

THE DEERSTALKER

November 2008



Christmas Party and Trophy Exhibition

November 15th 2008

**Great company, great food and drink provided free,
great trophies, children's activities,**

All members wanted!
Details inside

THE DEERSTALKER

web address: www.newsouthdeerstalkers.org.au

NSW Deerstalkers Association

COMMITTEE FOR 2008-2009

Formed: 7th June 1972

President: Darren Plumb
Ph: 02 48447071; 0412021741

Life Members: the late Gordon Alford
Bob Penfold
Wayne McPhee
Jack Boswell
Paul Wilkes

**Secretary &
Public Officer:** Greg Haywood
1 Struan Street
Tahmoor NSW 2573
Ph: 02 4681 8363

Affiliated To:

Australian Deerstalkers Federation
Game Management Council (Australia)
Inc.

Treasurer: Nalda Haywood
**Snr. Vice
President:** John Natoli
Ph: 04138514336

Contributions:

The editor and editorial committee reserve
the right to modify any contributions.

**Jnr. Vice
President:** Peter Birchall

All contributions are to be mailed or
emailed to:

Dal Birrell - Editor
14 Blackall Street
Bulli NSW 2516
dbi93465@bigpond.net.au

Club Armourer:

**Game Management
Representatives:** Greg Haywood
Steve Isaacs

Advertisements:

Advertisements for products sold by
NSWDA Members are accepted and
printed free of charge provided a discount
is given to club members.

**Licence Testing
Co-ordinator:** Greg Haywood

Video Library: Terry Burgess

All Memberships & General Correspondence to
be posted to: PO Box 519 PICTON NSW 2571

Cover photograph.

Another of Stephen Hopkins' shots from
Richmond Park London.

FROM THE EDITOR

In 2009 we will publish four issues of this newsletter. In 2008 we published 5 issues, but there was actually insufficient material for that number of newsletters. This is not a magazine which pays for articles. We rely on members, telling other members about their hunting and other exploits as well as passing on important general information.

To ensure that we get each issue out on time, there will be deadlines for submission of materials to be included. The deadline for the next issue will be mid January 2009.

Guidelines for submissions.

Material which is emailed saves me a lot of work. **Preferred font is Times New Roman. Preferred font size is 12 point.** Writing can be sent as a Word file, or a text file. For those without an expensive word processing program, you can use any writing program included with your operating system, or download "Open Office" free from the internet which is virtually identical to "Microsoft Office" & can exchange files with that famous program.

Photographs should NOT be included in the article itself, but sent as separate files (attachments to the email). You can indicate where each photo might be placed by typing its file name in brackets in the text.

Photographs should be . jpeg files, saved at about 15 cm X 10 cm size at quality 8 (which gives the best quality for the smallest file size).

Printed on paper submissions need to have clear black typed text. Faintly printed text will not scan & cannot be included. **Very short pieces, such as personal adverts can be hand written.**

.....



Meeting dates .

The venue is the German Austrian Club Cabramatta – Thursdays at 7.30 pm

Trophy Exhibition & Christmas Party
15th November.

2009 Meeting Dates.

19th February

21st May

23rd July

15th October (day, Southern Highlands / Central Tablelands)

14th November (Saturday) Trophy Exhibition & Christmas Party.

Other - SCI Expo February 2009,
Douglas Scoring Accreditation
Workshop February 2009.

Photos can be prints or negatives or slides.

These can be returned to you if you include a stamped self addressed envelope. If these photos are valuable, send copies rather than originals.

NSWDA Hunting Club AHO (for R licences) is 10111, & the Agent No. is 7185

Please Note: The N.S.W.D.A. Inc. takes no responsibility for views expressed in "The Deerstalker". All articles submitted are signed by the relevant author. The Editorial Committee does however, take responsibility for views expressed in articles signed by them!



Annual Trophy Exhibition and Christmas Party Saturday 15th November 2008

Our Trophy & Photo Exhibition this year will be held at Ron Topping's property, situated at 2 Ala Moana Road East Kurrajong starting at 10.00 am. For directions, see below.

All members and their families are invited to attend, to enjoy a free lunch and a great social day. The catering has been upgraded this year and as usual there is no charge. Ron's is a great venue for kids, so don't worry about bringing them along. There will be some activities for the kids, including archery.

Whether you are an old or a new member, you will be welcomed. We would love to see ALL of our members!

Members are asked to bring along on the day, any trophy, whether it has been collected lately or in past years (but not previously displayed at one of our exhibitions). These will be displayed on the day and each owner will be presented with a certificate. They will also be photographed and the photos will be published in the "Deerstalker" and on our website.

Trophies can also be Douglas scored if requested.

Any members who have photos of trophies, or hunting related shots are asked to bring them along on the day. We want to make a computer slide show on the day from these, for all members to see. Naturally only photos which are in good taste can be accepted. We can handle almost any digital format & capture card, & prints on paper will be scanned on the spot and returned. By submitting your photos, you will be giving us permission to also use

them in the "Deerstalker" and on our website. Copyright will otherwise remain with the owner. If you have any photos to submit, but cannot attend the function, please email them (as large jpeg files preferably), or post them to Dal Birrell (Editor), whose address is inside the front cover of this newsletter.

Directions to Ron Topping's property.

The UBD reference is Map 48 G 10.

From the North, turn right off the Putty Road at East Kurrajong into East Kurrajong Road. Follow this for about 8 km to Ala Moama Rd, which should be the 6th road on the left.

From West of the mountains, come along the Bell's line of road, down Kurrajong and about 2 km East of Bellbird Hill, turn left into Comleroy Rd. Then see below.

From Sydney or South, drive to Richmond. Take the Bell's line of road and about 2 km past Kurmond, turn right into Comleroy Rd. Follow this for about 3 km then turn right into East Kurrajong Rd, then 2 km to Ala Moama Rd. Ron's driveway is immediately on the right.

Please Note, Due to other commitments, Horsley Park Gun Shop is unable to attend this event.

Secretary's Report.

There is no formal report in this issue because there are no urgent matters to report.

However, I would like to extend to each and every member my best wishes for Christmas and the new year.

Good Hunting.

Greg Haywood



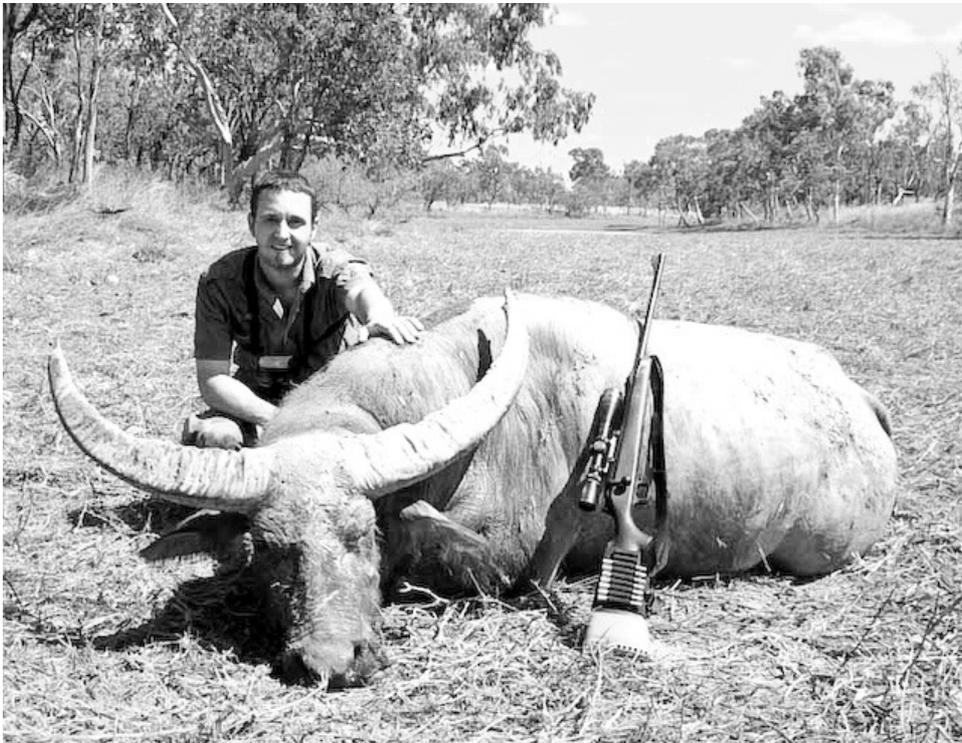
Vale Michael Desanti 1981 to 2008

It gives me great sadness to report on the passing of Michael Desanti after a hard fought battle with Leukemia. Michael was the oldest Son of John and Evalina Desanti and brother of David, Jonny is well known in hunting circles around Sydney and his two sons were following in his footsteps.

My family and I have known Michael since he was just a toddler, he has never been anything other than a wonderful human being, Michaels passion was the Outdoors and the Sea; if not deerstalking with his dad or brother he was pushing pigs through the hills with his trusty dogs Blackie and Gracie or flicking lures into Mosquito (our families favorite Bream spot).

The friends that Michael touched was no more overwhelming than the 600 plus, all close friends and relatives that packed the church at his final farewell. His enthusiasm for life and his friendship will be surely missed.

Steve, Judy and Mark Isaacs



Somehow I overlooked this item for the last Newsletter. I sincerely & unreservedly apologise to Steve and to the Desanti family. Editor.



Video Library

Free hunting videos for members to borrow for one month if picking up video's at a meeting. Members must pay postage by registered mail back to the club in carton supplied. You can phone or write for videos to be posted to you, however the member must pay postage both ways. When returning videos to the club within one-month members must include cost of postage to them in stamps inside the box.

If members are to lend these video's to fellow members, remember that the original person who borrowed them from the club will be held responsible if they are not returned within due time. As these videos are the property of the club, you are expected to look after them. If you loose or damage a video you will have to pay the replacement cost. If you don't return them after 4 weeks you won't get anymore.

To borrow a Video contact:

Terry Burgess

Ph: (02) 9909 1267

P.O. Box 80

Cremorne Junction NSW 2090

Library List

1. Black Death, Cape Buffalo, Lion
2. Capstick, Botswana Safari Buffalo, Lion
3. In the Blood, Capstick, Rhino
4. Zambia Safaris
5. Whitetail, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Late Season Elk
6. Monster Elk, Horns of Plenty, Hunt Exotics 1 & 2
7. Hunting Bugling Elk, Big Muleys, Caribou
8. North American Big Horn Rams, Greatest Whitetail, Wild Hogs of Texas
9. Col Allison Hunters Home Video, Big Bears, Russian Boar, Whitetail
10. North American Mixed Bag, Big Horn Rams, Whitetail
11. Great Trophy Bucks Mixed Bag, Big Horn Rams, Whitetail
12. Wild Boar Pig Hunting Down Under Part 1
13. Hunting Sheep, Goat & Moose in B.C.
14. Big Rams Brooks Range, Big Horn Rams, Mouflon
15. The Bow Hunter, Whitetail Deer
16. Big Rams, North American Big Horn Sheep, Mouflon Sheep
17. North American Big Horn Sheep, Big Rams Mixed Bag
18. Mouflon, Bow Hunting Elk, Whitetail, Mule Deer etc.
19. Challenge of the Mountain Monarchs, Thars, Mouflon Sheep, Red Deer in Qld



20. Pig Hunting in Qld, Wild Goat in Qld, Mouflon
21. Pig Hunting in Qld, Red Deer in Qld
22. Hunting in Spain, Pig Hunt in Tunisia, Red Deer in Scotland
23. Hunting Fallow in Scotland, Red in Scotland, Kiwi Hunts North West Territories
24. The Wildlife Bow Hunter, Deer, Pigs, Foxes, Mountain Hunting NZ, O'Rourke's Deer, Chamois, Thar
25. Mountain Hunting N.Z., Deer, Thar, Chamois, Red, Sika, Bow Hunter
26. N.Z. Hunting, Sambar in Victoria, Red Deer in France
27. Hunting N.Z. Red Deer, O'Rourke's N.Z., Chamois in Europe
28. Bowhunting Red Deer in N.Z., Bugling Red Deer Rifle
29. Fox Shooting at its best-Volume 3 & 4
30. The Ultimate Whitetail Hunt
31. Sambar Hunting, Mountain Hunt N.Z., Thar in N.Z.
32. Caping Demo by NSWDA
33. Roar Red Stags, Shadows in Scrub, Great Trophy Bucks
34. Hunting the Elusive Wild Dog, Hunt to outsmart Wild Dogs
35. Dark Continent
36. Red in Qld, Dingo, Fox, Fallow, Hog etc., Sika N.Z., Cape for Trophy Mount
37. How to cape for a Trophy Mount, Shoot the Bull, Hunting QLD Red Deer, Deer Attack
38. Hunting African Lion, Hunting Cape Buffalo
39. Big Horn Rams, Nth American Mixed Bag
40. Shadows in Scrub, Red Deer - Clark McGhie
41. Sambar Stalking 1 & 2 - Reg Gordon
42. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Sportsmans Paradise, Pigs, Barramundi, Tusk Versus Tooth, Pig Hunting with Dogs
43. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Hog Deer in Victoria
44. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Sambar Stalking 1 & 2 - Reg Gordon
45. Dogs, Guns & Grunters, Tusk Versus Tooth, Lifes a Boar NZ
46. "How To Load From A Disk" Ballistic CD-Rom
47. Huge Hogs of Aust. North Part 1 & 2
48. Sambar Safari Vol 1, SHIKARI
49. Venison Hunters, Hunting Northern Cape, Hunting NZ Southern Alps.
50. Hunting the Zambeze Delta, Trophy Seekers, Trophy Seekers Shadows End
51. NZ Hunting, Hunting Safaris Vol 1 & 2, Rusa Hunting



Hunting; where is it going?

By Steve Isaacs

The Helicopter climbed away and the surreal silence washed over the tussocks, we stood up from the camping equipment and cardboard boxes of food to take a look at the view from our bed site for the next 5 days.

Sika hunting in the Kaimanawa mountains of the North Island of New Zealand, it was late February and at 2000 meters it was still quite warm, the North Island vegetation is more alpine scrub and grass at this level. The sides of the spur we had landed plummeted away quickly flowing into wet Beach forests, very few birds are a noticeable silence as well as we move the equipment down to a sheltered spot out of the Southerly winds when they come and they will come at some time during our stay.

At 3 00pm we start heading for well known lookouts in the hope of spotting deer and that is just what we found. At the edges of the scrub the reddish spotted summer coats warrant a glance, two hinds there, one spiky over there, a hind and a fawn a little further on. Now if only the Stags come out, we move on to the next spot without alarming the deer

below by backing away and trudging along the sharp spur on the opposite side, a shrill squeal stops us in our tracks, we've been spotted, a hind and fawn glance up from within the shadows of the forest opening below us.

By 6 00pm we are a good hour from camp and we decide to head back, we have seen a dozen deer in our first afternoon. Back in camp we discuss the hunt and the pleasure of witnessing such a beautiful part of the world, we are confident that our 8 point stag will show and we go to bed that night with double slingshots in our dreams.



We never did see an 8 pointer however we did see a nice hybrid that we passed up on day three, on the plane back to Aus I settled into the classic book Sheep and Sheep Hunting by Jack

O'Connor, I had been in a magnificent part of the world playing out what thousands of people are doing every day of the year, I know I will be somewhere else again shortly getting out of bed two hours before sunlight, trudging to a special place or sitting in a blind somewhere in Aus or around the world again crawling through the grass, admiring the mountains and rivers, crossing dry salt pans stalking up Buffalo or sneaking up on a rabbit.



I don't give a sh-t about who or what others outside of the hunters world think because I know what I do is part of who I am and that I carry the Gene that generations behind have carried since man has occupied this world. I also know that I do not need to shoot a trophy to be satisfied after a mornings hunt and I gain infinite pleasure from witnessing others participate and embrace in the pursuit of game. Hunting has taught me to be a conservationist a protector of wildlife, sustainability in game and a provider. Hunting builds character in children and gives them perspective, yes we know this can be done through sports and social events but nothing beats the talks around the fire the single moment and experience of that final point, aim and shoot followed by pats on the back and well done's all round in the roll of hunting with your loved ones.

This is a pursuit that will never wane, this is a following that will not just go away as the next fad, kids will throw stones, catch lizards, build slingshots and sneak up on the unsuspecting because it is in the blood.

Don't ever be ashamed of hunting and it's meaning and the values it brings you, you will be surprised of the support for our game and the understanding other non hunters have when you explain the thrill of hunting.

When fox hunting in England came to a stand off London streets were full of hunt supporters, our state parliament has many hunting supporters, not just in the shooters party. Be proud of your ability to hunt but above all don't denigrate its traditions, think in terms of quality rather than quantity.

continued p.18

Game Management Corner; What the Science Says.

Introduction. None of what will appear in these articles is personal opinion. There has been a good deal of scientific study of all aspects of deer biology and herd management, particularly in the USA and Europe where the need for scientific management of ecosystems (including game species) is almost universally accepted.

A list of references is included at the end of each article. As many are from the World Wide Web (www), readers with an internet connection can read the original articles. I encourage you to do so.
Dal Birrell.

Monitoring the herd and keeping records.

This is the third in a series of short articles for the NSWDA members on game management as it applies to deer.

What's the point?

1. In NSW the Game Council oversees deer herds. If a herd is not seen to be managed it could well be earmarked for elimination. There are always forces wanting to remove all feral animals, especially when they are present in National Parks and State Forests, or are located in "biologically sensitive" areas, or close to any of the former. When deer were uncommon and the country not in drought, wildlife authorities and farmers were less concerned about them than they now are. As deer numbers increase, so does the perceived threat to natural ecosystems crops and pastures, resulting in louder calls to control or eliminate them. Rusa were tolerated in the Royal National Park and areas to the South until recent years, but are now being targeted



because of increased numbers. In Queensland, Red deer being threatened despite being on the State's coat of arms.

2. A herd needs to be monitored effectively in order to deliver the best outcomes for the hunter group and the landowners. Effective management includes habitat monitoring, herd observations and harvest data collection.

Habitat Management. Deer need food, water and shelter. The quality of all three affects quality of the herd. When the herd is located on grazing properties, the land owners or managers can usually be depended upon to keep records and make accurate judgements about food quality and quantity, soil condition etc. For Fallow, which are a semi-domesticated species largely reliant on grazing (rather than browsing), access to these records may be all the deer manager requires. In other situations, the deer manager(s) might need to monitor the habitat themselves. Various state Departments of Agriculture have pamphlets which outline ways to collect useful data in a simple and consistent way. See reference (3).

Harvest Collection Data. Data from harvested animals is essential to seeing whether management aims are being achieved. Various data might be recorded, including body and antler measurements, carcase weights and age. Age is without argument, the essential piece of data, because without it, the other data may be of little value. Age is usually estimated by collecting the lower jaws, and then using the pattern of tooth eruption and wear compared with deer of known age, to estimate age. Other techniques include microscopic examination of a section of the 1st incisor, using either the layers of cementum (which hold the tooth in the jaw) or dentine layers in the tooth itself. Both techniques require specialist techniques

and are seldom used by "practical managers". Some data may be collected with taxidermy in mind and some might be collected to assess the animal's condition or for research. In some jurisdictions deer must be presented field dressed (gutted only) so that all data is collected accurately by a trained officer. Where this doesn't happen, scheme members **MUST NOT INVENT MEASUREMENTS** which they have forgotten to take, or have lost. Data forms and a pencil need to be carried by all hunters at all times, preferably in the same place as a camera, knife or some other piece of essential gear. That way data collection shouldn't be forgotten in all the excitement of downing a trophy. When dealing with relatively small herds, the amount of data collected from any one year is small and of limited use, but when several years are collated, useful information begins to emerge. To be really useful, data needs to be put into a computer program (e.g. a spreadsheet or database) where it can be re-arranged in various ways quickly and simply.

Herd Observations. To quote Brian Murphy (2), "When properly collected and analysed, deer observation data can reveal important details about a herd's population size, sex ratio, fawn recruitment, age structure and overall management success." Observations can be made by all hunters in the group, or by just a few. It doesn't matter so long as the collection is done consistently and as accurately as the member's skills allow. The best time to observe is undoubtedly during the rut, when all the deer come together and are more visible and vocal than at other times. Weather and time of day are important. It's not much good trying to compare observations made in early morning with those made mid-day. However, when the records are being analysed, observations from the same time of



day can be looked at separately to good effect. In any group of hunters, skill levels will differ. Some will see more deer and some are better able to assess trophy quality. However, most can differentiate between quality heads (those which make the group's minimum limit), immature heads, spikers, females and fawns. There are always times when you are not sure of which group to put an animal into, so there needs to be a place to record "unknowns".

WHEN UNSURE, DON'T GUESS. Some hunters will not want to submit observational data for fear of giving away the location of a trophy they are trying hard to collect, and this is perfectly understandable. The simple solution to this is to make all observations voluntary and to have members place their observation slips in a locked box which is not opened until after the season closes. Experience has shown that when observations are kept by each hunter until after the season closes, most will be lost. What sorts of observations are worth making? As it's not possible in most cases to make accurate counts on an entire herd, we can keep track of numbers year by year by recording the numbers of deer we see and the time spent hunting. In a week's hunting, a hunter may only do this once or twice. When all observations made over the season are collated, we'll get a good idea of the sex ratio, the fawn recruitment, whether there are more or less trophy heads compared with past seasons and whether the herd size is increasing, stable or falling. Location data might be usefully correlated with feed conditions or other factors. Locations don't need to be too specific. A big herd may in fact be composed of a couple of fairly distinct "sub-herds". The area each sub-herd uses can be a "location". To be fair to everyone, the collated observational data needs to be given to all participating hunters, after the season

ends. The group owns the raw data and they are entitled to have a copy from which to draw their own conclusions. It should then be a lot easier to make group decisions. For instance, what data would have you support a raising of the lower trophy limit? How differently would you feel about supporting such a decision if you could see data which supported the change, rather than this just being the opinion of a few experienced members? If the data showed a male / female ratio of 1:4, would you feel happier to cull more females (knowing that the quality of deer herds has been shown to be in decline when the ratio exceeds 1:3)? Would you be more or less concerned that the landowner wanted the herd numbers reduced if the collated observation data showed a decreasing number of sightings per hour hunting?

References. 1. Smith Robert N. Deer Data Collection – Part 1: Harvest Data. Quality Deer Management Association. www.qdma.org/articles/details.asp?id=16 2. Murphy Brian P. Deer Data Collection – Part 2: Observation Data. Quality Deer Management Association. www.qdma.org/articles/details.asp?id=17 3. Queensland Department of Natural Resources 1999. Natural Resource Monitoring Guide, a practical guide for detecting changes occurring at the property or catchment level. ISBN 0 7242 7440 5 Department of Natural Resources, Locked Bag 40, Coorparoo DC. Qld 4151



Banteng 2005 Part 1.

by Peter Birchall

It's been a while, but at last the wooden handled crowbar (my 375 H&H) had something meaningful to do. It accompanied me and my lady friend Zarah to the Coburg Peninsular in the Northern Territory, to hunt Banteng and other bovines, with my old mate Glenn Giffin from Muckadilla Safaris. Load development was done at -1 Celcius and snowing, up at 1100 metres at Ingebyra in the NSW high Country. I was told to try the relatively new 350 gn protected point projectiles by Woodleigh. Four days later, at 1.30 am N.T. Time, at 34 Celcius, Glenn picked us up from Darwin Airport and dropped us off at a beautifully air conditioned hotel in town. The airport security system had us scratching our collective heads in Sydney

and then in Darwin. When going through check-in in Sydney they asked "What is in the aluminium case"? Answer; "My hunting rifle". The next question from the good looking but not too bright staffer was; "Where is the ammunition and bolt for the firearm"? I answered; "In the first big black bag to go into the aircraft. I know the air regulations and I've done this before". The second checked bag was a small pink shoulder bag with some of Zarah's cosmetics, underwear etc. Third on the scale was my aluminium gun case. The checkin girl panicked just a bit. No dangerous goods label had been attached to the big black bag, so she got another staff member to go down and attach one. When we collected our luggage at Darwin Airport the black bag had no dangerous goods tag, but the pink bag did. It was carried out and handed to us personally. Now that's service, but it makes you wonder! A seven hour drive found us in Peter

Davidson's safari camp on the Coburg Peninsular. It is very comfortable indeed and Peter is a great host. The heat and humidity were a problem for me personally as I'm far more at home in the snow and cold of the Southern High country. Then again I was here for the hunt of a lifetime; often dreamed about. With hindsight I now consider that this N.T. Trip was the Aussi equivalent of an



"Stretch" Giffin with Pete's Banteng

African safari that I would never be able to afford. Five species in eight or nine days; I sort



of lost count. Three bovines, two swine and a black feral cat. Hunting gentleman's hours, 8 am to 5 pm was OK by me. A huge cyclone had ripped up a lot of the Coburg area about six months prior to our trip. Travelling from camp out to our predetermined hunting block was always interesting, with numerous species spotted in the tangle of bush. Wallabies, dingoes, Banteng, Timor ponies, monitor lizards, hawks, parrots and pigs were observed. Stopping quietly just off the track, we first heard a bull bellow away to the South and off we went in pursuit. We slowly moved through this relatively open bush country, stopping to glass before moving forward again. At one of these glassing halts we happened to stand beside a dense dome shaped shrub-like bush about one and a half metres high and three metres across. A large black boar was asleep inside its perfect cover. It survived as we continued on towards our target species, a large black Banteng bull, as yet unseen. A large black burnt log doesn't grow a horn sticking up vertically. That was all I saw at first. This was the first hint of the bull, also asleep. I think all the animals up here have Mexican blood, as they all sleep in the middle of the day. You know what they say about mad dogs and Englishmen in the mid-day sun. Well, add hunters to that short list. Suddenly the burnt log jumped up, onto all four wheels, head turned straight toward us. A faint breeze must have drifted our scent his way. "He's a good one mate" was all Stretch (Glenn) whispered, so it was showtime. A stream of golden spent H&H brass zipped over my right shoulder as I worked the Model 70 bolt rapid fire style, which is why Stretch nick named me "Whackem and Stackem" many years ago. The 350 grain woodleights hit hard before the bull tried and partly succeeded in performing; exit stage right. My second, third, fourth and fifth shots hit a variety of

targets as my Banteng bull ran flat out through the N.T. Savannah. You know, a 375 H&H once launched can't tell the difference. It was like throwing chainsaws in its direction. Banteng, black iron bark tree, Banteng, tree etc, just like a pin ball bouncing all over the place. Big chunks of firewood flew through the air, as well as that jet black bovine. Right turn, left turn then back right, leaking claret in bucket fulls. Finally he stopped still long enough for shots six and seven to still the heart of this magnificent bull. As they say in the advert; "Oh what a feeling"! A long silence followed as well as a big drink of water, because all of a sudden the heat and humidity started to affect me. The adrenalin rush subsided after a while. Then the real work started for Stretch. Glenn lives up in this heat most of the year and is well and truly acclimatised, but not this little black duck. Give me water! Photos taken, the field capping began. What a job! The biggest animal I had ever tipped over prior to this trip was a Red stag in Queensland. With a lot of pushing and pulling by us, he finally had the cape and head off the drilled bull carcass. About a one and a half kilometre walk back to the Land Cruiser parked in the shade, then another hour back to base camp. I was starting to struggle with dehydration and heat stress. Back in Peter's fabulous camp it was off with my boots, but still fully clothed it was straight under the shower, soaking me to get me cooled off. Next, drink a lot more water,.... brackish!

Part 2 coming next issue.



Small stags, Long days

.by Josh Rafin.

I had seen this stag in the general area a few times over a few years. He was Identifiable by a 1 & 1/2 inch wide scar that ran from his last rib down all the way to behind his rump. But until Tuesday he always got the slip on me- almost did on Tuesday too!

I knew some deer were visiting the general area again this year but I was unsure of the time they were there as it seemed every time I made it out I had just missed them or they had not arrived. So determined as ever I awoke Monday to a miserable day then I got busy (as you do) so a hunt did not happen. Tuesday was still pretty miserable (read good deer hunting weather!) but I again got caught up and couldn't have a hunt till about 2:00pm. Arriving and catching the property owner on his way past we had a quick chat and I was on my way. I walked in to the area I had in mind keeping just below the ridge as the wind kicked up on my back. I took a knee and re-thought my plan getting ready to just move out and move on-leave this place for another day. I had a feeling with the drizzle and overcast conditions that plagued the day that the deer might move in to a now brief sunny spot as a few clouds moved and allowed some sun in. Day dreaming how I wouldn't mind to get in to that sunny spot myself I was hauled back to reality as I sat there and saw the head of a hind bob over the hill obviously moving from the heavy scrub to the slightly sunny spot getting ready for a afternoon feed- **HOWS THAT FOR LUCK!** Taking to my stomach I crawled the hill and before I could look over I saw a spiker making his way down as well after the hind. At this point the wind was blowing hard on my back. I think the only thing that saved

me was the fact that my scent was blowing over them! I crawled back down and walked for a while giving the deer time to settle in to their afternoon nap beds and hopefully bringing me in front of them even if I had to lie on the very top of the hill. Ever hopeful as I climbed my scent wouldn't ruin it.

I re enacted what I did before but this time I was covered by a stand of knee high scrubby grass and lantana. Looking down the hill it was dead still...Shit! Raising my Binos and a scan still nothing...The slightly sunny face was heavily timbered and I assumed they had made a hasty exit backwards while I was moving position. Further scanning revealed an old hind standing front on. All I could see was her front and a few legs with covered bodies behind her. The deer had decided to stop half way and take in the scenes from inside a stand of head high broken up trees and general foliage. This was now at 3pm and that game started to play in my head, I'm sure everyone has had it happen. It goes something like this "If I go down over there, they won't see me, I'll be fine. Just pop up and shoot that big stag, be home in time for dinner...easy" ...This time I decided to stay put and play it out to see if she had a boy friend. She eventually lay down facing down hill. Then a few legs up lay down now showing another hind. Further up the chain of legs right on the edge of the patch they were in another lay down facing away from me, a little spiker. The other set of legs never lay down instead deciding to move around on the spot. At one point "it"(still unidentified) turned and moved quickly towards 2 bedded animals pushing them in to the semi open- a small 6 point stag and the spiker. After a while those 2 bedded 15 meters further up from the small group. When "it" came back down to the old hind "it" showed some nice white pearly tips on his way down.



NSWDA Merchandise

I have organized some new club shirts, polar fleece & caps.

The colours are at this time ;

Polo shirtswhite/navy trim.....\$ 25.00

Micro fleece top.....Moss green.....\$ 35.00

Caps.....bottle green.....\$ 15.00

Caps.....blaze orange.....\$ 15.00

All garments have the club emblem embroidered on the item

We will have the items at the next meeting for sale & also at Coffs Harbour.

For further information members could contact me on 48 210 774 / 041 202 1741
or at 20 John Street. Goulburn. 2580

Postage will be at \$5.00 for members.

Also, other colours are available but will need to be a special order.

Thanks Darren

What I'm waiting for! This time he walked next to her, turned and nudged her a few times then kept looking down hill. I checked him out; he carried a nice rack, although it would not be my biggest he had nice long brows, big tops and most of all a square'ish sort of head- and I love those in Rusa! I made up my mind I would take him. Problem was I still could not take a shot at this point as there was a thick tree the size of his leg that ran right up his leg covering the chance for a shot plus the hind was somewhere behind him- I was not keen to hurt her unintentionally. After quite a while the hind stood and moved. Perfect!! In the time it

took me to raise my rifle he had turned rump on to me to watch his misses get up and move past him... Not really being in to Texas heart shots I waited- All the while still on my stomach in the rain with that bloody wind beating across me. Then he spun, on the spot basically. Now almost facing me he put his head down slightly and I wasted little time in angling a shot through him. He dropped on the spot. I reloaded and placed the cross hairs where I thought he was and waited....nothing, he was mine! I made my way over while looking at the time. A couple of minutes after 5pm. He lay where he stood, all 4 legs



perfectly tucked under his body. A nice result. Looking over him it was evident he was in real bad shape. His lower half carried the scar that I had seen many times before. He was thin. Small bodied and his spine protruded with some ribs showing. Looked like he had been a busy boy this year!

Being in between cameras at the time I've included a picture of the head at home. Left antler carries an extra point.



Josh's Rusa stag

Josh.



Malformed Rusa taken from 6 metres.



Support those that covert the tradition of hunting and embellish the family values that hunting brings, steer away and push back on those that put our values at risk, those colonial days are over. Where stealing a trophy was common place 20 years ago we are in a new age today and need to move on.

Never before have there been opportunities to hunt like today, private property and forest land is abundant, take the kids, take the family, go with a mate, go with a partner, the rewards will be untold.

Regards

Steve Isaacs

