep checking often to ensure that a breeze is favourable is not very efficient.

It is my conviction, based upon a lifetime spent hunting different species of game under widely varying conditions over vastly differing terrain that reading the wind is the most important factor in determining a successful hunt and also the most neglected.

Animals may not see or hear the hunter's approach, but may spook at the last minute while he is unprepared to take a shot. It's surprising how far man scent will carry on an apparently still day. All it takes is a vagrant breeze to carry the hunter's scent to the deer and it will immediately take flight.

The human's sense of scent is nowhere near as sensitive or

well developed as that of a wild animal who from birth is constantly forced to rely upon his nose to warn him of impending danger.

However, I believe that by turning the wind to his advantage and always taking care to keep it at his back and hunt into the wind, a man can often catch the scent of his quarry from quite a way off. Many times working upwind I've caught the scent of a deer, fox or goat long before catching sight of them. This is particularly so when game is breeding. During the rut, stags especially red deer emit a strong odour that clings to the ground and makes them easy to follow for long distances. I've often followed the scent left by a red stag that was so strong it burned the olfactory nerves in my nostrils. Billy goats too, have a pungent scent that carries a long way and can be detected from far off. Foxes in season leave a very strong, acrid odour that carries a long way on a slight breeze and hangs in the air for hours. Wombats have an odour that I find unpleasant, being heavily musky, as to a lesser extent are deer out of the rut. Deer are easy to scent but I've never been able to distinguish one species from another. To my nose a deer is a deer, until I actually catch sight of it.

Wind is mysterious only

ON THIS SPREAD

1 This red stag has caught the hunter's scent and is ready to take flight - he may be too late.

2 Morning fog rising off a river in mountain country can show the hunter how erratic its movements are as it spirals in all directions.

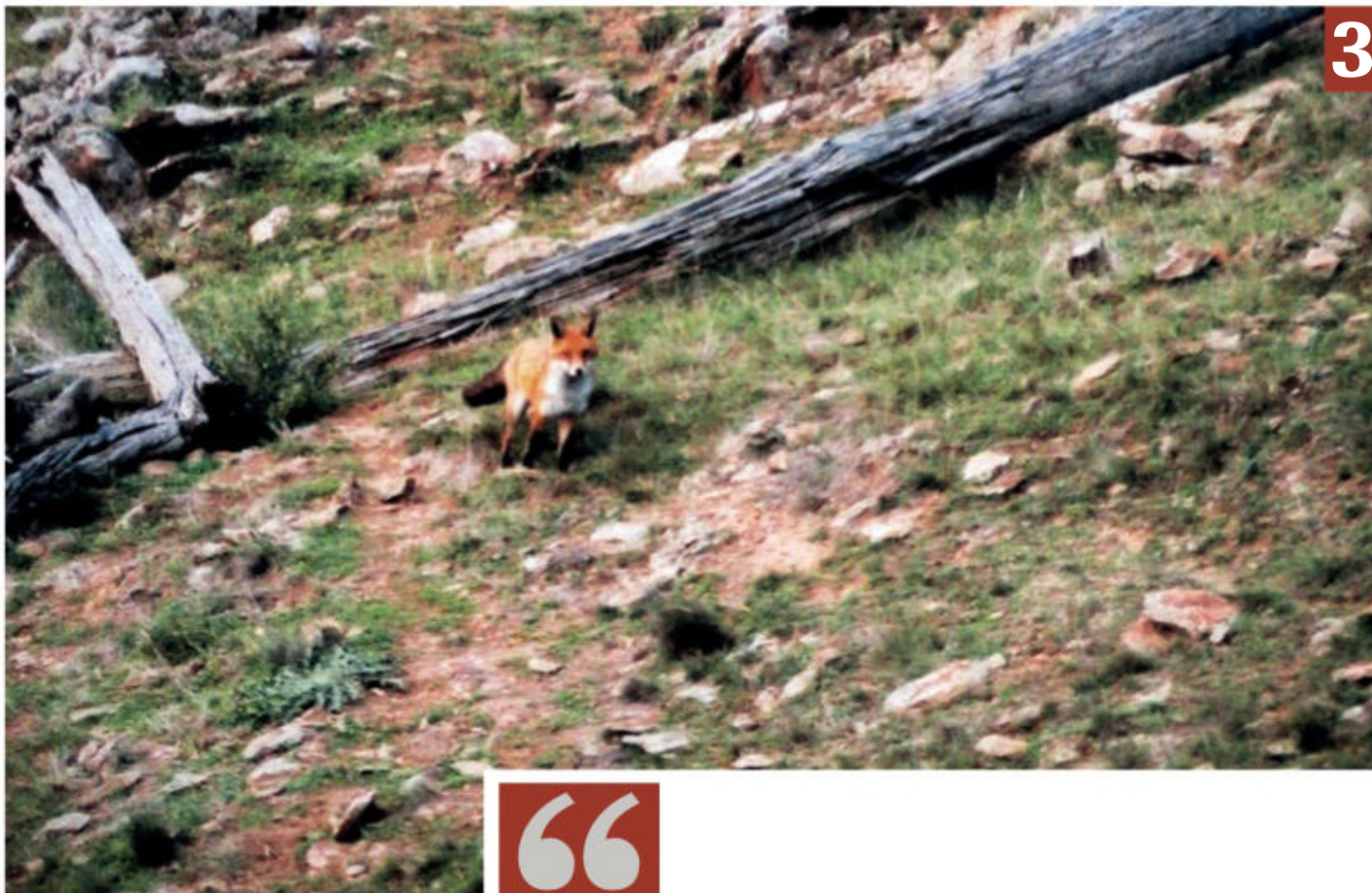
because you can't see it. In actual fact, it is like a great river which is never really still. Just like eddying currents of water, the wind can run mainly in a general direction, but at the same time it eddies about to follow the contours of the country it flows over. To further complicate matters, air currents also twist and bend to conform to the vertical nature of the terrain as well. Furthermore, its pattern is subject to alterations induced by changes in temperatures.

Anyone who has ever watched fog rise off a river in mountainous country on a winter's morning will understand this more readily. To say that wind currents in the mountains behave erratically is something of an understatement. Just watch the way they shoot tendrils of fog up every gully and ravine to be in turn funnelled off around a hillside then hurled over a ridge top only to be pushed back again. That age-old saying "always hunt into the wind" is still good, solid advice - if you can read it. But even the most experienced hunter often has trouble in determining "which direction is the wind"? A worst case scenario is the light breeze which he is unable to detect, but which the game can.

In a general way, wind is produced by unequal

indication of the wind's general direction, but the nature of the terrain and time of day can influence movement at hunter level where breezes can be variable.

If wind were visible so that hunter could see its movement he'd be surprised. There is a marked similarity to the currents of the ocean. It swirls and twists, now this way, now that. It is hardly ever constant, no matter how much waving tree tops and bent grasses would seem to indicate so.



3

should descend before the cooling evening air carries his scent downward.

The wise hunter doesn't try to cover as much country as possible in the shortest time. He'll move as slowly and quietly as possible, stopping frequently to glass the surrounding terrain. If he feels even the slightest suggestion of a breeze, he will continually test to ensure its direction remains favourable.

Only by frequent testing can you be sure of the direction of wind movement. A hunter should learn never to depend upon the ever-fluctuating river of air, which is bound to be swirling all over the place. Unless he is constantly checking and changing direction so that the wind is working in his favour, he'll spook most of the game without catching as much as a glimpse of it.

That old Indian saying: "White man walk a lot, see little; Injun walk little, see a lot" is just as true today, and you can't do any better than to follow that advice. But he should have added "don't forget to keep checking he wind". ☒

pressures of the atmosphere. Some areas are more windy than others. In mountainous regions, for instance, breezes are more pronounced and more complex in pattern due to wide variations in elevation and temperature. In fact, a lot of rough weather and storms originate in the mountains, the result of erratic air currents made by the combined elements of temperature, altitude and broken terrain.

The hunter should always be aware that even the slightest hint of a breeze, the faintest air movement can warn game of his approach, and he should plan his stalk with the utmost care.

Hunting pigs on flat, open plains country the general

“

The wise hunter doesn't try to cover as much country as possible in the shortest time.”

direction of the wind is likely to hold steady for most of the day and poses few problems. But in hilly country one must be constantly on the lookout for changes.

It only takes a vagrant breeze of a few seconds duration to ruin a carefully planned and perfectly executed stalk. Even the slightest change in wind direction will dictate a change in direction. The wind problem, however, is diminished after a storm, which is one reason why a lot of game is taken after the weather starts to clear.

The time of day you set out to hunt has an important bearing on air currents. As a rule, morning air warmed by the sun, rises in the gullies and cooling air travels downward - for the simple reason that warming air ascends while cooling air descends. This fact is well known to rural bush fire

fighters who expect morning blazes to burn up gullies and ridges pushed by the updraught and evening fires to burn down, fanned by the down draught.

A good technique is to make the day's climb from below early enough to get above air currents warmed by the morning sun. By remaining high up, and working the ridge tops during the warm part of the day, the hunter is more likely to remain undetected by game bedded down on the slopes below him. If he works the sidehill he can see what's up ahead and over on the opposite slopes. Late in the afternoon, he



4

ON THIS PAGE

3 The fox whistler must be careful to keep the wind in his face or the fox will get his scent and not come running like this one.

4 When billy goats are rutting their scent carries a long way in mountain country, making them easy to find.

ATHLON

RIDICULOUSLY GOOD OPTICS

NEOS

The ATHLON NEOS is one of the best valued 1" hunting scopes going around. Three different power ranges and three different reticles to choose from.

3-9x40 Starting from \$249

4-12x40 Starting from \$299

6-18x44 Starting from \$349



Standard
Plex Reticle



The 4-12x40 and 6-18x44
both offer side parallax



.22 Rimfire
BDC Reticle



Illuminated
BDC Reticle

ARGOS BTR GEN 2

The ATHLON ARGOS BTR Gen 2 presents as a great all round high powered Tactical scope. Key features include, first focal plane MIL reticle, illumination, Zero Stop and side parallax that starts from 10 yards.

6-24x50 MIL \$890

8-34x56 MIL \$990



30mm Steel Picatinny rings supplied
with the Argos valued at \$100



APMR FFP
IR MIL 6X



APMR FFP
IR MIL 24X

CAPE YORK OUTFITTER



Kendall Hunting And Fishing Safaris

Spending any amount of time outdoors with family is well spent, according to Peter Jackson.

Be it hunting, fishing or just sitting around a campfire, those cherished moments stay with you forever and it is not all about landing the big barra or dropping that trophy deer or boar. Yeah sure, that's the cherry on top, but it's about time with family.



THIS year, after nearly 35 years, my brother arrived in Cairns to join me for five days at Kendall River Hunting and Fishing Safaris in Cape York.

Now 35 years between hunts is long time, but both us Jackson lads have a case of wandering feet, which has taken us to many countries over the years, but made hunting trips a rarity. In my brother's case, he worked in Melbourne, Vietnam and Nepal, whilst I spent many years working in media in the South Pacific, managing and training local staff. The last time we hunted was in my hometown of Darwin until, as they like to say, 'life got in the road'.

But that was then and I was very excited to see Tony and not long after he arrived at my home in Cairns, we discussed our journey ahead.

Getting to Kendall Hunting and Fishing Safaris was a solid nine-hour drive starting with a quick stop off at a business in Mareeba to collect brake parts for

MAIN: Family groups seemed to set the pace this year at Kendall Hunting and Fishing Lodge .

LEFT: Guide Dylan Adams. If you were willing to listen, Dylan was willing to share.



“

We do find a large number of Cape razorbacks.”

one of the Kendall River Station trucks. Early morning brought light rain; we had already packed the car the night previous, so all that remained was to load the rifles - my Remington .30-06 pump with a red dot along with a scoped Remington 7mm Rem Mag - into the Hilux.

This year at Kendall was a special one for me. Not only was I lucky to have my younger brother join me, but I would be test driving my recent ‘all singing, all dancing’ titanium hip replacement.

I figured the now three-month-old hip surgery was ready for a test drive and walking through the scrub hunting big snotty boars up in The Cape was the best way to see just how good a job the surgeon had done. The way I saw it, two things could result.

One, we would have a successful hunt as I would be suitably mobile and could keep up with my brother and our guide Dylan as we shadowed the drying swamp lands,

eradicating large feral pigs at will.

Alternatively we do find a large number of Cape razorbacks, and have limited ability to move fast enough to take evasive action and some nasty old hooky boar would open me in the same manner a millennial opens up an Amazon package.

Arriving at the Kendall River gate turn off, we spotted the white 100 Series Landcruiser sitting under the shade where we met our guide for the next few days, one Mr. Dylan Adams.

We made our introductions and then followed Dylan back to the Kendall River Hunting Camp some 15 minutes away. Despite the trip

to the Lodge being long it was not arduous at all.

There are alternatives, like catching the weekly mail plane, but if you are considering driving in, it is recommended that you have a Sat Phone in your possession and your vehicle is in good shape.

The driving instructions offered by the Lodge manager Jason Knack are simple enough to follow and the road well maintained and marked. Just watch for cattle and nearby station vehicles that use the road in.

Not long after arriving we unpacked our gear in the simple but functional accommodation. You are quartered in basic bungalows that offer your own shower, toilets and a comfortable bed; more than sufficient for visiting hunters to lay their heads after a big day in the bush.

With light dwindling, we jumped into the Toyota for a quick tour of this massive property. We had

ABOVE: Kendall is loaded with large feral pigs, estimated to be in the thousands.



SPORTING
SHOTGUNS

RRP
\$2,199

Field or Clay The ultimate all rounder

Available Barrel Length 30"

GAUGE	12	TRIGGER	Fixed
CHAMBER	3"	CHOKES INCLUDED	4x Invector+ Interchangeable
STOCK GRADE	1 Varnish	RIB WIDTH	10mm
PULL LENGTH	375mm	SIGHTS	White Bead with Mid Bead
COMB	39.5mm	PAD	Flat Sporter Rubber
HEEL	63mm		



INVECTOR
PLUS+

The ideal gun to combine Field and Clay target shooting at a price beginners can reach. This gun is at home in the paddock, swamp, or casually busting clays. The attractive game scene engraving, and Japanese attention to detail, will make you a very proud Miroku owner. Equipped with interchangeable Invector Plus chokes, and steel shot proofed, with 3 inch chambers this gun is built for any challenge. Chrome lined barrels and steel shot proofing make this the best value shotgun in Australia bar none.

AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING STOCKISTS!

Abela's Gunshop	Campbelltown	NSW	Rockhampton Halls Firearms	Rockhampton	QLD	In Season Hunting & Fishing	Warragul	VIC
Elks Hunting & Fishing	Albury	NSW	Fisher Firearms Wholesale	Norwood	SA	J & A Shooting Supplies	Horsham	VIC
Grafton Firearms	South Grafton	NSW	The Adelaide Gun Shop	Adelaide	SA	Melbourne Gun Works	Tullamarine	VIC
Gunpro	Dubbo	NSW	Gunforce	Hindmarsh	SA	Miall's Gun Shop	Frankston	VIC
Horsley Park Gunshop	Horsley Park	NSW	New Norfolk Gunshop	New Norfolk	TAS	Northern Vic Ammo Supplies	Tungamah	VIC
Riverina Hunting & Fishing	Griffith	NSW	Southern Range Sports	Kingston	TAS	O'Reillys Firearms	Thornbury	VIC
Safari Firearms	Bexley	NSW	The Sports Hut	Invermay	TAS	Presto's Hunting & Shooting	Mildura	VIC
Suffolk Outdoor Sports	Lismore	NSW	Allgoods Pty Ltd	Launceston	TAS	Quinns Sports Power	Hamilton	VIC
Power Ammo	Wagga Wagga	NSW	A & W Grassi	Oxley	VIC	R F Scott & Co	Wendouree	VIC
Gunsmoke Bathurst	Bathurst	NSW	Alpine Country	Morwell	VIC	Smiths Outdoors	Bendigo East	VIC
Coolalinga Guns & Ammo	Coolalinga	NT	Bairnsdale Firearms	Bairnsdale	VIC	Swan Hill Fishing & Shooting	Swan Hill	VIC
Cleaver Firearms	Margate	QLD	Blueys Bait & Tackle	Wodonga	VIC	Wild Outdoors	North Shore	VIC
Halls Firearms	Hermit Park	QLD	Clayton Firearms	Clayton	VIC	Trelly's Hunting & Fishing	Shepparton	VIC
The Outpost	Park Avenue	QLD	GFD Guns & Ammo	Kyabram	VIC	My Mates Outdoors	Melton	VIC
The Barn	Oakey	QLD	Gunco Superstore	St Albans	VIC	Roy Alexander & Sons	Maylands	WA
Firearms Warehouse	Bundal	QLD	H. Rehfish & Co	Ballarat	VIC	South West Firearms	Busselton	WA
On Target Sporting Arms	Keperra	QLD	Holts Gun Shop	Colac	VIC	Target Solutions	Nedlands	WA
			Howard & Schuback Sports	Sale	VIC			

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS, NOTHING COMES CLOSE TO MIROKU QUALITY AND VALUE



mirokushotguns.com.au



JAPANESE
TECHNOLOGY

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



AVXLIVE ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>



“

Only 15 minutes east of the Lodge, a small bunch of pigs trotted across the road.”

driven only 15 minutes east of the Lodge when a small bunch of pigs trotted across the road and into the thick bush before we could bring the guns to bear. We all thought this to be a promising start.

Dawn on Kendall River Hunting Lodge is stunning. The ochre sun split the Cape morning sky and it is the first thing you witness through the open door of your cabin.

Guide Dylan was already on the case with the kettle on and a bacon and eggs breakfast being prepared. As we hurriedly drank our coffee, discussions were being held about options that were available to us as well as what locations offered up strong chances of good contact with the large mobs of feral pigs.

There was one small gray cloud (literally) overshadowing the morning hunt and that was the threat of a large bush fire that was

starting to build in intensity some miles away.

Dylan had studiously monitored its path overnight and suggested that the smell of smoke may shift the pig numbers to less favorable locations. We agreed to take a chance and head to a nearby drying swamp as our first morning location. We parked the vehicle, checked our rifles, then slowly walked into the thick bush at the edge of the graded road.

Quickly we were absorbed by the thick Cape scrub and slowly moved forward towards the billabong. It was not long before we emerged out the thick band of scrub, spilling us out into the thinner more lightly timbered bush surrounding the drying water source.

I spotted a small group of gruntners threading their way across our path around 100 metres or so.

Impatiently, I sent rounds down towards a medium sized black and white porker. I say impatiently as had I waited, the entire pack may well have walked out and presented better targets for us all.

I will say this and I'm sure our readers will agree, hunting is a perishable skill. If you are not actively hunting on a regular basis, those well-honed nuances learned over the years go out the window.

Here is where I can say that our guide not only understood our novice skill level, but also took time out to share his years of knowledge with us and help us rebuild our abilities in very short time. If you were willing to listen, our guide Dylan Adams was willing to share.

With our first mob of pigs sent hightailing it into the thick bush, Dylan sent us along the edge of the



ON THIS SPREAD

1 Grab a rod between hunts and hit the local rivers which are loaded with Barra.

2 Making memories is what Kendall is all about.

3 That's a wrap for this old boar.



swamp, while he went into the thick scrub that shrouded the edge.

Rejoining us minutes later, we moved together slowly around the edge of the billabong. Then it all kicked off.

Your guide later says to you “That was the biggest pig I have even seen,” you know your hunting at Kendall River. From across the billabong, a good 180 plus metres away, I thought I was looking at a small a scrub bull. It wasn’t; it was a huge boar that was in company, and on spotting us, bulldozed its way into the shelter of the thick scrub with the rest of the mob.

All three of us sent rounds across the water selecting our targets as fast as we could before they again were lost in the thick scrub. I dropped one smaller model, but the prized big tusker was gone despite carrying some extra lead weight

with him, we were sure.

Making our way around the edge of the billabong, some of the wallows were huge and it dawned on us that the massive beast we saw initially was hock-deep in mud, making him even bigger than we thought.

Dylan walked ahead while I grabbed a couple of pictures, minute the sound of Dylan’s rifle echoed across the still waters. “What the bloody hell?”

Seems the pig I slotted with the .30-06 had not had enough and while playing possum behind a log, still had enough in the tank and decided to charge Dylan. This was a poorly thought out plan and subsequently, the razorback’s anger management issues were solved once and for all with a hurried lead pill to the brain.

We spent the morning tracking

through the scrub and around 11am we returned to base camp as temperature’s climbed into the high 30s. Come Sunday morning, due to swelling in my knee, I felt it best to sit out the morning hunt out, rather than ‘Quasimodo’ me around the bush with Tony and Dylan. The lads left early, and I had high expectations that they would get a result.

For me, that was the juice for the entire trip. I could not give a rat’s if I got anything, as long as Tony picked up a good kill and we shared some time together. Making those memories that I mentioned earlier in this story.

Talking to manager Jason Knack earlier, it seems Kendall Hunting Lodge has been the choice for many family groups over the year. Visiting father and son team Jake and Rob Doyle spent two weeks taking down



some huge bulls and hogs together early in the year as well as a husband and wife team introducing their teenage children to Kendall River and the wild Cape region.

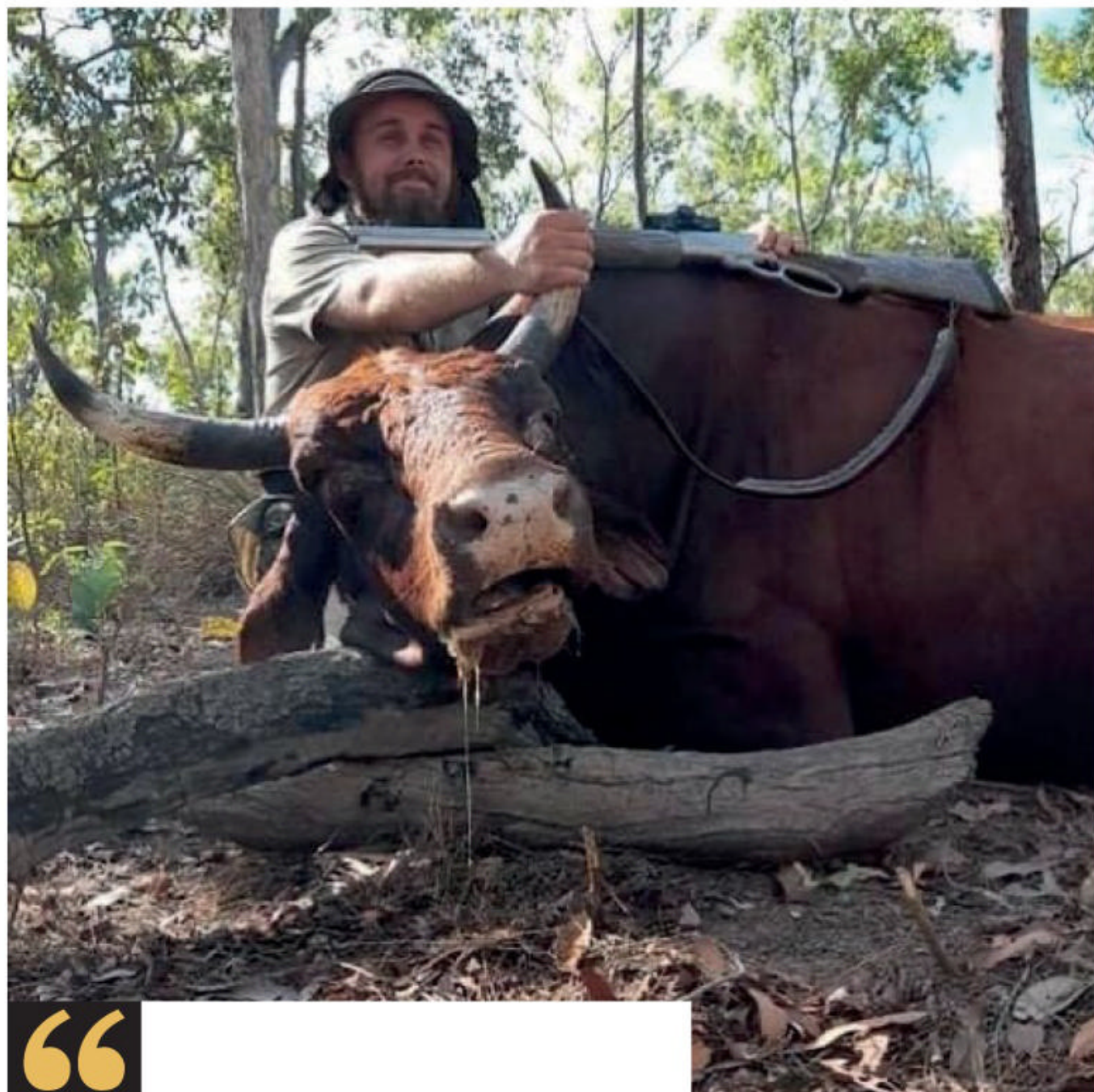
Life long memories are made by sharing the experience of hunting and fishing at what is considered one of the most remotest hunting locations in Australia.

Around 10.30am I heard the old Toyota rattling down the track that borders the all-weather Kendall River Station runway. The vehicle's motor echoed off the corrugated iron garage as both Tony and Dylan exited the vehicle.

Oddly, all was quiet. There was no excited banter; in fact, no conversation at all. "So how did you go Tony?" I called out from inside the Camp Mess.

Well readers, my younger brother walked towards me, head down, making it about four steps inside the camp kitchen before lifting his head with a massive grin and yelling, "It was a bloody ripper, one shot and down it went." I looked at Dylan and he concurred, "Yep, great stalking, excellent shot, instantly dropped it."

Dylan continued that they had been after this old hooky boar for some time now and that Tony had done a fine job. They had stuck close to the edge of the swamp, using the wet and muddy soil to mask their footfall as they approached the razorback from around 100 metres out. Slowly they watched as this sizable hog



“

Life-long memories are made at what is one of the most remote hunting locations in Australia.”

continued to tunnel out a wallow that allowed him to squat down, with just his ears poking out of this deep hole.

Moving closer still, the lads then froze as the pig stood up with his backside facing the hunters as they approached downwind. Dylan whispered to wait until he presented a better target, while Tony steadied his rifle against the paperbark tree. In one small movement, the hog turned broadside allowing Tony scant seconds to thread the .308 bullet through the light-to-medium bush, shutting the 85 kg beast down

ABOVE: A sizeable fresh pig wallow promises action - left, while monster scrub bulls are hunted on Kendall (right).

instantly. Job done, memories made!

Can I suggest that if you are planning that Father-and-Son, Husband-and-Wife or overdue mates' trip, consider Kendall River Hunting and Fishing Safaris. Check out their website conversations or their Facebook page showcasing some of the fine recent hunting and fishing adventures over the years.

I would also like to offer our sincere thanks to Jason Knack and Guide Dylan Adams for a sensational time on Kendall River. We did not manage to get a fish in this time but you can count on us being back one way or another in 2022 .

We both hope that Kendall Hunting and Fishing lodge will now feature as a regular November Hunting event on our calendars, because we have a few years to catch up on. 📍



INTRODUCING THE **ALL-NEW** **MODEL 110 IMPULSE** RANGE OF STRAIGHT-PULL CENTREFIRE RIFLES



◀◀ **110 Impulse Predator**

Straight Pull Action // AccuTrigger™ // Black Receiver and Barrel
Mossy Oak Terra Gila Camo AccuStock with AccuFit™
10 shot Detachable Box Magazine // 20MOA Rail Machined into the Receiver



◀◀ **110 Impulse Hog Hunter**

Straight Pull Action // AccuTrigger™ // Black Receiver and Barrel // OD Green AccuStock
with AccuFit™ // Flush Fit Detachable Box Magazine // 20MOA Rail Machined into the Receiver



◀◀ **110 Impulse Big Game**

Straight Pull Action // AccuTrigger™ // Hazel Green Cerakote Receiver and Barrel
KUIU Verde 2.0 Camo AccuStock with AccuFit™ // Fluted Barrel // Flush Fit Detachable Box
Magazine // 20MOA Rail Machined into the Receiver



Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia

www.savagearms.com | nioa.com.au

The Feral Cat Dilemma

Finally, the feral cat is being seen as the environmental nightmare it is and every hunter should, like Leon Wright does, shoot them on sight.

I have consciously gone out of my way to shoot feral cats for many years now, ever since I started noticing a significant decline in numbers of what we call the Little Blue Lignum Wren, while hunting pigs in the lignum lined Wallandra billabong. I asked my aunt, who lived nearby, if she had noticed it as well and she just muttered 'blasted feral cats'.

Leon's aunt with a ginger feral cat that Leon took with his scope sighted Brno .22 rimfire.





IT was just the following day that I came across a feral cat slinking along between the clumps of lignum, a mottled grey specimen with a stumpy tail. I had no qualms about shooting it even though I was carrying a Winchester .30/30. As usual, at this time of the year I was up at my aunt's, on one of my many forays after pigs and foxes and during the night I was helping Dave shoot rabbits for the chillers. For many parts of outback New South Wales rabbits were in plague proportions due to good spring rains.

It didn't take us long the following night before we were stringing 50 odd pair of rabbits along the boundary fence in the crisp night air as it was a full moon at the time. 'We will have to keep an eye on them from time to time, cats are everywhere out here,' Dave warned. And indeed, he was correct and the size of them had to be seen to be believed. Numerous times as we approached a warren, we would pick up the glaring eyes of a feral cat working it. By the end of the night, we had shot at least a dozen, probably closer to 20 of them and their sizes were unbelievable, probably due to a number of generations breeding up in the outback.

The history of the feral cat makes for interesting reading and just goes to show what ill-conceived ideas come from farmers

desperately battling the rabbit plague before Myxomatosis came along. It had long been reasoned that the best way to combat the rabbit plague of 19th century Australia was to release cats in bush. The Geelong Advertiser on the 29th July 1885 reported that several hundred cats had been set free on the Woolamanata Estate near Lara in Victoria and they were pleased with the results.

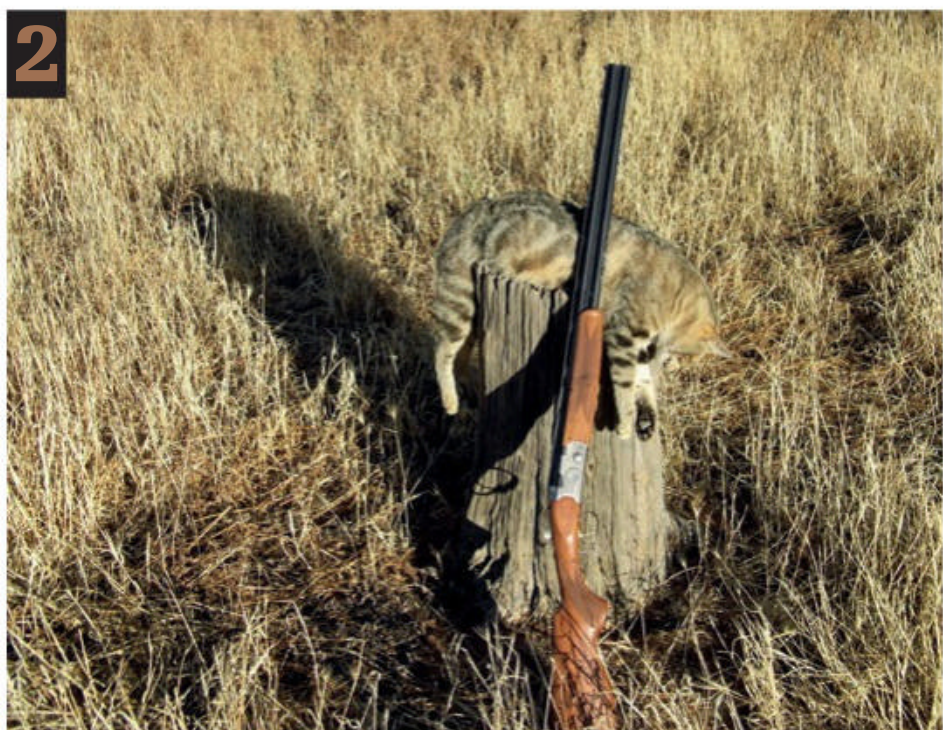
Also, in 1885 the owners of Golgeldrie Station in New South Wales were said to have purchased and released 700 cats in one go. Numerous other properties got in on the act and it was suggested, and laws were passed to protect cats that were in the wild so rabbit trappers, who were trying to protect their livelihood, wouldn't kill them. Incredibly, the desperate simplistic views of some thought that once the rabbits were gone a simple baiting program would take care of the cats, and now, 150 years later, our fauna and reptiles are paying a terrible price with many species facing extinction, due to the property owners' desperate short-mindedness.

Apparently, cats were kept in cages and fed a diet consisting exclusively of rabbit before being released in the vicinity of a warren. Surprisingly, this is still going on, all be it on a lesser scale. When I was living on a farm in the mid 1980's I



“

Well have to keep an eye on them from time to time, cats are everywhere.”



**4**

knew of one farmer who had turned out around 50 cats to combat the mice plague we were experiencing. Once the mice were gone cats were turning up constantly looking for food and one in particular was the same colour as my wife's cat. It would turn up nightly and steal my wife's cat's food and belt it up for good measure.

Sick of patching her cat up all the time, my wife told me to get rid of the feral cat. We knew the blasted cat was camped over by the

creek and, as it was a full moon, my young son and I sat under a nearby peppercorn tree in the hope of ambushing it as it sneaked by. To make things a bit tricky the feral cat was the same colour as my wife's, except that it had a black spot on it left side. It wasn't long before it came slinking along and spotted easily in the scope mounted rimfire. 'What do you reckon Jase, mum's or the feral?' I whispered. 'Dunno dad,' he sagely replied. 'Bugger it,' I muttered, 'I'll

ON THIS SPREAD

1 Feral cats such as this big tom grow to large sizes and survive well in the Australian bush.

2 Leon took this feral cat with his Beretta 20 gauge while out hunting rabbits.

3 The feral cat is the perfect killing machine, able to climb trees and go down rabbit warrens to secure a feed.

4 As is often the case this feral cat was taken with a shotgun when it was caught up in a fox drive.

5



ON THIS PAGE

5 Leon has taken feral cats with all of the calibres shown and then some.

6 When living on a farm in the mid 1980's Leon shot numerous feral cats that had been released during the mouse plague.

take the gamble on it being the feral.' At the sound of the shot the mortally wounded cat bolted for the house. 'Now we are for it mate, we have shot mum's cat.' Bravely I said, 'Nick up and check it out mate, but don't let mum see you.' Thankfully, he held up the dead cat and shouted, 'It's the feral dad.' We were in the good books!

I haven't called that many up to be honest, most have been chance encounters while out hunting other game. One that I did call up comes to mind, a black and white one that came slinking in, in response to my blowing the whistle, calling in foxes. The .22 magnum in my hands at the time proved to be the right firearm for the job resulting in one less feral.

We have taken numerous cats while conducting fox drives and on one such drive through some thick cover, my hunting partner collared a rather large black specimen. When he proudly showed me his victim, I looked at it closely and asked, 'Did you take it real close Mark.' With a quizzical look on his face he said, 'How do you know that?' 'The wad stuck in its neck is a bit of a giveaway,' I replied.

I tend to come across most feral cats while out spot-lighting rabbits and there is no mistaking a feral cat when it is caught in the beam of a spotlight, the glaring eyes are a dead giveaway. I have found them to be pretty tough customers and they take a good well-placed shot to stop them. The blowing of a tin whistle will not bring them in all of the time, but it will certainly stop them long enough to get in a telling shot.

6



“

The Geelong Advertiser in July 1885 reported several hundred cats had been set free on Woolamanata Estate.”

A couple of the properties that I hunt rabbits on have number of feral cats prowling around and there are probably ten times more that I am not aware of. I have been whittling them down one at a time with a large ginger tom finally succumbing to my .17 HMR after a couple of near misses over the last year or two.

One extra large black tom has come close to using up its nine lives in several encounters we have had with the final meeting a hurried shot out of my CZ heavy

barrelled .22 rimfire sprayed it with sand as it dived down a handy rabbit burrow.

Some time back I collared a large tabby coloured specimen while working my way from warren to warren shooting any rabbit silly enough to be above ground. I had just moved into a bit of high grass with my 20-gauge shotgun, ready to take any rabbit that showed its head when one made a run for one of the nearby warrens. When I reached the end of the high grass, I was a bit peeved at not having



PECAR OPTICS
— AUSTRALIA —

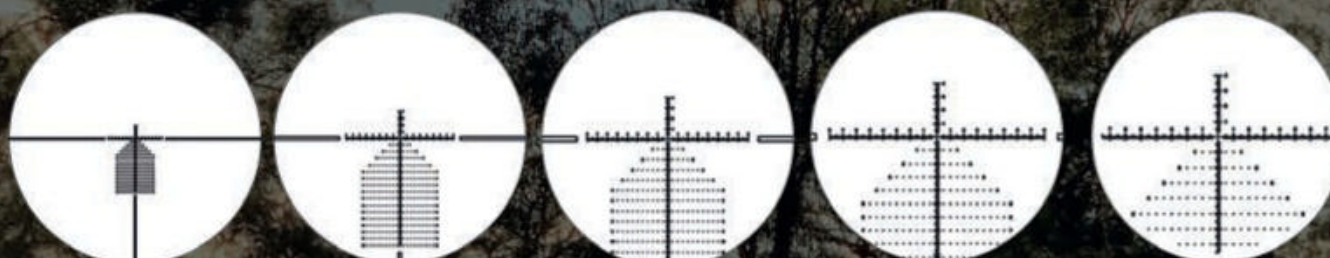
NEW

BLACK CARBON 5-25x56IR FFP SCOPE

RRP \$1,195



FIRST FOCAL PLANE ILLUMINATED RETICLE



5x

10x

15x

20x

25x

PUSHING LONG RANGE PRECISION SHOOTING TO THE LIMIT



WWW.PECAROPTICS.COM



#PECAROPTICS



flushed a rabbit or two, but my interest was quickly drawn to the sighting of a feral cat working a nearby warren, hoping to score a rabbit, no doubt. I quickly crouched down and closed the distance to the preoccupied cat, and a load of No 4 shot from my 20-gauge Beretta put paid to it.

A story I like recounting to anyone who will listen happened when I was out Sambar hunting deer. It was a glorious, sunny, cold morning and, while I had done a fair bit of climbing, I had barely raised a sweat. Sambar deer love a sunny spot on a frosty morning, and I was almost at such a spot. Sure

enough, a Sambar burst out of the dogwood, going hell for leather but still well within range. I considered it already in the freezer as I squeezed off a shot from my .300 Winchester Magnum, but the deer disappeared into another dogwood thicket. Standing there chastising myself for such a poor effort, a slight movement across the gully caught my eye. 'Of all things,' I thought, a feral cat was sauntering along carrying a bird almost as large as itself. Needless to say, the .300 Winchester Magnum is a pretty emphatic slayer of cats and, while it didn't help the hapless bird, it certainly put paid to that killer.



“

I have taken feral cats with every firearm I have in my gun-safe.”

And that brings us to the best calibre for taking feral cats. The only thing I can say is that I have taken feral cats with every firearm that I have in my gun-safe and leave it at that. Any firearm used for shooting foxes would be the perfect choice.

Researching the feral cat's initial history in the Aussie bush would take a bit of time, but while studying survey maps covering the exploration of the inland by the explorer David Carnegie's party in 1896-97, it is recorded that the party came across some indigenous hunters and amongst their bag of game was a feral cat.

The feral cat is a superb hunter and along with its mottled hide and hunting skills is an environmental nightmare that has been turned loose on our precious fauna and reptiles which have little chance of escaping a predator that can climb trees and easily enter burrows. It is as bad as the fox, if not worse and any hunter that comes across one while out in the bush should immediately shoot it. You never know, you may get a pat on the back from the green brigade, but then again, I wouldn't hold my breath waiting. 🎯

ON THIS PAGE

7 Leon's brother, Mick, would happily go out of his way to collar a feral cat.

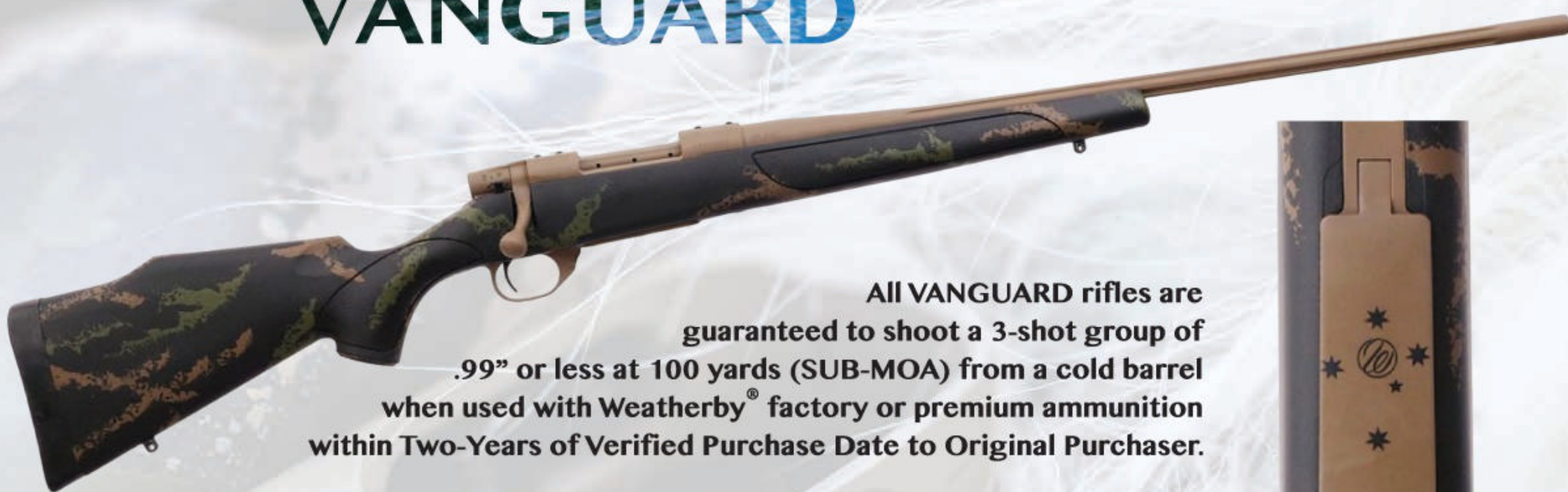
8 Whilst out rabbit hunting Leon found the good old Winchester Power Points excellent for rabbits and the odd cat he comes across.

EXCLUSIVE TO
AUSTRALIA



KAKADU

VANGUARD



All VANGUARD rifles are guaranteed to shoot a 3-shot group of .99" or less at 100 yards (SUB-MOA) from a cold barrel when used with Weatherby® factory or premium ammunition within Two-Years of Verified Purchase Date to Original Purchaser.

FEATURES:

- ▲ Adjustable Match Quality, Two-stage Trigger
- ▲ Fluted Bolt Body
- ▲ One-piece Machined Bolt Body
- ▲ Fully Enclosed Bolt Sleeve
- ▲ Vanguard Recoil Pad
- ▲ 3-Position Safety
- ▲ Cold Hammer Forged Barrel
- ▲ Integral Recoil Lug
- ▲ Hinged Floorplate.

STOCK:

- ▲ Monte Carlo stock features textured forearm and grip areas, right side palm swell
- ▲ Black Base Stock with Tan & Green Accents.

RRP

\$1599



BARREL & METALWORK:

- ▲ #2 contour, fluted barrel
- ▲ Barrel length is 26" for magnum chamberings & 24" for non-magnum
- ▲ Flat Dark Earth Cerakote® finish on all metalwork for exceptional weather and corrosion resistance.
- ▲ Australian exclusive Southern Cross & Weatherby "Flying W" engraved on floor plate.

AVAILABLE CALIBRES: 223REM, 22-250REM, 243WIN, 6.5CM, 270WIN, 308WIN, 30-06SPRG, 300WIN

FIND YOUR LOCAL STOCKIST
tsaoutdoors.com.au/find-an-outlet

TSA
OUTDOORS

f tsaoutdoors.au
i tsa_outdoors

f tsashooting
i tsashooting

WEATHERBY/FIOCCHI PHOTO COMPETITION

WINNER



From John Starr, this old sow was pulled up from making it back to the scrub line by the Lithgow .308 which is really liking the Fiocchi Ammo.



TSA
OUTDOORS

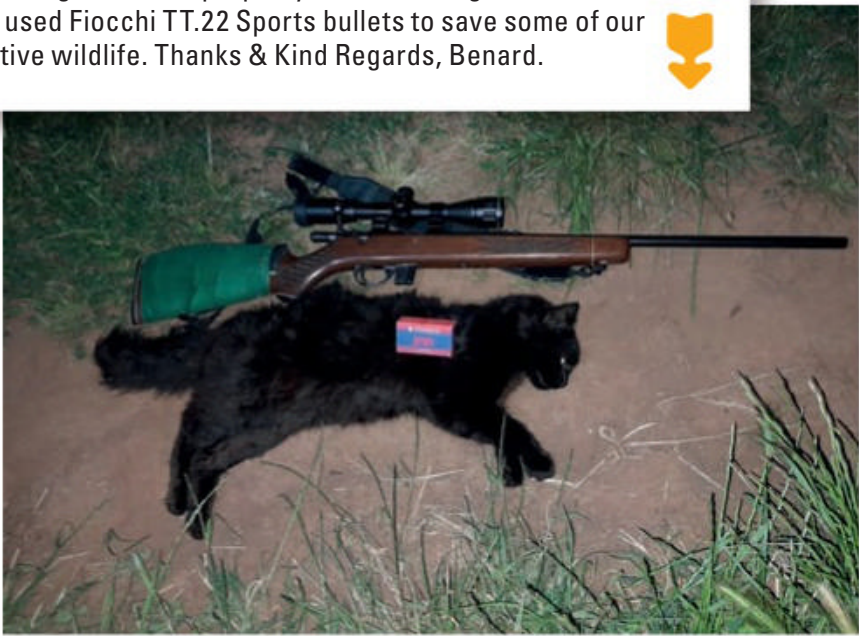
BROUGHT TO YOU BY TSA
Australian distributors for Weatherby
Firearms and Fiocchi Ammunition



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



From Bernard Hurley, caught this cat skulking around some roosting birds on a property west of Orange (NSW) last week so used Fiocchi TT.22 Sports bullets to save some of our native wildlife. Thanks & Kind Regards, Benard.



From Sean Niemeyer, Dad and I spent a cold blustery day walking the mountains where the swirling winds proved to be a challenge. We were lucky enough to stumble across these two good boars feeding in a sheltered gully and with a quick stalk they proved no match for the Fiocchi.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A WEATHERBY RIFLE IN EVERY ISSUE OF SPORTING SHOOTER IN 2022

*AVAILABLE CHAMBERINGS TO WINNERS INCLUDE 223REM, 22-250REM, 243WIN, 270WIN, 308WIN, 30-06SPRG, 300WIN.MAG. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

With the basis of a cold hammer-forged 24-inch barrel, 3-position safety and adjustable Match-Quality Two-stage Trigger, the **Weatherby Vanguard S2 Blued Synthetic** guarantees sub-MoA accuracy and user safety. The Griptonite® stock and Weatherby recoil pad makes for comfortable shooting and the hinged floorplate allows instant unloading. **To be eligible you need to include a box of any Fiocchi ammunition in the submitted photo.**



VALUED AT \$995

ENTRIES: please send your high resolution .jpg or .png image as an attachment to your email addressed to mickmatheson@yaffa.com.au – all images must be at least 1MB in size. For entry to be valid the following contact details must be included: **First name, surname, full mail address, contact phone number and email address.**

PLEASE NOTE: this competition is not a game of chance. To achieve entry, photos must be submitted to the satisfaction of the Sporting Shooter editorial team. All entrants must be over 18 years of age and need to be suitably licensed as per individual state firearm regulations and requirements. The firearms will be issued to winners through licensed firearm dealers upon sighting a permit to purchase. Firearm industry staff, paid shooting publication contributors and staff are not eligible to enter this competition. For full terms and conditions please visit sportingshooter.com.au/wfphotocomp



THREE MONTHLY RUNNERS UP WILL WIN A CAP AND STUBBY HOLDER!





Hunting Bullets Have Come Of Age

The conventional wisdom is that the handloader starts the process with selecting the bullet to suit the purpose. Today, the choice is huge, allowing loads tailored to any and every intended use.

THE first jacketed bullets were made with long, projecting nose sections of exposed lead. These bullets worked fine at moderate velocities from 2000 to 2500fps, and indeed this type of construction has never been substantially improved upon for such moderate velocities.

The copper alloy jacket takes the rifling well, obturates (seals the bore against escaping gases), doesn't raise pressures too drastically, and when the shank is made heavier, the core harder and the base thicker the bullet holds together and penetrates deeply unless heavy bone is struck. The exposed lead nose

will flatten upon contact with the quarry, the entire forward section of the bullet will "mushroom" and the greatly enlarged frontal area will then cut a correspondingly larger wound channel through muscle and tissue.

This basic design served very well until 1905 when Germany astounded the world with their 154gn 8x57mm load which developed a muzzle velocity of 2900fps, and the .280 Ross which turned up a velocity of 3050fps was introduced in 1910. This increase in muzzle velocities greatly exceeding 2500fps caused serious problems with bullet performance. Lightly

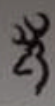
constructed bullets that would expand satisfactorily at long range frequently disintegrated upon impact with close shots on game often inflicting superficial wounds. Early attempts at toughening up the jacket and reducing the amount of exposed lead usually stopped bullets breaking up, but often resulted in a bullet which wouldn't expand at all at longer ranges where velocity had fallen off markedly. The problem of bullet construction is one which has plagued bullet makers for generations and became of increasing concern as velocities were continually increased.



Woodleigh bonded-core bullets, a more conventional design with varying jacket thicknesses, have proved very reliable on big game.

BROWNING A M M U N I T I O N

EVERY BOX OF AMMUNITION THAT BEARS THE LEGENDARY BROWNING BUCKMARK CONTAINS THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF INNOVATION, PRECISION AND TECHNOLOGY

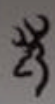


BXV

Predator and Varmint Expansion is designed to rapidly transfer energy and dispatch predators and varmints quickly. The polymer tip improves ballistic coefficient resulting in flatter trajectory and higher downrange velocity.



Available in:
223Rem, 243Win



BXC

Controlled Expansion Terminal Tip is designed specifically for use on Big Game. The Terminal Tip and bonded bullet design allows for deep penetration through thick, tough hide and bone. The anodized aluminium tip and heavy bullet weight are integral components to delivering precision accuracy, maximum downrange velocity and long-range, on-target performance.



Available in:
270Win, 28 Nosler, 30-06Sprg,
300WM, 300WSM, 308Win, 7mmRM



Bullet makers strive constantly to design and produce projectiles which will perform with uniform reliability over a wide range of game-shooting conditions; their every effort has been directed toward giving the hunter a bullet that will expand rapidly and positively on even light tissue at long-range low velocity and yet hold together and not break up when fired into big game at short range. This worthy goal has only been reached in recent years after continuous experimentation with different designs, materials and the introduction of sharply pointed noses to improve long-range flight characteristics.

The technique of making dependable bullets that will hold together at high velocity, yet give adequate expansion began back in the 1920s and German makers led the way

with bullets like the famous RWS H-Mantle which inspired the Nosler Partition, and the rugged Original Brenneke TIG and TUG.

The Americans jumped on the bandwagon and the 1930s saw the introduction of bullets like the Winchester Power Point and Silvertip, the Nosler Partition, Remington Core-Lokt and beautifully shaped Remington Bronze Point the first true spitzer expanding bullet. It was a hollow point design with a bronze wedge set in the cavity to retain its spitzer shape and open up the point when resistance was encountered. This design feature has been copied by many modern controlled-expansion bullets.

Since 1939, possibly the most dependable of all the early recoil resistant bullets was the Remington-Peters pointed Core-Lokt (inner belted); billed as "the deadliest

mushroom in the woods." It had had a slightly flattened tip and full length jacket which exposed a pinhead of lead which doesn't project out beyond the thin mouth of the jacket. Like the current Core-Lokt pointed soft-point, the tapered copper jacket is thick, very heavy at the base and locked to a solid lead core. The round-nosed Core-Lokt soft-points are skived around the tip's edge to assist expansion -while the pointed version is provided with a series of short, longitudinal splits for the same purpose. By the same token, the Winchester Silvertip with its thin cap of tin has also survived the test of time.

In any event, the surge in long range load and calibre development has resulted in the development of a number of "all-purpose" bullets, and present designs are directed toward more specialised



ON THIS PAGE

1 Hornady's SST bullet expands dramatically, forms a large mushroom and is capable of fine accuracy.

2 Barnes TSX, the original all-copper bullets, started a trend now followed by most major bullet makers.

controlled-expansion types.

Speer was successful with bonded core bullets which have cores injected into the jacket as molten lead. This process actually bonds the core to the jacket to prevent them separating on impact. Today, the majority of bullet makers use bonded-cores including Woodleigh's protected point line featuring bonded-core bullets with tapered jackets.

Bullets have improved vastly over the past two decades and they are all well-made, purposefully-designed and uniform in both diameter and weight. The emphasis now is on extremely low drag expanding bullets with high ballistic coefficients gained by the use of sharp polymer tips and a boattail. A bullet with a boattail is more efficient in flight than one with a flat base, but the increase in

ENTRIES ARE SELLING FAST!

1 MAY 2022



REGISTER NOW!

180
KM

130
KM

70
KM

40
KM

mudgeeclassic.com.au

STRATEGIC SPONSOR



NATIONAL
AUTOMOTIVE PARTNER

VOLVO

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



LAZER

ORBEA



SHIMANO

ASSOCIATE
PARTNER



CHARITY
PARTNER



efficiency is not noticed until the velocity of the bullet falls below the speed of sound. This doesn't happen inside 500 metres and that is beyond the capabilities of most hunters shooting the average sporter to score a vital hit on an animal the size of a deer.

Hornady's ELD-X is typical of the modern hunting bullet. Boasting a streamlined secant ogive with optimal boattail, highly concentric AMP jacket and Heat Shield tip for aerodynamic efficiency, it has a thick shank and Interlock ring to hold jacket and core together for 50-60 percent weight retention out to 400 yards. Beyond this distance the ELD-X still expands to form a large mushroom and retains 85-90 percent of its weight to give deep penetration and cut a large wound channel.

The Hornady InterBond is a tougher bullet with bonded core and a thicker, stiffer jacket which allows it to retain 90 percent of its mass allowing it to bore through heavy muscles and bones and expand to twice its diameter.

The Hornady SST "Super Shock Tip" has basically the same shape but is designed to expand more readily on small to medium game. It delivers tremendous shock on impact

while creating a devastatingly large wound channel.

Following Barnes lead in making solid copper bullets, a monolithic family has evolved which includes Hornady's GMX with tough mono-metal copper alloy construction. It has a streamlined appearance, a crimping cannelure, pressure relieving grooves to reduce metal fouling and retains 95 percent or more of its original weight.

Remington's all-copper HTP (High Terminal Performance) is another monolithic bullet - one of the toughest of its type, which gives 2X+ expansion on the thickest-skinned game.

The Nosler range includes a variety of bullets suited to different sizes of game and hunting situations. The AccuBond has a tapered copper-alloy jacket and special bonded lead alloy core; the bonded AccuBond Long Range offers a higher ballistic coefficient coupled with a tangent ogive and boattail which reaches way out yonder and gives optimum performance at up to 3400fps in the new super magnums; the revamped Partition has a fully tapered copper-alloy jacket, and dual-core with integral partition and crimp locks; the Ballistic Tip have a

heavy solid base and together with a modern version of the SilverTip gives optimum performance at velocities from 1800fps to 3200fps.

Swift's A-Frame is one of the toughest bullets of them all. It has an unusually thick, tapered copper jacket bonded to a pure lead core and a massive cross member. Unlike the Nosler Partition which often has the front section break away, the A-Frame mushrooms, holds together and gives deep penetration.

The streamlined Swift Scirocco has an extra thick pure copper jacket, a bonded core and 15-degree boattail. It was designed for long-range efficiency and is a superbly accurate big game bullet which retains over 80 percent of its original weight.

Norma's Bondstrike is a tough bullet with a chemically bonded core which maintains its integrity when encountering heavy muscle and bullet-busting bone. Like Federal's Trophy Bonded Tip (an upgraded Bitterroot Bonded which was the first

bullet to have its jacket bonded to the core) the company's Terminal Ascent has a copper jacket electrochemically bonded to a lead core, a polymer tip, a secant ogive, a boattail and a small meplat to reduce drag. It's one of the toughest bullets you can get.

It would take a big, thick book to describe all the excellent big game bullets available to hunters today. The guy who said that the bullet business is complicated, wasn't exaggerating. Before you set out to buy some bullets, give some thought to the kind of results you are looking for, the size of the game, the hunting conditions and the likely ranges you'll shoot at. ☎

ON THIS PAGE

3 The Nosler AccuBond enjoys a solid reputation for its performance on big game near and far.

4 The AccuBond Long Range is a longer bullet with a higher BC to make it shoot flatter over longer ranges.



SPORTING SHOOTER

STAY CONNECTED

All the latest hunting tips, reviews
and news at your fingertips



FACEBOOK

@sportingshootermag



INSTAGRAM

@sportingshootermag



YOUTUBE

@sportingshootermag



EMAIL NEWSLETTER

sportingshooter.com.au



ONLINE

sportingshooter.com.au



SUBSCRIBE

greatmagazines.com.au

Range Day

Knowing where your hunting rifle shoots can be easily determined at a rifle range.

AFTER a relaxing Christmas and New Year catching up with family and friends, it was nice to take the .243 out for some action after 10 months of seeing nothing but the inside of the gun safe.

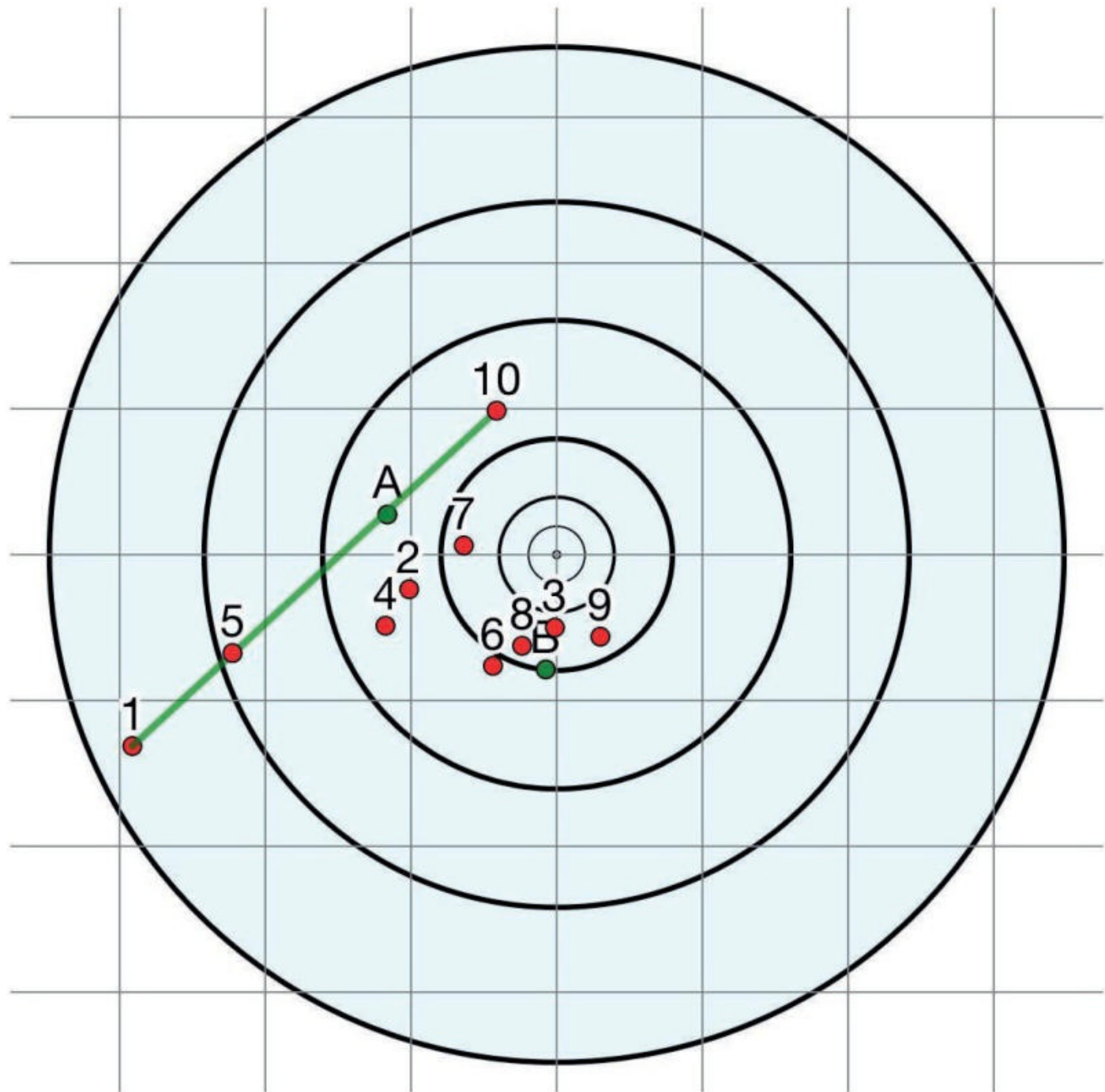
I was lucky to head out to Inverell rifle range and plink away at some targets with a selection of both Inverell and Armidale’s finest shooters.

When I got on to the club via Facebook and organized a chance to head out for a shot, I was warmly welcomed as soon as my feet hit the grass. Straight away I felt comfortable and ready to shoot.

“
How important it is to have the right equipment for what you’re doing.”

However, I was a little nervous when I found out we were shooting the 300-yard range, I knew my gun was shooting spot on at 250 meters when I last shot it during the 2021 deer season, but 300 yards? I was definitely worried that my rounds wouldn’t hit the electronic target, and that worry only jumped when I heard how expensive the sensors were!

That worry soon disappeared when I saw my



ABOVE: One of Chloe’s two targets shot at Inverell Rifle Range after Christmas.

first shot pop up onto the target screen sitting next to me on the bench. 12 shots later and I had a decent grouping. Not a bullseye but better than what I expected!

By the time my second round came too, I was slightly overconfident. Not paying too much attention to the wind that had picked up slightly. Although there were a few outliers my grouping was still spot on.

In my opinion, for hunting,

the grouping doesn’t have to be shot after shot into the same hole. However, if all my shots are with the size of a rabbit’s head, I am confident that will hit the kill spot on any game time after time.

Meeting the members of these clubs and listening to the advice they were willing to give will help my shooting, especially if I ever go on to buy a target rifle in 6.5x47, like the one I had the opportunity to shoot.

Watching the other shooters

and the way they were able to adjust their scopes accordingly as they shot, really got me thinking how important it is to have the right equipment for what you’re doing, whether that’s a long-range shooting scope or iron sights, or just the appropriate calibre for your intended game.

With deer season upon us, find yourself a range like Inverell, check your guns and shot placement, and good luck chasing the big stags! 🎯



HUNT REMOTE CAPE YORK

with Kendall River Hunting & Fishing Safaris

- 800,000 acres of unspoilt wilderness
- Fully guided and all meals catered for
- Well equipped camp with Donga accomodation including ensuite
- Various transfer options ex- Cairns
- Plenty of big boars, dingoes and scrub bulls
- Great fishing for Barra, Saratoga, Sooty Grunter and Tarpon (boat and land based)
- Catering for personalised itineraries and group bookings



For further details email
info@kendallriversafaris.com.au
or phone Jason on 0428 711 935

www.kendallriversafaris.com.au
send us an email to be added to our newsletter

Kendall River Hunting & Fishing Safaris [kendallriversafaris](https://twitter.com/kendallriversafaris)

BLAZZALIGHT AUSTRALIA

Daylight Never Ends



Blazalight Australia
Manufacturers of
remote control
handles, hand held,
roof mounted
spotlights and
worklights

Hand Held
Spotlight

Remote Control Available in 3 Sizes

Blazalight Australia 108 Belford Road, East Kew, Victoria 3102
Telephone (03) 9859 2600 Facsimile (03) 9859 2603

FOR ADVERTISING
ENQUIRIES CALL
TONY PIZZATA ON
(02) 9213 8263



Australia's Largest
Archery Store since 1973

benson

ARCHERY

www.bensonarchery.com.au

Bear ARCHERY

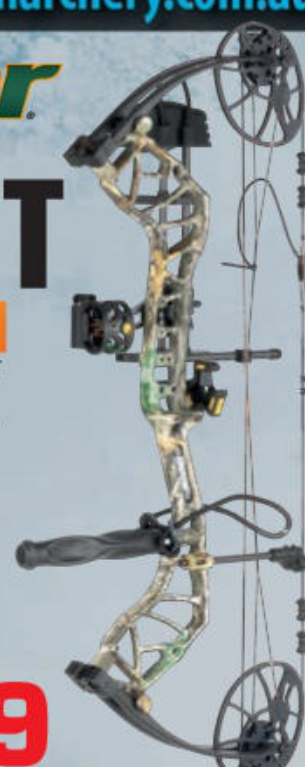
LEGIT

RTH

READY TO HUNT

AXLE-TO-AXLE: 30"
SPEED: 315 FPS
DRAW WEIGHT:
10 TO 70LBS
DRAW LENGTH:
14" TO 30"

\$689



164 Parramatta Rd, Granville, NSW 2142
Phone: (02) 9682 3080
Email: info@bensonarchery.com.au

Don't miss any issues

Call 1800 807 760 to order your subscription.



SPORTING
SHOOTER

WINNER

From Brennan Czinner, for my first ever boar weighing in at 80kg I may have set the bar a little high but stoked I was able to beat the father in law to him! We caught him slinking off a crop and was no match for the .357 Mag..



BROUGHT TO YOU BY GARMIN®

From Jackson Ball, Hi Marcus, I'm back, went out a few weeks ago, Jackson woke this good 76kg boar sleeping under the shrubs behind him in the pic. We were in the Westmar region again for 3 days. The boar was super fat which was good but he did bolt like the clappers trying to escape. Jackson hit him a bit far back, but good enough to slow him down, followed the blood trail for about 50mts & saw him hiding behind a tree. Second shot game over!



Tony Daniel shot the 5 pigs with 4 bullets on friend's property out west NSW.



WIN

a GARMIN eTrex 10 EVERY MONTH!

ENTRIES: Please email your high resolution .jpg or png pig hunting image as an attachment to the email addressed to mickmatheson@yaffa.com.au – all images must be at least 1MB in size. For entry to be valid the following contact details must be included: First name, surname, full mail address, contact phone number and email address. A short explanatory sentence with the email is also needed.

Garmin's outdoor range features unparalleled innovation in hiking, camping and hunting tech in handheld or wearable configurations. Options span from navigation, communication, safety and tracking devices. Garmin also produce a range of bow sights with built in range finder enabling better shot placement.

A Garmin eTrex 10 GPS Navigator will be sent to the best entry every month. Thankyou to Garmin for their support in sponsoring this page.

GARMIN®

TO SEE THE FULL RANGE OF ETREX MODELS AND LOTS MORE, VISIT WWW.GARMIN.COM

eTrex 10

The completely redesigned eTrex 10 retains the core functionality, long battery life and affordability that made eTrex the top selling handheld in GPS. Then we made eTrex tougher, simplified the user interface and added paperless geocaching for good measure.

Features include:

- High-sensitivity, WAAS-enabled GPS receiver with HotFix® and GLONASS support
- 2.2-inch monochrome display
- User-friendly interface
- Worldwide basemap
- Supports paperless geocaching
- Spine-mounted accessories



VALUED
AT
\$159



INTRODUCING ► **CRIMSON TRACE®**

HUNT THE **BRUSHLINE™**

The Crimson Trace® Brushline™ dedicated hunting optics have been purposefully built from the ground up. The line features aerospace-grade 1" and 30mm maintubes that are lightweight, durable, and reliable.

FAILURE 
IS NOT AN OPTION



OPTIC OF THE YEAR
2022
AMERICAN RIFLEMAN
GOLDEN
BULLSEYE
AWARD

DRAW THE **HARDLINE™**

The Crimson Trace® Hardline™ optics are designed with the tactical, competition, and target shooter in mind. The line features aerospace-grade 1" and 30mm maintubes, illumination options, Mil and MOA reticle options, and first and second focal plane options.

For more than 25 years, Crimson Trace has been an industry leader in aiming solutions. Through user-innovation and patented products, CT has pushed the envelope to create best-in-class gear for our Advocates. Those shooters who have an obsession for best-in-class Coveted Gear.

LIFETIME WARRANTY

We back our scopes with an unbreakable LIFETIME WARRANTY. Crimson Trace® will replace a damaged product at no charge to you—whether you are the original owner or not.

No proof of ownership. - No warranty cards. - No time limits.

It's THAT simple.



Find your local Crimson Trace Stockist at:
www.osaaustralia.com.au

