

AUSTRALASIAN

SPORTING SHOOTER



*AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS ONLY, CONDITIONS APPLY

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

APRIL 2022

DUCKS ON RICE

A different
recipe for
waterfowl
hunting

TESTED

Pointer ST1000
straight-pull shotgun

SPECIES GUIDE: RED DEER HUNTING THE KING

THE GAP YEAR HUNTER

How I beat lockdowns and kept on hunting



ZP-1
FAST • ACCURATE • DEPENDABLE

THE ULTIMATE HANDS FREE STABILISATION SYSTEM

THE ZP-1 AUTO
STABILISING MONOPOD
EASILY ADJUSTS
ALLOWING RAPID TARGET
ACQUISITION AND IS
PROVEN TO ENHANCE
SHOOTING ACCURACY
BY PROVIDING A THIRD
POINT OF CONTACT.

KEY BENEFITS:

- Always ready to go – whether used once-a-week or once-a-year.
- Oil-dampened reflex action – responds smoothly to the shooters natural movements.
- Light weight and easily fitted to a variety of rifle stocks.
- Deployed with the touch of a button.
- Discreetly locks away when not in use.
- Creates a stand-alone shooting platform with unrivalled stability.
- Precision manufacturing from premium grade materials.

ZP-1.COM.AU | NIOA.COM.AU

SIFA

Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia

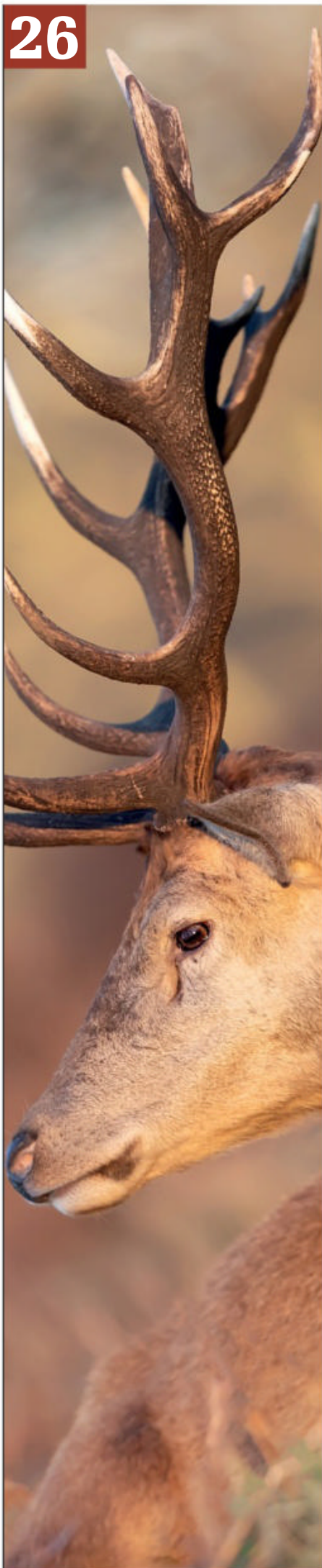


NMD346



**WATCH THIS
VIDEO TO SEE
IT IN ACTION!**

26



MAIN FEATURE

Red deer are among the most revered game, having a prestige above all of deer. Hunting a good trophy red is one of the greatest challenges there is.

08



HUNTING

Mann River Buffalo 8

Hundred kilos boars, packs of ravenous dingoes and big buffalo bulls staring you down from 20 metres. Plenty of adrenaline on this Arnhem Land adventure.

Species Guide: red deer 26

Your expert guide to hunting the king of deer in Australia: tips, tactics and all the background info you need to ensure you won't be relying on luck.

Ducks on rice 42

If you haven't tried shooting ducks over the rice crops, you're missing out! And it's one way to make up for a poor duck season.

Gap-year hunts 50

How was the Great Pandemic Year of 2020 for you? Callum had planned an entire year of hunting and, as the final tally proves, it turned out pretty well!

62



HUNTING

Weather to go 58

Making the most of a frosty start to bag a huge red stag with a pig to finish.

TEST REPORTS

Pointer ST1000 20

The new Pointer ST1000 straight-pull 12ga is a slick-functioning field gun that meets requirements of Aussie hunters. Nick Harvey finds Turkish inspiration in what is being offered as a fast-shooting pig gun.

FIREARM PREVIEW

CZ 600 Series 62

Nick previews CZ's radical new 600 Series switch-barrel rifles, which mark a completely new direction for the long-revered Czech gun maker.

32



DEPARTMENTS

OPENING SHOT	6
ASK THE GUN EDITOR	14
WILDER LIFE	32
HUNTER'S GALLERY	34
HUNTER'S DIARY	36
GUN LORE	38
SHOOTER'S SHOWCASE	70
PRACTICAL RELOADING	74
IN THE BLOOD	80
BACON BUSTERS	82

ON THE COVER

Two red stags clash at the height of the rut. It's an exciting time to hunt.



ARB INTENSITY

S O L I S




BULL BARS &
PROTECTION


ROOF
RACKS


CANOPIES &
UTE LIDS


SUSPENSION
UPGRADES


CAMPING
GEAR


DRIVING
LIGHTS


TOWING


DRAWERS &
STORAGE

A NEW
INTENSITY
OF DRIVING LIGHT



- ▶ 36 OSRAM LEOS
- ▶ 9 INCH LIGHTS
- ▶ INCREMENTAL DIMMING FUNCTION
- ▶ SPOT & FLOOD VARIANTS
- ▶ 1 LUX @ 1,462M (2 X SPOT)
- ▶ INTERCHANGEABLE RED & BLACK BEZELS



4X4 ACCESSORIES

A new editor

The new editor has no excuses because he's surrounded by talent.

MARCUS O'Dean edited 191 issues of *Sporting Shooter* and related specials and I'm told he never missed a deadline. That's a brilliant effort on both counts. Having been a reader of and contributor to *Sporting Shooter* through most of his time here, I know I have a high bar to reach if I'm going to follow him successfully. He's done a brilliant job.

Part of his success has been gathering a huge cast of good contributors. Editors have only a limited influence on a magazine's flavour, most of which comes from the people who write and photograph the articles. My task here will be so much easier because of the talented and enthusiastic people Marcus has welcomed into the magazine's fold.

And that's without mentioning Nick Harvey, a legend if ever there was one who has been writing about guns, ammo and hunting for longer than anyone in the world, at least as far as I can tell. We are all extremely

lucky to have Uncle Nick doing what he does.

Coincidentally, Nick lives just up the road from me. I've seen him at work and know that I will never, ever have the skills, ability and experience he does.

But you probably know all that. You may not know me, though, so I'll introduce myself and then promise not to talk much about myself ever again.

The short, relevant version on my history is that I've been shooting for more than 45 years and have been a journalist for 35. I suppose I've been angling for this job for most of my 54 years.

Along the way I've edited four motorcycle magazines and a four-wheel drive magazine, and started two firearms-related websites. Yaffa Media bought the first almost a decade ago and contracted me to run the *Sporting Shooter* website; now they've bought my second one and here I am!



Mick is a lifelong hunter and career journalist

In the meantime I've produced videos and other material for the shooting industry, worked in a gun shop that I almost bought but didn't, and have had some involvement in the politics of firearms and hunting.

I love hunting. It drives my passion for shooting, although I've also expanded my repertoire to include handgun competition at an amateur level. My hunting experience ranges from rats to camels (no buffalo yet, though) and I've managed to do a few hunts in

Europe. Where I've chosen to live, all I have to do is walk out the back door with a rifle and I'm hunting.

My plans for your favourite hunting magazine? Pretty much business as usual, with a subtle increase in the number of reviews we publish, mainly because I believe you want more. If you have ideas or requests, drop me an email. After all, I might be the new editor but it's your magazine.

MICK MATHESON
Editor

SPORTING SHOOTER

Editor: Mick Matheson
Email: mickmatheson@yaffa.com.au

Technical Editor: Nick Harvey

Contributors: Nick Harvey, Tony Pizzata, Dylan Smith, Chloe Golding, Callum Auldist, Michael Gibson, Rick Howell, Leon Wright, Warren 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



HUNT. EXPLORE. LIVE.

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

Gear Guide:

- Performance QTR Zip Top
- Men's Packlite Pant



— BUY INSTORE AND ONLINE —

ridgelineclothing.com.au

— ESTABLISHED 1994 —

DESIGNED AND TESTED
IN NEW ZEALAND

Mann River Buffalo

Hundred kilos boars, packs of ravenous dingoes and big buffalo bulls staring you down from 20 metres. Warren Smith gets his fill of adrenaline on an Arnhem Land adventure.

It's one of the most adrenaline-pumping animals you'll ever face while hunting in Australia: A buffalo bull, weighing 800kg and carrying a set of wickedly sharp horns, standing 20 metres away trying to make up his mind about whether you're friend or foe.

RIGHT: Jonathan used his father's double to take the last buff for the trip. Proud father beside his son.





WE ENTERED Arnhem Land on a dusty and rutted road intersected by numerous river and creek crossings. It eventually turned in to a track through the bush leading into Tropical Hunting Safaris' Mann River buffalo hunting area. Located roughly in the centre of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, it's very remote with access by permit only. Peter Lorman had rung me a week earlier and asked if I would be interested in giving him a hand at the camp and I jumped at the chance. Not too many people get the opportunity to visit this area and I was keen to see it.

The guests for the week were a family: John, Mary, Jonathan and Danny Managlaviti from Victoria. Mary was there to keep an eye on the lads with the hunting to be done by the rest. They had booked to hunt a mixture of trophy, management and cull buffalo.

The camp is set up high above the upper Mann River and is very comfortable. Proper beds, unlimited fresh water, shower, flushing toilet, inside and outside dining areas plus a well set up kitchen. There's also a TV if anybody feels the need to find out what's going on in the rest of the world. There are two hunting vehicles at the camp, one a custom-built Toyota Land Cruiser and the other a Yamaha Viking utility ROV. Pete gave everyone a rundown on how things work



1

around camp and explained the plans for the next few days.

Next morning, we were all up early for a hot breakfast before loading the hunting vehicle with everything we would need for a full day out. Pete takes plenty of cold water, soft drinks and lunch to be eaten later in the day. We started spotting buff not long after leaving camp but nothing worth stalking as most were cows with calves and a few small bulls.

The country we travelled through contained low areas covered with pink salmon gum trees and heaps of magnetic termite mounds and thick stands of stringy bark and woolly butt trees. Tropical Hunting Safaris has an area of 3000 square kilometres to hunt in and Pete told us that after 15 years out there he still has spots that he hasn't got to yet.

We pulled the vehicle up after spotting a distant buff and Peter

We watched as the other cows joined in to help the mother chase the dogs off but it looked as though the dingoes were going to win.”

grabbed Danny while the rest of us stayed with the car. They stalked into the bush to get a better look. Ten minutes later we heard the report of Danny's .375 H&H closely followed by a second shot. Pete arrived back at the car and we drove to where Danny was sitting and admiring his first ever buff —



2



ON THIS SPREAD

1 John Managlaviti used his Merkel 140 DB in 9.3x74R to take this nice management bull.

2 One of Tropical Hunting Safaris' hunting vehicles.

3 Jonathan Managlaviti with his first ever buffalo, taken with one shot from close range after a successful stalk.

4 Home sweet home. The camp may look basic but it is well established and properly equipped.

and it was a good one at that.

After handshakes and a stack of photos we ran the tape over its horns, and it went 94 SCI points.

Next opportunity was in a heavily wooded area where we spotted another buff that Pete called for a good management bull. John was keen and after checking the wind direction he started a stalk. The sounds of the bush were disrupted not long after by two shots from John's Merkel double rifle in 9.3x74R. We drove in and found John and Peter with another nice bull that would have probably made trophy class except that the bull had broken the end of one horn, with about 60mm missing. We congratulated John on his first buffalo and grabbed a few pics before heading back towards camp.

On the second morning we headed to another area and while passing a mob of buffalo cows and calves I noticed some dingoes harassing the mob. One cow had a very new calf and the pack of dogs were doing their best to separate it from the mother. We watched as the other cows joined in to help the mother chase the dogs off but it looked as though the dingoes were

going to win this battle. We observed this a few more times over the following days and presumed that the dingoes of this area specialised in hunting young buffalo. Packs of dingoes are very efficient hunters.

About an hour after leaving camp we pulled up at the start of a low area containing green feed and a small creek that had numerous waterholes. Peter and John left us in the shade with the vehicle and started a stalk along the edge. Shortly after, we heard two quick shots and then Pete called out to bring the vehicle up. John had scored another nice bull and the head measured out at 94 SCI.

We continued along the low area till we saw a thick stand of pandanus trees. The sound of trickling water led us to the source of the spring. There I noticed a very good size boar that would have easily gone 100kg but it quickly gave us the slip in the heavy cover.

With all of us now on foot we continued stalking the edge and a bit further on Pete raised his hand to stop us. A very old bull was wallowing not far ahead and Peter called it a good cull bull. Young



Jonathan was up next.

While we stayed still Pete and Jonathan used the available cover to get within 20 meters of the old bull. We watched as Jonathan raised his rifle and fired. It was a well-placed shot and the old bull went straight down. Jonathan did put in an insurance shot but I was pretty sure the first shot had done the job. The young bloke was rapt with his first ever buff and we congratulated him and grabbed some pics before continuing our stalk. We walked another few kilometres, not spotting any more

animals, then returned to the hunting vehicle for the return trip to camp.

Early next morning we went to a new spot, another low open area with a good supply of flowing spring water. Lots of buffalo wallows and very fresh footprints indicated it was a preferred spot. While sitting in the shade and glassing we saw a few buff about a kilometre away and one bull in particular caught our attention. Pete studied the bull through his binos for a while before saying that this one was worth trying to stalk.

John was up again and he and Pete disappeared into the thick bush that ran beside the more open area. I was keeping an eye on the bull with my binos, watching him move between the cows and young calves located close by. Around 20 minutes later the peaceful surroundings were disturbed by the sounds of two quick shots from John's rifle. The bull went down but things started to get interesting as another buffalo moved towards both the hunters and the downed beast.

Pete started waving and shouting and it was starting to look like the big .450/400 double that he carries as backup was about to come into play. The buff made three or four false charges before deciding to move off. Pete gave us a wave and we picked our way along the open edge with the vehicle. This was a very nice bull with a body weight around the 800kg mark. We ran the tape over his horns, which measured 95 SCI.



5

“

Pete raised his hand to stop us. A very old bull was wallowing not far ahead.”

Apparently the other buffalo was a cow that had a very young calf that was being harassed by a dingo and when Pete and John arrived it only aggravated the mother even more. It certainly added some excitement to the stalk.

With the group's buffalo all accounted for bar one we decided young Jonathan should get the chance to go after it. We didn't go too far from camp before stopping

at a small spring. Having a glass around we soon spotted a couple of buffalo on the edge of some heavy timber. With Jonathan carrying his dad's double rifle, he and Pete set off to get close enough for a shot. Once again, the shot was perfectly placed in the shoulder and the bull was down straight away. It was a great way to finish the hunting trip.

With a day left before departing camp for Darwin we decided to do a few hours' fishing in the river below camp. Pete sent us off with instructions to get a bag full of sooty grunter for the local landowners. It didn't take too long to get our bag full from the crystal clear waters. A very enjoyable way to spend the day.

Anyone interested in doing a trip with Tropical Hunting Safaris can visit tropicalsafaris.com.au or contact them on 0407 607 687 or info@tropicalsafaris.com.au. ☎

ON THIS PAGE

5 Danny Managlaviti used his Remington 700 SPS DG in .375 H&H with great success on the hunt.

6 A nice young bull that should get better with age. There are plenty of buffalo here.

7 Million-star accommodation with mozzie nets. Luxury!



6



7

STAY IN TOUCH
TO START YOUR JOURNEY

PREMIUM.BERETTAAUSTRALIA.COM.AU



WE OFFER THE UNIQUE PLEASURE
& EXPERIENCE OF DISCOVERING
THE ART OF BERETTA.

SOUGHT AFTER WORLDWIDE &
INDIVIDUALLY HANDCRAFTED BY
MASTER GUNSMITHS & ENGRAVERS,
OUR PIECES AWAIT YOU RIGHT HERE.

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO START YOUR
UNIQUE JOURNEY OF DISCOVERING
FINE ART & FIREARMS.

Also, discover us on
Instagram

BERETTAPREMIUMAUSTRALIA



BERETTA
PREMIUM AUSTRALIA



Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia





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

Howa 1500 strong and reliable



The Howa 1500 shares a good many features with the early Sako rifles. The action is slim and trim, has an integral recoil lug and excellent trigger.

Q I am in the market for a bolt-action rifle in .270 Winchester and have just about settled on a Howa 1500 with a Hogue Multi-Cam stock. This rifle is well-priced, but my local gunshop has been trying to talk me into a more expensive European rifle. What's your opinion of the Howa? Should I stick to my first choice?
Hugh Stevens

A The Howa 1500 has a good reputation and comes with a sub-MOA guarantee for three shots. I like the Howa, which is a straightforward design with flat-bottomed receiver, a hinged floorplate and a broad

choice of stocks. The one-piece bolt has twin forward locking lugs, Sako-style extractor and recessed bolt face. The breech is recessed to fully surround the bolt head with a ring of steel. Receiver rails are thick for increased rigidity and accuracy. Barrels are hammer-forged chrome-moly. The rifle has a HACT two-stage trigger that's crisp and inert.

Over the years I've tested a number of these rifles in various calibres and can recommend them without reservation. The Howa Model 1500 is well-designed, accurate and affordable. Don't get talked into something that may not suit your needs as well.

The .25-06 for varmints

Q You mentioned in a previous article that you considered the .25-06 to be the ultimate in a really long-range varmint-predator cartridge. How can you justify this claim in view of the obvious fact that the .25-06 is no flatter shooting than the .22-250, the .220 Swift, .243 Winchester and some others? Also, I don't believe the .25-06 is as accurate as the hot .22s and 24s.

Rodney Barter

A For all practical purposes the .25-06 is as flat as any of them (including the .220 Swift), however, it has the sort of long range punch that no .22 centrefire can match. The great advantage that the .25-06 has over the .22s and 6mm lies in the fact that it will drive bullets of higher ballistic coefficient (BC) to equal or greater velocities. A 55gn .224 bullet, like the V-Max for example, has a BC of only .255; a 75gn V-Max has .330. By comparison the .25 calibre

100gn Nosler spitzer has .409! The 110gn Accubond, which sees increasing use for specialised ultra-long range shooting in the .25-06, has a BC of .418.

It doesn't take much imagination to realise that this all adds up to a terrific advantage for the .25-06 over the smaller cartridges for predators like wild dogs and when breezes blow. The only other cartridge I've used that almost equals it is the .240 Weatherby with 90gn Nosler E-Tip with a BC of .403.

Generally, the .25-06 cannot quite equal the accuracy of a good heavy-barrelled .22-250 or 6mm, but it is not far behind them.

Summing up: If one never plans to shoot farther than 250 yards, the .25-06's capabilities are wasted. However, if you are a marksman who would rather knock off one varmint at 450 yards than a dozen at 200, then you can't go wrong. The .25-06 has the ability to reach way out yonder, if the shooter has the skill.

Neck Stretching Varies

Q I'm fairly new to reloading and own a .270 Winchester, but I've read about the tendency of the .270 to stretch case necks. Evidently, this happens because of two things: the rather gentle shoulder angle of 17.5 degrees and the fact the cartridge is generally loaded to high pressures. But I've also been told that a prime cause of neck stretching is brought on by the expander plug being pulled through the neck in resizing. Is this possible? By the way, I recently bought a Hornady case trimmer.

Alan Harding

A With repeated firings case necks grow longer, some calibres more so than others, and the elongation rate is generally higher when hot loads are used. However, I can categorically tell you that drawing the expander plug though the neck of a case has absolutely no effect on stretching it. Necks do stretch

more when shoulders have rather mild angles, and when shoulder angles are rather steep, say 30 to 40 degrees, the necks do stretch less. I have a hunch, too, that a rifle chamber with a tight neck may cause greater neck stretch, but can't offer any definitive proof of this. Forget everything else, just make sure you trim your cases when they reach the trim-to length listed in your manual.

Super-magnums burn out barrels faster

Q I own a 28 Nosler which has fired about 800-odd shots and the accuracy seems to have gone to pot. Do you think heavy loads of slow stick powders may have worn the barrel out?

Don Booth

A I own a 26 Nosler that I am treating with the utmost care. I settled on just three loads for it: the 120gn Barnes TSX BT and 78gn of AR2217 for 3478fps; the Barnes 130gn TSX FB and



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



Z8i 3,5-28x50 P APPROACHING *DISTANCE*

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

80gn RE-33 for 3420fps; and the 142gn ABLR and 81gn of AR2218 for 3230fps. Having seen a number of 7mm STW barrels give up the ghost after only 800 rounds and wanting to preserve the barrel of my X-Bolt, I simply stay close to Nosler's data.

These loads produce uniform velocities with propellants that fill the case and are possibly slightly compressed, which is important with very slow burning powders. This is working just fine.

For your information, barrels do not wear out; throats erode away. Unburned powder is very abrasive and solid granules have a sandblasting effect on the throat before they are converted from a solid to a gas. Obviously, the heavier the charge the more erosion takes place. However, I would expect your 28 Nosler barrel to have at least another 200 rounds of adequate accuracy for big game hunting.

.240 Weatherby Magnum

QI own a Weatherby Mark V Ultra Lightweight chambered in .240 Weatherby Magnum. It has proved to be accurate and so far I've bagged two nice fallow bucks, a red stag and a good number of goats and pigs, each one taken with a single 100gn Nosler Partition bullet. I've run out of factory ammo and want to start reloading for it. I know you have had quite a lot of experience with the .240 Why with different bullets and loads. Can you suggest a few good loads? The bullets I have are Barnes 85gn TSX and 100gn TTSX, and 90gn Lapua Mega.

Bill Hawken

AYou didn't say what length your barrel is. My loads were worked up in an FN Mauser with 24" Maddco

barrel. I loaded 54gn of AR2213SC behind the 85gn Barnes for 3445fps; 53gn AR2219 behind the 90gn Lapua Mega for 3395fps; and 53gn RE-22 with the 100gn Lapua for 3335fps. All loads used the CCI 250 primer. Play safe and work up from 2gn below. Those loads consistently grouped into .25". I can only guess how much additional velocity will be gained if you had a 26" barrel on your Mark V.

Problems with his .30-30

QI work on a property in Outback Queensland and have a Winchester 1894 that I use almost daily for pigs and dingoes. Recently I started having problems with my reloads to which I hope you can offer solutions. First, some of my cases are giving sticky extraction. The load I am using is 32gn of AR2219 with Hornady 160gn FTX bullets. I've owned this rifle for nigh on 20 years and it doesn't stick cases with factory loads. But when I use reloads some chamber easily while others stick and have to be forced home. Some of the rounds that are hard to chamber have a slight bulge at the base of the shoulder, but others that were loaded in exactly the same way chamber easily. What do you think is wrong? I enclose two cases for your inspection.

Henry (Tex) Morton

AFirst, your charge of AR2219 is excessive and explains why fired cases are sticking in the chamber. I suggest you reduce the charge to 30gn of AR2219 which will give you 2280fps with normal pressures. The bulge at the base of the neck is probably caused when you crimp your reloads. This often happens if the bullets are seated and crimped as a single operation, but more likely when crimping cases that vary in length using

The .30-30 is capable of surprisingly good accuracy if care is taken to ensure cases are uniform in length and properly crimped.



“

Your charge of AR2219 is excessive and explains why fired cases are sticking.”

a traditional roll crimp, because the longer cases are over-crimped which can cause the shoulder to bulge as per your sample cases.

You can confirm this by full length sizing cases and see whether they chamber with ease. If they do, then the problem is happening during the seating/crimping operation. The solution is easy. First, trim all your cases to the recommended trim length and full length resize them. This will allow you to crimp uniformly, but take care not to over-crimp, or you will bulge the shoulders again.

Alternatively, you can seat the bullets to the correct overall length, but do not crimp. Or you could use a Lee Factory Crimp die which gives uniform results with cases of

varying lengths, and won't cause the shoulder to buckle or bulge. Obtaining the correct crimp in lever-gun cartridges is a crucial part of producing trouble-free reloads.

Wants a heavier bullet in his .243

QI want to use a heavier bullet in my Winchester Model 70 in .243 for red deer. Can you give me a load for the Hornady 108gn ELD-X at around 2800fps using AR2209?

Henry Ogden

AI have taken several deer with the 100gn Hornady Interlock BTSP. When shot through in the heart-lung area, they usually drop on the spot or only run a short distance. If you are shooting deer at longer distances, however, a larger, more powerful cartridge is desirable, but out to 200 yards the .243 is a capable deer slayer.

Now the bad news! The 108gn ELD-X bullet requires a faster 1:8 twist to stabilise it, and practically all factory .243 rifles have a 1:10 twist. If you prefer a heavier bullet why not try the Speer 105gn spitzer which, loaded over 42gn of AR2209 in my Sako L579, churned up 2920fps. Speer projectiles don't get much

**CZ***For those
who know***NEW SERIES**

CZ 600 ERGO

**CENTERFIRE RIFLE WITH
ERGONOMIC THUMBHOLE
STOCK**



This premium model with a light profile barrel is equipped with a specially designed, fiber-reinforced polymer stock with sophisticated ergonomics, which not only provides maximum shooting comfort but also contributes to its high accuracy. Five of the most popular calibers are offered, ranging from 223 Rem. to the 300 Win Mag. Optics can be mounted on standardized rails that are integrated on the durable, aluminum receiver. When the magazine lock is activated, the firearm changes to a fixed magazine configuration. A simple modification to the safety mechanism for decocking operation is currently being developed. The CZ 600 ERGO model has a guaranteed, factory-tested sub-MOA at 100 meters (three-shot groups with match-grade factory ammunition).

Calibres available:
223REM, 30-06SPRG, 308WIN, 300WM, 6.5CM

RRP **\$1995**



SIFA



publicity in the shooting press, but they are great performers and better priced than many of the more fancy bullets. In spite of several excellent 6mm cartridges being introduced to compete with the .243 Winchester, it still shades them to some degree.

Worried about the cost of premium bullets

Q Today, there are a good many so-called “premium” bullets on offer, and they are excellent, but the price is prohibitive (or should I say extortionate?). Some of them cost two or three dollars each, even in standard calibres. I would like to use these bullets but cannot afford them. What’s your take on this?
Mike Moran

A Ask yourself if you really need to go to the expense of premium-grade bullets for the normal run of Aussie game — goats, pigs and deer. There are plenty of good bullets that are a lot more affordable. In the letter above, I recommend Speer bullets, but there’s nothing wrong with the Hornady Interlock and Woodleighs — all fine bonded bullets that can be depended upon to expand and penetrate deeply enough to get the job done. One of the best deer bullets I’ve ever used is the old Remington Core-Lokt and I’ve saved some for use in my 7mm Harvey Magnum. If you are going on a safari or overseas hunting trip, the price of a box of 50 premium bullets is probably worthwhile, but they offer little advantage for Aussie game.

Short case life with .338 brass

Q I bought 100 new unprimed cases for my .338 Winchester Magnum, but the cases are splitting around the web in front of the belt after being fired only two or



The Mauser 96 action is made of good Swedish steel and nicely finished. They can be safely chambered for modern cartridges like the .243 and .308.

three times. Can you tell me the reason for this failure?
Rodney Blake

A Sadly, I have suffered a similar failures with .338 brass and know what the problem is and how to get around it. Manufacturers allow too much latitude in the location of the forward edge of the belt in relation to the chambers. Seeking the reason for short case life, I measured new .338 Winchester Magnum cases and found the shoulders were positioned fully 0.12 inch to the rear of the chamber shoulder. When such a case is fired, it fills the chamber, but the brass for this expansion has to come from somewhere, so the case walls stretch. This has the effect of reducing the thickness of the case just ahead of the solid web of the case head.

I solved the problem in two operations. First, I ran the case mouths over a tapered Simplex expander plug (used to neck up .30-06 cases for the .35 Whelen). Then I ran the cases into the .338 full length die, and sized the necks back down just enough to allow the cases to be chambered with a slight feel as the bolt handle

was turned down. This formed a false shoulder on the cases, which prevented the cases from stretching on firing and set the headspace on the shoulders. Once this has been accomplished, you can forget the belt and set your sizing die to headspace the cases on the shoulder just like with a rimless case.

Kimber Mauser M96

Q I bought a .308 rifle fitted with a Nikko Gold Crown scope at a clearing sale on a neighbouring property. They claimed it was a Kimber, but it has a Swedish Mauser action. Can you tell me how this came about? I am not all that worried as the rifle is in good nick and shoots accurately. Even better, it was a steal for \$250. I have heard that these actions are weaker than the Mauser 98. Is this true?
George Matthews

A Back in the early 1990s Kimber bought a large quantity of Mauser 96 actions and rebarrelled them to .22-250 Rem, .243 Win, .257 Roberts, .308 Win, and 6.5x55. The company rebarrelled them with stainless steel match-grade barrels and black

synthetic stocks. The barrels were fully floated, and the .243 and .308 rifles were available with fluted barrels.

I tested these “Kimbers” in .257 Roberts and .308 Win and they were very accurate. They also represented good value for money.

Don’t have any doubts about the Mauser 96 being strong enough for the .308 as the Swedes chambered them in 7.62 NATO, used them with full-power factory loads and detected no problems whatsoever. The Swedish Mausers are of high quality metallurgically. Workmanship and finish are excellent. They have no defects likely to cause failure within reasonable limits of reloading.

Having said this, metallurgy is a highly specialised science that has made tremendous strides since the days when the 1896 Mauser was produced. While the metallurgy of these early Mausers was excellent for its day, obviously it is not up to the high standards of today’s actions which are superior in strength and uniformity. Reduce maximum loads for the .308 Win by one or two grains and you won’t have any problems. ☒



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





Point and shoot

The new Pointer ST1000 straight-pull 12ga is a slick-functioning field gun that meets the requirement of Aussie hunters. Nick Harvey finds Turkish inspiration in what is being offered as a fast-shooting pig gun.

STARTING with the Blaser, straight-pull rifles have become a popular gun for hunting and precision shooting. Heym, Merkel and Browning all offer different versions of the linear action and this year even Savage succumbed to the lure and added the Impulse straight-pull bolt-action rifle to its line-up.

Straight-pull bolt-action shotguns, despite being a relatively new concept, have taken off like a house on fire. The Pointer is a relatively new addition to the large range of straight-pull guns.

The Pointer's instant popularity may be due to the fact that pig hunters have become aware of the speed of

the linear loading system — with the gun held against the shooter's shoulder, a pull on the handle unlocks the rotary bolt head, retracts the bolt, and extracts and ejects the fired shell casing. A strong return spring slams the bolt forward again to push a fresh round off the follower, feed it into the chamber and lock the firing mechanism. In a split second, the hunter is ready to launch a lethal payload of buckshot or a slug at another target.

The advantage of this straight-pull bolt-action gun is that the shooter's hold is not too disturbed by the recoil, allowing him to adjust his sight picture during the loading cycle. This speeds

re-engagement, making follow-up shots effortless and fast, giving a gunner the ability to engage multiple targets in a short time frame.

After testing the Pointer, I see the reason why straight-pull shotguns have gained popularity so quickly among Aussie scattergunners. This opinion is reinforced by the view that these Turkish-made shotguns are relatively inexpensive, easy to use and safe to operate.

The Pointer comes with five flush-fitting Mobilchoke tubes in improved cylinder, modified, improved-modified, full, and extra full, which equip the Pointer to handle everything from waterfowl



ON THIS SPREAD

1 The Pointer is accompanied by five flush-fitting screw-in Mobilchoke tubes and a wrench.

2 A fast, smooth straight-pull operating system, an ergonomic stock, and nice balance make the Pointer a gun for all reasons and all seasons.

3 Cartridge drop lever is used to safely remove a live round from the chamber, and to lock the bolt to the rear. Red dot shows when the gun is in firing mode.



“

It's a smooth-swinging gun with a slightly barrel-heavy bias that is easy on the shoulder and enables rapid follow-up shots.”



3



4



5



6



7

8



and rabbits to bigger game. When installed, the tubes sit flush with the muzzle and are easily tightened using the furnished wrench. The Mobilchoke system makes the Pointer a versatile multi-purpose gun.

A four-shot tubular magazine is standard.

My test gun, a basic model, has a barrel length of 28" (711mm) and the ventilated rib tapers from .328" (8.48mm) to .314" (7.99mm) at the muzzle. The gaps between the posts are wedge-shaped with the narrow end facing the muzzle. There's a .120" (3mm) gold bead at the muzzle to aim with. The Pointer also comes with a 20" (500mm) barrel for brush hunters.

Starting at the breech, the Pointer has a long forcing cone after which is an overbored increment of .736" (18.7mm). This is a fairly moderate increase over the nominal .729" that is standard in .740" bores. The bore then tapers down over a span of 8.07"

(205mm) to .724" (18.4mm). This very gradual amount of constriction helps keep velocity up while limiting pellet deformation. The shot charge then enters the Mobilchoke which is 2.012" (51.12mm) long. The chokes, which are conical-parallel, form a rounded bulge inside the tube bore.

I measured the full choke tube, which has an inside diameter of .672" (17.06mm) at the rear gradually flaring to 0.726" (18.44mm) at the muzzle. There is relatively little visible flare on the barrel; it expands from 1.10" (28mm) an inch behind the choke tube to 1.108" (20.14mm) at the muzzle. You can see a slight bulge if you look hard, but it's in no way obtrusive.

The maker of the Pointer issues the standard warning about using steel shot loads in a full-choked barrel causing the barrel to swell or rupture. Armsan also advises that, "in general, steel shot fired in a modified choke will produce



The Pointer is stocked to be a game gun by its shape as well as its dimensions.”

the equivalent of a lead full choke pattern. This will be true with all steel shot sizes up to and including No. 2. The established improved-cylinder chokes will produce the equivalent of a (lead) modified choke pattern.” They also say that all steel shot larger than No. 2 should be used only with the improved cylinder choke tube.

The sleek, streamlined receiver is anodised with a dull black, non-reflective finish which matches the barrel and stock. It is made of high-strength, corrosion-resistant alloy that provides a strong but lightweight receiver. The front-locking rotary bolt head features two oversized locking lugs for solid, steel-to-steel lock-up within the barrel extension, providing maximum strength.

The Pointer’s dependable action utilises a heavy spring located in the bolt between the rotating bolt head and the bolt body. When the gun fires, the rotating head is cammed

tighter into the locking recesses in the barrel by the recoil. But when the shooter manually hauls back on the bolt handle, the head rotates and unlocks, allowing the bolt to be drawn fully to the rear.

When the bolt handle is released, the powerful, compressed return spring immediately urges the bolt forward, engaging the bolt head and readying the gun for a follow-up shot.

When the bolt is fully retracted, it also forces the rear of the carrier down, tilting up the front end to align a fresh cartridge with the chamber. When the bolt is released, the bolt travels forward with considerable impetus to peel the cartridge off the carrier and push it into the chamber. At the same time the carrier is forced down to receive a cartridge from the magazine.

Cartridges in the tubular magazine are under spring pressure urging them rearward. They are held in the

tube by the shell stop which, at a precise point in the feeding cycle, allows one cartridge to move rearward onto the carrier and then the shell stop again shuts off the magazine to hold the rest in reserve. An identical system is found on most pump and semi-auto shotguns.

The Pointer’s loading system allows the shooter to unload a shell from the chamber without having to unload the shells in the magazine. This is done by way of a cartridge drop lever mounted on the right front of the trigger guard. The lever works in three ways. Pressing it up and pulling the bolt back locks the bolt to the rear. Pressing it while the bolt is forward releases a shell from the magazine onto the carrier. Finally, it indicates the hammer is cocked when a red dot is visible.

Functionally, the Pointer is very similar to other straight-pull guns and includes features borrowed from semi-autos. The large loading

ON THIS PAGE

4 Nick found that shotshells loaded easily into the tube magazine and fed smoothly into the chamber.

5 Streamlined receiver is non-reflective matte-black. Bolt handle travels forth and back in a slot in the side of the receiver.

6 As the bolt head rotates, two large lugs are locked securely into the barrel extension

7 The Pioneer’s rugged polymer buttstock has a graceful pistol grip, a contoured comb, a ventilated recoil pad and sling swivel base.

8 Pointer taken down into two major components can be packed in a short shotgun case for ease of transportation



Pointer ST1000

Type: Straight-pull bolt-action

Gauge: 12ga 3-inch (75mm) chamber

Magazine capacity: 4+1 shotshells

Barrel: 28" (711mm), vent-rib

Chokes: 5 flush-fitting Mobilchokes

Overall length: 49.5" (1255mm)

Weight: 7½lb (3.4kg)

Sights: Gold bead front

Finish: Black matte metalwork

Stock: Polymer, moulded chequering, vented recoil pad

LOP: 14" (360mm)

Safety: Crossbolt in rear of trigger guard

Trigger: 4lb 8oz (2kg)

Maker: Armsan, Turkey

RRP: \$750 (shop around)

Contact: Outdoor Sporting Agencies, www.osaaustralia.com.au



port in the bottom of the receiver makes rapid reloading easy, and the gold bead sight allows rapid target acquisition. The oversize safety button, mounted aft of the trigger in the rear of the guard, is easy to find and manipulate, the trigger guard is roomy enough to take a gloved finger and the bolt release button is located at the front of the receiver.

With a full magazine tube, it's a smooth-swinging gun with a slightly barrel-heavy bias that is easy on the shoulder and enables rapid follow-up shots. There were no mechanical issues even though I was shooting Winchester Super Ranger 70mm loads throwing 32 grams of BBs, thanks in part to the Pointer's vented recoil pad, which

absorbs most of the recoil.

The Pointer is easy to disassemble for cleaning. To remove the barrel, simply unscrew the magazine cap and slide the forearm and barrel off together. Pull the forearm rearward to detach it from the barrel. To remove the trigger/hammer assembly, simply close the action and tap out the retaining pin located in the front portion of the receiver.

The finish is dull, but the Pointer is an attractive shotgun. The ventilated-rib barrel adds to its classic lines. Both the buttstock and forearm have panels of sharp moulded-in chequering for a non-slip grip. And a nice touch: the bottom of the nicely curved pistol grip is chequered. The underside of the forearm has extensive stippling and the upper portion has deep finger grooves. The comb is attractively sculpted on both sides and the recoil pad features a similar contour.

Actually, a shotgun stock is of far more importance to the shotgun than is a rifle stock. It serves an entirely different purpose, since the shotgun is fired by pointing, not aiming. Therefore the stock must enable the shooter to swiftly mount the gun, get on target and press

the trigger all in a single, fluid motion. It is obvious the Pointer is stocked to be a game gun by its shape as well as its dimensions, and the detachable sling swivel bases — one on the front of the magazine tube cap and one on the buttstock — make the Pointer easy to carry in the field.

This is all fine and dandy, but the important thing is how the gun shoots. Getting down to the nitty-gritty, it shoots darn well. The Pointer is well balanced and handles nicely, and I'm happy to report that felt recoil is moderate, even with three-inch magnum loads. Another plus: the trigger pull is a delightfully crisp 4lb 8oz (2040 grams), which is unusually good for a shotgun.

To see how fast I could lay down successive shots I emptied the magazine at patterning paper at 40 yards using Winchester Super Ranger 70mm 32-gram BB shot fired through the full choke tube. The baseline speed for firing five aimed shots was 15

seconds! The Pointer threw fairly even patterns with pellets, averaging 70 percent hits in the 30-inch circle.

Like almost all its competitors, the Pointer is built in Turkey. If you're suspicious about the quality of Turkish guns, let me just say that the Turkish engineers and manufacturers have improved their precision and quality in recent years.

About the only modification I'd like to see on the Pointer is to do away with the gold bead and replace it with a hi-viz fibre-optic front sight that'd be faster to acquire, particularly in poor light.

The Pointer is a no-nonsense tool that wraps reliable firepower in a rugged, sleek, traditionally styled package. It comes to the shoulder quickly and swings smoothly.

The rotary locking system means reliable functioning with nearly any 12 gauge shell you'd like to feed it. I'd recommend it to pig hunters as being a hardcore, heavy-duty hunting machine.

ON THIS PAGE

9 To remove the trigger/hammer assembly simply tap out a pin through the receiver and drop it out. Reinsert it rear end first.

10 Forearm and barrel are held in place with a large nut threaded on the end of the magazine tube. Note sling swivel stud protruding from the end.

11 The Pointer features a large bolt handle that makes operating the bolt quick and easy with the gun held on the shoulder.

"CHASING BIG GAME? The New RAZOR GEN III 6-36x56 will put you on target. Built for Long Range and the Long Haul!"



VIP stands for a Very Important Promise to you, our customer. We will repair or replace your Vortex product in the event it becomes damaged or defective at no charge to you. If we cannot repair your product, we will replace it with a product in perfect working order of equal or better physical condition.

NEW

RAZOR® HD GEN III 6-36x56 FFP MOA & MRAD Rectile RIFLE SCOPE

MOA RZR-63601
MRAD RZR-63602

- Class Leading Optical System
- First Focal Plane
- EBR-7D RETICLE
- L-TEC+™ Zero System
- Anodized Stealth Shadow Finish
- Locking Illumination Dial

Price **\$4895**



WHAT'S IN THE BOX:

- 3" Sunshade
- Throw Lever
- Lens Cloth
- CR2032 Battery
- Custom 2mm Throw Lever Tool
- Custom 2.5mm Turret Tool



IMPACT 1000® RANGEFINDER

- Excellent reliable performance
- Intuitive LCD display
- Range in yards and meters

R.R.P. from **\$499**



VENOM Red Dot 3 Moa

- Top load battery compartment
- Premium field of view
- Get fast target acquisition
- Low profile viewing
- Large Viewing window

R.R.P. from **\$525**



VENOM® 5-25X56

**FFP EBR-7C (MOA)
Reticle RIFLE SCOPE**

- Fast Focus Eyepiece
- Aircraft-Grade Aluminum
- Glass-Etched Reticle
- Magnification 5-25x
- Water, Fog & Shock Proof

R.R.P. from **\$895**

Used in over
50 countries in the
toughest conditions
and covered by the
best warranty in
the world.

Extravision Australia exclusive Australian distributors. To find your nearest dealer go to www.extravision.com.au

Our web site www.extravision.com.au is full of quality colour product photos, videos and comprehensive information on each product listed and all the latest Technical Data, Features and Specifications.

Phone: (07) 3393 9384 Email: sales@extravision.com.au

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>

SPECIES GUIDE





A spectacular trophy like this is a hard-won thing from Australia's herds of wild red deer.

INSET: A dominant stag must work hard to keep rivals away. This will often betray him to a canny hunter.



Hunting the King

Romanticised as the Monarch of the Glen, the red stag is Australia's ultimate trophy hunting experience. Michael Gibson is your guide.

Red deer are the most well-known deer worldwide, probably due to their impressive antlers. As a result, they appear on many coats of arms, crests and walls across the world. For centuries, royals of all cultures have hunted these deer, as success in the hunts, and the resulting trophies, were a sign of power and status.

POPULATIONS of mostly wild red deer exist across Australia, with very few still being farmed as a viable meat export. However, red deer farming still exists in New Zealand for meat and trophy hunting, with many record-book heads coming from these fenced populations.

Physical characteristics

Reds (*Cervus elaphus*) are the fourth-largest extant deer species, behind the moose, elk or wapiti, and sambar deer. Here in Australia, they are the second largest of our six species. Stags range from 135kg to 200kg, with hinds weighing 80kg to 130kg. Stags stand between 100cm and 130cm tall, with the hinds slightly smaller.

Red deer get their name from the colour of their bright reddish hides. Both sexes have straw coloured rump patches with a grey/white underbody. Calves are born spotty to aid in camouflaging them from predators but these spots disappear as they mature.

Stags can often have darker colouring, ranging from dark brown to almost black when wallowing in grey mudded wallows. When stags are rutting, they stand out like sore thumbs due to colour, size and behaviour.

Reds are herd animals and can be found in groups from four to 20, usually led by a dominant hind who will spoil many a hunter's dream.

In wild Australian herds with a



ON THIS SPREAD

1 Hearing the roar of a stag guarding his hinds is one of the great thrills when you're hunting reds in the rut.

2 Cameras are an invaluable aid in your preparation for finding the best trophy animal.

3 Gibbo prefers the Barnes TTSX bullet for reds for its expansion, penetration and weight retention.

reliable food source, heads of 16 points and greater have been taken. Red deer can reach a whopping 50 points or more through food and breeding in farmed herds. Forty inches of antler length is regarded as the holy grail when chasing these majestic beasts.

A red deer with 12 points (six per antler) is called a royal stag, while 14 points make an imperial stag, and an animal with 16 points or more is referred to as a monarch.

A 12-point red stag has a main beam with three tines, the brow, bey and trey. What are regarded as the tops of the antlers consist of an inner and outer royal tine and a back tine to make up the 6x6 royal antler configuration.

Habitat and distribution

The first red deer sent to Australia were shipped from the UK by Prince Albert in 1860 from the great Windsor Park herd. The deer were sent to start a herd at Werribee Park, southwest of Melbourne in Victoria.

The largest population in Australia now is in Queensland. However, red deer are also found in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The most recent herds have been started from escaped and failed farming ventures.

Red deer thrive in most Australian landscapes. They prefer heavy woodland areas with a mixed bush pick. They are grazing animals and are generally hunted on fringe country next to a heavily timbered area that provides cover from hunting pressure.



“

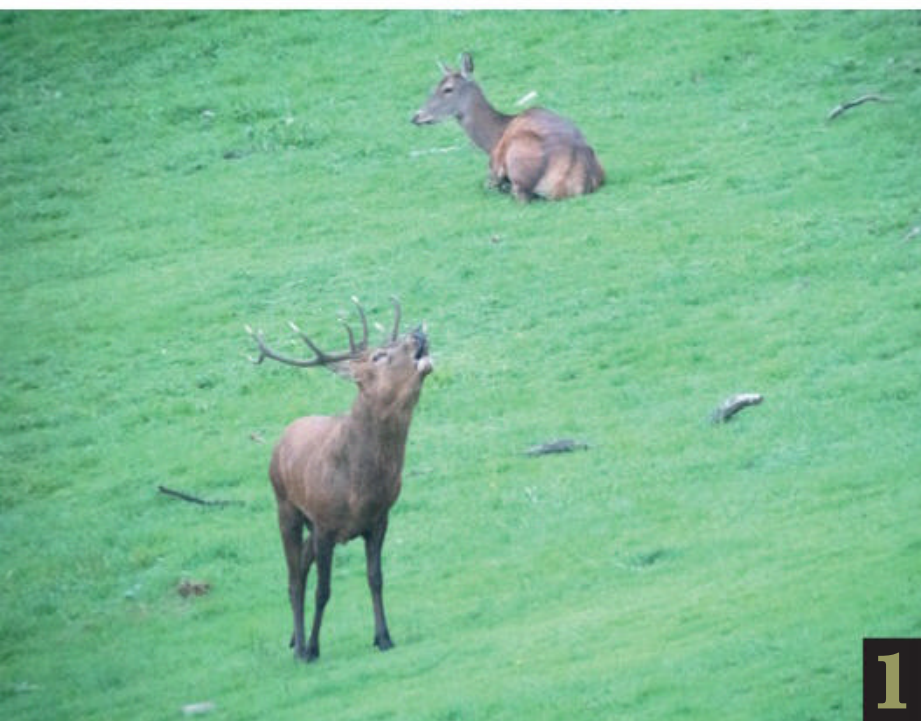
Wallows can tell you a lot about what is going on in that section of bush.”

Sign to look for

When looking at a new area for red deer, I try to look for wallows. Wallows can tell you a lot about what is going on in that section of bush. They are also key spots for trail cameras to be a set of eyes for months on end. Wet gullies and soaks are great places to look for these key areas.

Red stag prints are hard to miss. They are the biggest print from any of the Australian deer species. A mature stag's print can be four fingers wide. Their size makes them very easy to distinguish from a hind's prints.

An active stag will rub an area. Trees with tine marks almost out of reach can tell you that a mature stag is in the area.



DEMAND PRECISION

A NEW GENERATION IS BORN

THRIVE HD FFP

HD ALLOY FLIP UP COVERS

HIGH DEFINITION GLASS

30mm ONE PIECE TUBE

PRECISION ELEVATION &
WINDAGE TURRETS

AIRCRAFT GRADE
ALUMINIUM MAIN TUBE

BESPOKE RETICLE,
DESIGNED FOR THE
DISCERNING SHOOTER

FAST FOCUS DIOPTRE

LIFETIME WARRANTY

INTRODUCING THE NEW
LRH (LONG RANGE HUNTER)
FFP RETICLE



Close up detail

AVAILABLE IN:

4-16x44 IR

RRP \$999

6-24x50 IR

RRP \$1099

ZERO TECH®



ZEROTECH.COM.AU



Pre-season, I look for concentrations of red hinds in quiet gullies. Reds do not take the pressure like fallow and rusa deer, so tread lightly when close to these hinds and calves.

Best times to hunt

There are no seasons or bag limits for red deer hunting in Australia.

The red deer rut kicks off in the last week of March and carries on through most of April. The stags cast their antlers throughout October and November and are normally fully regrown by February. Pre-rut stags can be found in bachelor herds that will break up in early March as they fight to establish rutting areas to attract hinds.

During the rut, stags are extremely vocal with their roaring. This is when they are most vulnerable, as an active stag can give his position away all day long.

The stags roar to attract hinds. This also attracts satellite stags which leads to a lot of fighting and even more resounding, more aggressive roars. It all makes the hunting even more exciting.

Hunting methods

A good tactic I use is walking ridgelines before dawn to try to get



ON THIS SPREAD

4 These are big animals. Be prepared to carry out a lot of meat from your kill.

5 Michael and his daughter with a good 14-point stag.

6 The heavy, thick antlers of this red deer are typical of what's found in NZ. Read about this one in the September 2021 issue.

a start on a stag that may shut down his roaring on first light. Of course, this leads to long days but it has often been the difference between sealing the deal or going home empty-handed.

Red deer are easily pushed out of a hunting area, so a gentle approach is best. Staying out of their way as much as possible is a tactic that will let you see many more deer. Rushing in and blowing hinds out is a sure way to see the stag move them to a different location.

Wallows are hot spots during the roar and having a walk above or below a wallow is a good tactic to find or locate a stag. Often stags will roar in the wallow during the rut. Try to keep your scent out of these areas and check them with binoculars as active stags may visit them at any time of the day.

When pre-season scouting, I concentrate on finding the key hind areas as these will often be where you find stags roaming before the rut. Stags will move into the hind areas before the rut. I have found many roaming stags this way.

The stags will move into the areas holding hinds up to a month before the peak of the rut. Cameras have shown that a stag can cover a huge area in this time, finding and marking his desired rutting area.

Stags holding hinds can change daily, so don't give up on one group of hinds. Always check a roar, even if you think you know the stag making the noise. I've witnessed three different mature stags working a particular group of hinds over a couple of days.

A mature stag will sometimes strip a hind off the herd and bed with her lower than the others, so be sure to glass the area thoroughly

when you find a red bedded in the bush, seemingly alone.

Roars through tubes or cow horns can be used to attract animals. However, I usually use this as a last-ditch effort to try to locate animals. Many people swear by it, but in my experience it has generally brought in sub-mature animals and my position was given away.

A good hind call can be a valuable tool when trying to draw a dominant stag closer or for a better shot opportunity.

Gearing up for reds

Being one of the bigger Australian deer, a .270 with a decent hunting projectile is generally considered the minimum for ethically shooting any red deer. I have used many calibres for red deer over the years; my favourites are the .300 WSM with 150gn Barnes TTSX and the .280 Ackley with 140gn Barnes TTSX.

A bright pair of binoculars are handy for all deer hunting and red deer are no different. Much of the action from mature stags takes place in the very first and last light of the day. A bright pair of binoculars can help identify a stag and his trophy potential.

Callers are very popular with some people and a good roar can be the key to locating a stag on a quiet day with little action.

An addictive passion

Stalking red deer during the roar is a very exciting and action-packed way to hunt deer. It's a very vocal type of hunting that can make the hairs on your neck stand to attention. Once you've hunted the roar, you'll come back for more. 





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

Now available in First and Second Focal Plane

SIGHTRON™

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.



Compound interest

Compound bow or traditional bow? It's a question of confidence and distance.

SINCE getting into traditional archery I haven't shown interest in compound bows. Contrary to popular belief, there isn't an ongoing feud between compound hunters and trad hunters, although there is some good banter at times. At the end of the day, shoot what you enjoy.

One of my mates is an accomplished compound shooter who has picked up a trad bow recently but still prefers to hunt with a compound for the moment as that's what he's confident with. When you compare a trad bow with a compound bow it's hard to believe they're fundamentally the same thing.

Having fun while walking with a traditional bow is more about your mindset than anything else. You must be comfortable with the fact that the only good chance you'll have is if you can get within about 25 metres of something. Sometimes this can be easy, but most of the time it's a push. When you spend long enough doing it you find that getting to about 50 metres isn't difficult in many situations and that's where the hunt really starts.

For a good compound shooter, you don't need to get much closer for the shot to be a slam dunk, although most



people like to get inside 40 metres to minimise the risk of a poor shot.

Of course, on a recent hunt with my mate we had a young fallow doe stand up about 25 metres from us. My mate, being the guest, had first-shot privileges even though it was a good chance for me with a trad bow. The confidence that comes from having a sight on your bow is amazing. He made a beautiful shot and I watched her pile up within about 50 metres. It's hard to believe a

“

I watched the doe pile up within about 50 metres. It's hard to believe a pointy stick can be so lethal.”

pointy stick can be so lethal.

What was a routine meat hunt was made that much more exciting as a result of being that close to an animal before taking the shot. If I had to live off protein I harvested with a bow it'd be difficult – whether it be with a trad bow or a compound. It's nice to be able to get it done without fuss at times but not have to rely on the rifle unless the numbers really need thinning out.

The best thing about this hunt was that it was the first I'd been on with this mate. After meeting at my local club we got to know each other well and quickly worked out that

we both like to hunt in similar ways and are equally passionate.

In a world where there are horror stories about friendships being lost as a result of hunting access it's nice to have a story about the creation of a new friendship instead. Hunting has the potential to bring people together in a way that other hobbies or lifestyles can't. Hunting with bows is tough and takes grit.

Until next time, enjoy living your wilder life.

Follow Dylan on Instagram at '@_wilderlife_'



ON THIS PAGE

1 Getting into bow range in open country is a big part of the challenge.

2 Who doesn't love venison backstrap?

2

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



BONUS

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



APMR FFP
IR MIL 6X



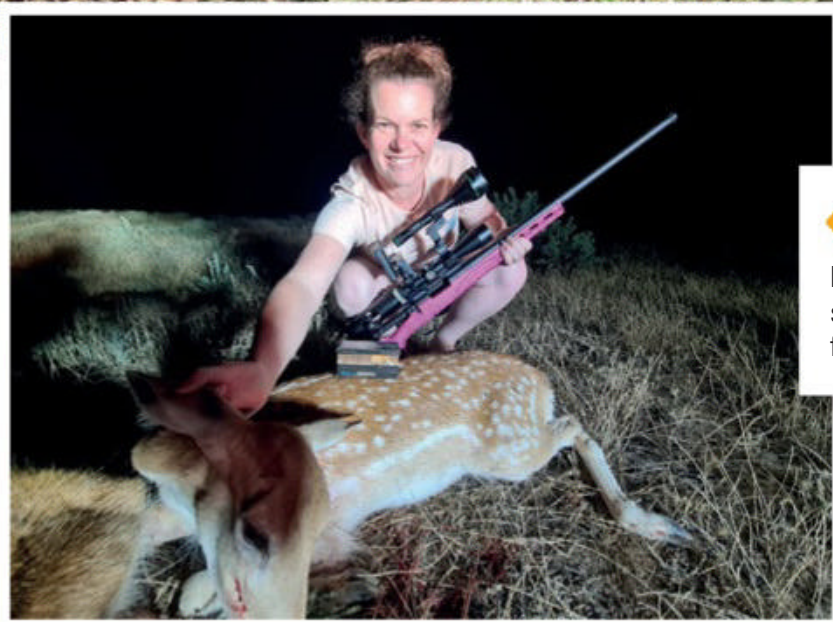
APMR FFP
IR MIL 24X

WEATHERBY/FIOCCHI PHOTO COMPETITION

WINNER



After nearly two years without his best hunting buddy (thanks to COVID and international border restrictions leaving him in Denmark), Damo Hart's son Corben returned home and they were soon out after pigs again. This fat sow was shot while gorging herself on fallen plums in an orchard at one of the properties they have hunting permission on. Corben shot it with a rifle that his Danish grandfather gave to him, and it inspired Damo to enter the Hunter's Gallery competition so he too could get a larger calibre rifle. It was worth effort, Damo! Congratulations.



Matt Radovic snapped this shot of his wife Robyn looking extremely happy with her efforts. With her night-shooting setup she scored two fallow doe. She loves her .223, and feeds it a strict diet of Fiocchi.

TSA
OUTDOORS

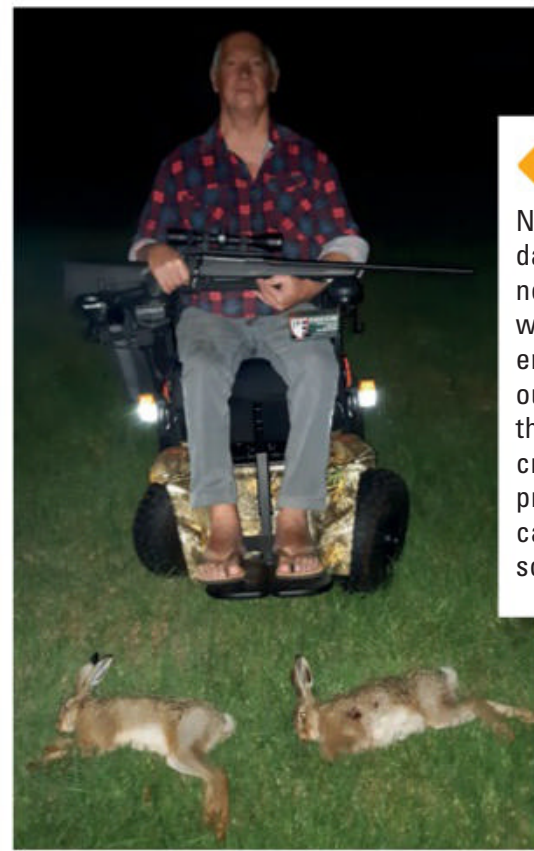
BROUGHT TO YOU BY TSA
Australian distributors for Weatherby
Firearms and Fiocchi Ammunition



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Glenn Hando went to a lot of trouble to pose this hefty boar for his entry in Hunter's Gallery. It might have taken some muscle to lift but that's Fiocchi's .300 Win Mag ammo he's using so the boar had no chance!



Nathan McConnell's dad recently got a new electric wheelchair that's enabled him to get out again to drop the hammer on critters around his property. Love the camo colour scheme on it!

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!



Sheridan's first kill



BY RICK HOWELL

SHERIDAN'S junior's permit finally turned up and we were able to get out for a hunt with the .243 Weatherby Vanguard that we'd won in *Sporting Shooter's* Weatherby/Fiocchi Photo Competition. While waiting for the permit I'd taken her to the range a couple of times on a P650 form to practice with a .22 as well as the new .243 so she could build confidence.

But she had been unable to carry the rifle in a state forest until now.

We headed out on a long weekend with the mission of

getting her first animal, along with a goat for meat. I managed to tick off the meat animal early in the day and so it was time for Sheridan's chance at her first animal.

We walked and glassed along the hillsides and eventually spotted a mob grazing about half a kilometre away. With the wind in our favour and a bit of cover we closed the gap to about 200m before the cover ran out. We found Sheridan a comfortable shooting spot with a tree branch to lean on for support, then waited for the goats to feed up closer to us.

After what seemed an

eternity, the goats got within a range at which I was happy for her to take the shot — 132m on the range finder. Sheridan was nervous with a bit of buck fever about taking a shot at her first animal. I talked her through the shot and what I had taught her at the range, especially controlling her breathing.

When the billy presented the right angle for the shot, she squeezed the trigger and the Fiocchi .243 100gn soft point dropped him on the spot.

Over the weekend Sheridan also got involved in learning to break down and harvest the meat from the goats that we took. 🎯

VORTEX



WIN VORTEX OPTICS!

Every published Hunter's Diary entry could win one of three quality Vortex optics: A Venom 5-25x56 scope, a Viper PST Gen II 5-25x50 scope, and a set of Viper HD 10x42 binoculars. Find out more at sportingshooter.com.au/win/huntersdiary. All published stories win a Vortex blaze orange pack. To enter, write a story of 200-400 words with at least one high-resolution digital photo and send it to mickmatheson@yaffa.com.au.



ExtraVision
AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.

Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/ExtravisionAustralia/>
Our exclusive brands

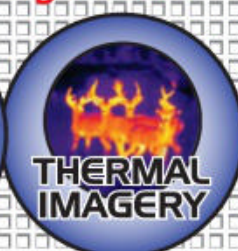
PULSAR

YUKON
ADVANCED OPTICS

VORTEX

AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER OPTICAL SUPPLIER

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



See www.extravision.com.au to view our complete range & to purchase Australia wide from your nearest dealer



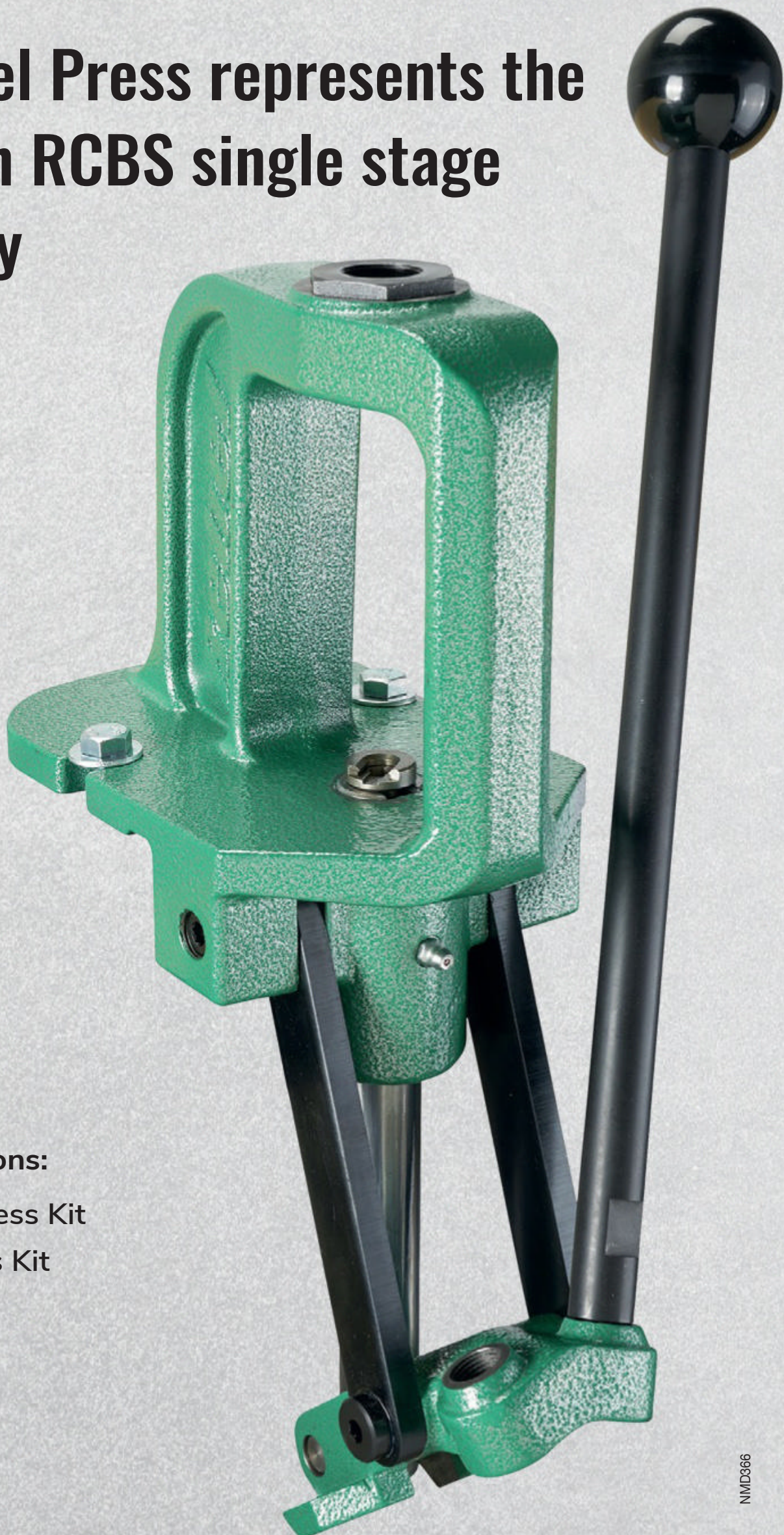
The **NEW** Rebel Press represents the next evolution in RCBS single stage press technology

FEATURES

- Heavy Duty Cast Iron Frame
- 22% heavier than the Rock Chucker
- Wide Base for Extra Stability
- Tallest Opening of any RCBS Single Stage Press
- Bottom of Ram Primer Ejection
- Ambidextrous Handle

Also available in two kit options:

- Rebel Master Reloading Press Kit
- Rebel Plus Reloading Press Kit



Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia

www.rcbs.com | nioa.com.au

Hitting 'em on the run

They tell you not to get ahead of yourself but with moving targets that's exactly what you have to do!

GOOD timing and accurate shooting are necessary attributes for taking game on the run, but a running deer can be a comparatively easy target for the hunter who has mastered the technique and necessary skill. Over the years I have seen more missed shots fired at running animals than I have at standing ones. Most shots are missed by the bullet landing behind the target.

No shooter is born with the infallible instinct which allows him to hit running game consistently. It is a skill that is acquired through constant practice. It must be executed in a cool, deliberate manner, otherwise it should not be attempted at all.

In one way it resembles shotgun shooting, because aim is taken at a moving target and the gun must compensate for that movement in order for the bullet to intercept the target. But the basic technique calls

for more precise aiming than shotgun shooting because the hunter has a single projectile whereas the shotgunner has the advantage of a wide pattern of pellets.

A misplaced hit on running game can result in either a wounded or crippled animal, which runs off to suffer a lingering death. This kind of sloppy shooting results in needless cruelty — something that is unsportsmanlike.

My first attempts at running shooting were at zig-zagging rabbits, and I scored few hits while doing little more than scaring the living daylights out of them. Before long I realised I had been applying shotgun techniques to compensate for errors in sighting. The scattergun throws multiple pellets allowing more latitude than the rifle, which fires a single projectile without a pattern to compensate for errors in



sighting. The rifle's sights must be exactly right in the instant when the shot is fired.

When faced with a running target, the rifleman who is used to taking a slow, deliberate aim is inclined to stop his swing in the moment of firing. As a result, he misses behind the animal.

The hunter attempting to shoot running game needs to be methodical and precise; in order to effect a clean kill, he must keep his sights on the exact spot that will result in a hit. To successfully do this he must always be aware of where his sights are in relation to the game.

A good shotgunner has developed an ingrained instinct for pointing and he hardly ever sees the muzzle in relation to the target; instead

he automatically focuses on the target. But the rifleman, to be successful on running game, must know exactly where his sights are when his gun goes off, and must be able to call his shot just as positively as a target shooter.

The amount of lead to allow on a running animal varies with the distance and how fast it is running. A man learns from experience how much lead is needed and how fast to swing. The main cause of missing is wrongly estimating the amount of lead needed and the speed of the game as it runs away. If the animal is trotting quite slowly and is relatively close, a shorter lead is needed; just swing onto his shoulder and touch Old Betsy off. If a shot is taken at 100 yards, a hold on the end of a



1



“

A deer that's not disturbed but idling along at 16km/h appears to be going much faster than he really is.”

deer's nose is usually enough to land a bullet in the vital chest area. No matter how close or how far away the animal is, however, it is vital to keep the muzzle moving and maintain your lead.

In open country a deer can hit top gear and 72km/h, but in wooded terrain he is considerably slower. A deer taking off in short, rapid bounds has an average speed of 30km/h; moving at a typical steady pace when he is not badly spooked averages 16km/h; deer trotting seldom exceed 12km/h; walking along undisturbed he rarely covers much ground at all, particularly if he keeps stopping to look about or browse.

A running deer, even at 30km/h, covers ground at a rate of about eight metres per

second. So in scattered wooded terrain, he can be out of sight within three seconds or 24 metres — in only a few bounds. This means when you catch a glimpse of the deer you have only two or three seconds in which to get off your shot, as it crosses a small gap between the trees. In this situation a lot depends upon how quickly you can get off a fast aimed shot with no time to spare for a deliberate trigger squeeze or perfect sight picture. You only have time to plaster the sight on the game and get off a fast shot.

A deer that's not disturbed but idling along at 16km/h appears to be going much faster than he really is. But a badly spooked deer can take bounds of three to four metres, especially on a downhill run.

This up and down motion makes him harder to hit. The best time to shoot at him is at the top of his bound when he is not moving up and down to spoil your aim.

It is easier to maintain your lead when your target is moving straight across in front of you, but if he is moving at a slight angle, you have to shorten the lead. If the animal is fairly close, don't think you can hold dead-on and land a bullet in the vital chest area; you are more likely to gut-shoot him and lose him. Even with the latest, fastest magnum rifle, some lead is required.

“Spot shooting” is a method whereby you aim a stationary rifle at a clear spot somewhere ahead of a crossing animal. You align your sight on the farthest edge of the clearing and release

your shot as soon as he appears in the open. This is sometimes the only chance you'll have to score in heavy cover.

To score consistently on running game you must keep the sights moving in relation to the animal. There are two ways of doing this. With the so-called fast-swing method, the

ON THIS SPREAD

1 This sambar was a fast offhand shot at around 75 metres as he ran between two trees only about 30 metres apart.

2 This fallow buck posed an angling shot as he ran flat-out at about 150 metres. A hastily assumed rest on the side of a tree was used.

3 A moose shot offhand from 30 metres as he ran straight across in front of Nick.



The sitting position is steadiest for shooting running game at the longer ranges encountered in open country.

“

To score consistently on running game you must keep the sights moving in relation to the animal.”

shooter starts with his rifle behind the target, moves up past it, keeping the rifle moving faster than the target, and fires the shot when the sights look to be the right distance in front.

Using the sustained-lead method, the shooter swings his sight out ahead of the target, keeps it moving long enough to estimate the target's speed and to get set, and then lets off the shot with the rifle still moving along at the same rate.

Both methods call for gradually increasing pressure on the trigger rather jerking it, and both require that the rifle be kept swinging to follow through after the shot is fired.

Obviously, many shots are taken at running game where no lead is needed. For example, on an animal that is running straight away from you, you only need to get those crosswires aligned on the middle of its rump and hope that if the bullet misses the spine it will hold together well enough to drive on through the paunch to get into the heart-lung cavity.

The mountain hunter often encounters game that has been spooked from its bed on the opposite side of a gully and is

climbing at a steep angle away from the rifle. In this kind of situation, all you need to do is hold above and to one side of the animal and simply let it run into the bullet. The technique with a quartering shot is the same; just hold off slightly to one side and shoot with the rifle held still.

Shots at deer in brush are usually taken offhand, but in open country it is often necessary to drop into the sitting position because, as a rule, the game will be farther away. When bedded game jumps from cover at close quarters, a fast offhand shot has to be taken. This is the best position because it allows complete freedom of swing. But once the range lengthens to 100-150 metres, offhand is no longer steady enough.

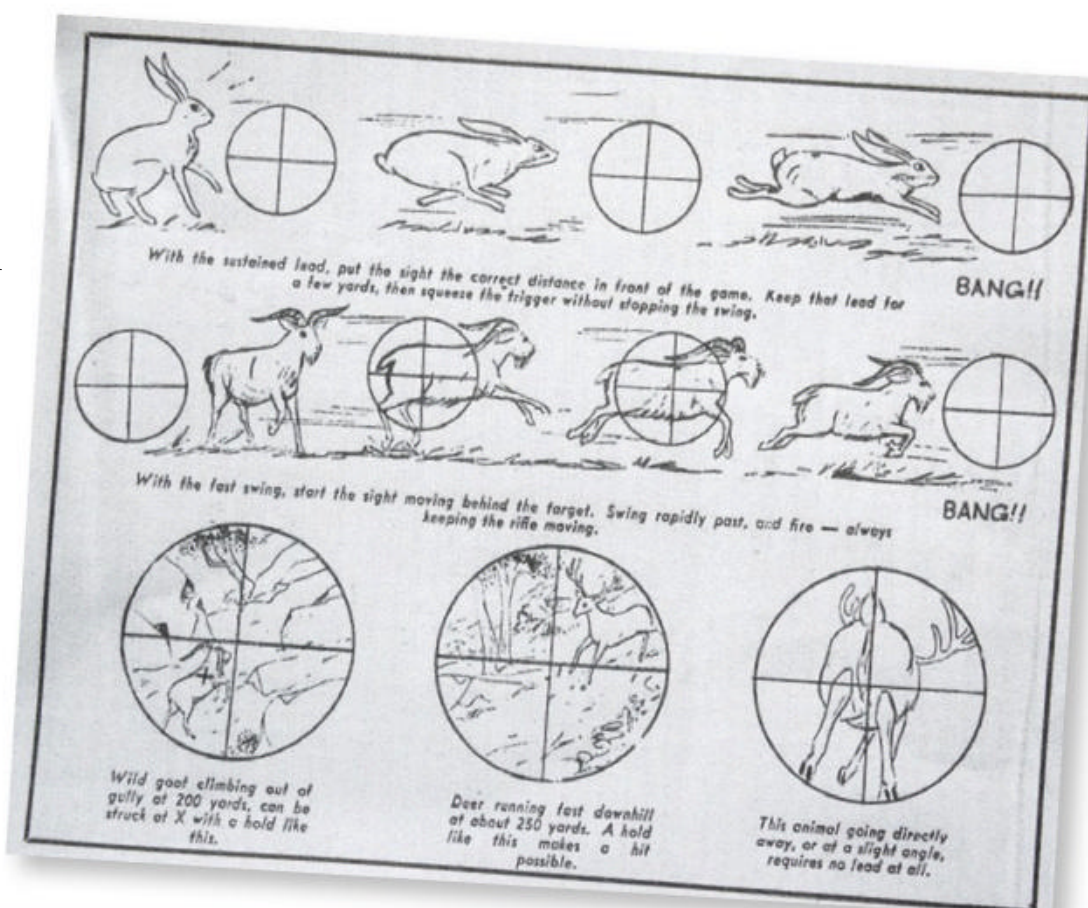
Before the animal gets that far away, there is generally more time to adapt some kind of hasty rest or plant your backside in the dirt, to get off a steady

shot that will get the job done.

When the hunter has to shoot quickly, a good 2x or 3x scope — or a variable set on the lowest power — is the fastest of all sights. Using a well-balanced sporter, the shooter should be able to throw the rifle to his shoulder and find his eye looking through the centre of the scope's field, aligned on the target as his cheek hits the comb. The best reticle I've found for running

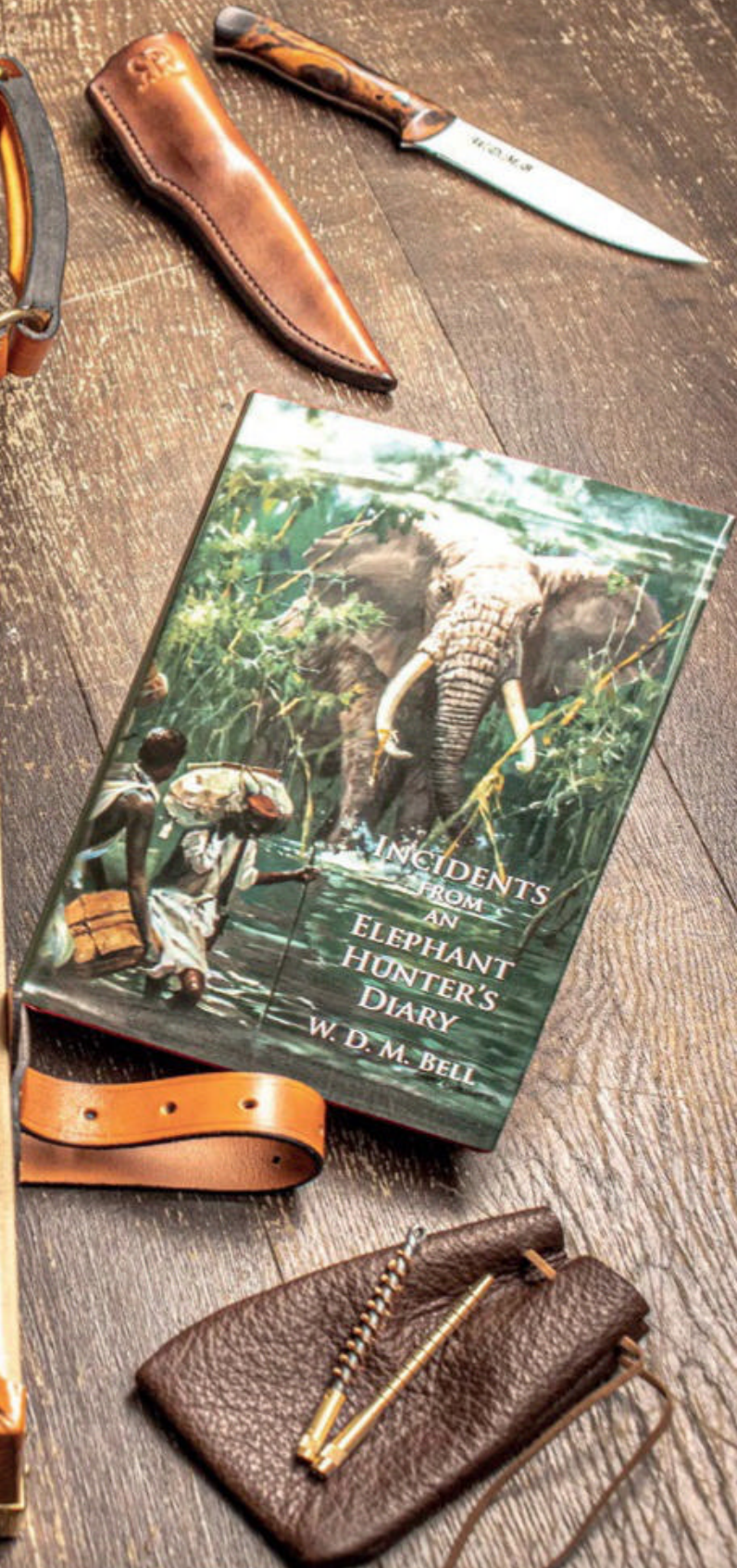
shooting is the duplex since it provides a good horizontal hold and allows the shooter to maintain his lead.

Above all, the hunter should remember that speedy snap-shooting and instinctive gun handling can only be cultivated through plenty of practice. But he still has to make a conscious effort to get his sights properly aligned and keep his rifle swinging as he touches off the shot. ☒



Est  1775

RIGBY



// EXPERIENCE THE
DIFFERENCE

What's the perfect recipe for duck? Just add rice crops, reckons Leon Wright.

Wild duck with rice

While still lamenting a dismal duck season in Victoria my thoughts gravitated to the rice growing enterprises just across the border from my hometown. All the rain falling across New South Wales was bound to stir the ducks up, and indeed I was right.

A QUICK phone call to an old family friend, who just happened to grow rice, confirmed my suspicions. There was no shortage of ducks getting into his rice and we were more than welcome to get stuck into them. As a matter of fact, his neighbour was also into rice growing and he would be more than happy for us to hunt over his rice as well. With the use of a shearer's shed complete with shower and toilet thrown in, the die was cast and a couple of days later, after setting up in the

shearer's shed, we took up our host's offer of a guided tour of both his and his neighbour's farms.

There is very little more exciting to a duck hunter than seeing flocks of ducks rising from the water as you approach. As we drove around the rice bays scores of ducks lifted as we approached, while others watched warily from the levee banks and only moved as we drove past. There were blackies, teal and the ever-present woodies in exciting numbers for us, but distressing for the rice grower.

One of the drawbacks of hunting over the rice: there is very little in the way of natural cover.



While this is all very tempting, believe me, it is highly regulated and ignorance of the laws governing the hunting of ducks in NSW is certainly frowned upon. Assuming you are a licensed hunter, you still need to pass the wildfowl identification test (WIT), which you probably already have if you are a Victorian duck hunter.

You can hunt ducks on the rice in NSW if you are an R-licence holder or, if you are not, like me, you can apply for a G licence which will cover duck hunting on the rice. The rice grower has to have a permit to destroy ducks while protecting his livelihood, and this is known as a NGB number.

It is not an open slather permit; each permit is allocated a certain number of ducks of each legal species. When you are granted permission to hunt ducks on the rice you will be issued with a hunter's handbook in which you have to keep a record of the number of ducks you have taken on each property. There are a few other requirements you must abide by, but it would certainly pay dividends to check online before heading out after ducks as changes are bound to happen from time to time.

One change that has happened was for the good. You are now allowed to use decoys and duck calls, and you are even allowed to shoot them under a suitable light during the night, with the landowner's permission. Each of these was once a strict no-no; so, as



I say, it pays to check online for any changes just to be on the safe side.

During our tour of their adjoining properties we called in at our friend's machinery shed and picked up the paperwork required. This had his NGB number on it and the number of ducks of each species that we could shoot. "Shoot them all," is the usual statement coming from desperate farmers and, while we are sympathetic to their plight, it pays to stick to the allotted species and numbers. After all, you have a lot riding on it as well.

I remember a couple of years back turning up at a friend's property and we were told to start on the ducks in the first bay, which

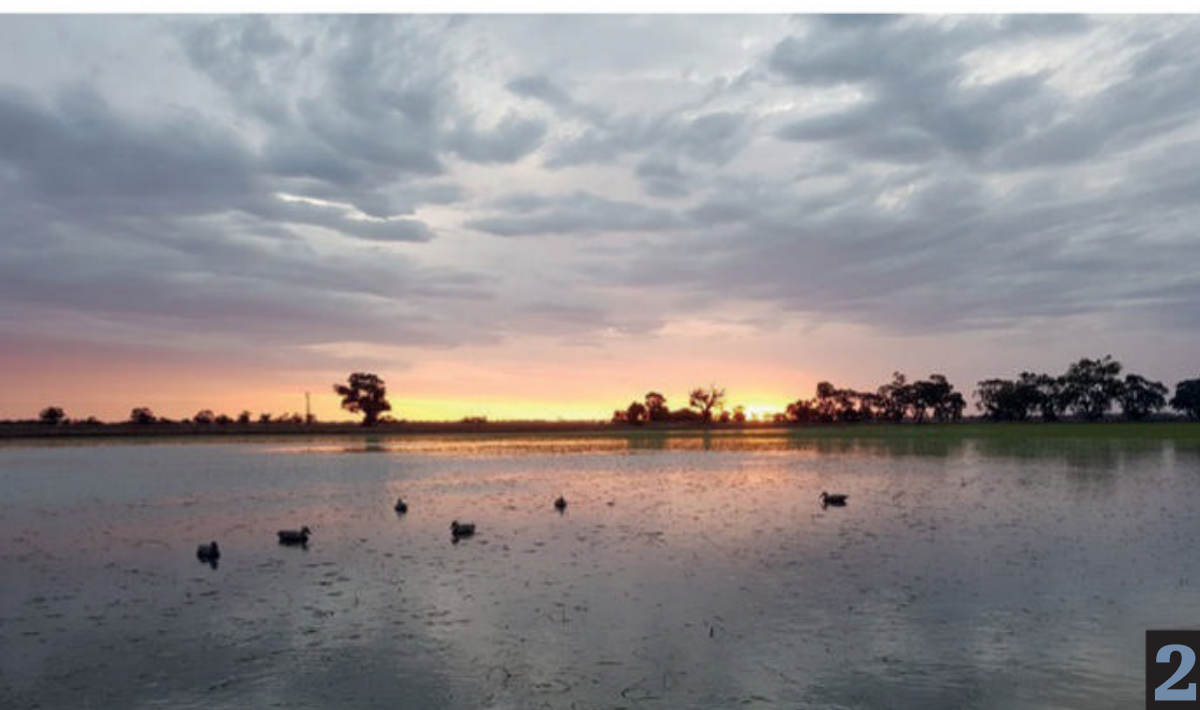
“

Blowing the come-back call loudly and then a number of lower calls worked a treat. A mob of teal pitched in to the decoys.”

was all well and good except that the ducks in that bay were all whistlers and not on their list. It's all too easy to relent and get stuck into them but hunters have a lot to lose by doing the wrong thing. In this case I made a quick phone call to the right department, explained the situation and had 50 whistlers added to the allocated number, which solved the problem.

Anyway, with our guided tour over we were dropped off at the shearer's shed and left to our own devices. As we made busy and set up our gear we discussed where we were going to start, in which bay etc. It was decided unanimously that we would split up. My brother, Greg, would set himself up in the first series of bays, which held quite a few ducks, mainly teal with a sprinkling of blackies and one reasonably sized mob of wood ducks.

Heavy clouds, howling winds and the threat of rain stacked the odds against us but being duck



ON THIS PAGE

1 With a few ducks already down, Greg waits patiently for more to drop into the rice bay.

2 The ducks usually start turning up in the last half an hour of daylight.

THE FIRST BERETTA HUNTING RIFLE



BRX1 LOAD YOUR INSTINCT

FAST

The BRX1 is faster, more instinctive and easier-to-shoot thanks to its linear reloading system, superb ergonomics and balance. It's also easy to adjust with a demonstrably quick caliber change, ambidextrous conversion and adjustable trigger weight.

ACCURATE

The concentric barrel and chamber are both cold hammer forged from one piece of premium steel. The special bedding geometry ensures the barrel maintains the correct position, resulting in at least a 3 shot group SUB M.O.A. guaranteed by the factory.

RELIABLE

The military based, ultra-tried and tested, locking system features a rotating bolt head with 8 locking lugs, or 16 for magnum calibers. Safe and strong, the BRX1 successfully passed the NATO tests which are performed on Beretta military firearms.

RRP \$2,599



hunters of old we had been through it all before, so we put it to the back of our minds. What will be, will be. With our early dinner over, we loaded our gear into the 4x4 and headed over to the first series of bays to drop off Greg. Ducks rising off the bays on our arrival looked promising and, after quickly unloading Greg, I headed down to the other series of bays to pick what I hoped would be a good spot.

One bay, slap bang in the middle, held a large mob of teal with little else except a few woodies sitting on the levee banks, eyeing me warily. I parked the 4x4 in the shade of a couple of trees and

reached for my binoculars, a very handy addition to any hunting trip. By the look of things, the centre bay seemed the place to set up, but first off, I was going to sneak up on a small flock of wood ducks resting in the bay closest to the track.

I had my Beretta over-under set up with the modified choke in the bottom barrel and the improved modified in the top barrel. The 36-gram loads of No 3 shot may seem heavy, especially when shooting over decoys, and probably mostly teal, but what ducks I put down I wanted to stay down. There is nothing worse than chasing a wounded duck around when other

birds are dropping into your decoy set. I am a bit nervous about taking my curlies when hunting over rice crops as there are far too many brown snakes around for my liking, so I would have to do my own retrieving.

A handy ditch running parallel to the rice bay supplied me with enough cover to sneak right up on the wood ducks and when I stood up and brought the gun to bear on the rising woodies, I was looking at a good 40 metre shot. I fired both barrels and two woodies dropped out of the small mob. The remaining half a dozen, plus around 50 teal on a nearby bay, took to the air as one, only to circle a couple of times, then pitch in to join the ducks camped on the bay I was going to set up on.

I retrieved the woodies I had shot, gathered up the rest of my gear and half walked, half stumbled along the levee bank

ON THIS PAGE

3 This is how you want them coming in: good numbers and well within range.

4 Wood ducks (maned geese), blackies and grey teal were the main species the party encountered while hunting over the rice in NSW.

5 While Leon admits Winchester Heavy Loads in No 3 shot are heavy for using over decoys, they proved the right choice this time as some shots were at quite a distance over the rice bays.



4



5

NEW



LEUPOLD VX-3HD

THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEUPOLD'S VENERABLE VX-3 HAS ARRIVED

The VX-3HD delivers **legendary performance and unparalleled HD clarity** in an incredibly rugged yet lightweight package.

And with its one-revolution CDS ZeroLock dial across the entire range, you have a customisable ballistics solution at your fingertips. Simply range your target, turn the dial to that number, and aim dead on.



NWD399



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



SIFA

Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia



“

Heavy clouds, howling winds and the threat of rain stacked the odds against us. What will be, will be.”

6

towards my chosen spot. The ducks hadn't vacated the bay but they were certainly watching, their heads erect, eyeing my approach with suspicion. Eventually their nerve broke, and they were up and away, only to settle on another bay further down.

I checked to see which way the wind was blowing and decided to set my decoys out in a 'J' pattern, which I hoped, if it worked, would channel any incoming duck into gun range. As any experienced duck hunter knows, ducks will land into the wind, if possible, but they will usually land just past the decoys, so I made sure that when I set out the decoys I made allowance for this.

With all the decoys out, I settled back in a shallow ditch beside the bay to await the start of the action, but all seemed too quiet at the moment with zero ducks flying about. They all seemed quite comfortable where they were.

Time to stir things up a bit, I thought to myself, and I reached into my vest pocket and grabbed a couple of 'swatter' loads that I had along just for this occasion. After slipping them into the shotgun I fired them into the air, then quickly replaced the fired hulls

with a couple of No 3 shotshells. The noise of the fired shot, as expected, worked and all of the ducks on the bays went up and started drifting my way in answer to me blowing on the duck call.

Blowing the come-back call loudly and then a number of lower calls worked a treat. A mob of teal pitched in to the decoys after circling a couple of times. As they came in over the furthest decoy, I swung the barrels of the Beretta onto the tail end of the mob, followed through and snapped off a couple of quick shots. Two teal went down: one folded up and dropped, the other dropped a bit further out.

Another small mob pitched in, presenting me with an easy shot, or so I thought, but my two misses simply changed their minds about landing. Out of the corner of my eye I could see a lone teal coming across from the opposite bay, no doubt intent on joining my decoys. This time I made damn sure I didn't mess up and the duck folded neatly as it was lowering its landing gear.

The action came in dribs and drabs over the next hour or so. In fading light I moved around to take advantage of the setting sun. Shifting paid dividends as I was



7

able to spot a blackie coming in low. I brought it down with a single shot as it passed over the decoys. A lone teal tried to pull the same trick. Like the blackie, it ended up floating among the decoys. By this time, it was too dark to continue so I packed up and headed off to pick up Greg.

With our time up we drove over to tell my friend's neighbour of our results. He promised he would take us down to another spot on the property when we came back next week. There, the rice crops were copping a real hiding from the ducks — bad news for the grower but good news for us. ☎

ON THIS PAGE

6 Blake, a mate of Leon's, was very pleased with this nice bag of mixed ducks that they took while hunting over rice.

7 Leon favoured his Beretta 692 with Winchester Heavy Field Load No 3 shot for shooting over the rice during this hunt.

**CZ***For those
who know***NEW SERIES**

CZ 600 LUX

**TRADITIONAL,
EUROPEAN-STYLE
CENTERFIRE RIFLE**



The CZ 600 LUX is the latest version of CZ's classic centerfire hunting rifle. It comes with a traditional European style stock made with select grade walnut. Its decorative forend is made of dark brown laminated wood. Fish scale checkered grips guarantee comfortable and reliable handling. Walnut is also used for the bolt handle knob. This model is available in four of the most popular hunting calibers - from 223 Rem. to 300 Win Mag. The interchangeable, cold hammer forged barrel has a threaded muzzle (thread protector included) and features open sights including a fiber optic front and rear sight.

Calibres available:
223REM, 30-06SPRG, 300WM, 308WIN

RRP **\$1995**

WWW.WINCHESTERAUSTRALIA.COM.AU



SIFA



How was the Great Pandemic Year of 2020 for you? Callum Auldish had planned an entire year of hunting and, as the final tally proves, it turned out pretty well!

A gap year's hunting

Finishing year 12 at the end of 2019, I'd planned 2020 as a gap year in which I'd play footy, work and hunt a lot before starting university in '21. Twenty-twenty was looking pretty good! Little did I know what was coming.

The author with a young fallow buck
that was the result of a panic hunt
because of the incoming COVID-19.





Riverina pigs

The year started with a trip to the Riverina, targeting pigs. We headed off for a few days to a place we have visited regularly. There were five of us hunting and we put a decent number of pigs on the ground over the time we were there. Having a person with a rifle and another with a shotgun standing in the tub of the ute can be the ideal tactic when driving through scrub that varies from quite open to very thick, because it gives you options.

I was mainly using the Beretta 12 gauge to shoot pigs, although the .270, .325 and .22-250 all got a workout. There is no shortage of pigs at this place.

My first solo deer

As soon as I got all my licensing sorted, I borrowed Dad's car and .270 and headed to the hills. We live in a lucky place for a deer hunter, with fallow, red and sambar within 30 minutes of our front door.

Early on a February morning I drove in the dark to a local



property with red and fallow deer. I walked some very steep hills to a convenient vantage point above a gully where we have seen a lot of deer previously. I spotted a fallow doe almost immediately.

The longer I stood there, the more deer I saw: three fallow does and a red hind. I slowly backed out and made a game plan. I crawled over the peak and began to choose my target. I couldn't see any antlers, but I wasn't fussed — any deer on my first solo hunt is an accomplishment on its own.

I watched all four deer before deciding to shoot a young fallow.

The doe was sitting down, broadside to me. I calmed myself, lined up on the deer and fired. I had shot my first solo deer before sunrise on my first solo hunt. Pretty good going, I thought.

The fallow jumped up, but it didn't take long for it to hit the deck again. I was pretty happy with myself. But now what? I hadn't cut up and carried out a whole deer by myself. Luckily, I'd seen it happen regularly, so it's implanted in my brain.

I made my way down the steep hill feeling excited and stood over my first solo kill.



I filled the pack and still had my arms full of venison and a rifle as I trudged up and down the steep Gippsland hills. Luckily, it was the football pre-season so I was fit.

I was on the board for 2020.

Bucks for Riley

Turning 18 and getting an adult licence meant I could take my younger mates hunting. Riley is a keen hunter who'd been bugging me daily to take him out. He has access to a local property, where he'd seen two decent bucks.

We headed out before dawn in late February, arriving with perfect

timing. Riley led the way on this one as he knew his way around. Being a nice morning, we thought we might be in with a chance. We slowly crept through thick bush, spooking two bucks as we emerged on the other side.

They were less than 50 metres away. Riley quickly raised the .30-06 and fired a shot into each buck's shoulders, dropping both in less than 10 seconds.

The antlers on these deer weren't the best scoring but they were awesome and unique heads. One had thick, long antlers with not much in the way of palms because

“

The longer I stood there, the more deer I saw: three fallow does and a red hind.”

3



of big clefts; the other had long, skinny antlers with no palm at all. They are great trophies and the first deer he had shot on this place.

COVID-19 meat run

COVID-19 was starting to get pretty serious, with the chance of a lockdown in Victoria. At first, we were hunting as usual. In a short time, supermarkets and butchers were running out of meat. There was a bit of panic. What a time to be a hunter who can harvest their own meat.

I got a text from Dad: “I think you'd better go get some more venison before everyone else gets the same idea.”

So that's what I did. I went out with Riley and managed to shoot a young fallow fork-horn. That stocked up the freezer a bit more.

Lachy's quick buck

My older brother Lachy likes hunting like all of my family, but he hadn't managed to get out much recently. We went to a property one morning in search of a fallow or a red. It ended up being the quickest

ON THIS SPREAD

1 A healthy black duck, shot in the hills of Gippsland.

2 Callum and his brother, Bill, teamed up to stop this Riverina sow.

3 Callum's tally was growing healthily when he shot this typical springtime fallow spiker.

hunt I've ever taken part in.

We arrived a little bit early and waited at the edge of the bushes, looking out over the prime area until it was lighter. We weren't waiting long, and it was still too early to walk, when I spotted a fallow buck walking straight towards us.

A quick whisper to Lachy and he had the rifle resting on the fence post. His Winchester 150gn projectile went through the fallow's shoulders from only 60 metres and it ran about 50. Lachy's deer was down about one minute after first light.

No rut for me in 2020

Lockdown came in March. Hunting and fishing were, unfortunately, deemed non-essential. I was most excited for the red deer roar and the fallow rut, which were just around the corner. I had seen bucks that were worth shooting only weeks before, but I'd chosen to let them go and saved it for the rut. How was I to know we were going to be locked down during the rut?

It was a very frustrating time for Victorian outdoorsmen. There was nothing I could do but wait it out. We still had it better than some people — we live on a couple of acres outside town so we focused

on the pest species around our house and managed to put a fair dent in the population of rabbits and vermin bird species like sparrows and Indian mynas.

A glimpse of duck season

Because of Victoria's lockdown, we didn't have a heap of time to shoot ducks during the season. We managed to get out a couple of times after the lockdown. We do a lot of dam jumping at farms near our place.

Lachy, Dad and I all managed to shoot at least a few ducks each, wood ducks being the main species. A proper duck opening would have been awesome, but a global pandemic put a stop to that.

A few more fallow

I headed to the hills to hunt deer when I was allowed to. It was pretty relaxed hunting with no major goals in mind. I was just gaining experience. I couldn't find any big stags or bucks over the next few weeks, but I still managed to take two more fallow does and a young spiker.

There was no shortage of venison at our house. We use it for a lot of different things, be it mince or steak. We also give a bit of it to some mates who make jerky and smoke the meat.



“

Riley quickly raised the .30-06 and fired a shot into each buck's shoulders, dropping both in less than 10 seconds.”

My first rifle

One of the most exciting parts of my hunting career happened in 2020. I had my first firearm registered to my name: a Sako 85 Hunter in .270. This is an awesome rifle and is incredibly well made. When we were finally allowed to leave Victoria, I sighted in my new rifle at Grandpa's farm near Deniliquin and was eager to christen it.

Pigs at Deni

We do a lot of fishing in the Edward River when we're at Grandpa's. One afternoon we were sitting on the bank with a big campfire when I spotted a mob of small pigs. Without hesitation I grabbed the .204 from the car and pursued them. I lost them in the thick bush for a little bit but then saw movement. I lined up one and dropped it, then had a couple of shots at the fleeing mob but had no success. One was good enough.

The next day we did the same thing, with a fire on the bank.



ON THIS PAGE

4 The author with another meat animal. This red hind made for a muddy and wet carry out.

5 A mob of small pigs made a mistake when they walked past the campfire.

HOWA M1100 RIMFIRE

Howa
Precision Rifles & Barreled Actions



FINALLY, A HOWA RIMFIRE!
THE SAME HOWA JAPANESE
PRECISION & CRAFTSMANSHIP

AVAILABLE IN

22LR

22WMR

JUST LANDED
17HMR

FEATURES

- 18" Barrel - #4 profile 1-16" twist
- ½"-28UNEF threaded barrel with cap
- 10 round detachable magazine + spare
- Includes 1" rings - no sights
- Tactical/Varmint stock, beavertail fore end
- Oversize tactical bolt handle
- Overall length 37"

SCOPE SOLD SEPARATELY



MADE IN JAPAN

RRP
\$690



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





“Supermarkets and butchers were running out of meat. There was a bit of panic. What a time to be a hunter.”

ON THIS PAGE

6 A fallow spiker shot at close range by Callum.

7 Bill Auldish with a Riverina sow. The Sako .270 is a very versatile rifle with the ability to take fallow, pigs and sambar.

8 Making the most of the short-lived duck season, Callum and his dad managed to get on to these wood ducks, with the help of Eddie the retriever.

I looked over to the spot where the pigs were yesterday, and they were doing the same thing again! This time Bill grabbed the .270 and I had the shotgun. Bill led the way and lined up on a small pig and let loose. He killed that one and the rest burst into an instant sprint. So did I. I managed to chase a pig and get close enough to have a couple of shots at it with the shotgun, this time successfully. Two more pigs down.

Sambar for the Sako

On my first hunt with my new Sako, I was looking for sambar, waiting on the edge of a big clearing between two fragments of bush. We have caught deer crossing the gap of about 160m so I set up early in the morning to try my luck.

About half an hour passed and I had seen nothing. I decided to go for a walk through the bush and see what I could find. I was only about 100m in when I heard a deafening honk from only 50m away. Knowing I was probably busted, I instantly gave the Flexmark sambar caller a blow to try to confuse the hind that was quartering towards me.



It worked and the hind hung around long enough for me to raise the Sako and put a perfect shot into her shoulder. It took me a while to find her because she left nearly no blood trail at all.

My first kill with my own rifle was one I won't forget.

A few weeks later I tried the same tactic. This time the plan came together. A sambar hind crossed the gap in a hurry; obviously she didn't like being exposed for too long. I blew on the Flexmark call and she stopped in her tracks. I let the .270 at it again and the hind was down quickly.

I had shot mostly small fallow deer all year, so shooting these hinds was a good reminder of how big sambar really are.

More local deer

The Sako continued to do its thing and I shot two more fallow and a



red hind in spring. I shot the red deer on a morning with the worst weather in weeks, raining and foggy. I thought no deer would want to be out, and I hardly even wanted to be out myself.

But I found a number of red deer grazing in the early morning. I shot the hind and she rolled down the hill into the muddiest and wettest part of the paddock. Typical.

Another morning I shot two fallow for meat. Two recently cast young bucks, only three years old at most. That was also a tricky carry out as there were two of them and one of me, but I got it done.

Even though 2020 was completely different from what I'd anticipated, it still held some great experiences for me. I shot 10 deer, a handful of ducks and rabbits and a few pigs.

Not bad for a year in a pandemic.



KAHLES

EXPAND YOUR LIMITS

K525i – Unparalleled
precision and ergonomics

For ambitious shooters the K525i provides maximum precision in first focal plane, featuring the unique TWIST GUARD windage optional left or right.



NEW K525i 5-25x56i

Distributed by Swarovski Australia PTY LTD | 1/4D Huntley Street
Alexandria NSW 2015 | kahles.sia@swarovski.com | + 61 (0) 8345 7288

kahles.at

DEER AND PIGS

Gus Plank makes the most of a frosty start to bag a huge red stag with a pig to finish.

Weather to go: never a dilemma

The weather plays an important role in most things you do. Outdoor activities rely on it. Any type of hunting is no different. If you're trophy hunting, whistling foxes, chasing pigs or after a bit of venison for the freezer it all depends on the weather.

I WATCH the forecast for a couple of days before a hunt. They don't always get it right but at least I have some idea as to what the weather might do.

Ideal conditions for me are heavy cloud cover with a light wind blowing in the same direction. Misty rain or light drizzle are also excellent. Heavy rain and strong wind are a different story, with pigs handling these conditions better. Deer dislike rain and wind, preferring to stay in cover.

Frosty mornings usually lead to a clear, sunny day, which can be productive early in the morning, but as the sun gets higher a lot of the older and smarter ferals retreat to cover. Many times, I've seen the arse end of quality boars and bucks heading into cover at first light, obviously with self-preservation uppermost in their minds.

One of those frosty mornings caught Sam and I edging along the side of a steep hill. The hill fell down to a dry gully. We were



Gus's big-bodied red stag.

Certainty at all distances.



Seeing beyond

With a built-in real-time ballistics calculator.



ZEISS Victory® RF

The ZEISS Victory RF combines the strengths of high-quality binoculars with the capabilities of laser rangefinding and real-time ballistics calculation. At the push of a button, the rangefinder allows you to measure distances of up to 2,300 meters within seconds. Based on the distance to the target, the innovative ballistics calculator accurately determines the bullet drop and much more – while taking the shooting angle, temperature, and air pressure into account. And because the binoculars are equipped with Bluetooth, you can upload your personal ballistics data directly from the ZEISS Hunting App to the Victory RF – for a safe shot at all distances.

AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING STOCKISTS!		
Clayton Firearms	Clayton	VIC
Gunco	St Albans	VIC
H & S Firearms	Sale	VIC
Alpine Country	Morwell	VIC
Holts Gunshop	Colac	VIC
Melbourne Gun Works	Tullamarine	VIC
Wild Outdoors	North Shore	VIC
Northern Vic Ammo Supplies	Tungamah	VIC
The Sports Hut	Invermay	TAS

Euro Optic Australia	Hindmarsh	SA
Gawler Fishing & Outdoors	Gawler	SA
Fisher Firearms Wholesale	Norwood	SA
Cleaver Firearms	Margate	QLD
The Barn	Oakey	QLD
The Outpost	Park Avenue	QLD
Horsley Park Gunshop	Horsley Park	NSW
Magnum Sports	Roseville	NSW
Safari Firearms	Bexley	NSW
Elks Hunting & Fishing	Albury	NSW

Gunpro	Dubbo	NSW
In Season Hunting & Fishing	Warragul	VIC
Nyati Hunting Supplies	Bundall	QLD
GC Firearm Supplies	Sunbury	VIC
My Mates Outdoors	Melton	VIC
Smiths Outdoors	Bendigo	VIC
Belmont Guns & Ammo	Belmont	WA





“

An almighty roar echoed up from below the two young stags.”



heading to a small dam further up the gully and we were not far off it when I picked up two red deer moving about above the dam. We decided to move a little closer to have a better look. We reached the lip of a gully and started studying them with the binoculars.

They were young stags with a lot of growing to do. We just watched them for several minutes then decided to move on. Just as we were getting to our feet Sam asked what the two young stags were suddenly looking at. The words had only just finished coming out of his mouth when an almighty roar echoed up from below them.

We crouched behind a small shrub. A good-looking stag came out of a stand of timber that surrounded the dam. I did not need the binoculars to tell he was a good-looking animal with plenty of length in his antlers. On a closer

inspection with the binoculars, his tines were not very long but he made up for this with good length and weight in his antlers. I decided to take him.

He looked impressive in the scope. The .270 hit him high in the lungs, dropping him like a ton of bricks. Those .270s hit really hard.

Walking up to the stag, we were blown away by his body size. He was massive! Sam, being from south-east Queensland, said he was a lot bigger than the Queensland reds. His antlers did not disappoint, either. His tines were uneven and short but I was more than happy with his antler length and weight.

After taking the big fella's head skin and as much meat as we could carry — and there was a bloody lot of it — we headed back to camp for some well-earned rest.

We were on the other side of the

property in the early afternoon, walking along the boundary fence with open pasture on our side and heavy scrub on the other. We did not travel far before we came across a well-worn pad going under the fence. All types of critters used this pad; it looked like the M1 going under the fence.

We decided to walk the rest of the fence line then double back and sit on a small hill overlooking the well-worn pad. It was getting late by this time and now the weather was closing in. Only 10 minutes after we got back to our lookout a large sow and several suckers slipped under the fence. The light was fading fast so Sam decided to hit the sow.

A nice shot dropped her in her tracks with the piglets running in all directions. And so ended an excellent couple of days. Hopefully we will be back — weather permitting. ☒

ON THIS PAGE

1 Sam dropped this large sow as the weather closed in.

2 A classic rub tree: always good to find.



HIKE
HUNT
FARM
SAFE.

DESIGNED + TESTED IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



WATERPROOF



ANTI-FUNGAL



GROUND-SHOCK



OIL+SLIP RESIST



INSULATED



FLEX-TESTED



-15C COMFORT



135C RESISTANCE

BRUZER

FIND INSTORE // ONLINE

NOW IN **BIRRI** CAMO // SPIKA.COM.AU



@SPIKA.TEAM



PREVIEW: CZ 600





The radical new CZ 600

Nick Harvey previews CZ's new 600 series rifles, a clean-sheet design that marks a completely new direction for the long-revered Czech gun maker

CZ has embarked on a generational upgrade of its entire line of centrefire rifles by introducing the 600 series. A radical departure from its traditional Mauser-based controlled round feed actions, the 600 range is a modular design with a number of patented features which make the rifle less expensive to produce. In addition, it is credited with improved reliability, durability, ergonomics, safety and accuracy — all desirable characteristics.

MAIN: Coming a little later, the CZ 600 Range features a laminated stock and heavier barrel profiles.

INSET: CZ 600 Lux: Walnut stock and open sights make it a traditional rifle with modern twists. RRP \$1995.



ON THIS SPREAD

1 The base-model Alpha is built for hard use, with a polymer stock in contemporary sporter fashion.

2 CZ 600 Trail: Not initially built to Australian spec, this model may arrive later, with pricing to be determined.

3 For the traditionalists: the Lux has traditional styling and a walnut stock but doesn't miss out on any of the innovative features of the 600 series.

4 Built to be light and comfortable, the Ergo is strikingly modern in appearance as well as mechanical design.

THE 600 includes aspects of controlled feed in its bolt design, as well as switch-barrel ability and a host of other significant features.

The use of state-of-the-art materials and technology has made a significant contribution to CZ's current centrefire bolt actions. Evidently CZ places great faith in the innovative Model 600 since the new design replaces all current CZ bolt actions.

Originally known as Brno, CZ has come a long way in the lead-up to this new line of rifles.

Brno rifles and shotguns sold in Australia were originally produced at the Zbrojovka Brno Works, which was founded in 1918 initially as an ordnance plant, but in 1924 they started making the Model 24 Mauser short rifle together with a number of other military rifles and carbines that were adopted by many countries dotted all over the globe.

Mauser sporting rifles

and carbines were added to the line in 1938 — the refined Model 98s, the 21 and 22. They were followed after World War II by the ZG47, which was a modified double square bridge Mauser.

Brno's post-war production featured a long line of small-bore sporting rifles, starting with the Brno Model 1 (ZKM 451) in 1945; the popular Brno Hornet (ZKW 465) a year later in 1946; the ZKN 452 Brno Model 2 in 1954; the ZKM 455 Brno Model 3 in 1956; a target rifle, the ZKR 551 Model 4 in 1955; the ZKM 573 Brno Model 5 in 1956;

and the semi-auto ZKM 581 in 1959. The ZKK 600 series was launched in 1964 with three action lengths.

Hunting and sporting firearms carrying the Brno name became famous throughout the world and were awarded the Grand Prix and the Gold Medal at the World Exhibition in Brussels. When the original buildings in Brno became inadequate to meet demand, the production of rifles and small arms was transferred to the National Corporation Presne Strojirenstvi at Uhersky Brod.



The Czeska Zbrojovka (CZ) plant was founded in 1936 in Uhersky Brod for the manufacture of firearms. A team of talented designers including Josef and Frantisek Koucky participated in the design of small-bore rifles, over-under shotguns, revolvers, air guns and air pistols, which were exported to many different countries around the world.

During the 1990s CZ dropped the ZKK series in favour of a new line of centrefires which included the short-action 527, the 550 and 557. In 2005 CZ tested the water by bringing out the Model 555 with a push-feed action and Continental-style stock. Its reception was less than enthusiastic and it was dropped.

In the new 600 series, however, the bolt combines features of both controlled round feed and push feed systems, with each cartridge being controlled in all shooting positions. It has a low 60-degree lift to clear a low-mounted scope.



The bolt combines features of both controlled round feed and push feed systems, with each cartridge being controlled in all shooting positions.”

PLUG & PLAY

FREE LIGHTFORCE POCKET KNIFE

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

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.

\$50 VALUE

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

LightFORCE

f @LightforceHQ

ig @_lightforce

To find out more or order yours visit: LIGHTFORCE.COM/POCKET-KNIFE-OFFER



5



6



7

“

Due to the 600's modular design, barrels can be easily switched to a different cartridge family compatible with the receiver.”

Pressing a spring-loaded button on the right side of the receiver allows the bolt to be removed without manipulating the trigger. The ejector resembles a plunger type, but it is actually manually activated.

If you want to salvage your brass, just open the bolt slowly and the fired case simply falls out; yank the bolt back fast and the case is pelted far and wide. A unique vertical safety located on the tang is silent in operation and released by pressing down on it.

The Model 600's new patented receiver offers a choice of two different mounting systems: an integrated Weaver rail, or drilled and tapped for Remington 700 scope bases. All receivers, short and long, are made from durable aluminium alloy or steel and come with a guaranteed service life of 20,000 rounds.

The Model 600 has a double-stack magazine which can be converted from a removable magazine to a fixed magazine after it is locked in place by sliding the magazine release upward. The magazine has a push-and-click loading system which contributes to very smooth and reliable feeding of rounds.

A new patented single-stage trigger is standard and the user can

adjust it to have four different pull-weights varying from 0.7 to 1.4kg (1.5-3lb). One model, the Trail, comes with a double-stage trigger with slightly heavier pull weights, but this one isn't yet coming to Australia (see below). Most conveniently, weight of pull can be adjusted without removing the barrelled action from the stock.

Cold-hammer-forged barrels have an optimised length for each calibre and are fitted with heavy, medium-heavy or light profiles according to the purpose of each specific model: hunting, varmint

shooting or target work. The muzzle of every barrel is threaded to attach a brake, flash hider or sound suppressor.

Due to the 600's modular design, barrels can be easily switched to a different cartridge family compatible with the size of the receiver by switching the bolt head — say from .223 Remington to 7.62x39. Changing bolt heads is as easy as falling off a log: simply twist the bolt shroud and slide the firing pin assembly out of the bolt body; push forward on the ejector and the bolt head can be slid out to

ON THIS PAGE

5 Weaver-style scope-mounting bases come standard on the Alpha and Ergo.

6 Drilled and tapped receivers on the Lux and Range allow you to mount your choice of scope bases.

7 The Trail comes with a full-length picatinny rail for mounting optics and accessories.

8 CZ 600 Ergo: Lightweight sporter with a comfortable pistol-grip stock and RRP of \$1995.

9 CZ 600 Alpha: fully featured entry-level sporter arrives with an RRP of \$1695.



8

9



SX-2 ALPINE HD SPOTTING SCOPES

Leupold's Twilight Max Light Management System and High Definition lenses help you see more in low light while reducing glare in harsh light conditions.

And like all Leupold Spotting Scopes the SX-2 Alpine HD is guaranteed for life.

Available in:

20-60x60 | 20-60x80

NEW



SIFA

Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia

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

NMD398



ON THIS PAGE

10To comply with Australian regulations, the utterly functional Trail will need revisions before arriving here, not least being its short length when the telescopic stock is not extended.

11The Trail, which comes in .223 or 7.62x39, has a 10-round AR-type magazine.

12Alpha, Ergo, Lux and Range magazines are a double-stack design that can be locked into place.

13CZ 600 Range: Set up for the range and long-distance shooting, it's coming later with pricing to be confirmed.

the side. However, you can only change to a different barrel profile if the stock design is compatible.

When barrels are changed, retention of accuracy is guaranteed after the first shot. Barrels form a press fit into the action and are clamped solidly in place by tightening three cross bolts in a one-two-three sequence.

All external metal surfaces on the 600 series are given CZ's new BobOx chemical heat treatment, which presents a hard, durable finish that resists corrosion.

The Alpha, Lux and Ergo models are guaranteed to shoot sub-MOA at 100 metres for three-shot groups, and the Range model shoots .75MOA for five-shot groups. The compact trail version is rated a 2MOA performer.

The Alpha has an alloy receiver, threaded semi-heavy barrel, fibre-reinforced polymer stock and is available in nine chamberings from .223 to .300 Win Mag.

The Lux has a steel receiver, sporter-weight barrel with fibre-optic front and rear sights and European-style timber stock. It is chambered for five cartridges from

.223 to .300 Win Mag.

The Range is a target rifle with a heavy threaded barrel and a laminated stock with adjustable comb. There's a rail under the stock's toe for attaching a monopod and side Q/D sockets. Chamberings are .308 Win and 6mm Creedmoor.

The Trail, a sort of urban-tactical rifle, replaces the locking magazine with a better suited AR-style or CZ Bren magazine. It features a PDW-style four-position telescoping stock, AR-15-type pistol grip with interchangeable backstraps and Bren 2-style controls. The Trail is available in .223 Rem and 7.62x39mm. The rifle has Weaver-style rails on top of its receiver and forend, which also includes M-LOK slots.

The top-of-the-range Ergo has an alloy receiver with integrated bases, a light-profile barrel, and a fibre-reinforced polymer thumbhole stock with soft-touch grip insert. LOP is adjustable via three different rubber butt pads. It is chambered in six calibres from .223 Rem to .300 Win Mag.

Here in Australia we will see the Alpha, Lux and Ergo models on sale soon, the Alpha at a recommended \$1695 and the other two at \$1995. The Range and Trail are not part of the initial line-up here.

The 600 series is an excitingly new and progressive concept that should gain wide acceptance among Aussie hunters and shooters. I'm anxious to get a test rifle and put it through its paces. 



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.



Crimson Trace Scopes

Crimson Trace has been producing aiming solutions for more than 25 years. Through user innovation and patented products, CT has pushed the envelope to create best-in-class gear for shooters. Although relatively new to the Australian market, they are rapidly gaining recognition for a quality product at affordable prices. Crimson Trace stand behind their scopes which are backed with an unbreakable lifetime warranty. I'm told that CT 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.

There are two product lines in the Crimson Trace range: Brushline and Hardline.

The Crimson Trace Brushline dedicated hunting optics have been purpose-built from the ground up.

The line features aerospace-grade 1" and 30mm main tubes that are lightweight, durable and reliable. It also includes rimfire specific scopes, with customised BDC reticles that should prove very popular for target shooters.

The Crimson Trace Hardline optics are designed with the tactical, competition and target shooter in mind. This line features aerospace-grade 1" and 30mm main tubes, illumination options, Mil and MOA reticle options, and first and second focal plane options. Hardline scopes boast generous eye relief for rapid target transitions, zero-reset turrets, and the quality and durability Crimson Trace is known for.

To find out more about this great new line of scopes or for details of your nearest stockist visit www.osaaustralia.com.au.

Ridgeline Speed Sticks

These days I tend to carry a monopod or hiking pole of some description to help me negotiate steep terrain as my knees are definitely not what they used to be. That said, I was recently introduced to Ridgeline's Speed Sticks that are ideal for just that, but more so as a shooting aid that is fully adjustable for height and features a strong 360 degree rotating half yoke as a gun rest.

Ridgeline Speed Sticks are available in a monopod or tripod that can be adjusted to the desired height from 1m (39") to 1.65m (65") when kneeling or standing. As the head is removable, these Speed Sticks are also ideal for mounting optical gear or a camera as they fit 3/8" or 1/4" threaded fixtures. Other features include strong but lightweight aluminium legs that are fully adjustable via a conveniently located trigger mechanism that locks the height in place, and a two-year warranty.

See them at your local gun shop or visit www.ridgelineclothing.com.au for details of your nearest stockist.



Franchi Horizon Varmint

Versatile and effective, this new firearm from Franchi is a perfect long-range gun with excellent ballistic accuracy. The new Horizon Varmint is available in Optifade camouflage with its barrel and action finished in Midnight Bronze Cerakote, chromatically matched to the camouflage patterning; and also in Black Synthetic with techno-polymer stock and chrome steel bolt. Featuring a fluted bolt and barrel, the Franchi Horizon Varmint is a beautifully made firearm with striking class and quality finish.

While the camo model is available in .22-250 and .223, the black synthetic model is available in ever-popular .308 Win with an 11" twist suited to bullets weighing 150-180gn. Other features include streamlined conical bolt handle, easy disassembly for routine maintenance, two-position safety, detachable magazine, seven-year warranty on its mechanical parts and a certificate of accuracy of 1MOA for three shots fired.

To find out more about the new Franchi Horizon Varmint, ask at your local gun shop or visit www.berettaaustralia.com.au.





Rossi Puma Classic

The Rossi Puma combines a traditional German beech wood stock with blued or stainless-steel finish to deliver a big-bore rifle suitable for sport shooting and hunting. It also features an adjustable rear buckhorn sight, an elegant classic wood profile, and an exquisitely smooth-cycling action, proving that contemporary engineering can pair seamlessly with time-honoured craftsmanship and design.

Available in .357 and .44 magnum, stainless or blued, the new Rossi Puma Classic is available with 16" or 20" barrel and retails from \$1299.

For more information or to find your local dealer visit www.osaaustralia.com.au.

Bushnell Backtrack Mini GPS trip navigation

Don't have mobile coverage or your battery dies fast on your smartphone while hunting, backpacking or hiking? Backtrack Mini has you covered!

It uses GPS satellite technology so doesn't need a mobile phone network. The battery lasts up to 24 hours while the GPS is running, while a typical smartphone battery lasts less than eight hours under similar conditions. Its GPS is easy to use, with four-button operation: create backtrack to base camp; easily set up waypoints. The rugged exoskeleton is perfect outdoors, as the Backtrack Mini is

drop proof and waterproof, and compact for easy carrying. It includes a built-in compass, temperature, time, barometric pressure and elevation.

Ask to see them at your local gun shop or visit www.nioa.com.au for further details.



Bushnell Fusion X rangefinder binoculars

The new Bushnell Fusion X binoculars in 10x42 offer rangefinding capability out to 1600m with precision ranging. Its ActiveSync display allows you to see in low light and day-bright lighting conditions via red and black for all-day visibility. Its high definition optical system offers superb clarity and low-light performance.

Fully multicoated lenses with BK7 prisms provide enhanced low-light performance and clarity so you can clearly identify and range your target via near/far ranging modes with bow and rifle ballistic models. Be sure that you are ranging the right target with ranging modes that ignore objects

in the foreground or background. Ballistic modes provide the right data to make your next shot.

The Fusion X 10x42s are also waterproof and fogproof, featuring IPX7 construction which is tested by submerging at one metre for 30 minutes without any penetration. The incorporation of IPX7 rating means these binoculars are ready to take on the nastiest conditions and the roughest elements. Bushnell's EXO barrier bonds to exterior lens surfaces to repel oil, water, fog, dust and debris, ensuring you can see your target in any weather conditions.

To find out more ask at your local gun shop or visit www.nioa.com.au.



PROTECT YOUR HEARING

The leaders in hearing protection for shooters since 1988



True custom made shooters hearing protection. Custom made on the spot & ready the same day. Ultimate in comfort & highest rated protection with up to 40.5dB reduction at 4000Hz. Removes background noise & the crack from the shot while still having situational awareness.

CENS Digital custom electronic hearing protection. Amplifies the sounds around you and cuts off when sound is detected above 81dB then sound returns when it's clear & safe. Up to 5 different modes for all disciplines of shooting plus wireless communications.



Find us on Facebook



Ph: (07) 3820 2533

Email: info@earmold.com.au

Web: www.earmold.com.au



Spika Thermaflow Thermals

A hunter's greatest enemy in the field is nature itself. Poor heat regulation is what breaks most, cutting their adventure short and making for an unsuccessful hunt. Spika's new antimicrobial and moisture-wicking Thermaflow range helps battle the elements, providing the base layer for an effective weather-resistant layering system. Its unique weave fabric provides comfort while allowing freedom in manoeuvrability. This technical garment also features insulation canals designed to transport heat around your body while retaining breathability and reducing perspiration.

Spika Thermaflow top and pants are now available for both men and women in sizing from XS to 5XL. The tops sells for RRP of \$59.95, the pants for RRP \$59.95.

Ask for them at your local gun shop or visit www.spika.com.au.



Spika Window Shooting Rest

The Spika Window Shooting Rest provides an anchored precision-shooting aid from the comfort of your vehicle. Universally designed and completely adjustable, it offers an easy fit to most vehicles in seconds. Built tough from durable alloy, the rest includes zippered padding at the top and base, protecting your firearm and vehicle from contact damage. Shoot straight and keep mobile with the Spika Window Shooting Rest.

For more information visit www.spika.com.au.



Aimpoint Acro P2 & C2

Aimpoint has recently released its next generation in red dot sights, which includes the Acro P2 and C2 with optimised technology. Featuring the new CR2030 battery size and diode technology, they will last up to five years of continuous use on the midrange setting and a new LED gives you a brighter 3.5MOA dot. Made of anodised aluminium to protect its electrical components from the elements, the Aimpoint Acro is easily zeroed via click adjustment with the tools provided.

Ideal for day or night use, both the Acro P2 and C2 are trusted by many law enforcement agencies, hunters and pistol shooters world-wide for their reliability and ease of function. Tested with a minimum of 20,000 rounds on a .40 S&W pistol, the Acro C2 and P2 I'm told lead the market for their ruggedness and reliability.

Both offer fast target acquisition and weigh 60 grams. The Acro C2 features two night vision compatible settings and eight daylight settings. The Acro P2 offers four night vision settings and six daylight settings.

To find out more about the new range of Aimpoint red dot sights, ask at your local gun shop or visit www.berettaaustralia.com.au.



Ridgeline Performance Gun Bags

While Ridgeline still offers its Rifleman gun bags with egg-shell internal padding and zippered external compartment, the new Performance Gun Bag range is well priced and offers a modern design, look and durability to match the range of Performance outdoor clothing. Available for rifle or shotgun, they are made of 600D polyester, and are foam padded to protect valuable firearms when in transit.

Featuring a full-length zipper and generous external zippered pocket for storage of bolt, ammo or other essentials, the Performance Gun Bag also features a reinforced spine for extra body, making it hard wearing and robust. Add to this carry handles, a fully adjustable sling and its two-tone fabric and you have a stylish, hard-wearing gun bag that retails for just under a \$100.

Ask for them at your local gun shop or visit www.ridgelineclothing.com.au.



1848 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park, NSW 2175

Ph: 02 9620 1313

Email: sales@hpgs.biz

DLN: 410 582 683

ABN 85 003 914 850

www.horsleyparkgunshop.com.au

TIKKA RIFLE SPECIALS

MOST CALIBRES AVAILABLE AT THESE PRICES

T3X CTR BLUED	\$2100
T3X CTR STAINLESS	\$2250
T3X HUNTER BLUED	\$1585
T3X HUNTER BLUED FLUTED	\$1705
T3X HUNTER STAINLESS	\$1680
T3X HUNTER STAINLESS FLUTED	\$1815
T3X LITE SYNTHETIC BLUED	\$1305
T3X LITE STAINLESS	\$1430
T3X SUPERLITE STAINLESS	\$1585
T3X ASPIRE LITE GREEN STS FLUTED MT ...	\$1680
T3X ROUGHTECH EMBER STS W/BRAKE ...	\$1985
T3X STRATA CAMO CERAKOTE FLUTED WITH BRAKE	\$1935
T3X TACTA1 6.5 CREEDMOOR FIXED STOCK WITH CASE, SPARE MAG, BIPOD AND PICATINNY RAIL	\$3700
T3X VARMINT HUNTER WOOD BLUE	\$2010
T3X VARMINT HUNTER STAINLESS WOOD	\$2325

RIMFIRE RIFLE SPECIALS

RUGER PRECISION RIMFIRE RIFLE 22LR 18" 10 SHOT BLACK FIXED STOCK	\$950
RUGER PRECISION RIMFIRE RIFLE 22LR 18" 10 SHOT OD GREEN FIXED STOCK	\$995
RUGER PRECISION RIMFIRE RIFLE 22LR 18" 10 SHOT FDE FIXED STOCK	\$995
RUGER PRECISION RIMFIRE RIFLE 22LR 18" 10 SHOT BURNT BRONZE FIXED STOCK	\$995
RUGER PRECISION RIMFIRE RIFLE 22WMR 18" 9 SHOT BLACK FIXED STOCK	\$950
RUGER PRECISION RIMFIRE RIFLE 22WMR 18" 9 SHOT BURNT BRONZE FIXED STOCK	\$995
ROSSI 8122M SYNTHETIC 22 MAGNUM PACKAGE INCLUDING A TASCO WORLD CLASS 3-9X40 SCOPE, BASES, RINGS AND A SPIKA PADDED GUN BAG	\$449
ROSSI RIO BRAVO SYNTHETIC LEVER ACTION 22LR PACKAGE INCLUDING A HOPPE'S 22CAL BORE SNAKE AND SPIKA PADDED GUN BAG	\$695

CENTREFIRE RIFLE SPECIALS

SAUER 100 CLASSIC TIMBER BLUED 243/ 270/ 30-06	\$1295
SAUER 100 CHEROKEE CERAKOTE TUNDRA GREEN 243	\$1495
SAUER 100 CLASSIC SYNTHETIC BLUED 223/ 243/ 270/ 6.5X55/ 300 WIN MAG	\$1050
SAUER 100 CLASSIC XT SILVER CERAKOTE THREADED 308	\$1250
SAUER 100 PANTERA 6.5 CREEDMOOR	\$2695
MAUSER M18 SYNTHETIC BLUED THREADED 223/ 243	\$795
MAUSER M18 SYNTHETIC STAINLESS THREADED 308/ 30-06/ 6.5CM	\$1395
BROWNING X-BOLT STAINLESS STALKER 270/ 308	\$1495
BROWNING X-BOLT COMPOSITE STALKER 308	\$1195
BROWNING A-BOLT 3 COMPOSITE 6.5CM	\$695
WEATHERBY VANGUARD KAKDU FDE FLUTED 223/ 300 WIN MAG	\$1480
WINCHESTER XPR SYNTHETIC 243/ 308/ 350 LEGEND	\$790
BENELLI LUPO 243/ 6.5CM/ 270/ 308/ 30-06/ 300 WIN MAG	\$2350
SAKO S20 HUNTER FLUTED MT 6.5PRC/ 308/ 300 WIN MAG	\$2550
SAKO S20 HUNTER CERAKOTE FLUTED MT 243/ 270/ 308/ 6.5PRC	\$2750
SAKO S20 PRECISION MEDIUM CONTOUR MT 2 STAGE TRIGGER 243/ 6.5CM/ 6.5PRC/ 308/ 300 WIN MAG	\$2950
SAKO S20 PRECISION CERAKOTE MEDIUM CONTOUR MT 2 STAGE TRIGGER 308/ 300 WIN MAG	\$3120
SAKO FINNLIGHT II 308	\$4050
SAKO 85 LONG RANGE 300 WIN MAG WITH MUZZLE BRAKE NEW – SHOP SOILED WITH SLIGHT MARKS ON STOCK. *1 ONLY*	\$3995
SAKO 85 BLACK BEAR SYNTHETIC FLUTED 30-06 WITH SIGHTS. NEW SHOP SOILED *1 ONLY*	\$2575
BURRIS PREVAIL 4.5-14X44 SCOPE	\$395

EGE ARMS E61 TRAP U/O 12GA 30" MULTI CHOKED WITH ADJUSTABLE STOCK	\$1395
ARMED 410 U/O 28" SINGLE TRIGGER WITH EXTRACTORS AND MULTI CHOKES	\$895
STOEGER M3K SYNTHETIC 12GA STRIGHT PULL 24" SHOTGUN 10 ROUND	\$970
STOEGER M3000 SYNTHETIC TACTICAL 12GA FDE STRAIGHT PULL 18.5" SHOTGUN 7 ROUND .	\$870
STOEGER M3000 SYNTHETIC TACTICAL 12GA BLACK STRAIGHT PULL 18.5" SHOTGUN 7 ROUND.....	\$795
BERETTA 687 SILVER PIGEON III SPORTING 12GA 30" OCHP CHOKES	\$3320
BERETTA SILVER PIGEON 20 TH ANNIVERSARY SPORTING 30" OCHP CHOKES	\$3750
BERETTA SILVER PIGEON SPORTING 30" OCHP CHOKES	\$2595
BERETTA 694 SPORTING 30" OCHP CHOKES	\$6250
BERETTA 694 TRAP 30" ¾ + FULL FIXED CHOKES	\$5750
MIROKU MK10 SPORTING DELUXE 30" MULTI CHOKE	\$5250
MIROKU MK10 TRAP 30" MULTI CHOKE LEFT HAND	\$2795
MIROKU MK10 TRAP HIGH RIB 30" MULTI CHOKE LEFT HAND	\$3195
BROWNING CITORI AUS SPORTING 30" MULTI CHOKE	\$1995
BROWNING B725 SPORTER 30" ADJ STOCK WITH 5 INECTOR DS CHOKES	\$4195
ATA PRO SPORTING 30" ADJ STOCK, CHOKES, GRADE 2 TURKISH WALNUT AND 5 YEAR WARRANTY	\$1795
ADLER B230T TACTICAL STRAIGHT PULL WITH PIC RAIL, SIGHTS, 2 X 5 ROUND DETACHABLE MAGS, MULTI CHOKE AND 5 YEAR WARRANTY	\$750
ADLER B230T TACTICAL FDE STRIGHT PULL WITH PIC RAIL, SIGHTS, 2 X 5 ROUND DETACHABLE MAGS, MULTI CHOKE AND 5 YEAR WARRANTY	\$750
WEBLEY & SCOTT 912B SPORTING U/O 30" MULTI CHOKE WITH 5 YEAR WARRANTY ..	\$1185



RUGER



TIKKA



BROWNING



Burris

FIND WHAT MATTERS



Stoeger

MIROKU



BERETTA

Please note: Some items above may sell out before the ad is released.

While this is unavoidable we will endeavour to keep prices as marked but they may change without notice



Propellant powders: the reloader's fuel

In the first of a three-part series on knowing which powder to use in any cartridge, we start by looking at powder types and characteristics.

PROPELLANT powder is a mixture of chemicals containing stored energy. Smokeless powders are safer to handle and use than older propellant types. Progressive burning characteristics adapt them to modern firearms. High pressures and high velocity are obtainable within certain parameters.

The energy source is either nitro-cellulose or both nitro-glycerin and nitro-cellulose. If made of nitro-cellulose alone, the powder is known as single-base. If made of both energy sources, it is known as double-base. Burning rates are controlled by granule (or kernel) size and a deterrent coating. A final coating of graphite is applied to facilitate flow in measuring, and reduce static electricity.

Three basic types are made for sporting ammunition: flake, extruded and ball. Flake and extruded granules are extruded, perforated, and cut to exact length. The majority of extruded powders are more commonly known as “stick” powders.

Before World War II, the one American smokeless powder company was Du Pont, which made a line of single-base IMR (Improved Military Rifle) powders. Du Pont was bought by Hodgdon Powder Company, which began as a one-man surplus military powder retailer at the end of World War II and gradually grew into an industry giant which, today, owns every powder manufacturing facility in the US.

In more recent times Hodgdon became famous for

its line of Extreme series single-base powders, manufactured by ADI in Australia. During 1943, the Du Pont company set up the Mulwala Explosives factory in southern NSW to meet wartime smokeless powder needs. By the 1960s the factory was manufacturing canister powder for handloaders and became ADI (Australian Defence Industries).

ADI powders are unique for their lack of temperature sensitivity, cleaner burning and improved ballistics. Later, ADI pioneered a change in powder chemistry allowing for a shortening of powder granules, resulting in improvements in metering. These “short cut” powders form the mainstay for Aussie handloaders due to their ease of metering, improved accuracy and stability, regardless of temperature.

ADI powders are made by the extrusion process which relies on the formation of a stable nitro-cellulose colloid following solvent treatment of raw nitro-cellulose. In its solvated state nitro-cellulose can be pressed and shaped to the desired physical size to provide the correct burning rate in the chamber of the firearm. Other ingredients are added later to ensure chemical stability, to control the burning rate, and for good flow and electrical conductivity properties.

ADI powders are all extruded, single-base powders which begin life as spaghetti-like strands that are cut into relatively short lengths. They



A surface coating of graphite helps powder granules flow smoothly through a volumetric measure.

have a built-in “controlled microporosity”. This means that each granule has holes which help control pressure fluctuations and burning rate, particularly at low temperatures. Graphite is also used (less than 0.5 percent) to aid in metering.

In 1952, Hodgdon was the first to market spherical powders, made by Olin from recovered ball powder at East Alton since the early 1930s. To avoid any confusion, the term “Spherical Powder” was registered by Hodgdon Powder Company while the term “Ball Powder” is the registered trademark of Olin Corporation, and is seen on

Winchester Ball Powders.

In 1967, Olin built a new ball powder plant at St Marks in Florida and began manufacturing a new generation of ball powder propellants. In the old East Alton process, calcium carbonate was used to neutralise final traces of acid in the nitro-cellulose. This contributed to ball powders having an unlimited shelf life. But during the 1960s, Olin received complaints from the US military about severe fouling occurring in the M16A1 rifle, and from handloaders who were

**CZ***For those
who know***NEW SERIES****CZ 600**

ALPHA

**DURABLE RIFLE
FOR EVERYDAY USE**

The fiber-reinforced polymer stock of the CZ 600 ALPHA features a symmetrical design with soft touch plastic inserts on the pistol grip, forend and toe. Six of the most popular calibers are available in the CZ 600 ALPHA model, from 223 Rem. to the powerful 300 Win Mag. Its interchangeable, semi-heavy barrel comes with a threaded muzzle and thread protector. Barrel lengths are optimized for each specific caliber. Optics are easily mounted on the integrated Picatinny rail on the durable aluminum receiver. The CZ 600 ALPHA is factory tested and guaranteed sub-MOA at 100 meters (three-shot groups with match-grade factory ammunition). Easy maintenance makes this model particularly well suited for those who use their rifle on a daily basis and deeply value durability and reliability, regardless of inclement weather.

Calibres available:
223REM, 30-06SPRG, 300WM, 308WIN, 6.5CM, 7.62x39

RRP \$1695**SIFA**

suffering stubborn residue build-up in sporting rifle bores when using ball powder propellants. This caused Olin to eliminate the chemical from both military and sporting rifle powders. Fortunately, however, propellant stability and longevity was not affected by this change.

Ball powders

Manufacture of ball powder is a complicated process. Nitro-cellulose is converted into a viscous dough-like lacquer by the addition of solvent, which is pumped through a succession of filters to remove all undissolved fibres. Next, it is extruded through a grainer, a steel plate with thousands of holes, and as the strands of lacquer emerge they are chopped into short cylindrical particles by a rotating knife. Particle size is controlled by pump pressure, grainer plate orifice diameter and knife speed. The lacquer cylinders are swept through a heat exchanger by a solution of water and salt. The colloid keeps the particles from diffusing and the salt removes entrained water from the particles by osmosis, thus increasing its density. At this point the particles look and feel like fish eggs.

The solvent is removed from the nitro-cellulose by slurring it through a series of evaporators and the spheres

are filtered and washed to remove colloid and salt. The hardened spheres are segregated by passing through a series of vibrating screens. Then they are specifically designed for an intended use by being impregnated with nitroglycerine to add energy and coated with deterrents to control burning rate.

Then, in most instances, the granules are flattened to a specific web thickness to further adjust burning rate, and coated with graphite. If required, additional ballistic modifiers are added. Finally, the lots are blended to get the required burning rate, and tested in a “closed bomb” device to confirm uniformity from lot to lot.

Single-base powders

Single-base powders are solid colloidal solutions of 90-98 percent nitro-cellulose shaped by drawing after gelatinisation with a solvent. Various additives such as stabilisers, surface treatment agents, flame reducing agents, de-coppering agents, and ingredients affecting the burning rate are used as well. The shape of the granule is either cylindrical, single- or multi-perforated, or flake-shaped.

Most single-base powders are surface coated to achieve the desired burning rate. The surface coating decreases the maximum pressure and gas temperature, resulting in decreased barrel wear.

Single-base powders have a lower calorific value than ball powders and are very stable ballistically and chemically. The graphite coating makes loading as easy and accurate as ball powders.

Double-base powders

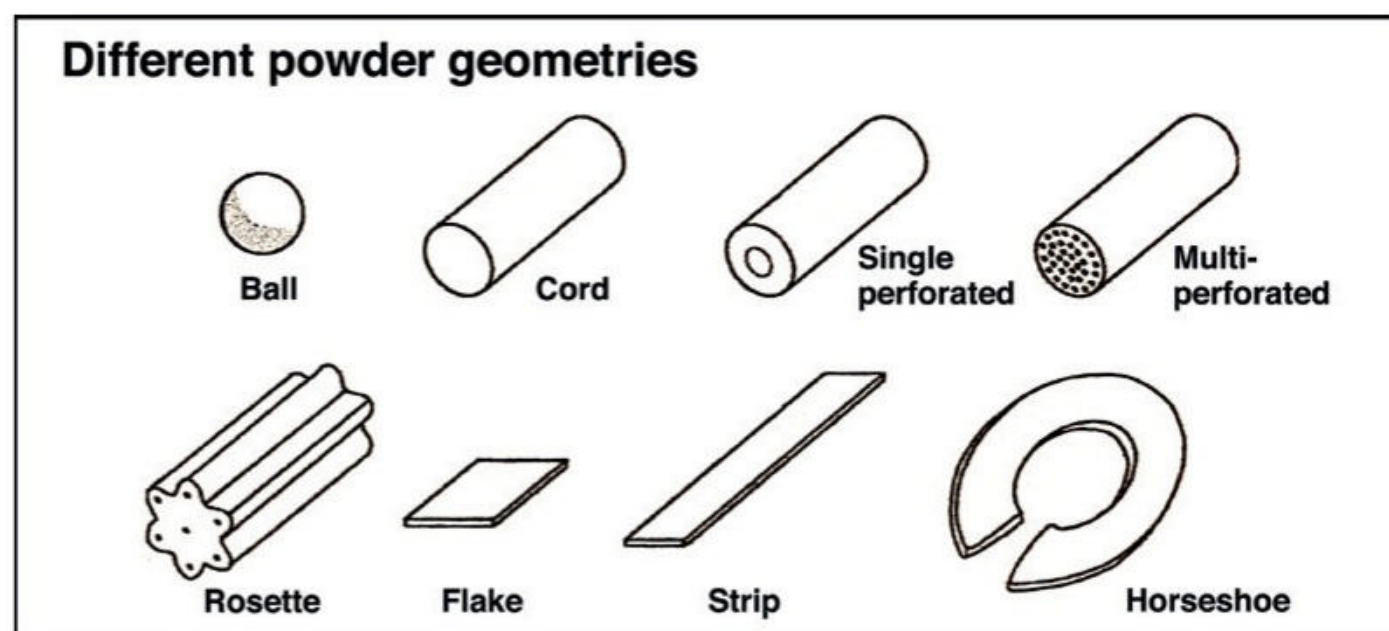
Double-base powders contain similar ingredients to those used in single-base powders plus nitroglycerine, which imparts greater energy to the powder. Ball powder belongs to the double-base group and retains all the favourable burning characteristics with a deterrent coating used to control the burning rate. Double-base powder produces less gas than single-base powder, but provides better ballistic performance due to their higher calorific value – normally 3600-5200 kilojoules per kilogram.

Vihtavuori powders are made in both types: standard powders that are single-base and high-energy powders that are double-base.

The fine granular form of ball powder allows flexibility in loading all kinds of ammunition – rimfire, pistol, rifle and shotshell – but it is harder to ignite than conventional stick-type powder and is better when



Granules of different powders for various uses. Bottom left and centre are flake powders, the others are extruded stick types. The centre and bottom right powders are out of .223 cartridges, while at top right you see AR2206H, which is also ideal for the .223. Bottom left is a fast-burning powder from a shotgun cartridge. Top right is slow-burning AR2225.



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



sparked off by a hot magnum primer. The geometrical shape of double-base powders varies greatly. It is generally single, multi-perforated, smooth or grooved, but just as likely to be ball, stick or granule, flake, strip or even horseshoe.

Both types of powder have advantages and disadvantages. Double-base powders are non-hygroscopic, almost waterproof, have a higher energy content per unit of volume, and are generally harder to ignite. Single-base powders are somewhat more stable chemically, and distinctly less temperamental at high pressure levels. Nor do they chemically attack the plastic powder hoppers on volumetric powder measures like double-base powders do.

The shape of individual

powder granules determines the size of the surface area actually burning and being consumed in any given moment. By changing the geometry of the granules, the rule governing the variation of the burning surface area is altered. Powder granules are classified as degressive, neutral, or progressive, according to their geometry and burning characteristics.

For example, a rounded granule of ball powder, like other forms of smokeless, can be thought of as burning in layers, rather than all at once. Therefore the exposed surface of the granule is what burns to produce propellant gases, and the exposed surface of a round ball is created when it is first ignited and keeps getting smaller as it is consumed during



Powders – the reloader’s fuel.

the entire burning process. Ball (and flake) powders are said to be degressive.

There are no changes in the exposed burning area of a neutral powder granule while it is burning. If the flame area remains constant throughout the combustion process, the powder is called “neutral” burning.

Stick powders have cylindrical granules with a lengthwise hole through them. The outside surface is ignited at the same time as the inside surface starts to burn. The outer surface grows smaller as it burns, but the inner surface is growing larger at the same rate, so the total exposed burning surface remains about the same size until the granule is almost totally consumed. By adjusting the size of the hole (or number of holes), it is possible to make the surface increase in area as burning proceeds. This type of configuration is called progressive.

Burning rate of a propellant then, is effected by a number of factors: the geometry of the powder granule, its size, its web size, porosity, surface coating, chemical composition, and moisture content. Cylindrical extruded powders can also have multi-perforated granules. The most common type are the 7 and 19 perforated varieties.

A multi-perforated propellant necessarily has a larger granule diameter than a single perforated powder, a factor which limits the former's use in cartridges for small arms.

Web thickness refers to the minimum distance inside the powder granule that the combustion zones can travel without making contact with each other. Thus, in spherical (ball) powder this distance is the diameter of the ball; in flake powder it is the thickness of the flake; and in multi-perforated extruded types it is the minimum distance between the perforations.

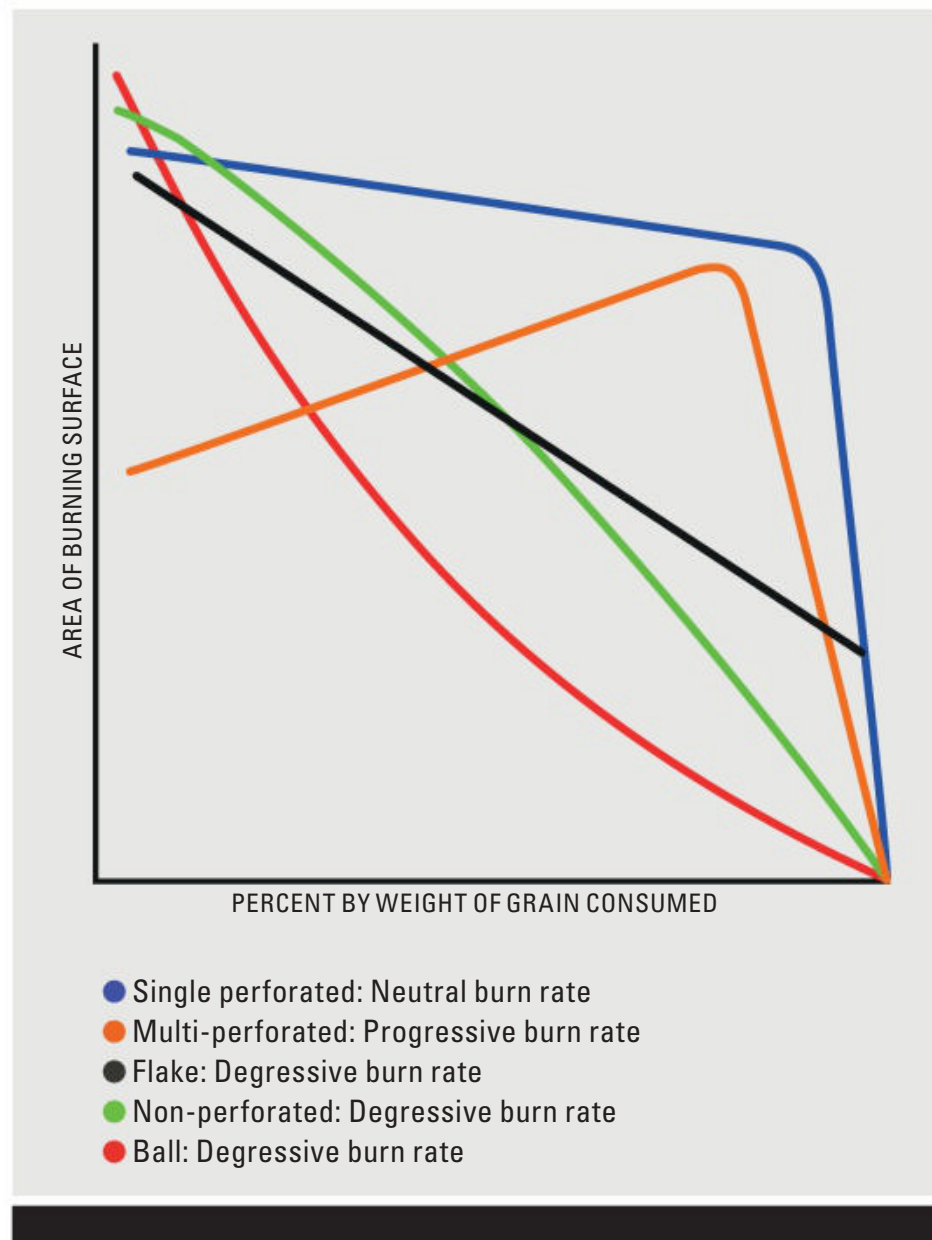
All of these factors that control the rate at which the solid propellant yields its latent energy is the reason why there are so many different powders available to handloaders. The relative quickness of the powder is the most important property from the handloader’s viewpoint and he is able to choose fast burning, medium burning, slow burning, and ultra-slow powders — the difference between them being the rate at which the energy is released.

In general, the larger the cartridge case, the slower burning the powder; the smaller the case, the quicker burning the powder, while heavier bullets call for slower powders, all else being equal. Relative quickness allows the handloader to relate various powders to each other and to their assigned purposes in specific calibres.

Next month we’ll discuss powder selection and charging. 

LEFT: Flake and ball powders are degressive burning, whereas with long tubular-grained powder, the area of burning surface remains constant and is classed as neutral. The graph shows the effect of powder geometry on the form function.

COMPARATIVE POWDER BURN RATES



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

Moving on

Chloe bids farewell (for now) to a cherished mentor.

MENTORS come in all ages and professionals. They could be your teacher, colleague, neighbour or coach.

Within the hunting community, mentors could be experienced hunters, shop owners or assistants, range officers, hunting guides or hunting magazine editors. I have been lucky; over the years I have met some pretty amazing men who have mentored me as I hunt and navigate life through the firearms industry.

You’ve already heard about Old Pop, Brad and Clark McGhie but I haven’t yet mentioned my fourth. My fourth mentor has worked tirelessly behind the scenes, supporting me over the past two and a half years.

He has encouraged me, corrected me and has not been afraid of my feelings when he has told me some of my articles might have a little too much “kick in the dick”.

As I write this my mentor, friend and editor Marcus O’Dean plans his future hunts after deciding to step back as editor of *Sporting Shooter*.

I have been working alongside Marcus since mid-2019 when he offered me

a columnist position right out of the blue.

He had been working with *Sporting Shooter’s* publisher, Yaffa Media, since 2007 and is now looking forward to taking the time to travel Australia camper-style.

On his 14th birthday Marcus was given a Brno .22, which he used immediately on a friend’s farm chasing rabbits. To this day, Marcus still has that beautiful rifle. Along the way, he used it to teach his son Morgan how to shoot. Morgan took his first animal with it.

Marcus has shot and hunted all through his adulthood, often travelling to Queensland with his mates from the army, where Marcus served as an artilleryman. He joined the local service rifle club, and when the opportunity arose to combine both his passions of literature and shooting in one, he joined *Sporting Shooter*.

One of his fondest hunting memories took place in Texas, Queensland, with Ted Mitchell and Alex Juris chasing fallow deer during the 2008 rut. While glassing together Marcus spotted a fallow buck croaking away; it seemed as though this buck



was staring right at them. Slowly it started to stalk towards the men. Its stalk then turned into a run.

At full speed, the buck cleared the scrub surrounding the men as it made its way to its wallow 40 meters behind where they were sitting. Promptly, Marcus turned and shot the buck. It wasn’t the biggest he’d ever got but it’s the memories that make the beast as well as the tasty venison that they took home for the freezer.

When I asked Marcus’s adult children, Siobhan and Morgan, what they thought their Dad’s fondest memory from *Sporting Shooter* was they said it was being able to hunt, swap stories and form long-lasting friendships with the wide range of characters he got to meet.

I wish Marcus all the best with his future endeavours and look forward to catching up for a hunt and a beer with him. 🍷



ON THIS PAGE

1 Only the quality of the photos and the age of the kids has changed for Marcus.

2 Marcus revelled in the camaraderie of those around him while he was our editor.

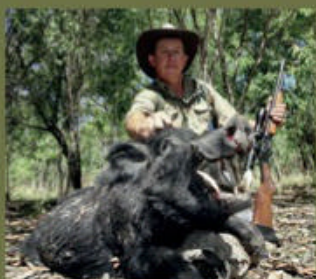
3 Marcus shot the highest ever score recorded in an ANZAC Day 303 Match, beating the next competitor by 22 points. He was jokingly asked to pee into a bottle afterwards.



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



Hand Held
Spotlight

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



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

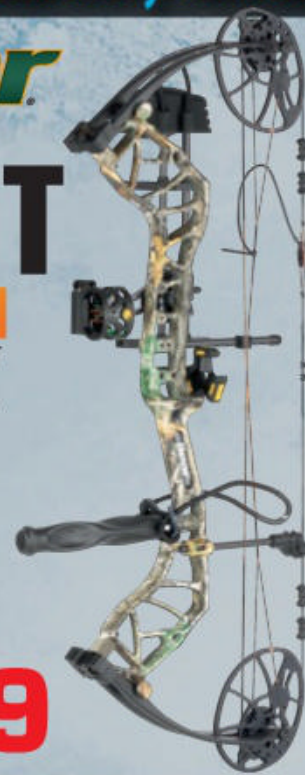
AXLE-TO-AXLE: 30"

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

WOODLEIGH BULLETS



LOADING MANUAL

Comprehensive guide 350 + pages
with loading data for American,
European and British and Double
Rifle cartridges and the history of
Woodleigh Bullets and Hydrostati-
cally Stabilised bullets.

Compiled by Geoff McDonald,
Graeme Wright and Hans Bossert.

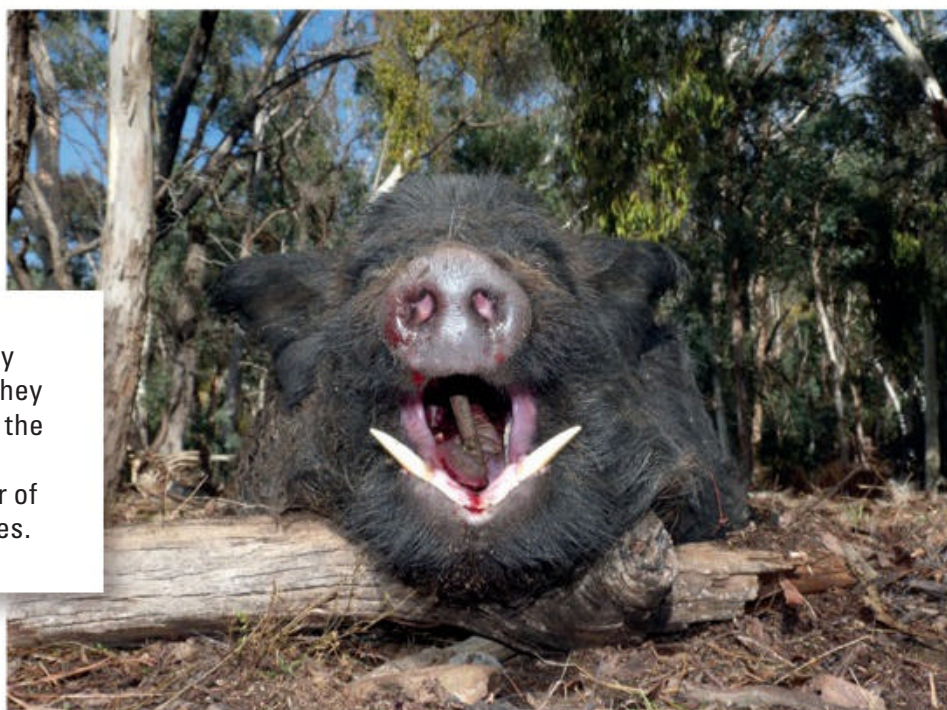
Email Woodleigh Bullets on
zedfield@iinet.net.au to order your copy

AVAILABLE
NOW

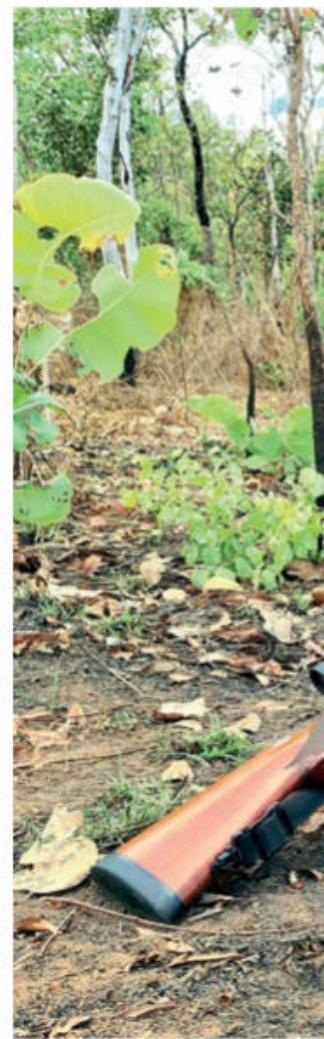
WINNER



Ben Sudholz nailed this monster with a single shot from his .308: "Close to midday, while conducting a bore-run in one of the station vehicles, I spotted a large ginger boar rooting around on an adjacent creek bank. I quickly shouldered my .308 Remington 700 VLS and chambered a round, took a sight picture on the boar's solid shoulder and squeezed the trigger. It dropped on the spot, rolled down the bank and into the shallow water."



Ahmad Rafiq reckons these shiny tusks didn't look all that big but they were razor sharp. The dogs kept the boar bailed until he got in and dispatched it without any danger of copping the wrath of those ivories.





Mitch Basile has a story behind this tusky fella: "Deep into the dry season we were running the creek beds and river systems of Litchfield National Park (by permit with the Back Country Hunting Program). This boar sprang from his bed across a piece of the river holding good mud and shade. He was heading for the burnt breakaway country before the 250gn Barnes bowled him over. The hefty piece of copper entered the back of the near-side rib cage and broke the opposite shoulder. He went 26 6/8th Douglas Points, not bad for a four-year-old boar."



AJ Bartley says he got these three out of a mob, starting with the largest sow while they rooted in the grass, then two more on the run before the rest were safely away. Nice shooting, mate!

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



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

