

SPORTING SHOOTER

WWW.SPORTINGSHOOTER.COM.AU



*AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS ONLY, CONDITIONS APPLY

WIN! A \$1799 WEATHERBY RIFLE AND
ZEROTECH SCOPE PACKAGE SEE P48

NOVEMBER 2023



**Long-range
goat shooting**

**Rubar for a
grand slam**

**FAST-PACED
PIG HUNTING**

TESTED

**Beretta BRX1
straight-pull rifle**

**Verney-Carron
pump-action rifle**

**Leupold Mark
5HD scope**

WINGS OVER WATER

Good duck hunting in a sabotaged season



RUGER® GUNSITE SCOUT RIFLE

The one rifle to have if you could only have one



**RUGER® 77 GUNSITE SCOUT
BLUE 308 16.5" FLASH**

**RUGER® 77 GUNSITE SCOUT
S/S 308 18" FLASH**

Beware the man with one gun, for he probably knows how to use it. Never has this been more true than with the Ruger® Gunsite Scout Rifle, the one rifle to have if you could have only one. It is the perfect lightweight, hard-hitting, do-it-all bolt-action rifle.



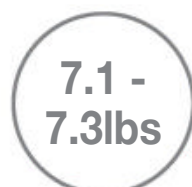
CALIBRE



CAPACITY



BARREL LENGTH



WEIGHT

**FIND A
DEALER**

AVAILABLE NOW



SIFA

Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia

PROUDLY DISTRIBUTED BY



sporting.nioa.com.au
www.ruger.com



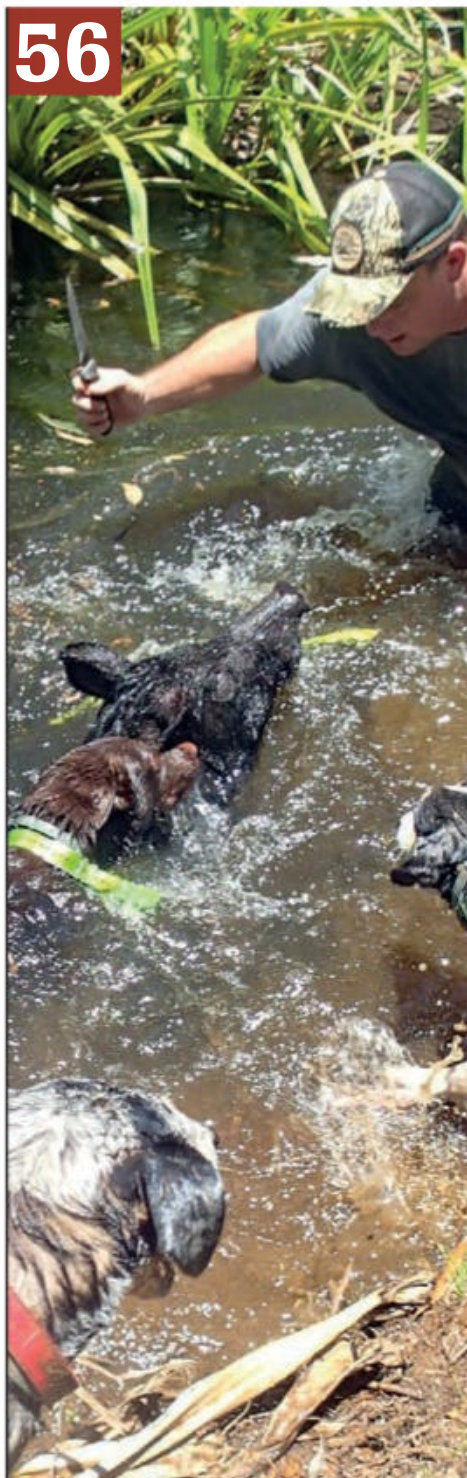
28



VERNEY-CARRON IMPACT FUSION

The most accurate pump-action rifle you can get? This French-made beauty is certainly the most accurate Nick has ever tested but that's only one reason he finds to recommend it. Read his full review in this issue, right after his report on Beretta's new BRX1 straight-pull rifle.

56



HUNTING

Last but not least? 14

Despite the restricted duration and bag limit, Leon Wright made the most of what could be the last duck hunting season in Victoria.

Out bush 56

Gary Hall goes after more porkers with some fresh fish on the side.

Long-range goats 60

Mick Matheson takes the distant approach to thinning the local goat population.

Genetic clean-out 64

Zac McKenzie hunts a rubar stag to protect the purity of the rusa herd.

64



TESTED

Beretta BRX1 20

Fast, accurate and in many ways unconventional, Beretta's BRX1 straight-pull rifle bridges the gap between the Savage Impulse and Blaser R8.

Verney-Carron Impact Fusion 28

If anyone refuses to believe a pump-action rifle is capable of respectable accuracy, they haven't tried this French beauty.

Leupold Mark 5HD 3.6-18x44 36

This long-range Leupold rifle scope has standout features and quality.

Garmin InReach Messenger 42

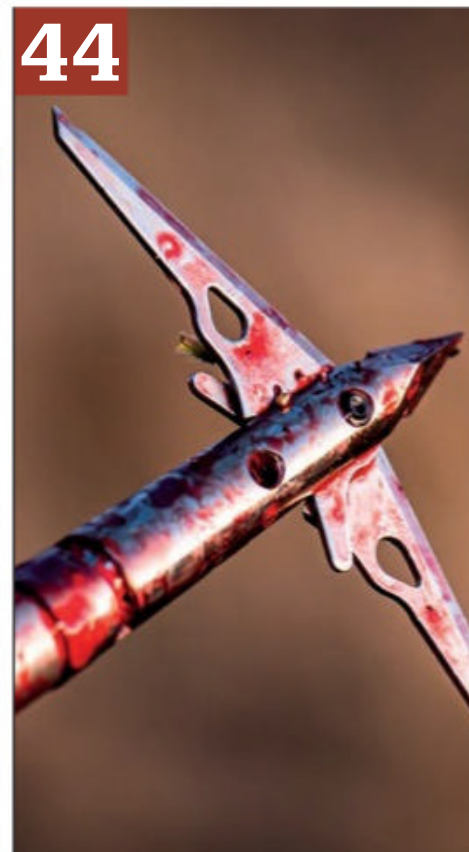
Keep texting, or call for help, when you're nowhere near a mobile phone signal.

KNOWLEDGE

Defining killing power 52

How do we explain killing power and what are the factors behind it?

44



DEPARTMENTS

EDITORIAL	4
ASK THE GUN EDITOR	8
WILDER LIFE	44
STRAIGHT SHOOTING	46
HUNTER'S GALLERY	48
HUNTER'S DIARY	50
GUN LORE	52
SHOOTER'S SHOWCASE	68
PRACTICAL RELOADING	74
IN THE BLOOD	80
BACON BUSTERS	82

ON THE COVER

A Pacific black duck about to touch down, by Ken Griffiths/Getty Images





Duck hunting has been condemned to die by a blatantly biased inquiry

Anti-hunters' massive victory

THE undemocratic workings of Victoria's parliamentary inquiry into native bird hunting were laid bare in the final report handed down by the committee of nine politicians. Of those nine, five disagreed with the report's recommendations and filed their own minority reports, yet the main report is what will be considered by the state's government.

Labor MP Sheena Watts, who is also a First Nations Australian, went against party lines by supporting the hunting of ducks and other native birds. She highlighted the importance it has on mental health and the fact that it is part of so many people's cultures — not just First Nations people.

Jeff Bourman of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party also filed a minority report disagreeing with the main report. The Liberals and Nationals (Melina Bath, Evan Mulholland and Bev McArthur) co-authored

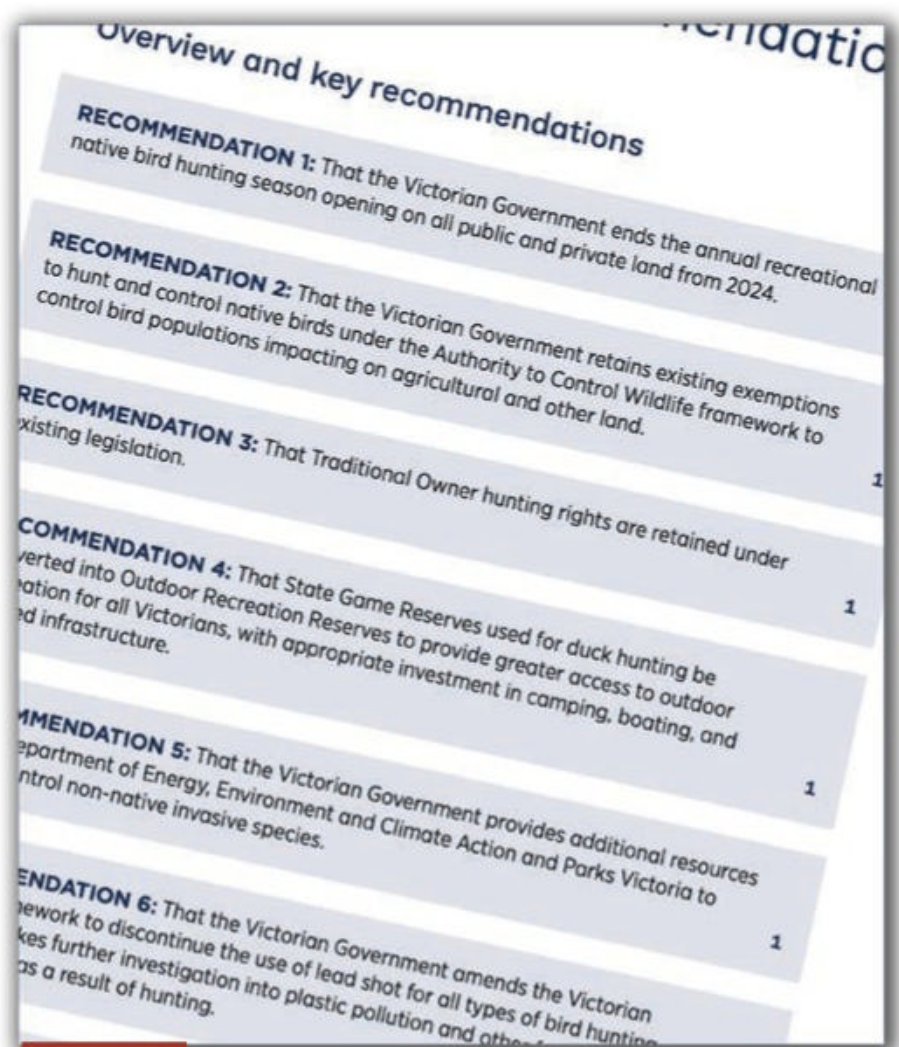
RIGHT: While it makes tokenistic gestures towards hunters and hunting, the report's findings are as anti-hunting as they could be

another minority report also disagreeing with the main report's findings.

The vast majority of public submissions to the inquiry were in support of native bird hunting. Significantly, this inquiry got about four times more submissions than any parliamentary inquiry in Victoria's history.

So how did the remaining four committee members — a minority made up of two Labor members, a Green and one from the Animal Justice Party — manage to force through a report that is so clearly a subjective, anti-democratic and ideological whitewash? It is the clearest sign yet that our anti-hunting enemies are winning and that there's a real risk we will lose our right to hunt anything at all.

That's no exaggeration.



There's a real risk we will lose our right to hunt anything at all"

Check out our website for some more detail and reactions. Find the entire report (which includes the minority reports) on the Victorian parliamentary website.

There is still hope. Get angry and get active. Join the fight against the ban, which has not yet been implemented.

MICK MATHESON
Editor

SPORTING SHOOTER

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

Technical Editor: Nick Harvey

Contributors: Tony Pizzata, Dylan Smith, Chloe Golding, Graham Park, Gary Hall, Zac McKenzie, Leon Wright

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 \$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: Tracy Yaffa

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



MADE FOR THE CONDITIONS.

Ridgeline Yard Shirt

- 100% Organic Cotton • Strong rip-stop fabric
- Pre-washed for shrinkage



Find out more online



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

— BUY INSTORE AND ONLINE —

ridgelineclothing.com.au

TEN SHOTS, ZERO RELOADS.

10X

BY
GAMO

Gamo's innovative 10X technology enables you to shoot up to 10 pellets without reloading. Simply break the barrel and fire for lightning-quick follow up shots.

The 10X GEN 2 technology features a revolutionary new horizontal magazine integration, making it lighter, more compact and low profile. The second generation 10X offers smoother operation and improved accuracy.



One magazine included, also sold separately as an accessory.



#GOGAMO



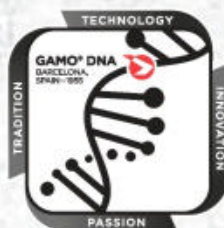
10X
10X HOLLOW POINT
PELLETS



SCAN FOR VIDEO

THE DIFFERENCE IS IN OUR DNA.

- Fully integrated manufacturing
- Repeated test firing
- Exhaustive quality control procedures
- Automotive-grade robotic technology
- Patented polymer-jacketed barrel
- Patented Whisper sound-dampening technology
- Green manufacturing facility



GAMO®

Precision Airguns

Own the air with Gamo today. The most progressive and innovative air rifle manufacturer in the world.

ROADSTER IGT

LOW PROFILE SYSTEM

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND - NEXT GEN



The outstanding Gamo Roadster IGT 10X GEN2 has arrived featuring our state of the art horizontal magazine, making it lighter, compact and low profile. Gamo's IGT Inert Gas Technology power plant, a new ergonomic synthetic thumbhole stock, and the new patent-pending 10X Quick Shot GEN2 Technology.

- Ambidextrous Stock
- Scope Rail
- Front Sight Cover
- Macrometric Sight



.177 CAL. 22 CAL.
1260 fps 875 fps

SPEEDSTER STORM IGT

LOW PROFILE SYSTEM

FASTER, LIGHTER AND MORE
PRECISE THAN EVER



Ten shots, zero reloads and a brand new fast-reload stock compartment. Gamo's Speedster IGT 10X Quick Shot GEN2 offers a smoother operation and improved accuracy together with a state of the art stock design. The new Speedster combines the latest and most popular Gamo technologies in one air rifle, delivering an outstanding solution for pest control and hunting.

- Ambidextrous Stock
- Scope Rail
- Front Sight Cover
- Macrometric Sight



.177 CAL. 22 CAL.
1260 fps 880 fps

REPLAY-10 MAGNUM IGT

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND



Gamo's Replay 10 Magnum GEN1 is a 45 Joules high performance airgun which features Gamo's 10x Quick shot® GEN1 technology. This exclusive system relies on a rotary multi-shot magazine which allows the shooter to blast up to 10 shots without touching a single pellet, improving the user's autonomy, reducing reload timings and providing a more dynamic, agile and satisfying hunt.

- Ambidextrous Stock
- Scope Rail
- Scope
- Multishot
- 3-9x40 WRH Scope Incl.



.177 CAL. 22 CAL.
1540 fps 1100 fps

FASTSHOT IGT

REDEFINING GAMO'S MODERN CLASSICS

Wood 



Gamo's Fast Shot 10x IGT GEN1 combines the sobriety and sophistication of a classic wooden air rifle with the brand's latest technological innovations. Gamo's Fast Shot 10x IGT GEN1 includes Gamo's 10x Quick shot® GEN1 technology. This 'modern classic' includes a precise 4x32WRH scope and features Gamo's latest technologies.

- Ambidextrous Stock
- Scope Rail
- Scope
- Multishot
- 4x32 WRH Scope Incl.



.177 CAL. 22 CAL.
1260 fps 880 fps

GAMO OTHERS CALL IT FUTURE



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





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

Belted case headspace

QI read your reply to another reader about how to maintain minimum headspace with belted cases. You recommended that he buy a neck-only sizing die to prolong case life. Could you elaborate a little on this?

Michael White

AI think I have already dealt with this subject, but here goes. Chambers for belted cases usually have generous dimensions up front because the belt is intended to stop any forward movement of the case, but alas, the shoulder isn't always a close fit in the chamber.

Standard minimum

headspace for H&H belted rounds is .220" (5.59mm), with the no-go gauge measuring .224" (5.69mm).

Repeated firing and sizing of belted cases in long chambers usually produces a white ring just ahead of the belt. This ring indicates there has been thinning and hardening of the brass there. If you insert a bent wire and slide it up and down along the inside of the case you can feel a groove at this point. This case stretching and thinning leads to early case failure, but can be avoided by neck sizing, which allows the shoulder to stay in contact with the shoulder in the chamber.



Luckily, this belted case suffered a head separation when the reload was extracted; if it had come apart on firing it could have wrecked the rifle

Neck sizing makes a belted case headspace on the shoulder like a rimless case, reducing stretching and prolonging case life. Of course, after three or four reloads cases will need

trimming and full-length sizing, but if you gradually adjust the die down a bit each time, until a shell chambers with a slight feel, you'll retain tight headspace.

.243 Ackley Improved

QI am having my Ruger M77 in .243 fitted with a new 26" barrel with 1:10 twist and chambered for the .243 Ackley Improved. I've not been able to find any up-to-date loading data for this wildcat. Could you give me any load data for 75, 90 and 100gn bullets? I use Speer bullets almost exclusively for game and am not interested in any of the heavy long-range target bullets.

Trevor Andrews

AThe following loads were safe in a mate's rifle with a 26" barrel but as always, when working up loads in another rifle, start a little low and work up carefully: 75gn Speer, 45gn of AR2209 for 3400fps, to a maximum of 50gn for 3755fps; 90gn Speer, 45gn of AR2209 for 3300fps, up to 49gn for 3490fps; 100gn Speer, 44gn of AR2209 for 3100fps, up to 48gn for 3290fps.

Energy is no sinecure

QIt seems to me that hunters have been conditioned to judge a bullet's terminal potential by the amount of energy it has left when it strikes the target. As anyone who has used a 400 or 500gn lead bullet from a .45-70 in the field can testify, there's a lot more to killing power than foot-pounds. This is especially true of a match bullet which rates the same amount of foot-pounds of energy as a controlled-expansion big-game bullet. What's your take on this?

Mick Moran

AI agree with you. Not only weight but diameter and construction contribute to a bullet's lethality. Foot-pounds (or joules or whatever you use) of energy is sometimes called "paper energy" because it is a mathematical number that in physics means, loosely, the capability to do work. The lethal effect or killing power



The heavier bullet may arrive a bit slower, but still be more effective"

of a bullet is closely associated with kinetic energy.

Ballistic tables give energy at the muzzle as well as at different ranges, but what really counts is the energy that can be delivered to the impact, because it has a direct effect on killing power. But the knockdown effect at impact is related to momentum.

Getting down to the nitty-gritty, knockdown is a matter of mass times velocity (momentum), not kinetic energy. Penetration and expansion are both results of velocity and energy, and as the

velocity slows down as the range increases, so does the bullet's ability to penetrate.

Bullet weight can be helpful in this regard. The heavier bullet may arrive a bit slower, but still be more effective. If two bullets strike downrange with the same velocity, the heavier bullet will have more penetration and do more damage, all else being equal.

If two bullets are different in shape and materials, but hit with the same velocity and have the same mass, they will both impact with the same kinetic energy, but the damage inflicted on the game will differ depending on the bullet's diameter, construction, degree of expansion etc.

One other critical factor: rotational speed imparted by the rifling does not decrease like velocity; it stays near constant throughout the bullet's flight. Thus it too has an important effect upon bullet performance and the amount of tissue destroyed.



The bolt-action rifle was forever changed with the introduction of the Browning X-Bolt. The X-Bolt builds on the proven successes of past Browning rifles and adds numerous improvements that place the X-Bolt at the top of any side-by-side comparison.



HUNTER

223REM, 270WIN, 30-06SPRG, 300WM, 308WIN, 375H&H Also available as left-handed rifle in: 223 REM, 30-06SPRG, 308WIN

RRP \$1495



STAINLESS STALKER

223REM, 243WIN, 270WIN, 30-06SPRG, 300WM, 308WIN, 338WM, 375H&H

RRP \$1650



COMPOSITE STALKER

223REM, 270WIN, 30-06SPRG, 308WIN

RRP \$1295



SPEED OVIX

223REM, 243WIN, 270WIN, 30-06SPRG, 300PRC, 300WM, 308WIN, 6.5CM, 7MMRM

RRP \$2095



HELLS CANYON OVIX MAX Long Range

300PRC, 300RUM, 300WM, 6.8WST

RRP \$2495

See the X-Bolt Range at your local Stockist.

NSW: BADLANDS PTY LTD, ELK'S HUNTING & FISHING, HORSLEY PARK GUN SHOP PTY LTD, MUDGEY FIREARMS, SAFARI FIREARMS, TAMWORTH FIREARMS. **QLD:** THE BARN, BROWNS PLAINS FIREARMS, CLEAVER FIREARMS, HALL'S FIREARMS - TOWNSVILLE, HAYES & CO HARRISVILLE PTY LTD, ON TARGET SPORTING ARMS, THE OPEN RANGE PTY LTD, OWEN GUNS, SHOOTER'S DELIGHT PTY LTD. **SA:** HORIZON LEISURE PTY LTD, YP AGRISERVICES PTY LTD. **TAS:** SPORTS HUT, TASSIE TACKLE & OUTDOOR, NEW NORFOLK GUNSHOP, WELLS FIREARMS & SPORTING. **VIC:** ALPINE COUNTRY OUTDOORS, APEX FIREARMS, MELBOURNE FIREARMS, CLAYTON TRIGGER & TACKLE, GFD OUTDOORS & SPORTS, GREAT SOUTHERN OUTDOORS, GUN EMPORIUM, GUNSPORT TRADING, HARTLEY'S HUNTING & FISHING, H & S FIREARMS, IN SEASON HUNTING & FISHING, MIALLS GUN SHOP PTY LTD, OREILLY'S FIREARMS, H REHFISCH & CO PTY LTD, MANSFIELD HUNTING AND FISHING, SEYMOUR TOTAL SPORTS, TRELLY'S SHEPPARTON, TRELLY'S BENDIGO, WILD OUTDOORS AUSTRALIA, YARRA VALLEY HUNTING. **WA:** ROY ALEXANDER HIMSELF & SONS.

A subsonic load for the .30-30

Q We've been getting pigs moving onto our property from the National Park next door and we've been shooting them with a Marlin .30-30, but some of the places we are allowed on are built-up areas on small blocks and the Marlin's report is a tad noisy.

We were lucky enough a while back to get hold of some sub-sonic .30-30 ammo, but we've used them up and haven't been able to get any more. I've been wondering if you could give me a load for the .30-30 that's sub-sonic? I'd like to use a 150gn bullet, but have no idea what powder or how much.

Peter M Lawler

A You are asking for a load that gets the velocity of a 150gn bullet down below the speed of sound. I have no information about the sub-sonic ammo you previously had. In fact, I didn't know it was made. A 160gn lead bullet and 9gn of Trail Boss gets about 1150fps. As a rough guess, 15 or 16gn of AR2206H behind a 150gn jacketed bullet should get 1150fps or thereabouts. There are a number of shotgun and pistol powders that would do the job, but they are impossible to get. Sorry I cannot be of more help.



Lead bullets seldom give problems in the .45-70, but the recommended overall cartridge length must be right to work flawlessly through the action

Lead bullets in the Marlin .45-70

Q Can you tell me what type of rifling my new Ruger-Marlin .45-70 has as I want to fire cast lead bullets in it and have been told that Ballard-type rifling is best. Also, could you suggest some loads for a 390gn lead bullet?
Rohan York

A Your new Ruger-built Marlin .45-70 definitely has Ballard-type rifling which is the preferred system if you want to shoot cast lead bullets through it.

If you have once-fired cases to reload, check that the case length is 2.100" (53.34mm). If they are longer, make sure to trim them, otherwise they may not work through the action of your lever-action Marlin. Hornady recommends trimming cases even shorter (2.040" or 51.82mm) when using their Monoflex bullets which have a long ogive, but a 390gn cast lead bullet shouldn't require this.

The bullets will need crimping, of course, to work through the tubular magazine and prevent spring pressure pushing them farther into the case.

Powders are hard to get just now, but the following loads with ADI powders are mild and not maximum. Take your pick: 50gn of AR2219 for

The .257 Roberts shooting the 100gn Nosler Partition handloaded to 3200fps proved capable of reaching out across open country to tag this fallow buck



Sectional density is critical to gaining deep penetration"

1670fs; 46gn AR2207, 1754fps; 55gn BM2, 1756fps; 52gn AR2208, 1610fps; or 46gn AR2206H, 1750fps.

Shot placement is vital

Q I have noticed that you favour cartridges that many hunters consider to be marginal or even inadequate for much of your deer hunting. However, I realise that there are significant differences in rifles, cartridges and bullets that make them more suitable for various sizes of game and for certain situations than others.

Nearly every hunter has a favourite cartridge and is vocal about its performance compared to others. For my own part I am a strong believer in adequate cartridges and using the correct bullets for the game to be hunted, and if anything I lean toward the heavy side of the equation. But I also realise

that if you don't land your bullet in the right place it doesn't matter how powerful a rifle you are using, you will wound your game and not be able to recover it.

This is not a critique, since you seem be a good marksman who generally shoots well. I'd just like you to comment on the subject for those who think you are under-gunned.
Ted Knight

A My Ruger .257 Roberts accounted for over 30 trophy deer, each with a single shot with Barnes's 100gn TSX BT. Only one ran off for about 100m before it dropped, and only one needed a second shot. This happened because the red stag was standing among his does and if I had gone for a heart-lung shot the bullet would have struck a doe standing behind him, so I had to aim a little farther back.

The stag dropped but got up and began staggering away. I shot him again, but it wasn't necessary as he was already on his way to the ground.

By placing their shots properly, skilled marksmen can take game successfully throughout their careers while using fairly light cartridges that many hunters would swear are marginal or even inadequate for the size of the game being hunted. By the

WIN A HUNTING TRIP



BUY **ANY ZEROTECH** RIFLESCOPE
BETWEEN **AUGUST 3RD** AND
JANUARY 31ST TO BE ELIGIBLE

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



LIFETIME WARRANTY

ZEROTECH

BE CONFIDENT

WWW.ZEROTECH.COM.AU

SCAN ME!



same token, many hunters miss or wound game with cartridges that are definitely adequate, even overly powerful.

Les Bowman once told me that often one of his elk hunters would turn up with a powerful magnum rifle that he couldn't handle. This made him flinch and miss the game so Les would hand them a 6mm Remington with which they'd take the animal down cleanly and as quickly as possible.

I have been shooting professionally for over 60 years and have spent time culling feral animals and guiding buffalo hunters. But I'm a gun nut as well as a pure hunter and spend a lot of time at the range, not only sighting in and testing firearms, but using different rifles. Part of my livelihood is derived from extolling the virtue of one cartridge or another, or which cartridges, bullets and rifles are best for various game and hunting situations.

I generally shoot well in the field, but nothing is as important as shot placement. By placing shots precisely, a skilled marksman can take game successfully while using a fairly light cartridge that many shooters would think lacked enough power. My recent acquisition of a deer rifle is a Kimber .25-06 which is just a little bit more of a good thing. Many shooters are fairly inexperienced, having had very little practice with a powerful rifle, and would do better with something which develops less recoil.

In conclusion: you should make certain that your cartridge has sufficient power and your bullet is toughly enough constructed to guarantee sufficient penetration. My own preference is for a bullet that will exit with classic broadside shots on deer-sized game with lung shots and leave a blood trail that's easy

to follow. It will also penetrate far enough to reach vital organs on any angling shot.

Those are my own opinions based on over 70 years spent hunting and shooting, but I still respect the views of anyone who might think differently.

Primer seating depth

QI started seating primers in my handloads using the press-mounted priming set-up but I think it has too much pressure and is seating primers too deeply into the pocket, since I'm experiencing quite a number of reloads that fail to fire. They certainly appear to be seated too deep as they are well below the edge of the pocket. Can you offer a solution?

George Perkins

AI've always found it best to prime using one of the hand-held tools which allows you to "feel" the primer seat against the bottom of the pocket, or one that can be adjusted for seating depth. There are some excellent hand priming tools on the market and I suggest you get one. Lee makes affordable priming tools and their Auto-Prime is top notch.

A correctly seated primer will be below the case head by .0015" to .003" (.038-.076mm). You can check this visually by putting a precise straight-edge across the base. You should be able to see a thin gap of light between the primer and the straight-edge. You can check for protruding primers simply by standing a loaded round head-down on a flat surface. If the case wobbles or falls over, the primer is protruding and should be reseated.

Light bullets in .338

QI've been told that the .338 Win Mag is too slow to keep up with long-range .30-calibre projectiles. But the 180gn Nosler can be driven at

The .338 Win Mag shooting the Barnes 225gn TSX FB at 2980fps was plenty powerful enough for Alaskan moose



“

There are some excellent hand priming tools on the market and I suggest you get one”

over 3200fps and the Barnes manual lists the 185gn MRX BT doing over 3000fps and 210 grainers at 2900fps. Surely these velocities place the .338 alongside the .300 Win Mag and .300 Weatherby? What's your take on this? Am I right or am I wrong?
Jeff Castle

AYou are partly right when you say that very light .338 bullets can be pushed along quite fast — actually, as fast or faster than similar bullet weights from the .30 magnums. This is because light .338 bullets have less bearing surface than the 180gn

and 200gn in .30-calibre, which means less friction, and pressure allows them to be driven at fairly high velocity. The larger frontal area of the .338 also offers an advantage.

The problem with really light .338 bullets is ballistic. Heavy .338 bullets have the high sectional density and ballistic coefficient necessary for good aerodynamics that you get from long, heavy-for-calibre .308 bullets. Sectional density is critical to gaining deep penetration, particularly when hunting the size of game the .338 was designed for — bear, moose and wapiti.

The lightest .338 bullet with stout construction is the 210gn Barnes with SD of .263 and a higher BC than the 225gn TSX FB — .404 against .386 — and it can be driven at 2900fps against 2700fps for the 225gn.

I am a big fan of the .338 Win Mag but my rifle is long-throated and drives the Barnes 225gn TSX FB at 2980fps ahead of 77gn of AR2209. Sighted-in for a 250yd zero it is 2½" high at 100 and drops 16" at 400, where it retains 2285ft-lb of energy. I've never tried the 210gn Barnes, but it should be as good. ☒



INREACH® SERIES TWO-WAY GLOBAL MESSAGING | SOS ALERTS | LOCATION SHARING



Active satellite subscription required. Some jurisdictions regulate or prohibit the use of satellite communication devices. It is the responsibility of the user to know and follow all applicable laws in the jurisdictions where the device is intended to be used.
© 2022 Garmin Ltd. or its subsidiaries.

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>

Last but not least?

Despite the restricted duration and bag limit, Leon Wright made the most of what could be the last duck hunting season in Victoria

THERE WAS movement in the camp, for the word had got around. No, it's not another case of the colt from Old Regret getting away.

It was something more important to me and my curlies: the beginning of duck season. All of the usual dramas associated with duck season were forgotten as I rummaged through the shed, sorting out decoys and other paraphernalia.



MAIN: The Beretta under and over, fitted with modified and improved-modified chokes, with a nice bag of ducks. ABOVE: Leon's brothers, Mick and Greg, on the season's final duck hunt



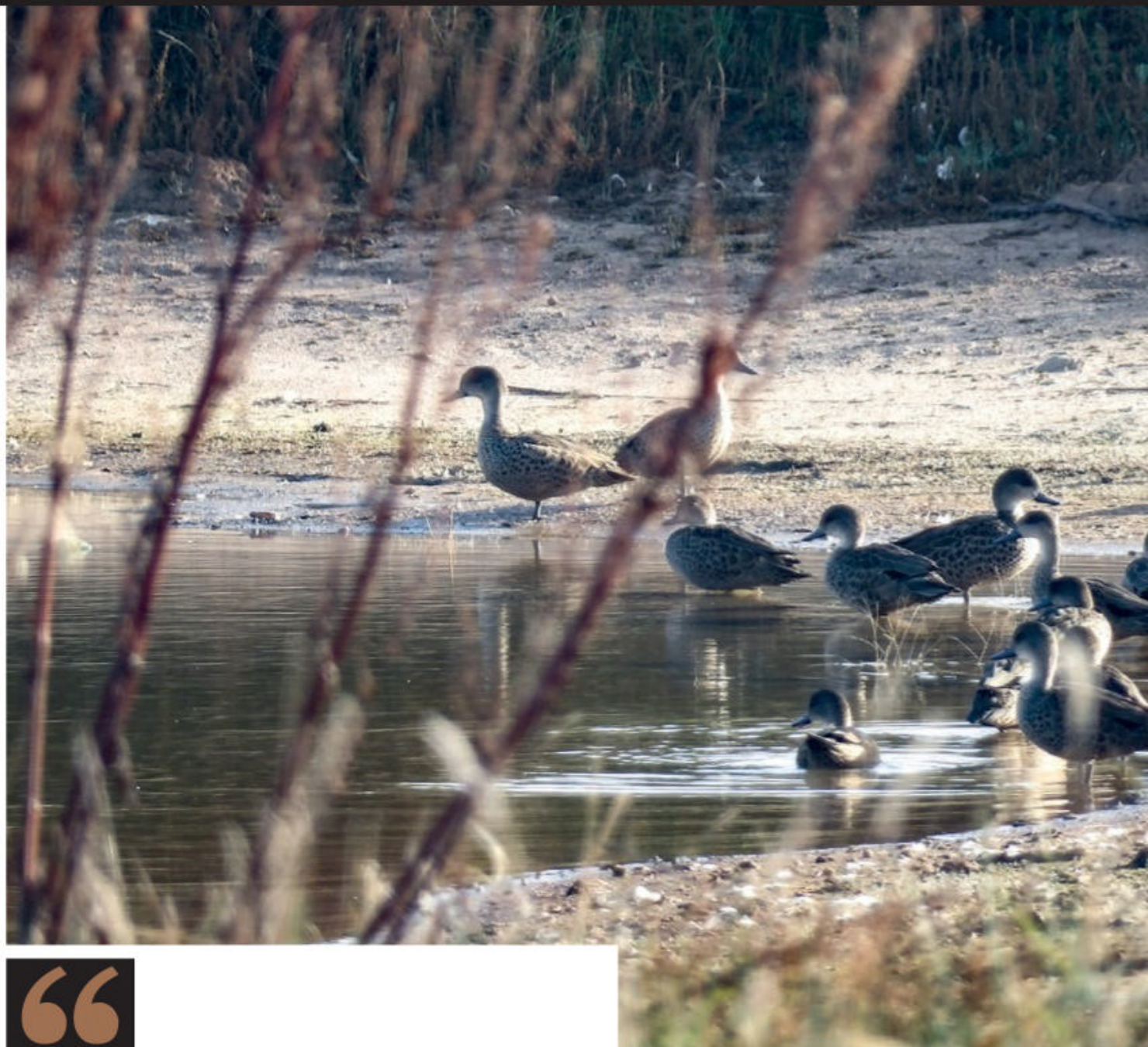


AN old friend had given me 60 new decoys, the self-righting ones that don't need me wading out in the early hours of the morning to set them out in a pattern and making sure they are all upright. Apart from the decoys, he had also given me a brand-new Beretta 692 Sporting Black under-and-over in 12 gauge and I planned to use both gifts this duck opening morning.

As soon as I got the decoys out the dogs were onto me. There is no tricking them, and I had given up trying a long time ago. My two curlies both live for duck hunting and as soon as they realise it is on, they never leave my side.

My old girl, Missy, starts retrieving stones from around the back yard and presents them to me with much tail wagging and excited whimpering. She drives my wife crazy with her stone retrieving. They end up all through the house. It got so bad that I eventually moved the stone garden from the back yard to the front yard, which helped to alleviate the problem to some degree, but she still finds them.

But I wouldn't be without one of them while out duck hunting. Missy specialises in finding ducks that have gone down way out in stubble paddocks, after being jumped on dams that I frequently hunt after opening morning.



“

There was no shortage of ducks. They were everywhere”

Opening morning is reserved, and always has been, for Missy and I to shoot over the decoys on a quiet lagoon that is rarely visited by other hunters. It's mostly just my brothers, a couple of guests and me.

The area where the lagoon is situated had suffered badly from the floodwaters that had swept through a month or so previously, taking everything in its path with it. A quick scouting trip a couple of weeks before opening day bore out my concerns. My permanent duck blind was no more. I found it lodged up against a tree, 200 metres away, beyond retrieval.

It didn't take long to knock up another one and that's where Missy and I were on opening morning.

With the opening of the season on a Wednesday I wasn't expecting much action, but I knew I would get the bag of four ducks, even if it meant having to have a bit of a look around for them. One thing I was absolutely sure of was that there was no shortage of ducks. They were everywhere but hunters were needed to get them up and moving, and being a Wednesday, this might not happen.





2



3

My new decoys, sitting alluringly on the water, looked quite good. The detail that had gone into their manufacture was perfect down to the last feather, and I had no doubt that they would deliver the goods if the ducks were flying about.

Eight o'clock came and went and it was at least another hour before a lone blackie was seduced by my rendition of a lonesome duck and dropped in to the decoys. When it realised all was not well, it took to the air but dropped back down among the decoys after falling to a single shot from the Beretta. Missy was quick to get underway and soon had the blackie on the ground beside me as well as the usual shower of water from a good shake.

Ten minutes later, Missy's whimpering had me looking towards the decoys, but instead of ducks dropping in a cheeky fox wandered down the opposite bank for a look-see. Not one to pass on any opportunity I quickly knocked it over with a load of No 3s out of the improved-modified barrel. Missy wanted to retrieve it,

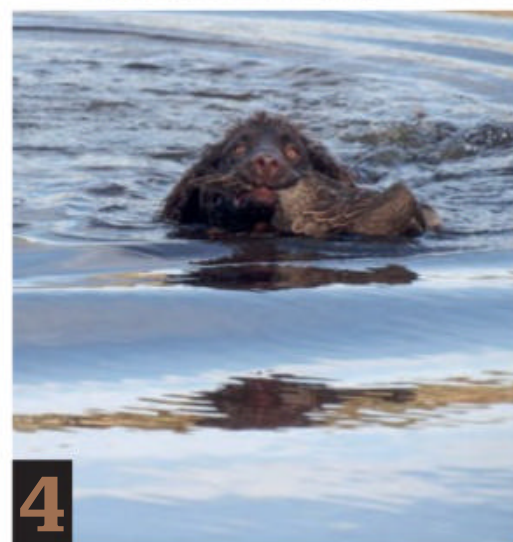
whimpering loudly and trying to get me to release her. But it was all in vain as handling foxes is a good way for a dog to pick up mange.

As much as I was enjoying sitting in the blind listening to the various birds and watching kangaroos swimming across the lagoon, I was there to get ducks. Time was ticking on and it was time for us to get moving if we wanted the bag of ducks. It was obvious we were not going to get any more waiting over the decoys.

With Missy in tow, I was soon sneaking up on a stack of blackies on a nearby lagoon. My approach was made easy by the clumps of bullrushes that lined the bank. As the blackies went up, I selected a single bird and brought it down with a load of No 3s. While Missy retrieved it I concentrated on getting another out of the circling mob.

Ten minutes later, with Missy retrieving the last blackie, we were bagged out, for what it was worth.

"At least they are all blackies," I said to the bedraggled Missy, who was probably wondering why the hell we were knocking off with all



4

the ducks that were still circling. Truth be known, I was thinking it myself.

In a way, I am far luckier than the city-based hunters. While they have to make the most of their occasional trips duck hunting, I am able to go out most days. Everything is certainly stacked against them, and I totally understand their resentment at the limitations placed on them.

Living in the country, I am far better off in regard to duck hunting opportunities. With access to a number of private properties, I intended to make the most of

ON THIS SPREAD

1 More ducks! You had to wonder why the bag was limited to just four ducks

2 The chestnut teal (to the right of photo) was a surprise encounter for Leon while hunting over dams

3 The way Leon likes to hunt ducks: dropping into the decoy pattern on cupped wings

4 My curly, Missy, doing what she was bred for and doing it well



“

the very short season, hunting every day if possible.

The next morning my brother, Greg, and I hit the dams on one such property and needless to say there was no shortage of ducks. Approaching one dam, we were watched by a flock of wood ducks lining the bank. We waited awhile and, sure enough, one by one they waddled down the other side and out of sight.

I told Greg to head over and have a shot while I waited by the fence with the dog. I prefer to take blackies but my brother is not as choosy, and he grabbed his shotgun and cartridges and headed off.

That was the first mistake I made for the season. When my brother fired on the wood ducks, a wall of blackies rose in front of him. There would have been at least 100 ducks of all species, but predominantly blackies and grey teal. It was too late for me to do anything except watch proceedings and curse my stupidity.

Greg quickly crouched down and reloaded his shotgun as a large part of the mob turned and came winging back to land yet again on the dam. All I could do was send the dog over to retrieve any ducks he had taken. Any other action on my behalf would spook the ducks dropping in.

Greg and one happy dog soon returned with two blackies and a wood duck.

I intended to make the most of the very short season, hunting every day”

Vowing not to get caught again, we moved onto the next dam to repeat the process. This dam was way out in the paddock and rarely visited by many hunters, as it required a fair bit of leg exercise to reach it without any promise of ducks. I had to keep Missy on the lead because as we were walking through the stubble, we were flushing the odd quail and Missy loves hunting quail almost as much as ducks.

Greg positioned himself down one end of the dam and I flushed the ducks from the other, hoping they would pass over him, in range. I love it when a plan comes together, as that was what the ducks eventually did after I sneaked up on them and dropped a fat black duck out of the thick cluster of rising birds. As Missy retrieved it, I knelt down and quickly reloaded as a number of teal were circling the dam.

As they passed me, I selected one at the tail end that was in range and, giving

it plenty of lead, brought it down. It landed in the stubble some distance out. Missy was quick to retrieve it. Greg had dropped a woody further out in the stubble and I told Missy to find it.

It was fascinating to watch the dog tracking the downed duck. She cast from side to side, following the tiny scent globules left by the duck, with her castings getting shorter and shorter as she got close to the duck. Then she zeroed in like a missile, collaring the duck and prancing back over to me.

The season may have been short but my brothers, friends and I certainly made the most of it by going out at least five of the seven days each week. It took very little time to bag out on each hunt, the ducks were so numerous. It was actually taking us longer to drive out to the properties than it took to shoot the bag.

So, with the future of duck hunting in Victoria looking grim, one thing for sure is the truth is always the first casualty. 🎯

ON THIS PAGE

1 Seven down, one to go as Leon and Greg fill a day's bag each

2 Leon is fortunate enough to have a choice of three Berettas for his duck hunting

3 A selection of steel cartridges in 12 and 20 gauge that Leon used during the season





VOERE

LBW

**BOLT ACTION
RIFLE**

**BUILT
FOR THE
HUNT**

.222 Rem, 22-250 Rem, .223 Rem, .243 Win, .270 Win
.308 Win, .30-06 Spring, .300Win Mag, .375 H&H





Beretta BRX1

Fast, accurate and in many ways unconventional, Beretta's BRX1 straight-pull rifle bridges the gap between the Savage Impulse and Blaser R8

THE Italian firm of Beretta is the great-grandfather of the firearms industry with documented lineage and family ownership dating back almost 500 years. Clearly then, Beretta is the oldest arms manufacturer in the world and over the centuries it has become well known for producing a tremendous variety of military and sporting arms. In recent years, however, it has become famous for its shotguns and semi-automatic pistols.

Not so well known, though, is the fact that Beretta produces a line of very fine double rifles.

During the late 1980s Beretta also marketed rifles with European styling based on the Sako bolt action, but they didn't arouse much enthusiasm from the

American market and enjoyed a very brief tenure. At the 1997 SHOT show in the US, Beretta announced the new Mato bolt-action rifle based on a controlled-round feed action with a long Mauser-style extractor, two large dual-opposed locking lugs, a three position safety and American classic-styled stock which was made for them by Dakota Arms. This rifle, excellent though it was, also suffered a short life span.

The company's most recent tilt at the sporting rifle market is with a massively constructed straight-pull rifle designated the BRX1 which has a number of uncommon and interesting features.

The system is entirely different to anything I've seen before — an unorthodox and possibly radical method of



LEFT: The Beretta is a reliably accurate rifle that shot excellent groups with many types of factory ammunition

ABOVE: Polymer box magazine holds five rounds of .308 in a staggered column. It fits securely yet is easily released with one hand



“

The Beretta's safety doesn't fit neatly into any of the usual categories”

modern modular engineering. The chassis, which forms the action 'bed', is precisely formed from aircraft-grade alloy and the receiver ring and barrel bolt to it with two Allen-head screws that are captive to the stock so you won't lose them.

A detachable box magazine made entirely of polymer fits in a mortise precision-formed for it in the chassis. It has an integral release catch moulded on each side and holds five

rounds of .308 Winchester ammo. The side walls are coloured bright orange; the follower and floorplate are black. Fitting flush with the bottom of the chassis, it's easy to remove and replace.

The most unusual feature of the BRX1 is a receiver ring that's only 67mm (2⅝”) long and lacks a conventional full-length action with sidewalls and a bridge at the rear. Instead, the short receiver ring has an unorthodox 48mm (1⅞”) long rearward extension for attaching a Picatinny rail, which increases its length by extending an extra 57mm (2¼”) to the rear.

The underside of the receiver ring has a slot to accommodate an alloy recoil lug protruding upward from a

slot in the front portion of the chassis. The forearm is secured to the front of the chassis by a horizontal screw threaded into the chassis, aided by two screws which retain the barrel and receiver ring. This is easily the most innovative and rigid method of attachment I've ever seen on a rifle with a two-piece stock.

Beretta's BRX1 is a straight-pull bolt-action unlike any other. The receiver ring is a solid chunk of 4140 steel machined to engage a rotating bolt head that slides in a steel insert which is, in turn, encased in a massive alloy carrier. A flat-bottomed steel insert is grooved to run on rails which stretch the full length of the alloy chassis.

Taken out of the rifle, the

BRX1's bolt carrier is massive. It has a large bolt handle raked back at an angle of 45 degrees and runs on steel rails that line up with raceways incorporated into the chassis. Lock-up is via eight very small, narrow locking lugs equidistantly spaced around the bolt-head which combine for a locking system of exceptional strength.

The lugs are 11mm (.433”) long and 3.5mm (.138”) wide. They enter the receiver ring through slots between an identical set of lugs, before rotating just enough to lock up behind each of those lugs.

Although entirely unconventional in its locking system, the straight-pull BRX1's bolt has a typical plunger-style ejector and a sliding plate



extractor set in its recessed face.

The BRX1 exercises some degree of modularity by having the barrel and receiver ring attached to the aluminium alloy chassis via two screws through the underside of the forearm. The chassis has a length of 26cm (10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ") and forms a rugged bedding platform which fulfils the role of a full-length receiver and contains what would normally be the action's sidewalls, with magazine well and rear tang made integral with it. The trigger, cocking mechanism and striker together with the bolt stop and trigger guard are housed in an independent alloy unit positioned at the rear of the magazine well.

The Beretta's safety takes

some getting used to since it has a thumb-piece but doesn't fit neatly into any of the usual categories. It functions to block trigger movement, yet can also directly block the sear. Cycling the bolt cocks the rifle, readying it to fire, and a red bar is visible behind the thumb piece. The BRX1's safety system is engaged by pushing the cocking slide forward, then easing it back until a white bar is revealed. To re-cock the rifle, it is necessary to push the thumb piece forward again and ease it back until the red strip reappears.

It is a manual cocking design that actually depresses and lowers and raises the striker in relation to the firing pin as the safety is deactivated and activated, providing a

design that allows the rifle to be safely carried with a cartridge in the chamber and uncocked.

The trigger unit is removable by simply lifting a catch at the rear, which releases it, allowing it to be slid forward inside the magazine well and dropped out. One tip: when replacing the bolt, first depress the striker arm which will be in the upright position; it will override the bolt stop.

The BRX's trigger pull quality is not compromised by being removable. In fact, removing gives access to the three-step adjustment for weight of pull. The trigger on my test rifle initially broke at a clean, crisp and consistent 1kg (just over 2lb) which was its lightest setting— great for

ON THIS SPREAD

1 The BRX is a clever yet unconventional rifle with modern European styling

2 This group, measuring well under 2 MOA, was fired with five different factory loads. That's what you'd call versatile and consistent!

3 The recoil lug projects upward from the front of the chassis, and is flanked by the two screws that thread up into the receiver ring. A nut on the left tensions the forearm against the front of the bedding platform

4 The receiver ring base, showing the slot for the recoil lug and the two threads for the bedding screws. Note the short extension to which the Picatinny rail is attached



LEFT: The Beretta's construction details include a rotating bolt and receiver ring secured to the chassis by two screws underneath and one in the forearm. Trigger group is a detachable module that's adjustable for pull weight

BELOW: An unconventional design: before the bolt can be replaced, the upright striker arm must be manually depressed. The bolt will override the bolt stop



targets but rather light for my own preference. A spring-loaded toggle on the side of the trigger housing allows you to step it up to 1.25kg and 1.5kg.

Paying attention to the rifle's ergonomics: The good-looking two-piece polymer composite stock is virtually indestructible, and thermo-stable under the most extreme conditions. The butt stock has a thick, rounded comb sloping upwards toward the rear. Length of pull is 365mm (14.4"), but the Extralight recoil pad has a spacer which can be removed to shorten the LOP by 13mm (½").

The pistol grip is nicely curved and there's a thumb groove on each side of the nose



The primary advantage of a straight-pull action is the speed"

of the comb for the base of the shooter's thumb. The forearm is rounded on the bottom with two longitudinal grooves for the shooter's fingers along its upper edges which allow a steady grasp.

The stock is equipped with a pair of sling swivel bases and

has a functional all-over textured finish with coarser panels on grip and forearm in place of chequering. The forearm is reinforced inside with X-shaped struts, is solidly attached to the receiver ring and allows the barrel to float along its full length.

The barrel of this rifle had a length of 57cm (22.4") and, judging by the performance of my test rifle, is match quality. The diameter is 28.65mm (1.128") at the receiver ring and it's straight-tapered to reach 16mm (.628") at the start of the M14 threaded muzzle.

The primary advantage of a straight-pull action is the

speed with which the rifle can be loaded. Europeans hunt lots of driven game, so the ability to quickly cycle the action without losing proper cheek weld and sight of the game is a big advantage. Thanks to the BRX1 system, reloading the BXR can be accomplished with incredible speed that cannot be matched by any other type of manual bolt action.

Our test rifle, chambered in .308 Winchester, came with a Steiner Predator 4-16x50mm scope held in Steiner's excellent alloy rings. Like the rifle, the scope was an impressive optic deserving of a separate review coming in the January issue.



The bolt removed, showing the eight-lug bolt head

ACCURACY & VELOCITY

Ammunition	Velocity (fps)	Group size (inches)		
		Smallest	Largest	Average
Sellier & Bellot 150gn SPCE	2770	.752	.888	.799
Winchester Super-X 150gn Power Point	2776	.816	.990	.886
Hornady American Whitetail 150gn Interlock	2783	.788	.961	.835
Browning BXR 155gn Rapid Expansion	2720	.782	.912	.866
Federal 165gn Fusion	2655	.954	1.110	.914

Average velocity measured at the muzzle with a MagnetoSpeed chronograph. Accuracy results for five 3-shot groups at 100yd, from benchrest. Velocity is the average of 15 shots measured at the muzzle. Temperature 15°C.



Sellier & Bellot 

Leave nothing to chance

YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE RAIN.

Or the wind. Or the fog. But you can put the round where you aim it. Luck is overrated. So take it out of the equation with the smooth action and extreme precision of a Bergara.

BERGARARIFLES.COM

Visit a dealer near you.

herrons.com.au



 **BERGARA**
SHOOT ONE. YOU'LL OWN ONE.



ABOVE: The bolt carrier shown in the rear position to reveal a strong eight-lug rotating bolt head. The massive bolt carrier runs on steel rails incorporated into the chassis

“

The BRX1 contains exotic design features I’ve never seen”

about 45mm at 100m, or 1½ MOA). I’d call that an unusual degree of consistency!

Most impressive was the rifle’s speed. Shooting at 200yd, the times I shot would be almost impossible to equal with a turn-bolt action. The BRX allowed me to get the rifle set solidly atop the sandbags, fire, note the impact, then rack the bolt smoothly without disturbing my sight picture, enabling me to send another shot within seconds.

It also helped that the BRX, with its high, straight comb and hefty weight, was mild to shoot.

It’s too heavy for lugging around the high sierras, but for plains and open country hunting its ability to deliver fast repeat shots, the way it swings smoothly offhand on running game, combined with its inherent accuracy will endear it to many experienced riflemen. 🎯

with not a single malfunction.

To evaluate the BRX’s functioning and accuracy, we fired five factory hunting loads in various bullet types for the .308 Winchester. It fired sub-MOA groups with all the different loads; accuracy with Sellier & Bellot 150gn SPCE in particular was outstanding. The results are shown in the table.

To check how consistently the BRX1 would group various factory loads, I fired a single round of each brand into a five-shot group at 100 yards. It measured 1.63” (equivalent to

✓ SPECS

Manufacturer: Beretta, Italy
Type: Straight-pull bolt-action
Calibre: .243 Win, 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Win (tested), .30-06, .300 Win Mag
Magazine: Detachable box, 5 rounds
Barrel length: 57cm (22.4”)
Overall length: 103.5cm (43”)
Length of pull: adjustable from 13.5 to 14.30 in.
Weight, empty: 3.3kg (7½lb)
Stock: Black, polymer composite
Finish: Matte black barrel, bolt and receiver
Sights: None
Trigger: Adjustable 1kg, 1.25kg, 1.5kg
Safety: Cocking slide
RRP: \$2859
Distributor: Beretta Australia, berettaaustralia.com.au

The BRX1 contains exotic design features I’ve never seen which expand the field of modern firearms technology. But if you are wondering why the rifle is so accurate, its alloy chassis and method of attaching the forearm by using two screws to hold the receiver ring in the stock and another to tension it, together with a simple slot to contain the recoil lug, make for a very strong and rigid assembly. There’s none of the looseness endemic to many two-piece stocks. It’s an ingenious design and one capable of incredibly effective and consistent accuracy in any kind of weather and hunting conditions, for shot after shot.

Furthermore, the receiver ring with short extension allows for a light alloy chassis that reduces the weight of the overall rifle. As it is, the rifle is no lightweight, so foot hunters should appreciate this feature.

We found the BRX1 is innovative, safe, versatile and speedy. The bolt cycling and function of the rifle was smooth, clean and reliable,



The Beretta’s cocking-safety system showing a large, handy thumb piece with firing and safety indicators

SXR² PUMP



WINCHESTER®

RELIABLE, PRACTICAL, EFFECTIVE.

Winchester, the pioneer of repeating rifles, introduces the new SXR² PUMP.



Winchester SXR² PUMP Composite

Calibres: 308WIN, 30-06SPRG (9/10 shot mag), 300WM (3 shot mag)

RRP
\$2,595



Winchester SXR² PUMP Strata

Calibres: 308WIN (9 shot mag), 30-06SPRG (10 shot mag)

RRP
\$2,695



Winchester SXR² PUMP Field

Calibres: 308WIN, 30-06SPRG (9/10 shot mag), 300WM (3 shot mag)

RRP
\$2,795

FIND OUT MORE:



Hunting is about trust. Trust in yourself and your equipment. We believe the WINCHESTER® SXR² will now set the standard for pump-action rifles. With the new SXR² PUMP, WINCHESTER® brings you a rifle that is faster, more reliable and more effective.

Verney-Carron Impact LA Fusion



If anyone refuses to believe a pump-action rifle is capable of respectable accuracy, they haven't tried this French beauty



THE latest generation of America's fast-shooting pump-action rifles have been under-valued by Aussie pig shooters and deer hunters, and the reason for this is that too many modern nimrods have never bothered to find out how well these rifles work, and how accurate they are. The last Remington 7600 I tested was totally reliable and averaged groups of 1½ inches, which is adequate for most game-hunting situations.

The Verney-Carron Impact LA Fusion, though, is a horse of an entirely different colour — literally and practically. Its European heritage is readily apparent from its appearance. The operating mechanism under its forearm has been updated and modernised, too.



Verney-Carron's beautifully made Fusion was designed for fast target acquisition

Verney-Carron is the oldest fabricator of fine French firearms — shotguns and rifles. The business was founded in 1820 and is still a family-owned company. Based in St Etienne, France, the company makes a wide range of high-quality hunting shotguns and rifles, but a pump-action rifle is a departure from its traditional base.

LEFT: A combination of an American design and Continental contours give the Fusion an exotic and appealing appearance.

The Impact Fusion is a striking-looking rifle with its textured silver Ergal alloy receiver and black polymer slide handle which contrasts with the dark brown walnut forearm and butt stock. The right side of the flat-sided receiver has the image of a wild boar in gold bordered by some tasteful scrollwork, and the left side has a roebuck with identical scrollwork.

The receiver is rounded on top and is drilled and tapped for Verney-Carron's proprietary scope mount. The butt stock and forearm are dark-hued French walnut. The gracefully, gently curved grip is chequered, as is the slide handle which moves effortlessly back and forth in a groove on each side of the forearm. This is an entirely different system from any other pump-action rifle I've seen and its great advantage is that the forearm is securely attached to the receiver and barrel while a separate operating handle operates the mechanism.

The propensity for early pump-action rifles to rattle quite audibly while being carried or operated was intolerable, since it was loud enough to spook a game animal. After a number of false starts, Remington de-rattled its Model 7600 but has always had a problem trying to make what amounts



1



2

to a shotgun stock look like a rifle stock. The forms this has taken range from the clumsy to the outrageous. Some progress, however, has been made with the Model 7600.

Verney-Carron's beautifully made Fusion was designed for fast target acquisition and the designers had to solve the critical problem of having a comb height that would be right for use with both the iron sights and for scoped use.

They did this partly by supplying spacers to fit between receiver and butt that alter the stock's pitch as well as its cast on/off.

At first glance, with the way this test rifle is set up, the 38mm (1½") drop at heel appears excessive for a rifle, but it isn't since the drop at comb is barely 25mm (1"). About 6mm (¼") of cast-off favours the right-handed shooter. The comb is thick enough to support the shooter's face and position the aiming eye in line with the irons or a scope. To achieve this balance, the irons are mounted on 2cm (¾") high ramps. The rear U-notch has a green fibre-optic dot at the bottom and one on each side which are aligned with a ramped red dot at the muzzle. The stock's configuration then, complements the rifle's mechanical excellence as well as making the Fusion more appealing to 'elitist' shooters on the Continent.



3

The iron sights are correctly positioned and exceedingly well designed. But best of all, the sights are sufficiently high above the bore to place the comb of the stock in the correct position for use with the iron sights or a low-mounted riflescope.

The advantages of such a high iron sight line have been recognised by experienced Battue riflemen, and Verney-Carron is to be congratulated for incorporating this feature in a handsome, streamlined,

ACCURACY RESULTS

Load	Velocity (fps)	Av Group (inch)
130gn Norma semi-pointed soft-point	3176	1.20
150gn Sako Gamehead soft-point	2775	0.95
150gn Winchester Ballistic Silvertip	2820	1.25
175gn Federal Terminal Ascent	2636	1.10
180gn Core-Lokt Pointed soft-point	2764	1.00
180gn Sako Hammerhead Bonded soft-point	2532	0.98
220gn Remington Core-Lokt soft-point	2407	1.12

All groups are three shots at 100yd. Temperature 14°C. All velocities measured on a Chrony chronograph at 10 feet from the muzzle



accurate, reliable and deadly efficient 'woods' rifle.

The Fusion has a strong locking system with six lugs on a rotary bolt head that locks up within a separate block of specially hardened steel attached to the rear end of the barrel. It forms an interlocking compartment which completely encloses the cartridge head. The bolt face has a deep counterbore housing a pair of plunger-type ejectors with the rim broken to accept a rugged steel 31mm

(1.218") claw extractor.

The gracefully tapered barrel is 61cm (24") long measured from bolt face to the end of a bulbous-looking muzzle brake, but rifled length is closer to 56cm (22"). Its diameter at the front of the locking block is 28.8mm (1.132"), the block has a length of 64mm (2½") and the chamber mouth is lightly bevelled. The slim barrel is fluted from 25.5cm (9¼") in front of the receiver to the muzzle, which measures

15mm (.595") in diameter.

The Fusion has a flat receiver which is very comfortable to the carrying hand. The rifle's basic weight of 3.1kg (7lb) is minimal for an iron-sighted rifle of such power, and is practically ideal for a rifle that is to be mounted with a scope. The barrel is long enough to ensure satisfactory ballistic performance and yet short enough to satisfy anyone but a short-barrel fanatic. Because of absolutely superb stock

ON THIS SPREAD

1 The right side of the receiver depicts a wild boar, the maker's name and location at St Etienne, France

2 Left side of the Ergal receiver features a roe buck in gold set off by tasteful scroll engraving

3 The thin black piece between butt and receiver is one of several angled spacers that adjust pitch and cast so you can tailor the rifle's fit to suit yourself

4



“

The Impact is undoubtably the most accurate pump-action rifle I have tested”

ON THIS PAGE

4 The forearm is removed, exposing the sliding action bars and the fixed, centrally mounted guide rod

5 Rotating bolt head has six locking lugs, steel claw extractor and twin plunger ejectors. The lugs seat in a steel block at the rear of the barrel

6 The high rear sight is on a ramp and has a U-notch outlined by three green fibre-optic dots

design and the muzzle brake, recoil is sufficiently low that the solid, thin recoil pad makes hardly any impression.

A detachable box magazine holds five rounds in a single column. The walls are steel, but the follower and base section are polymer. When inserted normally, the magazine slides into the receiver, locks snugly in place with a loud click and no apparent slack.

The magazine protrudes about 4cm (1½”) below the receiver but is far enough to the rear that it doesn’t make it awkward to carry the rifle at the trail. The magazine’s release button is in the lower righthand section of the receiver.

The mechanism, housed

in the forearm, is pretty much a standard assembly for pump-action shotguns and rifles. The polymer pump handle is held to the bottom of a block by a pair of screws. The block slides in a longitudinal slot in the bottom of the forearm and is connected to a pair of operating rods which are attached to the bolt carrier. The rods slide back and forth in matching recesses in the receiver sidewalls. A rod in the centre of the block extends forward and is threaded on the end for a nose-cap retainer. The block is free to travel along the rod, which steadies the assemblage and ensures it is centred throughout its travel.

The Verney-Carron system

is a good one which ensures that the walnut forearm is tight, since it is rigidly attached to both barrel and receiver, and is not loose to rattle or slop around. The shell-like pump handle sits closely around the forearm and is chequered to allow a secure grip.

The shotgun-type trigger unit is retained in the rear end

5

6



TAKE THE GUESSWORK OUT OF LONG-RANGE SHOOTING WITH QUICK, ACCURATE BALLISTIC CORRECTIONS



IMPACT[®] 4000 BALLISTIC RAIL-MOUNTED LASER RANGEFINDER

VORTEX[®]

★ ★ ★ T A C T I C A L ★ ★ ★



NEW RELEASE

The Impact[®] 4000 takes the guesswork out of long-range shooting with quick, accurate ballistic corrections. Everything you need to generate point-and-shoot target solutions without ever coming off the gun. This advanced, rail-mounted laser rangefinder delivers key range, ballistic, and weather data via the integrated GeoBallistics[®] solver, on-board Environmental Sensors, and our patented Wind Bearing Capture Mode. Mounts to any picatinny-style rail or rings with a diving board mount.



CONVENIENT WIND/DROP SOLUTIONS

Easy to read display of wind/drop solutions from the shooting position.

ON-BOARD GEOBALLISTICS SOLVER

Integrated GeoBallistics[®] Solver backed by a full, up-to-date bullet library.

CUSTOMIZE BALLISTICS PROFILES

Ten, preloaded, customizable profiles.

ON-BOARD ENVIRONMENTAL SENSORS

On-Board compass, humidity, barometric pressure, and exposed temperature sensors.

CONNECT WITH VORTEX RELAY[™]

Connects to the GeoBallistics[®] App and Bluetooth[®] Remote

CONTACT YOUR NEAREST VORTEX DEALER



AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTER FOR VORTEX OPTICAL

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



ON THIS PAGE

7 The muzzle of the barrel features a fibre-optic red dot front sight and a tubular muzzle brake

8 Detachable box magazine has a steel case and a polymer bottom. It holds five rounds

9 The slide handle is attached to a lug on the activating mechanism and slides in a slot in the forearm, which doesn't move

of the receiver by two pins. Drifting these out allows the assembly to be removed for cleaning. There is a cross-bolt safety button located in the rear of the trigger guard.

A button on the left side of the receiver is the action-bar lock. When the rifle has been fired, or the trigger pulled on an empty chamber, the action-bar lock automatically disengages, permitting operation of the slide assembly.

For testing, the Fusion had a Swarovski 4-12x50mm scope attached using a Picatinny rail and Nikko Stirling quick-release steel rings. Many gun writers have been critical of the kind of accuracy this type of rifle is capable of, but every pump-action I've tested showed surprisingly good hunting accuracy of around 1½ inches.

Once I had the Fusion sighted in with 150gn bullets striking point of aim at 100yd, I fired three groups of three shots each with variety of factory ammunition. The aggregate gave an average of 1.08" (equivalent to 30mm at 100m), and very close to 1 MOA, which is better accuracy than what I've gained from any pump-action rifle and even some bolt-actions — certainly plenty adequate for the kind of game the .30-06 is suited for.

The rifle shot very consistently, averaging close to MOA with a variety of ammunition, particularly the

Sako stuff. The best groups were .545" (15.1mm at 100m) shot with Sako 150gn Gamehead and .799" (22.2mm at 100m) with Remington 180gn and 220gn Core-Lokt ammunition.

Setting up a target at 200yd, I fired two three-shot groups with a reload consisting of the Hornady 165gn GRX and 57gn of AR2209 which measured 2.5" and 3" centre-to-centre of the widest bullet holes. Again, pretty fair accuracy. Better still, all groups were round with nary a flier.

This French-made Impact LA Fusion is undoubtedly the most accurate pump-action rifle I have tested.

The versatility of the Verney-Carron pump-action in .30-06 shouldn't be underestimated. It will do virtually anything a bolt-action .30-06 will do in most field situations and will handle bullets weighing from 130 to 200gn, making it an

all-purpose rifle suited for all-round use on everything from goats and pigs to the largest deer.

The Fusion shouldn't handicap the hunter in terms of shooting, range, knockdown efficiency and portability. The .30-06 cartridge is a good one and the hunter won't have to swear while watching a trophy sambar stag walk away. By the same token, a hunter using the rifle in the outback wouldn't fail to get off several shots at running pigs because the rifle was too slow to get into action.

For use with iron sights or a scope, the rifle is well stocked, and fast to come up. The pistol grip is good, the forend hand-filling. The trigger breaks at a crisp 1.8kg (4lb), the rifle points like a good shotgun and the action cycles as slick as grease.

Keeping this in mind, I perceive that this pump-gun is an all-purpose rifle — a blend of the right calibre and the right rifle. It should sell well. 



✓ SPECS

Manufacturer: Verney-Carron, France

Type: Pump-action centrefire

Calibres (Impact range): 7x64, 7mm Rem Mag, .308, .30-06, (tested), .300 Win Mag

Barrel: Fluted and threaded; 55cm (22"); 1:10" R/H twist

Weight: 3.1kg (7lb)

Overall length: 110cm (43") including muzzle brake

Length of pull: 345mm (13½")

Safety: Cross-bolt in rear of trigger guard

Sights: Fibre-optic U-notch rear and red bead front

Stock: French walnut

Magazine capacity: 5 rounds in .30-06

Features: Removable Battue rib

RRP: \$2970

Contact: Australian Sporting Agencies, australiansportingagencies.com

**ACCURATE.
LIGHTWEIGHT.
AFFORDABLE.**

HOWA'S ALL NEW CARBON RANGE

Howa's Carbon Fibre offerings are a precision blend of performance components unified as one. All stocks are a mix of kevlar, fiberglass and carbon fibre complete with Limbsaver butt pad and patented ACCUBLOCK lug bed. Lightweight functionality at its best!

FROM **2.01kg**



Custom Carbon Fibre Stock **SUPER LITE**
20" Threaded, Unique Reduced Short Action

SUPER LITE ACTION: 6.5 CM, 308 Win FROM **2.01kg**

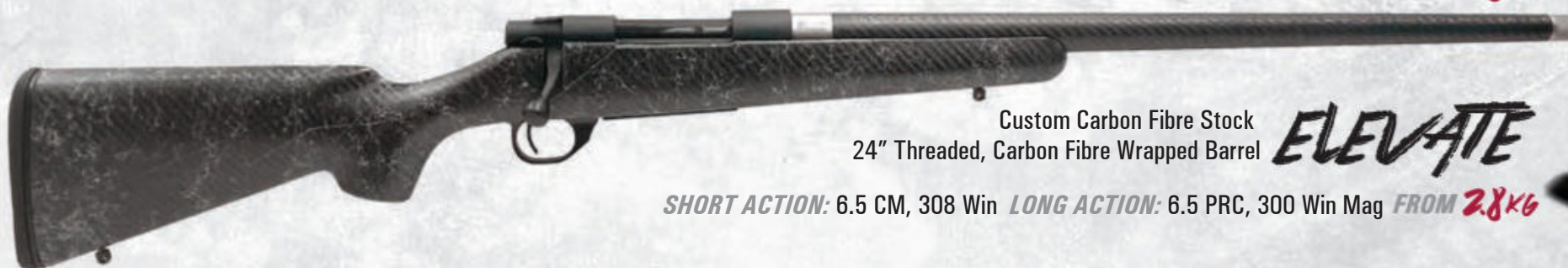


Custom Carbon Fibre Stock **STALKER**

MINI ACTION: 223 Rem, 6.5 Grendel FROM **2.1kg**

SHORT ACTION: 223, 243, 6.5 CM, 7mm-08, 308 Win FROM **2.7kg**

LONG ACTION: 270 Win, 30-06, 300 Win Mag FROM **2.8kg**



Custom Carbon Fibre Stock **ELEVATE**
24" Threaded, Carbon Fibre Wrapped Barrel

SHORT ACTION: 6.5 CM, 308 Win **LONG ACTION:** 6.5 PRC, 300 Win Mag FROM **2.8kg**

Howa
CARBON FIBRE



H.A.C.T.
2-STAGE
ADJUSTABLE TRIGGER



**SUB-MOA
GUARANTEE**



**5 YEAR
WARRANTY**



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





Leupold Mark 5HD M5C3 3.6-18x44 H59

This long-range Leupold rifle scope has standout features and quality



MANY serious Aussie hunters choose Leupold scopes to go on their hunting rifles because of their reputation for high-quality optics and rugged construction. They are also extremely popular among competition shooters and recreational shooters. Over the years I have used Leupold scopes on my rifles for a number of overseas hunts and not once have they let me down.

This was in my mind recently when I received a test rifle with one of Leupold's

more interesting top-of-the-range rifle scopes attached — the Mark 5HD 3.6-18x44 with M5C3 FFP H59 reticle.

Most long-range scopes seem to be oversized, but the Leupold Mark 5HD is more compact. It weighs less than 740 grams (26 ounces), has a 35mm main tube, a width of 73mm (2⁷/₈") at the turrets, and the reasonable length of 30cm (12"). Obviously, it is not a hunting scope, but the scope's 53mm objective-lens housing allows mounting the scope



fairly low, so that its short length would position it perfectly on a rifle carried by a hunter. A deer stalker who thinks he can use the extra magnification will find it in easy reach.

This 3.6-18x44mm scope was built with input from elite-level military personal and professional long-range shooters, and Leupold pushed the engineering levels.

One feature is an elevation dial which has three revolutions of adjustment to

max out the performance of the latest long-range rifles. Ergonomically designed, it has more tactile, audible click adjustments and larger numbers so you can put accurate fire down range faster.

On the left of the mechanism block is a side-focus knob for adjusting parallax with seven yardage graduations from 75yd to infinity, which allows you to quickly and easily focus the scope's image to eliminate parallax.

The larger main tube allows

“

The grid-style reticle looks complicated but is actually very intuitive and easy to use”



ON THIS SPREAD

1 The scope features target turrets with precise 0.1 mil adjustments and a side-focus parallax adjustment knob which allows a shooter to easily change the focus while looking through the scope

2 Ken Harding used the Leupold 3.6-18x44mm on a Gunwerks ClymR rifle for testing the accuracy of the .300 PRC

3 The Leupold comes with an extended throw lever for faster magnification changes and a focusing eyepiece. The spirit level to prevent canting is a very handy add-on

room for more travel of the erector tube suspended within it, which means a greater adjustment range. The Mark 5HD has an elevation adjustment range of 29 mils (100 MOA) elevation and a windage range of 23 mils (80 MOA). A large adjustment range is necessary for truly long-range work.

The elevation and windage dials include 0.1 milliradians (or mil) per click movement. That is 1cm at 100m, 2cm at 200, 4cm at 400, etc; or .36" at

100yd etc. After sighting in, the adjustments can be returned to zero by Leupold's new M5C3 ZeroLock turret.

The elevation dial contains a lock release button located on the top side of the dial. The dial locks in the zero position but can be unlocked by pressing the button and turning the dial one or two clicks to raise elevation. The dial can also be turned five clicks below zero to sight in at a shorter distance.



3



4



“

It is to
Leupold's
credit that the
image quality
at 18x is
extremely
good”

ON THIS PAGE

4 The mechanical indicator built into the scope's elevation-adjustment turret provides both tactile and visual feedback as to how many revolutions the knob has been turned.

5 The Horus H59 reticle in the Leupold Mark 5HD looks complicated but is actually very intuitive and fast to use once you get used to it

To indicate where the dial is set, the button remains extended during the first revolution; pulls in flush with the dial during the second revolution; and on the third revolution, the button pulls inside the dial and a silver indicator pin protrudes from the top of the dial. Each turn covers 10 mils.

The Mark 5HD scope's 0.1 milliradian adjustments mesh with the FFP H59 reticle,

which was designed by Horus Vision. The grid-style reticle looks complicated but is actually very intuitive and easy to use. Instead of dialling you simply hold.

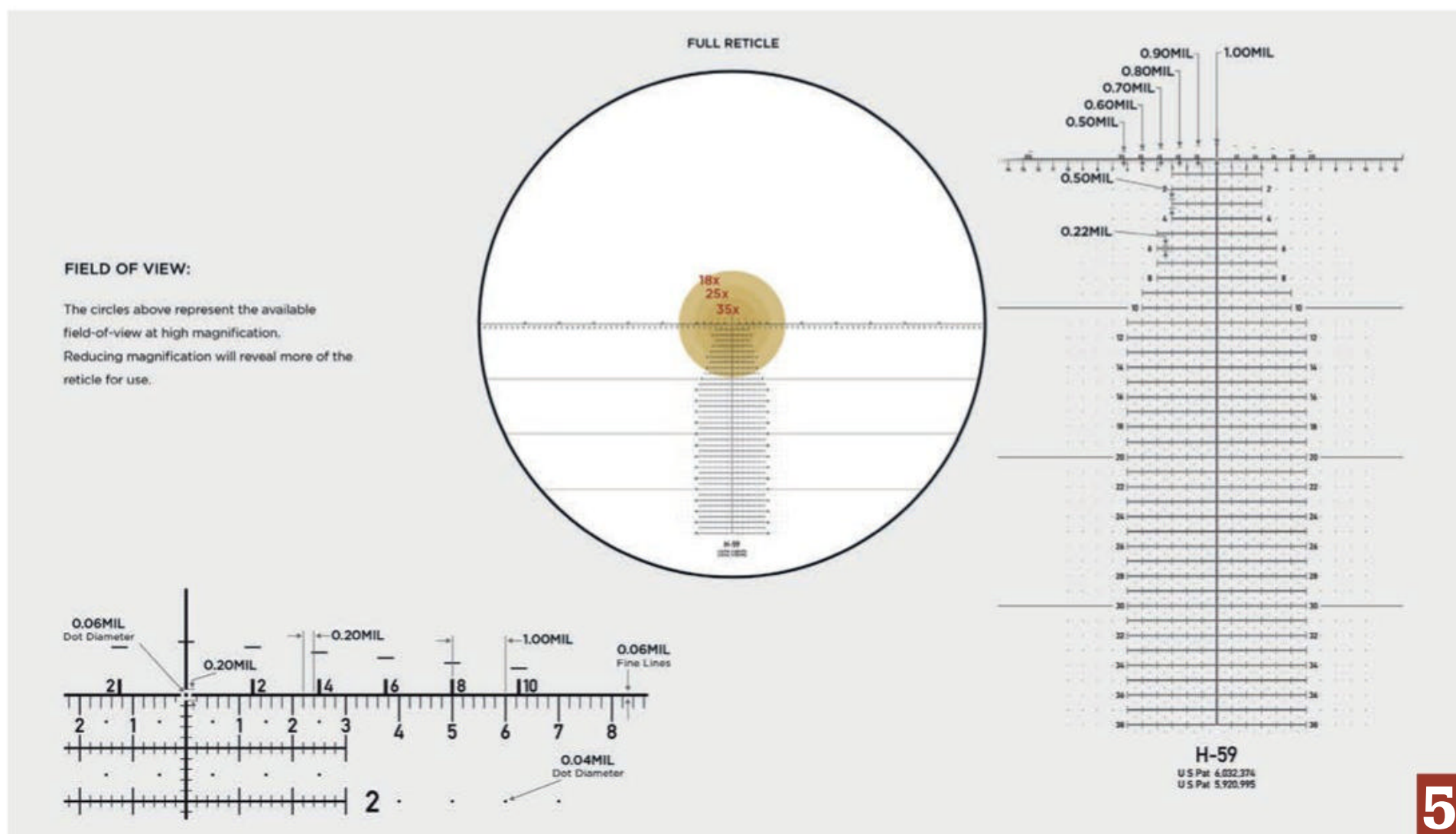
For this purpose the H59 uses hash marks (instead of the more common dots) on the horizontal and vertical wires. The H59 hash marks are spaced at 0.5-mil intervals for the first four mils and then transition to 0.22 mil between the fifth and

sixth spacing, with intermediate fine lines in between which are 0.1 mils apart.

The Horus reticle's most obvious virtue is that it's etched onto glass and there is nothing to move or break. There are no clicks to count and forget, and it is exponentially faster than turrets when it comes to making that first shot or following up with a correction. Another advantage: it's located in the first focal plane where the graduations are accurate at any power setting.

Power changes are made by turning the ring located just forward of the ocular lens housing. A threaded and removable throw lever gives the user added leverage, a useful feature when making adjustments from field positions.

With magnification adjusted to 18x, 10 mil of hashmarks are visible. The scope's hash mark spacing has centralised dots at crosshair intersection marking every 0.1 mil, providing refined aiming





SPARTAN

PRECISION EQUIPMENT



JAVELIN BIPODS®

THE ULTIMATE HUNTING BIPODS



Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia

PROUDLY DISTRIBUTED BY  NIOA.

sporting.nioa.com.au
www.javelinbipod.com





PRODUCT REVIEW



LEFT: The Leupold 3.6-18x was designed specifically for long-range target shooting, but can be used to extend the range of today's hunting rifles

Magnification covers a broad spectrum of uses by running from 3.6x all the way up to 18x. Despite the five-fold change, eye relief remains the same — a non-critical length of about 90-100mm (3½-4").

Objective lens diameter is a reasonable 44mm. Lenses are all multi-coated for superior light transmission and a sharp image. Diamond Coat 2 scratch-resistant lens coatings protect outer lens surfaces.

Optically, the 5HD resembles an up-market European scope. Leupold claims its Twilight Max HD light management system results in superior edge-to-edge clarity, increased low-light performance and increased contrast. Indeed, I was impressed by its excellent and very neutral colour rendition. The image was sharp and clear with excellent resolution and contrast.

No curvature of the field, pin cushion, barrel distortion or rolling distortion was detected. The acuity of the 5HD was really impressive. The most minute details were readily apparent while looking at pine needles and gum leaves 100-plus metres away. It is to Leupold's credit that the image quality at 18x is extremely good.

The Mark 5HD 3.6-18x44 M5C3 FFP H59 is a serious scope for true long-range target shooting, but could also be used for varmint sniping or serious stretch-out big-game hunting. The H59 reticle can match the ballistics of any modern magnum. This Leupold is a really high-tech optic, but given its price tag of around \$4000 or more, it isn't within the budget of most shooters. Those who can afford it can be sure they are getting the best of what Leupold has to offer. 

“

The image was sharp with excellent resolution and contrast”

and repeating that step in a clockwise direction, finally returning to centre. This ensured that the scope's internal mechanism tracked accurately and repeatably.

The temperature was barely 6°C on the morning we shot the ClymR with the Mark 5HD, but a blue sky and bright sunlight made conditions bearable. I pinned a resolution test chart in dark shade next to the target at 100yd. With the scope set on 18x I could easily distinguish the largest set of bars in the fourth-smallest set of bars.

The Mark 5HD has an exit pupil of only 2.44mm at 18x. Still, that is a usable amount of light in most conditions. I expanded the exit pupil to 4.4mm by cranking the power down to 10x which enabled me to differentiate three smaller sets of bars. Moving my head left to right and up and down, those sets of bars were still distinct.

✓ SPECS

Maker: Leupold & Stevens, USA

Magnification: 3.6-18x

Tube Diameter: 35mm

Reticle: First focal plane; H-59; 0.1 mil subtension

Click value: 0.10 mil

Lens Coating: Index Matched Lens system with DiamondCoat 2

Exit pupil: 2.4 to 12.2mm

Weight: 740g (26oz)

Length: 30cm (12")

Field of view at 100m (100yd): 9.4-1.9m (28.3-5.8ft)

Eye Relief: 89-97mm (3.5-3.8")

Adjustment range: Elevation 29 mil (100 MOA); windage 23 mil (80 MOA)

Accessories: Lens covers, lens shade, hard case

Price: Around \$4000 with H59 reticle

Distributor: NIOA, sporting.nioa.com.au

marks for bullet drop compensation and wind correction. Multiple points provide excellent corrections for follow-up shot placement while numbered lines make for quick line identification. The open half of the reticle is useful for observation and spotting.

On powers below 8x it is difficult to see the hash marks and to distinguish the space between them. The reticle works best used as just plain crosshairs when set on the lower powers.

The Mark 5HD was mounted in medium height 35mm rings made by Porter Machine Works attached to a Gunwerks ClymR rifle in .300 PRC. The scope made it easy to sight-in and test the rifle, and it did not shift its zero. Leupold's Twin Bias Spring Erector System, which utilises leaf springs, has increased erector holding force by 30 percent over single-spring systems.

Clicks are positive and, more importantly, accurate and repeatable. We confirmed this by 'shooting the square', firing a shot and then dialling either one mil of elevation or windage before firing a subsequent shot



**PRE ORDER
NOW**

AKSA S4: The Perfect Blend of Performance and Affordability!

AKSA S4 Shotgun, inspired by the *Benelli M4*, offering **top performance at an affordable price**. Born when the *Benelli M4* patent expired, it retains the **M4's reliability** with **dual-piston operation**. Customizable with various stocks and chokes, it suits all preferences. Despite its affordability, it excels in performance, proven through rigorous testing with diverse ammunition types including **slugs, buckshot, and birdshot**. For Australian shooters seeking a **dependable shotgun at a fraction of the cost**, the **AKSA S4** arrives in **December for only \$1199**, boasting tech specs like **chrome-plated barrels** and **adjustable sights**. Don't miss the opportunity to own this budget-friendly, top-quality shotgun!

Technical Specifications:

Caliber: 12 gauge with 76 mm Magnum chamber.
Sights: Adjustable flip-up sight, 22 mm Picatinny rail.
Barrels: Chrome-plated 4140 steel, proof-tested.
Chokes: 3 chokes (Full, Modified, Cylinder).
Stock: Adjustable or fixed telescopic, aluminum.

Forend: High-quality synthetic.
Recoil: Rubber butt plate.
Magazine: 5+1
Receiver: 7075-T6 hardened aluminum.
Action: Lever release

Available Models:



S4 - LR- B



S4 - LR- S



S4 - LR- D



S4 - LR- C



AUSTRALIAN
SPORTING AGENCIES

Proudly distributed by Australian Sporting Agencies. Trade enquiries welcomed.

AUSTRALIANSPORTINGAGENCIES.COM





Garmin InReach Messenger

Keep texting, or call for help, when you're nowhere near a mobile signal



1

ON THIS PAGE

1 The InReach works very well with the dedicated app but operates without it, too

2 The SOS button is protected under a cover and provides the easiest of several methods to call for help

GARMIN'S InReach can connect you with the global satellite system so that you can contact emergency services or send texts from your phone when you're away from mobile phone towers. It's a tiny device that weighs only 113 grams, yet is a potential lifesaver.

It'll put you in touch with those you want or need to communicate with, and let them know exactly where you are. Its usefulness and convenience is extended by connecting it wirelessly to your phone, providing a better interface through which to use the service. You can do it directly to your phone's SMS app or via the Garmin Messenger app, which has all the features.

The built-in battery lasts up to four weeks — far more than your phone but the Garmin will even provide enough power to your phone to send text messages if required.

You don't need your phone or the app to get the basic benefits from the InReach,

which will provide tracking information that is available to others via MapShare on the cloud. It will also send regular notifications to selected recipients, which can include text you've pre-set (eg, "All's well"). A protected button on the side notifies emergency services, the easiest way to get help if things have gone bad and you can't even get a message away.

Your location information can be public or password protected.

You can use the simple menu in the InReach or the more interactive one from the Garmin Messenger app to use any of the main functions at any time.

It's important to select the right plan to suit your use of the InReach. Like all satellite communication systems, prices are higher than your terrestrial comms and, if you don't choose the right plan, costs can add up quickly. Plans currently cost \$25, \$55 or \$99 a month.



2

“

It'll put you in touch with those you want or need to communicate with”

Something like the InReach is virtually compulsory these days for any sensible hunter who's venturing outside mobile coverage. When you need help, there's really no excuse for being unable to call for it or for making it hard for emergency responders to find you.

The InReach costs \$499 plus subscription, and can be bought from garmin.com.au, where you can find out more details about it and the plans. 📍

WINCHESTER
REPEATING ARMS



Winchester Model 70 Extreme Hunter

"The Rifleman's Rifle" is better than ever. This newest version of the Winchester Model 70 features a protective Cerakote® FDE finish on the barreled action. A tough, super stable Bell and Carlson™ synthetic stock is impervious to moisture and includes a sculpted cheekpiece and TrueTimber® VSX finish. Accuracy is achieved with a free-floating, fluted sporter-weight barrel in many of today's – and yesterday's – favorite calibers. This is a Model 70 for extreme conditions and for serious, tough hunts where you need a rifle that can handle the elements and maintain top performance.



Model 70 Extreme Hunter Features:

- Steel receiver with a FDE Cerakote finish
- Tungsten Cerakote finish barrel
- Muzzle brake
- Controlled Round Feed and ejection
- Bell and Carlson™ stock in TrueTimber® Strata
- Three-Position Safety
- Free-Floating Barrel
- Recessed Target Crown
- M.O.A. Trigger
- Pachmayr Decelerator Recoil Pad
- Pre-'64 Style controlled round feed with claw extractor

Available in:

308 Win, 30-06 SPRG,
7mmRM, 300 Win.

RRP \$2695



Expand your horizons

If you don't try
it, you'll never
know



The mechanical broadhead recovered after the successful kill

“

A lot of
bowhunting
comes down
to what's on
the front of
the arrow”

I'm pleased to say that I got inside 30 metres of a mature boar and slipped an arrow right into the top of his heart. The arrow bounced out after it hit his off-side leg bone, but the broadhead was in perfect condition afterwards and is ready to be hunted with again after a quick re-sharpen. He bled out extremely fast and died after a 30-metre dash.

I doubt I'll use mechanicals exclusively in the future as I still prefer the idea of a single-bevel two-blade, but it's good to be able to chalk up some kills with high-quality heads and be able to offer authentic recommendations should the time come.

Until next time, enjoy living your wilderlife. 📍

Follow Dylan on Instagram at
'_wilderlife_'

BEING an effective and ethical hunter will always involve a huge variety of factors. Most of these can be split into two categories: choosing the best gear for the job and making sure our skills are as good as they can be. While working on ourselves is a constant journey, some of the gear we use might be exclusive if we have weighed up all options. I like to constantly experiment with different gear in order to feel as though I'm doing my due diligence to make up my mind about what works the best for me.

This is as much the case with bowhunting as it is for anything else. I work on my form relentlessly as I never want to feel that my personal limitations are going to cost me success or opportunities. Having said that, a lot of bowhunting comes down to what's on the front of the arrow.

Many bowhunting discussions end up coming to the same conclusion – if your

broadhead is razor sharp and you put it in the right place, the animal will die, provided your setup has enough weight and power behind it.

At this point, bowhunters start to dive into the nitty-gritty over broadheads. Which one will work the best? Single or double bevel? Two blade or three blade? Bleeders or no bleeders? Mechanical or solid?

The trend in Australia has typically been to opt for a relatively heavy two-blade head. This is largely to do with the fact that they tend to be very durable, and we're lucky that we can bowhunt limitlessly in many contexts. It's not uncommon to send one broadhead through multiple animals before losing it in some long grass, or eventually damaging it on a hard surface.

Some three-blades have also been popular for these reasons.

Mechanicals, despite often having a much larger cutting diameter, have been overlooked for these reasons.

They're more popular in North America where an elk hunter might hope for one animal per year, so durability and longevity aren't as high on the priority list. They also typically fly better than most fixed blades. However, if you hit shoulder blade, they will have a much harder time penetrating the lungs. Still, despite these limitations, I wanted to give some a try, to say I did. Nothing beats personal experience.



The tusks of a
tough, mature boar

Vixen®



ALL VIXEN
RIFLESCOPES
HAND CRAFTED
IN JAPAN

Only Vixen offers Japanese made optics at affordable prices.



1" Traditional Series Compact

2-8x32	\$479 SRP
3-12x40	\$449 SRP
4-16x44	\$629 SRP



30mm EURO Series Illuminated

1-6x24	\$1,390 SRP
1-8x25	\$1,590 SRP
2.5-10x56	\$1,290 SRP
2.5-15x50	\$1,390 SRP
2.8-15x56	\$1,590 SRP
6-24x58	\$1,490 SRP



34mm TACT Series Illuminated

1-8x28	\$1,890 SRP	First Focal Plane
5-30x56	\$2,290 SRP	Second Focal Plane

 **HuntingDepot**
huntingdepot.com.au

Available Now! Order through your local Firearm Dealer.

Proudly distributed by Hunting Depot

VIC vjetten@crkennedy.com.au | **NSW** mscanlan@crkennedy.com.au

QLD mswanton@crkennedy.com.au | **WA/NT** greg@spencerimports.com.au

TAS sbickle@crkennedy.com.au | **SA** jgerhardy@crkennedy.com.au



The economy of hunting

When you go hunting, it's more than lead you're throwing around

AUSTRALIA is a huge, beautiful country and unfortunately most of its residents live in a few major cities along the coastline. Hunters, campers and 4WDers know there is so much more of the country to experience, however, and that their lives are enriched for it — whether it's enjoying the hunt on private property or, where legally possible, on public land.

Besides being able to get out there and enjoy the natural heritage of our country (and do some shooting), you are providing significant benefits to rural Australia when you go hunting. Have you ever stopped to think about the economic benefit you, personally, bring to a rural community when you go out there?

For starters, after your drive to town (or before you head

home again) you're going to need to refuel. At current fuel prices, it costs about \$150 to fill the tank of a regular 4WD, and not a great deal less for a regular passenger car or SUV. Add in a snack from that petrol station (perhaps the traditional combo of a hot pie and a coffee, or a soft drink?) and you can easily add another \$10-\$15 to the total.

If you're going to be there for a couple of days (or at least overnight), it might be worth getting some supplies from the local supermarket — especially if you're hunting for meat. Fresh vegetables, some rubs or spices, perhaps a loaf of bread from the local bakery; there's another \$30-\$50, depending on your tastes.

ABOVE: Hunting contributes more to Australia than you might see

If it turns out your hunting trip has even more possibilities than you'd envisioned, you might need to visit the local gun shop or rural supplies store for extra ammunition; that could be anything from \$20-\$100 or more depending on what ammo you need and how much you decide to get.

After a few days of camping provisions — even supplemented with your own harvest — you might want a meal cooked by someone else, and where better to get that than the local pub? Thirty bucks will get you a hot meal and perhaps even an adult beverage if you are so inclined.

These figures all go up if you've got other people — hunting mates, friends or your family — with you on the trip.

Obviously, you can do a hunting trip far more

“

Hunting is a larger contributor to the NSW economy than the wool industry”

economically but you're still going to need fuel, and most people usually grab a coffee or a meal of some sort while they're in the area.

If you stop for a moment, you'll realise you've likely spent around \$200, and potentially much more, in that small town — money which is going into local pockets, meaning they can keep supporting their local economies and provide for their families. It also means the businesses in those towns can continue to trade, meaning they are there to support not only the locals, but other hunters (and campers and 4WDers) who are visiting the region.

Going hunting and visiting rural towns isn't just bringing warm fuzzy feelings — there is a real economic benefit to the region and the entire state. Indeed, during 2019-20, hunting in NSW contributed \$1.4 billion (yes, billion) to the state economy and is now a larger contributor to it than the wool industry.

Getting to go hunting, harvesting meat, reducing feral pests and supporting the economy of rural Australia? That sounds like an across-the-board win — not to mention something we as shooters should be encouraging on a wider scale. ☺

Graham Park is the president of Shooters Union Australia.



ENGINEERED FOR THE **UNKNOWN**

THE NEXT GENERATION OF DEATHGRIP



WATCH



ME NOW!



Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia

PROUDLY DISTRIBUTED BY



sporting.nioa.com.au
www.boghunt.com



WEATHERBY / ZERO TECH PHOTO COMPETITION

WINNER



 Andrew Collis decked this good black-and-white boar. "I dropped him from the top of the ute early one morning as he was returning to some lime bushes to retire for the day. Some quick spotting and shooting dropped him straight away."

 Luke and Steph Jones took the kids out to a lagoon where they knew there were pigs, with a promise of ice cream if the kids caught piglets. A sow took off with two piglets as they arrived. "Then the kids noticed that some of the piglets were struggling to get up the bank of the lagoon," Luke said. "The kids were out of the Cruiser and running towards the piglets, which scattered and so did the kids. After a few moments I heard squealing and giggling, then up the bank and out of the grass come the kids with big smiles on their faces, each of them holding a piglet. They looked pretty proud of themselves." For good measure, Luke dropped a pig with his rifle, only to be accused of cheating!

TSA BROUGHT TO YOU BY TSA
OUTDOORS Australian distributor for
Weatherby, ZeroTech and Fiocchi.



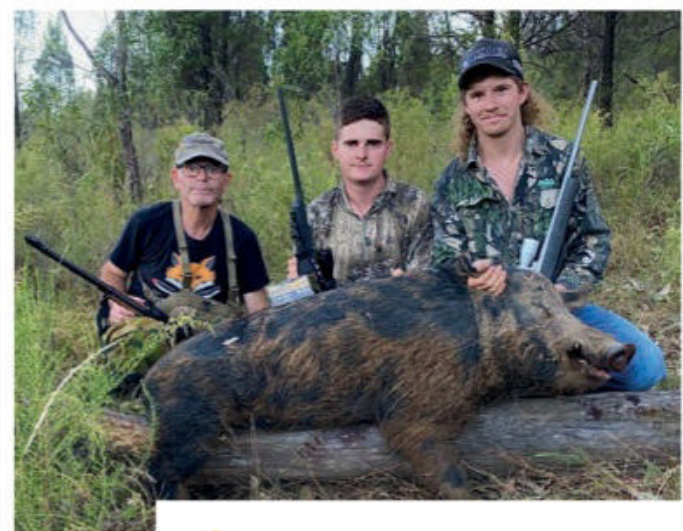
BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Powered By  FIOCCHI



Brody Day had a camera out on a cow's carcass 500m from the farm house and received a ping from it at 6:59am. Walking out to it on a ridge, he spotted the dog in the gully below him, about 200m from the carcass. He took two steps to hide behind a big gum tree, loaded his rifle and took aim using the tree. The Fiocchi .243 100gn SP hit the dog in the neck and dropped it instantly. Brody has been using the Fiocchi ammo for a few years now.



"Here is a good size boar we got with another half a dozen smaller ones from a mob hiding in some real thick scrub," says Alex Franks. "It was only meant to be a quick walkabout for my father's birthday, which ended great. Honours to my little brother for rolling this fella with his .223 using Fiocchi ammunition."

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A WEATHERBY RIFLE & ZERO TECH SCOPE PACKAGE IN EVERY ISSUE IN 2023

*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 \$1799



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!



Unlucky boars

Karl Penna spoils the fun for some randy pigs



LEFT: Dropping a sow and half her litter is a pretty good effort

BELOW: Karl dropped these two boars before the pigs worked out there was any danger



RECENTLY, I combined a work trip with some hunting on two properties in north-western Queensland. I arrived on Tuesday afternoon, settled in and caught up with the owner, who remarked there were pigs around. After a good meal and a few drinks I retired for the night.

Next morning we drove around the 25,000 acres and checked out all the dams and turkey nests. Nothing in sight. Over the next few days we combined work with some hunting on both properties. No luck.

Then on the Friday the owner took off to help a mate on another property and I went out on my own. I drove out to the back paddock and

climbed a turkey nest. From the top, I saw movement out of the corner of my left eye and, turning around slowly, I saw a sow with six piglets. I quickly flicked the safety off my old Tikka M65 .270 and shot her, then proceeded to shoot three of the largest suckers.

Next day, after a hearty breakfast, I went out to the closest dam, pulled up in the shade and saw what I thought in the distance was a pig's butt. Looking through the binos, I realised there were several pigs. I jumped out, grabbed the .270 and started walking through the bushes.

About 100 yards away from the pigs, I squatted down beside a tree and, as the pigs were unaware of my presence,

I took my time just looking at them grazing peacefully. Suddenly, the largest boar got very interested in the sow and just as he was in the act, I added some lead to his pencil.

Down he went and the next boar decided to have a look at the sow. He went down on the next shot and the rest of the pigs couldn't figure out what was happening. I went to reload and take out the sow but jammed the rifle.

They soon figured out danger was present and took off, but I had a good time and scored a few pigs. 🎯

THANKS TO



WIN VORTEX OPTICS!

The Vortex Hunter's Diary competition is open to your hunting story of 200-400 words with at least one high-resolution digital photo. Simply send it with your contact details to mickmatheson@yaffa.com.au.

PRIZES

Every published entry wins a Vortex Blaze Orange pack. At the end of the year, the best three entries will be chosen by the editor to win first, second and third prizes of:

1. Vortex Razor HD LHT 3-15x42 HRS-5i MOA rifle scope valued at \$2200
2. Vortex Viper HS 4-16x50 BDC-2 rifle scope valued at \$1250
3. Vortex Diamondback HD 8x42 binoculars valued at \$490

Find out more at sportingshooter.com.au/win



VORTEX®



Our VIP Warranty covers all our products, Riflescopes, Prism Scopes, Red Dots, Rangefinders, Binoculars, Spotting Scopes, Tripods, Monoculars, Gear and Apparel.

FROM YOUR NEAREST GUN DEALER AUSTRALIA WIDE



AN AMERICAN LEGEND THE RUGER AMERICAN RIMFIRE RIFLE



**.22 LR
10 ROUNDS**

**ADJUSTABLE
TRIGGER**

**EASY-TO-USE
SAFETY**

**10/22 MAG
COMPATIBLE**

Outdoor Sporting Agencies presents the Ruger American Rifle, tailored to Australian hunters and sporting shooters. These rifles feature an adjustable trigger for precision, an easy-to-use safety for peace of mind, and an ergonomic design for comfort during long outings. The durable composite stock withstands Australia's harsh weather, while the cold hammer-forged barrel ensures exceptional accuracy. Whether controlling rabbits or plinking at the range, the Ruger American Rimfire is your trusted partner in the Australian outdoors.



STANDARD

Black Synthetic Stock with 22" Satin Blued Barrel



COMPACT

Black Synthetic Stock with 18" Satin Blued Barrel



STAINLESS

Black Synthetic Stock with 18" 416 Satin Stainless Barrel



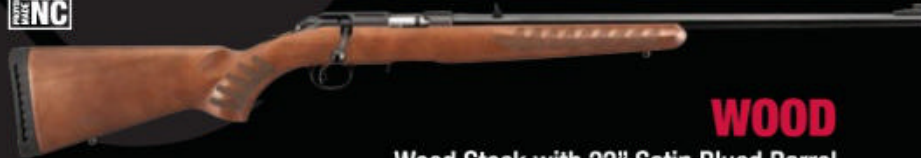
GO-WILD

Go Wild Camo I-M Brush Synthetic Stock with 18" Burnt Bronze Cerakote Barrel



TARGET

Black Laminate Stock with 18" Satin Blued Barrel



WOOD

Wood Stock with 22" Satin Blued Barrel



**YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN
HUNTING AND SPORT SHOOTING**
www.osaaustralia.com.au



**SCAN
TO
VIEW
RANGE**



Defining killing power

How do we explain killing power and what are the factors behind it?

KILLING power is a topic that concerns the vast majority of hunters. Whenever a group of hunters get together, tempt them into discussing the subject and you'll find that they all hold conflicting opinions. One will swear by long, heavy bullets of some large calibre. Another will pin his faith on relatively light bullets at ultra-high velocity. A third will swear that placement of a bullet is so important that nothing else is worth worrying about.

Then one guy will pipe up and say that kinetic energy figures are a reliable indicator of killing power, only to be rebuffed by a man on the other side of the fire who snorts that energy figures are worthless. A hunter of considerable experience claims he can handle any big game with a .270 Winchester, while the next person rates the .270 as only good for smaller deer and worthless on sambar and other large game.

Why so many different opinions about killing power? Why so many forceful arguments? Who's right?

The problem is that most evidence on killing power is offered up by hunters who have formed opinions based on limited field experience, and have become prejudiced enough to insist that any theory other than their own must be baseless.

In other words, much of the evidence about killing power comes from hunters of limited experience who are poor observers and quick to jump to conclusions. Killing power

varies according to different situations and therefore it doesn't pay to be hasty in making your conclusions.

One animal may be harder to kill than another animal of the same size and species, while a larger animal may be easier to kill than a much smaller one. A spooked animal is generally regarded as being harder to kill than one that is grazing undisturbed and unaware of any danger. And an animal may be 25 metres away or 500.

In my experience some results often defy analysis. A rusa stag is only slightly larger than the average fallow buck. On a trip to New Caledonia, the first one I shot was standing nicely side-on about 100m away. Hit through the lungs with a 140gn bullet from my 7mm Remington Magnum, the stag took off, running flat out, and was soon out of sight. He went about 150m before going down. The bullet shredded his heart and lungs and the chest cavity was full of blood. Shot placement was perfect and bullet performance couldn't be faulted.

From that one experience, I might have been justified in concluding that the 7mm magnum didn't have enough power for rusa deer. On my next trip I shot another stag with the same rifle, the same load, the same placement. The only difference was that the second stag was further away — almost 400m. Yet this time, he dropped dead in his tracks.

On other hunts, I have shot half a dozen rusa stags with the 140gn Nosler Solid Base



“

In my experience some results often defy analysis”

bullet in the 7mm Rem Mag and every one of them was a one-shot kill.

The last rusa I shot was about 300m away, lying down, when I hit him with a 180gn bullet from a .300 Weatherby. The bullet angled clean through him from left rump to right shoulder and wrecked the lungs en route. But he got to his feet and went 20m before falling over.

As a rule, the difficulty of killing an animal is pretty much in proportion to its size. In my book, however, there is

certainly one exception and that is the rusa which is, pound for pound, much harder to kill than most other deer species. Hunting in New Caledonia, most of those I saw killed ran off 25 to 100 metres. Only seldom did I see one anchored even with a well-placed shot.

I've learned that it doesn't pay to jump to conclusions. I've seen animals hit several times with a powerful rifle stay on their feet. I've also seen a gut-shot deer run a long way before falling down, whereas another dropped in its tracks.

2



3



ON THIS SPREAD

1 Ron Wynne shot this rusa stag from 25m with a 160gn bullet from a 7mm Mauser. It ran some way into thick lantana and was hard to find

2 Three pigs shot on the run with a 100gn Speer bullet from a .257 Roberts. Every one dropped in its tracks

3 The .25-06 with Barnes 100gn TSX had what it took to penetrate the mud-encrusted hide on this boar



The difference might have been whether the gut was full or empty? Since the bullet had not penetrated the chest cavity at all, how does one explain the difference?

In other hunts, I have shot about 30 deer of different sizes from hog to fallow to red with the Barnes 100gn TSX from my .257 Roberts. Every one of them was a clean one-shot kill. But as a rule there's nearly always an exception upon which it doesn't pay to base any conclusion.

The vulnerability of game animals obviously varies with their size. Naturally, a fallow deer is easier to kill than a red deer or a much larger sambar. With chest cavity hits at a

Sambar hunters often go to extremes and carry powerful rifles in the .375 H&H and .458 class"

range up to about 250m, I have almost always scored instant kills on goats, pigs, deer and sheep. On caribou, wapiti and moose I also got instant kills. Not one managed to go more than a few yards.

In my time I've shot a dozen moose. They are large, tough, big-boned, thick-skinned, heavily muscled animals weighing close to 700kg. In Sweden on a driven hunt, I killed five bulls with a 6.5x55

shooting 140gn bullets and they all fell within 25-30m of where they were hit. Only on one occasion did I ever kill a moose in his tracks. He was running straight across in front of me at about 50m when I planted a 225gn Barnes .338 bullet in his chest and he dropped in his tracks — and I mean dropped.

Canadian/Alaskan moose are, I believe, larger and tougher than the Scandinavian variety. Actually, after my experience in Alberta, I could have considered moose to be practically bullet proof. When we spotted the bull, he was standing in a clear cut area about 250m away. Hit with a 220gn Hornady bullet from my 8mm Rem Mag, he dropped onto the snow. We were walking toward him when he suddenly jumped up and started to run into the bush. I shot rapidly, hit him a second time, then again in mid-air as he jumped a log pile, before he went down. All three shots were in the lungs and what got

the moose was evidently the cumulative effects of the three shots and not any one shot.

If that single experience with moose is anything to go by, it would tend to indicate that a good man shooting a rifle of adequate calibre, say a .270 or .30-06, and placing his shots in the heart-lung area can expect quick kills on animals that weigh up to about 250kg on the hoof; but with a bigger animal like a

moose he cannot be sure of an instant kill with shots in the heart-lung area.

Sambar hunters often go to extremes and carry powerful rifles in the .375 H&H and .458 class. Yet I've never found the big deer hard to kill and have anchored them using a 6mm Ackley Improved with 100gn Speer, the .308 with 150gn Hornady and 7mm Harvey Magnum shooting Speer's 160gn Hot Cor. The last two were on the run. A mature sambar stag can weigh 270kg and more, but my experience would indicate that a good rifleman shooting something like a .30-06 and placing his shots in the heart area can expect a quick kill.

Having said that: You need a bullet with the power to destroy tissue. The weight, the calibre, the sectional density (relationship of total weight to diameter), the impact velocity and the bullet construction are all factors. Other things being equal, a 250gn bullet is a better killer than one weighing 130gn; and a bullet of .338 calibre is better than one of .27 calibre; a long bullet (one of greater sectional density) is better than a short one; and a fast bullet better than a slow one.

Older parallels held that the larger the bullet, the better it kills because it displaces more tissue. A heavier bullet hits harder, penetrates more deeply and makes a correspondingly larger wound than a light one.

However, these days, bullet construction — for example, controlled expansion designs with locked cores, or all-copper mono-metal bullets — has changed those principles. A light, short bullet can be so strongly constructed that it will penetrate far more deeply than a longer, heavier, weaker jacketed bullet with a soft core.

The function of the bullet is to get inside the animal and then shed its energy on the creature's vital organs, wrecking them. One widely

held theory says the ideal bullet would remain within the animal, expending all its energy there. But I prefer a bullet that goes entirely through the animal on a broadside shot. Once it was believed that it would waste its energy on the landscape in such instances, but experiments have shown that the bullet will have exhausted most of its energy inside the animal before making exit.

It may waste some energy on the landscape in such cases, but it will have enough penetrating power to get through thick muscles and smash heavy bones to reach the vitals if you have to take an angling shot.

However, of all the methods of increasing killing power, raising the velocity has been the most effective. If the bullet hangs together to get into the vitals, velocity is the most important

factor in killing power.

A few decades ago, few of us would have dreamed of the enormous wound cavities opened up in tissue by ultra-high-velocity bullets, even though we may have seen varmints literally explode when hit with a 45gn bullet from a .220 Swift at 4200fps. These temporary cavities are much greater than the permanent ones we find when dressing out game after they have collapsed inward.

Over the years the evolution of big-game cartridges has been constantly in the direction of higher velocity. Cartridges like the Remington Ultra Mag and Nosler's line of super magnums give a gain of up to 1000fps (compare a .30-30 to a 30 Nosler, for example), making them easier to hit with and send shock waves throughout the animal's body, which often causes



quicker death even when the bullet is poorly placed.

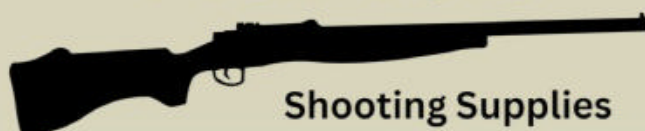
This bullet business may look a bit complicated, but it's largely a matter of horses for courses and before walking in and asking for a box of .300 Win Mag ammunition, you should do some research about which type and weight of bullet you want for the game you are going after. 🎯

ON THIS SPREAD

4 Red deer-wapiti cross was an on-the-spot kill at 200m-plus using a 168gn bullet from a .30-06

5 The .44 Remington Magnum with heavy 240gn bullet is a good choice for big goats which can be harder to put down than a fallow buck

Hunt's



Shooting Supplies

New Product- IN STOCK NOW



HUGTEK

.410 Lever Action
5 Shot Magazine Capacity
2 1/2" Chamber

Prices Starting From \$1325RRP
Contact Us For Your Nearest Stockist

Coming soon in .357



Brass

Nickel Tactical

Complete
Tactical

📞 0428453425

✉ info@huntsshootingsupplies.com.au

www.huntsshootingsupplies.com.au

PIG HUNTING



Out bush

Gary Hall goes after more porkers with some fresh fish on the side

ANOTHER day, another adventure out bush. Today, my good mate, Neil, the dogs and I headed out early in the Honda 700 side-by-side to hopefully score a well-fed pig or two off a dead beast that had perished near the edge of a large swamp.



MAIN: Neil fends off a feisty pig in the water
ABOVE: Gina and Gary looking forward to a feed

WHAT a difference a week makes: what was once a well-upholstered brahman was now a well-chewed, scattered mass of dried, weathered hide and bones. The horrendous smell of the brahman bacterial jigsaw puzzle was almost eye-watering. We quickly moved on.

As we followed a fresh, well-used pig pad in the Honda towards the scrub line, something in the slight breeze instantly changed the relaxed mood in the dog box. A few seconds later, all occupants were trying to Houdini themselves to freedom (without success) and the moment the dog box doors were raised Ace, Mate, Oreo and Rusty bolted and were quickly lost from sight in the light scrub.

I grabbed the 41-year-old coach-gun — the ‘widow maker’ — from the gun rack and Neil grabbed his handheld GPS dog-tracker unit and backpack.

The dogs had bailed a boar. I must have had the breeze directly in my face as I shouldered the coach-gun. The instant hit of rotting, decomposed flesh jolted me and burnt the back of my nostrils. The boar reeked of dead cow.

Moments later, a solid slug despatched it to hog heaven but the smell lingered on. Being a top bloke (well, that’s what I’ve been told), I immediately volunteered to take a few celebratory photos of Neil



holding his breath behind the first pig of the morning.

As we headed to a favoured fishing spot to get a few black bream for the minister of finances, a good porker legged it from a small, quickly evaporating waterhole, but didn’t quite make it. Even with a very good head start it was no match for Neil’s accurate, hard-hitting .300 and the destructive impact almost turned it inside-out and graphically reshaped its backbone.

Our relaxing fishing session was abruptly cut short when the hairy-legged four tenors broke into chorus further downstream. When we arrived the canine cavalry and a nuggety little porker were doing laps in the river and we had no

choice but to join them. After a short, exhilarating dip, we dragged the pig onto the bank for a few pics.

Three days later, Neil was back in the water again practicing his breast stroke, not that he’d seen a pair in a while. He needs to find a woman, be in a relationship and suffer like the rest of us. Standing on the creek bank, totally dry and out of harm’s way, my astute observation was that the cranky swine was in total control and currently ahead on points as Neil and the dogs flopped embarrassingly about in the wet stuff.

Moments later, with the dexterity of a man half my age and with no thoughts of self-preservation from the safety of the bank, I managed to take a number of great action photographs of a swashbuckling,



ON THIS SPREAD

1 Gary, Oreo and two more good pigs

2 Catch of the day

3 Neil with Ace and Mate at a lovely little oasis

4 Scattered remains of the perished brahman cow

5 With dogs, this is perfect hunting territory



“

water-logged Neil fending off a spirited charge with his trusty pig-sticker. I was just about to call Bondi Rescue when the pig finally went down for the count. Later, Zorro assured me he'd despatched it with the blade, but I reckon it drowned or died of old age.

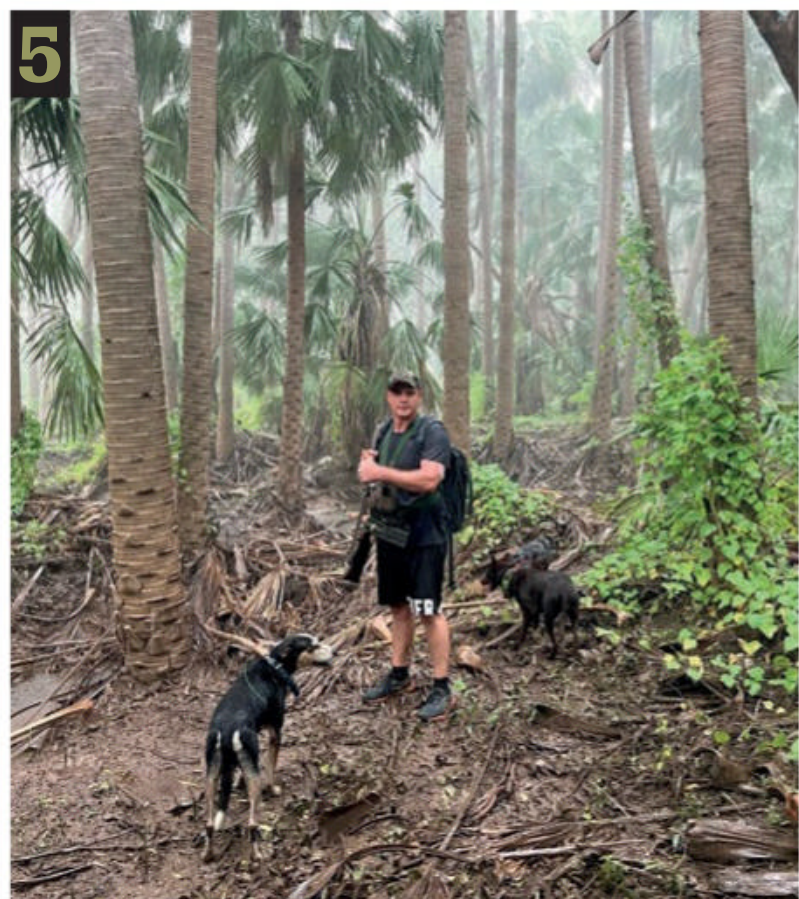
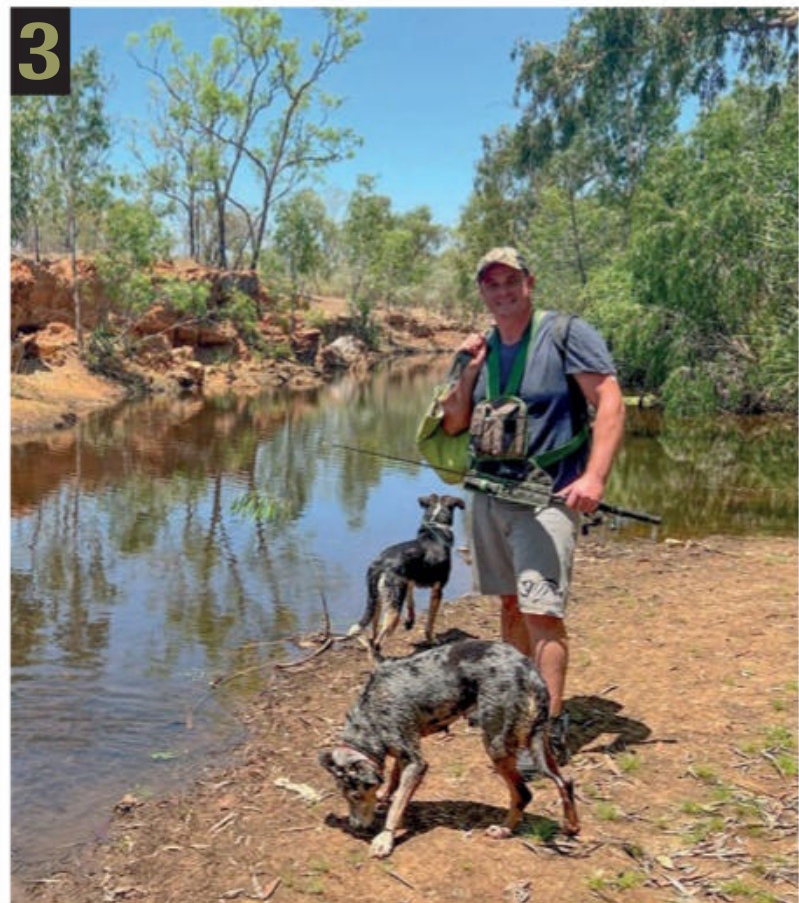
Over the next month, prior to the start of the Top End's wet season, even my lovely wife Gina tagged along a number of times for a fish, swim and a cook-up. Coming from a small fishing village in the Philippines, she was handy on the handline, loved small fish cooked on the coals and always had a container of rice, some soya sauce, chillies and vinegar on hand.

We'd often go for a hunt, leaving Gina at a scenic bend in the river,

The instant hit of rotting flesh jolted me. The boar reeked of dead cow”

taking in the peace and quiet while enjoying fresh fish cooked on an open fire.

On one such walk we followed a small natural spring adjacent to the main river and the dogs bumped into a small mob of pigs camped up in the shade. With the bailers earning their biscuits and the coach-gun earning a clean, two more reasonable porkers hit the deck. 📍



GOAT HUNTING





Mick Matheson takes the distant approach to thinning goat numbers

Long-range goats

NONE is sending feral goats to market since the price crashed. The population has boomed. Traditionally, I deal with goat plagues using my Ruger Gunsite Scout and a few full magazines. It's amazingly effective when you can get in close with a fast-handling rifle like that, hitting plenty up close and continuing to knock more off as they stream away.

LEFT: Tools of the long-range trade: the right rifle and scope combination, a rangefinder and some good binoculars



IF they're not running too quickly I can usually shoot accurately until they're about 200m away. The Ruger is accurate beyond that but with the scope I've fitted and lack of bipod I'm reluctant to do it.

The chance to shoot the Remington 700 Long Range HS, which Nick is reviewing for next month's edition, gave me the long-range option. Nick found the 7mm Rem Mag grouped sub-MOA with factory Remington Core-Lokt 150-grainers, which were doing 3007fps. I bought a few boxes at my local gun shop in Mudgee, re-zeroed and worked out the ballistics.

In the process, I also realised I couldn't shoot quite as keenly as Nick on his sandbags when I shot over the Spartan bipod, but I could

keep my groups within minute of goat out to 400m. Plenty for my purposes. With the Leupold's CDS-ZL2 turret zeroed and a ballistic cheat sheet handy, I loaded up the Land Rover and beetled up into the hills.

There were mobs everywhere. The first goats were down by the creek in a patch of saplings and wattle — exactly the kind of place the little Ruger would have excelled. Still, I set up about 100m away and managed to snipe a couple through the gaps. A modest start.

There was a massive mob up around the edge of the High Gully, on the skyline. By the time I'd crept to a place where I had a backstop to shoot against, I was so close I could have jumped on the nearest ones.



“

I saw a big goat standing proud on a tall rock. Who could resist?”

I began by shooting more distant goats, dropping three while the rest bolted over the crest, too high on the horizon for safe shooting.

So far, not so good. I really needed to get further away with a better view. I drove higher.

Up on the Saddle, a spot between the two highest points on the property, I looked down on a group of goats lounging in the shade. The rangefinder gave a ballistic distance of 220m. With time and distance in my favour, I got comfy, chambered a round, leaned into the bipod and squeezed the trigger.

That dropped a big white billy. The mob started walking towards me and I loosed three more shots before the remaining goats got into dead ground below me. All three hit their mark.

Suddenly there were goats everywhere! A dozen nannies and



ON THIS SPREAD

1 Easy pickings at about 200m away, which is where Mick had zeroed the rifle, so there was no need to dial in any scope adjustments

2 As Mick cleaned up one mess of goats, another mob appeared on the hill opposite

3 An accurate long-range rifle like the Remington,

with a suitable scope and bipod, can be very effective against ferals

4 Ideal long-range targets. Most of these were picked off before the remainder got away

5 Goats make their escape. There's no shortage of them these days because the market price has crashed



kids streamed across the slope right in front of me. More came up from where my target goats had gone down. And when I looked behind, a third bunch had sprung from their beds and were moving away across the face of the hill. I swung around and went for them, knowing the others were too close to thick bush to bother with.

This group was all billies and the rangefinder said they were 280m away. That's more like it — a slightly longer shot! I dialled another 1.8 MOA into the scope's elevation, looked down the tube and saw a big goat standing proud on a tall rock. Who could resist?

I didn't see the hit because of the recoil but when I got my vision back on track he was tumbling down the hill, dead. The confused mob milled about as I shot another two, then turned and came towards me again as I shot more. With six down, they finally turned and bolted away ... except for one young fella who paused. Fatal mistake.

The Remington has a three-round top-feed magazine in 7mm

Rem Mag, but I'd laid down with an open box of ammo beside me. When I emptied the magazine I simply dropped single rounds onto the magazine follower, which was quick enough.

That was it for the day, but there was no shortage of goats next day. The standout string of shots was when I nailed the first shot from just over 300m and followed the mob across an open hill face with successive shots until the furthest at 389m. I missed one shot by rushing it, but of the other five the only goat

that didn't drop dead on the spot walked 30m before expiring.

I was stoked with that performance. With the right rifle and scope, as well as some practice and knowledge about the ballistic path my rounds would take, long-range goat culling worked a treat in the right terrain. The further away the goats, the less alarmed they were, giving me more time to take successive shots. I'll certainly be doing it in the future, and if I can refine my accuracy I might even push the distances a bit further. 🎯



A photograph of a sunset over a field. In the foreground, a pair of antlers lies on the ground, partially covered by dry grass. The background shows a line of trees silhouetted against a bright, low sun that creates a warm, orange glow across the sky and the horizon. The overall scene is a mix of natural elements and a human trophy.

**SAMBAR-RUSA
HYBRIDS**

Genetic clean-out

**Zac McKenzie hunts a rubar stag to
protect the purity of the rusa herd**

The sunrise stag: Zac's
rubar wouldn't win any
prizes but it's still a good
trophy for its unusual nature



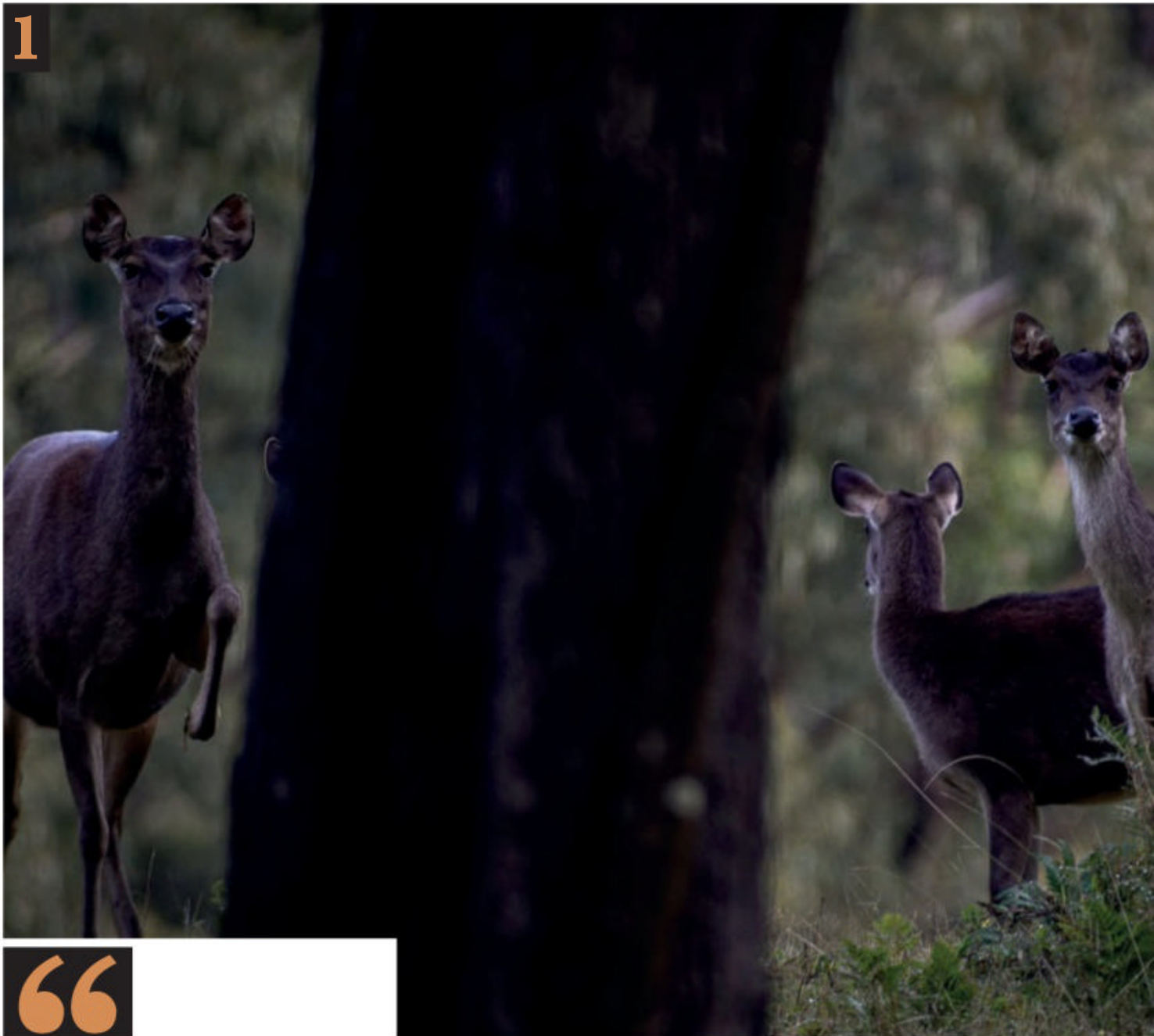
THERE IS debate between some hunters about whether sambar and rusa will hybridise in the wild, creating what are known as rubar. The answer is quite simple: they do. I have seen a sambar stag mounting a rusa hind and easily keeping three rusa stags at a distance. The extra body mass of sambar stags heavily skews the breeding rights towards them.

IN the long run, this is going to affect the rusa herd, as is demonstrated in the Illawarra where there are already many sambar and rubar walking around.

A side effect for me of the COVID-19 lockdowns was that I had more time to hunt but less space to do it in. Travel restrictions limited me to a single, small block within 10km of home. Working from home allowed me to spend many mornings and afternoons sitting over the same small paddock — still better than sitting at home doing nothing.

I had been watching a mob of hinds who would periodically show up early in the morning. One morning, in the first inkling of light, this same mob arrived but there was a much larger, darker shape milling around with them. I could tell it was a large stag but couldn't make out the antlers very well. By the time there was enough light to properly estimate size, the deer had already made it back into cover. I decided not to follow them but to return tomorrow to be better set up.

It was one of those nights where all the scenarios run through your head and you wake up every hour so you don't miss the alarm. I made sure I was there well before light, moved to a closer position and, most importantly, had the spotting scope set up and ready to go. I could see through the darkness and the first big question I pondered was whether they'd come out in the same spot.



“

I sat in the dark on cold, dewy grass with the rifle pointing straight at him”



They did. Straining through the binos, I could see about 20 black blobs out in the open.

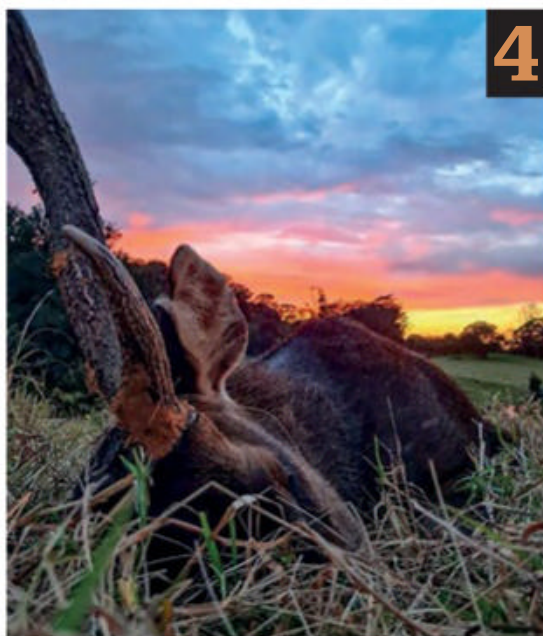
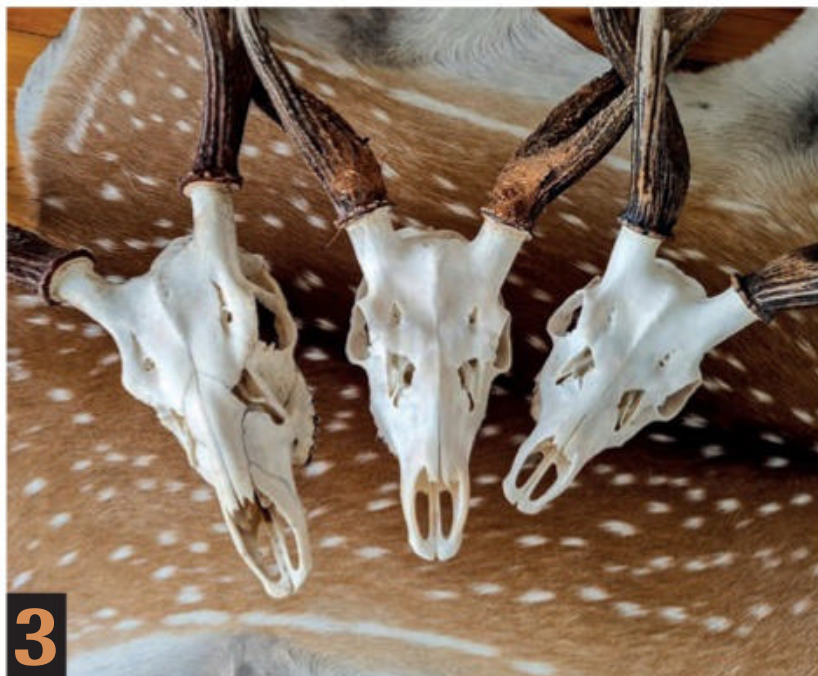
The second big question: “Would the stag come out with them?”

That question was quickly answered. There was a larger, darker blob among them. Even better, he was the closest blob to me. I got the spotter on him straight away, but it was still too inky dark to see the antlers properly.

I had a long 10 minutes to ponder the third question: “Will he stay out long enough for me to get a good look?”

I sat in the dark on cold, dewy grass with the rifle set up on the bipod, pointing straight at him. I switched constantly between the spotter and rifle scope, desperately trying to get an accurate look with either. I could see the antlers were large, but how large?

The minutes dragging on until the first grainy, grey light gave me



enough to see him through the spotter, to answer the fourth question: “Is he a shooter?”

The antlers were heavy but very uneven and he wasn’t 30-plus. The sheer size of him had me thinking he was a wonky sambar that had taken over the herd. With about a minute until he would reach the tree line and be gone again, I decided that he wasn’t a monster rusa like I had hoped. However, with uneven antlers likely caused

by his obvious sambar genetics, I decided he was a great stag to remove from the gene pool before any more breeding was done, allowing a more suitable stag to cross the harem.

Quickly switching back to the rifle, I was lucky everything was already ready to go. I settled the crosshairs on his heart and destroyed it. He didn’t make the trees 20m away and I had ruined my favourite cut of meat.

ON THIS SPREAD

1 Sambar hind standing next to rusa hinds

2 Trail cam photo showing a young sambar spiker standing next to a young rusa stag. The sambar is much larger which will work to his advantage over the rusa in a few years

3 The skull size of the rubar stag (middle) in between a sambar stag (left) and rusa stag (right)

4 Zac shot the stag in the day’s very first light, just before it disappeared back into the bush

After inspecting him on the ground I realised he was most likely a hybrid rubar. He had a much larger body size than any rusa stag I’ve shot, with no white bib. He had neither fully rounded nor pointy ears and the antlers actually looked like one side was sambar while the other side was rusa. Later, I cleaned the skull, which in size measured between typical sambar and rusa.

The sunrise photos were a pleasant way to start the day and because he didn’t run anywhere, I was able to get the car right up to him. Getting a 180kg animal off the ground into the back of the ute proved a bit difficult, but with a few ratchet straps to hold him in place, it was doable on my own. I could get him home, do my work and in between do the butchering, during which I found an old .22 bullet under the skin against the pedicle.

I was lucky I decided to take him when I did. Within a week or two the lockdown distance was reduced from 10km to 5km and I could no longer go out and sit in a paddock on my own, as it was deemed too dangerous to be that far away from home.

I did have a trail camera out that showed a nice even 28” stag had moved in shortly after. He would’ve crossed the hinds with better genetics in that rut, confirming it was a good decision to remove my rubar. I saw the larger stag a couple of times after lockdown was lifted, so he at least made it through the rut and hopefully lived long enough to cast.

It will be interesting to see the future of this herd with more sambar encroaching on it. 🎯



Australia's Largest Archery Store since 1973

benson
ARCHERY

Mathews ELITE PRIME
HOYT ARCHERY QUEST

2023 BOWS AVAILABLE IN STORE NOW

164 Parramatta Rd, Granville, NSW 2142

Phone: (02) 9682 3080

Email: info@bensonarchery.com.au

We won't be beaten on price with our price matching guarantee*

www.bensonarchery.com.au



Remington 700 Long Range HS

The Remington 700 Long Range HS is ideal for big game hunting where accuracy is a must at extended ranges. Continually finding ways to maximise its legendary 700 action, Remington now offers the all new HS Precision stock with enhanced vertical grip, receiver-length aluminium bedding block and

dual swivel studs. The Model 700 Long Range combines the added stability of a 26" heavy barrel that's perfectly matched to the rifle's hard-hitting calibres, including the new 7mm PRC.

Other features include concave target-style barrel crown, a receiver that's drilled and tapped for scope mounts,

magazine capacity of four in standard calibres and three in magnum calibres, hinged floorplate and a receiver machined from solid-steel bar stock for unrivalled uniformity and strength.

It's available in 7mm PRC, 7mm Rem Mag, .30-06, .300 Win Mag, .270 Win, 6.5 PRC and 6.5 Creedmoor.

We're reviewing this model

right now, and it's the same rifle Mick used in his article on page 60 of this issue. Initial impressions are that this is indeed an excellent, accurate long-range hunting rifle.

Ask to see the full range of Remington rifles at your local gun shop or visit sporting.nioa.com.au.

Nirey electric knife sharpeners

Nirey electric knife sharpeners not only take the guesswork out of obtaining the correct angle when sharpening a knife, they also do the job in less than half the time. I've had a Nirey KE-198 for years and not only use it at home, but also run it from my vehicle via a small inverter from my dual battery system. Producing a razor-sharp finish every time, it makes the task of skinning, butchering and caping a lot easier both at home and in the field.

The KE-198 is intended for non-professional use and features two spring-loaded grinding wheels, coarse and fine, utilised via a two stage groove system that ensures you position the knife correctly.

Next up is the Nirey KE-3000 Professional sharpener with finishing belts as opposed to grinding wheels. It's the ideal sharpener for commercial use.

Also available are the KE-280 and KE-500. The KE-500 is the ultimate in commercial electric sharpeners as it will sharpen every style of knife including different profiles and angles.

To find out more visit totalknifecare.com.au.



Plano AW2 double rifle case

For the ultimate in gun cases to protect your valuable firearms from damage, dust and the elements, the Plano AW2 fits the bill. Plano cases need no introduction when it comes to quality, but some of the best sellers have been enhanced with an upgraded look and improved functionality. The AW2 double rifle case features rugged industrial-strength construction and a continuous Dri-Loc seal that creates a watertight, dust-proof seal to protect your valuable firearms, even in the most extreme conditions.

Features include heavy-duty, dual-stage lockable latches and a built-in pressure release valve to help the case withstand continuous bumping and jarring when in travel; pre-perforated pluck foam for easy customisation to fit your firearms; and an overall length of 132cm with wheels at the base and dual carry handles.

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



WEATHERBY®



Introducing WEATHERBY'S Newest Rifle

MODEL 307



CALIBRES: 223REM, 240 WBY, 243 WIN, 257 WBY, 270 WIN, 280 ACKLEY, 300 WIN, 30-06, 308 WIN, 6.5CM, 6.5 WBY, 7MM PRC, 7MM REM

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

TSA
OUTDOORS



Lithgow LA102 Oryx Chassis

The popular MDT Oryx chassis system is now available to suit the Lithgow LA102. The Oryx chassis was designed to be the best all-round aftermarket stock replacement for people wanting to enhance their accuracy. It's also designed for people who

want to get into precision rifle shooting with factory rifles.

The metal chassis was engineered to improve accuracy and ergonomics through adjustability. The action is bedded on an aluminium block and the barrel is free floated. When you get behind this chassis and take up a

sight picture you will feel a more solid connection between you and your rifle.

The adjustable butt stock allows you to tailor a much better fit for accuracy and speed when getting behind your scope. It takes AR15 grips, ARCA rails, M-LOK

accessories and has customisable colours. The LA102 Oryx chassis is an excellent upgrade for shooting matches or anyone interested in long-range shooting. **See them at your local gun shop or visit osaaustralia.com.au for more information.**

NEW



New: Sierra Sports Master .308 ammunition

Sierra Sports Master ammunition is now available in .308 165gn GameKing and 135gn HP. This loaded ammunition offers the feel and ballistic performance of expensive hunting ammunition, but in an affordable, innovative package. Designed specifically for general hunting applications, the terminal performance of these cartridges makes the Sierra Sports Master at home on the range or in the bush.

The GameKing bullet displays match-grade accuracy and is suitable for hunting applications. The famous Sierra spitzer boat-tail shape assures a flat trajectory, excellent resistance to crosswinds and vertical winds, and maximum energy delivery to the target. Good penetration and expansion are characteristic of these bullets even at the reduced impact velocities of long ranges.

Ask for them at your local gun shop or visit osaaustralia.com.au for further information.

Ridgeline Tasman boots

At the time of writing, Ridgeline informed me they were about to release a new pair of hiking boots that are made in Italy. The new Tasman boot is of mid-cut design, very sturdy yet comfortable and extremely well priced for Italian-made footwear. At a glance, what stands out is its quality Vibram outsole with hi-vis orange midsole line and stylish design.

Made in Italy using quality Italian leather, the Tasman boot features a brown Dakar leather upper, dark grey mesh gusset and synthetic/leather tongue and collar. A Sportex membrane has been added to make the boot waterproof yet quite breathable. The boots have a lace locker and two speed hooks at the top, making them easy to lace and unlace when wet or muddy.

I look forward to seeing a pair of these new offerings by Ridgeline as they come to hand, so keep an eye out for a full review in a future issue. Available in a large range of sizes, I'm told they will retail for \$349.95.

Ask to see them at your local gun shop or visit ridgelineclothing.com.au for more information.





 **DECIBULLZ®**

VIEW OUR WIDE RANGE OF HEARING PROTECTION

Made to keep you safe while you're out doing what you love.
Easily and quickly molded to the exact shape of your ears to
create a perfect fit that will never hurt and never fall out.

FROM
RRP \$89.95

Available in black, blue, green, orange, pink and red.



WWW.WINCHESTERAUSTRALIA.COM.AU



SIFA





PacFood vacuum sealers

Like most who hunt, my freezer is always stocked with a good supply of venison and other wild game for personal consumption. I must admit though, in the early days, we'd simply remove a few easy cuts in the field, bring it home and then throw it straight in the freezer until needed. This resulted in a tough piece of meat with a very strong gamey taste to it. Experience has taught me a few tricks to help make that piece of back strap, leg or shoulder a lot more tender and tastier to eat.

I like to wrap my meat in cloth or a tea towel, then store it on the bottom shelf of the fridge for several days to allow it to set. The cloth also helps draw out any moisture or blood. Once set, you can cut it up and freeze it. I've also found that the meat seems to get freezer burn if not consumed rather quickly, so another trick to help its longevity is to vacuum seal it.

Recently I invested in a PacFood vacuum sealer to reduce freezer burn and extend the life of foods by removing most of the air from the bag. PacFood is an Australian-based company with offices in Melbourne, Queensland and Auckland, offering online shopping sent from distributor to your doorstep. PacFood specialises in both domestic and commercial-quality vacuum sealing machines as well as a large range of micro-channel bags, rolls and other food-related products.

There are three vacuum sealers in the PacFood range. The VS603 is by far the best choice for our application. This semi-commercial model features a stainless-steel body and very robust, heavy-duty Perspex lid so you can see what's going on while vacuuming. Very simple to use, it features a start/seal button on the handle and a pulse function that allows you to control the vacuum

pressure. Simply place the open end of the bag in the vacuum area, close the lid and press start.

This model is also suitable for an add-on roll holder/cutter box that houses PacFood's micro-channel bags on a continuous roll so you can make each bag as big or small as required. These come in three different widths. Alternatively, PacFood offers a

variety of individual bags in a host of different sizes to suit your needs; it turns out our editor has been using these ones exclusively for almost 10 years.

The VS603 comes complete with a selection of micro-channel bags, and you can buy more online if and when required. PacFood offers the choice of micro-channel bags in 85 micron construction or embossed 100 micron bags that are a lot thicker, stronger and offer an ever better shelf life in the freezer.

The VS603 also has a special canister-sealing function using a supplied hose that fits on the unit; however, PacFood does not supply the special canisters.

In addition to meat, you can vacuum seal fish, dried food and even marinades using this handy tool for the kitchen.

To find out more or to order online visit pacfood.com.au.



Lightforce ROK9 utility lights

Whether camping or boating, the ROK9 range of utility lights by Lightforce offers virtually indestructible, high-performance lighting in a fully sealed, cast aluminium housing with IP67 waterproof rating. Featuring a scratch-resistant polycarbonate lens and unbreakable body, the ROK9 has a lifespan of up to 30,000 hours from its three built-in LEDs.

The range includes a white LED utility light with 350 lumens; a red ambient light that provides 350 lumens, with less glare for camping or hunting; and the ROK9 amber, a high-contrast light with

reduced glare but great visibility when off-road camping or hunting from a vehicle at night. Unlike the ROK9 white light, these warm, soft lights are ideal around camp as they attract fewer bugs.

The ROK9 range is a slimline, flush-mount design that draws very minimal power, but is most effective. Commonly used inside or outside a vehicle's cabin, they are only 77mm wide and 44mm

high and surface-mount via the supplied tube and flat mounting bases.

Ask to see them at your local Lightforce dealer or for more information visit lightforce.com.



Quick release, strong, sealed and lockable.

Secure your investment with the interchangeable upgraded firearm transport accessory.



Kufu
DRAWER SYSTEM

- Catch-and-Click™ System.
- 6 Lengths and 3 heights.
- Sealed and UV stable design.
- 1 Tonne load rate.
- Drawer rated to 150kg.
- Large volume efficiency.
- Australian Designed & Assembled.
- Crash tested to ADR42/05, ADR69/00.

Contact: sales@kufu.com.au Ph: Kris - 0415 456 687 / Ph: Giles - 0418 573 633

kufu.com.au



7mm Rem Mag: the magnum of



Despite a mass of newer competition, this 7mm magnum is still among the best

BEFORE Remington's 7mm magnum, the 7mm Weatherby Magnum on a standard length H&H belted case appeared in 1944. It is an excellent and well-balanced cartridge, but it never gained much of a following among hunters. I believe there were two reasons for this: One, it had a slow 1:12 twist that wouldn't handle 160gn bullets accurately, and two, Weatherby rifles were rather expensive. Since the mid-1960s 7mm Weatherby rifles have had the faster 1:10 twist, but by that time it was too late and sales didn't improve.

The next 7mm magnum to surface was the 7x61 Sharpe and Hart developed in the US by Philip B Sharpe and Richard F Hart, who had the ammunition loaded by Norma. Based on a belted case shortened to 61.01mm (2.402") it had a maximum cartridge length of 81.03mm (3.190") compared with 85.34mm (3.360") for the 7mm Weatherby. In 1953 it was chambered solely in the little known Schultz & Larsen rifle.

Only one load was offered — a 160gn bullet at a claimed 3000fps, a velocity difficult to reach and factory loads were only able to achieve 2900fps even in a 66cm (26") barrel. A later version from Norma dubbed the S&H Super had increased case capacity and boosted velocity to 3100fps, but the 7x61 never gained much popularity in the US

Nick's 7mm Rem Mag was built on a Brno Mauser 98 action. Outwardly, it is the twin of his 7mm Harvey Magnum

choice

because both the rifle and ammunition were of foreign manufacture, and distribution was limited.

I've read a number of articles about the origin of the 7mm Remington Magnum, but most of the writers either got it wrong or didn't have a clue. Actually, the cartridge started life as a wildcat designed by famous Wyoming outfitter Les Bowman. Les was a good friend of mine and he told me he got interested in hot a 7mm after he guided Jack O'Connor on an elk hunt.

Jack showed his gratitude by giving Les the fine custom-built .275 H&H magnum rifle with which he had taken a fine elk. Les handloaded it to drive a 160gn bullet at 3000fps. He loaned the rifle to a number of his clients who had no trouble placing their shots accurately to take game with it. After he experienced difficulty in obtaining ammunition or brass for the .275 H&H, Les started looking for a solution, which led to a series of lucky coincidences.

In 1956 Les heard that Winchester was ready to introduce a new cartridge called the .338 Win Mag based on the necked down .458 Win Mag



This New Caledonia rusa was shot from the opposite side of the valley using three feet (90cm) of holdover. Load used was a 150gn Core-Lokt at 3100fps



Few cartridges will shoot flatter or hit harder over long game ranges than a 7mm magnum"

case. He got Winchester to send him 200 cases without head stamps to experiment with.

About the same time Remington sent Les two Model 721 rifles in .280 Rem calibre. One had an undersized barrel so he took it apart and shipped the action to Fred Huntington of RCBS, along with some cases he made by necking down Winchester .338 brass to 7mm, leaving the shoulder angle unchanged. Fred's gunsmith fitted a 24" Pfeiffer barrel with 1:10" twist and provided a set of dies to suit. Les and Fred decided to call

this wildcat the .280 Rem Mag.

After the rifle had been fitted with a beautiful fancy maple stock, Les developed a load which would drive the 160gn Sierra boat-tail bullet at 3000fps for long-range hunting. He wanted a load capable of reaching out 300-450 yards (ie, 400 metres and more) across wide canyons and deliver enough energy to drop a bull elk in his tracks.

He began using surplus H4831 powder which he and Jack O'Connor had been using to load their .270s. Once again fate intervened when Mike Walker of Remington sent Les a quantity of IMR7828, a new Du Pont powder with a slightly slower burning rate than H4831. Les found this powder produced excellent results, driving 160gn bullets at 3050fps.

Fate dealt him a winning hand once again when Walker and Wayne Leek turned up to go hunting at his Wyoming ranch. These men worked for Remington as gun designers and research engineers; Walker had been a National Benchrest champion and Leek a top silhouette rifle shooter. They not only spent a lot of time



How the 7mm Rem Mag rates against other 7mm cartridges (from left): 7mm-08, 7x57mm, .284 Win, 7mm SAUM, 7mm WSM, .280 Rem, .280 Ackley Improved, 7mm Rem Mag, 7mm Weatherby Magnum, 7mm STW, and 7mm Rem Ultra Mag

in the field, but also attended the annual seminars for gun writers, where they gained valuable information on the likes and dislikes of hunters and shooters. Both men frequently visited Les to hunt and often brought new Remington firearms to field test.

Naturally, Les showed them his wildcat .280 Rem Mag and allowed them to hunt with it. They liked it so much that they tried to persuade Remington to introduce rifles chambered for it. At first they encountered considerable resistance from Big Green’s marketing department, but they persisted until eventually the company decided to go ahead with production of Les Bowman’s wildcat, which they renamed the 7mm Remington Magnum.

The factory sent Les one of the first 700 BDL models with a 24” stainless-steel barrel and a 1:9¼” twist. Les told me that from 1962 to 1977 that rifle saw hard use and after firing 6300 rounds through it he sent it back to Wayne Leek, who fitted it with a barrel for the new 8mm Rem Mag. The rifle arrived back shortly before Les and I were to attend the 1978 Remington Seminar, but we had time to thoroughly wring out the big 8mm with Les loading the ammunition while I shot it for accuracy.

In total we fired over 300 rounds and not one five-shot group was larger than 1½”.



A selection of 7mm hunting bullets (from left): 135gn Atomic 29, Berger 140gn, Barnes-X 140gn, Nosler 140gn E-Tip, Nosler 150gn E-Tip, Rem 150gn Core-Lokt, Nosler 160gn AccuBond, Nosler 175gn Partition, Nosler 175gn AccuBond Long Range

The 8mm Rem Mag became my favourite cartridge and Remington gave me a 700 BDL that I hunted with successfully in the NT, Africa, India and Mongolia, but that’s another story.

Les Bowman achieved his desire of getting a cartridge that would carry more authority for long cross-canyon shots, and Remington sales skyrocketed.

I had my first 7mm Rem Mag built in 1976, a Model 98 Mauser fitted with a 24” barrel and fine classic-style walnut stock. I started shooting Norma factory ammunition in it. The 150gn Norma load was listed at 3260fps from a 26” barrel, but my rifle clocked 3160fps. Remington factory ammunition was loaded with either a 150gn PSP or a round-nosed 175gn Core-Lokt bullet at a nominal 3260 and 3020fps respectively. In my rifle the 150gn bullet was 150fps slower while the 175gn was actually a bit faster. The ‘Big Seven’ proved to shoot as fast as the .270 Win but

delivered 15 to 30 percent more energy away out yonder.

The 7mm Rem Mag won an enviable reputation for all classes of North American big game from antelope to moose, and my own experience has proved this reputation is well deserved. Today, there is a wide range of bullet weights and styles, virtually a bullet for every use, and for long-range shooting of heavy game. This doesn’t mean, of course, that they will all perform with equal efficiency, but the potential is there if their construction is right.

The high ballistic coefficients of .284 spitzer bullets weighing 160 to 175gn, coupled with good sectional density, ensures that few cartridges will shoot flatter or hit harder over long game ranges than a 7mm magnum.

Today, we have 7mm super magnums such as the 28 Nosler, 7mm STW and 7mm Ultra Mag, but in terms of rifle weight, modest recoil and less muzzle blast, the 7mm Rem Mag can hold its own in any company.

Reports from game fields all over the world made it inevitable that this highly effective cartridge would retain its popularity.

When I began reloading, all of my equipment was made by Simplex — a three-die set, a turret press and case trimmer, plus a Mitutoyo dial caliper for measuring case-head expansion. Overall case length is listed at 63.50mm (2.500”) and maximum COL is specified as being 83.57mm (3.290”). But I held case length to 63.25mm (2.490”) or less and when the length exceeded this figure, the brass was trimmed back to 62.99mm (2.480”) and chamfered.

Having once-fired cases of several different makes on hand, I weighed them all to determine an average weight for each. Fired primers were left in, so that cases could be filled with water to determine internal capacity. The water-filled cases were then re-weighed, and weights of the empty cases subtracted from the weights of the water-filled cases, to discover the comparative interior capacities of each different brand of case. The difference was surprising. The net weight of water varied by up to 5gn from the smallest to the largest case, which was Norma.

Micrometer readings of base diameters on fired cases were taken just ahead of the belt rather than over it for the simple reason that the belt is not reduced in diameter by resizing, whereas the body of the case gets sized down. When cases are reloaded a number of times, this method allows one to measure the amount of

HANDLOAD RESULTS					
Bullet (gn)	Powder (type)	Charge (gn)	Velocity (fps)	SD	Accuracy (inches)
120 Sierra	AR2213sc	74	3435	32	1.10
139 Hornady	AR2117	76	3262	26	1.20
140 Nosler	AR2213sc	68	3196	16	1.10
150 Core-Lokt	AR2217	75	3148	26	1.05
160 Mag-Tip	AR2217	75	3130	19	1.00
160 Nosler	AR2213sc	68	3105	28	1.20
175 Sierra	AR2217	72	3030	26	0.95

Developed in a Remington Model 700 Long Range with a 26” barrel and a long throat. In a rifle with a standard chamber and/or with a different brand of brass, these loads should be approached with caution. Shooting was done on a benchrest and is the average of four 3-shot groups at 100yd. Ambient temperature 14°C.

**GREAT
MAGAZINES**
.com.au

RENEW OR SUBSCRIBE TO

with auto-renewal for just

\$6.30
PER ISSUE
(print + digital copies)



MAGAZINE

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

Class
Leupold BX-4 binoculars
Spartan magnetic bipods

HUNTING

Ted Mitchell hits the Cape again!
20 years stalking Tasmania's fallow
Ambushing pigs from a kayak
Culling goats with a 9.3!?



DIGITAL

Instant access
to each digital
copy via Zinio

SUBSCRIBE

VISIT **GREATMAGAZINES.COM.AU/SPORTINGSHOOTER**
OR CALL **1800 807 760** AND **QUOTE AUTO-RENEWAL**

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.

expansion caused by successive loads in the same brass and these measurements can vary considerably depending on brass hardness and case design.

The make of the cases, too, is a critical factor which can be eliminated by sticking with a single make of case, or better still by buying brass that's all from the same lot. Stay with a single make of case at least until you become familiar with the powders and loads in your rifle.

When you consider the variation in case capacity, the difference between barrels, cases, bullets and primers, it pays the handloader to take the maximum charges seriously and start with the lower loads listed for each powder and work up gradually, watching for pressure signs.

My first task was to establish a standard for 'normal' base-expansion diameter against which cases fired with handloads could be compared. Several different brands of factory cartridges were fired in my Mauser and their base expansion recorded. Remington miked 13.099mm (0.5157"), Winchester Super-X 13.089mm (0.5153"), Federal 13.106mm (0.5160") and Norma 13.114mm (0.5163").

Based on these measurements, handloads that expanded between

0.5150" and 0.5160" were regarded as normal. Any above 0.5160" are considered to be near or at maximum, depending on the make of case and other indications of excessive pressure. For example, Remington cases expanded beyond 0.5160", or Federal cases measuring more than 0.5165", and other signs such as cratered primers and an imprint of the ejector; indications that the practical limit had been reached. If the bolt handle is stiff to lift, it offers a further warning that pressures are far too high.

Powders chosen ranged from medium-slow to very slow, starting with AR2209, AR2213sc and AR2217. Later, I added AR2225. Since Alliant powders are impossible to get, we have to rely upon ADI powders. Back in the early 1990s I gained the highest velocity accompanied by moderate pressures using AR2214 (discontinued) with bullets weighing from 140 to 175gn. Today, my best loads for the two most popular bullet weights are: the 140gn AccuBond and 68gn of AR2209 for 3274fps, and 68gn of AR2213sc with the 160gn Speer Grand Slam for 3000fps — taken in a 24" barrel.

Reduced loads in the 7mm Rem Mag can be achieved safely if a powder with the proper burning rate is chosen,



The 7mm Rem Mag is a far-reaching, hard-hitting cartridge for the largest deer species, from red stag to sambar, wapiti and moose

but this is not why the big-game hunter buys a magnum in the first place. The main reason for using any magnum cartridge is to obtain more velocity than you can get with a standard case of that bore diameter using the same bullet weights. We do this to get a flatter trajectory at long range and in the case of the big-game hunter, more energy out where the game is.

In my experience it would be an unusual occurrence for a big case to give better accuracy with a reduced powder charge. I've found the best accuracy with a magnum cartridge always comes from near-maximum or maximum loads.

For this test series I picked several different loads with different bullets. While SAAMI maximum cartridge length for the 7mm Rem Mag is listed as 83.57mm (3.290") the Model 700's magazine box length of 93.99mm (3.700") allows handloads with extremely long bullets to be seated out farther.

To check chamber length I seated the Nosler 175gn AccuBond Long Range to the longest length that would chamber in the Remington Long Range, which was 87.96mm (3.463"). The charge was 64gn of AR2217, which gave a muzzle velocity of 2820fps. Accuracy results with this load and a selection of hunting loads are listed in the table.

The 175gn Nosler AccuBond is a favourite of mine, combining the finest accuracy with the flat trajectory and wind-bucking ability that go with the high BC of .648 and muzzle velocity of 2900fps. A load of 65gn of AR2217 with this bullet proved the most accurate recipe of the series, grouping five shots well under an inch at 100yd. Sixty-eight grains of AR2225 nearly duplicated the target and at nearly the same velocity. I prefer this 175gn Nosler bullet mainly because if the only opportunity calls for a rear-end shot at an animal heading north, that bullet will hold together long enough to reach the boiler room.

About 40 years ago I expressed my opinion in print that the 7mm Rem Mag had turned out to be one of the best all-around, practical big-game hunting cartridges in the world. Nothing has happened since then to make me change my mind. The 7mm Rem Mag effectively combines high velocity, flat trajectory, power and deep penetration with moderate recoil.

In my opinion there's no better all-round, multi-purpose big-game cartridge than the 7mm Rem Mag. Almost 60 years after its introduction, it still ranks among the top 10 hunting cartridges around the world, staving off challenges from bigger but not all that much better 7mm super magnums. ☒



Some of the reloads developed for the Remington 700 Long Range, which has a long throat



RIDE ON FULLY CLOSED ROADS

23 MARCH 2024

snowyclassic.com.au

DESTINATION PARTNER



AUTOMOTIVE PARTNER

VOLVO





Practice makes perfect

Intensive range time with a focus on the details sets you up for the trophy shot



1

ON THIS PAGE

1 Chloe and Old Pop looking pretty pleased about heading out to the range

2 Now isn't that a lovely outlook?

“

Quality time with Old Pop and gunpowder really does something for the soul”

BREATHE in, breathe out. Focus on your heartbeat, slow it down. Squeeze the trigger, don't pull. Is the wind right?

It's easier said than done, especially in the field when the dream stag you've been chasing all season is finally lined up perfectly in the cross hairs. Even after the shot goes off, the impulse to jump up and chase your target needs to be replaced with steadying your heart rate to watch where your game falls.

Thoughts of doubt creep in. Was the shot perfect? Did you hit the vital zone?

The plague of doubt doesn't leave even if it's a clean miss. What if?

Shot placement, heart rate, breathing and technique; all more important than the ability to stalk game.

Practice makes perfect.

With a range day and quality time with Old Pop long overdue, we made a pre-Father's Day date to head to Nowra Rifle Range for some target practice. Not wasting the opportunity of quality range time, I unloaded every bolt-action rifle I own as well as every box of ammunition I had in the safe onto the benches. My focus was on sighting in and bringing my groupings closer.

Being a quiet day on the range, I was able to make the most of the opportunity, setting targets at both 50 and 100 metres. As a rule of thumb, I sight in all my higher-powered rifles to be spot on at 50 metres. Taking trajectory into account, this usually puts my .243 spot on at 200 metres.



2

The 100m target was just for a bit of fun, and to get a good visual on exactly where my shot placement was, knowing the groups were already going to be high.

This long overdue range time really allowed me to take the time and focus all my attention on the smaller things

that usually get overlooked when buck fever sets in. It happens to all 'seasoned' hunters.

Quality time with Old Pop and gunpowder really does something for the soul.

The sambar-cross-rusa we have our minds set on doesn't stand a chance.

Identify more details.

With excellent
image quality.



Seeing beyond

ALL
NEW



For illustration purpose only.

NEW
DTI 1



NEW
DTI 3 Gen 2



NEW
DTI 4



NEW: ZEISS DTI thermal imaging cameras.

Hunting in forested areas requires maximum visibility – especially at night. Discovering the game among the details and reliably identifying it is a major challenge. With an impressive field of view the ZEISS DTI range delivers a perfect overview at short distances, making precise observation, reliable identification, and thus increased hunting success. Thanks to best-in-class user ergonomics and highest optical performance achieved with the ZEISS DTI, every night hunt will be an unforgettable experience.



Range

DTI 1 _ For next gen game stalkers. Light and compact observation.		
DTI 1/25	1,320 m	18m
DTI 1/19	1,000 m	24m
DTI 3 GEN 2 _ For forest hunters. Optimal performance at short distances.		
DTI 3/35 GEN 2	1,300 m	19m
DTI 3/25 GEN 2	930 m	26m
DTI 4 _ For demanding game stalker. Large field of view for more details.		
DTI 4/50	2,635 m	15m
DTI 4/35	1,845 m	22m



Field of view
100 m



Find your local Zeiss Stockist at:
osaaustralia.com.au



WINNER



Mick Barrett recently moved to Victoria and was hunting fallow deer when the situation changed. "I came across a couple of boars fighting over a sow. I was pretty close in high bracken when I spotted them. Getting ready for a shot and this boar walked into a clear bit at 8m. Dropped on the spot with a high shoulder shot from a Winchester in .243. A very good mountain boar." It sure is!



"**Jesse** is a junior shooter and hunter doing his bit to remove ferals from the state forests of NSW," says his dad, Steve Milne. "He bagged this pair of sows late afternoon with a Howa Super Lite in .308."

BROUGHT TO YOU BY GARMIN®



John Mikler and Paul Ball were sneaking up over a dam wall on a property west of Moonie, when John saw a boar casually foraging on the water's edge. "Easy shot using my .243 Weatherby," he says. "Another feral menace gone!" A few days later, he surprised an old boar in the scrub 20m away. "He didn't see me. A precise shot dropped him where he stood. Good riddance!"



WIN

a GARMIN eTrex 22x 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 produces a range of bow sights with built-in rangefinder enabling better shot placement.

A Garmin eTrex 22x GPS Navigator will be sent to the best entry every month, thanks to the enthusiastic support of Garmin.

GARMIN®

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

eTrex 22x

The 22x offers the same ease-of-use, durability and affordability that the eTrex handheld GPS series is known for, along with preloaded TopoActive maps. It's perfect for hunting on foot or with vehicles.

Features include:

- 2.2" sunlight-readable colour display with 240x320p display for improved readability
- Preloaded with TopoActive maps
- Support for GPS and GLONASS satellite systems so it's superior to GPS alone
- 8GB internal memory plus microSD card
- Battery life up to 25 hours in GPS mode with 2 AA batteries

VALUED
AT
\$329



Ready for competition.

With best-in-class
elevation travel.

ZEISS

Seeing beyond



LRP S3 636-56



LRP S3 425-50

ZEISS LRP S3 first focal plane riflescopes

In long-range rimfire competitions, the little 22 LR cartridge is frequently pushed beyond its intended limits. The capabilities and performance of the riflescope are hereby tested at the extreme – many lack the sufficient elevation travel.

The ZEISS LRP S3 425-50 offers an impressive 160 MOA or 46.5 MRAD of elevation travel. The new first focal plane riflescopes from ZEISS withstand 1,500 g-force of shock over multiple impact cycles and are therefore ready for the toughest of competitions: Maximum precision for great achievements.



Find your local ZEISS Stockist at:
osaaustralia.com.au

