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Front cover pic: Brian Deal, Louth NSW

Welcome to the second emagazine for 2016.



I was interested to read about the NT - Back Country Hunting initiative and how it arose from Territorians declaring there "outdoor lifestyle is under threat" and I thought how true this was for all hunters.

Even though the initiative will have permits and regulations; the sentiment is there.

A lot of media and discussion focuses on specific gun laws, hunting rules or restrictions and it is easy to get caught up in one topic (ie Adler Ban). But all of these issues combined contribute to an attack on a way of life – a lifestyle that is all about getting out and about in the Aussie bush, braving the elements, camping alongside the river with your family, kids and friends, enjoying a bbq or some fresh game meat, passing down hunting stories of yesteryear and teaching new hunters techniques or giving tips that only generations before know.

All of this is an 'outdoor lifestyle' and it is well worth protecting.

Happy huntin' and stay safe in the field,

Aushunter

Editor: Bernie (aka Aushunter)
Publisher: AusHunt



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Hunting in Last Light

I arrived home from a month trekking in Nepal on Monday at 10pm. Was overly keen to get back into the bush so made the trip by 9am the next morning.

Hunted in rain most of the day until it cleared at 10am letting through beautiful raking sunlight. Two wallabies walked within 3m of me, one joey under a foot tall. Very cool to silently take part in the ecosystem. I was also treated to a dance by an unsuspecting Lyre Bird. Very special.

Hunted through some washed out wallows. Hit some rubs. Then found thick bush FILLED with sign. I used the binoculars focus ring to filter through the tea tree in the hope of spotting a deer's ear.

7hrs in I was losing patience and started walking quite noisily. I crossed the rising river in my boots and got back into the car and cranked the heater. No luck.

On evening hit a spot that often produces. Absolutely prime country. Stalked the 200m an entire 1hr. Glassing every two steps. Nothing. Came to a spot which felt tactically strong and set up sitting against a tree and glassed. It oversaw two gulls and a likely slope of feed.

At 5 to 6pm (6pm meant the end of hunting according to Vic hunt app) it was becoming very dark. Heard a series of twigs snap from one of the two gulls I was overlooking. I lowered the binos thinking that just maybe that sounded like



a deer - when two absolute SAUCERS for ears appeared followed by a deer's shoulders. Hind or doe? Coming into view it instantly snapped it's head towards me. I honestly couldn't tell you how it knew I was there. Wind was in my favour, full camo and dead still other than lowering the binos a millimetre at a time.

We stared at each other for ten seconds before I kicked into gear. This is the moment my entire day and previous hunts had been building to. I slid my hand down to the Browning 06 which sat next to me while staring at the deer. It stared straight back at me. With the rifle placed flat on my knee and I aimed directly behind the exposed shoulder blade on 4x. Gentle squeeze - BANG - I went deaf and reloaded as the animal tore into the bush, filled with adrenaline. It was running downhill which usually means a hit. Stoked. At 25m that's got to be a dead deer.

Anyway by the time my legs stopped feeling like jelly and I stopped shaking from adrenaline it was totally dark. I pulled a pathetic head torch out of my pocket and started following the deer. No indication of a hit had me worried until the red splatters started appearing. Relief.

Hunting in Last Light

As Errol mason says, the splatters tips show the direction the Deer is moving. True. Now a new stress - what if I didn't find it. Nothing worse than shooting a deer and not being able to confirm the kill and recover the meat.

I walked on finding more and more blood until I came to a puddle of the stuff with no more sign.

Half an hour later I'm stressing that it's coagulated and sealed the wound making it impossible to spot in the dark. But I step behind a tree and am greeted by a sight that would suit a horror movie. Full on.

Turns out the deer had stopped, taken stock of the dire situation, done a 180 and brushed past the tree before sprinting down hill. I knew this because I shot it through the right side of its body so any blood on the right side of a tree meant it had turned around. This proved correct and within two minutes of realising this tricky manouevere I was standing over a large doe. Beauty!

Stoked to have spent a big day in the bush and stoked it paid off in the last minutes of daylight. 'After the shot the real work begins' has never been truer and I then had to butcher the entire animal in the dark before driving home to Melbourne for work at 6am. Arrived home at 2am before dressing out the meat properly over the next couple of days.

Fun times, big haul.





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EILDON HUNT 2016

I hit the gate at 7.30am Thursday for a 3km bike ride into a spot on the river. I walked around the bush for a while and only seen a pile of dung. Great spot for other things i thought, don't know what other things would be, but other things. So i high tailed it out of there. While walking back to the car started thinking about "Bear Grylls" with his shows "The Island". What a waste of energy for no outcome of FOOD. However walking back seen some nice grass faces to hunt some other time when it wasn't raining.

Made camp, turned the electric blanket on and woke up around 2pm for a firewood run. Just out of camp I see two ginger ninjas walking away. Parked the car up, and went for a little walk through the blackberries. I was looking for these two ginger ninjas and didn't see another little one till it jumped up out of bed in front of me. Gun up pulled the trigger and the buggie kept on running. Spent the next 20min in this spot looking for these three. But no where to be seen.

I thought I had seen rain earlier on in the day but did it come down on Thursday and didn't ease up till Friday afternoon. Went for two quick hunts Friday to spots I have driven past hundreds of times but never hunted. Rubs, Preachers and wallows, great spot but no deer

Come Saturday, I left late from camp to hunt. As discussed the night before around the fire our spots were marked. The spot I drove to had another member there so promptly turned around.

**This then led me to Matty's Secret Spot Number 7.
PLEASE KEEP THIS SPOT QUIET!**

Parked the car up. Loaded up and off I went. Crossed over the first gully which looked promising then onto the next. Walked up the gully and came to a V. Hmm Left or Right? The night earlier Joel asked if their were any cliff faces around. I choose left as I could see a cliff face and wattle trees. Started to proceed quietly, the wind was in my face and just got a glance of a ginger ninja walking away through the wattle half way up the face and disappeared.

As quietly as I could, I moved right to get a better angle to pick it up from the spot it was walking too. I was scoping the cliff face which was approx 80m away and the deer was browsing from left to right up the top.



EILDON HUNT 2016

Bugger me it had no clue I was there and was about to get nailed by a Woodleigh, and its a stag as well.

I steadied the standing shot and squeezed the trigger. Through the noise of the fire I heard a deep sounding THUD, That's a hit! then from excitement to disappointment as I saw it run off and was now expecting a 300m follow up search. What would the WhelanLad do now. Light a smoke and wait. Well I don't smoke so I counted to 60 and proceeded up the cliff to where I shot the stag. No foot prints and no blood WTF. Searched some more and found the prints 6m higher. The dug in launch prints was a good way to tell it was a hit. I followed the tracks slow studying the grass, branches, dirt to find blood, That's going off Joes stag last year where an easy blood trail flowed. No blood. some wet

brown mushrooms got a second look. Not really looking ahead then about 25M from where he was shot a huge **YAHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO** was let rip. A few photos taken then back to the car to lose weight for the carry out.



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The Simpson Report

Finally got some time to go and do the (nearly) annual pilgrimage to Simpson ...Usual co pilot couldnt make it, so asked Duncs if he was interested in coming down, and he was keen so pretty happy with that.

Its always a bit of a grueling 3 hr trip in the old girl, 2.8L non turbo Hilux, but got there in reasonable time....started to set up camp and let the dogs out for a leak, after about 5 mins they were all milling around an old dead tree on the ground, showing lots of interest....said to Duncs...ill bet theres a fox in there, grab your shottie quick....we grabbed our shotties and made a bee line for the tree, put Duncs in the hot spot, and put one of the mutts in the hole at the other end, which was about 4 ft off the ground, next second old brer tears off out the other end....said to Duncs there he is, but the big fella was looking the other way, so a super x bb to the scone from me and its all over...

Went out and did a bit of a recce before it got dark, back to camp for a feed, then farmer Browns son turns up, a little worst for wear, and that was interesting, dont think i have ever seen a bloke talk so long without drawing a breath...but all good....



While he was there, it was pretty dark, so i break out the thermal and have a look, and sure enough old brers out in the paddock....wandered out in the dark, and bang flop....Farmer Browns son seemed to think that that was the most amazing thing he has ever seen....Think even Duncs was impressed..Pretty good night out with the spotlight....lots seen that were light shy....Delegated Duncs to the 223 for the night as the shooter, ended up with 5 for the night with a few misses but thats life....we had a good time, and covered a fair bit of ground....I did pick another one up with the thermal...PB shot for me to date at 287m stepped out...hit him a bit far back though and need follow up shots to knock him....I missed a sitter as well with the thermal, wasnt happy about that either....Gave Duncs a go with the



The Simpson Report

thermal as well but missed....its a whole different ball game shooting with the thermal first up so i sort of expected that, but he really enjoyed using it.... Got into the swags about 3.30 and up again at 8 and out for a look at some dens, but no one home in any of them, did a drive through a couple of plantations, putting one out with Duncs in the hot spot....hear the boom boom, hit pretty hard but managed to get away from us.... Duncs in action , first time scalping....

Back to camp and start to get ready to pack up, and farmer Browns son wanders down again for a chat....points in the direction of an area i didnt even know they had, so as a last minute hunt we wander over for a look, and spot this critter out and about.....

Marvelous the things you see when your out fox hunting...

Thanks for coming Duncs.....Probably put you off fox shooting for life eh.. :lol: :lol: (dont know about you big fella, but i slept pretty well last night)

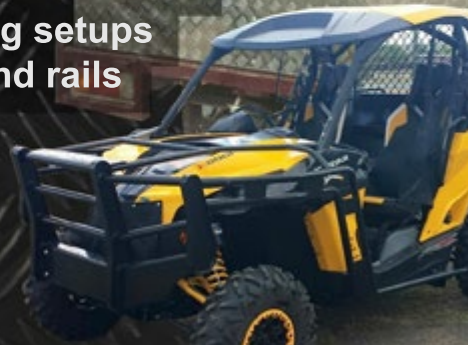



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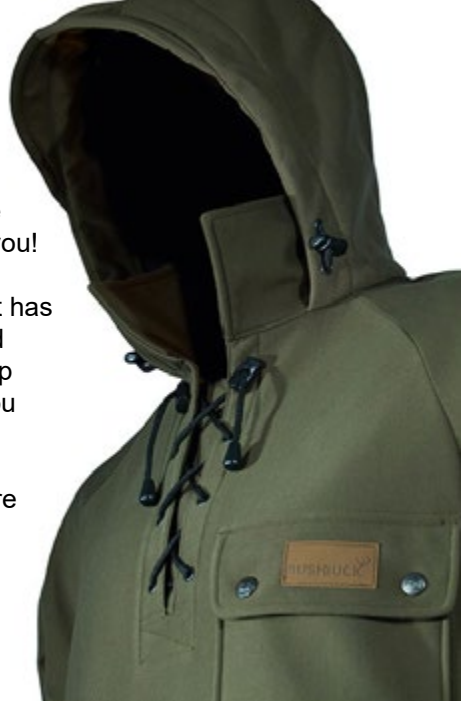
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Wyandra Trip

[Started by nook, May 18 2016](#)

Went out to Wyandra for a few days with the main aim of trapping a few dogs. Unfortunately not much sign was to be had. But i did get to line up to my first big billy

We followed them around for a while to pick out a nice sized head. And this bloke stood out so i lined him up with my .222 and let rip. Heart lung shot and dropped on the spot.



Elmer Fudd at it again

[Started by barron, Jul 29 2016](#)

Another trip up the tops with a couple of mates, things were tough with trees fallen everywhere and spooked deer.

I was first up there to set up camp for the others which were arriving late at night, with that taken care of and a few trees chainsawed i made it to my spot in the evening and after an hour or so i found nothing so moved off to a different area with only just enough light left.

The spiker stood about 120 meters away and knew something was amiss but a bullet through the ribs put an end to that. I had to drag him to the track about 150 metres before it got too dark and i was a very tired hunter by the time i did, so straight back to camp to hung him and get on with a well deserved drink in front of the fire.

Happy and content i almost fell asleep in my chair before the others arrived then off



to sleep for an early start the next day.

The next day saw my mate get a pig, me a black pussycat and the other mate which had never shot a deer finally do so late in the arvo, a button head.

So all in all a good couple of days.

Quick Arvo Hunt

Started by [huntsmart](#), Aug 12 2016



THE FORUM

This started yesterday with the misses saying she might take the girls over to her mothers and might stay the night. I said I'll miss you guys but sounds good to me. Finished work about three got the boat/rods sorted for a go at the snapper with the old man in the morning. Jumped in the ute and headed out to have a quick look for a deer.

I have been keen to get up in the gully where I saw a big one, though I know the area well I haven't scouted it out for good spots to glass from etc I need more reccy. So with little time I headed up the next gully over where I see most deer action.

Running a bit late I skirt around the fringe trying not to be spotted and drop down into the gully. The normal sign is around

so I made my way to a couple of wattles that used to give a bit of a view along the gully floor. Too overgrown can't see much so I repel down a vine through stinging nettles into the very small creek. I make my way another 20m up the creek can't really get a good view so go up the bank a couple metres and tuck in behind two small trees. Its pretty hard to get a good look over this area which is very small and thick at best. I'm in a 50m round sort of clearing. I hear a few noises but nothing that really gets me going so I consider going out into the fringe and try to glass for the last bit of light.

I hear a noise off to my left, the way I came in but blocked by too much thick sh#t, don't think much of it but do hear another branch crack a little later. I

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decided to go for a look out in the fringe/wallow, look up and see a brown deerish shape opposite me, must be shadows I think but slowly reach for the bino's, yep deer, had bone but I didn't get a good look. Lower bino's ever so slowly. gently grab rifle, thinking this deers going to bolt, I had to click the safety off (I have seen WL vid @ 120m) so I was a bit worried as we were eye balling each other at about 25m. Raised the rifle, deer still standing so I didn't muck around.

Bang, then its normally flop, but no, HOP, looked like a rodeo and took off. I could hear it crashing up the creek but its very steep in here so very hard to get out. Shit did I miss? Thought it best I sit and wait.

Light was fading fast so I thought I might have to come back tomorrow and try and find him but it got the best of me and I had to have a quick look. Found him about 30m away, dead as a doornail.

HOTTEST FORUM TOPICS!

[Tikka .204 Letting Me Down...](#)

[Wonnangatta 2016 Trip Report](#)

[Backpack Hunt EO!](#)

[Old Picture thread](#)

[Best Projectile for Deer](#)

[Small .30 Cal Projectiles](#)

[Best Pack for Backpacking](#)

[Bush Navigation - Not Getting Lost](#)

[Shot Placement for Sambar](#)

What's your opinion? [Join the discussion.](#)

Young Bull 325Wsm

[Started by 264, May 22 2016](#)

When I spotted the bull, about 100m away. Wind wasnt real good. Settled the dog, Styer, to stay and moved forward trying to get a clear shot. Got to about 70m and took a rest, settled for a shoulder shot and it hit, the bull ran around and straight towards me.

He stopped about 25m away and dropped at the second front on shot. Set up for pics then recovered all the meat. Chillers were full. Mick





Mick3006



THE PHOTOS

towner87



Penguin



Mitchell Jones



Vic



SamHuntVic

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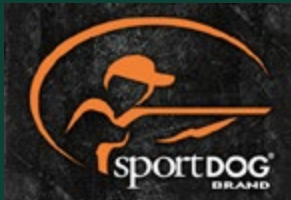
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